

implied. We are quite convinced they were necessarily implied, and are ready to leave the point to the decision of dispassionate scholars. Such as know history and the meaning of words will, we are convinced, agree with us in our interpretation. Be this as it may, we have now made the amende, and our readers will be able to judge of the boasted impartiality and freedom from bigotry of the 'Star,' as well as of its learning.

The 'Evening Star' accuses us of using Billingsgate language. We are not going to defend ourselves from this charge. The editor of the 'Star' is of course a scholar and a truthful gentleman, and knows, no doubt, what is Billingsgate language; and we do not dare to dispute his judgment. We are only Catholics, and of necessity must be low and ignorant! We take his decision thankfully, and shall endeavor to improve our style. Our contemporary seems to be particularly angry at our having designated one sentence from his article as brutal. With every desire not to use the language of Billingsgate, we are nevertheless unable, even at this distance of time, and after anxious examination, to withdraw the word. Webster, who is not a bad authority on the meaning of words, defines brutal to mean savage, cruel, unfeeling, merciless; and we still think that a more fitting word could not be found to designate the following sentence:—"One Church (the Romish) for centuries had the direction of national education throughout the civilised world, and what has been the result? Let the history of Europe and Spanish America tell. In politics, tyranny, war, and class legislation; in social life, inequality of condition, luxury, and degradation of the people; in science, stagnation; in religion, superstition." We shall return to this article next week.

GERMANY.

THE telegraph announces that the German Government had called upon the Catholic Bishops to take an oath to observe all the laws of the Empire. This means that they are called upon to swear to destroy the Church of which they are Bishops. A contemporary says it will be seen that the Government will be the stronger. If he means that the Government will be able to command force enough to imprison and banish Bishops who are faithful to their trust, he is right; but if he means that the Government will be able to succeed in compelling the Bishops to take the oath, we venture to say he will find himself mistaken. This is not the first time the Prussian authorities imprisoned Bishops for refusing to obey its tyrannical laws, and was ultimately obliged by the fidelity of the Catholic population to recede from the prosecution of its violent proceedings. We shall await the result in the present instance with the assurance that the Catholic clergy and people will act as in days gone by.

WEEKLY EPITOME.

APROPOS of Catholics not acting up to their principles—Bishop Moran incidentally referred in the course of his sermon at 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday last, to a circumstance which occurred quite lately. A Catholic was asked to do that which he in principle as a Catholic could not do. He refused. Being pressed he gave way, and did that, which as a Catholic he should not have done. The sole thanks he got for violating faith and conscience was this—the very man who induced him to act against the teachings of the Church said what a "soft" he (the Catholic) was for doing so.

It is said that the Wellington 'Evening Post' is now owned by a company, and that its late proprietor (Mr Blundell) is going home to "ould Ireland" to live at his ease.

THE levee of His Excellency the Governor at Dunedin was a failure, very few attending.

33,772 SHARES in the Standard Insurance Company have been taken up by Otago applicants. Shares have been taken up in the North, but the exact number cannot yet be ascertained. A large number of risks have already been accepted by the Company.

138 IMMIGRANTS have arrived at Port Chalmers by the City of Dunedin.

It has been stated at Wellington on excellent authority that the Hon. Mr Bathgate will shortly retire from the Ministry, and be appointed Resident Magistrate for Dunedin, in place of Mr Strode. Mr O'Rorke, it is understood, will become Minister of Justice.

WELLINGTON gentlemen, Directors of the New Zealand Steam Navigation Co., lately visited Dunedin, and were unsuccessful in their negotiations to buy the five steamers now engaged in the trade between Melbourne and these ports, but it is stated that there is a project already set afoot for buying the same five steamers, and the trade connected with them, by a Company which will have its headquarters in Dunedin.

MR COLIN ALLAN, Immigration Agent, Dunedin, gives the following as the nationalities of the immigrants nominated through the Dunedin office from the 9th to the 24th December:—English, 39 souls, equal to 33 adults; Scotch, 172 souls, equal to 144½ adults; Irish, 53 souls, equal to 45 adults; total, 264 souls, equal to 222½ adults.

316 APPLICATIONS for nominated immigrants were forwarded from Christchurch by the last English mail.

AT Reefton, Anderson's claim gave a return for four weeks' crushing of 368 ounces gold. The Fiery Cross yield was 790 ounces from

440 tons of stone. The Ajax Company, after 19 days' crushing, yielded 233 ounces from 200 tons of stuff.

