

entered the Society in Rome, in 1574, and at once volunteered for the Indian Missions. He was accompanied by Father Yate, an English fellow-novice, who writes of him as 'the Yrisheman,' adding that 'he did always edify by his virtuous life,' and he was pleased to be able to send him, 'the roll of his countrymen that be of our Company.' He was entered in the Irish Catalogue as 'Thomas Field, Paraguay, 1617.'

When Father Field died in 1626, the harvest he had sown was flourishing beyond his hopes. The communal life established in the Reduction is now admitted to have admirably suited the conditions. The church, their grandest building, was the centre of their lives. There all heard Mass in the morning, and after their labors in the field they returned singing hymns at noon and in the evening, and Rosary and Vespers finished their day. They were separated according to sex and age, and all had to work, but bands and dances and grand fiestas lightened and varied their labors. Two Fathers and a lay Brother, assisted by native Regidors of their own appointment, governed each Reduction, and though the Spaniards on the coast often sought their aid against foes, the Reductions never needed any. Their pious exercises did not prevent them from prospering in fruits and herds and well-stored granaries. They had simple food and clothing in plenty, paid tribute in kind to the King, and even supplied armed warriors when required.

This Apparent Prosperity was the Ruin of the Missions. The many greedy Spaniards on the Peruvian coast who, says Muratori, 'did not go to America with the desire of being saints' and 'would rather die of hunger and want than hold a plough,' and the 'Mamelucos' of St. Paul—a motley collection of half-breeds 'and Portuguese, Spanish, English, Dutch, and Italian robbers and refugees'—began to make slave expeditions on the Indians and treat them after the fashion recorded of Putumayo. However, 'the governors and bishops and higher officials were worthy men,' and in 1690, Prince Santo Bueno, Governor of Peru, inflicted heavy fines and penalties for such crimes, on the petition of Father de Arce, and empowered the Father to establish a new Reduction among the Chiquitos, who were most oppressed. But the more the colonies prospered, the more the stories grew of the gold and wealth and treasonable intents of the Jesuits. 'Let the zeal of any class of men be what it may,' says Graham, 'if they oppose themselves to slavery and at the same time are reported to have lands in which is gold and resolutely exclude adventurers from them, their doom is sealed.' In 1750, the Indians of the seven flourishing Reductions of Uruguay were forcibly transplanted to the forests by the troops of Portugal and Spain, who possessed themselves of these towns; and because the Indians resisted and a Jesuit (Thaddeus Ennis, most probably an Irishman) remained with them to the end as priest and physician, a new pretext was found against the Jesuits, and so in 1767, without charge or crime, by Royal Edict, they were 'carried off in chains from the territories which they and their Order had civilised and ruled for almost 200 years.'

No gold nor treasure was found; only the Indians, and these were so maltreated that those who could returned to the woods. In thirty years the work was undone, and now little vestige remains except the field crosses here and there that tell how a martyred missionary '*Hic occisus est.*' That neither Paraguay nor Putumayo is typical of the general treatment of the Indians by Spaniards or Portuguese or their descendants seems proved by the fact that the population of Peru is 57 per cent. pure Indian, and 30 per cent. mixed, and elsewhere like conditions obtain, but this outline of the rise and fall of the greatest of all Indian missionary enterprises will give a general idea of what should be done and what avoided in the establishment and maintenance of effective Catholic missions among the Indians.

Last July was the wettest July experienced in Wellington since 1892, according to the official report of the Government Meteorologist. The total bright sunshine was 56 hours 28 minutes, and nine sunless days. Frosts occurred on five mornings.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

August 31.

St. Anne's Altar Society held a most successful social gathering on Monday evening last in St. Anne's Hall.

The price paid by the Sisters of Notre Dame des Missions for the house and land of the late Mr. E. J. Riddiford was £6500.

A retreat for men will commence in St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, on September 10, and will continue on the following Sunday.

The members of the St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society will approach the Holy Table in a body in regalia at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday, September 15.

I regret to record the death of Mrs. Margaret McMahon, wife of Mr. Brian McMahon, of Reefton, which occurred at her daughter's residence, Molesworth street, on Thursday last. The deceased was 71 years of age.—R.I.P.

Mr. C. D. O'Connor and Mr. Leo Carroll, of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (St. Mary of the Angels' Conference), are leaving Wellington for Sydney, where they intend to reside. Both gentlemen will be greatly missed in Catholic circles.

The reduction of the price of the *Tablet* is looked upon as a progressive step on the part of the management. The new rate will bring the *Tablet* within the reach of the poorest of our people, and the circulation should double in a very short time.

Dr. Mackin returned from his trip round the world last Wednesday, by the steamer from Sydney. Whilst in England he did post graduate work in some of the leading hospitals. Dr Mackin has now resumed the practice of his profession, and will also have associated with him Dr. Edith Macdonald, who is now on her way out by direct steamer.

The newly-formed Wellington Catholic Education Board met at the presbytery, Boulcott street, last Wednesday under the presidency of the Very Rev. Dean O'Shea, S.M., V.G., when a good deal of business in connection with the organisation was put through. The constitution was finally adopted, and ordered to be printed. The parish committees have been formed, and are already doing good work.

The parishioners of Brooklyn held a successful social in the Alexandra Hall on last Wednesday evening. There was a record attendance, including the Very Rev. Dean O'Shea, S.M., V.G., and Rev. Fathers Barra, Hurley, and J. Herring. A most enjoyable evening was spent, and the excellent arrangements reflected great credit on the hard-working committee, of which Mr. N. J. Crombie was secretary.

A moving picture film entitled 'When Kings were the Law' was on the programme of the Adelphi Theatre. The film was taken excepted to by Catholics present, and representations were made to Mr. Frank Stirling, the manager, who immediately withdrew it, and expressed regret for its appearance at his theatre. It was put on quite unintentionally, and not with a view of hurting the religious feelings of anybody.

The Catholics of Island Bay held a social in the Tutaneikai Hall, Berhampore, last Tuesday, in aid of the church painting fund. There was a good attendance, including the Rev. Fathers Peoples and A. T. Herring. A varied programme was submitted. Mr. T. J. McCosker acted as secretary to the committee.

The Hibernian Society's monthly euchre party took place at the Burlington, Willis street, on last Tuesday evening, and was well patronised. The arrangements were in the hands of Mr. C. J. McErlean as secretary.

The Newtown Catholic school committee met last Friday evening for the first time, when preliminary