

CORRESPONDENCE.

RANKE'S HISTORY OF THE POPES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—This book, written nearly 30 years ago, possesses a peculiar interest to reflecting men, and especially reflecting Protestants, at the present crisis of public affairs in Christendom. M. Ranke is a Protestant Professor of History. "He enjoys a reputation for eminent literary acquirements. He has devoted to this subject the results of long research, and consulted the relations of eye witnesses, usually impartial, or whose partialities are against the Popes. He has published to the world his candid acknowledgment that the Popes in these latter times have been, in their private lives, unblameable and spotless—that many of them have been models of virtue and piety." So says the 'Dublin Review.'

Writing of the Popes of the earlier ages, M. Ranke uses the following words:—"Whatever may be said of the Popes of former times, it must be allowed that they had in view some elevated and noble object, either to raise an oppressed religion, to destroy Paganism, to spread Christianity among the nations of the north, or to found a powerful and independent hierarchy." * * * "I was once of opinion," said an orator of the Council of Basle, "that it would be good to separate the spiritual wholly from the temporal power, but I have learned now that virtue would be subjected to derision without the aid of power; and that the Pope, without the patrimony of the Church, would be nothing more but the slave of kings and princes." He might have added, or of demagogues.—Recent events in Italy form an instructive commentary on these words of the "orator of the Council of Basle."
Auckland. J. W.

A SUGGESTION.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I wish through your columns to bring under the notice of the Catholic young men of this city the desirability of forming an Amateur Dramatic Association on Catholic principles. That such an association would be a great boon there is no doubt. Similar associations are already established in Victoria, and lately in Christchurch and Wellington, where they have proved very successful; and if one was established in Dunedin it would be the means of Catholic young men passing many an enjoyable evening, especially during the winter months. Should a sufficient number of young men consent to the principles of such an association, I think the best plan would be to call a meeting, and definitely form one. Trusting that this subject will be taken up by others,—I am, &c.,

AN ENTHUSIAST.

UNITED WE STAND.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Catholics seem the only class in this Colony who lose sight of the old adage that—"Union is strength." If unity—united action—might be expected anywhere, one might hope for it among us, seeing we are united so closely by a common bond of faith and ecclesiastical discipline. I wish much you would exert your influence to get established in this Colony a general Catholic Union, or Congress, upon a similar plan to that of the English Catholic Union. Let us have a central body, with which local societies in every parish shall be affiliated. The office of this general association and its branches should be to encourage and promote all kinds of undertakings, having for their object to advance Catholic interests, whether religious, literary, charitable, or political. Among the objects of such an Union, or general Congress and its branches, ought to be to promote the interests, that is the circulation, of the TABLET, and get members to join the Hibernian Benefit Society. We want leaders, and must look to the clergy. The laity are well disposed, but timid, and averse to move in any matters of this kind unless they see the clergy in the front. True, it may be imprudent or unbecoming in the clergy to meddle in party or petty political questions. But is not the Catholic Church, after all, from its very nature a political as well as religious institute? She is destined to influence human affairs in every department, and may not confine her power within the sanctuary alone. Her ministers must go forth to the world and boldly battle against injustice and wickedness everywhere, not shrinking on suitable occasions to appear even in the political arena for that end.
Auckland. J. W.

EDUCATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Would you kindly permit me space for a few remarks on Mr De Latour's opinion regarding education? When addressing the electors at Naseby, he said—"Clergy should have no control over schools," and "there should be no religious instruction gabbled in them." When asked would he be in favor of denominational education, he said—"If Catholics came up to the standard I would be in favor of doing them justice." If he thinks Catholics are below the mark, either so far as the support of education is concerned, or the standard of education in their schools, he must be greatly in error. With regard to the first point, Catholics everywhere give voluntarily and largely in addition to being taxed; and as to the second, in those schools in which religion is taught, the standard of education is higher than in secular schools. We all owe what little learning we possess to the denominational system, which excels all others, and has taught the most eminent men in history's pages. I consider Mr De Latour's opinion on education very narrow and shallow, because good religious training reprobates evil and immorality. It is the eye of God a Christian will dread, and not the law of a State. A nefarious heterodoxy is taught to Catholic children in the miscalled National Schools of Otago. Innocent children are taught to stigmatize the most eminent of their religion and of the land, and to honor those whom if they had their true biographies, they would not. And the State compels Catholics to support this system, which has a vile beginning and will end in vileness. It would be just as impartial for the State to

enact a law that would compel Catholic children to abuse and ridicule their parents as to teach them to defame their holy religion.

I am, &c.,

Naseby.

P.S.—Mr Oliver spoke very fairly on the education question.

A SUBSCRIBER.

