

Some Ricketty 'Authorities'

In a controversy on 'The Crisis in Spain' now going on in the columns of the *Wanganui Chronicle* a correspondent signing himself 'Reformer'—he would have been much more appropriate if he had signed himself 'Yellow Sash'—advanced some very queer statements on still queerer 'authorities.' First he gives a statement regarding the alleged wealth of the Jesuits at Manresa and quotes as his authority 'a religious review, the *Revista Christiana*.' Needless to say 'Reformer' never saw the *Revista Christiana* in his life and would not know it from the proverbial bar of soap. He took his quotation direct from pp. 28, 29 of Mr. Joseph McCabe's hysterical and unreliable *Martyrdom of Ferrer*. Even McCabe did not profess to be quoting directly from the Spanish paper. He says: 'A religious review (the *Revista Christiana*—quoted in Diercks's *Das Moderne Geistesleben Spaniens*)' etc. So, in the anti-Catholic side of the Wanganui controversy we have already had ideas 'made in Melbourne'; now we have quotations 'made in Germany.' Even if Mr. McCabe and his follower had been able to get the original *Revista Christiana* it would have been of little value as an authority. It may be nominally a 'religious review' but in reality it is a sort of journalistic wolf in sheep's clothing, being a bitter and notoriously anti-Catholic publication. 'Reformer' next quotes from 'a recent writer' a statement regarding the ward-robe of the Virgin at Toledo. The 'recent writer' is none other than the same unreliable Joseph. Later statements as to the number of convents at Barcelona and Cordova are from the same tainted source. Finally, as if quoting an entirely different author, 'Reformer' says: 'Here is the opinion of one writer'; and proceeds to give a quotation regarding the proportion of illiterates in Spain. The 'one writer' turns out to be identical with the 'recent writer,' the last quotation being taken from p. 27 of McCabe's work. Thus the whole tissue of statements made by 'Reformer' turns out to be nothing more nor less than a string of quotations from the apostle of rationalism and infidelity. Had 'Reformer' been straightforward enough to give the name of his 'authority,' readers would have known at once what weight to attach to such testimony.

Official Note on the Spanish Situation

The *Osservatore Romano* publishes the following very important official note on the religious crisis in Spain:—'Since the question of the judicial position of the religious Orders and Congregations has arisen in Spain, a number of newspapers have diffused inexact news concerning the dispositions of the Holy See, accusing it of uncompromising rigidity as if it opposed a systematic refusal to any reasonable agreement. On the contrary, we are authorised to declare that the Holy See has shown itself disposed to make important concessions not less with the present Cabinet than with its predecessors. Among them we note: the limitation of the religious houses, by the suppression of all those in which less than twelve religious reside—saving some opportune exceptions; the obligation of obtaining Government authorisation for opening new houses; the subjection of the religious Congregations to the imposts of the Realm which are paid by other Spanish juridical persons or subjects; the obligation for foreigners, who intend to found religious Orders or Congregations possessing juridical personality recognised by the State, of being first naturalised in the Realm according to the civil laws. All this, while it demonstrates the benevolent dispositions of the Holy Father towards the Spanish nation, proves also how incorrect and unjust it would be for the Government to take, of its own initiative, measures relating to the Orders and Congregations, which from their very nature are of a religious character, and which are at present the object of negotiations between the two Powers, as though the attitude of the Holy See rendered impossible any fair arrangement.' The publication of this note has been rendered necessary by the acts and words of Señor Canalejas, and his organs (says the *London Tablet*). They have tried to create the impression in Spain that it was no use attempting to come to an agreement with the Holy See because the Vatican has for years persisted in putting obstacles in the way, and baffling all efforts of the Spanish Government to secure ecclesiastical reforms in harmony with the modern conditions of Spain. There is no truth whatever in these

statements, and the official note printed above indicates some substantial changes which the Holy See was willing to accept.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

At the obsequies of the late Father Walsh at Wrey's Bush on Sunday the occasional discourse was preached by his life-long friend, Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary (Lawrence), who came out to New Zealand with the deceased.

