

and other articles, notices of travel, lectures, etc., he contributed to the *Tablet* during his lengthy episcopate.

Another of the great Marist Order who filled many pages of the *Tablet* with his writings was the late Father Le Menant des Chesnais, whose contributions mainly covered the period during which Dr. Cleary (now Bishop of Auckland) held editorial control. Most of the foregoing writer's contributions were delivered as lectures, principally on controversial subjects, and were replies to non-Catholics who essayed attacks on Catholic doctrine. These included *The Temuka Tournament* (which subsequently formed the basis of Father Le Menant's large and valuable volume, *The Church and the World*); "The Sects and the Church"; "Out of the Maze"; "The Church and Commerce, Industry, Sciences, and Art"; "Hell: An Historical Biblical Research," etc.

A contributor for many years was the late Mr. Michael Nolan, who, under the pen-name of "Rathkealensis," wrote numerous articles on Irish national and topical subjects. He was a close friend of Mr. Perrin, and when the latter was editor of the *Tablet*, Mr. Nolan's writings were always welcomed. In a letter to the present writer on the death in 1915 of Mr. Nolan, Mr. W. F. Dennehy, editor of the *Irish Catholic*, Dublin, wrote: "I learned with very deep regret about the death of my friend Mr. Michael Nolan. I call him 'my friend,' because, although I had only two interviews with him during his brief visit to Ireland a few years ago, I formed a very high idea of his great practical ability, sound patriotism, and earnest Catholicity."

A notable Irishwoman, Rose Kavanagh (to whom a special article is devoted in this issue), was a valued contributor to the *Tablet* during the 'eighties, and her "Irish Letter," more than anything else, kept the memory of the Green Isle fresh in the minds and hearts of her patriot sons and daughters abroad; heartened them in the increasing struggle for just government, and kept them well informed regarding happenings in the Old Land during an interesting period of Ireland's history.

Past readers of the *Tablet* were also treated to many beautiful contributions from the pen of Dean Burke, of Invercargill. Writers of "Our Roman Letter" included Canon Conroy, Monsignor Hagan, and Very Rev. Father Royane, O.C.C., all eminent in the world of letters.

Contributions from the pen of Rev. M. J. Watson (editor of the *Messenger of the Sacred Heart*) have also graced the *Tablet* columns. A fine series of articles on the "Early Church" were contributed within recent years by that cultured writer, the Rev. P. J. Sheehy, of Manly College, Sydney.

Everyone has read with pleasure the splendid articles contributed from time to time by Monsignor Power, of Hawera, whose voice and pen are every ready to defend the cause of Faith and Fatherland. The late Monsignor Golden, latterly of Auckland, wrote many articles which found an honored place, as did also some of his verse. Other able and gifted contributors are the Very Rev. James O'Neill (Waikiki), and Mr. P. J. O'Regan, of Wellington, one of the Dominion's foremost barristers, whose informative articles on Proportional Representation, and vigorous writings on other subjects have met with much appreciation.

Tablet readers have been favored during recent years with writings of more than ordinary interest on Irish matters from the practised pen of Mr. Charles O'Leary. Always concise and to the point, Mr. O'Leary has proved himself to be among the best informed on many debatable phases of Ireland's history—past and present. His communications from time to time have served a very useful purpose indeed.

The establishment of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, provided quite a mine of literary wealth which has been in due course, directed to the pages of the *Tablet*. Among the contributors from this source were Rev. J. Liston (now Coadjutor-Bishop of Auckland), Rev. J. P. Delany, and Rev. E. Lynch, who supplied the matter for respective features which occupied prominent space during years gone by. Rev. C. Morkane, Rev. D. P. Buckley, Rev. C. Collins, and others of the past and present professorial staff of the college have also written more or less extensively for the *Tablet* pages, as have, too, Revs. T. Gilbert, S.M., B. Gondringer, S.M., W. J. Schaeffer, S.M., and others of St. Patrick's College, Wellington.

Some fine historical essays have been supplied by Rev.

M. Edge, of Te Awamutu, Auckland, whose telling criticisms have a value unsurpassed in this particular range of study.

During the early days of the Great War Mr. Reginald Ward supplied some finely written articles descriptive thereof.

An honored place in this summary must be given to Miss Eileen Duggan, whose poetry and prose has been such a distinct feature of the *Tablet* columns during recent years. Others whose poems have been received with much acceptance include Miss Angela Hastings, Mr. Harold Gallagher, and the late Mr. George Evatt, the latter (an invalid) devoting the declining years of his life to the composition of some strikingly beautiful poems of a spiritual nature.

Mr. M. J. Sheahan, of Auckland, often wrote on the Irish National question, as well as on other subjects, his contributions extending over a good many years; while the articles on gardening, supplied by Mr. J. Joyce, of Christchurch, have been of the greatest help to those for whom they are specially written and of much interest to the general reader.

Former "own" correspondents who rendered good service to the *Tablet* included Mr. M. Nolan, Mr. M. J. Sheahan, Mrs. J. McNamara (née Donnelly), Mr. J. W. Kennedy (afterwards sub-editor), Mr. P. J. Nolan, Mr. F. Milner, and others.

The Foundation of the "Tablet"

Now that the jubilee of the paper is at hand anything connected with the early days of its existence will naturally be of absorbing interest to its readers, and I have no doubt that a recital of the incidents directly connected with the events leading up to the actual decision to establish the paper should form a welcome addition to the story.

In the early days of the Church in Otago a good deal of unreasonable opposition was encountered and this became so drastic that pronouncements by the Bishop—the lion-hearted Dr. Moran—were excluded by the press of Dunedin. Nothing discomfited, the Bishop arranged with Mr. J. J. Connor—who was at once a leading Catholic and a master printer—to publish his announcements in leaflet form, and to distribute these leaflets widely. This idea was given effect to, and the great success of the Bishop's plan must still be fresh in the minds of surviving Catholics of the time. However, the method in its very nature forbade the wide publicity so much desired, and Mr. Connor, who ably seconded every effort of the good Bishop, devoted a lot of thought to the necessities and the possibilities of the position. He was in the habit of conferring almost daily with the Bishop, and on one of these occasions when the question of the results being obtained by the publication of the leaflets was being considered, he turned to the Bishop and said, "My Lord, your efforts will never be truly successful until we have a paper of our own." "Mr. Connor," said the Bishop, "do you mean it? Could it be done?" To which Mr. Connor replied, "My Lord, give your consent and your unqualified approval and assistance and I will undertake to establish the paper." To this the Bishop unhesitatingly agreed, and further promised that all the weight and power of his position would be cast on the side of the project, and thus the basis was laid for great events.

Many weeks of anxious thought did Mr. Connor devote to the question, and then followed months of arduous organisation and the making of the thousand and one detailed arrangements incidental to the establishment of a newspaper. Canvassing had to be undertaken on a wide field, and this was a great task under the difficult conditions of the 'seventies. The work carried the organiser right through the back-block districts, even as far as Skippers, and other goldfield centres. On many a night was he obliged to camp out and boil the billy, and many a river was he forced to negotiate on horseback in order that the good work might go on. By this time the undertaking had become the dream of his life, and he was determined, God willing, to make the dream come true.

At length the wearying task was completed, and almost one year from the time of the first discussion with the Bishop, who had proved an ardent champion, Mr. Connor handed the first number of the *N.Z. Tablet* to his Lordship.

This, briefly, is a resume of the incidents surrounding

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