

however, have gone by, and still the gutter seems to have raised its goodly brood; at least, if we may judge from the fragrance of its blossom, the larrikins. The Melbourne *Sun* and the *Australasian* furnish us with a few details concerning those young gentlemen that show they are still to the fore and as charming as ever, if not more so. The place in which they the most present themselves to good society is in the gallery of the theatres, and Professor Pearson might learn a lesson by going there to contemplate their "tricks and their manners." He had better, however, wait until the Truant Inspector is *un fait accompli*, and secure a phalanx to accompany him; the "repose," of the Vere de Vere caste will not there meet his gaze, nor will his nostrils be greeted by the *mille fleurs* of the Ladies' College. The statements of our authorities are briefly these: the young "beasts" lean over the front of the gallery, howling, shrieking, blaspheming, and spitting. The actors can hardly be heard, but all too plainly are the filth and blasphemies of the odious crew rehearsed in the ears of the audience, so that the place is hardly fit for the presence of ladies and children. Here is a specimen of a conversation with one of the band. "Why," said I, (correspondent of *Sun*) "do you not go into the pit these hot nights. It is nothing like so hot as where you have been?" His reply rather startled me, but he appeared to be essentially a "gentle" youth, who had studied economy. "No (expletive) fear, cocky. I only pays a tanner to go up with the gods, and then I has a tanner to spend on lush, and drink jolly old Greville's health." Again we are told by "Tahiti" in the *Australasian* "Untamed gorillas would behave better. They are loud in voice, filthy in language, boisterous in manner, dirty in person, barren in thought. They give no attention to the performance, and they pay their sixpences, presumably, for the opportunity of gratifying their love of imbecile horseplay. I can imagine well enough what sweet husbands and fathers they will make in a few years from this time." Such is the state of Melbourne, after five years of education, free, secular, and compulsory, — the system which it was boasted would reach all classes and provide for all needs. But only think what fine fellows these would be for companions for the girls and boys of reputable parents. The *Sun's* correspondent was worked up into a fever by witnessing decent children within hearing of the ruffians; our gasconading ex-Professor, and many like-minded with him amongst ourselves, would compel such children into close association with them. This is the soul of secularism, the three almighty R.'s, and libertinage unlimited.

We confess that the warning to fortify their ports received from the Imperial Government by the colonial authorities is to us anything but reassuring. We had so far concluded that the Pacific fleet would have been sufficient to have prevented the ravages in these seas of Russian cruisers or privateers, and it is by no means agreeable to be thus authoritatively undeceived. We do not desire, on the other hand, unnecessarily to alarm our readers, but we consider that the duty devolves upon us of preparing them to meet what may, perhaps, happen, so that they may not be taken unawares, but may now adopt measures to prevent not only the probability but the possibility of their becoming victims to the violence of unbridled and ferocious men. The fortification of our harbours should undoubtedly be proceeded with at once, but it would be most unwise to depend only upon this. Let us not disguise it from ourselves; should a Russian privateer or cruiser succeed in gaining an entrance into any port in the colonies, and thus have the town at its mercy, a mere raid on the banks would not satisfy its requirements. The armed ruffians manning it would not be so easily contented, nor would they leave the place without marking their presence with many a blood-stained and dishonoured hearth. It is against this that we have to provide, and to its possibility every man and youth in the colony should be furnished with, and exercised in the use of a rifle and revolver. This need not involve any devotion of time that cannot be spared to volunteer exercises or military discipline, all that would be needed would be for each man or lad possessing a weapon to be sufficiently versed in its use to be able to handle it carefully and familiarly, load it without delay, and discharge it with a fair aim. We address our remarks especially to our Catholic readers, for they may depend upon it that, in event of a Russian attack upon or entry into any of our towns, the Catholic Church, Presbytery, and Convent would indubitably be selected for sack and outrage. Although all sects and classes amongst us, then, are interested in insuring a warm reception to our possible, unwelcome visitors, we, Catholics, are doubly bound to make ourselves ready for them. But let the whole community everywhere be on the alert, the participle *cosaque* was not groundlessly invented.

