

Correspondence.

We are not responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

THE WARFARE OF TO-DAY.

To the Editor of the N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—I am one of the many who are greatly amused just now at the reception given to Mr. Varley in Dunedin by the Evangelicals. They want the dry bones steeped in some enlivening liquid, which, while it has plenty of froth, must be so diluted that it shall contain nothing to hurt the feeling of everyone in the thousand and one sects. Is that what Protestant Christianity has come to! A cutting away here, a paring and a lopping there, to please each sect till finally a little revivalistic emotion only remains. Evidently the reformers are fast reforming themselves, or rather their principles out of existence; and the struggle between faith and reason, between true liberty of conscience and Caesarism—a form of which latter we have in the action of people who force their intolerant ideas upon other people's children in the public schools—is coming to a point at a much faster rate than might have been a few years ago expected. Listening to the Rev. Father O'Malley's sermon at St. Joseph's the other evening, I could not but think of St. Augustine's noble words when he spoke against a sect strong in its day, but whose very name is now to most people forgotten. In the beautiful apostrophe which the great saint puts into the mouth of the Church she cries out to the eternal spouse: "Why do those who have gone from me murmur against me? Why do those who are lost declare that it is I who have perished? Announce to me the fewness of my days: how long shall I be in this world? Tell it to me for the sake of those who say she was and now she is not; for the sake of those who say that the Scriptures have been fulfilled, the nations have believed, but the Church has apostatised, and perished from all the nations." And it was answered; nor was the voice an empty one. In what words was it announced? *Behold I am with you until the consummation of the world.* That is, moved by your words and by your false opinions, the Church asks of God to make known to her the fewness of her days; and she finds that the Lord has said: *Behold I am with you all days until the consummation of the world.*

Sir, I will trouble you with a double quotation, namely an extract from the celebrated encyclical of November, 1873, by the late Pope, and which I commend to the diluted Protestants, "liberal" parsons, and "advanced" thinkers of this colony: "We have a sure hope of a future calm, and a glorious peace for the Church, and, trusting in the assistance of God, let us cheer ourselves, our toiling clergy and our people, with the noble words of Chrysostom: 'Many waves and storms threaten us, but we are not afraid of being overwhelmed, for we stand upon the rock. Though the sea rage, it cannot melt the rock; though the waves rise, yet they cannot sink the bark of Jesus. There is nothing mightier than the Church. The Church is stronger than heaven itself. *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away.* What words are these? *Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* If you do not believe in words believe in deeds. How many tyrants have tried to oppress the Church? How many swords have been prepared against her? What have they accomplished? Nothing! Where are her foes? They are forgotten. Where is the Church? she shines more brightly than the sun. Her foes have perished; her children are immortal. If when these were few Christians they were not overcome; how, when the whole world is full of holy religion will you be able to overcome them? *Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass away.*"

Sir, the contention of to-day and of the coming day is not and will not be with the sects—they have lost their propagating force, and are passing down the river of forgetfulness. It is and will be with indifference, doubt, scepticism, and with the "advanced" ideas which old fashioned Protestants asserted, however much they might flourish on the continent, could not find a home in a British community. The error of that has been found out a few years ago. But "shall the sons of God fall back before the sons of Voltaire!" The burning words of the great French orator, are answered by all Catholics with an emphatic "No!"—I am, etc.

AN UNFAIR CHARGE.

To the Editor of the N. Z. TABLET.

SIR,—I have noticed in your issue of 24th inst. an unwarrantable attack made by the district officers of the H.A.C.B.S. at their annual meeting against some officers of the Oamaru branch for "misappropriation" of funds upon the information of two members from here.

Now, Sir, I wish to inform your readers that these Dunedin officers never gave the slightest notice in any shape or form to the officers here that this serious charge was laid against them, until they sent it abroad on the wings of the Press. Those wisecracks of Dunedin had either the prudence nor the consideration, to give us an opportunity of defending ourselves from this charge; nor had they the fairness to tell who are they who are charged, or who laid the charge. Of course it is quite enough to prove it that four of those "wisecracks" names are gone forth signed at the foot of their report, and they give as their authority that they have received letters from two members from Oamaru. Now, let them then take it ill or otherwise of me, I tell them that a more uncharitable act was never done by any man, or body of men, than that which they have done.

