

Correspondence.

[We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.]

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS, FUND.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—Seeing that a specified sum is guaranteed by each colony for the Payment of Members' Fund, the Kumara Branch of the Irish National League passed the following resolution at a recent meeting:—"That the amount collected by this Branch towards the Payment of Members' Fund be forwarded to Mr. J. F. Perrin, of the N.Z. TABLET for transmission to Mr. J. Winter, Treasurer of the Federal Council, Melbourne, and further, that Mr. Winter be requested to keep a separate account (which shall be published in the Melbourne *Advocate*) of the contributions from New Zealand towards the said Fund."

As I anticipated in a previous letter, our efforts here have been responded to in a truly liberal and patriotic manner. At our meeting last Sunday receipts amounting to £26 were announced by the canvassers, and we are in communication with outlying districts, whence we expect that amount to be considerably supplemented before our lists close.

It will be thus seen that the Irishmen of the West Coast have exhibited on this occasion their wonted liberality towards the National cause, and it requires only a few influential men in the centres where there are no branches of the League to take the initiative, when they will find the same generosity in supporting the devoted and courageous men, who, in face of a hostile Parliament, are persistent in their demands of justice for our oppressed kindred.—I am, etc.,

PATRICK DUGGAN,

Hon. Sec. Kumara Branch I.N.L.

Kumara, 11th Dec., 1884.

CANTERBURY CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

ON Monday evening, December 8, a lecture was delivered to the members of the above Society by Dr. Bakewell, on the "Supposed antagonism between science and revealed religion," and the discourse may justly be considered one of the best by far with which the Society has ever been favoured. But as it is the Doctor's intention to publish shortly his lecture in full, only a brief notice of it will now be made. Dr. Bakewell commenced by defining the terms used in reference to revealed religion—that is, the doctrines of the Catholic Church as infallibly declared by her, also those used by scientists in connection with natural science. Then he proved that a belief in miracles is in no way inconsistent with a belief in science, inasmuch as a miracle is the suspension of natural laws by the will of the Creator, and that the Church in admitting miracles in no way disputed existence of natural laws. He then described at some length the three kinds of workers, and illustrated by examples drawn from mineralogy, botany, chemistry, and Zoology the kind of work they perform. Reviewing this work he showed that professors of physical science, as such, had no right to criticise or object to Christian dogma, inasmuch as their studies and Christian dogma had no point of contact,—the one dealt exclusively with what belonged to the domain of nature, the other to the supernatural. That the creed of the Christian began when the creed of the scientist ended, and that the student of the natural sciences, was, as such, completely ignorant of revealed religion and of theology, and that the nature of his studies rather unfits him for dealing with and understanding the science of zoology than otherwise. And lastly he showed by the confession of some of the most eminent of the new agnostic school that between the facts of consciousness and molecular motion, there is a gap which no man can fill. That there is something which escapes from the yoke of natural law, in other words, there is in human beings a something—call it what you will, which is supernatural.

The meeting terminated by a vote of thanks being accorded to the lecturer for his most entertaining and instructive lecture.

The following interesting figures have been published regarding the Catholic Missionaries engaged in the evangelizing work of the Propaganda. These apostolic laborers number in all 6,700 divided among the following Orders and congregations: 1,000 Capuchins in India and the islands of the Indian Ocean; 2,500 Franciscans in Morocco and America; 300 Oblates at Jaffna, in Natal, and Ceylon; 700 priests of the Misiones Etrangères in Malasia, Corea, and Tonquin; 1,500 Jesuits in British Guyana, Armenia, and Madagascar; 200 Lazarists in Persia, Abyssinia, and Kiang-Su; 500 Dominicans in the Philippine Islands, Central Tonquin, and other parts.

The *Boston Globe* tells a story of heroism and its reward, which lifts the average of human worth perceptibly upwards. It is of a working woman of Boston, Mrs. Lizzie Clooney, who, at the risk of her own life, seized the bridle of a runaway horse, one dark stormy evening last April, and clung to it, in spite of bruises, wounds and a broken rib, until she had rescued from imminent death a little five-year-old boy, the only occupant of the buggy attached to the runaway. She showed herself a true heroine by belittling her exploit and seeking to avoid giving her name to the father of the rescued child. This latter proved himself equally worthy of the occasion, by presenting her with a handsome medal, since she would accept no gift of money, and, unknown to her, placing a thousand dollars to her credit in a savings-bank. Sickness and domestic troubles have overtaken the brave woman since, and the generous reward, of which she has just been informed, came very timely to her. The name of the grateful man is George J. Harrowes, of Dorchester.

MR. TREVELYAN'S FALL.

(The Nation, October 25.)