WELLINGTON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

DURING the past week the Rev Father Cummins visited the country districts. On his return he received a letter from Mr Graham, Secretary to the Education Board, embodying resolutions in reference to Catholic Schools. These we give elsewhere. To this letter the Rev Father Cummins replied that he had surrendered St. Joseph's School to the Rev Father O'Reilly, it being in the rev gentleman's parish, that he had sent him the letter, and had requested him to answer it as he might judge proper. The resolutions of the Board to his (Father Cummins) mind, implied a departure from the promises made by the Board to Dr Grace and the Catholic Committee, and an insult to the Catholic community, if not moreover a violation of honor. With reference to St Philomena's School, he would leave the matter to be considered by the Catholic Committee, to whom the Board pledged themselves in honor to recognise Convent Schools, and accept them without further restrictions. How long will the public be blind to its own interests, and not be led away by a clique?

WASTE LANDS BOARD.

THE usual weekly meeting of the Waste Lands Board was held on Thursday afternoon last, the 8rd inst.

There were present the Chief Commissioner (Mr J. T. Thomson), in the chair, and Messrs Tolmie, Strode, Butterworth, and Clarke.

THE MAREWENUA BLOCK.

The Hon. R. Campbell, through his agent, Mr A. C. Begg, made his adjourned application for the purchase of this land. Mr Stout opposed. The Inspecting Surveyor, Mr McKerrow, now reported to the following effect:—"The application comprises 11,586 acres, of which fully 5000 acres consists of level terrace land and easy sloping spurs. The remainder is steeper and higher, and purely pastoral country. On the 5000 acres the land is not generally suitable for small holdings of from 80 to 100 acres; but for settlers, having 400 or 500 acres, who could combine cropping with grazing, it is well adapted. The land is about the only area left in North Otago suitable for settlement. As to its auriferous nature, he and Messrs McQuade and Thomson, of the Mining Association, prospected for two days with tin dish and shovel in the Otekaike, Doctor's Creek, and Otiak Valleys. In Otekaike Valley only two or three minute specks were detected at the most in any dishful. No trace was discovered in Doctors creek or the Otiak, but in the gullies running into the Otiak minute specks were obtained. Conglomerate appears on the east border of the land applied for, and a piece of it which was pounded yielded two specks of gold. Gold does exist, and will only be payable if the ground is washed on an extensive scale. It would take some months to bring water in, and to sink shafts to ascertain the payableness of the ground. If the application were granted, it might prevent the diversion of water for the proposed water race from the Otekaike to the auriferous ground already reserved, as in the case of the proposal to divert the Kakanui. He recommended the application should be granted intact, or declined. Sale confirmed and survey approved, Mr Clark dissenting.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The District Surveyor reported on an application of Messrs Wm. and David McCreedy for an extension of their coal lease at Kyeburn. Mr Bathgate opposed on behalf of Mr John Durward; Mr Turton for applicants.

Extension not to be granted.

Ranger Hughan reported that the Wairuna, Merrie Creek, and Popotunoa Bush Reserves, leased to Mr Pollock, were in better order than when he had taken them.

Proceedings proposed to be taken against Mr Pollock to be withdrawn.

Mr Alexander Pullar applied for section 18, block 1, Waikouaiti, to plant trees and complete a property.

Declined.

Messrs Hughes and Jagers' postponed application to purchase the site of their brewery on the Clyde and Cromwell road came on. The consent of the runholder, Mr McLean, to the sale was produced.

Approved. Land to be sold at upset of £20 per acre.

Objections were lodged to a resolution carried at a meeting in the Tuturau, that no sheep should be depastured thereon.

The Board considered the matter one in which they should not interfere.

A letter was read from Mr H. H. Homer, submitting that he was entitled to a free grant at Martin's Bay.

If claimant proves he has resided on the land for two years from date of authorised occupation, a free grant to issue to him.

Applications from Messrs McAlister, Blair, and Coffey, to purchase land held by them under agricultural lease were approved of.

A number of applications to exchange leases from the old to the present Act were granted.

The sale of land under agricultural lease, at Cromwell, to Mr Jay, was declined. Messrs Smith and Anderson appeared for applicant.

WE take the following from the Taranaki 'Herald':—"We have received information from Patea that the line of road behind Mount Egmont is being pushed on with considerable energy. Captain Blake has now a force of some sixty men—Europeans and Natives—and good bush hands are being taken on. The advanced party, who are exploring and blazing the track, are now some twelve miles forward, and so far the country is very favorable for road construction. As the country is so level at both ends, we may fairly assume that no great difficulty will be encountered in carrying the line through. We hope that the work will be started at this end at an early date, so that the whole may be completed during the ensuing summer."