

THE CATHOLIC PRESS

The Right Rev. Dr. Keating, Bishop of Northampton, in the course of his Advent Pastoral says:—

Every Catholic family ought to subscribe regularly to a Catholic newspaper. Our Holy Father the Pope, and the Bishops at home and abroad, have repeatedly urged this duty. Reasons are not far to seek. The religious newspaper is necessary if only to correct the innocent errors of the secular press. Unfamiliarity with our beliefs and practices, and astounding ignorance of our history and policy, account for many crude misstatements, which sometimes cause pain and annoyance, and sometimes no more than a smile. But from time to time we become acutely conscious of some malignant influence behind the press, deliberately working to place the Church in an odious light before the public and to provoke a quarrel. The Ferrer incident and the artificial agitation regarding the *Ne Temere* decree are cases in point. Such situations brook no delay. Only journalism, the modern quick-firing weapon, is able to deal with them. The marshalled battalions of wilful and calculated lying must be shelled out of position before they have time to entrench themselves, and our rank and file reassured before panic has set in. To be late, at such a crisis, is to be useless. A further, but by no means secondary, object of religious journalism is to create and foster our sense of solidarity. A Catholic cannot thrive in isolation. You will recall the familiar phrase of St. Paul (1 Cor., xii., 25). He will tolerate 'no schism in the body,' but will have all the members 'mutually careful one for another.' 'If one member suffer anything, all the members suffer with it: or if one member glory, all the members rejoice with it.' The vocation of a Catholic journalist is to work for this union of hearts. By his faithful and conscientious labors, the working man in the back streets of our cities, the family stranded in a country village, the recent convert shy and lonely amid unaccustomed surroundings, are enabled to feel their fellowship with the teeming millions of their brethren, and are gladdened and exalted by the splendid reality of Catholicism. Week by week they are made more and more familiar with the personages of the Catholic world; they are taught more and more clearly the trend of Catholic thought; they learn how to discern the kinship between certain movements at home, and the anti-religious conspiracies abroad; reports of sermons and speeches keep them in touch with the intellectual, and parochial news with the practical life about them; their sympathy is enlisted in charitable enterprises; their zeal is kindled for the conversion of the heathen as well as of our separated brethren; they are touched with compassion for those who are enduring persecution; their enthusiasm is evoked by the countless deeds of heroism, small and great, which constitute the perennial chronicle of the Church.

The Catholic journalist has reason to be proud of his profession, and keen to use his opportunities to the full. Intent on one sole end—the glory of the Catholic name—he will keep his pen clean from political and party rancour, and will never be drawn aside, by such impertinent considerations, to write what will promote disunion rather than union, or hurt the feelings of a fellow Catholic.

And the Catholic public has equal reason to value and support Catholic journalism. Ten minutes' conversation is usually enough to discover a man's habits. The regular reader of the Catholic press is alert, well informed, and in deadly earnest about his religion. The man who confines his reading to the manipulated secular press may be a practising Catholic, but will be likely to find himself out of sympathy with public movements which express the living interests of the Church; even if his attitude is not cold, critical, and peevish towards his ecclesiastical leaders, and his opinions a feeble and confused echo of class and racial prejudice.

At the recent examination held in connection with the Federal Business College, Sydney, Miss Eileen Robinson, a pupil of the Meeanee Convent, was successful in obtaining first-class certificates in shorthand, book-keeping, and typewriting.

OBITUARY

SISTER M. MARCELLE, WELLINGTON.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On the morning of Tuesday, January 14, after months of patient suffering, Sister M. Marcelle, of the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, passed peacefully to her reward, fortified by all the rites and consolations of our holy religion. The deceased Sister was in the thirty-sixth year of her age, and eighteenth of her religious profession. This sad event is all the more notable inasmuch as it is the first death of any professed members of the Order during the twenty-eight years of its existence. Sister M. Marcelle (Mary Small) joined the Sisters of Compassion when the Order was practically in its infancy. She passed through the novitiate at Jerusalem, on the Wanganui River, where she labored for some years before being transferred to the Home for Incurables, Buckle street, Wellington. At the latter place she spent eight years of noble service, devoted heart and soul to the relief of God's poor and afflicted ones. When the Home of Compassion at Island Bay was opened some five years ago, and constituted the novitiate of the Order, Sister Marcelle was again transferred. On account of her eminent virtue she had already been chosen Mistress of Novices, which important post she filled with zeal and edification during the past eight years.

On Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock a Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Home of Compassion by Rev. Father A. T. Herring, S.M., in the presence of a number of clergy, relatives, and friends. Early in the afternoon the remains were conveyed to St. Anne's Church, Wellington South, the whole community, together with the orphans and incurable children, following through the convent grounds. The service at the church was conducted by Father Herring, and the funeral procession started for Karori shortly after 2 o'clock. As the cortege passed the Home for Incurables, Buckle street, a touching scene was witnessed. By special request of the patients, amongst whom the deceased and saintly Sister had labored for so many years, the hearse halted some time to allow them to pay a last tribute to one who, by her whole-hearted self-sacrifice, never-failing kindness, and generous charity had so much endeared herself to all. The scene at the graveside, where the Rev. A. Venning, S.M., chaplain to the Home, officiated, was a most impressive one. A number of the Sisters of Compassion acted as pallbearers throughout. There were many willing hands among the Hibernians present, but the Sisters reserved to themselves the privilege of doing this last favor for her who had always been to them a gentle and amiable companion, a bright ray of comfort in hours of sorrow, and by her holy example, a burning and shining light. The obsequies were attended by the following clergy—Very Rev. Dean O'Shea, S.M., V.G., Very Rev. Dean Lane (Hutt), Rev. Fathers Creagh and Tuohy, C.S.S.R., Rev. Fathers O'Reilly, Kimbell, A. Herring, Barra, J. Herring, and Venning, S.M.

To Rev. Mother Joseph Aubert and the Sisters of Compassion, especially to her sister in religion, Sister M. Jean, of Buckle Street Home, as also to the bereaved mother and relatives our heartfelt sympathy goes out in their hour of trial. Numerous messages were received from clergy and friends in all parts of the Dominion, testifying to the high esteem in which the deceased Sister was held by all those whose privilege it was to know her. May she rest in peace.

On March 1, 1912, Mr. C. Bechstein completed and issued from his factory his '100,000th' instrument. This establishes a record output for a factory of first-grade pianofortes, which has existed for 58 years and has during that time been carried on by the founder and his sons, and still remains in their possession only. The output from the commencement steadily increased, and it has reached over 5000 a year; but even this production is insufficient to keep pace with the demands from all parts of the world. Messrs. Chas. Begg and Co., Ltd., Dunedin, and at Invercargill, Oamaru, Timaru, and Nelson, are sole agents....

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