

held lately in London, the Marquis of Bute moved a resolution to the effect that "It is of great importance at the present time that Catholic elementary schools should be maintained in a high state of efficiency." He said as the poor were more numerous with us than any other body it behoved us to show more educational activity than any other class in the country. He quoted the saying of a great man, "the future is in the hands of the schoolmasters." I believe we may say that the Catholic people of Ireland and New Zealand voluntarily spend more of their money on education and religion in proportion to their number and means than any other class. The Parliamentary Returns some time ago showed that while the paupers in England were between nine and ten per cent. of the population, in Ireland they were under two per cent.—1.5. The Irish Excise returns also showed a much smaller consumption of alcoholic liquor in Ireland than England in proportion to population. Pauperism and drunkenness are the reproach of England, and the cause of the greatest amount of crime and vice there. Poverty is common to every country, and no crime or reproach; but that degrading form of it called "pauperism" is the direct fruit of Protestantism, and it is a subject of congratulation that Catholic Ireland shows so small an amount of pauperism. The 'N. Z. Wesleyan' has laid himself out to depreciate the moral character of Catholics and to cast suspicion on the purity of the motives of the Catholic hierarchy, very unfairly not to say very uncharitably. Of course he wishes us to be informed that Protestants in general and Wesleyans in particular are getting our superiors in morality and in every thing else. For myself I have nothing to say against Wesleyans. Some men speak against them as modern Pharisees—outwardly correct and severe in their measures and devout in their habits, but worldly-minded and inwardly full of evil. I shall say no more in that direction; I would merely suggest that if the Wesleyan Protestants generally would stick to their principles, read the Bible, and practice its sacred lessons honestly, and especially its mission of Divine charity, it would be well. They would then all see, as so many of them are coming to see now, that however many bad Catholics there may be the Roman Catholic Church has irresistible claims on the obedience of all men; as the Jews were found to accept their religion, though so many of its professors, from the throne to the cottage, "did evil in the sight of the Lord."

Auckland.

LAIC.

THE POPE AND THE CENTENNIAL.

(From the 'Western Watchman'.)

YOUR correspondent intended to have described long ago, for the readers of the 'Watchman,' the contributions of the Holy Father, Pius IX., to the art department of the Centennial Exposition, but, notwithstanding repeated visits to that magnificent portion of the fair, the whereabouts of the Vatican collection remained a mystery to me until a few days ago, when I was guided to the department containing them by a friend who happened to stumble on them during one of his visits, and who recognized them through the fact of their being marked with labels containing the title of the Pontiff. The collection is, of course, as to quality, superfine. In the matter of quantity it is not imposing, containing only five pieces in all,—four mosaics and one gobelin piece. The mosaics are, it is needless to say, among the finest specimens in existence of that kind of art, and it may be fairly doubted if there is extant a more perfect example of gobelin tapestry in the world than the specimen which the Vatican contributions contain. Two of the mosaics are companion works, the subjects being a pair of vases containing flowers, with fruits at the bases and birds of paradise perched amid the roses. The other two mosaics are pictures of the Madonna and Child. One is a very ancient looking work, in which the Infant is kissing the Holy Mother. The faces in this picture differ widely from those in the other, whose design has furnished about nine-tenths of the popular pictures of the Holy Family. This is the famous picture of which Guido Reni, who flourished in the early part of the seventeenth century, furnished the original. The Vatican mosaic is beautifully perfect, in color, tone and expression. I heard Bayard Taylor, the American Egyptologist, say of this subject—I am almost certain that he referred to this particular design—that its original was discovered on various relics recovered from the ruins of ancient Egypt; so it seems that the group which Catholics regard with so much veneration, and whose representation in engravings, mosaics and oil paintings has gone on until they are found, in their cheaper forms, in the houses of hundreds of thousands of Catholics, and, in the more costly styles, adorning and dignifying the parlors and galleries of the wealthy of all denominations, was originally designed by the hand of some old Egyptian who had slept in death for a thousand years before the nation which gave us a Guido Reni had any existence. The gobelin in the collection has for its subject the martyrdom of St. Agnes. It is a wonderful work. Lest some one who read this might not fully understand what gobelin work is, it may be briefly stated that it is the production in various colors by weaving of a picture or other design on a groundwork of threads. It derives its peculiar name from Jehan Gobeelen, a Flemish dyer of the fifteenth century, who erected in Paris a building for the manufacture of this rich tapestry. The specimen the Holy Father sends us is said to be an old work, yet its colors are brilliant and fresh-looking. At a distance it would be taken for a fine oil-painting. The expression on the upturned face of St. Agnes, as she stands on the summit of a hill of blazing faggots; is in itself a marvellous triumph of art.

The Bishop of Rodez, France, has issued a circular in which he announces the re-establishment of the ancient monasteries of Conques, St. Francois de Millan, Bonneval and Bonbecombe. He orders that a general subscription be opened for these different works.

ARCHBISHOP MACHALE.

