

For the greater part of the last one hundred years, the National System of Education in France has been purely Secular and anti-Catholic; and behold the results! We can read them in chronic revolution, disastrous defeat, and an alarming development of infidel literature. In reference to this literature here is a startling fact. In France alone, during the ten years between 1817 and 1827, there were published no less than 5,000,000 copies of the infidel and anti-social works of VOLTAIRE, ROSSEAU, HELVETIUS, DIDEROT, &c. It is not to Denominational education, then, that the deplorable state of France is to be attributed, but to Secular and Godless education, and infidel literature, which such education never fails to foster,

And the same may be said of Spain. Here, as elsewhere, the red republicans and the other enemies of social order are, for the most part, pupils of Secular schools. Whereas the men who fight, and fight bravely, for the principles of loyalty, social order, and of property, are pupils of Catholic schools. Where, again, we ask, has Denominational education been tried and proved to be a failure? Not certainly in France and Spain, the only two countries brought forward by our contemporary to prove his assertion.

Secularists claim to be the only real friends of education, and denounce Denominationalists as its enemies. It is well worth while to test this assertion. Those who are said to be the enemies of education have nevertheless, in all times and countries, made very great sacrifices both of money and time to promote the education of the people, and, in point of fact, all the learning and culture in the world are the results of these exertions. On the other hand, what have the Secularists done—what are they doing? How many Universities have they founded and endowed? How many Middle Class Schools—how many Common Schools? Echo answers, How many? In the public journals, we daily see lists of subscriptions in aid of denominational schools; we have never seen even one in aid of a secular school. Secularists are, now and then, very energetic and liberal in *Print* as to Secular Education, but what sacrifices have they made of their money or of their time to establish Secular Schools. They are strong in theory, but other people are called on by them to pay the money and do the work. They are loud for destruction, and show their zeal for education by endeavoring to destroy all existing educational institutions, whilst keeping their purses closed so tightly that not a farthing can escape to help their great cause: Governments and other people must find the means: they consider they have done wonders by the expenditure of mere words. Here in Otago, during the last twelve months, the entire amount of voluntary contributions towards Government schools amounted to the magnificent (?) sum of two thousand pounds. Whilst during the same period the Catholics—the enemies, of course, of education—though only a small fraction of the population, have, unaided by the Government or the Secularists, spent beyond five thousand pounds on schools. When or where did Secularists spend five thousand pounds, or five pence, on schools? We shall be glad to receive an answer.

### CATHOLIC LIBERALITY.

We would refer our readers to a most interesting and instructive article in another part of this issue, taken from the 'Boston Pilot,' on "The Creeds of the Chief Countries." It will be seen from the statistics there given, that only in those countries in which the State religion is Catholic, and with populations almost entirely of that faith, is complete religious toleration to be found. In Austria, with a population sixty-six per cent. of whom are Catholics, religious freedom exists. In Belgium, where there are upwards of 5,000,000 in communion with the Church of Rome, and the Protestant persuasion numbers but 13,000, not only is religious freedom granted by the Constitution, but a sum of 69,336 francs voted to the Protestant ministers: being at the rate of 5 francs per head; whilst the clergy of the State religion receive but 4,568,200 francs, or at the rate of only one franc per head. The Church of Rome embraces 35,000,000 within its fold in France, the Protestants numbering just half a million, and yet all religions are equal by law, and Protestant and Jew alike have State allowances. In Portugal, the Catholic religion is that recognised by the Government, the total amount of Protestants barely reaching 500, with toleration to all creeds. The national form of worship in Spain is Roman Catholic, and the 60,000 persons outside its fold are guaranteed perfect religious immunity. In the Brazilian

Empire, the Bishops and ecclesiastics are appointed to the various Sees and flocks by the Emperor, but such appointments must receive the approval and confirmation of the Holy See; but while the State religion is Catholic, all other sects are tolerated and assisted by the Government. In Italy, where 99½ per cent. of the entire population are Catholics, the "Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman is the sole religion of the State," yet Protestants and Jews are not only tolerated within its dominions, but possess the most complete religious liberty. Thus we see that in all countries, the Sovereigns of which are Catholic, and the religion recognised by the Government that of Rome, perfect freedom of worship is guaranteed to every resident; while in Belgium, France, and the Brazilian Empire, in addition to this tolerance, all other persuasions, though but a fractional part of the population, receive assistance from the State for religious purposes. This, we should imagine should be a complete refutation of the slanders so energetically circulated, and so extensively believed, with regard to the supposed intolerance of the Church of Rome. Let us take those countries in which the Protestant religion holds sway, and see in what manner the power of the State is wielded, and its funds appropriated. In the German Empire, the Protestants amount to 25,000,000, and the Catholics to 14,000,000; but while the Catholics receive a portion of the State subsidy, their prelates and ecclesiastics are denied the right of teaching the doctrines of their Church, and by the pressure of cruel and unjust laws, by fine and imprisonment, deprived of their freedom and their patrimony, and their flocks denied the right to worship their Creator according to their conscientious convictions. When we take the different States which compose the newly-formed Empire, the injustice and tyranny is more flagrant and manifest. For we find that in Bavaria, while the Protestants are 27½ per cent. of the population, the Catholics are treble that number, being 74 per cent. In Alsace-Lorraine, which forms a part of the German dominions, the disparity is still greater—being 80 to 17 per cent. In Ireland, when the last census was taken in 1871, there were 4,000,000 of Catholics to 1,250,000 of all other denominations; and at that time the majority were called upon to contribute to the maintenance of the Church Establishment for the benefit of the minority. This monstrous evil has been now, of course, swept away; but the fact must not be lost sight of that, although the Irish Church has been disestablished, three-fourths of the property of which the nation had been plundered to endow the churches and colleges of the established religion, are still secured to them, and over 4,000,000 of people have been robbed of the national wealth to contribute to the opulence of half a million. With these facts staring them in the face, there are many to be found, modestly claiming credit for liberality, who did and do denounce the disestablishment of the Irish Church as a policy both unwise and unjust. In England the established Church is the Protestant Episcopal, and although there are ten millions holding that faith, there is an equal number of persons of other denominations, including 2,000,000 of Catholics, who, while supporting the clergy of their own Church, contribute their quota to the endowment of that of the State. It must be obvious, then, to every impartial reader, that so far from the Catholic Church being illiberal, it is only in those countries, the heads of which recognise its doctrines and follow its counsels, is complete religious equality to be found. Here in New Zealand, although we have not a Church endowed from the revenue of the Colony, yet in the earlier days of this Province grants of land were freely given for Church and School purposes, which now constitute a considerable source of revenue; and an effort has been made by a side wind to force a State religion by the compulsory reading of the Bible. If, as may be supposed, the teaching of a certain Bible be made compulsory in our schools, the natural presumption is that certain tenets are to be inculcated; and hence it must be patent to every one that if the children of Catholic parents partake of the education which the State provides, it must be at the risk of the loss of their faith. To all who take a calm and dispassionate view of the matter, the injustice can wear no other aspect; and if such a system is to be perpetuated and tolerated amongst us, it would appear that while the Old World is awakening to a more keen sense of justice and liberality, New Zealand will be making a retrograde movement, and form an ignoble exception to the enlightened notions of the present day.

We regret to learn that the domestic scourge, diphtheria, is now prevalent both at the Bluff and Invercargill.