I have been secretary for this Branch during the last 18 months. When I took office I was furnished with an account of the amount of money to the credit of this Branch at that date, which I can produce, and also the amount of money received and paid away since then up to the present. We have it all, as they say, "in black and white," with day and date, and I defy either the men from Oamaru, who ever they may be, or the imprudent "wisecracks" of Dunedin, to prove that one shilling has been misappropriated. I also request of them

to furnish a copy of those letters that they have received to the TABLET, with the names of the writers, in order that they may prove their charge. There is no other way of settling the matter now than through the TABLET, where the charge first appeared. I speak now for myself, and, as far as I know, I can do the same for my brother officers; we want no hole and corner work. The charge is now laid and we want to have it properly investigated, all through the public Press. Then if we are found guilty it will be time enough to charge "some officers with misappropriation" and charges of a "grave" nature, and if the case goes the reverse way, we shall have had an opportunity of knowing our accusers. I hope you will excuse me for trespassing on your space; but I feel, in common with others, that a serious charge has been circulated concerning us, and I wish the case to be thoroughly sifted, so that instead of the Dunedin officers and the two persons from Oamaru, we may have the public to judge of our case. Knowing also that your motto is *Fiat Justitia, I say Fiat Justitia ruat coelum.*

I am prepared to give a full and correct account of the funds of the Branch when called upon by the proper authorities.—I am, &c.,
P. M. MORONY.

GODLESS EDUCATION.

To the Editor of the N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—It is to be hoped that the election of the new School Committee may have the effect of letting the infidel band, which has hitherto sat upon us like a horrible nightmare, see that they are no longer to play at pleasure the dictator to a professedly Christian community; on the other hand it is to be hoped that those who have some respect left for religion may see the necessity that exists for using to purpose the power they have got. Our infidel neighbours and half-hearted religionists have heretofore almost wrought themselves into a phrensy over the bigotry, forsooth, that lurked in every mild, almost apologetic, assertion of Christian right; but, sir, we have had a taste of what those can do who care nothing for religion, and that taste has left a bitterness behind it which years to come will not obliterate. The secularists have been permitted to set up their god for a time, and a sorry god he has proved to be. Of this I am sure that, granting the worst that has ever been said about denominationalism, it would be hard now to convince us that it is worse than the moral plague, in the shape of the scholastic system, which has for a moment been imposed upon us in New Zealand.

Where there is no fear of God, it appears to me, you may say there no firm principle will be found; a wavering, cunning, disreputable telescoping of the future will take its place, and, as a matter of course, our legislative adventurers are doing their best to bring up the art of balancing themselves on a fence to the dignity of a science.

It is surely owing to the moral blindness of the crowd and the indifference of those whose perceptions are clearer than men like the bulk of our representatives get into office. Look, for example, at the Attorney-General even on Monday night last, and say if the exhibition was not painful. I would not like to say that the office which he fills has had the effect of softening his brain, still the point is worthy of consideration. What a farrago of nonsense he spoke when the Education Act was jeeringly handed down to him for his explanation as to whether women could vote—wives as well as husbands—in virtue of the same estate, and I venture to assert that no man, not presuming on the insanity of his audience, could affirm that husband and wife could vote in virtue of the same property, but the learned Attorney's perceptions are so much clearer than other mortals'; then he can see black where they see white, and *vice versa*.

It may stave off the clear perception of the fatal hour at hand for the Hon. R. Stout not to put forward his name on such an occasion as Monday night presented, but it will not delay it; his utter disregard of the religious feelings of this community has been not only known, but so thrust in our faces that a Nemesis has sprung into being which will neither be pacified nor deceived. I do not know whether the Attorney-General is thinking of taking that "confoundedly sharp curve" or not, but it may well be asked if, when by way of explanation of the utter secularism of the Bill he said something to the effect that, had it been otherwise, free-thinkers might have applied for the schools for their worship; it may well be asked I say if this was the moving spring of his conduct—to put the question to any one who knows the gentleman is to answer it. Sir, I could respect consistency even in the devil, but when he begins to come out in garments of light, incipient respect vanishes. The Attorney-General has gone too far to retrace his steps. He has read no doubt the story of the boy and the wolf, and some how or other we fancy that we have a moral plague to stamp out, and *we'll do it*.

Sir, it is such men as Mr. Stout that perpetuate the jealousies and heartburnings that are supposed to exist among Protestants, Catholics, and others, and that too, by the very means they take, if you believe them, to remove all such jealousies; they would perpetuate peace by the destruction of all solid basis of peace. Perhaps, you would kindly enquire if the Attorney-General has ever, on any occasion said that the best way of counteracting the Roman Catholic influence was for Protestants to nominate their own friends, &c. If such reports go abroad they make us uneasy, when we find denominationalism cursed in one breath and blessed in another. I hope you will not cease in your efforts to obtain in education what you demand, for in obtaining it, we will all derive benefit. Were I sure that religion could be taught apart from denominationalism I would be content. This, however, the sectarianism of secularism forbids, and, perhaps, it is well for what part has Christ with Belial.

Yours, &c.,

A PROTESTANT.

The organs of the Conservative party in the German empire are congratulating Bismarck upon his decision to come to terms with the Vatican, maintaining that, in the light of recent occurrences, Germany has more to gain from the Ultramontanes than from the Socialists. Ten years ago Pope Pius IX. said as much.