

except for such as having learned to read have failed to read to any good purpose. It is hard to see how the massacre of St. Bartholomew can furnish an argument in favour of the expensiveness of denominational education in the nineteenth century. But then we are stupid Papists, and cannot be supposed to possess common sense. We beg to refer "An Independent Thinker" to the first of our "Current Topics" this week. Here he will see how an able English writer regards the matter. It will be seen that, were the secular system established in England, instead of the denominational, the rates for educating the same number of children now at school would be £6,750,000, whereas at present the annual grant to schools amounts to only £1,851,796. This disposes of the St. Bartholomew argument pretty conclusively, and we recommend it to the careful consideration of "An Independent Thinker."

CELEBRATION OF THE BISHOP OF DUNEDIN'S TWENTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF CONSECRATION.

ON Sunday last, the Boys attending the Christian Brothers' Schools in Dunedin presented an address of congratulation to his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese. The Address, which was presented on behalf of the pupils by Masters A. Court, C. Masterton and F. Walker in one of the school halls, some time before the commencement, at 11 a.m., of the Pontifical High Mass, was read by Master Frederick Walker, and ran as follows:—

"My Lord,—We, the pupils of the Christian Brothers' Schools, Dunedin, respectfully approach your Lordship, to testify to you our filial love, and to join our young hearts in the cordial felicitations offered to you by your loving people on this happy day, the twenty-third anniversary of your episcopal consecration.

My Lord, we are yet too young to fully appreciate the sterling good wrought in our midst by the untiring efforts you have made, and are daily making, in the cause of our holy religion. But we are not too young to value the good of the priceless system of Christian education which your zealous efforts have provided for us.

We have heard from our parents, and the good Brothers who instruct us, the great sacrifices made by your Lordship and your excellent Clergy to secure this great boon for us.

For this, and for the many personal acts of kindness we have received from your Lordship, we beg to offer you our heartfelt thanks.

We trust that our career in after life will repay to some extent the labours you have undertaken for our welfare, and that we will ever show ourselves worthy children of Holy Church, and zealous defenders of her Faith.

In conclusion, we pray that God, who in His gracious Providence has ordained you to be our chief pastor, may continue to bless you and strengthen you in your arduous duties, until it shall please His Divine Will to call you to Himself, and give you the reward reserved for those who have zealously laboured in His service.

This, my Lord, shall ever be the earnest prayer of your humble and devoted children—the pupils of the Christian Brothers."

In reply his Lordship said (we take the report of this address from the *Daily Times*):—"My children, this address that you have presented to me gives me the greatest satisfaction and pleasure. It is to me a source of great consolation to be enabled to come here to-day to see so many children assembled in this school-room. This is the object for which I labour, and it is the first object that I have in view. Without a Christian education there is very little hope for any one in this world or in the next, and if you are deprived of such an education your lot will be very deplorable indeed. So far as I am concerned in this great work, too much credit has been given to me. Personally I can do very little indeed, and if you now enjoy the great blessing of Christian education, this is due principally to the good Brothers who instruct you, and to your own open-handed, generous parents, who contribute so largely for the maintenance of these schools. My work is an easy one. I have only to suggest, to direct, and to guide, but the great labour devolves upon others, and, as you know well, that labour has not been grudged. My reward for the little I have done is already very great, and that reward consists in seeing you here assembled in such large numbers, and already beginning to set a proper value on the blessings that have been vouchsafed to you. If you continue as you are going on, and be, as I have no doubt you will be, zealous Catholics and good members of society, I shall be more than amply rewarded. I shall say no more now to you, as I shall have to reply to another address in the course of the day, and the only other remark with which I will trouble you is this: that it is for your own interest in time and in eternity to co-operate zealously with those who are placed over you in these schools. Be attentive here, labour to profit by the instructions that you receive; in the playground act with charity and as little Christian gentlemen. While going to and from school let your conduct be marked by the greatest propriety; and in your homes prove by your obedience and docility, and the gentleness of your demeanour to your parents, and all others that may know you, that you have received true and solid lessons in these schools, and profited largely by them. I impress upon you most earnestly to take my advice, as I have no doubt you will. Depend upon it, Ly-and-bye when you arrive at manhood, you will be filled with the greatest gratitude for the innumerable benefits of which these schools have been the source, and to the good Brothers who so devotedly attended to your education. God bless you!"

THE DOMINICAN CONVENT SCHOOLS.

