

## 'The Church in New Zealand'

The present generation of Catholics have but a faint idea of the labors, hardships, and sacrifices of the early Catholic missionaries in this Dominion. They see all around them cathedrals, churches, convents, schools, and institutes of charity, and perhaps never think how these came to be built within the space of sixty odd years. There are men living to-day who remember the time when a few little wooden buildings, of no architectural pretensions whatever, were all that the Catholics of this Dominion could boast of in the way of churches. A solitary priest in an isolated settlement, sometimes surrounded by hostile Natives, had a whole province for his missionary district, whilst his flock consisted of a score or two of Europeans located at great distances from one another, and in places difficult of access. In addition to the risks which the spiritual shepherd ran in passing through the territory of unfriendly, and very often fanatical, Natives, he encountered many dangers by flood and field in the course of his travels. His way very often lay through the trackless bush, and his resting place at night was beneath a friendly tree, with no roof save the starry heavens. When he awoke in the morning, with limbs benumbed, he knew that his next meal depended on his arrival, sooner or later, at a settler's hut, or, perhaps, a Native settlement. To attend a sick person meant sometimes a week's journey over rough country and the crossing of dangerous rivers. Father Chataigner, the first pastor of Christchurch, was, on one occasion, summoned to the bedside of a dying Catholic who lived close to Moeraki, near Palmerston South. He proceeded in a little sailing craft from Lyttelton to Port Chalmers. Finding himself further south than was necessary he had to go northward for a distance of about fifty miles to reach his destination, where he arrived just a week after leaving Christchurch. He made the return journey overland, and more than once went very near losing his life when crossing Canterbury rivers that are now spanned by substantial bridges. The pioneer Catholic missionaries in other districts had similar experiences, yet they repined not, neither did their zeal for the spiritual welfare of their scattered flock flag in the least. They sought out the stray sheep, and, when possible, brought them back to the fold. They worked for the honor and glory of God, and sought not human praise. Indeed so modest and retiring were they that their heroic deeds were in many instances known but to themselves and God. A couple of years ago Mr. J. J. Wilson, of Christchurch, conceived the idea of compiling a history of the Church in those early days of the Dominion, and with infinite patience and great labor he succeeded in gathering materials from all over New Zealand. These he embodied in a series of articles which he contributed to the *New Zealand Tablet*. By the time they were completed the author had gathered such a quantity of valuable and interesting information that his many friends strongly advised and encouraged him to publish it in book form, so that it might remain as a permanent record. This has been done, and under the title of *The Church in New Zealand: Memoirs of the Early Days*, the work has been printed for the author by the *N.Z. Tablet* Printing and Publishing Company. In the volume just issued Mr. Wilson has arranged the contents under four principal headings, corresponding with the ecclesiastical divisions of the Dominion. The Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, Bishop of Christchurch, writing to the author, says: 'You were well inspired to gather together so many stirring facts connected with the labors of the pioneer missionaries. Men of boundless faith, undaunted courage, pluck, and perseverance, the bare record of their noble deeds is a powerful sermon for all of us. I feel confident that the work when published will be read with deep interest by many, and even with no little emotion.'

The author very modestly says in his preface that his object in the publication of the volume was that a wealth of valuable historic information may not be lost for all time, and that those who now remain may be afforded an opportunity to "tell the tale" for the benefit of future generations. It is by no means a modest publication; the task of collecting materials for such a work was one from which anyone lacking the author's enthusiasm, energy, and perseverance, would have quailed. Mr. Wilson deserves the sincere thanks of his co-religionists for having placed at their disposal such a valuable record of the struggles, sacrifices, and labors of the early Catholic missionaries. The book is one which should find a place on the bookshelf of every Catholic householder in New Zealand, for its perusal cannot fail to excite the admiration of young and old for these men of 'boundless faith and undaunted courage,' the bare record of whose 'noble deeds is a powerful sermon for all.' It is a book, too, which should be included in the prize list of every Catholic school, as it is most desirable that the rising generation should know with what labor and self-sacrifice the mustard seed of the Faith was planted in these southern isles. A comprehensive index adds considerably to the value of the volume as a work of reference. It is handsomely bound in cloth with gilt letters and printed on good paper. It may be procured from this office, from the Catholic Book Depot, Christchurch, or from the leading Catholic booksellers in the Dominion. Pp. 255; price 3s 6d, posted 4s.

