

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

K. McG. (Wanganui).—Thanks for letter, but one does not become annoyed with a cuspidor.

READER.—Have you been reading contradictory and idiotic cablegrams for five years without learning that one can pay absolutely no attention to what the New Zealand day-lies tell us about Ireland? Have you not seen contradictions even in the same issue, and even in the same column on the same day.

GARL.—Get Douglas Hyde's *Story of Early Gaelic Literature*. McDonogh and Boyd are both good on general and modern literature of Ireland. Eoin McNeill's *Phases of Irish History* is a useful and reliable book. But it is not a book to take up for pastime.

M. M.—Morning after morning we saw a man with a note-book in hand asking a parrot questions, like the following: "What was the War fought for?" "What is the difference between Britlunnism and Prussianism?" "What right have the English in Ireland that the Prussians had not in Belgium?" "Why does not England keep her direct pledges to the Irish people?" One day we asked him what he was at. "I am," he said, "comparing this bird's answers with the foolish notes that the editor of the *Times* publishes when he is asked the same questions and is unable to answer them. And the honors are with the parrot all the time. Listen now!" Then he said: "Cocky, did not England pledge Self-Determination to Ireland?" The old parrot closed one eye and replied: "Good morning!" "Now," said the man, "isn't that ten times more honest and intelligent than the editor's quoting what the English said after the War as a reply to a query concerning what they pledged themselves to do during the War, when they were in danger?" "Yes," we said. "Especially when you take the wink into consideration." "After a course of lectures from the parrot," said the man, "I am going to apply for the editorship of the *Times* myself."

EILEEN A RUN.—It is usually said that the song was sung at Poulmounty Castle. However, we are inclined to doubt it. There is an old castle on the Kilkenny side of the Barrow, a little above Poulmounty, and before we ever heard it said that Poulmounty was the scene of the elopement the castle on the Kilkenny side (Coolhill Castle) was always pointed out to us as the place where Eileen lived. If you ever go to Ireland be sure and sail down the Barrow from St. Moling's to the sea. The scenery is equal to that of the Rhine, and the storied associations of the places along the banks of the river are hardly less remarkable. St. Moling's recalls a Bishop of Ferns in the seventh century; Coolhill's ruined towers, peeping above the trees, are crowned by a glamor more lovely than the Lorelei Fels; MacMurrough reminds you how the English poisoned Art whom they could not beat in fair fight; New Ross stands for Sean Ua Ceallaigh and the pikemen who broke the soldiers at the Three Bullet Gate; and so on until turning to sea you meet Dunbrody, where the renegade monk, who became first Protestant Bishop of Ferns under Henry VIII., lived. A little further is Geneva Barracks, where "The Croppy Boy" was murdered by the English officer who personated a confessor (as they do to-day). Duncannon tells us of King James, and all the peninsula south of it is a land of legend and story.

Whangamomona

A very successful three weeks' mission, conducted by Rev. Father Joyce, C.S.S.R., assisted by Father Kelly (parish priest), has just been concluded in the districts of Whangamomona, Tewera, and Tahora. Thanks to the zeal and eloquence of Father Joyce, a grand response was made by the people, as shown by the numbers that attended the various exercises of the mission, as also by their edifying reception of the Sacraments. On the conclusion of the mission Rev. Father Joyce returned to Wellington.

We do not ask in the name of our Master what we ask otherwise than by our Master's rules.—St. Augustine.

New Plymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

May 9.

A fortnight's mission is being conducted by Rev. Fathers Herring and Southeimer, Marist Missioners, at St. Joseph's Church. The attendance to-date has been very good, and large numbers approached the Holy Table during the first week. The mission concludes on Sunday the 15th inst., after which a week's mission will open at St. Patrick's Church, Waitara.

In the Trinity College of Music examinations held here last November, two pupils of the Sisters of the Mission gained high honors. Miss Elsa Whittle (12 years of age), was awarded the New Zealand exhibition of music, intermediate Pianoforte section and Miss Mary Hickland (9 years of age) the junior pianoforte exhibition of New Zealand.

Rev. Father Prendergast has left us to recuperate his health, and has been succeeded by Rev. Father Dillon, formerly of this parish.

Prior to leaving for Christchurch, Miss Rita Whittle, who has been associated with Church matters in this parish for many years, was entertained by her Catholic young friends at a surprise party at her residence, where she was the recipient of a presentation. Miss Whittle is leaving to reside in Christchurch with her mother, who has been in ill health for some time past.

It is pleasing to note that the electric light has been installed in the church and presbytery. It has been long needed owing to the continued failure of the gas supply.

Mr. J. J. Powell, delegate to the recent Hibernian conference held in Christchurch, gave a very interesting discourse on that important gathering at the quarterly meeting of the local branch of the society.

Mr. Horace Duller, who has been associated with our congregation for many years, has been transferred to the Palmerston North section of the railway service. Both Mr. and Mrs. Duller's untiring devotion and self-sacrifice in all matters connected with the church has won for them the esteem and friendship of the parishioners.

The local community of the Sisters of the Mission are endeavoring to reestablish in the parish the Children of Mary Sodality, and will be pleased to receive the names of any of the young women of the parish who wish to join.

Gisborne

(From our own correspondent.)

May 9.

Sunday Within the Octave of the Ascension will be long remembered in the Gisborne and Ormond parishes as a very notable day. The occasion was the first visit to Gisborne of his Lordship Bishop Liston to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation; nearly 200 children and adults being confirmed in St. Mary's Church. As the Bishop and clergy entered the church the choir sang "Ecce Sacros Magnus," after which his Lordship gave an impressive address of exhortation to the parents, and especially to the candidates for Confirmation. The ceremony lasted nearly two hours, and was followed with deep interest by a congregation which filled the church to its utmost capacity. After the ceremony Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by Bishop Liston. His Lordship was assisted throughout the ceremonies by Rev. Fathers Lane, Farragher, Finn, and Murphy. The efforts of our worthy parish priest (Father Lane) and the Sisters of St. Joseph were amply rewarded at witnessing the results of their devoted labors. Mr. D. J. Parker acted as sponsor for the boys and Miss B. Whitlock for the girls. In the evening, after devotions, Bishop Liston preached an eloquent sermon from the text "Let not your heart be troubled," after which Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given. This (Monday) evening Right Rev. Dr. Liston will be entertained at a reception given by the Catholics of Gisborne.

The Defence Department of New Zealand has decided to adopt the "Dennis" Motor Lorry. Transport Officers say that in France the "Dennis" proved first for reliability.—The New Zealand Express Co., Ltd.

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