

respect to the system of male teachers being placed over girls whose ages go to show the impropriety of such an arrangement. We have received and published a number of letters on the subject, and the fact that they come from different and wide-apart portions of the colony is an indication that the dissatisfaction is wide-spread, and rests on a more substantial foundation than a propensity to grumble on the part of a few residents in any particular locality. A few days since one of our correspondents volunteered to give some specific information, but as nothing has been heard from the department, it may be presumed that the offer escaped the notice of the Minister for Education, or that he does not consider the matter of sufficient importance to justify any special inquiries. There is reason to apprehend, however, that if the preliminary information and remonstrances which are forthcoming now are treated with contempt, the subject will be forced upon the attention of the Minister and the department before very long, perhaps, in a much more unpleasant way. If injuries were instituted, say, in the metropolitan district, many instances would be found of parents refusing to allow their daughters to accompany their sons to State schools, the reason being that the schools "are not fit places for girls to go to." We have no desire to attach any stigma to the great national educational system which has been established, and in again calling attention to the subject, we are only actuated by the desire to have an evil grappled with in its first stage. We have been accused of "hot-headed journalism," because of the manner in which we have written on this dreary subject of secular education; and, indeed, we might plead in excuse, if we were hot-headed in the matter, that no amount of indignation would be unreasonable when we view the determined attempt made by the legislature, and that much boasted "majority," which has been set up like Nabuchodonosor's image for us to fall down and worship to the tune of all the "sermon pipes" in the colony, to drive our Catholic children under the influence of so hideous a system as that spoken of in the paragraphs we have quoted. But we deny that we are hot-headed, we speak the simple truth on a subject towards which our contemporaries display a strange and fatal blindness. Meantime, let who will take offence, we shall continue to do our duty. We have shown good grounds for the part we have adopted, and we shall carry it out. The time will come, we doubt not, when we shall be able also to clip from our New Zealand contemporaries paragraphs similar to those we have selected elsewhere, for we do not so far depreciate their honesty as to suppose they will conceal the evils that will attract their attention, and dissipate the glamour under which they labour at present, when this system to which we allude has sufficiently matured. The holidays are now drawing to an end, and the burden of a double taxation will be felt by Catholics. But let us recollect that it is in truth, as the paragraphs we quote abundantly prove, the honesty and purity of our children that are taxed, and no price we are called upon to pay will be considered by us too high compared with the treasure we would preserve. Let us, moreover, not forget the legislators who have driven us to such a strait, but expend upon them the discontent we cannot but feel and openly manifest.

Surely the fears of the worthy ecclesiastics who compose the Presbyterian Synod of Dunedin must have gained the better of their judgment, when they are found to decide that a French protectorate of the New Hebrides is likely to prove fatal to their preaching of the "Gospel." To hear them talk one would suppose that the traditional sword of St. Bartholomew was still drawn, and the *dragonnades* still in full tramp. Surely the country that sustains their kindred Church deserves a better reputation from them, and we can fancy the shade of Adolphe Monod disgusted at their want of gratitude. How is it possible that a Government which at home supports all forms of religion should discountenance any one in particular abroad; or that a Propaganda which is permitted in Paris should be crushed in Fajana? Calvinism does its best to make "converts" in the neighborhood of the Boulevards. Its tracts are disseminated openly. Busy emissaries carry them to the hovels of the *chiffonniers*, and there are instances on record in which they have been cast in amongst the laces of noble dames, as they reclined in their carriages on Longchamps or the Champs Elysees. But no one ever thinks of visiting the meddling bodies who thus work out their mission with anything more formidable than ridicule, and the Government concerns itself least of all about them. How then shall it interfere with their brethren's endeavor to interrupt the fetishism of a few savages in the New Hebrides?

"WORN out," were the dying words of Senator Morton, as his whole frame and system gave way at 54. What a commentary on the strain and fever of American life! Morton dies about the age that an European statesman is, perhaps, entering on his career. Thiers and Palmerston died in harness at 80. Disraeli and Gladstone are active now at an advanced age, hardly represented in our Congress, save by Senator Cameron, while the tremendous war which carried the Prussian eagles into Paris was fought out by veterans of 70 and 80, who led their forces on horseback—Emperor William, Von Moltke, Von Wrangel, Bismarck, and others just as old, as hardy, and as brave.—*Philadelphia Press.*

Poet's Corner.

