

## N A S E B Y.

THE examination of the children attending St. Patrick's Catholic School, Naseby, took place according to appointment on the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th December. Number in attendance, 57; average attendance, 50; number on roll, 70. The children were examined in spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, algebra, mensuration, Euclid, English history, and Latin and Greek roots. The manner in which they answered the several questions put, must be a source of pride and pleasure and gratification to their teacher—Mr. Kearney—as well as to the judges and visitors. The examination was conducted by Mr. Kearney, in the presence of the following gentlemen, who kindly consented to act as judges, namely:—Messrs. Robinson, DeLautour, Grummitt, and Bailey. The examination was thorough and searching, and the answering fully 90 per cent. I have no hesitation in asserting that the proficiency of the scholars can favorably compare with those of any primary school in New Zealand. On the 10th the pupils were treated to luns and cake by Father Royer; and at night the school-room was filled by themselves, their parents and friends, who came in order to hear the names of the successful prize-takers. The chair was taken by L. W. Busch, Esq., Mayor of Naseby, who introduced the Rev. Father Royer to the audience, who, after reading his report on the state of the school for the last eleven months, and also of the satisfactory state in which it was at present, gave a lucid exposition on education, which was listened to with attention by the audience. At its close a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Brookes, and seconded by Mr. Dillon, was carried with acclamation. The names of the prize-takers being read out by the Mayor, was received with cheers by the youngsters, who also gave three cheers for Father Royer, and three for their teacher. Mr. Bailey proposed a vote of thanks to the teacher—Mr. Kearney—which was seconded by Mr. De Lantour, who dwelt at some length on the pleasure which he felt at the proficiency of the scholars, and the ability with which the teacher mastered the art of teaching. He also referred, at some length, to Mr. Kearney's ability as a teacher, and said that he was a credit to the district. Mr. Kearney, in suitable terms, returned thanks, and proposed a vote of thanks to the judges for the manner in which they gave their decisions, and their impartiality in doing so. The audience was then favored with a number of recitations by the youngsters—all of which were given in a creditable manner. Young Master Boyce especially distinguished himself. The success of the Catholic school in Naseby is now an accomplished fact; and to the persevering efforts of the Rev. Father Royer is the chief credit due. The ability of the teacher to perform his part cannot be questioned; but if his salary was not forthcoming, we could not expect him to remain. The jubilee commenced here on Saturday. We have any amount of candidates in the field now for Mount Ida; but I think I will still remain true to my old love—Mr. DeLautour.