ON Monday the celebration of the anniversary was made in these schools. The events of the day began in St. Joseph's School, where a short play was pleasingly acted, and some music, both vocal and instrumental, performed by the pupils, who also presented a purse containing a substantial contribution to the Cathedral Building Fund, and the following Address:—

"Most Reverend and Beloved Father,—It is with great joy and

gladness that we are assembled here to-day to congratulate you on the twenty-third anniversary of your Episcopal consecration. We offer you more than our congratulations, but less than is due to you, our devoted Pastor. We give you the deep, loving gratitude of our hearts for all you have done for us and for all the other children that have attended these schools during the last eight years. Under God, we owe to you and to the nuns you brought from Ireland for our instruction, all the advantages we enjoy. Not content with making innumerable sacrifices to build and maintain our schools, and to give us good, kind instructresses, you have taught us yourself, and opened to us the path of religion and science. In return for your Lordship's unwearied efforts to promote our spiritual and temporal welfare, we shall continue still more earnestly than hitherto the prayers which we have been accustomed to offer twice each day for your Lordship, that God may spare you for very many years in health and prosperity to govern this diocese, and give you the means of spreading far and wide schools of virtue and learning such as we enjoy here. We also beseech the Almighty to enable you to erect a cathedral worthy of Him, and we beg your Lordship's acceptance of the accompanying small contribution towards that object. Invoking Heaven's choicest graces on your Lordship, we most humbly beg your fatherly blessing on ourselves, our parents, and our homes." The Bishop made a suitable reply.

In the afternoon his Lordship visited the Convent High School, where, in commemoration of the occasion, the Catholic young ladies presented him with a stole beautifully embroidered in gold. Afterwards the more advanced pupils went through some scenes from Moliere in the original French, together with an English operetta. The performance was extremely creditable, and displayed valuable evidence of the progress the pupils are making under the care of the good nuns.

Occasional Notes.

A SPECIAL meeting of St Joseph's Branch, H.A.C.B.S., will take place on Monday evening next to consider the balance-sheet in connection with the late supper.

AT a committee meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Association, held last Monday evening, the Vice-President in the chair, it was resolved that a concert be held on the 28th of next month in celebration of the Centenary of Thomas Moore. The ballad poetry of the Irish bard will comprise the chief items of the entertainment.

THE 315th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth was celebrated by the Dunedin Shakespeare Club on Wednesday evening last. The Rev. R. A. Fitchett, B.A., delivered an address, and several readings were given, some musical selections were also pleasingly rendered during the evening.

WE understand that steps have been inaugurated in the diocese of Wellington for vigorously carrying on the Catholic Missions amongst the Maoris. Of the Marist Fathers those who speak the Native tongue fluently are the Rev. Fathers Lampila, Garin, Pezant, Reignier, Pertuis, and Moreau, and, in addition, the Rev. Father Soulas, who has lately arrived from France, is studying the language in question at Napier. A Maori prayer-book also is being printed in that city. It has been compiled and in part composed by the Sister Mary Joseph, of the Order of *Notre-Dames des Missions*.

WE perceive that there are some errors, which it is too late for us now to correct, in the reply of his Lordship the Bishop to the Address presented to him at St Joseph's Church, Dunedin. For "but I got a glance at it yesterday," &c., read "I got a glance at it yesterday, but" &c. For "I have given a reply," read "I have written a reply." For "the most scandalous and violent attack made by any man," &c., read "The most scandalous and violent attack that could be made," &c. For "I will say that, no matter what the reason, or no matter what the human consequence," read "I will say that no matter what the human consequence." For "No greater injury has been done to any people than that which has been shown to us," read "No greater injury has ever been done to any people than that which has been done to us." Certain typographical errors have also been made in our third "Topic." For "goodliness" read "godliness." For "W. D. Stewart," read "Mr. W. D. Stewart."

Mr. J. Fleming reports for the week ending April 16th, 1879:—Wholesale prices, new oats, 2s 4d to 2s 6d; old, 2s 9d to 3s per bushel; milling wheat, 3s 6d to 3s 9d per bushel; chicks, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; barley, maling, 6s to 6s 6d per bushel; feed, 3s to 3s 6d; pollard, £5 10s per ton; bran, £4 per ton; flour, £9 per ton; oatmeal, £16 10s per ton; potatoes, £4 5s per ton; hay, £4 per ton; chaff, £4 to £4 10s per ton; straw, £2 5s per ton; onions, 9s.

Mr. SKENE reports for the week ending April 23, 1879, as follows:—Affairs are very quiet for men, but quite the reverse for women. The farmers have not begun their winter ploughing in earnest yet. Their wants and the railway extension will soon absorb a great many. Couples and shepherds are dull. The building trade is still brisk. The weak point now is, so many rush the town for any wage—in fact for a bed and food. Rabbits are always on the move. Storemen and clerks dull indeed. Wages:—Cooks, men and women, 20s. to 40s.; waiters, boots, &c., 20s., to 30s.; couples, £75 to £90; dairymen and boys, 10s to 25s.; day labour, 7s. to 9s.; hotel girls, 1s. to 25s.; ordinary do., 10s., 12s. 15s.; ploughmen and shepherds, £55, £60, £65, and £70; blacksmiths, 10s; bakers, 40s and found.

A writer in the Cincinnati *Gazette* says that 17,000,000 gallons of alcohol is annually drunk in the United States, in the shape of malt liquor.