

whom we quote, travelled through Germany, or read much about that country, he would have known that such is the case. The truth is, the contrary is the fact. But as, no doubt, the 'Daily Times' will not accept our testimony on the point, we beg to refer our contemporary to Mr Laing's work on Prussia, p.p., 155, and 230-32. Speaking of the Catholic population of the Rhenish and Westphalian provinces, this Scotch Protestant writer says:—"This population is the very kernel of the Prussian Kingdom—a concentrated population of from three to four millions—the most wealthy, commercial, and manufacturing, and the most enlightened on their rights and wants of any, perhaps, in Germany."

THE CHAMPION OF EVIL.

FOR weeks past a paragraph has been floating about, wafted from one journal to another, that "Mr J. A. FROUDE, the eminent historian," was about to pay a visit to the colonies; and great has been the interest awakened by the intended advent of so illustrious and truthful a chronicler! We have before now dwelt at some length on the arguments and statements of that gentleman, disclosing his capacity for coining malignant falsehoods, and perverting historical facts; but, uncontrovertible and unanswerable as our statements were, we naturally expected that much of the weight attached thereto would be lost by their being uttered by ourselves. If, however, there still remains any one unconvinced of the truth and justice of our assertions, and the amount of credence to be placed in the writings of this reliable historian, we commend to his consideration the following paragraph, clipped from the 'Saturday Review'—one of the most influential and widely circulated of the home weeklies. In reviewing his last work, "The English in Ireland," that journal winds up with the following scathing denunciation:—"Mr FROUDE's case is different from that of the most violent and most unfair party writer. We make some excuse for Irish Papists and Irish Protestants speaking to one another. But here is a writer, who, with no temptation, no interest in the matter, without the poor excuse of national or religious rancor, puts himself forward in cold blood, to defend the evil deeds of one side, and to blacken those of the other. What may be Mr FROUDE's motives we cannot guess; the only practical result of his labors can be to make old memories and present disputes bitter than they need be. If Mr FROUDE wished to stir up another rebellion, to find new victims for new torturers, he could not take a better means to compass the end. He stands alone in modern English historical literature as having habitually applied no small natural powers to a purpose which we can only pronounce *immoral*. The downward course is easy; the panegyrist of HENRY VIII., has sunk into the panegyrist of 'Flogging FITZGERALD.' If writings so flimsy and inaccurate as those of Mr FROUDE live to be remembered in another age, it is something to think they will carry their own moral condemnation with them. If the man who can jeer over the gibbet of WURRING in one age, and the gibbet of CROSBIE in another, is to find a lasting place in men's memories, it is something to think that the character in which he will be remembered will not be as the defender of this or that doubtful theory, but in the character which he has chosen for himself, as the champion of evil, the apologist of wrong." Mr FROUDE has never been so hardly dealt with at our hands, and considering that the above is the unprejudiced verdict of an English literary tribunal on the man who "vindicated the memory of the Eighth HENRY," it must be conceded that he has received but little consideration after the laborious work of white-washing that model monarch. Although Mr FROUDE has been proved to have been guilty of gross partisanship, and even deliberate falsification, the possession of considerable literary abilities was universally accorded him, his inaccuracies being attributed rather to his heart than his head, and it was a matter for regret that such talents should have been thus prostituted, so that as a sophisticator his very abilities became the more dangerous. It has, however, remained for an English Protestant journal, in addition to the charge of inaccuracy and unreliability, by characterising his writings as weak and flimsy, to rob them of the claim to ability which was their only merit. It is such an unusual thing to find an English journal whose judgment and views have not been so warped and biased that they either cannot or will not accord the smallest meed of justice to the Sister Isle;

and rarer still, to find one with the moral courage to brave the prevailing opinion—even when convinced of its injustice—that the conduct of the 'Saturday Review' stands out in bold relief, and bespeaks the gratitude of all lovers of fair play. No doubt Mr FROUDE's visit to the colony will be followed by a work from his pen, and if he be wise he will take counsel from the past, and seek in it to repair his damaged literary reputation by a greater regard for facts, and a wholesome curb on his far too vivid powers of imagination. Men of ability, though their talents may be far above the common order, are none the more reliable as historians unless they are totally devoid of that prejudice and bigotry which runs, as a vein, from beginning to end through all Mr FROUDE's writings, occasionally hidden beneath the surface, but cropping up when least expected. The experience of the colony with regard to another great author who paid us a flying visit, will perhaps make the necessity and justice of our remarks somewhat apparent. Mr ANTHONY TROLLOPE's work on the colonies, bristling as it is with misstatements and inaccuracies, will no doubt in a few years be looked upon as a standard authority of the state of civilisation in these colonies at the time it was written, just as DICKEN's "American Notes" was in bygone days, and no doubt with an equal amount of correctness. Men like FROUDE and TROLLOPE are too prone to make the dry facts of history or statistics subservient to a desire to indulge in some specious word-paintings, which although no doubt pleasing during perusal, are far from what they purport to be—authorities on the subjects of which they treat. It is almost beyond comprehension, the amount of ignorance at present existing at home in reference to Australasia, even amongst classes which might fairly be supposed to be well-informed, and it is most desirable that when men of genius and ability pay us a visit the public in the old country should learn their ideas and impressions with regard to us. On the contrary, however, it is as strongly to be deprecated that the writings of such men as Mr TROLLOPE should be taken as works of authority on colonial matters of which he must be a mere sciolist; and, notwithstanding his ability, it is matter of impossibility that a book of such magnitude and importance, and embodying so many facts and data, such as he has given to the British public, could have been accurate with the very limited amount of time and means at his command. It is to be hoped, then, that should Mr FROUDE carry his intention into effect and visit the antipodes, his experience of our customs and resources will be somewhat more extended than those of Mr TROLLOPE, whose knowledge of the colonies was garnered up during a stay of but a few months; and that we shall not be treated by him as Ireland has been.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

WE regret to state that of late we have been selected as the favored recipient of a number of poetical contributions, which no doubt have caused their authors much labor and time. This preference is the more embarrassing when we confess—no doubt on account of a too prosaic composition—that we have been totally unable to discover any poetic merit in the contributions forwarded. Being, therefore, unable to estimate them at their proper value, we feel bound to intimate our deficiency, so that, by finding another channel, the genius of those by whom we have been favored, may not be lost to posterity.

A MEETING of members of the Press favourable to the establishment of a club for the use of the profession, was held on Saturday evening, at the Provincial Hotel, Mr F. Nicholls being in the chair. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the attendance was large, and the chairman announced that he had been handed the names of fifty-five gentlemen who were desirous of becoming members of the club. As it had been announced that on the application of fifty persons the club should be at once started, the meeting proceeded to carry such resolution into effect, when the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers:—President, Mr G. W. Bell; Vice-President, Mr R. H. Leary; Treasurer, Mr F. Chapman; Secretary, Mr T. Humphries; Committee, Messrs F. Nicholls, J. Dungan, Cole, Bracken, and Graham. The Committee were authorised to meet together for the purpose of drawing up a code of rules for the future guidance of the club, which will be submitted for the sanction of the members at a general meeting. It was also decided that the formal opening of the club, which takes place this evening, should be inaugurated by a supper at the Provincial Hotel.

Amongst the most important items of intelligence brought by the Hero is that with reference to the state of affairs at the Palmer diggings. Advice had been received at Brisbane that the miners were no longer able to maintain a footing on the field, and that hundreds were daily leaving, starved out. The impossibility of getting provisions to the ground makes it a matter of certainty that if the Government do not take means of providing a transit for provisions, by opening up regular communication with the diggings, a famine will be the inevitable result during the winter.