

duty and a right, subject to the control of the church to the extent necessary for the preservation of their faith. Whoever or whatever usurps this duty and invades this right commits a crime against nature, justice, and the Divine Positive Law.

This, however, is precisely what the world of the last half of the 19th century is practically endeavoring to deny. An effort is now being made by the state to supersede parents and place itself in reference to children *in loco parentum*, and to withdraw education from even the least control on the part of the church. Mixed or secular schools are offered to us, and every device is resorted to for the purpose of uprooting Catholic schools. In one place open force is employed—in another, the process of starvation.

The latter recommends itself to the statesmen and legislators of New Zealand. Here in Otago, in Canterbury, Wellington, and Auckland they hesitate not, neither do they blush to, wring taxes out of the pockets of Catholics, which they employ in sapping the faith of their children and undermining their schools. And yet this is called a free and liberal country!

But the advocates of mixed and secular schools say: We do not interfere with your religion, and cannot reading, writing, arithmetic, and such things be taught independently of religion? Well, then, in the first place we ought to know our own religion better than those who are not of us; and we can assure these gentlemen they interfere with our religion—and that tyrannically, too—in endeavoring to compel us into an acceptance of mixed or godless systems of education. But apart from this consideration, what does this answer of our opponents amount to? Why, it concedes that, as to superior education, an injustice is done us; and yet they do not seem disposed to make any effort to redress this grievance.

Now, education separated from religion, even were such a thing possible, is precisely the very thing to which Catholics object; and their objection rests on conscientious grounds, as is abundantly proved by the sacrifices they make to save their children from the contamination of mixed and secular or godless schools. The question is not one merely of theory; and in spite of what theorists think feasible, practically there never has been and there never can be such a thing as a purely secular system of education. If a system exclude religion, it must inevitably teach infidelity or indifferentism. Experience has proved this to be a fact, *et contra factum non licet argumentari*. Moreover, every fairly instructed Christian, when he reflects on the opposition there is between religion and the world, man's proneness to evil, and the long and difficult training required to instil truthfulness into the tender mind, cannot fail to see that it must be so.

Reason and experience unite in proving that a nation trained in godless schools must become a godless nation. Educate a people in such schools, and the time cannot be far distant when the world will, in all probability, be startled at beholding once more the Goddess of Reason, the arena, the amphitheatre, the gladiators; and the end will be a brutalised people. The world saw with horror something very like this in the great revolution in France, and more recently in the Paris Commune.

For these reasons Catholics endeavor to establish everywhere Catholic schools; and they make great sacrifices in order that they may not by neglect or otherwise become accomplices in the ruin not only of faith, but also of civil society. They are anxious to do their part towards the saving of both; and yet, strangest of all strange things, the very men who are the most strictly bound to watch over the preservation and stability of the civil order are the men who are most busily engaged in trampling on Catholics, defrauding them of their rights, plundering their property, and endeavoring by every means, even the most nefarious, to drive their children from the guardianship of the church into dens of godlessness.

The Provincial Council at Wellington is now busily engaged in trying how it can throw dust in people's eyes; and whilst doing so, withhold substantial aid from Catholic schools. In the Council at Christchurch, the godless party is still more shameless—they openly proclaim their determination to withdraw aid from, we believe, the only one Catholic school that had hitherto received a little assistance. As to Otago, the Council here would seem to be beyond the pale of common sense. Our system of education is a monopoly, which endeavors to stamp out rivalry, and which, whilst proclaiming its own perfection and spending large sums of public money gallantly, reduces its schools to a low level of a

dull mediocrity, and ends in an inability to supply even one candidate for the provincial scholarships, and in a commission of enquiry.

## CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

We hear that Bishop Moran contemplates making the following offer to the Government: A new school being acknowledged as a necessity in town, he proposes that if the Government provide him with a suitable site in a central position, and aid in paying the salaries of the staff, he will undertake on the part of the Catholic community to spend £2000 on school buildings within two years.

**CHURCH AND SCHOOL SITE, DUNEDIN.**—At the late sale of sections in South Dunedin, an acre of ground was, with thoughtful foresight, purchased for £200 as a site for a Catholic church and school.

