

theology with his system of astronomy. Even Galileo himself admitted the condemnation was only *ad interim* or temporary till the system were incontrovertibly proved to be true.

4. This Pope's aversion to sanction the doctrine—that is, raise it to the position of an incontrovertible dogma of science if not of faith, as Galileo almost would seem to demand—is amply justified by what, in a later age, a great philosopher, M. Delambre, has said. He observes that “the moderns had not been able to allege any direct proof of the diurnal motion of the earth previous to the voyage of Richer to Cayenne, when he was obliged to shorten his pendulum before Raemur measured the velocity of light, Bradley observed and calculated the phenomena of aberration, and before the discovery of the law of universal gravitation by Newton. Previous to these discoveries, the Copernican system was not proved, but only probable, which was, in fact, all Pope Urban the 8th seemed to contend for.

5. Galileo was by a fiction of the canon law denounced by one of the canons of law as a heretic on the like principle as a Scotchman is by a fiction of the civil law denounced as a “rebel” when he does not pay his debts in obedience to a decree of court. The truth of Galileo's theory any more than the justice of the Scotchman's debt is not in question, but only the authority of the tribunal, which issued the mandate. The Scotchman is ordered to pay, Galileo to remain silent; both for the present only. What may be afterwards ordered or permitted is a separate question entirely in either case. By the way, there is an old proverb—that the truth should not necessarily be told at all times, though falsehood be a crime. Prudence may dictate silence for a time. The Pope seems to have thought so in Galileo's case. The “rash” publication of his scriptural speculations, combined with his astronomy, might lead to consequences which Galileo himself would regret—upset a belief of revealed religion in the mind of the imperfectly-instructed portion of the people.

The ‘Otago Times’ and Professors in the Otago University will, I fear, still continue to teach that the Roman Catholic Church is now and ever has been the enemy of science, learning, free thought, and every good thing. Such is the power of prejudice over great minds even in the 19th century.

Auckland.

J. W.

## BISHOP CROKE AND THE AUCKLAND HOME FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—You may have noticed from the Auckland newspapers that Bishop Croke has had occasion to explain to the public the reason which induced him to “decline” to have any connection with the Home for Neglected and Destitute Children, and which contains several Catholic children. It appears that the President of the institution is the Anglican Bishop, Dr Cowie, who assumes the ecclesiastical title of Bishop of Auckland. Now Dr Croke having been appointed Bishop of Auckland by the Holy See, there would obviously have been a gross impropriety in his connecting himself officially with this “Home,” and he declined to do so accordingly, when asked by a certain dissenting minister. When replying to his letter of explanation, the Mayor of Auckland (Mr Philips), who is connected with the Home, and presided at the last annual meeting of the subscribers, used these words:—“I belong to a denomination (Jews) who strive to practise a spirit of tolerance and charity which some others only preach.” This was to offer the flattering incense of praise to himself and the Jews at Dr Croke's expense. But how did Dr Croke show either intolerance or uncharitableness? He could not recognise Dr Cowie's claim to the title of Bishop of Auckland, though he paid a graceful compliment to his personal worth. He admitted that the object of the Home was beneficial. He professed his readiness to subscribe to its funds, and to advise his people to do the same, and thanked the managers for their care of the Catholic children who were under their custody. In the face of all this, Mr Mayor Philips represents Dr Croke as an uncharitable and intolerant man. I have frequently visited the Home, and it is, I think, admirably conducted. The children, both Catholic and others, in it are well cared for. Yet it is not a place suitable for Catholic children any more than for Jewish children. Were there any neglected or destitute Jewish children in Auckland (which to the honor of the Hebrew community there are not) I doubt if Mr Philips would like to see them living in this Home, and educated there—all his charity notwithstanding. Catholic children are only there because the Catholic community is too poor to provide other accommodation for them.

Auckland.

J. W.

## NEWS BY THE MAIL.

— SENOR CALVO, the Spanish Consul at Paris, has been arrested on a charge of embezzling £14,000, the property of Spaniards who have died in Paris.—Before the end of the Session, it is rumored, the House of Commons will be asked for an additional grant for the Prince of Wales.—The death is announced from Paris of M. Amédée Thierry, the celebrated French historian.—A report has reached London of the murder of Sir Samuel and Lady Baker, and the remnant of the expedition, which numbered a thousand when it left Egypt for the interior of Africa three years ago.—A steady stream of emigrants from southern Europe continues to pour into Buenos Ayres and Monte Video. In Buenos Ayres four thousand emigrants arrived in a fortnight.—The American peace Commissioners were massacred by the Modoc Indians; the assassination created profound sensation in the United States.—At Woolwich the naval authorities have been trying a new torpedo of enormous power and destructiveness, one of which is calculated to destroy a ship at half a mile's distance.—Her Majesty has contributed £250 to the testimonial to the late Mr Macguire, M. P.—At the York Assizes, Vyryan Henry Moyle, Vicar of Eton, near Middlesborough, who had pleaded guilty to forging a scrip representing £22,000, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.—In a riot between Whites and Blacks at Colfax, in Louisiana, 100 negroes were killed and many wounded.—According to the U. S. census of 1870 which has just been published, the whole population of the United States is, in round

numbers, 33,000,000 whites, and 5,000,000 negroes, 55,000 Chinamen, and some hundreds of thousands of Indians and half castes.