The conviction of the Catholic mind for the last few years has been that our late beloved Holy Father had attained to heroic sanctity, but, for obvious reasons, the opinion was not very loudly expressed

during the life-time of the holy Pontiff. Already, however, there is evident a disposition to declare openly that Pius IX was a saint in the strict sense of the word, and none of the proofs of his great sanctity appear to be wanting. We do not presume to anticipate the judgement of the Church, and what we now write is written with the understanding that it is but the expression of a private individual's belief, adopted from the study he has made of the subject he writes of, but we are emboldened to put forward such a view by the knowledge that a dignitary of the Church, lately preaching before an assembly of the Cardinals, professed a similar belief, and alluded to the probability of the late Pope's being honoured with the honours due to sanctity in the heroic degree. It may be, therefore, that, even in our own days, we shall have the great happiness of hearing him, whose memory we must ever revere as that of a saint, and love as that of a father, authoritatively recognised as Pope St. Pius the Great.

### THE PROTESTANT PRESS AND FATHER HENNEBERY.

THE leading journal of Auckland, the *Herald* cannot have raised itself much in the estimation of impartial Protestants by the part it took in circulating the slanderous misstatements against Father Hennebery. I cannot but think that Bishop Moran would have done well if he had taken no notice of the *Herald's* paragraphs. To notice such slanders is a sort of humiliation.

Every Catholic worthy of the name, knows what the Church teaches on the subject of marriages. Every Protestant who marries, or intends to marry, a Roman Catholic knows, or may know that too. He does not require to go to the columns of a Protestant newspaper for instruction on that point. No Catholic would for a moment believe that any regularly ordained Catholic priest, exercising his functions with the approval of the bishop of the diocese, would utter such impious nonsense as the *Herald* and others reported to have been spoken by Father Hennebery.

A certain personage they say can quote Scripture in a certain way and for his own purposes. On the same principle Protestant newspaper reporters and editors, and others, can quote the words of a Catholic priest to serve their own ends. We have seen many adepts at this sort of thing. Surely the subject of mixed marriages is sufficiently delicate and often embarrassing without adding to the unpleasantness by such a line of policy as the *Herald* and his coadjutors have adopted. The *Herald* can have little respect for the feelings of that numerous class of Protestants and Catholics who have contracted a mixed marriage. He and others have tried to damage the Catholic Church or Father Hennebery at their expense. The evil has been done. No explanation or denial of Father Hennebery can meet it altogether. It will still be widely believed by the Protestant public that all which the *Herald* has reported to the prejudice of Father Hennebery is Gospel truth.

A mixed marriage may be a blessing to the parties on religious grounds, or it may be very much the reverse. The Church warns us that to the Catholic party it is always dangerous. On some occasions it may be impossible to avoid the danger. The *Herald* and his coadjutors may be overshooting the mark by these slanders against a distinguished Catholic missionary.

It has happened in America, and it may happen here, that Protestants of good will have been induced by slanders like these to enquire into the tenets of the Catholic Church. The result has been that they have at last entered into her communion. I could quote the particulars of one remarkable instance of this. I say then to the *Herald* and others in his line, Go on, gentlemen, multiply your slanders and season them more strongly still to gratify the morbid taste of certain of your Protestant readers. You are thereby likely to do the Church a great good which you are, I am sure, far from intending to do her.

Lord Beaconsfield tells us that so late as 40 years ago when he entered Parliament, the ignorance which pervaded the public mind in regard to the political history of England was something incredible. We may well say that the ignorance which pervades the public mind at this hour on the real tenets of the Catholic Church is more than astonishing.

Men like the editors of our Protestant newspapers, who set up to be "Leaders of the people" should surely know what these tenets are. They have a most intimate relation to every political and social question. I would have the editor of every Protestant newspaper to make himself fully acquainted with the tenets of the Catholic Church ere he undertake his office as instructor and leader of the people. The public would also gain if he went through a course of moral philosophy and Christian ethics. Most of them do not seem to have the most remote idea that they are under any obligation to do as they would be done by. If that were an article of their creed we should not see them acting to us as they now do. Indeed the Protestant ministers are no better in that way.

J. WOOD.

**HISTORICAL!** Vide "Jurors Reports and Awards, New Zealand Exhibition." Jurors: J. E. Ewen, J. Butterworth, T. G. Skinner "So far as the Colony is concerned, the dyeing of materials is almost entirely confined to the re-dyeing of Articles of Dress and Upholstery, a most useful art, for there are many kinds of material that lose their colour before the texture is half worn. G. HIRSCH, of Dunedin (DUNEDIN DYE WORKS, George-street, opposite Royal George Hotel) exhibits a case of specimens of Dyed Wools, Silks, and Feathers, and dyed Sheepskins. The colors on the whole are very fair, and reflect considerable credit on the Exhibitor, to whom the Jurors recommended an Honorary Certificate should be awarded. Honorary Certificate, 29: Gustav Hirsch, Dunedin, for specimens, of Dyeing in Silk, Feathers, &c.