**OAMARU ENERGY.**—A well-built stone cottage, together with a site of half an acre of ground, has been acquired by the Catholic congregation of Oamaru, as a residence for their priest. The cost is £530.

**NEW MISSIONS.**—Queenstown and Arrowtown districts have been erected into a separate mission, which has been confided to the care of the Rev John McKay. We learn it is in contemplation to shortly establish a new mission in the goldfields districts, having its seat at Oronwell.

**THE Tokomairiro congregation is very anxious to have a resident priest, and it is not at all improbable, we understand, that arrangements will be made within no lengthened period to comply with its wishes.**

**THE Rev Auguste Laforestier has been appointed assistant to Father Ecuyer, Christchurch; and Father Del Monte, O.S.F., has replaced Father Boibaux (who is returning to Auckland) at Lyttelton.**

**PAPAL COLLECTIONS.**—The following collections for the Pope, which we have not yet published, were made on last Good Friday:—Wanganui, £12; Wellington (erroneously given in a previous issue), £23 13s; Meanee Flat, Waipori, £3 5s 6d; Timaru, £4 5s; Taranaki, £3.

**OUR SCHOOLS (continued).**—There are, at Hokitika, a boys', a girls', and an infants' school. The two former are attended by 90 pupils, and the infants' school by 35, making a total attendance of 125 scholars. The Catholic population of Hokitika is 920. The school building was erected at a cost of £410. The Hokitika church, it may be remembered, is a wooden building; but it is neatly finished, and has three very beautiful altars. The Catholic congregation of Ross (to the south of Hokitika) have recently built a fine school at a cost of £300. Two acres of ground are attached to the school, and the attendance, we believe, is about 60.

## GENERAL NEWS.

**THE regular fortnightly meeting of the Dunedin branch of the Hibernian Australian Catholic Society is to take place on Monday evening next, in St Joseph's school-room, at 7.30, which is the hour fixed for the winter months. The concert for the benefit of the society which is announced to take place on Monday, 26th, in the Head Quarters Drill-shed, promises to be a great success. Tickets are already going off very rapidly, and the speciality of the programme is that Miss Aitken, the talented actress, will give one of her best readings.**

**PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.**—Following the debate on the Address in Reply, and resulting from the resolution of the House thereon, came the usual difficulty, grandiloquently denominated the Ministerial crisis. Mr Reid, the gentleman "sent for," was unable between Saturday afternoon and sitting time on Monday, to form an Executive, the difficulty he had to contend with being, it appeared, a laudable desire to select an Executive from both sides of the House; he could, it was said, have selected one exclusively from his own side without delay. A message was read from the Superintendent, requesting the Council to join with him in recommending a dissolution. The Council adjourned until Tuesday, when Mr Reid, who had not been able to submit the names of an Executive, said he had been induced not to abandon the task. The Council then adjourned till Thursday. Since the Council has met, Mr Thomson of Clutha has been most assiduously endeavouring to ferret out whether it is the Hon. Mr Bathgate or his firm that is Provincial Solicitor, and evidently would be pleased to find that Mr Bathgate is. Mr Bathgate declares that neither he nor his firm is Provincial Solicitor, but that his firm has done the legal work usually done by the Provincial Solicitor, and has in fact, done for about £400, work of the value of £2000. Mr Bathgate has not taken his seat on the Government Benches as Provincial Solicitor, and regards his position as a member of the firm that is the legal adviser of the Government, as being perfectly compatible with his holding his place in the Colonial Executive as Minister of Justice. During the crisis, nothing practical is being done, and there is a full order paper waiting to be disposed of.

**A cake of pure gold—408 ounces, the product of 600 tons, and the result of six weeks' work at the Gabriel's Gully quartz reef—has been on view at the shop of Mr Mendelssohn, tobacconist, Princes street, and has been admired by crowds. It leaves, after paying all expenses, £1000 clear profit.**

**Messrs Wright, Stephenson, and Co have sold, by private bargain, to Mr George McGavin, the splendid Clydesdale stallion Prince of Wales, imported from Scotland by Mr David Nesbitt, at the handsome price of £500; also, to Mr Edward Menlove, and Messrs Lees and Moore, a shipment of 27 first-class mares and geldings, imported from Melbourne, per Alhambra, by Mr Trestrail.**