

Few Acts of Parliament have been more highly lauded than the Act for the promotion of godless education. We never could see any reason for the universal chorus of admiration with which its becoming law was greeted, except its secularism—which, after all, means its godlessness. And it is pretty plain that the haste with which it was passed, and the little care and attention given to the consideration of its details, arose from the feverish anxiety of its patrons to have the principle of godlessness sanctioned by the Legislature at any hazard. And these gentlemen have now their reward in the universal discontent its provisions have aroused, and the jealousies it has engendered. Our warning voice was not only unheeded, but derided; and, even more, we do believe that this measure was hurried through the houses of Parliament all the more rapidly because of our remonstrances. It was thought that this mode of proceeding would read us a lesson not likely to be forgotten, and it was hoped that free and godless education would divide and consequently weaken the Catholic body, and render denominationalists powerless. It was fully expected that denominational schools could not survive the inauguration of the new system.

But how futile have been all these anticipations, the result has proved. The new Act, the new system of godless education, has not succeeded in closing even one Catholic school. On the contrary, its only effect on Catholics has been to arouse new energies and create new resources. Catholics are more determined now than ever that their children shall not be subjected to godless influences, and more firmly resolved than ever to maintain their own schools. Since the passing of the godless Act, new Catholic schools have been built, old ones enlarged, greater unity and energy have been manifested than were before visible, whilst in the ranks of the godless, only jealousy, bickering, and confusion are visible. *Quem Deus cult perdere prius dementat.*

News of the Week.

THE enlargement of the TABLET by four pages will take place next week.

THE annual general meeting of the shareholders of the N. Z. TABLET Company (Limited) took place at the office of the Company, in Dunedin, on Monday evening last. His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese occupied the chair, and there were present, in person or by proxy, 31 shareholders, representing 156 shares. The directors' report referred to the satisfactory state of the Company's business, as shown by the balance sheet; stated that the circulation of the paper had been increased about three-fourths during the year, that there was every prospect of a continuance of this prosperity, and concluded by recommending an immediate addition of four pages to the size of the TABLET, and the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. on each share. The report was adopted by the meeting, which then passed a vote of thanks to the directors for the zeal shown by them in the service of the Company during their year of office. The directors for the forthcoming year were voted for by ballot, the gentlemen elected being Messrs. F. Meenan, Reynolds, Downey, Martin, and the Rev. Wm. Larkin.

WE perceive that a historical error occurred in our issue of the 17th inst. It is there said that the Order of the Jesuits was suppressed by Pope Clement XIII. The Pope who suppressed the Order was Clement XIV.

WE learn from the *Advocate* that Mr. John Gavan Duffy (of Messrs. Duffy and Wilkinson), Chancery-lane, Melbourne, has been appointed a Commissioner of the Supreme Court of New Zealand for taking affidavits for that colony.

THE Rev. Father Hennebery delivered a lecture, in aid of the liquidation of the debt on the Catholic Church, in Kumara, on Thursday, 23rd inst. The subject was, "The Fall of Society from the Sovereignty of Christ."

WE clip the following from the *Lyttelton Times*:—The total number of people in the Province of Canterbury is put down at 92,433, showing a difference of 33,658 since 1874 when the last census was taken, or an increase of 57 per cent. The population of Christchurch and its suburbs (including Sydenham) is reckoned at 30,300. The actual municipality only contains 13,408 inhabitants, but the population just outside the Belts, and which is to all intents and purposes part of the city, swells the amount so enormously as to make that number quite within the bounds of belief. As showing the density of the population we may mention that in the suburbs of St. Albans alone there are 3000 people. We imagine that few persons have hitherto had any idea of the number of inhabitants crowded around Christchurch.

WE would remind our readers that the art-union for the large photographic likeness of the Rev. Father Hennebery, will take place next July. Tickets have been issued at the low price of half-a-crown; they may be had on application to the Lady Superior, Dominican Convent, Dowling-street, or the Secretary, TABLET Office, Dunedin.

