

regret we are not at all satisfied that Sir GEORGE is likely to adopt the only plan or system of education that will secure such a population. It is not now worth while discussing the question what Sir GEORGE GREY, if left to himself and free to carry out his own views, would do in the matter of education—for the present at least. He has accepted, with seeming approbation, the new Education Act, and is surrounded by colleagues who have either voted for this Act or advocated a worse system. Purely secular education it is to which the colony is now and shall be, for a considerable time to come, subjected, and all who are not now deluded or wilfully blind, can entertain no doubt whatever as to where this must land the people.

The example of all the countries which years ago adopted a godless or a mixed system of education is a closed book to our politicians. In Germany, France, and the United States of America, such systems have led directly to wide-spread infidelity, and political and social insecurity. In Germany, godless education has ended in the abandonment of the churches, to contempt for the ordinances of religion, and the rejection of Christianity, except in name; in the United States of America to the filling of the gaoles with the well-educated pupils of national godless schools; and in France, to perpetually recurring revolution and political anarchy. It is madness, therefore, to anticipate peace, prosperity, and morality from the system of education lately sanctioned by the Legislature for New Zealand. To us, therefore, Sir GEORGE GREY's expectation of a well-fed, well-clothed, and well educated New Zealand population has little foundation in fact.

News of the Week.

ON Tuesday last. Feast of the Circumcision, Masses were celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin, at 8, 9, and 11 a.m., as on Sundays. His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese delivered a short address at the first Mass, which was celebrated by him, and after he had reminded the congregation that several of those who had been present there on the last New Year's Day, had been called away out of life during the course of the past year, and admonished them to be prepared to answer a like summons, he alluded to the grave events that had characterised the preceding twelve months, and said that probably the year that had now begun would witness a continuance of war and calamities, which were the penalties of sin. He exhorted them to pray fervently that they might be shielded from such grievous visitations, and he added that as, in all probability, what is called the "Roman Question," would ere long be submitted for settlement—it was their duty to be earnest and constant in their supplications for the Holy Father and the Church.

PREPARATIONS have for some time been made in Wellington for holding an Art-Union in aid of the Catholic Schools in that city. Several valuable and handsome prizes have been acquired, and the tickets are offered at a low rate. It was intended that the drawing should have taken place immediately, but as it has been found impossible to obtain returns from the country parts as early as it was hoped for, the affair has been unavoidably postponed to March 18th next. Persons desirous of helping in the good work will be furnished with particulars on application to any of the clergy at Wellington, and Catholics in every quarter of New Zealand should remember that Catholic schools, no matter where they may be situated, have a claim on their sympathies and form a common interest to all.

THE annual sports of the Caledonian Society of Otago were held in the Society's grounds at Kensington on Tuesday and Wednesday last. A large number of spectators were present, and matters were carried out as successfully as usual. The sports will recommence and terminate to-morrow.

THE New Year was welcomed in at Dunedin by the wonted merry-making. The streets were thronged by good-humoured crowds, and bells, fireworks, and music, enlivened the scene.

WE would remind our country subscribers that in order to ensure our passing the happy new year which we are persuaded they wish us, and which we very heartily invoke upon all our readers, it is desirable they should be punctual in forwarding us the amount of their subscriptions due. We have, monthly, heavy bills to meet in connection with the printing and publishing of our journal, and it is, very necessary to our welfare that we should be kept in funds.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. W. D. Murison, late editor of the *Otago Daily Times*, which occurred on Friday, the 28th ult., at his residence in Dunedin. The deceased gentleman was much esteemed by a large circle of friends, and his funeral, which took place on Monday last, was attended by a numerous assemblage.

THE annual picnic of the Christian Brothers' Schools, Dunedin, took place at Waitati on Wednesday last. The Brothers, accompanied

by their pupils, to the number of 260, left town in the 9.30 A.M. train, and returned in that which reached the Dunedin terminus at 8 P.M. The day was merrily spent in various games, and the high spirits with which the lads returned to their homes in the evening testified to their thorough enjoyment of their holiday. His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese, accompanied by the Rev. Fathers O'Leary, Sheehan, and Larkin, was present on the grounds throughout the day.

