

IN an article on Wednesday, advocating the teaching of the Bible in public schools, the 'Guardian' winds up with the following sentence:—"As a matter of expediency, therefore, we say, maintain the present school system, which will not outrage the religious scruples of any parent, while it satisfies the scruples of the majority." Of course the dictum of so high and liberal an authority as the 'Guardian' should pass unchallenged. But does that journal mean to assert that the Catholic body have not made the injustice under which it labors sufficiently public? or is it that the 'Guardian,' with characteristic liberality, will not even accord them the possession of such articles as scruples at all? In another column we publish the division-list on the debate, and it would be well for our readers to bear in mind the names of those gentlemen whose opinions are in unison with those expressed above.

FROM the Government 'Gazette' of the 14th inst., we learn that the total imports for the ports of Auckland, Wellington, Lyttelton, and Dunedin, for the quarter ending 31st March, 1874, were:—Auckland, £382,968, as against £337,291 during same quarter of 1873; Wellington, £237,573, against £177,851; Lyttelton, £434,044, against £295,922; and Dunedin, £724,344, against £475,765. The total return of exports during the same time, and at same places, were:—Auckland, £148,375, against £305,815 during corresponding quarter; Wellington, £333,731, against £265,733; Lyttelton, £462,613, against £507,790; and Dunedin, £843,969, against £1,005,793 last year. It will be thus seen that while all the ports, with the exception of Lyttelton, exceeded during the present year the imports of last year, the exports have fallen away in all places save Wellington, which have increased to the value of £68,000.

FROM the 'Charlestown Herald' we learn that the anniversary of the Brighton Branch, No. 43, of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society, was celebrated by a grand ball in that town on the 7th inst. Previous to the ball a procession was formed, which marched through the town headed by the new silk banner, belonging to the Charlestown Branch of the Association. A most pleasant evening was spent, all agreeing that the celebration of the anniversary had been well and truly honored.

THE Wellington 'Independent' suggests the propriety of the Government having a steam launch there and at other ports, for the landing of immigrants. We believe that plans have been made for the building of such a launch at this port.

A SOLEMN requiem mass was celebrated on Sunday, the 10th inst., in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Auckland, for the repose of the soul of the Rev. Patrick Golden, who died at Macroom, County Cork, on the 11th October, 1873. The celebrant was the Rev. Walter McDonald, the deacon the Rev. G. O'Dwyer, sub-deacon, the Rev. J. Golden. The deceased was a brother of the last-named clergyman, and a student of Carlow, Genoa, and St. Mary's, Oscot, Colleges. The "month's mind" for the deceased took place on the 10th November in the parish Church of Kilmaturra, where his remains are interred. The lamented gentleman possessed talents of a high order as a scholar and musician. He spoke several languages, and added wonderful mental capacity to a herculean bodily frame. He died in the 42nd year of his age, and the 15th of his priesthood, sincerely regretted by his numerous friends. St. Patrick's Cathedral was draped for the occasion, and the choir executed the impressive music of the mass in a touching manner.

THE 'TABLET' NEWSPAPER COMPANY.

THE adjourned Annual General Meeting of shareholders in the TABLET newspaper was held in St. Joseph's schoolroom on the evening of Thursday, the 21st instant. His Lordship the Bishop occupied the chair, and shareholders to the extent of seventy-nine shares were represented. The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed, the secretary stated that owing to the multiplicity of the accounts the auditors were unable to furnish their report on the balance-sheet which had been submitted to them; but on the completion of the audit and the acceptance of the balance-sheet by a meeting which would be held for that purpose, it would be published in the TABLET for the information of shareholders at a distance.

The chairman said that although the balance-sheet which had been drawn up by the secretary could not be officially placed before the meeting, not having left the auditors' hands, yet he had no doubt but it was substantially correct. From that statement he was happy to say the affairs of the company were in a most flourishing condition, and its success had exceeded his most sanguine expectations. The paper had been started under great disadvantages, a large amount of the capital being absorbed in preliminary expenses; and now at the close of the first year, they found they had not only their original capital intact, but with over £200 to the good. They might safely conclude, then, that the TABLET was placed on a firm basis, and financially and otherwise an established success, showing as it did a profit of 40 per cent. The total number of shares which it had been at first proposed to issue was 1500, but of this number but 561 had been allotted, and although applications had been made during the past year for shares, the directors thought it better to refrain from doing so until after the annual general meeting. The question now arose whether it would not be better to issue the balance of unsold shares, with the view of placing more funds at the disposal of the directory. His Lordship then paid a high eulogium to the secretary, and stated that it was owing to his energy, zeal, and unceasing efforts that the present success of the company was attributable; for were it not for the labors of Mr Loughnan, instead of its now flourishing position, it must have long since ended in failure. He thought the shareholders owed the secretary a debt not easily paid, and one certainly which money could not recompense. The directors had worked hard, but were it not for the secretary, their efforts would have been futile, and the paper long since ceased to exist. He thought, therefore, that as a debt of gratitude the shareholders should present that gentleman with a testimonial as a small recognition of his service and zeal for the

interests of the paper. The term of office for which the directors had been chosen had now expired, and it was the duty of the meeting to elect gentlemen to fill the vacancies.

