

Mason into the *secret grade of Perfect Mistress*. Before all else, they require from them the terrible oath which chains them to the sect for their whole lives. 'I swear,' she says. 'I promise to keep faithfully in my heart the secrets of male and female Masonry. I oblige myself to this under pain of being cut to pieces by the sword of the Exterminating Angel.' The G.* M.* immediately proclaims her *Perfect Mistress*, and addresses those words to her:—'My dear, now that you have been initiated into the symbolic arcanum of Masonry; now that the light of truth has shone upon your eyes, superstitious (that is to say, the faith in and the fear of God), which you perhaps had still preserved in the corner of your brain, are dissipated, *an arduous but sublime task is henceforth imposed upon you. This is it: listen. The first of your obligations will be to embitter the people against priests and kings.* In the café, theatre, soirées, ever labor for this sacred and holy intention. There remains but one secret for me to reveal to you, and we shall speak of it in a low voice.' And he announces that the final completion of the secret mission of Masonry "is the annihilation of all religious and monarchical authority." Our readers will now be able to judge as to the truth of Dr. BAKEWELL'S statement that there is nothing in Freemasonry opposed to Christianity.

HIS HONOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL.

It is a matter for regret that the praiseworthy efforts of His Honor the Superintendent to mitigate the crying want of house accommodation, has met with so little sympathy at the hands of the City Fathers. Indeed, the tone of the discussion evoked by the receipt of Mr MACANDREW'S letter, asking for their co-operation in meeting the difficulty, while being scarcely courteous in its bearing towards His Honor, was far from creditable to either the liberality or good sense of those engaged. Setting aside the object sought to be effected, for which the temporary use of the land had been asked, and viewing the matter from purely a commercial point of view, we should be inclined to imagine, judging from the selfishness which was apparent throughout the debate, that the very liberal offer of the Government would be accepted by the Council without hesitation. The terms upon which the land has been applied for are so clearly advantageous to the Corporation, that it is almost impossible to believe that its members were totally uninfluenced by private motives, and were acting purely as the guardians of the interests of the citizens. The argument advanced by Councillor FISH, that neither the Government nor the Corporation were justified in entering into competition with private enterprise would, no doubt, under ordinary circumstances, entitle it to support; but that gentleman seems to have totally ignored the fact that private enterprise had shown no disposition whatever to meet the difficulty; and that the Government had not stepped in until matters had reached such a stage as to make any further inaction on their part highly culpable. Had Mr FISH carried his argument somewhat further, and maintained that the Government had no right whatever to enter into competition with those colonists who had paid their passage, by importing opposition labor, he might not find many to endorse his views, but his reasoning would at least have the merit of consistency. To urge, however, that while the funds of the Colony should be freely expended in the introduction of labor, but that because capitalists would not, the authorities should not take such means as were necessary to permanently settle those for whose introduction they had paid, is a line of policy worthy of Mr FISH, but not at all creditable to him as a politician. Though we are far from endorsing the opinions expressed during the discussion, were we satisfied of their sincerity, we would be most happy to accord them our respect; but inasmuch as the City Council have hitherto entered rather extensively into competition with citizens—and not always on the advantageous terms now offered—we are at a loss to account for its newly-awakened scrupulousness. Notwithstanding the law which gives to the owner of land any structure built thereon, we know of instances of property built on Corporation ground which does not revert to the ground landlord at expiry of lease without adequate remuneration. The land, the temporary use of which has been applied for by the Government, is at present lying vacant, returning no rental, and were the request acceded to—besides obviating the present serious evil—when the outlay of erection

