

remember that if Catholics first, they are at the same time citizens, and that they fail in their duty as such if they support a godless political party. Catholics should not only have a love of their religion above all other things, but they should religiously use their influence as citizens to promote the well-being of the State to which they are so much indebted for the protection of their lives and properties. Political action, then, is not a merely indifferent action. On the contrary Catholics should weigh well the principles and aims of politicians and strenuously oppose all whose principles and policy they are convinced lead to the moral or material injury of the community. On this principle it is Catholics are bound to give the most strenuous opposition to secularists in education for mere secular education can only lead to the ruin of citizens and the State.

## News of the Week.

ON Sunday last, Feast of the Rosary, there was exposition of the Most Holy Sacrament in the Catholic Church, Christchurch. A procession took place in the evening, formed of the members of the Catholic Societies, and in which the Blessed Eucharist was carried under a silken canopy, and preceded by children strewing flowers.

UNDER the heading "Religious Record" an American contemporary inserts the following paragraph, amongst others:—"Some of our subscribers are in debt to us for their paper. If they will send us the money they owe us, we shall in return mail them a receipted bill." We admit that it is a most charitable action to be prompt in paying subscriptions to a Catholic newspaper, and we recommend the affair to the kindly consideration of our subscribers.

LABOURERS are short of the demand at Patea in the North Island.

THE Kumara appears to be keeping up. A washing lately took place there which yielded the owners each £20 per week.

THE Hon. the Attorney-General lets no opportunity slip of trying to have a slap at the Church. During the discussion in committee on the Land Tax Bill he scouted the idea of convents being exempted. It is a pity the caricaturist who drew the famous sketch a couple of years ago of Bismarck trying to pull down the Church, rather to the amusement of his Satanic Majesty, did not know of the Hon. Robert Stout, he might have given him a corner of the rope to drag, under the disguise of Bismarck's poodle. The Prince, we conclude, patronizes feebler puppies than that which attacked the Russian Minister.

WE fear the old "Botany Bay" reputation of these colonies is about to be revived in the old country. They say that Mr. Bradlaugh has been invited by some of our notables to visit Australia and New Zealand.

A CORONER'S inquest was appointed to be held lately in Wellington. The affair, however, was prevented from coming off, because the corpse proved even more "fresh" than that demanded by the Innocents Abroad of their Italian guide. The coroner found, in fact, that the subject was "alive and kicking."

AN epigram, said to be composed by the murderer Sullivan has been going the rounds of the papers. The suggestion may be worth something to literary aspirants unable to attain to fame. They have only to do something exceedingly disgraceful, and the ear of the public will at once be open to them.

WE have received from Mr. J. J. Crofts, Reefton, an acknowledgment of the receipt of the Waipori subscription of £5 10s. towards the Fenian Prisoners Relief Fund. Mr. Crofts informs us that a few weeks will still elapse before his subscription list closes, during which it will be possible for the sympathisers of the hardly used prisoners to forward to him donations for their benefit. The cause we need not say is a thoroughly deserving one and has claims upon every Irishman. This indeed has been well acknowledged, and the Irish everywhere have responded to the call in a very generous manner, and one speaking highly of the union that subsists between the "sea divided Gael" as the *Nation* happily names them. A remittance already forwarded by Mr. Crofts has been received in Ireland, and has given substantial proof to the sufferers of the gratitude entertained towards them by their fellow-countrymen even in this part of the world the furthest removed from them.

THE town of Fielding is said to derive a revenue from timber amounting to £1,000 per week.

POWERFUL flour-mills have been erected and set to work at Hamilton, Waikato. It is computed that they are capable of grinding 36,000 bushels yearly.

THE Rev. Father Hennbery has concluded his mission at Blenheim, where the usual success attended upon his ministry. He is now in Nelson. On Sunday 29th ult, Feast of St. Michael, His Lord-

ship the Bishop of Wellington opened a new church in the first named town.

It is said that the natives continue to regard with complacency the survey of the Waitemate Plains.

