

oppressive on Catholics that it ought not to be paid by them willingly; and further, the committee believe that if Catholics generally decline to pay unless compelled to do so under legal pressure, that an united action of this nature would convince the Government more forcibly than any other mode of procedure how deeply the injustice of the tax was felt. Thirdly. In conjunction with the mode of action inimated above, the committee recommend that a strong effort be made to get all Catholics who are entitled to a vote duly registered before the next elections take place, so that as much influence as possible may be brought to bear on candidates for election on the education question. Having arrived at the above conclusions, and being willing to assist as far as possible in carrying out their views, the committee beg to invite the co-operation of all those who hold similar views; and they beg to state that they will meet every Sunday after Mass in the school-room until further notice, where they will be glad to receive any suggestions or give any information or assistance in their power on the subject. Subscriptions will be received for the purpose of defraying legal and other expenses, and also for expenses incurred in the registration of votes.

To the Editor of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

SIR,—My attention has been called to an account of a meeting of the St. Joseph's Lodge, No. 73 of the H.A.C.B.S., at which a resolution was proposed and carried, giving me the necessary notice for dispensing with my services as medical attendant. In this resolution it is stated that I advertised in the 'Evening Star' for a servant, excluding Irish servants on account of their nationality. The same impression is conveyed by another paragraph from the Editorial pen. Now it would I think have been only fair to have given the advertisement in full; it was as follows:—General servant wanted, Scotch or English, apply to Mrs Bakewell, Duncan-st.—There was no mention made of Irish, and there was no phrase used which could be tortured into an exclusion of the Irish on account of their nationality. What we wanted was a Protestant, and an Irish Protestant would have answered as well as any other. Not that I mean to deny for one moment that of two equally good domestics, I would not prefer my own countrywoman to an Irish or Scotch woman. I certainly would. I am not sufficiently cosmopolitan to have no national prejudices, and being an Englishman I would rather, *ceteris paribus*, have English around me. But I would rather have good Irish or Scotch servants than bad English ones. However, the reason we wanted a non-Catholic servant was simply this,—my wife and children are Roman Catholics, and as your readers will readily understand, are under the necessity of attending Mass every Sunday and Wednesday. When we first came to Dunedin, Mrs Bakewell engaged an Irish orphan Catholic girl, who was a "new chum." She did so in preference to any English or Scotch girl, because she thought there might be a prejudice against the Catholics as servants here. The girl stopped some months, but as she had come out to New Zealand on account of bad health, and she did not seem to improve, I advised her to try the country air. We found it so very inconvenient to have a servant who was obliged to go to mass, that Mrs Bakewell determined to have a Protestant for the future. When we had, as in the West Indies and at home, from two to four servants it did not matter much, as one could always stay at home to get breakfast, &c; but here having only accommodation for one the inconvenience was excessive. Mrs Bakewell could not very well advertise for a Protestant, and so we put in English or Scotch, knowing that it was very unlikely that any Catholic would apply. Such is the simple explanation which would have been given to the St. Joseph's Lodge, if the fiery individuals who compose it had asked me privately for it. I have done with them, and should not have given this explanation except for the sake of your readers at a distance.

It is rather amusing for me to have been accused of prejudice against the Irish, considering that during a professional life of more than a quarter of a century, I have attended them and been popular among them. I am one of the very few Englishmen who have always been in favor of the National Independence of Ireland, and have invariably argued—often against Irishmen themselves—that we obtained dominion in Ireland by fraud and violence, and that we ought to let her separate entirely from England. I go farther than the repealers or the Home Rule.

To avoid any possibility of doubt, it may be better to state that the advertisement I have quoted was the only one ever inserted about servants, and that those containing the words "No Irish need apply," were put in by some designing person, with the object of raising a feeling amongst the Irish against Mrs Bakewell and myself. They have not frightened me, but they have succeeded in so frightening her, that she is afraid to go to Church or into the town.

Trusting that you will, in common fairness, insert this explanation.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
R. H. BAKEWELL, M.D.

Princes Street, Dunedin, January 16, 1874.

NEWS BY THE MAIL.

FROM our exchanges to hand we compile the following:—

IRELAND.
During the month of November numerous Home Rule and amnesty meetings took place not only in Ireland, but in England; all were distinguished for the large attendances at them, and the enthusiasm displayed. Speeches to constituents were delivered by Messrs Butt and Mitchell Henry, two out of the only four Irish M.P.'s, who have adopted the practice of giving an account of their stewardship.

John Mitchell's brilliant articles in reply to Froude, and his history of the rise and decline of the "Repeal" agitation under

O'Connell, and of England's "Famine policy" in Ireland, in 1846 '47, and '48, (written under the title of "The Last Conquest of Ireland (Perhaps)," have just been published.