MR. GEORGE OTTO TREVELYAN has fallen, and will henceforth rank, with Mr. Forster, amongst the disgraced politicians who, as Mr. Healy said some weeks ago, are set up like scare-crows all round the House of Commons. To be sure, his exit has been made easy for the ex-Chief Secretary for Ireland. He has been, as it were, "kicked upstairs." Though he has been removed from the important post he has held for the last two years and a half to the most insignificant office in the whole administration, he has been consoled for the degradation with a seat in the Cabinet. But disguise the fact as Mr. Trevelyan and his friends may, it is plain to all that that gentleman has proved a failure, like all his predecessors, in this country, that his failure has been recognised by his masters, and that the latter, accordingly, have, though with all possible gentleness, got rid of him as an active colleague in the government of Ireland. It may be that Mr. Trevelyan himself has basted the action of Mr. Gladstone in his regard. He knew he had to face in the session of Parliament which has opened this week an attack on Dublin Castle system of which he has been such a champion; he no doubt read the letters of Mr. Harrington, M.P., on the subject of the Maamtrasna massacre; and he may have begged to be excused from the ordeal of facing that attack and answering the terrible indictment those letters conveyed. But, if all this be so, his case is hardly mended. The fact remains that, for one reason or another, he has been dismissed, and that the nephew of Lord Macaulay, as Mr. Trevelyan was fond of describing himself, has been sent to an office that is so insignificant that blundering there can do but little harm.

Mr. Trevelyan leaves Ireland without awakening regret for his departure in any class of Irish society. The comments in even the West-*British Press* on his disgrace are as uncomplimentary as if during his stay in the Castle he had been thwarting their designs, instead of, as was actually the case, governing on their principles. The very men, in fact, whose dictates he obeyed, whose unreasoning opposition to the national claims of their own nation he shared, to please whom he outraged every Liberal principle of government, have turned upon him and reviled him with epithets of scorn. We cannot pretend to sympathise with him. He has posed before the world emphatically as an "advanced" Liberal, extending the hand of friendship to oppressed nationalities—on the Continent; applauding organised opposition to despotic government, defending the sacred right of insurrection. Yet no sooner is he entrusted with the management of Irish affairs than he complacently forgets all his fine theories about liberty and constitutional government, and takes to the role of despot and tyrant as if it were a favourite part. To "keep down" a whole people who were but struggling in a constitutional though vigorous manner for their undoubted rights, he committed and defended administrative outrage after outrage. He suppressed lawful public meetings, he prosecuted and imprisoned for acts that in England would not be considered offences at all, he sanctioned the imposition of oppressive taxes, he connived at police brutality, the packing of juries, and the manufacture of informers. Nay, he had at last grown so accustomed to the dirty work of oppression that he, as if by instinct, defended every assailed subordinate, no matter what or how well founded the charge against him, and even strove to shield from punishment the filthy wretches that have within the last few months given the Castle so inodorous a reputation throughout the civilised world. For a man who could so act—who, professing such principles, could so trample on them in practice—who could feel pity in his fall?

One word, however, must be said for Mr. Trevelyan. He has disgracefully failed as Secretary for Ireland, which he leaves more determinedly opposed to British rule than it has probably ever been; but at the same time it was impossible for him to succeed. The task to which he was set—that of governing Ireland on the Dublin Castle principle and winning the affection or loyalty of the people—was impossible of performance. The English, generally speaking, unfortunately shut their eyes to this fact or cannot see it; but there are exceptions amongst them who both see it and admit it. "Granted," says the *London Echo*, "that Mr. Trevelyan is anxious to treat Ireland as the other parts of the United Kingdom are treated, the fact remains that if England or Scotland or Wales were governed in the way that commends itself to the Castle, there would be civil war within a week." "It is the system," says the same journal again, "that is to blame, though the Chief Secretary and the Lord Lieutenant are held responsible. Whilst that system lasts, it is folly to expect that the Irish Executive can win the confidence of the Irish people. The only way to make Ireland contented is to give her Home Rule." This is really nothing more or less than a truism, and as long as it is not so regarded by English politicians and English Governments the greatest genius that ever lived will have very little more success than the greatest dolt in "the Irish Secretaryship."

"All the king's horses and all the king's men cannot draw them together," says a correspondent, writing to the *Hartford Post* about the impossibility of establishing fraternal intercourse between the white and colored lodges of Freemasons in Boston. The writer appears to be a Freemason himself, and says the colored brethren "represent the best elements of their race, and do credit to their institution," but the lovely order which monopolizes all of this fraternal charity and love of the world maintains the color line long since abrogated by simple, unostentatious Christians who try to practise their principles without the aid of a cocked hat and bib.—*Pilot*

The staff of Dublin Castle is to be reorganised, but not in such a way as to effect much good so far as Ireland is concerned. The Under-Secretary will in future have direct control over the Crime Department, which will cease to be a distinct branch, and will be administered through Sir Robert Hamilton. It is stated that the staff is to be reduced, Mr. Samuel Lee Anderson being one of those about to retire. It is in relation of these changes that Mr. Jenkinson, as come over from England.—*Nation*, Oct. 11.