

death of St. John. The manuscripts of the classics are numbered by dozens, at most by hundreds; of the Gospels we have more than 12,000 manuscripts, while in the writers of the first three centuries we find over 19,000 quotations, enough to reconstruct almost the whole Gospels, if even the manuscripts did not exist.

The third and last question; and the evidence is complete. Are the men who wrote the documents we now have telling the truth? To know this we must again be assured of three things: Were these writers in a position to know the facts they relate? Then did they actually know the facts? And, lastly, were they men who would tell the facts as they saw them? The first question is easy. Matthew spent three years with Christ; John was with Him perhaps even longer, for he was his cousin and neighbor; Mark was the intimate of St. Peter, Luke of SS. Paul, Philip, and James, all contemporaries and eye-witnesses. They saw what they relate, for they were present, as we know from a cloud of witnesses, Christian and profane. Then by every test we can apply they were truthful: the test of self-love; they unhesitatingly relate things shameful to themselves, their lowly birth, their stupidity and denseness, their cowardice; impostors do not do that; the test of hero worship; they present their hero in defeat as well as in triumph; the test of death: they were ready to die and did die for the truth of their testimony; sincerity can go no further. And after all is there not something inherently ridiculous in the hypothesis of some moderns that these narratives are the work of literary swindlers a hundred years later? This is to suppose that unlettered men, in different circumstances, in different parts of the world, would happen to imagine four stories completely agreeing with one another and accurately descriptive of a foreign and vanished civilisation. Some men have come to this search with their minds made up beforehand that God cannot or does not work miracles; they therefore state that any narrative which relates that He did work miracles is necessarily unhistorical even before they have examined whether it is or not. Such men are not in a position to appreciate the foregoing demonstration. But if they approach it in the truly critical spirit, prepared to accept loyally the facts as they are presented in documents proved worthy of their credence, then if ever they admitted any historical facts, they will have to admit these. They carry with them a mass of textual, historical, and psychological evidence enjoyed by no other documents of antiquity, sacred or profane. If we were to examine into the reasons why we accept the facts narrated by Tacitus, Caesar, Livy, Thucydides, or Herodotus, we will find that we have not half the evidence for believing their histories that we have for believing the Gospels as true statements of historical fact.

### New Church of St. Patrick, Palmerston North

LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE BY  
ARCHBISHOP REDWOOD.

Unpleasant weather prevailed for the laying of the foundation stone of the new church in St. Patrick's parish on Sunday (says a press message), the ceremony being performed by Archbishop Redwood in the presence of a large gathering. After speeches by the Mayor (Mr. F. J. Nathan) and Rev. Father MacManus, Archbishop Redwood, in his address, congratulated the people of Palmerston North and the parishioners on the new church, and paid a tribute to the work of Father MacManus, who had demonstrated faith, courage, and confidence in his people. The church would be a lasting monument to his work, and would serve to hand down the teachings of the Saviour of Truth and Grace. He foresaw a great future for Palmerston North, and predicted that soon it would be a cathedral city. Civilisation was drifting back towards paganism, and when that came it would be worse than the old paganism.

Archbishop Clune, of Perth, also addressed the gathering.

Archbishop Redwood was presented with a gold trowel by the contractor for the church. The building will cost over £30,000, of which over £15,000 is already in hand.

## Answers to Correspondents

PLAIN SPEAKING.—Your letter is to the point but we cannot accept it as you do not sign your name. The discrepancy between preaching and practice is indeed ridiculous. We could give you many other instances. The most vituperative letters we ever saw were written by a person never done preaching about the amenities of correspondence. But, *unicuique cani dies sua*, as Macquadius hath it.

CRITIC.—Your letter dealing with the distraction caused by people who come in late for Mass only repeats what is said time and again by our pastors and preachers. When you say that even nuns come in late you probably forget that the Sisters have already heard one or more Masses during the morning and that they gladly snatch time from their duties to hear even a part of as many Masses as possible.

E. H.—Please tell your clerical critic that our local correspondents are invariably selected on the advice or with the approbation of the local clergy. If they are not the best judges of who is suitable we do not know who are. New Zealand is a wonderful country for destructive critics who never did and never will do any good for anything or anybody.

J. L.—There are several cheap books of the kind you want. We can recommend *The Question Box, Questions and Answers on the Catholic Church, Short Answers, and Plain Facts*. For general principles you might get *Faith of Our Fathers, Catholic Belief*, Dr. Sheehan's *Apologetics*, or any similar work. Many of the Catholic Truth publications will also be helpful.

## BOOK NOTICES

*Catholic Missionary Work in Hawkes Bay, N.Z.* By Rev. James Hickson, S.M. Whitcombe and Tombs, Ltd.

Father Hickson is to be congratulated on having provided in this interesting book an eloquent memorial of the apostolic labors of the pioneer priests and brothers of the Society of Mary who laid the foundations of the Church in Hawkes Bay. He has given us an ordered and well-documented narrative of the progress of Catholicity in that fertile province, from the first missionary visit in 1841, down to our own day. This slender volume must have entailed prolonged study and no little research, but the good accomplished ought to be ample reward for the labor involved in its production. It is a careful and reasoned statement of a truly noble achievement, and it must have a permanent value as a contribution to the history of the Church in this Dominion. We cordially recommend Father Hickson's book to all our readers.

*The New Henry Ford*, by Allan L. Benson. Angus and Robertson, Sydney. Price, 7/6.

In many ways Mr. Ford is the most famous man in the world to-day. Besides being a multi-millionaire, he is spoken of as a probable President of the United States. What is more than all is that he is a successful social reformer who has done much practical work to prove how the differences between capital and labor might be bridged. Mr. Benson's biography is an authentic study of the character of this wonderful personality. It is illustrated with fourteen good pictures, and it reads like a romance.

*Bostreror Annual: 1923.*

The Adelaide college annual is one of the neatest and most artistic of its kind that we have seen this year. The fine illustrations in sepia, the notes and articles are a credit to the editors and a sign of the well-being of the successful Brothers' College in the capital of South Australia.

### TIRED FEET.

After bathing the feet in warm water, rub in a little Q-tol, which penetrates and soothes. Excellent for tired muscles or shin soreness.

### SCHOOL BOOKS

G. A. MUNRO

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Cargill's Corner  
South Dunedin  
Phone - 2750