

Dr. Kuttner, a German scholar and writer, lectured on "Ireland—Its never-dying Faith," in Liverpool, England, recently.

William North, the English writer, said "he would rather see the whole world drunk from choice, than one man sober from compulsion."

Lincoln's tomb at Springfield, Illinois, was opened on the 6th July, to allow his remains to be viewed by a number of prominent gentlemen. The body, according to the report, is as it was the day it was interred, with the exception that the upper lip is somewhat swollen.

The right of engraving Miss Thomson's new battle piece has been sold for £200.

The fortune of the late Baron Anselm de Rothschild is estimated (according to 'Galigiani,' at more than a thousand millions of francs, equal to £40,000,000 sterling.

In the parish of Termon, near Letterkenny, there is at present living the oldest woman in Ireland. She was born in the year 1763, and is, consequently, now in the 111th year of her age. Her sight is yet good, and she rises and dresses every morning without assistance. She has got her third set of teeth, and can eat the hardest description of food.

The King of Denmark recently paid a visit to Thorshaven (Faroe Islands). During his stay the following melancholy incident occurred: While the president of the municipality was reading an address of welcome to His Majesty, the mayor dropped dead at his feet. The King was greatly affected, and has endowed the widow with a pension.

We hear of the death of Mr E. A. Moriarty, who translated 'Pickwick' and some other of Dickens' novels into German. He was for some time teacher of English at a Government College at Berlin.

It is alleged, with respect to a railroad in Arkansas, that, in order to realise the State aid, the company built a section of 10 miles, drew the bonds thereon, took up the rails and relaid them on the next section, and drew another instalments of bonds, and so on, till its whole quota of bonds had been drawn, and no road built.

The negroes at Trenton, Tennessee, having come to the determination to exterminate the white population, have organised an armed force for that purpose. A number of them have, however, been arrested by the whites, and 16 of the ringleaders have been "lynched."

A drug store at Fort Wayne, Ind., recently sold 1900 dols. worth of quinine in a week.

About 17,000 poor children have been taken out on free excursions in New York.

The Marquis of Londonderry is, it is understood, to be the new Knight of the Order of St. Patrick, and will probably be installed by the Lord Lieutenant.

John G. Whittier, who received one vote in the Senatorial election in Massachusetts, congratulates himself that his party did not split, but voted like one man to the last.

According to a rumor current in political circles in London, the real purpose of Mr Disraeli's promised visit to Ireland is to satisfy himself on the long pending question of a royal residence in that country. The Prime Minister is said to have set his heart upon giving to Ireland a royal residence and a real court, presided over by a son and a daughter of the Queen, and the Duke of Connaught and his bride are designated as the victims.—'Cork Examiner.'

## PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.

Auckland, Nov. 3.

THE Auckland newspapers are now full of Sir George Grey's protest for upholding the Provinces and securing Federal Government to this Colony. By a curious coincidence, the same number of our Herald which gave Sir George Grey's "State document," so highly lauding Federal Governments, contained the announcement that General Grant was about to retire from the Presidency of the United States—grieved and disgusted at the universal prevalence of corruption which he had no power to check. But the United States constitute an old and model Federal Government. Therefore Federal Government, on the score of public virtue cannot be very desirable, whatever other recommendations they may have. When I read the windy war, the old couplet comes to my memory:

For forms of Government let fools contest,—  
That which is best administered is best.

## PROSPERITY OF THE COLONY.

WHATEVER be the cause of our prosperity, there can be no question of the fact of its existence. We have many prophets of evil among us who predict that a crash or "crisis" is impending. Be that as it may, Mr Vogel and his supporters deserve no small amount of credit for the peace and prosperity we now enjoy, and the evil prophets may prove false prophets. God grant they may. As yet the people have no good reason to question either the judgment or integrity of Mr Vogel and those associated with him in the public business of the country. A good share of Solomon's wisdom has fallen to him obviously, and the colony has been fortunate in the benefit of it. The art of ruling is a very difficult one, whether the ruler be a parent, a schoolmaster, or a Prime Minister, and many allowances should be made for mistakes and shortcomings. The mass of the people cannot judge well of the soundness of any "policy" except by its fruits. Under ordinary circumstances, the people should confide much in the wisdom and knowledge of those in whose hand, by the providence of God, the Government is placed. My impression is, Providence sends the people of New Zealand much better rulers than we deserve. Provincial institutions I hope will be continued. They will—as an English M.P. who advocates Home Rule for Ireland well remarked—relieve the central Government of much troublesome work, which can be much better done by a local legislature—big parish work in short.

AUCKLAND.