## Domestic

By MAUREEN

### A Durable Furniture Polish.

Put a half-pint each of turpentine, spirits of wine, and vinegar into a bottle; add two-thirds of a pint of linseed oil. Cork tightly and shake the bottle vigorously in order to mix the various ingredients thoroughly before using. Dust the furniture carefully, remove any grease spots there may be with a flannel dipped in warm soda water, then pour a small quantity of the polish on a piece of clean soft flannel and rub it well into the wood. Polish off at once with a soft duster. If only a small quantity of the polish is used the furniture will brighten much more easily than when the mixture is laid on thickly.

### For Staining Floors.

Take of raw linseed oil, one quart; turpentine, one pint; color to the desired shade with raw sienna or French ochre. Mix thoroughly and apply hot with a flat brush. The floor must be perfectly clean and dry before applying the stain. Rub it in well until the oil ceases to stain the rubbing material. If the floor is a new one, it can probably be cleaned without the use of much water, which is always objectionable and should be avoided where possible. Any spots or stains can be removed by the use of sand-paper or steel shavings, and most of the dust and dirt by a thorough sweeping with a dampened broom.

### To Clean Paint that is Not Varnished.

Put upon a plate some of the best whiting, have ready some clean warm water and a piece of flannel, which dip into the water and squeeze nearly dry then take as much whiting as will adhere to it, apply it to the paint, when a little rubbing will instantly remove any dirt or grease; wash well off with water, and rub dry with a soft cloth. Paint thus cleansed looks equal to new; and without doing the least injury to the most delicate color, it will preserve the paint much longer than if cleansed with soap and it does not require more than half the time usually occupied in cleaning.

### How to Clean Furs.

Ermine and miniver are best cleaned with soft flannel. Rub the fur well against the grain; then dip the flannel into common flour, and rub the fur until clean; shake the fur, and again rub it with a fresh piece of soft, clean, new flannel till the flour is out. By this process the color of the ermine is preserved, and the lining need not be removed. Sable, chinchilla, squirrel, etc., are cleaned with new bran, which must be warmed very carefully in a pan, but not burnt; therefore, while waiting, stir it frequently. Rub the warm bran into the fur for some time, shake it, and brush until free from bran. The fur will clean better if the stuffing and lining are removed, and the article laid as straight and flat as possible on a table or board. Well brush the fur before it is cleaned, and if there are any moth-eaten parts they must be removed and replaced with new pieces. The following method is said to be adopted in Russia: Some rye flour is put into a pan upon the stove and heated, being stirred constantly with the hand as long as the heat can be borne; then the flour is spread all over the fur and rubbed in well. It is then brushed gently with a very clean brush, or beaten softly till all the flour is removed. It is claimed that this method will make the fur appear almost new.

### Papering a Room.

Take 1lb of best white flour, put it into a clean pail, pour on it a little cold water, and mix to the consistency of a thick cream. Have a kettle of boiling water at hand, and pour on boiling water, stirring rapidly, until it thickens to a thin batter. Then add a little powdered alum, and cool for use. Measure the room, and ascertain the number of pieces of paper wanted, allowing one piece in twelve for waste. With a pair of long scissors, cut off one edge of the selvage, close to the pattern, and into suitable lengths for different parts of the room. The paste should be laid on smooth and thin with a flat paste brush, particular attention being paid to the edges. The paper should be pasted ten minutes before being hung, to allow it to stretch, and prevent it from blistering when dry. After pasting and folding, place the close-cut edge of the paper in the top left-hand corner of the room, press it securely to meet the ceiling, let it hang straight, then, with a clean cloth or brush, press it gently down the centre of the length, then alternately right and left until the paper has been pressed smooth to the wall. Match the next length of paper at the top, so as to have the pattern correct, cut off the surplus at the bottom, and in this way proceed round the room until it is finished. Small wrinkles appearing on common papers are caused by stretching when damp, and may be disregarded, since they will disappear when it becomes dry.

*Maureen*