The following gentlemen were then proposed and elected to constitute the directory during the ensuing year:—Messrs Connor, Scanlan, Bunny, Downey and Meenan.

Messrs Columb and Meenan, the retiring auditors, were proposed for re-election, but Mr Meenan having been elected a director was declared ineligible, and Mr Michael Meenan was elected to fill the vacancy.

On the motion of Mr Scanlan, seconded by Mr Columb, a committee was appointed to confer and arrange for the purpose of presenting the secretary with a testimonial for his services during the past year.

The Secretary having intimated that on the balance-sheet being passed by the auditors, a meeting for its submission would be convened on Thursday, 4th June, a vote of thanks was accorded the chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

THE BIBLE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

IN the Provincial Council on Tuesday Mr Ireland moved, "That in the opinion of this Council, the reading of the Bible in the public schools of this Province should not be compulsory, but that the School Committees, with the sanction of the Education Board, should have the power to permit the reading of the Bible, subject to the restrictions contained in the Education Ordinance." According to the Census of 1871, there were 13,493 persons who were not Protestants, and though to persons of that denomination the teaching of the Bible in the public schools might seem quite right, he thought it hard that a man should be compelled to pay for what he did not conscientiously believe to be true. It was well known that Roman Catholics were under the impression that the teaching of the Bible should only be imparted through their priests; and he considered if people were taxed in support of a system which their consciences condemned, it would be a flagrant injustice. It might be said that the Bible was merely read in the schools, and that Biblical instruction was not imparted; but it really seemed inconsistent that the statement should be made that a book was read, but that its contents were not taught. He had in the first instance intended moving the abolition of the reading of the Bible in the schools altogether, but he subsequently thought it best to give the system now proposed a trial. If a man held opinions honestly, they ought to be respected, and it was not for the Council to say whose opinion was right and whose was wrong.

An amendment was proposed by Mr Lumsden to the effect that the words "should be discontinued" be introduced after the word "Bible," making the motion to read "That the reading of the Bible be discontinued in the public schools of the Province."

Mr Stout spoke in favor of the motion, alleging that if it were the duty of the State to interfere in religion, it should go farther, and there must be a State Church. If the matter were left to the people to decide, he believed the majority would give way to the minority, sooner than the latter should have their feelings shocked.

Mr Reeves considered that if the Bible were read to the children in school without comment, as stated, it was far more pernicious than if left alone altogether. Under these circumstances he would support the amendment.

Mr Mollison spoke against both the motion and the amendment.

Ultimately the House divided on the first-mentioned part of the amendment to introduce, after the word "Bible," the words "should be discontinued." This was lost by 20 votes to 16. The following is the division list:—

AYES, 16: Messrs. Bastings, J. C. Brown, G. F. C. Browne, R. Clarke, Daniel, Fish (teller), Green, Hallenstein, Inzlett, Ireland, Kinross, Lumsden, McKellar, Oliver, Reeves, Stout (teller).

NOES, 20: Messrs Allan, H. Clark (teller), Cumming, De la Henderson, Menzies (teller), Mollison, McDermid, Mc Gill McKenzie, McLean, McNeil, Reid, Reynolds, Roberts, Roge ter, Tarabull, Wilson, Wood.

MR THOMAS CARLYLE ON MODERN WORK.

PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES CONTRASTED.

THE following unpublished letter from Mr Carlyle to Sir J. Whitworth, regarding the announcement made some time ago of the latter's intention to supplement the savings of his workpeople by a bonus upon them was read lately by the Hon. and Rev. W. H. Lyttelton at a meeting of the Stourbridge School of Art:—"I have heard of your offer on behalf of the thrifty workpeople of Darley, and of the thankful acceptance of it by the district authorities of the place. * * * Would to heaven that all or many of the captains of industry in England had a soul in them such as yours, and could do as you have done, or could still further co-operate with you in works and plans to the like effect. The look of England is to me at this moment abundantly ominous. The question of capital and labor growing even more anarchic, insoluble altogether by the notions hitherto applied to it, is pretty certain to issue in petroleum one day, unless some other gospel than that of the 'dismal science' come to illuminate it. Two things are pretty sure to me; the first is that capital and labor never can or will agree together till they both first of all decide on doing their work faithfully throughout, and like men of conscience and honor, whose highest aim is to behave like faithful citizens of this universe, and obey the eternal commandment of Almighty God, who made them. The second thing is that a sadder object than either that of the coal strike or any considerable strike is the fact that, loathly speaking, all England has decided that the profitablest way is to do its works ill, slimly, swiftly, and mendaciously. What a contrast between now and, say, only 100 years ago! At the latter date, or still more conspicuously for ages before that, all England awoke to its work with an invocation to the Eternal Maker to bless them in their day's labor