

There is not throughout the entire enactment the least recognition of the rights and duties of the priests and bishops of the Catholic Church, in reference to the education of Catholics; whereas it embodies the fundamental principle of Protestantism—the reading of the Bible without note or comment. Moreover, this Bill positively excludes the clergy of the Catholic Church from the schools intended in the state for Catholic children in common with others. This law, therefore, in effect tells the bishops and priests to stand aside whilst it enables their enemies to undermine the faith of the children committed to their charge—blind their intellects by teaching lies for history—corrupt their hearts by removing the sanction of their religion from their school work—and teach and encourage disobedience to the laws of God and their church.

This miserable Bill embodies all the bad principles of all the bad systems of education of modern times. It sanctions even contradictory and antagonistic principles. Under it the various Provinces, nay, even the several school districts, may have each a system different from that of its neighbours. Every sect, every denomination except the Catholic church, will find in it its own fundamental principle of education. Protestants of the various sects can have the reading of the Bible without note or comment, and their own sectarian school books—there is nothing in the Bill to prevent them. On the contrary, the Boards are untrammelled in their selection of school books, and it is well known that in every case these Boards will be composed exclusively of Protestants. Secularists can, whenever they are the majority, establish secular schools, and the advocates of mixed education can have mixed schools. But as to Catholics, even if they happened to be the majority in any locality, they could not, under the provisions of this Bill, have a Catholic school.

Then this new law sanctions the principle of free, compulsory, and sectarian education. Its provisions enable a school Board to insist on the reading of the Bible, the attendance of Catholics at such reading, unless parents or guardians actually withdraw children; they empower a Board to say to Catholics, You must send your children to our mixed or sectarian or secular schools as the case may be; you must pay taxes to maintain these schools which you abhor; you must submit to our teaching in history and the Bible; you must not have schools of your own, we will not recognise the certificate of a Catholic teacher or a Catholic school as proof of adequate training elsewhere than in our own schools; we will tax you so that you shall not have the means to erect and maintain Catholic schools. As our fathers of old punished your fathers, for not attending Protestant churches by fines, till they reduced them to beggary, we will punish you, for not sending your children to godless or sectarian schools, by taxes and fines, till we render you so poor that your children must either wallow in ignorance or barter their faith for secular knowledge, mixed with detestation of every thing Catholic.

We do not say all this will come to pass, but the new education Bill of the Colonial Government enables all this to be done; and we have no doubt whatever that an attempt to do all this will be made both in Otago and Canterbury.

#### HOW IMMIGRATION FROM IRELAND IS PROMOTED.

The following facts and figures are taken from official papers laid before the House of Representatives by the Hon. Mr O'Rorke, during the present session of Parliament.

In June 1872, Mr Farnall by direction of the Agent-General, established an emigration agency in Belfast. Up to this time no effort had been made to place the advantages of emigration to this Colony before the Irish people, or to induce emigrants to come to New Zealand. Mr Farnall, moreover, does not appear to have been a very energetic agent, for, on the 5th December, 1872, Mr Waterhouse, the late Premier, in the absence of the Hon. Minister for Immigration, writes to the Agent-General—"I cannot but regard the feeble attempt that has been made under the management of Mr Farnall to open up a supply of immigration from Ireland, as eminently unsatisfactory. That gentleman appears to have been nearly three months in Ireland, and the result of his labours, as shown in his correspondence, is that during that period he has forwarded twenty-three emigrants. What has been the total expense connected with the introduction of these twenty-three emigrants? it would

be hard to calculate, and probably painful to contemplate if calculated. The Government are thoroughly satisfied that an adequate supply of immigrants is procurable from Ireland."

Urged by repeated despatches and cablegrams from the Colonial Government, the Agent-General at length goes to Ireland, and on the 14th December last year, appoints Mr Mason, at Dublin, merchant, his chief agent for Ireland. But, as in the case of Mr Farnall, he too does not appear to have been very energetic; for the Hon. Mr O'Rorke writing to the Agent-General on the 2nd August this year, only about a month ago, says:—"In the despatch under reply, you refer to my memorandum of 14th February last, on the subject of the unequal distribution of sub-agents and advertisements throughout Ireland. I still observe that there is a great preponderance of both in the district you allotted to Mr Farnall. I have refrained from returning to the subject, expecting that as you had appointed Mr Mason, of Dublin, as your chief emigration agent for Ireland, this matter would have been rectified. But since that gentleman's appointment by you in December last, we have not heard of his proceedings. I had hoped that you would have required of him and forwarded to the colony quarterly reports, similar to those obtained from Messrs Birch, Seaton, and Farnall, in order that the Government might be kept informed of the benefits accruing to emigration to the colony through his exertions."

The above gives a general view of the state of the question so far. It is evident much has not been done to promote emigration to this colony, and that the Government are thoroughly dissatisfied, at least apparently, with the conduct of the Agent-General and his subordinates in Ireland.

In a letter under date 19th March this year, the Agent-General sends to the Hon. Colonial Secretary, a return of the names, localities, and ordinary occupations of the whole of the local emigration agents; also a list of newspapers in which advertisements appear by order of the Agent-General. From these documents the following results appear: The number of agents was, for England and Wales, 53, fairly distributed over the Kingdom; for Scotland, 78, also well distributed throughout the country; and for Ireland, 46, of whom 36 were in Ulster, mostly in the counties distinguished for intolerance and Orangeism; and the other ten were to be found in the three provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught.

As to advertisements in newspapers, the Agent-General arranged for the matter thus: he advertised in 105 English papers, in 32 Scotch, and in 17 Irish newspapers. All the Irish newspapers are published in Ulster, for the most part in Antrim and Londonderry, with the exception of three weeklies, viz., two in Galway, in compliment, we suppose, to the Hon. the Minister of Immigration, and one in the King's county in compliment, perhaps, to some other equally dear friend.

Before drawing our conclusion from the above premises, there are two other matters to which it is necessary to draw attention. The Agent-General ordered special advertisements for domestic servants, in 47 newspapers in England and Scotland; but not in even one Irish newspaper did he permit such an advertisement to appear! In the second place, the Agent-General stated that out of 7,585 immigrants sent by him to this colony up to 30th June last, 1,181 were Irish; of these however, between three and four hundred were nominated. We take leave to doubt the accuracy of this statement. Who has seen, or spoken to, or even heard of these hundreds of Irish immigrants? Where are they? If he sent them what has become of them? Let inquiry be made, and we undertake to say, that with the exception of the nominated immigrants, few comparatively will be found.

It appears to us, therefore—and we have little doubt it will appear in the same light to all right-minded men—that nothing less than an Irish agency will satisfy public opinion; that agencies have been so managed as to convert the Belfast Agent and his subordinates, in effect, into recruiting officers of Orangemen; and Mr Mason and his subordinates into *automatons ad fucum faciendum, dummiis* for throwing dust into people's eyes. This is clever, it is adroit, and has the advantage of saving the tender conscience of the noble-minded Agent-General from becoming *particeps criminis* in the horrid crime of establishing the beast—Popery—in this holy