

## WILLIAM COBBET AND HIS HOLINESS PIUS VIII.

WILLIAM COBBET dedicated his celebrated "History of the English Reformation" to His Holiness Pope Pius VIII.

The following is the dedication which was written in manuscript in the copy of the book sent to His Holiness by Mr Cobbet:—

"To his Holiness Pope Pius VIII.

"The present head of that most holy Church—under the influence of which England enjoyed so many days of plenty peace, happiness, and renown—this new edition of the History of the Protestant Reformation is dedicated by, and in the handwriting of His Holiness' most obedient and most humble servant,

"WM. COBBET."

The clergyman who forwarded this dedication to the magazine from which I copy it mentions that Mr Cobbet prefixed to some other copies of the "History," the same manuscript dedication, one of which was in his possession. He adds, in forwarding this interesting document. "One can only regret that a man professing such respect for the Head of the Holy Catholic Church, and bearing such honourable testimony to the blessed fruits derived by this country from the influence of the Catholic religion should have refused or neglected to embrace and practice its doctrines and precepts." To me it seems not only a matter of regret, but of surprize, not to say mystery, that Mr Cobbet should never have embraced the Catholic religion but lived and died, so far as we know, a member of that Church which he represented as having been established by such improper, or rather wicked means, and whose ministers were, in his view, anything but a blessing to England. But such is the inconsistency of human nature. It must be noticed that Mr Cobbet never, so far as I remember, expresses any opinion on theological questions in the course of his history. He keeps to historical facts and the common principles of justice, and shows how inimical the Protestant system has proved to the comfort, happiness, unity and reputation of the people of England. It is a practical book, and places in the clearest possible light the mischief the Reformation has worked to the humblest ranks of Englishmen, the destitute especially. I think you could not do a better service to the Catholic cause than give now and then short extracts from Mr Cobbet's celebrated "History of the Reformation."

Englishmen are apt to forget those things connected with the Reformation which Mr Cobbet has placed in the clearest light before them, showing the loss they sustained when they madly rejected the Catholic faith, or rather tamely suffered themselves to be robbed of it, for the benefit of a selfish party, who seized the possessions of the Catholic Church, and now hold them.

## CAN THE NORTH POLE BE REACHED?

A *N.Y. Herald* reporter last week interviewed Mr. Charles E. Hodson, who accompanied Captain Nares on the recent British expedition in quest of the North Pole. Prior to his visits to the Arctic seas, he had already travelled over almost every portion of the world.

"Well, sir, how did you find life in the Northern ice?" asked the reporter.

"The effect of the intense cold was not very inconvenient. We stood 100 deg. below freezing point without trouble. We reached our highest latitude in 82 deg. north. But I should say the sledge parties were as high north as 83 deg. 20 min."

"How did you find the work of the American explorers Hayes, Hall, Kane, and others?"

"I disagree with the unfavourable criticisms that have been made on the coast line surveys of Dr. Hayes, as others of the expedition do likewise. I consider that with the resources at his command Dr. Hayes did very accurate and valuable work. You will remember that our expedition was on a large scale, costing the British Government 500,000 dol. We had two ships, each of 600 tons, the Alert and Discovery, manned by 120 skilled and selected Arctic seamen."

"And the results of the expedition?"

"I consider the results as very valuable from a scientific standpoint. Our work was done in great detail. We made extensive collections of plants, many of them never before seen. I had the honor to discover myself the thickest seam of coal in the world in latitude 81 deg. 44 min. We did not find the open Polar Sea, but we did find a palaeochrystic sea—that is, a sea of ancient ice. Our work in the Arctic regions covered a period of fifteen months, and when we found that the land terminated between the eighty-second and eighty-third parallel, we knew then that to reach the Pole was impossible. The furthest reach of our vision to northward disclosed a perfect sea of floebergs—that was as near as we saw to the Pole."

"How do you account for Hayes' open Polar Sea?"

"We didn't find it. Where Hayes saw it there was nothing but ice. But then, you know, the season may have been different then."

"Do you think, Mr. Hodson, that the Pole can be reached by way of Smith's Sound?"

"I do not, decidedly, and because the nature of the ice is so heavy that sledging will never be made practicable for any long distance. Two miles a day was good progress for Markham's party, and thus, you see, to travel four hundred miles and back would take four hundred days, a period for which it is impossible to carry supplies. And besides, you cannot travel in the winter at all."

"What do you think, then, of Captain Howgate's plan, and the sailing of Captain Tyson for the Arctic?"

"I should be sorry, indeed, to say anything to discourage Captain Howgate or the promoters of his expedition, for he has been very civil to me; yet I must declare it as my candid opinion that the whole project is chimerical. Surely, what Great Britain could not accomplish with half a million of money, and two large ships, and old Arctic navigators, can hardly be achieved by the small force which Captain Howgate intends to take to the North. But I believe that the Captain has a theory that there are currents leading directly to the Pole. Of course we explorers, like doctors, differ; and I only hope Captain Howgate may be right, and succeed in planting the American flag on the very axis of the earth."

