

the use of reason becomes possible and may go far; that left undone, such advance is always difficult and usually doomed at the outset."

### Neglected New Zealand

The angels that guard New Zealand must blush for shame when contrasting the manner in which Tourist Departments of other lands boost their attraction, with the awful neglect displayed by the officials of our own somnolent Department. In Australia they make sure one learns all about the Jenolan Caves, about the Hawkesbury River, or about Gippsland. In spring and summer the advertising pages of Home papers are full of attractive inducements to travel all over Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, not to mention Norway, Rhineland, France, Switzerland, Italy. You are told how to go; you are brought there cheaply and comfortably; and when you arrive everything that can be done is done to make you pleased with your visit and eager to come again. But what a different tale we have to tell here! Next to nothing is done to attract tourists. One is not compelled to take notice of advertisements of cheap railway and steamer fares for scenic attractions. On the slightest provocation the services to the places best worth seeing are curtailed and made inconvenient. Hotels are dear, accommodation scarce, conveyances poor, difficulties increased rather than diminished. As blatantly as a dead thing can be blatant, the Department shrieks: Stay at home; we don't want either yourself or your money; the show places of New Zealand can exist without you! And, if you come from overseas things are ten times worse. You are held up for hours before being allowed to land. You sign idiotic papers, devised by a foolish Government that seems anxious to make jobs for its employees. Having written down such items as the age of your mother-in-law, your reasons for playing golf, and whether you take salt or sugar with your porridge, an unhygienic thermometer is stuck in your mouth and you are prodded in the ribs as if you were a fat ox in a sale-yard, and, at last, you land, unless in disgust with the country and its Government you elect to stay where you are until the boat carries you back to a land of sanity. If there were nothing to see in New Zealand, it would not be so ludicrous. But when one considers all the wonderful natural attractions of the Dominion it is almost a crime. What other country can rival the weird wonders of Rotorua, the majestic Alps, the lovely lakes, and the delightful native bush, as it exists on the West Coast? God has made our country beautiful and attractive, but man does his best to spoil it in every possible way. One day, on the North Main Trunk train, we heard a tourist ask a fellow-traveller: "Why do they run this train into Auckland at such an unearthly hour in the morning, when people are all in bed, and when one has to wait for hours to get a decent breakfast?" The answer was: "Because it is the most stupid and inconvenient arrangement possible." The reply was certainly cynical, but most travellers would agree that there was much truth in it. In the same way, one regrets that no longer can travellers go by sea from Dunedin to Christchurch, while at one time it was possible to travel up in the night, sleep well, and have the next day for business or pleasure in the fair Canterbury city. One of the most enjoyable trips known to inhabitants of these islands, was the steamer trip from Dunedin to Auckland, calling for a liberal time at Lyttelton, Wellington, Napier, and Gisborne. Now, alas! the boats that used to make the run regularly run no more, and there is a choice between walking from Dunedin to Picton, and from Wellington to Auckland, and going by the tiresome trains. Once boats used to go to the Sounds in the summer season. Now it is for most people only a vague idea that there are somewhere on our coast, beautiful places which even the Norwegian fjords cannot surpass in loveliness. At the present time, owing to the failure of the State means of transport to oblige the public, private people are carrying overland much of the business of the Dominion. In time, perhaps, private and patriotic people will also

demonstrate to the shipping combines that they are not essential to us. But better still, give us a private company to organise and conduct an opposition Tourist Department which will really prove to the public that it is conscious of the attractions contained in the country, and of what can be done in the way of bringing travellers to visit them.

### The Only Way

Bishop Julius is lamenting the spread of immorality in the Dominion, and the press takes care to tell us all about his grief thereat. Bishop Julius is like the man who buys a lock for his stable door after his horse has been stolen. For years, we Catholics have been telling the good Bishop and his friends that unless they fell in line with us and insisted on having provided for the children a truly Christian education, the results would be exactly such as those that make the venerable Prelate sorrowful to-day. If the Anglicans had joined us in insisting on religion in the schools, on the religion of the parents for the children, there would be less tears to shed now. They never joined us when we made our stand, when we rejected the free State schools and built our own, even though we were unjustly forced by a tyrannous government to pay taxes for the education of other children as well as our own. Has the Bishop been deaf so long to all the warnings uttered in other countries, to all the warnings uttered by serious observers in this country, that he has only now opened his eyes to the terrible nature of the evil? He knows, and most of his clergy know that the reason why ours is a living religion to-day is that we made for it the sacrifices which we considered essential in order to save it. He probably knows too that the reason why the grass grows on the paths to so many non-Catholic churches is because so many non-Catholic bodies were supinely content to have godless schools imposed on them. The evil is immense. There is no blinding one's eyes to it. And there is only one remedy: the denominational parish school. Apropos of this necessary institution we may here quote at length the following important consideration from an article in *America* by John McGuinness (what he says of America applies to New Zealand):

"In teaching religion the parish school pays due attention to the temporal and spiritual welfare of the child. It develops him mentally and morally, and gives him an education which is a preparation for complete living, an education which enlightens the conscience by the great truths of right and justice, and makes them standards of action. In other words, religious training develops strength of character, and arouses a sense of moral responsibility so that Christian principles dominate the whole life.

"The most important end of education is the formation of character. But character rests on the basis of morality, and there can be no real morality without religion, for morality to have life and vigor, must be based upon religion. Emerson has well said, 'Men of character are the conscience of the society to which they belong.' With equal force he could have said, 'Men of character are the conscience of the nation,' for if the nation lose its conscience, it will, like the individual, sink into moral degeneracy. Religion and morality are anchors which hold the vessel of state from ruin on the sea of human passions. In discussing human government, all great philosophers and statesmen acknowledge the utter impossibility of permanently maintaining a stable society without morality. History sadly relates the story of the great nations ruined by moral disorders. Possessing a high intellectual development, they could not prevent moral decay from infecting the individual, nor could they prevent this moral decay from spreading from the individual through the family into every artery of the social body. Mental culture alone will not cure moral disorders or hold society together. Plato tells us that the Persian Empire perished on account of the vicious education of the princes. Their minds were filled with knowledge, but without religious guidance their consciences became subjugated to their refined licentiousness. When the Roman Empire was at the peak