

vering in maintaining Christian schools. Why, don't you see, says this Memorandum, as clearly as possible, that your love for Christian education closes against you all avenues to preferment. Not only is the department of education closed against you, but all the departments under the control of the Government. And this is the fact, no matter what view may be taken of the Memorandum.

But this will not frighten Catholics. They are determined that their children shall not be subjected to that godless system of education which only succeeds in rearing subjects dangerous to the State, recruits to the ranks of Communism and Socialism, and aliens to all Christian faith and hope. And it is only a paltry Government that could fancy that Catholics could be frightened into disloyalty to all their principles through fear that half-a-dozen or so Catholic boys should lose the chance of being scavengers or messengers in some public office.

### THE CATHOLIC PETITION.

This petition was numerously signed at St. Joseph's, Dunedin, on last Sunday. We hope that the Catholics throughout, not only the Province of Otago and Southland, but the entire colony, will sign this or a similar petition before the meeting of Parliament. Let this be the answer of Catholics to that Memorandum of Mr. HISLOR *re* cadetships in the public service.

Catholics complain that the present system of Education inflicts on them grievous injustice. They deny the right of the Government to interfere with the education of their children; they state that they have established and are maintaining many excellent Catholic schools. They declare they labour under a sense of being the victims of a persecution, simply because they refuse to permit the faith and morals of their children to be ruined—and they pray for justice and fair play.

This is a serious state of things. Catholics are a numerous and united body, capable of making great sacrifices for their principles; and any one who knows the history of Catholics must be convinced that it is vain to hope either to intimidate or to cajole them when the interests of the faith and morals of their children are in danger. Any Government which attempts either must be demented. No doubt, superior force may carry the day for a season, but at what serious loss to the public prosperity, with what danger to the peace and well-being of the State. And can injustice hope to succeed for ever? May not the majority of to-day become the minority to-morrow? And what then? The past will be overturned, a new order of things inaugurated, and whilst new adjustments are being effected, progress must be arrested. A wise legislator would endeavour not to force his own nostrums on an unwilling people, but to inaugurate such measures as give satisfaction to all sections of the people, and promise permanence and stability.

Is it not a species of madness, which, in this day, impels men having charge of the well-being of the commonwealth, to insist on forcing a godless education on the rising generation? This is the species of education patronised by Communists and Socialists, and which has made them what they are and what they have proved themselves in Europe and America. Communism and Socialism in France burned the most magnificent city in Europe, murdered crowds of innocent and meritorious citizens of all classes; in Germany, shot down a popular sovereign—an old man, a great warrior, and an able statesman; in the United States of America, destroyed hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of property in a wanton raid on the rights of others, and by its present attitude has compelled the most democratic legislature in the world to authorise the President to call out 75,000 men—as many as President BUCHANAN was authorised to enrol at the beginning of the war of secession.

Such are consequences against which Catholics are taking precautions, and which they are labouring to prevent. And because they thus show themselves the best friends of the State, the State takes elaborate pains to punish them, trample on them, and subject them to pains and penalties. This is deplorable, and certainly affords little hope for the stability of law and order in this country. Still we must not lose all hope. Notwithstanding the maddened forces arrayed against us, it is our duty to proceed along the path of rectitude, to persevere in proclaiming the principles of truth and justice, and to fight the battle of Christian education to the last. But whilst we ventilate our grievances in every legitimate way, demand jus-

tice in every mode sanctioned by the constitution, petition Parliament, and act the part of determined men at elections, we must continue to leave nothing undone, no matter how great the sacrifices we may have to make, to provide a sufficient number of Catholic schools for our own children.

## News of the Week.

A CATHOLIC Presbytery is in course of construction at Wanganni. It is being built on plans drawn up by the Rev. Father Kirk, who has chosen to be his own architect. The style selected is the perpendicular Gothic, and the rev. gentleman's taste and ingenuity are as worthy of commendation as is the energy with which he has worked to bring about the building of the handsome edifice referred to.

MR. HENRY DRIVER is a candidate to represent Roslyn in Parliament.

A NELSON paper makes some severe comments on cases of perjury, which it asserts frequently to occur in the Resident Magistrate's Court in the town alluded to, but to be allowed to pass without notice being taken of them.

SIR GEORGE GREY is said to have expressed a belief that the moa still exists in the West Coast Ranges.

TAWHIAO is reported to have excited a good deal of admiration in Hamilton and other places visited by him. He is said to be a good looking fellow, of comparatively light complexion, and not tattooed.

SOME of the copper ore from D'Urville Island has been smelted in Blenheim, and with excellent results.

A CHINAMAN is delivering lectures on his country in Victoria.

THE settlers at Ohinemuri seem to be particularly unfortunate. The land turns out to be excessively bad and difficult of clearing for cultivation. There is, besides, hardly any market for agricultural produce.

CURLING has been established at Naseby. It has been kept up there so far during the season with much spirit.

AN expedition to New Guinea is being organised in Wellington.

SOME children at Alexandra have been severely injured by playing with gunpowder.

AT the commencement of the present month the snow at Arthur's Pass on the road from Christchurch to Hokitika was nine feet in depth.

THE settlement at Ormondville is said to be progressing rapidly. THERE is an agreeable road between Greymouth and Reefton, on which a teamster lately travelling, or rather toiling to travel, with a four ton load and a team of eight horses, took a whole day to accomplish half-a-mile.

CERTAIN of the Hawke's Bay newspapers appear very much put out on account of the way in which the Maoris are being dealt with at present. One of them says that the folk who were made so much of at Waitara were the perpetrators of the White Cliffs massacre or their accomplices. And another complains of the natives being rewarded for rebellion, and assisted to get back land which they have sold "honorably to a European." We can easily fancy that this latter fact is one most grievous to some people. It is a great pity, indeed, to interfere with such "honourable" bargains.

A MINER at Coromandel has proved to be heir to a valuable property in London. We believe in this instance the matter is *bona fide*.

SOME blocks of marble from Milford Sound have been sent to Melbourne.

THE Mokau natives are having a steamer built at Auckland for the purpose of trading on their river.

A STRONG gale at Onchunga lately blew an express off the wharf into the sea.

MR. O'MALLEY of Wellington is the successful tenderer for the port contract of the Nelson and Foxhill railway. The amount of his tender is £6,229.

PROPERTY at Dillmanstown is rising in value.

£40,000 were said to be paid annually by the Imperial Government to pensioners resident in New Zealand.

MR. J. C. BROWN, M.H.R., addressing his constituents at Waitahuna, the other evening, spoke as follows on education:—"That he was not in love with the present system, because it must lead to an education tax, which would prove distasteful. While he did not think the State had anything to do with religious teaching, it became a serious question whether these bodies who, from conscientious reasons, would not send their children to State schools, should not receive some assistance, if they undertook to subject their schools to Government inspection, and that a certain number of scholars reached the State standard. He thought it right to tell them in what direction his opinions tended."