

not more deplorable than is at present the case, the reason is that their companionship is shunned by all, for no one will associate with them who has a character that it would any longer be possible to disgrace, and there is hardly a parent in the whole colonies who, rather than see his children frequenting the company of the Chinese, would not prefer to be left childless.

Such is the case as it actually stands; but the prospect becomes clearer, in which we obtain a view of an immense increase in the immigration of Chinamen into these countries. It is stated on the best authority that, induced by the overcrowded state of the Flowery Land, and encouraged by the flourishing accounts received from our shores, as well as stimulated by the sight of the comforts enjoyed by numbers who have returned hence enriched by a few years of labor at our diggings, not only hundreds but myriads of these people are anxiously awaiting an opportunity of transporting themselves hither. We confess that such a prospect fills us with dismay, and, should it be realised, the future of these colonies, far from being the prosperous and honorable state of existence that we look forward to with hope, will undoubtedly become a bye-word and a reproach.

Whatever be our mutual differences, we are all of us agreed that the welfare of a people depends, in an eminent degree, on its moral status. Our views on the best method of securing for this an elevated position are various, but there are few who would openly question the fact that its soundness is the chief desideratum. And if to this end churches are built and schools are opened, and many measures introduced into the community, will it not be a great mistake if steps are not taken to prevent an invasion that must go far to counteract all the good that at so great an outlay and trouble it is sought to procure? Such an invasion unlimited immigration from China would indubitably be.

If up to the present the Chinese in these colonies, as we have said, have had no very extended evil influence, though even this it may perhaps be permitted to question, it is because they have been comparatively isolated, and shunned by the civilised population; but let them once gain such a footing amongst us as will enable them generally to compete successfully with white labor, and this will be no longer possible. The poorer classes everywhere will then of necessity be obliged to associate with them, and the consequence will be not the amelioration of the Asiatic, but the degradation of the European, and one generation so associated will do more to demoralise the colonies and to lower their inhabitants in the scale of humanity, than many lustres of civilising regulations will suffice to repair.

We trust, then, that if the danger really threatens, as we are inclined strongly to believe to be the case, no sentimental notions connected with free labor, or liberty, or the British constitution, or whatever else it may be of the kind, will be allowed to interfere with the very necessary defence to be undertaken against it; and that those persons, who have much and who are desirous of having more, will not be so besotted by an inordinate wish for cheap labor, as to oppose any measures that it may be found advisable to adopt, for the purpose of preventing the colonies from becoming literally a sink of iniquities.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

MR. CHARLES E. BUNNY has been admitted a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

A WELCOME addition has been received to the strength of the South Australian Mission, in the persons of five Sisters of the Order of St. Dominic, who lately arrived in Adelaide from the Dominican Convent at Cabra, near Dublin.

A CONVENT of the Order of the Presentation was opened at Wagga Wagga, N.S.W., on the 10th ult. The ceremony was conducted by Archbishop Vaughan, and the Bishops of Goulburn, Bathurst, and Maitland were present. £1,300 was contributed towards the building fund.

THE pupils of the Christian Brothers' Schools, Dunedin, enjoyed a thorough holiday at Portobello on Wednesday last. But one contretemps occurred during the whole day. It was in the trip down, when the s.s. Iron Age grounded on a sand-bank, owing to the low state of the tide, so that the excursionists had to be put on shore in boats, an experience, however, rather pleasing to the juveniles than otherwise. The weather was all that could be desired, and games were kept going with great spirit from the time of arriving at the place selected for the picnic until the ebb of the evening tide made it necessary to return to town.

THE kangaroos and wallabies are causing much annoyance and alarm in Queensland, particularly in the north, where large areas of country have been totally stripped of their herbage by them.

THE members of the Society of Jesus in Australia have been re-inforced by three fathers belonging to their order, who are victims of the tyranny of Bismarck.

PERSONS desirous of acquiring property in Dunedin will be afforded an opportunity of doing so to great advantage on Wednesday next, 10th instant, when a valuable leasehold will be disposed of. The property alluded to is that held by Mrs. Walsh, in Princess-street South, and which occupies a most eligible position for business purposes. There is erected upon it a brick building, which contains a commodious forge and a comfortable dwelling-house. In addition, a quantity of tools and other matters used in the blacksmith's trade will be disposed of. Further particulars will be found in our advertising columns.