The following is the prize list:—

Medals awarded for religious instruction—First Class (special) Bridget Brookes; second do., M. J. Brookes; third do., Sam Inder; fourth do., Emma Nicholas; fifth do., M. J. Brudley. English History, 1st Class: 1st, B. Brookes; 2nd, J. Meehan; 3rd, P. Bleach. Latin and Greek Roots: B. Brookes and P. Bleach equal; 2nd, M. J. Brookes. Reading, 1st Class: 1st, B. Brookes; 2nd, P. Bleach; 3rd, J. Meehan. Reading, 2nd Class: 1st, Mary Boyce; 2nd, S. Inder; C. Millar and P. Fennessy, equal. Reading, 3rd Class: E. Nicholas and Lizzie Donnelly, equal; 2nd, H. Gason; 3rd, Lucy Dorley. Reading, 4th Class: 1st, M. Bradley and Maggie Lenam, equal; 2nd, Kate Fennessy; 3rd, Annie Brookes. Reading, 5th Class: 1st, M. Cogan; 2nd, John Tait; 3rd, Ellen Costello. Writing, 1st Class: 1st Bridget Brookes and M. J. Brookes, equal; 2nd, J. Meehan; 3rd, P. Bleach. Writing, 2nd Class: 1st, S. Inder and Sarah Lawson, equal; 2nd, Mary Boyce and A. Stephens, equal; 3rd, P. Fennessy and C. Millar, equal. Writing, 3rd Class: 1st, C. Gason; 2nd, Catherine Boyce; 3rd, Lucy Dorley. Spelling, 1st Class: 1st, P. Bleach; 2nd, B. Brookes; 3rd, M. J. Brookes. Spelling, 2nd Class: 1st, Mary Boyce; 2nd, S. Inder; C. Millar and P. Fennessy, equal. Spelling, 3rd Class: 1st, E. Nicholas; 2nd, F. Inder; 3rd, H. Gason. Geography, 1st, Class: 1st, M. J. Brookes; 2nd, P. Bleach; 3rd, Bridget Brookes. Geography, 2nd Class: 1st, S. Inder; 2nd, P. Fennessy; 3rd, A. Stephens. Geography, 3rd Class: William Smith and F. Inder, equal; 2nd, D. Meehan. Arithmetic, 1st Class: 1st, M. J. Brookes; 2nd, P. Bleach; 3rd, B. Brookes and J. Meehan, equal. Arithmetic, 2nd Class: 1st, S. Inder; 2nd, A. Jacobs; 3rd, P. Fennessy. Arithmetic, 3rd Class: 1st, Emma Nicholas; 2nd, W. Smith, D. Meehan and J. Brookes, equal. Mensuration, 1st Class: 1st, M. J. Brookes; 2nd, J. Meehan; 3rd, P. Bleach. Book-keeping, 1st Class: 1st, P. Bleach; 2nd, M. J. Brookes, B. Brookes, and J. Meehan. Book-keeping, 2nd Class: 1st, S. Inder. English Grammar, 1st Class: 1st, B. Brookes; 2nd, M. J. Brookes. English Grammar, 2nd Class: 1st, S. Inder; 2nd, M. Boyce and C. Millar, equal. English Grammar, 3rd Class: Emma Nicholas, Fred Inder, Eliza Donnelly, W. Smith and D. Meehan, equal. Algebra, 1st Class: 1st, M. J. Brookes; 2nd, P. Bleach. Euclid, 1st Class: M. J. Brookes and P. Bleach, equal.

HIBERNICUS.

## SECRET SOCIETIES IN RUSSIA.

THE extraordinary disclosures of a thoroughly rotten state of society contained in the opening statement of M. Zychareff, the Imperial Prosecutor in the trial of the Nihilist conspirators at St. Petersburg, are a suggestive commentary on the system of government pursued by the schismatic rulers of Russia. By every means in their power the Tsars have devoted themselves to the task of substituting the idea of the supremacy of the State for the ideal inculcated by the Christian Church, and the result, we are now told, of this shortsighted impiety is the weakening of respect for the State among the masses of the Russian population to an extent which the

Crown officials are constrained to describe as alarming in the highest degree. It is the old lesson, the lesson which the persecutors of the Church will never learn. The Governments which make war on Christian liberty are inevitably preparing by their conduct their own destruction. The French Monarchy of the Gallican period congratulated itself on the success with which it weakened the ties between France and the Roman See, and brought the French dioceses more and more under the control of the Crown. A century from Louis XIV.'s celebrated Episcopal Council of 1685 had hardly elapsed when royalty fell to the ground at the hands of a people who, from unlearning the law of God, had come to despise the obligations of civil obedience and loyalty. Let us hear now what the representative of the Russian Government has to say on the condition to which morality and loyalty have been reduced in Russia under the supremacy of the Pontiff-Cæsars who have concentrated in their own hands, as they fancied, the spiritual as well as the temporal control and guidance of their subjects. The Imperial Prosecutor, in fact, frankly admits that the enormous, the menacing spread of the Socialist propaganda is precisely due to the absence of any convictions calculated to resist the progress of anarchical ideas. "The rapid progress of the propaganda," he states, "is to be attributed on the one part to the apathy of general society, which, not realising the object or the danger of these criminal intrigues, opposes to them no resistance, and even favours them by its inconsiderate sympathies; and, on the other part, to the absolute want of moral education among the youth which forms the grand army of the propagandists, an education which can only be received in the bosom of the family." This certainly at the outset gives a pretty good idea of families devoid of morality, and therefore incapable of teaching it to their youthful members.

