

## Answers to Correspondents

**JOYFUL CATHOLIC.**—Regret we do not find letter suitable just at present.

**INQUIRER.**—Ouida's name was Louise de la Ramee. She was a woman of eccentric ways and loved to show her contempt for conventions. Her books were barbaric in their staging of lawless lords and light ladies dancing across the scene in the accompaniment of tawdry Byronic sentimentality, all in English that could hardly be described as style. If you want to go back to the last century for a good novel, do not disinter Ouida, but buy up Wilkie Collins, Charles Reade, and Sir Walter Besant. They deliver the goods. No writer of our time tells a better or cleaner story.

**READER.**—The Chiniquy person, who you say is quoted in certain anti-Catholic rags in New Zealand, was excommunicated by the Catholic Church on August 3, 1858. The weed thus thrown over the Pope's garden wall was picked up and treasured as a flower by the Presbyterians, who formally received him in April, 1860. Shortly after they dismissed him for pocketing the collections. His ravings are quoted by some New Zealand parsons, but no clean-minded Protestant would permit his daughter to handle the ruffian's books.

**SACERDOS.**—You find fault with us for giving the children a page, and others tell us we ought to have done so years ago. In the same way, some tell us that we are now too British for them, while others say we are too anti-English. Some want this and some want that, and there does not seem to be anybody who remembers that something ought to be left to the editor's judgment. On the whole we flatter ourselves that we could give any martyr ninety yards' start in a hundred and hit the tape in front of him. Please let us know if you know of any man who wants a hand at breaking stones.

### The Recent Drowning Fatality at Greymouth

Our Greymouth correspondent writing of the distressing drowning fatality in the Grey River on Palm Sunday, says: The sad occurrence removed from St. Patrick's parish, and indeed, from the West Coast, one of its most promising young lads—Charles Vincent Fraser ("Micky") Knapp, aged 12 years. Playing with some companions in a boat at that part of the river near the Cobden bridge, the boy fell in the water and, being unable to swim was drowned. The accident occurred late in the afternoon, but the news quickly spread, and when the body was dragged up some twenty minutes after the accident a large crowd had collected along the wharf. The people of the town—Catholic and non-Catholic—were shocked at the news, as the boy was well and widely known as a singer and athlete of no mean order. Only on the previous day he won the West Coast Schools' Championship at the Dunollie sports, and at the public concert on that evening his was one of the most favored items. A touching feature, however, was the fact that as leading singer in Brother Hendrick's boys' choir, he had that morning been heard at early Mass in some beautiful hymn selections which aroused comment by all present. He was the soul and body of this unique little choir and will be missed by the congregation, for his place cannot be filled. The deceased was of an exemplary character for one of his tender years. Despite his markedly superior mental and physical attainments, he was most unassuming, and by his innate charm and natural reserve he won the deep esteem of both teachers and school-fellows. His gifted voice was commented upon by more than one distinguished visitor. In the athletic field he acquired equally remarkable distinction. In addition to the championship won on the day prior to his death, he had to his credit the high-jump championship (4ft 8in) of the Coast and long-jump (14ft). When only ten years of age, he secured at a sports meeting two years ago six first and two seconds in open schools' events under 16. The "times" he had put up were unique—100yds in 13 seconds, and 220yds in 30 seconds at last St. Patrick's Day Sports. To his sorrowing parents, and to the Marist Brothers' who taught

him, is extended the sympathy of a wide circle of friends. His death was a terrible blow, but it must have been some consolation to his dear ones to witness the beautiful tribute paid to a boy in the impressive funeral ceremony. Solemn Requiem was celebrated, and as the cortege left the church the "Dead March" from "Saul" was played by Miss Lena Higgins. The funeral, in which the altar boys in cassocks and surplices and school children took part, was one of the best-attended and most beautiful and pathetic yet seen in Greymouth. The deceased's surplice and cassock were placed above the casket, which was surrounded by wreaths from all classes. It was like the funeral of a little missionary, and brought home to all the force of the words "Precious in the sight of God is the death of His Saints."—R.I.P.

### The Late Miss Mary A. Graham

(An Appreciation.)

There passed peacefully away on February 5, at her mother's residence, Victoria Street, Pukekohe, Auckland, Miss Mary Ann Graham; the deceased was the eldest daughter of Mrs. and the late James A. Graham, Pukekohe. Although in failing health for the past three years, her death came as a shock to her many friends. Miss Graham had lived all her life in Pukekohe, where she was widely known, and highly respected by all who had the privilege of her acquaintance. She was a devout and staunch Catholic; as leading member of the parish committee she gave unbroken service for years, and everybody knew when Miss Graham undertook any work for the church or school or for the benefit of the district generally, her whole heart went into that work with a zeal and energy that always meant success. The deceased had a wonderful organising ability, coupled with rare tact, and a genial kindly nature. Her services were always much sought after, and willingly given for church work or any social functions in the district. Miss Graham will be sadly missed, and the district loses one of those beautiful souls whose one mission in life is to minister to others and to hold out a helping hand to all. Perhaps where the deceased will be missed most, after her relatives, will be in the sick room, for many and varied were the homes she visited; any hour of the day or night found her ready to give her services in the cause of the sick and dying, perhaps riding miles at night to help nurse some poor case: to cheer their last moments upon earth by her sweet consolations and helpfulness in their hour of need, without distinction of class or creed. The district is indeed the poorer by the passing of this noble woman. Surely all her good works have been faithfully kept by God's recording angel. As she gave unstintingly of herself to others in life so let them not forget her in death. The late Miss Graham was attended most devotedly by Rev. Father Malloy, and the Sisters of the Missions from the local Convent to whom she was a kind and generous friend during her life. In her last illness she had also a privileged visit from his Lordship Dr. Liston, who with all his many duties found time to call, and bestowed his blessing upon her, a kindly act which was much appreciated by the sick lady, as well as by her relatives. A Solemn Requiem Mass, celebrated for the repose of her soul was very largely attended, followed in the afternoon by the funeral, which was the largest ever seen in Pukekohe, people coming from all parts of the province to pay their last respects to one whose life was fruitful of good works. A beautiful and pathetic discourse on the life and example of the deceased was delivered by Rev. Father Malloy before the coffin left the church. The procession to the cemetery was very impressive, representatives from the other religious bodies and all classes of the community being present, which showed the deep affection in which the deceased was held by all. To her sorrowing mother (by whose side she remained during the fifty-seven years of life with an unbounded filial duty) and to her sisters and brothers sincerest and widespread sympathy is extended. May her beautiful soul receive its reward in our Lord's kingdom.—R.I.P.

O woman in Montreal, more than 100 years old, has outlived all the beneficiaries in her will, her husband and her two children, as well as the executors of the will and the notary public who drew up the document.

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