was returned, together with the cottages, would become the property of the Council. We regret to say the action of the municipal body on this, as on another occasion, has had the tendency to impede rather than to assist the Provincial Government in their efforts to meet the necessities and make provision for our immigrants. With all respect for the dicta of Councillors FISH and ISAACS, we maintain that the Provincial Government are simply performing their duty in seeking to make provision for the permanent stay of those they have been the means of introducing; and we imagine that Councillor MERCER will find but few to endorse his statement that in erecting these necessary cottages, the Government were taking the bread out of the citizens' mouths. It must not be lost sight of that the cottages which are sought to be provided will be only obtainable by the payment of a very high weekly rental; and it certainly seems to us that the conduct of the Councillors, so far from being in the interests of the citizens, is in reality of a detrimental character; and instead of the mass being effected otherwise than beneficially, the only persons who will have cause to complain are those who are at present profiting by the exorbitant demands made. The Provincial Government do not undertake the task with a view of making profit by it, and the keepers of the city purse have the option of either assisting the authorities in the manner proposed, or by taking the matter into their own hands, to take advantage of the present high rents ruling, and receive a good profit on their outlay. We are quite sure their acquiescence in either modes would meet with the general approval of the ratepayers, and be far more acceptable than the dog-in-the-manger policy advocated.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE expression of opinion so freely and unmistakably evinced by the Corporation with regard to the application made by His Honor for cottage sites, has been further endorsed by the recommendation of the Reserves Committee, for whose consideration it was submitted; and, acting on the advice of that committee, the Council have respectfully declined to accede to the proposal. In the face of this refusal, it is gratifying to find the Government determined and prepared to meet the difficulty, and by taking the matter at once in hand, allow no time to elapse in carrying out their designs. The object of the application was with the view of erecting the cottages in a somewhat central position of the city, the Council having much ground at its disposal in the vicinity of the wharves and railway station. The proposal, however, having met with such disfavour at the hands of the representatives of the citizens, the railway workshop, at Hillside, is to be appropriated to the purpose, on which 30 cottages are to be forthwith erected, one half containing three, and the remainder four rooms. We are pleased to learn that the evils which we pointed out in connection with the cottages erected on the Anderson's Bay road will be carefully avoided. Each house will have a separate yard, and the larger ones furnished with a garden in front; while the provision of wide and properly-metalled streets will allow of sufficient access to each dwelling. Altogether the buildings are to be of a superior kind to any yet erected by the Government; and not only will the accommodation be more suitable to the class of persons likely to occupy them, but they will be obtainable at much lower rates than have been hitherto demanded for the inferior buildings. There cannot be the least doubt, that, even at a greatly reduced rental, the Government will receive a very liberal interest on their outlay, while their proximity to the railway workshops is bound to ensure permanent tenants, when the present demand for accommodation shall have passed away.

OWING to the extreme inclemency of the weather, the Concert and Moonlight Excursion which was to have taken place last Wednesday evening, had necessarily to be postponed. By an advertisement which appears elsewhere it will be observed that the Committee have made arrangements for the carrying out of the programme on Monday evening, when it is to be hoped the weather will be more propitious. It will be noticed also, that a slight change in the time of starting has been made, the steamer leaving the Jetty-street Pier at 6.45 p.m., instead of 6.30 p.m., as previously advertised.

BY THE last mail, his Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Moran received a letter from the Vicar-General, dated London, advising him of the departure of four priests for Dunedin. The rev. gentleman was unable to secure four berths in the same vessel, but the Rev. Michael Walsh and Rev. Patrick O'Leary, sailed in the *Calyppo*, which left London on the 2nd August; and the two other clergymen were to follow either by the *E. P. Bouverie* or the *May Queen*. The introduction of the Christian Brothers will not take place for some time yet, but, before returning, Father Coleman will make arrangements for the placing of a number of youths in College, to be trained as priests for the diocese. It is also likely the Vicar-General will be accompanied by two or more clergymen. His arrival may be looked for in November.

THE usual fortnightly meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society, was held in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Monday evening, at which a deputation from the Juvenile Contingent in connection with the Association was introduced. The president of the juveniles stated that the members of the Contingent hearing that Bro. Bunny, the President of St. Joseph's Branch, was about leaving the district, were anxious to give expression to their gratitude for his efforts in the organisation of the Contingent, and his unceasing care since its establishment in its gui-