

and beautifully the old tales that mean so much to Irish culture to-day, yesterday, and to-morrow. This book will illumine your mind and give you a new pleasure in reading many a masterpiece. From Moore's pathetic melody, *Silent O Moyle*, to Synge's immortal play, *Deirdre*, there is a long interval with many a book in the same strain in between. Joyce will help you to enjoy Synge better as he will give substance and meaning to the lovely lines of Moore:—

When shall the swan her death note singing
Call my spirit to the fields above?
When shall Heaven, its sweet bells ringing,
Warm our isle with peace and love?

Fascinatio Nugacitatis

The fascination of nugacity! What a luminous phrase it is in which the Bible expresses an evil habit of mind, fruitful with failures, destructive of high character, fatal to great promises. How many men and women who are endowed by God with splendid talents wrap them in a napkin and bury them because they are captivated by the fondness for trifling, for small talk, for dilettanteism, and never strive to use their opportunities for doing any good for themselves or for their fellows. In a few vivid words Dante has painted a picture of those whose lives were thus wasted:

*Questa misera moia
Tengen l'anime triste di coloro
Che visser senza infanzia e senza lodo.
Mischiate sono a quel cattivo coro
Degli angeli, che non furon ribelli,
Ne fur fedeli a Dio, ma per se foro.
Cacciati i Ciel per non esser men belli;
Ne lo profondo inferno gli ricero,
Che alcuna gloria i rei avrebber d'elli.
Fama di loro il mondo esser non lassa:
Misericordia e giustizia gli sdegna:
Non ragioniam di lor, ma guarda e passa.*

Turn up your Longfellow or your Carey and read the translation of these powerful lines which so caustically describe the souls of them that

Revelled beneath the stars,
And slept beneath the sun,
And lived a life of going to do
And died with nothing done.

One other word occurs, and it is the severest of all: "I would you were either hot or cold, but because you are neither hot nor cold I will begin to vomit you out of my mouth."

The Parable of the Talents

The parable of the talents contains a warning and a lesson for us all. We have two natures, or rather two sides of one complex nature, to develop, the spiritual and the temporal. Christ's strong, hard saying applies directly to those who are neither hot nor cold in His service. Dante's covers also those that spend their lives in the fascination of doing nothing, whom he dismisses scornfully with the remark:—

"Let us not talk about them, look at them and pass by."

We have incessantly pleaded for activity among our educated laity in the direction of greater interest in the Church and in all that concerns our Holy Religion. Young men and women who have the ability could do untold good for God if, instead of wasting precious time in reading useless books and in small talk, they studied Catholic principles and tried to make them known to others. They have an opportunity that the clergy have not. In the workroom, in offices, in casual conversation with their non-Catholic friends, they must have been struck, time and again, by the crass ignorance of all things Catholic in the world around us. Protestants believe the silliest stories about us. They have been brought up to regard as true the monstrous fables about our devotions that now and then we see printed by the unmentionable papers which cater for bigots. And it is because of their prejudices

hired agitators are able to reap a rich harvest among them. There is a large field for endeavor in this respect. Sound study, zeal for God's Glory, a victory over laziness and a realisation of our dignity are needed for a start. That is one reason why we should conquer the *fascinatio nugacitatis*; there are scores of others.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin, gratefully acknowledge the following donations towards St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage: A. C., Thames, £1; A Friend, Taranaki, 10s; Te Mata, £1; Mr. D. Enright, Temuka, £1 6s 6d. Benefactors are remembered in the daily prayers of Sisters and children.

It has been deemed inadvisable, owing to the danger of the spread of influenza, which, in a mild form, is somewhat prevalent, especially among children, to re-open the schools of the city for the present. The Christian Brothers' School did not, therefore, resume on Tuesday as was intended, and will remain closed in the meantime.

The cricket match, Dunedin v. Christian Brothers, was continued on Saturday on the Caledonian Ground, under ideal conditions, and was won by the latter team. The week before Christian Brothers were at the wickets all the afternoon, and made a total of 217 runs for seven wickets. On Saturday they closed their innings for this total. Dunedin were all out for 88 in their first innings, and following on, made 110 in the second, making a total of 198. Bond and Casey were the bowlers for the winning team.

The usual monthly meeting of St. Joseph's Cathedral Parish Committee of the Catholic Federation was held in St. Joseph's Hall after devotions on last Sunday evening. In the unavoidable absence of Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. (president), Mr. T. J. Hussey presided. The secretary (Mr. A. Tarleton) reported on the recent half-yearly meeting of the Dunedin Diocesan Council. The chairman impressed upon the members who are doing the work of canvassing, the necessity of completing the returns as soon as possible, and handing in the names of members to enable the sum due to the Dominion Council being remitted.

A roll of honor to those members of St. Joseph's branch of the Hibernian Society who had gone to the war, was unveiled at a gathering at St. Joseph's Hall on Monday evening. Owing to pressure on our space a full report of the proceedings has to be held over till next week.

Amongst the recent professions which took place at St. Joseph's Convent, Mount Street, Sydney, was Ida O'Connell (in religion Sister Maria Denis of the Infant Jesus), eldest daughter of Sergeant and Mrs. O'Connell, late of South Dunedin and Gore, and now of Waimate. The teachers and many friends of this young nun, who is still in her teens, will be pleased to learn of her transfer from Sydney to join the teaching staff of the Order at St. Benedict's Convent, Auckland.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from the eleven o'clock Mass on Sunday. The preacher at that Mass was the Very Rev. Father Rossiter, M.S.S., who spoke eloquently and at length on the missionary spirit of the Irish race. He instanced the world-wide labors of Irish priests, Brothers, and Sisters, whose devoted zeal for the glory of God and salvation of souls caused them to penetrate into the remotest corners of the world. Incidentally Father Rossiter touched upon the latest phase of Irish missionary effort—the evangelisation of China by the Fathers of the recently formed Missionary Society of Maynooth, a religious enterprise which, besides being deserving of every possible financial support, could be greatly benefited also by our fervent prayers. After Compline in the evening, a particularly fine discourse was preached by Rev. Father Falvey, O.P., in the presence of a crowded congregation. Then followed the usual procession and solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' NEW RESIDENCE: CARNIVAL NOTES.

The Carnival committee met on Sunday evening in St. Joseph's Hall, and discussed various details in connection with the undertaking brought under notice by the secretary, Mr. H. Poppelwell.

The old boys of the Christian Brothers' School, who are exerting every effort to make their section of the Carnival—the side-shows and produce stall—an outstanding success, will be grateful to friends for gifts of any description.

The Carnival will be opened on next Monday evening (February 9) at 8 p.m. at His Majesty's Theatre and Annex.