WE learn that the Rev. Father Sheehan will visit Macraes on Sunday the 13th inst.

Telegrams.

[BY CABLE.]

LONDON, December 24th.

The Czarewitch's army crossed the Lom, cutting off communication with Rústchuk and Varna.

The Czar has reached St. Peterburg.

The combined Russian-Roumanian army is approaching Widdin. Snow impedes operations everywhere. Snow blocks up the Varna and Roumanian Railway. The cold in Armenia is the greatest felt for 50 years. The troops are suffering terribly. 11 men and 50 horses were frozen to death close to Bucharest.

The Porte declared Prince Milan deposed.

The Russians subsidise Servia with a million roubles monthly.

The Queen opens Parliament in person.

December 25th.

The Emperor of Russia, in replying to an address, said much remained to be done, but hoped Russia's mission would be duly accomplished.

December 26th.

The Turks are preparing to evacuate Sofia.

The Turkish prisoners taken at Plevna are dying of cold. It is impossible to aid them.

Depretis has formed an Italian Ministry. He is President and Foreign Minister, and Crispi is Home Minister.

The Servians have captured Akpalanka.

The bombardment of Nisch has commenced.

70,000 Turks are leaving the Quadrilateral for Adrianople.

The ice is drifting down the Danube. Several Russian bridges are broken.

The Queen goes to Osborne on Friday.

Suliman Pasha has garrisoned the Quadrilateral, concentrating the rest of his troops at Adrianople.

It is believed the Porte has resolved to continue the war to the last extremity.

The Emperor of Russia has received an enthusiastic reception at St. Petersburg.

The Russians are investing Erzeroum.

December 27th.

The Servians have captured Akpalanka, Lesconivatz, and Kurchumeje, after severe fighting. They afterwards crossed the river Marava, and commenced bombarding Nisch.

The fall of Erzeroum is imminent.

LONDON, December 27th.

The Servian troops are reported to have effected a junction with the Russian army, and are now advancing towards Sophia. This news, however, comes from St. Petersburg, and requires confirmation.

The early opening of the British Parliament encourages the Porte to resist, and increased confidence is felt at Constantinople.

The Armenians at Stamboul have refused military service.

The Servians' attack on Semnitza has been repulsed.

(SPECIAL TO THE "ARGUS.")

LONDON, December 28th.

Austria has forbidden Servian operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The British fleet has quitted Besika Bay for the Gulf of Volos.

A Russian frigate has captured a Turkish transport with 875 soldiers.

Many Russian cavalry have been compelled to recross the Danube, owing to the scarcity of forage in Bulgaria.

The body of Osman Pasha has arrived at Bucharest, en route for Moscow, where it will be interred.

LONDON, December 29th.

The Sultan has solicited the mediation of the British Government with the Emperor of Russia, and England has consented.

Austria, in reply to a Turkish note, intimates that she will only permit Russia to conclude peace on the basis of the Treaty of Paris, and will not sanction the dismemberment of Turkey, nor allow the Black Sea to become a Russian lake.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM.

LONDON, December 30th.

A leader in the *Observer* says:—Russia has refused to conclude terms of peace, and must leave England to intervene in the war.

A discussion continues in the press regarding England acquiring Suez and Egypt.

Austria has endorsed England's policy.

The Hungarian Minister, Tezza, is visiting Berlin.

The Czar has ordered the enrolment of 480,000 troops for 1878.

The armament of the Russian fleet is being vigorously pushed forward.

An urgent message has been sent by English Ministers to their supporters abroad to return for the opening of Parliament.

WELLINGTON, December 31st.

The following is a copy of a cable message received to-day by the Mayor of Wellington:—"If not sent you from Madras, please note telegram received, and acquaint Provincial Mayors that your exertions, and those of the committees in all parts of the British dominions, have brought such liberal aid that, under the present favourable prospects, we gratefully say collections may cease. The