"How were the English satisfied with your expedition, taken as a whole?"

"At first they were in ecstasies, and afterward in high dudgeon. They were particularly savage about the scurvy and the disease of limejuice on the sledge-journeys. I think it will be many a long year before England will fit out another expedition. From a sanitary view we were unusually successful. We only lost four men out of one hundred and twenty. But a good many were on the sick list from the steam generated by cooking, condensing, and forming ice on the ceilings, then melting and dripping into the men's hammocks. The worst evil that happened was wholesale hydrophobia, which attacked our dogs, causing us to lose thirty of them—more than one-half of our entire stock. We had no serious quarrels during the expedition. The men were all actively employed in various amusements. We built a mammoth ice theatre, sixty feet long and thirty feet broad, with stage, green-rooms, and auditorium—the largest ice theatre ever built. We published a weekly newspaper, called the *Discovery News*, which was printed by a man who couldn't spell; so we gave him a pronouncing dictionary, and his spelling grew infinitely worse."

"Have you any theory as to the best way to the Pole?"

"None whatever. I regard it as unattainable with all the appliances now known. When the era of flying machines comes perhaps some daring man may reach the *Ultima Thule*."

The reporter here thanked Mr. Hodson for his frank expressions, and withdrew.

## FUTURE SCHOOLS.

THE Bowen Education Act, notwithstanding the paring and pruning in committee, is simply a copy of the Act now in force in Victoria, except a few trifling differences rendered necessary by the circumstances of the two countries. Both Acts are the same in their injustice and intolerance towards Catholics.

The Hon. Mr. Bowen and his supporters may feel glad for the framing and passing of such a law in this country; they can congratulate themselves also for having paid but little attention to the remonstrances of a large portion of the community; and no doubt they expect Catholics will not be unmindful of the measure of liberality extended to them, although it is a liberality that offers no alternative but to struggle through a new season of hardship.

For the past month the views and opinions of Catholics have been before every eye, in THE TABLET, the *Auckland Herald*, and *Wellington Post*, &c., so that no sort of ignorance or lack of information can at all be pleaded in the matter, and yet the result is, that the State will grant about £200,000 yearly for the encouragement of secular knowledge, but any standard of secular knowledge imparted by Catholic schools will not entitle them to the slightest recognition.

This injustice is past argument, and were it not that no species of injustice is altogether everlasting, it would be useless business to be arguing or agitating any more on so plain a point.

Deferred hopes make the heart sick: Catholics can look nowhere now for support for their schools but to themselves; and the great difficulties in their way, incidental to a new and sparsely-populated colony, make the prospect of so serious an undertaking to be a dreary one—and one from which there is no possibility of escape if faithful to their opinions. It is time to stop "hoping," call into action all resources, and begin the contest against the new Education Act. Catholic schools and teachers must not be inferior to State schools and teachers, and, as a consequence, Catholics must pay their teachers as good salaries as the Government pay theirs; and even then the greater security of Government service cannot be overlooked. This is the magnitude of the task imposed by conscience upon Catholics, and the Bowen Act will put to test whether after all we cannot make our consciences subserve to our pockets, and live like other people whose purse is more inviolable and sacred than their conscience.

As Catholics must reject the Education Act, and maintain schools of their choice, it is necessary that there should be an organisation, and the Liverpool or the London Boards would be good models to follow. If we are seriously to reject the Education Act, it is absolutely necessary for the Catholics of New Zealand, clerical and lay, to form such an organisation.

Auckland, 2nd October.

FIDELIA.

## CAPTAIN KIDD'S TREASURE.

A SOUTHAMPTON, L. I. letter says:—"Kidd, the pirate, on his way from the West Indies to Boston, anchored in Gardiner's Bay in 1698. He landed on the island, and buried a box of gold, silver, and precious stones. Gardiner was entrusted with the secret, and his life was to answer for its safety. In July, 1699, when Kidd was captured, an account of the deposit was found in a memorandum book, and a commission was sent to secure the treasure. Kidd was executed in May, 1701, and when Gardiner learned that his life was safe, and his plantation not likely to be pressed by the foot of the notorious freebooter, he revealed the place where the treasure was buried. The commission conveyed it to Boston. Among the papers of John L. Gardiner was found a memorandum and receipt of the treasure, as follows:

Three bags of gold dust, containing 136 ounces: two bags of gold bars, containing 501 ounces; one bag of coined gold, 11 ounces; one bag of coined silver, 12 ounces; one bag of broken silver, 173 ounces; two bags of silver bars, 521 ounces; one dozen silver buttons, and one lamp, 29 ounces; one bag, containing three silver rings, and sundry precious stones, 4 ounces; one bag contained one piece of Bristol and Beggar stones, two carnelian rings, two small agates, and two amethysts, this is but a part of the property recovered. The whole memorandum covered thirteen sheets of paper, most of which have been lost.

MESSES ROBINSON & RAYMOND, Dentists, have opened an establishment in George Street, Dunedin. The method followed by them will be found most effectual in all ailments connected with the teeth, and their scale of fees—which will be found in another column—is extremely moderate.