THE well informed writer of the Irish articles in the London 'Tablet' supplies the following notes on the services of Archbishop MacHale during the active years of his long episcopate:—

The appointment of a coadjutor to his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. MacHale, the venerated Archbishop of Tuam, now about to take place, is an event suggestive of touching and memorable recollections. Of nearly 1,100 patriarchs, archbishops, and bishops in the Church his Grace is believed to be one of the very oldest, being now advanced in the fifty-second year of his episcopate, yet he has so far discharged all the weighty duties of his vast diocese with unbroken regularity and unflagging zeal. Tuam is considerably the largest diocese in Ireland, and ranks next to Dublin in point of Catholic population; while it is three to four times larger in area, and before the famine had a greater number of inhabitants. The diocese includes nearly a quarter of a million of Catholics, scattered over 2,167 square miles of country, a very large portion of which is mountainous, with a sinuous coast line of considerable extent, numbers of ragged peninsulas, and several populous islands, difficult at times of access, yet having churches and demanding episcopal visitation. Dr. MacHale was consecrated Coadjutor Bishop of Killala, on the 5th June, 1835; and on the death of Dr. Kelly, in 1834, was promoted to the Archiepiscopal See of Tuam, whose mitre he has worn with exalted dignity for the long period of forty-two years; while the next senior bishop of Ireland is only of twenty-nine years standing. No district in Ireland, and scarcely any in the world passed through more varied and severe trials than Western Connaught during the long and memorable episcopate of the Archbishop. The poorest and most populous locality in the country, education was very backward there, the population isolated, and their habits simple and primitive, Irish being spoken by all classes. Even so early as fifty years ago, organisations existed to seduce the people from their faith, through proselytizing schools and itinerant missionaries. The appearance of the famine stimulated the hope that, through impending starvation and the sickness and terrible afflictions that followed, the evangelising harvest of the West Connaught Mission was at hand. Exeter Hall rang with plaudits at the marvellous report of legions of conversions; gullible old ladies and gentlemen fanatically flung their notes and guineas to snatch the brands from the Popish burning on the sea-board of Connaught; flying brigades of parsons, many of them of questionable antecedents, scoured the country; while Bible-readers and mission agents of various grades laden with food, clothing, and bribes, paid constant visits to the wretched cabins of the sick and famishing poor. Connemara and Joyce's country were parcelled out into mission districts; churches were erected, and clergy located in them; endowments for permanent livings were provided; relief depots, schools and orphanages were founded; lucrative employment was secured to all who desired it; while tempting offers were held out of comfortable service in England to all who would listen to the insidious inducements to apostasy. Protestant archbishops and bishops, and leading public men of England, with travellers from various countries, thronged to the Connaught sea-board to verify with their own eyes the reports of the conversion of the vast mass of the population from Popery. With slight intermission, this nefarious conspiracy against the faith of the poor continued until 1861, when the creed census then taken exposed to the world the infamous lying of these impostors. Never was conviction more complete and crushing than that supplied by the census that famine, pestilence and bribes were unable to shake the faith of the most wretched peasantry in Connaught. The collapse of funds and the total discredit of the West Connaught Mission immediately followed; in a few years came the Disestablishment of the Church; while the census of 1871 reveals that the relative numerical status of Catholics is higher in Galway and Mayo than it had been at the close of the previous decade.

The intrepid and able Archbishop had to provide against contingencies so singular and trying as to be without parallel, at least in modern history. His name and station, his piety and patriotism attracted the generous alms of Christendom for the relief of his afflicted flock who, with unswerving fidelity, have nobly defeated the satanic machinations to lead them to apostasy. The dangers of the coast of Connaught were never able to deter the devoted Archbishop—although sometimes weatherbound in islands for weeks—even since he became an octogenarian from following his flock to see that they were in safe pastures. He has built at least 100 churches, completed a splendid cathedral, founded an admirable college, founded ample parochial schools, and established religious houses of men and of women all over the diocese.

THE NEW MONASTERY AT FORT-AUGUSTUS.

[From the 'Inverness Highlander,' September 13.]

ON Wednesday an assemblage of distinguished gentlemen, both cleric and lay, took place at Fort-Augustus to witness the laying of the foundation stone of the new monastery, college, and hospitiun. Fort-Augustus, our readers will remember, formed one of a chain of forts (Fort-William and Fort-George being the other two) which were built with the object of awing the Highlands after the first Jacobite rising. The date of its foundation was 1729. Its position, on a beautiful meadow at the western extremity of Loch Ness was, as Dr. Johnson says, "well chosen for pleasure, if not for strength." Its defences were a wall, not very high or very strong, with four bastions, a moat, a court-way and a wide glacis. It was never of much use to the Government, except that it afforded quarters to his Grace the Duke of Cumberland when he was committing his "Bulgarian Atrocities" in the Highlands. It was built to accommodate a garrison of 200 to 300 men, but since the time of the Crimean War it has been almost entirely unoccupied by the