

The loyalty of Catholics is not founded on self-interest, but on a high and noble principle, and not sanctioned by human law merely, but by the Divine. Speaking for ourselves, whilst determined on all such celebrations as that of St. Patrick's Day, always to drink the Pope's health before the Queen's we yield to none in our loyalty to her gracious Majesty, whom we revere not only for her position at the head of the State, but still more for virtues as a woman, wife, and mother. And though she holds the throne by an Act which we are convinced was in its origin an act of the basest treason to every principle of loyalty, justice, and filial duty; still, we now regard her title as healed by the sanction of time and the acceptance of generations. And we are prepared to defend her throne and dignity, not because our own interest in this world is served by so doing, but because we hold it to be our conscientious duty to do so.

News of the Week.

PEACEFUL Caversham was enlivened a little on the evening of the 2nd inst. by the Hibernian Band parading the streets, playing a number of lively airs in an inspiring style. The otherwise lonely district road presented quite an animated appearance on this occasion, occupied as it was by the band, and the usual crowd of small boys, some of whom were rendered preternaturally happy by being allowed to have a hand in carrying the big drum.

ON Sunday last, at the conclusion of the 11 o'clock Mass, in St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin, his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 95 recipients—50 females and 45 males. His Lordship, prior to the ceremony, delivered an address explanatory of the benefits conferred by the Sacrament and the obligations it imposed upon those who received it. At the termination of Vespers in the evening of the same day, 32 ladies and young girls were received into the Society of the Children of Mary, and several others were admitted as aspirants. The ceremony is a very interesting one, and the procession in which the members of the association and the aspirants, in their veils and cloaks of the colours of the Blessed Virgin, advance up the aisle of the church singing the "Ave Maris Stella," has a very pleasing effect. His Lordship also on this occasion delivered a suitable address on devotion to the Blessed Virgin. The church was densely thronged both in the forenoon and evening.

A TRAIN will leave Dunedin for Port Chalmers on Sunday next, at 9.30 a.m., for the convenience of those persons who desire to attend the consecration of the Church of St. Mary, Star of the Sea. We understand that the music of the ceremonies will be rendered by the members of the choir of St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin, who will be accompanied on the organ purchased for the Sister Mary St. Francis of Assisi, and which has been most kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. James Cahill. A collection will be made in aid of the building fund of the church.

THE general meeting of the shareholders in the N. Z. TABLET Company will be held on Monday, 27th inst. A form of proxy will be found in another column, which we give for the convenience of shareholders residing at a distance from Dunedin.

TICKETS for the Art-Union of the Rev. Father Hennebery's portrait may now be had on application at the Convent in Dowling-st., Dunedin.

WE regret that we are unable to insert original poetry in our columns. We are favoured with so many contributions that it is quite impossible for us to find room for all, and we shun the odium of making selections. We are occasionally requested to alter verses to suit our taste, but unfortunately we lay no claim to taste, and we do not keep a poet on the premises and therefore are not in a position to do so. For ourselves, nature unkindly withheld from us the lyre at our birth, and all the attempts we have hitherto made to reverse her decree have but proved to us the truth of the old saying that this sublime genius must be born with a man, and at no cost can it be acquired. The greatest joy and the utmost grief, the most fervent piety and the purest patriotism are alike impotent to confer the gift. They may, it is true, produce poetical impressions interiorly, but exterior poetical expression of fine thoughts they are incapable of teaching. Will our contributors kindly take this to heart, and spare us the pain of rejecting effusions in rhyme.

ON the termination of the funeral service held at Florence in memory of Victor Emmanuel, the working men's societies who attended it returned in procession to the spot from which they started. On their arrival in Lungarno some one threw an Orsini bomb, which exploded in their midst and wounded five persons. The author of this outrage was arrested, and was with great difficulty rescued alive from the hands of the crowd.

Telegrams.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, April 30th.
Mr. Gathorne Hardy, Secretary for War, says that the British Government takes its stand on the Treaty of 1870, and that the Treaty of St. Stefano is without a single element of permanent peace. The interests of Mussulman and Greek must not be forgotten, and England was resolved to adhere to the principles hitherto maintained.

May 1st.
British warlike preparations are incessant and increasing.

Russia is urging the Powers to agree upon a policy for the partition of the Turkish Empire.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL.]

LONDON, April 30th.
Russia accepts Bismarck's scheme for the mutual withdrawal of Russian troops and English ships from the neighbourhood of Constantinople and the Sea of Marmora. The details are to be arranged between England and Russia directly.

The Prince of Wales visited the Victorian Court of the Paris Exhibition, and complimented Mr. Casey, the Commissioner.

April 25th.
A large meeting in Manchester has adopted a resolution to the effect that the action of the British Government is an obstacle to the maintenance of peace, and protesting against the employment of Indian troops in Europe.

PARIS, April 24th.

The opening of the Exhibition was a brilliant success.

May 1st.

The steamer Cambria arrived at the harbour of the Maine from Russia with 60 officers and 600 men. The Russian navy, under the command of Count Grifenburg, believed they were destined for privateer service.

VIENNA, April 30th.

It is reported that the early Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is probable.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 30th.

An affray between the Turkish and Russian troops has taken place near Constantinople.

LONDON, May.

The Duke of Connaught is betrothed to Louisa, daughter of Prince Frederick Charles of Germany.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 2nd.

General Todleben has failed to arrange for the withdrawal of the British ironclad squadron; and the Russian army regards war as inevitable.

The Mussulman rising continues.

LONDON, May 1st.

Mr. Cross, while speaking at Preston, said the Government insisted on the maintenance of existing treaties. He denied that theirs was a war policy.

May 2nd.

The Captain of the Cambria says he believes his men were destined to man Russian cruisers in the Pacific.

PARIS, May 1st.

The exhibition was opened to-day by the President, Marshal M'Mahon, with great *solat*. Representatives were present from all nations and several British colonies. The attendance was very great, although rain was falling. The interior presented a grand spectacle. The exhibition surpassed that of 1867. The Colonial courts were well filled, and excited much interest, as exhibiting the progress and multiplicity of the colonies. The show of wools was very good. The Prince of Wales presented the Colonial Commissioners to President M'Mahon. Paris is filled with visitors from all parts of the world, and the streets are crowded.

LONDON, May 3rd.

England assents to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Austria refuses Russia's advances, and acts separately.

Mr. Cross, at Preston, re-affirmed England's policy was to defend her interests and honour.

The working men mobbed the Burnley Unionist Committee and assailed the Blackburn Committee for refusing relief, during the strike, to non-Unionists.

Two thousand men on the North British Railway struck against an increase of working hours from fifty-one to fifty-four hours per week.

THE *Hobart Town Tribune* writes:—"The assassination of this notorious member of the peerage, Lord Leitrim, by some of the wretched victims of the most cruel tyrant who ever ruled supreme over hordes of beggared slaves, does not surprise us. Indeed, his violent death has been looked for for many years by those familiar with his history. He murdered his brother, the second Earl, who was as much beloved as his cruel successor was hated by the gentry, and abhorred by his neighbours of all classes. He was the celebrated Earl who, to prevent the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from being accommodated at any of the hotels in a town, over which he lorded, filled them all with the riff-raff of the streets, and obliged her Majesty's representative to look for accommodation at a private gentleman's house. The Lord Lieutenant at the time was the amiable and learned Earl of Carlisle. He actually revelled in the distress and sufferings of all around him, and never travelled without an escort of armed constabulary or soldiers. In no other country, but Ireland could such an enemy of his kind have lived so long. He had a counterpart in the late Marquis of Westminster.