BROTHER JONATHAN'S LAMENT FOR SISTER CAROLINE.

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

This beautiful poem was written upon the announcement of the passage of the "Ordinance of Secession," on the 20th December, 1860, by the Convention of South Carolina, the first State which attempted to secede.

SHE has gone,—she has left us in passion and pride,—
Our stormy-browed sister, so long at our side!
She has torn her own star from our firmament's glow,
And turned on her Brother the face of a foe!

O Caroline, Caroline, child of the sun,
We can never forget that our hearts have been one,—
Our foreheads both sprinkled in Liberty's name,
From the fountain of blood with the finger of flame!

You were always too ready to fire at a touch;
But we said, "She is hasty,—she does not mean much."
We have scowled, when you uttered some turbulent threat;
But friendship still whispered, "Forgive and forget!"

Has our love all died out? Have its altars grown cold?
Has the curse come at last which the fathers foretold?
Then Nature must teach us the strength of the chain
That her petulant children would sever in vain.

They may fight till the buzzards are gorged with their spoil,
Till the harvest grows black as it rots in the soil,
Till the wolves and the catanouns troop from their caves,
And the shark tracks the pirate, the lord of the waves:

In vain is the strife! When its fury is past,
Their fortunes must flow in one channel at last.
As the torrents that rush from the mountains of snow
Rolled mingled in peace through the valleys below.

Our Union is river, lake, ocean, and sky;
Man breaks not the medal, when God cuts the die!
Though darkened with sulphur, though cloven with steel,
The blue arch will brighten, the waters will heal!

O Caroline, Caroline, child of the sun,
There are battles with fate that can never be won!
The star-flowering banner must never be furled,
For its blossoms of light are the hope of the world!

Go, then, our rash sister! afar and aloof,—
Run wild in the sunshine, away from our roof:
But when your heart aches and your feet have grown sore,
Remember the pathway that leads to our door!

THE CRISIS IN FRANCE.

THE difficulty between Marshal MacMahon and the French Assembly continues. The Associated Press despatches assert, as positive, that MacMahon has accepted the resignation of the Descazes Ministry, and proposes naming, as a new Ministry, men of no political character or influence, but, rather a class of subordinate officials, in hopes these may, as colourless, be found inoffensive to the Radicals.

This is a policy that must fail in any country: and, especially, in a country so positive, and alert, as France. Majorities never govern, anywhere. Minorities alone can govern; but the condition of their governing is that they have positive convictions: a fixed programme; and go to work determined to win the position!

In the late elections, in which the Radicals succeeded in keeping possession of the French Assembly, though by a reduced majority, MacMahon's administration of government failed, in several instances, from his having followed Descazes' advice, and—for policy—named blatant anti-Catholics as Candidates for the Assembly, in districts where the vote was close. It is not strange that Catholics refused to vote. How could they vote for Government nominees that, as repeatedly happened, declared that "the clericals are the curse of France." In France, the term "clerical," means neither less nor more than faithful Catholic! In circulars, many Catholic Bishops exhorted their people to forego all party spirit, and to vote for the Government nominees. The Catholics, in the centre, and in the east, of France, particularly, did right, in disregarding these Episcopal exhortations. They were given under a mistake. They were given under the impression that Descazes, and Broglie would not dare to put in nomination, as candidates approved by MacMahon, crazy enemies of the Catholic Church. But these "gentlemen"—constrained by their "brother Freemasons," did impose, in this way—let us hope, at least—on President MacMahon.

"What part has Christ with Belial?" France is Catholic, or Communist! The shilly-shally of Marshal MacMahon is altogether in the interests of the coming Communists. He does not so mean it, but this is the way his political feebleness is working. He could have been the Saviour of France, had he known his opportunity. As it is, he bids fair to vanish, in a Revolutionary hurry, before his "What is it." Seven years of dictatorial power are spent. He has lost much ground, and much influence—but, even yet, the brave, not bright, old soldier may defeat his enemies. We doubt of it!

He may defeat the enemies of France, by kicking overboard the sham Assembly, that does not, in any way, represent France! MacMahon, in 1873, was put on guard to keep Frenchmen from cutting each other's throats. He holds that charter now. Has he the intellect to understand his position?—*A. J. Freeman.*