A very successful and well-attended euchre tournament in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul stall in the forthcoming bazaar was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Friday evening. The winner of the lady's prize was Miss Johnston, and of the gentleman's Mr. Hughes. During the evening the following musical programme, arranged by Miss Violet Fraser, was contributed:—Violin solo, 'Mazurka de concert,' Miss E. Fraser; vocal solo, 'There's a land,' Mr. W. Watters; musical monologue, 'Snowflakes,' Miss King; vocal solo, 'Vorai,' Miss C. Kerr; vocal solo, 'My life for thee,' Mr. E. Mee; vocal solo, 'When a merry maiden glances,' Miss V. Fraser. Miss C. Hughes acted as accompanist.

In the second grade Association football on Saturday Christian Brothers beat Mornington by 9 goals to 3. For the winners Smith (2), Higgins (3), Byrne (2), Laffey, and Wakelin scored, and Upton, Harvey, and Deuchrass for the losers. For the winners T. Laffey, Higgins, and Tarleton played well, as did Deuchrass, Mortimer, and Provost for the losers. In the fourth grade, the Christian Brothers beat Northern D by 7 goals to nil. Salmon (2), Piper (2), Walsh, McKenzie, and Delargy scored for the winners. The results of the school football are as follow:—The silver cup in the senior grade was won by the High School, with Christian Brothers A runners-up. The silver cup in the junior grade was won by George street, Christian Brothers B runners-up. The flag in the third grade fell to Christian Brothers C, with St. Clair runners-up.

St. Joseph's Harriers held their weekly run on Saturday from the residence of Mrs. W. Hewitt, Anderson's Bay. Paper being dispensed with, the pack, in charge of Captain Quelch, struck on to the road past the Home, which was followed to the Lagoon. Here the pack went on to the Tomahawk beach, where the members indulged in a very enjoyable run along the sand as far as Lawyer's Head, from whence the pack took to the road again, which was followed for some distance, after which they made for the beach again, where a very fast run took place for about two miles, when they decided to make the homeward turn, doubling back along the same route, and finishing along the high Portobello road to Mrs. Hewitt's residence. After the members had removed all traces of the run they sat down to an excellent spread kindly provided by their hostess assisted by her lady friends, after which the members indulged in a very enjoyable social evening terminating about 9 o'clock. Mr. J. V. Quelch on behalf of the club warmly thanked Mrs. Hewitt for her kind hospitality, and thus ended one of the best outings in the history of the club.

There was a very large audience at St. Patrick's Schoolroom, South Dunedin, on Monday evening, when a debate took place between the representatives of St. Joseph's Men's Club, Dunedin, and those of the South Dunedin Club, on the question, 'Which system of land tenure is preferable in New Zealand—freehold or leasehold?' St. Patrick's Club supported the freehold, and were represented by Messrs. Carr, Fitzgerald, McAllen, and Marlow, Messrs. Spain, Gallagher, Rossbotham, and Hussey championing the leasehold on behalf of St. Joseph's Club. Mr. C. A. Shiel presided, and Mr. J. A. Scott, M.A., acted as judge. The debating was of a very high standard, and some really excellent speeches were delivered on both sides, the St. Joseph's team having, however, given more study to the subject under discussion than the South Dunedin men. Mr. Scott, in giving his decision in favor of St. Joseph's team, complimented both sides upon the very high level of debate attained in the contest. The audience had had in abundance statistics, historical facts, enunciation of principles, oratorical appeals, and a rich stream of good honest Irish humor from their friend Mr. McAllen. He had no hesitation in saying that the speakers of the evening would be well capable of holding their own in much more pretentious gatherings. Mr. Scott concluded by giving the younger speakers some interesting advice as to how to effect improvement in the method of arranging their ideas and in literary style.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

August 22.
A concert, under the auspices of the Altar Society will be held in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on the 16th prox.

Mr. Harry Herbert, who at one time took a prominent part in Catholic matters, particularly in Auckland, passed through Invercargill last week. He has entered the theatrical profession, and is at present touring with Clarke and Meynell's Company.