The Queen visited the East-end of London on April 2, and received an address in Victoria Park. The weather was propitious, and immense crowds cheered Her Majesty.—Mr R. W. Jackson, M.P., has given notice of his intention to move the rejection of Mr Plimsoll's Shipping survey Bill when it comes on for a second reading on the 14th May.—Great excitement was created in Cork, owing to the number of Irish passengers known to be on board the Atlantic—about 200, including many women and children.—The Emperor William has reviewed the 1st Fusilier Company of Infantry Guards, just armed with the Mauser rifle. The men fired fourteen times per minute, a number of discharges which admits of being nearly doubled.—Mr Weightman, the barrister charged with stealing a book from the Inner Temple Library, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment.—A Bill has been passed authorising the laying of a cable between America and Asia, the United States furnishing vessels for the soundings and the laying of the cable.—Mr Liebreich, the oculist, has invented a school-desk, intended to obviate the injuries to the sight induced by children sitting in a lopsided position to write.—Prince Bismarck proposes that Germany should spend about ten millions sterling on fortresses and fortifications.—It is stated in financial letters from Germany that money is more scarce there than at any time since the termination of the French war.—O'Kelly, the imprisoned correspondent of the ‘New York Herald,’ reports that he was present at a recent engagement, when the victorious Cubans butchered the wounded Spaniards who fell into their power.—New York was in darkness through a gasmen's strike, but the strike proved a failure.

The trial of the Tichborne Claimant was to commence on April 23. Preliminary proceedings have been taken. An action has been commenced against Mr Routledge for publishing a book entitled “The Tichborne Romance,” a publication considered to be very prejudicial to the plaintiff's case.—Cambridge was again victorious in the University boat race, beating Oxford by three and a quarter lengths. The time was 19min. 36sec., the fastest on record.—The long illness of Count Bernstorff, the Prussian Ambassador, terminated fatally on March 24. According to the Berlin correspondent of the ‘Times,’ Count Bernstorff's successor as German Ambassador in London will probably be Baron von Werthern, the Prussian Envoy at Munich.—At Thorn, in Prussia, the four hundredth anniversary of the birthday of Copernicus was celebrated on February 19. Speeches were delivered by several scientific men, and a ball was given in the Town Hall. Copernicus was born at Thorn in 1473.—Mr Plimsoll's movement against unseaworthy ships is attracting great attention. An enthusiastic meeting has been held in London; several Board of Trade inquiries have been ordered. Another result has been that a Parliamentary Commission upon the loss of life at sea was constituted.—Lord Nevos has been installed as Lord Rector of St. Andrew's University. The students are described as behaving “in their usual noisy and demonstrative manner.”—Earl Russell's book on Christianity, to appear in the course of March, is “The Rise and Progress of the Christian Religion in the West of Europe, from the reign of Tiberius to the end of the Council of Trent.”—Lord St. Asaph, son of the Earl of Ashburnham, has joined the Catholic Church.—General Belknap, the new War Secretary, and General Sheridan, are visiting the Mexican frontier, with the object of establishing forts there for the protection of the new railroads.—The civil war in Cuba is still carried on with its old ferocity. Cespedes, the President of the Cuban Republic, is reported to have declared that whatever might happen in Spain, the Cubans would accept no terms short of independence.

A Royal decree has been issued, formally taking possession, in whole or in part, of the property of sixteen convents in Rome, for purposes of “public utility.”—Baron Haussman, the famous Prefect of the Seine, who built Imperial Paris, is again showing activity, and reviving business habits. He is now on his way to Constantinople to engage in some financial enterprise, where he will meet M. de Lesseps, who is negotiating about the Suez canal difficulty.—The jewels belonging to Mrs Lizardi, whose husband has absconded, were sold, and realised a total of £11,000. One necklace alone fetched £2700.—Brigham Young has resigned the leadership of the Mormons, and goes to Arizona. He divides his immense property among his sixteen wives and his sixty children. Some old Mormons, probably, will follow him. The Mormon problem in Utah is considered to be solved.—A lady named Boyce, who had been desponding, threw herself into the Liffey at midnight on February 8, and was rescued by a young man. She had upon her at the time £6000 in bank notes and securities.—Mr Mitchell Henry, M.P., has been elected a member of the Irish Home Government Association. In a letter to an officer of the association Mr Henry says that “Englishmen and Scotchmen look upon Ireland and Irishmen with undisguised dislike and distrust.”

The latest accounts of the loss of the Atlantic state that 560 persons were lost, including 350 women and children; 415 persons were saved, 60 of whom belonged to the crew. No woman was saved. One little child of all the children on board was snatched at the last moment from the wreck.—President Grant has signed a convention with Sweden reducing the rate of postage between the two countries to ten cents.—It is rumored that James Gordon Bennett is making preparations to establish a new daily in London, which is said to have been a favourite project of his father's, who held that a London daily conducted on American principles and with American enterprise, must reach an enormous success.—Abd-el-Kader is lying seriously ill at Damascus.—A series of the literary productions of the most distinguished Irishmen is about to be published by Smyth, Dublin.—The Rig Veda, Samhita, and Pada texts, as edited by Professor Max Müller, will shortly appear in four octavo volumes of 400 pages each.—A new translation of “Faust” by one of the most accomplished “Faust scholars” in England—the Rev C. Kegan Paul—is announced as to appear very shortly.

A GOOD deal of disappointment has been expressed in Dublin at the absence of any announcement in the Queen's Message relative to