"The indiscreet article in Mr Gladstone's London organ (the 'Telegraph'), the other day—chuckling in anticipation over the wasting disputations and 'Irish rows' about 'the meaning of Home Rule,' which were to break up the forthcoming Conference—has disclosed the game of the enemy. But they reckon without their host. The Conference is summoned on a basis which precludes that chance of mischievous or malevolent attempt; a course the wisdom of which some persons did not at first recognize, but which will now become more apparent."—'The Nation.'

Mr Butt has appeared before his constituents in Limerick, and given an account of his Parliamentary action during the last session. The honorable and learned gentleman ably enunciated and proved that the Imperial Parliament was altogether unable to legislate for Ireland. He declared that the Government had refused to liberate the political prisoners, in open disregard of their avowed intention to do so when the country was tranquil, although when they were asked to do so everywhere in Ireland the judges were congratulating the juries on the almost total absence of crime. Referring to the abortive University Scheme, he again professed his devotion to the denominational system, after which he complained of the want of completeness in the Land Act in failing to secure the tenant against wanton eviction. He again criticised the recent article in the 'Times, and awoke loud applause by stating that his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam had signed the Home Rule Requisition.

Mr Mitchell Henry has received a hearty welcome from the people of the archiepiscopal city, whom he addressed on Home Rule and other subjects connected with his representation of Galway. The chair was taken by Mr Gannon, J. P., and many of the clergy of St. Jarlath's were present. On the motion of the Very Rev. Ulick Bourke a most gratifying resolution of confidence and approbation of Mr Henry's conduct was passed unanimously.

The "Gentry" and Home Rule.—Now that the English "organs of public opinion" have criticised the speech given by Mr Butt at Limerick, it may be worth while to consider in what light the oracles regard it. First, in the list, as its malignity deserves, is the 'Standard,' which finds cause for gratulation and encouragement in the fact that the "gentry"—the Cromwellian "gentry" whose ancestors never took their crests and mottoes from the vocations they exercised when first they landed in Ireland, as the great dearth of drumsticks in their escutcheons show—"hold aloof from" signing the Home Rule requisition. These folk, whom the Irish have hitherto known as *shoneens*, the 'Standard' calls the "natural leaders of the people," but if our Tory contemporary believes that their abstention will prove fatal to Home Rule, we wish it joy of the delusion.

The 'Telegraph' attempts to answer Mr Butt's speech, but it does so illogically and shirkingly that its space might have been better employed, or a better hand set about the job. Among the other papers the 'Globe' tries to make Mr Butt a fool; its success is, to say the least, very doubtful. The 'Hour' wisely—from an English Conservative standpoint—takes the 'Times' to task for its recent encouragement of the Nationalists, a half-promise of which, it says, Mr Butt was by no means unwilling to accept.

Was the recent remarkable article on the amnesty agitation in the 'Times,' following close at the heels of the Blackheath demonstration, an inspired "feeler"—the preliminary note of an announcement of ministerial abandonment of a false position? Noting the mitigated truculence of the article in question, the 'Cork Examiner' says:—"It states the accusations of ill-treatment of the Fenian prisoners have been disproved. This is untrue. No doubt, some of them were exaggerated. But despite the disadvantages under which the enquiries were held, it was clearly established at all events that O'Donovan Rossa was treated with shocking and exceptional harshness. Notwithstanding the acquittal referred to by the three judges, there can be no doubt that Mr Reddin was dealt with in a manner wantonly and unnecessarily severe. The 'Times' writes for the world. It is endeavoring to relieve England from the odium of keeping up a sort of Siberia for Ireland. But no amount of leader writing can get rid of the fact that an abortive insurrection, which arose out of a discontent admittedly well-founded, has been followed by fierce and vindictive punishment, and that in the heart of England at this moment there are groaning in convict prisons a number of men whose leading offence was a mistaken love of a wronged and oppressed country.

Mr Pim, one of the members for Dublin, has refused to sign the Home Rule requisition; but he has written a letter, in which he says the movement is not to be ridiculed, and statesmen must deal with the complaint that Irish affairs are neglected in the Imperial Parliament.

It has been suggested that the Irishmen throughout the world should subscribe from £20,000 to £30,000, as a testimonial to Mr Isaac Butt.

The Home Rule movement is looking up, even from an English journalistic point of view. Not many weeks ago it was treated as an agitation countenanced by a small section of the uninfluential and reckless portion of the people of Ireland and as utterly unworthy of serious attention, and even members of parliament wished to make it appear that they never even heard of it and knew nothing of its objects. Yet, lo and behold! the journalists to whom we refer have since then come to fully acknowledge the importance and significance of the movement and to ask themselves and their readers what's to be done. Even the "Great Thunderer" itself is obliged to descend from its high mightiness to notice the movement and positively patronize it. Hear, ye Home Rulers throughout the United Kingdom, and in Ireland most particularly, what the 'Times' says and thinks of your movement:—"If the demand for Home Rule proves really to be the demand of the Irish people we shall be compelled seriously to consider in what way it may be yielded to them with least mischief, and to devise the various checks and safeguards on which it would be necessary to insist."

This, says the 'London Universe,' is really wonderful! It is positively an admission from the highest source of English public