

the preceding ones, but the Korean Catholics remained faithful, and the apostasies were few. Five years elapsed before a priest succeeded in passing the blockade, which had been established all along the Korean frontier to prevent the entrance of Europeans. Bishop Ferreol, a Father Daveluy, and a young Korean priest, Andrew Kim, who had been ordained in China, succeeded in gaining an entrance. The latter was sent ahead into the interior, fell into the hands of the soldiery, and after a heroic confession of the Faith was beheaded. The bishop, worn out by privations and sufferings, died a short time after, making the third Vicar Apostolic that the Church had lost in Korea in ten years.

The Entire History of the Succeeding Bishops down to the year 1883 is written in the blood of the devoted prelates who offered their lives for the Faith, and in the hope that God would bless the Korean mission, for which they had given their lives. In that year Bishop Blanc was consecrated at Nagasaki, Japan, and returned to his Vicariate on board a German vessel. He immediately set to work to organise his forces, consisting of eight missionaries and seven thousand Christians. In 1885, the first orphanage was established, and a home for the aged. They were at first placed in charge of native Christians, but in 1888 the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres assumed control. To-day the number of Catholics in Korea is 78,619. There are two bishops, 51 European and 15 native priests. A seminary, fully equipped, is now supplying Korean priests, and at present fifty young natives are pursuing their studies in preparation for the priesthood. There are 73 churches and chapels and 124 schools, three dispensaries and an hospital. These are astonishing figures when it is recalled that the persecutions ended only three decades ago.

The erection of the Catholic cathedral at Seoul marks distinctly the progress that the Church had made since the close of the days when to be a Catholic meant death. The Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres have received into their community native girls who wished to embrace religious life. There are now 23 professed Korean Sisters and 38 novices and postulants. Bishop Mutel bears upon his episcopal seal the words, '*Florete, flores Martyrum*': flourish, flowers of the martyrs. After more than a century of unparalleled sufferings the Korean Church at last is at peace. This blessed result is the work of God, helped by the heroic constancy of the native Christians and the self-sacrificing priests who gave their lives to win the blessing of faith for the people of their adopted country. The Catholic missionaries labouring in the mission field of Korea to-day are occupied with their Master's business, content with the liberty afforded by the regency of Japan to give the Gospel Message to the people of Korea, who seem so well disposed to accept it.

Catholic Colleges and Scholarships

In the House of Representatives on Wednesday afternoon of last week, Mr. G. W. Russell (Avon) asked the Minister for Education whether, seeing that the law is indefinite on the question of holders of State scholarships being allowed to hold them at secondary schools not recognised by the Education Act, the Government will bring down this session an amendment of the existing law to enable such scholarships to be held at the discretion of parents or guardians at schools approved and inspected by State officers. He added (says the *Dominion*) that for years past State scholarships had been held without objection at Christ's College, Christchurch, and the Collegiate School, Wanganui, but the Education Board at Auckland had recently refused a similar request relating to a scholarship proposed to be held at the Sacred Heart College in that city.

The Hon. J. Allen (Minister for Education) replied: The law does not appear to require amendment in order to secure definiteness. Education Board scholar-

ships may be held at a secondary school or its equivalent approved by the board; junior national scholarships may be held at a secondary school or its equivalent approved by the board and the Minister.

Commenting on this reply Mr. G. W. Russell said that in some cases permission had been given for scholarships to be held at sectarian schools and in others refused. The Department had 'winked at' the holding of scholarships at the Church of England schools in Christchurch and in Wanganui. Quite recently the Auckland Education Board had refused to allow a boy named O'Connor to hold a scholarship at the Sacred Heart College, Wanganui. In his opinion the right of discrimination should not rest with education boards, but it should be decided by the Minister for Education whether a school was qualified to receive scholarship-holders. If this was done the large denominations would be encouraged to establish secondary schools and the State would be able to effect a considerable economy.

Mr. J. H. Bradney (Auckland West) endorsed the views expressed by Mr. Russell.

Mr. T. H. Davey (Christchurch East) remarked upon the anomaly that the discrimination made against certain schools had not been applied to the Wanganui Collegiate School and Christ's College in Christchurch. It seemed that the Auckland Education Board had refused to act in the manner required by the law.

The Hon. J. Allen (Minister for Education) replied that the law was perfectly clear, as he had stated it in his reply. It was for the Education Board to decide whether any school proposed for its approval was of an equivalent educational standard to that of the public secondary schools.

Mr. Russell: The board may still refuse to grant the request.

The Minister: It does so on the ground that the education is not equivalent. Regarding the O'Connor case Mr. Allen said that the Auckland Board had not refused the application. It had written to the Department asking for any information that would help it to arrive at a decision regarding the school in question. The information in the possession of the Department had been sent to the board and that was the present position. He added that he could see no reason to alter the law. It would be impossible to allow scholarships to be held at any school upon which there was no check and there could be no better check than an Education Board.

Mr. Russell remarked that the question whether a school was of a satisfactory standard should be decided by the Minister and not by Education Boards which have no control or right of inspection over secondary education.

Mr. Allen agreed that there was some ground for this contention, but he did not propose to alter the law at present.

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