

atrocities are, if possible, surpassed, and which occurred in a public-house among the workmen of England. The Turkish ruffians destroyed the lives of women and babes in the heat and excitement of a rebellion. The victims of their demoniacal fury were aliens in blood and religion, and some of their relatives or co-religionists at least had given provocation. But the English monsters wreck their fury on their own innocent wives under circumstances and in a manner which makes one's very blood curdle with horror to read of them; and what is more, this has been done in the presence of *men* who have coolly looked on as the pitiless and inhuman monster was committing the atrocity.

Scenes of a similar kind, we are led to infer from this writer, are not rare in England. Where is the remedy for these miseries? It is plain the Anglican Church with its enormous wealth, and the Protestant sectaries with all their money and zeal fail to reach the root of the evil. The well-directed efforts of the Catholic Church alone can stay this moral plague in England. There she has free course and protection under a religious and just sovereign—and the natural disposition of Englishmen is good, though corrupted and degraded by selfishness in the past.—*LATIC.*

HIBERNIAN-AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY, INVERCARGILL.

ST. MARY'S BRANCH, No. 96.

A SPECIAL meeting of the above Branch was held on Monday, May 14, 1877, for the purpose of opening a Juvenile Contingent in connection therewith. The President, Bro. John Keveney, was in the chair, and all the officers, and several past officers of the Branch, were present. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the attendance of juveniles was not large; however, 13 were enrolled. The Rev. Father Higgins, Treasurer to the Branch, gave the opening address, which was very instructive. He explained several of the most important laws of the Society, which he assured the juveniles they were bound to obey. He exhorted them, in particular, to practice obedience to the laws of God and His Church, and to their parents and superiors, and also to the laws of the land, and by doing so they would become true Hibernians and respectable and useful citizens in every sense of the word. The following Juvenile officers were elected—Masters Thomas Anthony, President; Thomas Tuohy, Vice-President; James Tracey, Secretary; John O'Neil, Warden; John Maher, Guardian. It was resolved that the Juveniles should meet on the same night as the Branch, but one hour earlier, in order to transact Juvenile business first. It is the intention of the Branch, as soon as possible, to form a life and drum band; and the Juvenile Secretary was instructed to write to Dunedin for information regarding it. The meeting was closed in due form by the Rev. Father Higgins reciting *The Angelus*.

OUR SCHOOLS.

ANOTHER large school has been thrown upon Catholics for support. The aid to St. George's, Carlton, was withdrawn at the end of last month, and at the same time the chief teachers went over to the State. But the school, notwithstanding, was not closed for a day; a new staff of teachers was immediately provided, and they are in every respect highly qualified for the duties entrusted to them. Immediately after the change there was a slight falling off in the attendance, some of the children having gone to the Government establishment, their parents being under the impression that St. George's would not be maintained. The truants have now, in almost every case, returned to their old quarters; and as the characters of the teachers have already established an excellent reputation for the school, it is certain to become more popular and larger than it has ever been. The cost of supporting it will, of course, fall on the Catholics of the district; but in every respect they are quite as capable of performing their duty in this matter as their brethren in any other part of the colony. There are not many parts of the colony where Catholics are not making the necessary sacrifices, and these examples will inspire the Carlton Catholics to do their duty freely and generously. They cannot but feel that they are subject to oppression in being excluded from the Government schools, and obliged to support their own while taxed for the former; but that sense of wrong from which they suffer will inflame them with a true spirit of Catholicity, with which submission to persecution is wholly incompatible. They are not likely to forget that the blow which falls on their shoulders was aimed at their faith, and then they will bear it without a thought of surrender. They will understand that they are tempted to sell the faith of their children for a few pieces of silver, and they will spurn the offer. And they need not be told that a greater treasure than that faith neither they themselves nor their tempters could bestow on these poor children, whom the Church is now with so much solicitude and tenderness endeavouring to shield. The Catholics of Carlton will reject the bribe as the Catholics in so many other parts of the colony have done, and when the system planned to destroy Catholicity has done its worst, the Catholics will be a united body, presenting an unbroken front, and preserving Christianity as God's own faithful children.—*Advocate.*

In Paris, where the art of education is so thoroughly understood, and the health of the body is no less carefully studied than the culture of the mind, and the Gymnasium is an institution much patronized, not only by males, but as well by members of the gentler sex, belonging to all classes of society. An establishment of the kind has now been opened in Dunedin by Messrs. Long and Parmentier, and we have no doubt that persons who frequent it will speedily experience the benefit to be derived from it in increased strength of body and improved symmetry of limb.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE IN EUROPE.