OWING to the effects of the late fire on his premises, Mr. Beissel has removed his fashionable hair-dressing establishment to apartments on the other side of Princess-street, nearly opposite to those recently occupied by him.

AMONGST the most efficient educational establishments in the Colony are certainly to be reckoned St. Mary's Schools at Nelson. We constantly are in receipt of intelligence concerning them of an extremely gratifying nature, and it is evident that the Rev. Fathers Garin and Mahoney have the best reasons possible to congratulate themselves on the success of their efforts for the good of the younger members of the Catholic community. The female school is conducted by the Nuns, and is remarkable for the excellence of the instructions imparted there, which, as is usual in institutions of the kind under the care of ladies belonging to a religious order, are wisely planned so as to combine the useful branches of education called into play in every-day life with those accomplishments whose effect is refining, and which aid in elevating the mind, and contribute to the spread of a higher civilisation. The boys are under the direction of Mr. Richards, assisted by Mr. H. C. Williamson, and the affection with which the head master is regarded by his pupils in itself affords a most pleasing proof of the excellent management of his school. The prizes gained by the pupils of both schools were, at the termination of the examination this Christmas, presented by the Mayor of Nelson, and his Worship took the opportunity of passing a high eulogium upon each establishment severally. The school of the Nuns was very beautifully decorated for the occasion, and while a profusion of flowers testified to the summer season of the Southern Hemisphere, the winter of the North was recalled by an ornament formed of holly, the good taste of the whole bespeaking the refinement of the most polished nation in Europe, to which the greater number of the Sisters, we believe, belong. A concert of vocal and instrumental music displayed the well cultivated powers of the young lady pupils; and several recitations in French and English were delivered by them with admirable effect. Their needle work also evoked warm admiration.

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOLS, LAWRENCE, DEMONSTRATION AND CONCERT.

THE third annual demonstration and concert in connection with the above schools took place on Tuesday, December 26, under the conductorship of Mr. Woods, and was an unqualified success. The commodious hall was crowded to inconvenience, and the pupils acquitted themselves in a manner that would have been highly creditable to grown performers. The programme opened with an overture (violin and piano) by Mr. and Mrs. Woods, which was very well rendered. Clifton's song, "Put the brake on going down hill," was well received and deservedly applauded. The pianoforte trio, by Mrs. Woods, and the Misses Aylward and Teresa Clark, was extremely well rendered, and reflects great credit on themselves and teacher. "Annie of the Vale," by Master James Harris, followed, and was one of the best rendered items in the programme. This young gentleman possesses a splendid treble voice, and knows how to use it to advantage. Miss Ellen Fahey's ballad, "Oh, papa, don't go out to-night," was given with good effect, and we hope to see great things from her in the future. "The Happy Policeman," by Mr. Woods and Mrs. Needham, was one of the features of the evening. Miss Teresa Clark's piano solo, "Beatrice di Tenda," was extremely well rendered, and with an exquisite touch. The National Anthem, "God defend New Zealand," was then given, the musical author being one of the soloists, and was most enthusiastically received. The principal item in the second part was "The dear little Shanrock," with the following soloists who acquitted themselves very creditably—Misses Johanna Drew, Mary Drew, M. A. Speirs, M. E. Fahey, Ellen Aylward, and Masters Robert Harris and Robert Needham (age 4 years). Mrs. Needham's song, "The Lover and the Bird," was well rendered. The concert concluded with the National Anthems—"God save the Queen" and "God defend New Zealand." Mrs Woods presided at the piano, and the success of the entertainment is in no small degree due to her excellent accompaniments.

Several years ago the good Sisters of St. Dominic established a school for young ladies at Racine, Wis., and by years of hard, weary toil succeeded in purchasing a beautiful site and erecting thereon a suitable building. God rewarded their industry even in a worldly way, and year after year the Sisters enlarged and improved the building to meet the increasing wants of their patrons. At last the good Mother Superioress was called to her reward, but ere she died she made a will in which, as she supposed, due provision was made for the legal transfer of the property to her successor, in trust for the community. Poor soul, she little recked the quibbles or injustices of the law. Through an informality in the will it was found to be invalid, and certain grasping and venal relatives of the Superioress were quick to take advantage of the legal flaw to obtain possession of the property which belonged neither to them nor their relative, except in trust, to the latter. The case was before the circuit court of Racine and was decided against the convent.