

ages, and some of them required catching. As the priest poured the water on the head of one sturdy lad, the latter shook his fist threateningly and said: "Don't you do that to me again!"

If there is an Australian novel of world-wide fame it is surely Rolf Bolderwood's "Robbery Under Arms." It is a stirring story of fiction founded on fact. Many of the incidents in the novel might be told of the famous "Kelly Gang" of bushrangers, whose leader was the indomitable Ned Kelly. No account of Bishop Gibney's eventful career would be complete without some record of his adventures in connection with the bushrangers. Travellers between Sydney and Melbourne usually have their attention called to the site of the old Glenrowan Hotel, near Albury. It was in this hostelry that the Kelly gang was surrounded one night by a large force of police, who set fire to the building and poured volley after volley of lead into the flames where the men were trapped. The noise of the firing brought to the scene Father Gibney, who happened to be in the district on business just then. He told the officer that he was going into the burning house to assist the men, some of whom were now dead or dying. The officer informed him that he must go at his own risk, refusing to order a cessation of the firing. So with the bullets whistling over his head, the priest went into the flames and ministered to some of the poor outlaws who were still alive. The leader, Ned Kelly, escaped, but was afterwards captured, being shot in the feet in spite of his heavy suit of home-made armor. When in gaol, after being condemned to die, he was visited by Father Gibney, who prepared him for death and stood by him on the scaffold.

*Tout comprendre c'est tout pardonner!* There were two sides to the story of the prisoner, who chatted freely with the priest, sitting on the bed in his cell, resting his wounded feet. It is believed that revenge for an outrage on one who was dear to them prompted the deed of violence which made outlaws of the Kellys. Stories are told still of Ned's kindness to the poor, of his chivalry to women, of his mercy towards even those who would have showed none to him. It is certain that a monster petition for his reprieve was signed throughout Australia, but the Government, whose servants are said to have been the occasion of his first wrong step, had no pity, and the prisoner was hanged. There is no doubt that owing to Father Gibney's timely ministrations the bitterness of the outlaw's heart was changed to saving contrition at the end, and that he went forth to another tribunal where the Judge is more clement than were those who condemned him.

One more incident in which the outlaw figures will close this article. At this distance of time I cannot be certain that Father Gibney told the following as his own personal experience, but I think he did. One Sunday when the priest arrived at a station where he was to celebrate Mass, the local sergeant's wife, who usually prepared the altar, whispered to him: "I am here in charge of Ned Kelly this morning." What had happened was this. The previous evening the police were seated on their verandah, chatting and smoking, when a man rode into the yard and hitched his horse. Walking quietly towards the representatives of law and order, he produced two revolvers and held up the little garrison. Having disarmed them he locked them up for the night, taking similar measures with the other members of the household. In the morning the sergeant's wife told the captor that she had to get things ready for the Sunday's Mass. Ned had no objection, but all had to be done under his watchful eye. Next morning, he took the sergeant with him to the bank and was introduced to the manager, who at first thought it was a joke. But the evidence of a revolver soon proved that there was no joke about the matter. Having made his official visit to the safe, Ned brought the Bank officials back with him, he then ordered them and the policemen into a buggy, which he had driven some distance from the township, himself riding immediately behind it. When he thought they had come far enough for his own safety he told them they might now return in peace. He left them at a gallop, firing as he passed along the road, six revolver bullets into six successive rail posts in the fence.

Bishop Gibney is still a living link with the events of those spacious days in Australia. In his home beside the Swan River he will lay down his Breviary to welcome with his old time hospitality the priests who love to visit him and to hear him talk of the years that are gone. With the snows of nearly ninety years crowning his brows, and with that great burden of days pressing on his giant shoulders, he lives in perfect peace with all mankind; for, like Dante, he knows the secret of peace: *In la sua voluntade e nostra pace.*

### Obituary

#### SISTER MARY ALBINUS, SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH, TEMUKA.

On January 7 there died at Temuka, Sister Mary Albinus, of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The deceased was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood, of South Hillend, Southland, where she was born 34 years ago. She joined the Sisters of St. Joseph at Port Chalmers, 11 years ago, and after spending some time in that town and Gisborne, entered the novitiate of her Order at Sydney. After her religious profession she was sent to St. Benedict's, Auckland, where she taught in the school for five years, till the time of the great 'flu, when her health broke down under the ravages of that disease. Broken in health but not in spirit, she was sent by her religious superiors to South Canterbury, where in the Kerrytown Convent, she continued to labor in the work of Catholic education. But her strength ebbed little by little till she had finally to give up her loved work amongst the little ones of Christ. During all this time she was the object of the tenderest care of her Sisters in religion, and was the idol of the children and their parents, whose many kindnesses helped to sooth and sweeten her last days on earth. She spent her last few days on earth at the Convent, Temuka, where up to the last moment she joined in the prayers for the dying. During her long sickness she was a model of faith and patience, edifying all who came in contact with her. Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of her soul was celebrated by his Lordship, Bishop Brodie, assisted by Fathers Egan, J. Kennedy, and Herbert as deacon, subdeacon, and master of ceremonies respectively. The Marist Fathers of South Canterbury, and Father O'Connell, S.M., of Christchurch, sang the music of the Mass. A large body of the faithful followed her remains to the cemetery where she was laid in the Sisters' plot, amidst the prayers and tears of her sisters in religion gathered from all the convents of her Order in South Canterbury and Otago. The Bishop recited the prayers at the graveside and spoke very touchingly of the deceased Sister's life of sacrifice and patience.—May she rest in peace.

#### Presentation to Father Leen at Kaiapoi

After Mass on Sunday, February 24, the parishioners of Kaiapoi assembled to make a presentation to Rev. Father Leen, who is about to depart on a trip to the Home Country and Rome.

Mr. C. Corcoran, in asking Father Leen to accept the presentation, which took the form of a Kaiapoi rug, referred to the sterling qualities of their pastor and the good work which he had done in the parish since his coming to the district 12 months previously. On behalf of the parishioners he wished Father Leen a very happy and pleasant trip, an enjoyable holiday, and a safe return, and hoped that the gift which they were making would prove useful and also serve as a token of the very sincere esteem and affection which was felt towards him by his people. The presentation was then made by Mrs. Maxwell Ramsay.

In acknowledging the parishioners' gift, Father Leen thanked his people for the kindly thought that prompted it and for the kind wishes that accompanied it. The bond between a priest and his people was a very close and intimate one, and made the pang of sorrow felt at saying good-bye a very real one. Father Leen concluded by thanking the parishioners for the very zealous way they had assisted him in the past, and by wishing them continued prosperity in the future.

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