

maintain with zeal their crusade against the Education Act," . . . that "the laity, if they were left alone, are quite content with the Act, and would wish nothing better than to take advantage of the benefits it affords." These words, in reference to the laity, are notoriously untrue. The Catholic laity of Victoria have unanimously declared that they are discontented with the Education Act, and have given the most undoubted proofs of their determination not to take advantage of the benefits it affords, by refusing universally to permit their children to attend Government Schools, and by establishing and maintaining at very great expense, from their private resources, without any aid from the Government, and in the teeth of the scandalous opposition of the Government, schools of their own, notwithstanding the enormous plunder extorted from them by the Government for the purpose of maintaining in their midst a godless system of education. All this is notorious, and yet this correspondent of the 'Times' has the audacity to write that "the laity, if they were left alone, are quite content with the Act."

Again, this writer says:—"A Roman Catholic paper, of violent and bigoted character, printed in this city, &c." He refers to the 'Advocate.' All who habitually read this paper know that this description is utterly untrue. The 'Advocate' is the very opposite of violent: its characteristic is mildness, and as a rule its attitude is that of mere defence. And a busy time it has of it, refuting the calumnies of the other Melbourne newspapers, and labouring to set them right on Catholic topics. As to bigotry, it is only a correspondent of the 'Daily Times' could accuse it of anything of the kind. The 'Advocate' never attacks any man's religion, never calumniates it, never misrepresents it, never tries to insult it, or its ministers, never falsely attributes odious motives, views, principles, or proceedings to opponents. But this is precisely what the other Melbourne newspapers and Melbourne correspondents usually do in reference to Catholics.

Thirdly, the correspondent of the 'Otago Daily Times' writes to his employers in New Zealand as follows:—"At the public meetings they have held, their clergy have not scrupled to talk about liberty of conscience and individual freedom, with the grossest forgetfulness of the known fact that these principles have been solemnly cursed by POPE PIUS IX., and declared to be irreconcilable with the true faith." This is a monstrous lie. PIUS IX. has not cursed liberty of conscience and individual freedom, nor has he declared them to be irreconcilable with the true faith. This calumny of the Melbourne correspondent of the 'Otago Daily Times' has been denied and refuted a thousand times; and it cannot be supposed that any one deemed capable of writing for a daily newspaper is ignorant of the fact. At this moment such ignorance is impossible. Every newspaper man has read all the literature of the recent controversy provoked by Mr. GLADSTONE'S Expostulation: and, surely, Dr. NEWMAN'S replies have been attentively studied by all. The 'Daily Times' correspondent must, therefore, have read the subjoined passage from this gifted writer in answer to Mr. GLADSTONE—viz.: "When men advocate the rights of conscience, they in no sense mean the rights of the Creator, nor the duty to Him in thought and deed, of the creature; but the right of thinking, speaking, writing and acting, according to their judgment or their humour, without any thought of God at all. They do not even pretend to go by any moral rule, but they demand what they think is an Englishman's prerogative, to be his own master in all things, and to profess what he pleases, asking no one's leave, and accounting priest or preacher, speaker or writer, unutterably impertinent, who dares to say a word against his going to perdition, if he liked it, in his own way. Conscience has rights, because it has duties; but in this age, with a large portion of the public, it is the very right and freedom of conscience to dispense with conscience, to ignore a law-giver and a judge, to be independent of unseen obligations. It becomes a license to take up any or no religion, to take up this and that and let it go again, to go to church, to go to chapel, to boast of being above all religions, and to be an impartial critic of each of them. Conscience is a stern monitor, but in this century it has been superseded by a counterfeit, which the eighteen centuries prior to it never heard of and could not have mistaken for it, if they had. It is the right of self will." And it is this counterfeit called, by some writers, "liberty of conscience," that PIUS IX. has condemned, not real liberty of conscience.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE entertainment in aid of the Library Fund of the Juvenile Contingent, H.A.C.B.S., will be held on Thursday evening next in the schoolroom. Mr. Chas. Sykes will preside at the piano, and we hope to see a crowded house.

THE "unemployed" of Dunedin, in public meeting assembled, have resolved to send a petition to the Dunedin M.H.R.'s, asking them to use their influence to stop immigration from Great Britain.