THE Taranaki *Budget* says:—We were under the impression that at the Government schools there was to be no religious instruction given, yet we hear that at one of them the Bible is read every day.

MR. TAIAROA says he looks upon the Native Minister as a Maori. We are not disposed to contradict the notion.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the *Weekly Argus*:—Parents were led to believe that great things would happen so soon as the much-talked-of Education Act came into force; but it is not too much to say that, so far as the Grey Valley schools generally are concerned, they have been worse managed, and their unfortunate teachers much worse paid, than when under the previous system of subsidies and school fees.

THE Maoris of the King Country are busied at various industries, and present a most reassuring aspect.

THE drawing in connection with the Dominican Convent Art Union will be held without fail on Saturday, November 9th next. All persons who have disposed of tickets for the Art Union are requested to forward the blocks in due time to the Lady Superior at the Convent, Dowling-street, Dunedin. Friends of the cause will doubtless increase their efforts to make the matter a success.

THE return of gold at the Thames from September 1st to 28th was 4342 ozs. 1 dwt. 12 grs. from 3788 tons 5 cwt. 37 lbs. of stone.

WE learn from the Auckland *Evening Star*, 30th ult.:—An interesting ceremony, being the renewal of the baptismal vows of the children attending the Roman Catholic Sunday schools of the city, took place at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. There were between 500 and 600 children present, including the inmates of St. Mary's Orphanage (Ponsonby), and their neat and healthy appearance was much admired. The Rev. Fathers W. McDonald and O'Dwyer were present, as also a number of parents and friends of the children. The Rev. Father McDonald delivered an appropriate address, explanatory of the ceremony; reminding those present of the engagements entered into at the baptismal font, and that it was only by the fulfilment of these obligations that they could hope for eternal salvation. The rev. gentleman alluded in a happy manner to the edifying appearance of the children, and passed high eulogiums on the Sisters of Mercy, who had prepared the girls for the ceremony, and whose labours for the past 27 years in Auckland were worthy of the highest commendation. He also thanked the members of the Christian Doctrine Society, who were engaged in imparting religious instruction to the boys, and expressed a hope that the members would be strict in the observance of their own religious duties which was the only sound basis on which they could make progress in the noble work they had in hand. The usual form was read in a very distinct manner by Miss Mary Fernandez, and the singing of a hymn by the children's choir brought the proceedings to a close.

THE Catholics of Melbourne are about to present a testimonial to the Rev. Fathers Kelly and O'Malley, S.J., prior to the departure of the rev. gentlemen from Victoria. Father Kelly goes to Sydney, and Father O'Malley comes to New Zealand to assist in founding the Jesuit mission of Dunedin.

MR. JAMES McLOUGHLIN, late of Adelaide, S.A., has been appointed master of the Catholic school, at Invercargill.

## Telegrams.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL.)

CALCUTTA, September 26th.

The British Government are massing troops on the portion of Afghanistan in case it should be found necessary to undertake a march to Cabul. The mission to the Ameer has been abandoned. Orders have been given to concentrate at Quetta with a view of making an immediate advance on Kandahar. It is expected to detach Khyber Pass from the Ameer. Although the British Government are in possession of evidence showing that Russia has promised the Ameer a subsidy and a portion of Indian territory in the event of a successful war, they desire to leave the Afghan question entirely in the hands Lord Lytton, and to avoid dragging Russia into dispute.

LONDON, September 27th.

A Cabinet Council has been summoned for next week to deliberate on a course of action consequent on the unsatisfactory condition of the Earl of Beaconsfield's health.

Captain Naros has sailed in the ship Arctic on an expedition to the South Pacific.

September 29th.

Mount Vesuvius is in full eruption.

The Russian troops have evacuated Tchataldji, and the British fleet in the Sea of Marmora has withdrawn to Aski, where it will remain till the Russians leave Adrianople.

VIENNA, September 29th.

Bosnia is virtually pacified. All the insurgent bodies have been dispersed. The Austrians have occupied Smarank.