## THE 'OTAGO TIMES,' THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND THE 'TABLET.'

"You shall be hated by all nations for my sake" was the warning which the founder of the Christian Church addressed to those who were to rule it or belong to it. This prediction has often been fulfilled by the treatment which the Catholic Church, her ministers, and people have received at the hands of the Civil Government and popular factions from age to age. Never, probably, was it more notably fulfilled than at the present time, by such men as Bismarck and the 'Otago Times,' if we may compare the tiger and tom cat. The writer in the 'Times,' and many besides, who repeat the cuckoo accusations against the Church, may be excused on the ground of their ignorance. They know not what they say, nor whereof they affirm; yet they cannot be held innocent in writing on a subject of which they have not taken sufficient means fully to inform themselves. A perusal of the English Protestant journals, especially the impartial London 'Spectator,' would have convinced your 'Times' that the Protestant feeling of England is largely and strongly against Bismarck's iniquitous persecuting laws. They argue that such laws strike at the very root of religious, and, therefore, of civil liberty. If the one go down, the other cannot stand. Such laws, if introduced into England, would deprive Protestant Non-Conformists, no less than Catholics, of all those rights they now enjoy, and which they struggled so manfully to secure, up to a recent date. It is to be hoped that the Otago 'Times' does not speak the sentiments of any considerable portion of its readers when it says that "The Catholic Church only exists in this colony by the grace and favor of the Governor and General Assembly, and that it could claim no inherent right to continue its ministrations were the Civil Government to suppress it by law." Anything more outrageous than this can hardly be conceived. It is a sentiment more besting a Nero than a journalist addressing a community of free-born men. The 'Times,' in saying this, must surely be joking and poking his fun at his Catholic neighbours. It is easy to conceive why men like him should be irritated, annoyed, and alarmed at the progress which the Catholic religion is everywhere making among devout and learned Protestants. The long list of clerical and titled converts given in a late issue might well cause him and others to ponder. But, surely, he cannot for a second imagine that the spirit of the English, Scotch, and Irish people would ever permit such laws as Bismarck is now trying to enforce to be placed on our Statute Books.

The British people and Parliament have had quite enough of such laws, and the last of them disappeared for ever when Lord Russell's "Ecclesiastical Titles Bill" was repealed. Bismarck is provoking a contest of a very serious kind, the upshot of which will be still further to prove the irrepressible power of the Roman Catholic Church. Catholics will bide their time, and offer nothing but a passive resistance. God can do more to direct the current of human affairs than Bismarck or the Otago 'Times.' Anything the 'Times' can say against the Catholic Church, or in favor of Bismarck's policy, must be very harmless to us. He may grin and show his teeth—bite he cannot. Your province is pre-eminently Scotch, and the 'Times' must needs write to please the Scotch people. It is a remarkable fact that the Catholic religion is now making great and unlooked-for progress among Scotch families of distinction. The noble houses of Argyll, Buccleugh, Douglas, Lothian, Hamilton, and Gordon took a leading part in establishing the Reformed faith in Scotland, and they got hold of the lion's share of the Church lands, greatly to the disgust of Knox and his friends. Yet these same houses are now becoming the very nurseries of Catholic children, in consequence of their female heads having embraced the Catholic faith. A mother's influence is like the influence of the Church herself—irresistible in the long run, and no effort to keep the children out of the Catholic Church will be long successful when once the mother has joined its communion. Her prayers alone, not to speak of any other influence, would, as a rule, lead to their conversion. We see instances of this daily almost. When fervent Protestants do enter the Catholic Church, they "pray without ceasing" for the conversion of their relatives, more especially their children, and their prayers are often answered in a wonderful and unlooked-for manner. Not all the power of Bismarck or the Otago 'Times,' or even the London 'Times' himself can prevent this. That is an "influence" which defies their power. Will the 'Times' call it an undue influence? Scotland, if not so rich and populous and luxurious in Catholic ages as she is now, was more virtuous then by a great deal. When virtue and piety declined, then the "Reformation" came. In our day virtue and piety are beginning to revive in Scotland, and the natural outcome of this is the return of her people to the Catholic Church. When the Church has rich children, she will never be poor. The pious munificence of the late Duchess Dowager of Argyll is a proof of this. There are other instances in point. Indeed, it was recently suggested by the Scotch Press that some law should be passed to restrain the liberality of Catholics to the Church in their testamentary bequests. The Otago 'Times,' no doubt, would be ready to frame and support such a law, with all the power at his command. Poor man! As yet, unfortunately, such a restraining law is but little wanted in New Zealand. We have no rich ladies, like the Duchess of Argyll and other gentles, to bequeath their thousands to the Church; but we support it out of our poverty. By the way, I do not see the name of the late Duchess of Kent—the Queen's mother—in your published list of converts. It is given in the Catholic Almanac, published "by authority." Treat the 'Times' tenderly. We at a distance look upon him as a benefactor to the Church. Like Bismarck, he is doing what will show her beauty, and her power, and her usefulness more plainly than ever. He is giving you the opportunity to remove from the public mind prejudices and misapprehensions against the Church such as you would not otherwise have. Therefore, treat him gently, and do not overwhelm him with harsh epithets, however much his presumption or malevolence may deserve them. A soft answer is the best answer, whether to ignorance, folly, or malice. It would be difficult to say of which of these three the 'Times' shows the most. Let us not boast of such triumphs. We have enough of causes of sorrow and humiliation when we look at our own shortcomings.—LAIC.