HIS Lordship the Bishop of Dunedin particularly requested the members of the Catholic congregation, on Sunday last, to pay such first instalments of their subscriptions to the Cathedral fund as had not yet been paid. Payments to be made before Sunday, June 8th.

WE find that, unfortunately, several mistakes occurred in the list given by us last week of the subscriptions to the Port Chalmers Church Fund, collected on the opening day. The name at the head of the list was that of His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese, £10. The following omissions were also made: Mr. Darby, £5; Mr. Bennett £1 1s 0d; Mr. Columb, 10s. We shall be happy to correct any further errors on notice of them being furnished to us.

Telegrams.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL.)

LONDON, May 24th.
The strictest secrecy is maintained re Count Schouvaloff's mission, pending the reply of the British Government. The prevalent opinion is that it is of a pacific character, and that there will be an early meeting of the Congress.

ATHENS, May 22nd.
Severe but indecisive fighting has taken place at Crete.
CONSTANTINOPLE, May 23rd.
A great fire here destroyed the palaces of the Minister of Justice and the Supreme Council of State.
The Russians are advancing within the neutral zone.

LONDON, May 23rd.
Supplementary estimates were introduced to-day for the Indian contingent of the army and for an increase to the naval vessels on the New Zealand station.

LONDON, May 25th.
The Duke of Cambridge inspects the Indian forces at Malta.
CONSTANTINOPLE, May 24th.
The Russo-Turkish Commission failed to agree to a line of demarcation.

LONDON, May 25th.
Discount rates in open market are falling, and a reduction in the Bank minimum is expected. The Bank reserve is slightly better than during last week. Consols firm at 95½. The market for Australian securities is remarkably firm. Wool is showing a better tone, and the market is hardening. Of wheat there is a large foreign supply and Home stock.

A Cabinet Council was held yesterday, when Count Schouvaloff's proposals were considered. The Council is summoned for to-day, when the final resolution of the British Government is expected to be announced.

LATER.

Consols, 96½.
Bank rate of discount, 3 per cent; market rate, 2¼ per cent.
Adelaide wheat, 57s to 59s; flour, 39s.
Since the opening of the wool sales, 91,800 bales have been offered. The decline at the opening has since recovered except for cross-breeds.

[SPECIAL TO THE PRESS AGENCY.]

LONDON, May 26th.
The Congress is to be held in June, and it is expected an early invitation will be issued to the Powers.

On the anniversary of the Queen's Birthday, celebrated on Saturday, there were reviews and banquets. Many old colonists attended a dinner given by Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Secretary of State for the colonies.

Obituary: The Duchess of Argyll.

(SPECIAL TO THE MELBOURNE ARGUS.)

LONDON, May 27th.
Prince Bismarck has invited the Great Powers to attend the Conference, which is expected to meet at Berlin on June 11th. The San Stefano Treaty is to be submitted to the consideration of Congress.

It was officially stated in Parliament that the prospects of peace have materially improved.

(SPECIAL TO THE PRESS AGENCY.)

LONDON, May 28th.

Lord John Russell is dead.
Consols 97½.

MR. J. GOW, late of the firm of Watson and Gow, wheelwrights and general blacksmiths, has commenced business on his own account on premises adjoining those lately occupied by the firm.

MR. DAVID WEIR, late of the firm of Messrs. Weir and Sampson, is now carrying on business on his own account in Rattray street, Dunedin. His stock of china, glass, &c., will be found unrivalled in the trade.

THE Rev. Father Grant, Rector of the Scotch College in Rome, died March 28. The deceased was the organiser of the Catholic hierarchy to be established in Scotland. He bequeaths his private fortune to the Catholic Church in his native country. The funeral was attended by many of the Cardinals. Mgr. Strain, Archbishop of Edinburgh officiated.