M. Zychareff proceeds to explain at length how it is that the rising generations of Russians fall such easy victims to the Nihilist enisuriers. "They have had inculcated on them neither religious principles nor respect for the family institution, nor for property, nor for individual rights, nor for any sacred tradition; and when they become enrolled in the Socialist ranks the family and the society in the midst of which they have grown up do not seek in any manner to influence their minds in an opposite direction, or to turn them aside from the fatal course on which they have embarked. They are, on the contrary, considered to have done well, and this is precisely the cause of the evil which is undermining Russia." When the Pope says in some Encyclical or Allocution that the want of religion and morality is the root of every evil in the State, as well as in the domestic sphere, the journalists and officials of a Russia, or a Prussia, find nothing more becoming than to ridicule his teaching as senile, or to denounce it as "encroaching" and "dangerous," hostile to "progress" and menacing to "liberty." We have now from the spokesman of the Russian Government the ample confirmation of those warnings which are nowhere more required and more disregarded than in that Empire, as the Holy Father has lately said in his address to the Pilgrims of Laval, "which for contradiction calls itself orthodox," while for years it has not swerved from the unholy, and, as is now seen, suicidal effort to destroy the Catholic faith within the dominions of the Tsar.

Unquestionably the description which we now possess at the hands of the Russian Government itself of the internal condition of the Muscovite Empire must largely influence our estimates of the solidity and power of endurance of the Russian State. When we are told that thirty-seven out of the forty provinces or governments which, excluding the non-Muscovite districts, such as Poland and Lithuania, make up the European portion of the monarchy—when, we say, we are told that thirty-seven, or nearly all, the Muscovite provinces are deeply infested by the Socialist agitation, when it is added that the general disposition of the people is so entirely favourable that the authorities are powerless to eradicate the growing evil, when such is the testimony of the authorities themselves, it is certainly hard to avoid a comparison with the circumstances which have forerun destructive revolutions in States more ancient and more civilized than the Empire of the Romanoffs. The aims of the Russian revolutionists seem to summarize the final tendencies of cosmopolitan Communism. The State is to be abolished as a usurpation of, and incompatible with, the rights of the Communes. The bourgeois or middle-class is to suffer the same fate by being resolved into the "hierarchy of labour," organized on the plan of co-operative associations. The regeneration of the masses from old "servitudes," notably from religion, follows as a matter of course, and what the Crown Prosecutor's language renders as "the creation of a new human society" is to crown the Nihilist revolution. "In spite of the monstrousness of these theories, the writings of Bakounine,"—the Karl Marx of Russian Socialism—"and the militant labour of his adepts exercise an immense and terrible influence over the minds of the Russian youth. Meeting none who could demonstrate to them the falsehood of his principles they become enthusiasts on behalf of the doctrine of Bakounine, for this doctrine, besides responding to their own aspirations, gives them an answer to the unquiet question 'What to do?' which is ever troubling them." It is "the Russian youth" who are the chosen intermediaries between the heads of the conspiracy and the masses of the nation, and it appears that no more zealous apostles of revolution could be selected. The revelations contained in M. Zychareff's accusations explain in this respect the remarkable circular issued some months ago by Count Tolstoi, the Minister for Education and Worship, to the heads of educational establishments throughout the Empire. Count Tolstoi warned the directors of the public instruction that they must be doubly vigilant in their supervision of their pupils, and certainly there seems to have been good reason for the advice. It is suggestive that amid all the means of counteracting the moral pestilence recommended by the Government the influence of the clergy is left out of the question. The wretched State-ridden Church of Russia has, by the confession of its masters, become incapable of discharging even those duties of "spiritual police force" to which every nobler object of a priesthood was sacrificed.