THE Dunedin Choral Society gave "The Messiah" on Christmas Eve in a way that far exceeded our anticipations. The performing members numbered about 90, and they were assisted by able professional talent. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Ferguson were present. We read that at Wellington the annual performance of "The Messiah" was the greatest success yet achieved by the Choral Society. There were over 150 performers, and the audience numbered over 1000. The choruses, solos and orchestra were excellent. The whole affair went off splendidly. At Auckland the Choral Society performed "The Messiah" in magnificent style. 150 performers took part, and the hall was crowded.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PIC-NIC.

AN extensive pic-nic, got up for the entertainment of the children attending St. Joseph's Catholic School in Dunedin, was held on Boxing-day in the immediate vicinity of St. Leonards. The site chosen was a large paddock kindly lent for the occasion by Mr E. F. Ward, Registrar of the Supreme Court, and another paddock adjoining by another gentleman. A special train was laid on for the convenience of the party, and at an early hour in the forenoon about 500 pic-nickers, including a large proportion of adults, assembled at the Railway Station. They were soon conveyed to their camping ground, where a large stock of tables of a kind pleasing to youthful palates was spread out on the grass, and despatched with marvellous rapidity. Swings were then fastened up to the trees and were largely patronised by the fair sex; while the venerable "Aunt Sally," rounders, and football, divided the attention of the rougher sex. Some foot races were also started for the juveniles, who competed for the prizes with great spirit, and displayed amazing strength of wind and limb. A youthful violinist, whose performances at concerts in Dunedin have called forth much admiration, was also on the ground, and discoursed some lively music at intervals during the day. The Right Rev. Dr. Moran, accompanied by his Vicar-General, Father Coleman, visited the pic-nic, and remained there for a considerable time. The fun and frolic were sustained with spirit throughout the whole of the day, and the last of the holiday-makers did not reach town until a late hour in the evening. Not a single accident occurred to mar the enjoyment of those who took part in the pic-nic, and considering that it was the first affair of the kind organised by the promoters, the result must have been satisfactory to all concerned.

A VALUABLE ACQUISITION.

HIS Lordship Bishop Moran has purchased the freehold of Mr M. Murphy's property in the Half-way Bush, a suburb of Dunedin, consisting of between 60 and 70 acres, on which stands an excellent house, surrounded by well laid out and planted grounds. With the property, there also go the stock and farm appliances. It is Bishop Moran's intention to make the place a conventual establishment, and to remove the boarding-school from the convent at Dunedin to the former place, while the female day-school taught by the nuns will still be kept up by them in its present place. The property purchased from Mr Murphy consists of the house and land formerly belonging to Mr Morse, and two adjoining freeholds. It is one of the few remaining large properties within thirty minutes' walk of the centre of the city, and is a very choice selection. Extensive additions are to be made at once to the buildings. The grounds command views of beautiful scenery, and are well sheltered, while the salubrity of the neighborhood is unrivalled.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN—CHRISTMAS DAY.

ON Christmas Day, morning services were, as usual, held at St. Joseph's. Masses were celebrated from six o'clock till eleven o'clock. At the latter hour high Mass began. Of the musical portion of the services, the Kyrie, Gloria, and Credo were from Haydn's First Mass; the Sanctus and Benedictus, from Gounod's; and the Agnus Dei, from Mozart's First Mass. The Adeste Fideles was sung during the Mass; and the Hallelujah Chorus at the conclusion. The Right Rev. Dr. Moran preached. Large numbers went to communion during the morning. There were vespers in the evening, and his Lordship preached. At both services his Lordship strongly condemned the conduct of the local press in making unjustifiable attacks upon the Catholic religion.

At Invercargill midnight Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Carden at St. Mary's Chapel. There was a very large attendance on the occasion.

WELLINGTON.

On Christmas morning there was high Mass immediately after midnight. Father Cummins preached a very eloquent sermon.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND—PASTORAL VISIT.

THE Right Rev. Dr. Croke, Bishop of Auckland, has been making a pastoral tour in the northern districts of the province, accompanied by the Very Rev. Dr. Macdonald. The latter being a Maori scholar, preached to the natives on several occasions in their own language. At Hokianga a good many children were baptised, and 24 Maories received the sacrament. The Maories are also stated to have sung admirably during the services.

THANKS.

AN Auckland correspondent writes:—The thanks of the recipients of the handsome sum of £15 on account of the statue of the Sacred Heart, are tendered to the kind ladies and gentlemen at Dunedin who exerted themselves to raise that amount by art union for a charitable purpose at Auckland.