TONGAREU has recently been very active, which has caused some speculation in scientific circles. The 'Post' assigns two plausible theories, one a determination that Iceland shall not outdo New Zealand in the matter of eruptions, and the other that the Maori giant being a strong anti-Provincialist, and disgusted at the dilatory action of Parliament *in re* abolition, is determined to take the matter into his own hands. But might not the hypothesis be hazarded that with land jobbings, miners' rights' swindling, Hall's mail service, and banking disclosures, his bowels are troubled for the future of the country. The theory we advance is, we submit, deserving of more weight than the other two, and we believe, will be accepted by our politicians.

It appeared during the late criminal sessions, that most of the Chinese in Otago are Buddhists, and believe in the transmigration of souls.

IN *Herbert v. the Otago Waste Lands Board*, in which the defendants moved to dissolve an *ex parte* injunction restraining defendants from dealing with certain deferred payment lands on the Heriot Hundreds, His Honor Mr. Justice Williams has given judgment. His Honor was "clearly" of opinion "that the plaintiff had no equity to come to this Court for an injunction, and that the injunction must be dissolved." So ends the case, the motion for attachment in which caused so much excitement, and under which Messrs Reid, Clark, and Bastings were to be "committed to the common gaol." However, if it is any consolation, as martyrs these gentlemen will doubtless bear "keeping" till some future time. Good men are rare, and we must preserve our land law reformers.

HIS HONOR the Superintendent of Otago is to be entertained at a banquet on his return from Wellington. At a meeting, at which the banquet was resolved on, it was agreed unanimously, "That while we admire Mr. Macandrew as a public man, we especially approve of his late action in relation to the Abolition Bill."

IT is the intention of a dozen of Auckland's best chess-players to take advantage of the Government offer of the free use of the wires after the session to challenge a dozen of the Dunedin players to a chess tournament by wire.

SIR GEORGE BOWEN'S "blowin'" tour is about drawing to a close. He leaves for his own dominion on December 8th next. Once more Victoria's proud vice-regal halls will resound to flowing words of sunny Greece, varied with egotistical gush of "What I saw in my travels." Sir Julius Vogel—we don't know if there is anything in the coincidence—is to return with him, and the same ship which brings to sorrowing Victoria its lost governor will bring to equally sorrowing New Zealand its once idolised financier.

THE chief political event of the week has been the evidence of Mr. Bridges, now of the National and formerly of the Bank of New Zealand, before the Public Accounts Committee. Mr. Bridges declared it to be his opinion that by some corrupt means the Government had been induced to give more for the Port Chalmers railway line than it was worth, and refused to be more specific unless indemnified. Subsequently, before the house, Mr. Bridges made a retraction, in which he said that he had since found his statements had been made on erroneous and insufficient grounds. This, however, was not considered satisfactory, and the matter is to be pushed, or at all events is to be apparently pushed further. We shall see.

THE 'Guardian' has numerous sub-leaders, verbose in dull prose, intermixed with stale poetical quotations, "lugged" in anyhow. These sub-leaders are almost as flat, fearful, and wonderful as those in the 'Daily Times' on municipal topics.

WHILE members of the Dunedin Harbor Board are agitating for honorariums, Rattray street wharf remains unlighted, and passengers arriving after dark run imminent risk of having limbs broken or being drowned. Surely this state of things should not be allowed to exist unremedied.

MESSRS ROBIN & Co., of the Octagon, have lately built a splendid lighthouse for a Dunedin gentleman. It is much admired, and, with the increase of wealth in the country and the spirit of social rivalry, will no doubt lead to others being built. As a work of entirely colonial industry it is deserving of high praise.

CERTAIN Green Island colliery proprietors, taking example apparently from the Harbor Board and the ballastmen, have waited on the Deputy Superintendent, urging that the sliding scale according to which coals are conveyed long distances be altered to a rate to be the same per mile over any number of miles. They were afraid, it was very evident, of competition from the "Real Mackay" and Kaitangata. His Honor plainly told them he thought the Government would not agree to their request.

IN Sardinia as well as in Corsica, feuds between families run high, and many of the members of these inimical houses, who live in the same small town, have not been seen to speak to each within the memory of man. Recently, however, the Bishops of Tempio and Ozieri brought the chiefs of the contending families in their dioceses together, and induced them to become friends in the presence of a vast multitude at the foot of the cross. Surely, it may well be said of these bishops, "Blessed are the peacemakers."