The cattle plague now raging in Europe is not a modern scourge. It was known to the ancients, and its contagious character was pointed out by Columella in his work, "De re rustica." The wars of Charlemagne spread it all over Europe in the fourteenth century, and from 1711 to 1714 its ravages were fearful. In the after periods it caused a loss to Western Europe of 1,500,000 head of cattle. In 1745 two calves bought in Holland introduced the typhus, carrying off 109,000 head of cattle in Lincolnshire alone, and other countries in like proportions. The disease, despite the precautionary measures of the English Government, lasted till 1757, and then only because the cattle stock of England was exterminated. The cradle of the disease is in the steppes of Russia, in the rich pastures along the Dnieper and its branches, and where 8,000,000 of cattle are raised for the great markets in Bessarabia, Kenson, Podolie, &c. Thence they pass into Hungary, Central Russia, and Prussia. England, Belgium, Holland, and France have no trade in cattle with Russia. They transport live-stock, however, from Russia, excepting France, which draws its supply from Austria and Hungary. It is in this way the invasion of 1665 is to be accounted for. One hundred thousand head of cattle annually enter Galicia and Hungary from the steppes of Russia, and there the typhus is almost permanent.

There is but little doubt that the cattle of the steppes can transport the virus of the plague without being struck with it themselves, down to the time when the bad nourishment and want of water, with the fatigue of long journeys by rail, cause it to burst forth. The pestilential virus has lain dormant for six months without losing its strength. The disease is highly contagious, and is communicated to dogs, sheep, and horned beasts of the same enclosures. Farm-hands have carried the germs of the disease in their clothes, and have given it to animals in their charge; herds have even been struck with the disease from following the same road which beasts had passed over an hour or two before. By a strange peculiarity, and special to this disease, the more the cattle plague is distant from its original locality the more intense is its malignity. Nothing but the severest measures against the importation of cattle from infected countries will prevent its extension.—*Philadelphia Press.*

LITERARY PREDICTIONS.

A WELL-KNOWN writer in the seventeenth century—William Winstanley—in his "Lives of the English Poets," thus speaks and prophesies of Milton; "John Milton was one whose natural parts might deservedly give him a place among the principal of our English poets, having written two heroic poems and a tragedy. But his fame has gone out like a candle in a snuff, and his memory will always stink." One of the most illustrious of Milton's brother bards, Edmund Waller, in one of his letters, refers to "Paradise Lost" as a tedious poem by the blind old schoolmaster; in which there is nothing remarkable but its length. Horace Walpole, as shrewd a man and as accomplished a critic as ever lived, has obligingly informed us who were the "first writers" in 1793. Posterity would probably guess with Macaulay that they were Hume, Fielding, Smollett, Richardson, Johnson, Warburton, Collins, Akenside, Gray. Not at all. They were, according to a contemporary, Lord Chesterfield, Lord Bath, Mr. William Whitehead, Sir Charles Williams, Mr. Soame Jenynge, Mr. Cambridge, and Mr. Coventry—that is to say, a pack of scribblers, only one of whom is known even by name to ninety-nine readers out of a hundred—Lord Chesterfield—and he is remembered chiefly as the ninkpin of Dr. Johnson and Cowper. George Stevens as remarked that nothing short of an Act of Parliament would induce people to read the sonnets of Shakspeare, and Johnson prophesied a safe immortality for Pomphret's famous "Choice." Every one knows how the great *Edinburgh* received Byron's first attempts, and what it "prophesied" concerning him. When Dickens brought out "Pickwick," a leading review, condescending to notice the "low Cockney tale," shrewdly perceived that the author was already proving himself unequal, and that the "thin vein of humor" was rapidly showing signs of exhaustion. In the author of "Ænone," "Locksley Hall," and "The Lotus Eaters," the keen and searching critical acumen of the *Quarterly* could only see a minor star of that "Galaxy or milky way of poetry of which the lamented Keats was the harbingers," and the future author of the "Idylls" and "In Memoriam" was received with peals of laughter, and consigned placidly to oblivion.—*Globe.*

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught lately spent a few days in Kilkenny Castle, one of the most splendid mansions in the three kingdoms, the guest of the Marquis of Ormonde, who gathered round his Royal Highness not only the rank and station of that splendid county and its adjoining ones, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary, and Queen's, but also the middle and professional classes and the traders of the ancient city. In the hunting-field H.R.H. met some of the most accomplished sportsmen to be found in Europe, Kilkenny being classic ground for country gentry. In the noble picture gallery in the castle, the Duke of Connaught saw the portraits of more than one Butler, Catholic Archbishops of Cashel, one of them author of "Butler's Catechism," an outline of Christian doctrine familiar over the globe wherever a child of St. Patrick is to be found. His Royal Highness expressed to many the intense gratification afforded him by his visit. He examined the city where the Confederate Catholics in 1641 rallied for God, for the Church, for the King, and for the people; James, Marquis of Ormonde, being then Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. These visits of the Duke of Connaught must soon familiarise him with the genialities of Irish life, and attach him to the warm-hearted people amongst whom he is so cordially received.