

Minister, and a liberal statesman. No man living has done more for popular freedom, and we regret his defeat. True, his Irish policy has not been an unbroken success, but the Conservatives, had they been in power, would not have done better—not even as well as he. No English Ministry, no British Government can ever govern Ireland successfully. In the nature of things, such success is not possible, and until England makes up her mind to do to Ireland as she has done to her colonies—that is, concede to the sister island unfettered local Government, no English Minister can even hope to be a great success. It is said that the Nationalist members swelled the majority against the GLADSTONE Ministry. We do not yet know. It may be so, and probably is. Nor is this surprising, considering all the just grounds of complaint which they have had against his Irish government. Still it must not be forgotten that he disestablished the State Church, and gave the Land Act, together with some other useful measures. His faults have been such as were inseparable from an attempt made by England to legislate for and govern Ireland. It is not possible for such an attempt to succeed. As well might England attempt to legislate for and govern France from London. As well might she attempt to legislate for and govern her colonies from the same centre. Ireland is a distinct nation, and not an English county; and the great mistake is to regard her as an English county, which for some time has been and is still the mistake of so many English statesmen. It is this mistake that lies at the bottom of all the blunders that the English Parliament has made during the GLADSTONE administration. We regret Mr. GLADSTONE's fall and sympathise with him, because we regard his faults rather as misfortunes than crimes. It is probably owing to his Russian policy that this fall is in a great measure due. We do not share in the indignation caused by his peace policy. On the contrary, his desire to avoid war so long as war can be avoided with honour and consistently with the interests of the Empire, is his strongest recommendation to us. The readiness of the Tory party to run amuck against everything not in accordance with its own prejudices is with us the strongest reason for not desiring their return to power. Nor are the English people likely to forget how the Conservative party accumulated a national debt of more than four hundred millions sterling in endeavouring to stay the progress of the French Revolution, and to no purpose, for which debt they are still paying an enormous amount of interest annually. For the most part the wars waged in the past by this party have been quite useless. A statesman, therefore, who, like Mr. GLADSTONE, is slow to proclaim war, is a wise one, one who ought to be dear to the Empire, and his fall from power in the present state of our relations with Russia cannot but be deplored as a great calamity. All the talk in the newspapers about his trifling with the honour and interests of the Empire is mere rubbish. If necessary, and when necessary, Mr. GLADSTONE, it cannot be doubted, would fight to the last extremity to maintain both; and we feel quite confident that his wisdom and judgment could be as safely trusted as the wisdom and judgment of any other British statesman.

TO-DAY, Friday, being the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Vespers and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament will take place in St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin, at 7 p.m.

As it is intended to form in Dunedin, an Association of the Sacred Heart for women and girls, similar to that already established for men, ladies interested in the matter will hold a meeting in St. Joseph's schoolroom on the termination of Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament in St. Joseph's Church on this (Friday) evening. It is not necessary that all those attending the meeting, should join the association, and a full attendance is requested as it is desirable to obtain as much information as possible concerning women and girls unable to attend but probably willing to become members of the Society. The girls admitted into the Association must be above school-age.

We forward by this day's mail to Mr. Joseph Winter Treasurer of the Irish National League Melbourne the sum of £267 19s 4d in aid of the Payment of Members Fund, including contributions from Kumara, The Lead, Westbrook and Caps Terrace, Humphrey's Gully, Hokitika, Greymouth, Brunner town, No Town, Maori Creek, Boatman's, Dunedin, Kaikorai, Milton, Nevis, Balclutha, Clyde, Kawarau Gorge, and all of which have been in turn already acknowledged in the columns of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

We desire to remind our readers that a second concert in aid of the Christian Brothers' Building Fund will be given in the Garrison Hall, Dunedin, on Friday evening, the 19th inst: A great improvement has been made on the programme of the first concert which

proved such a success, and it may confidently be expected that a most agreeable entertainment will take place. Particular attention is being bestowed on Irish music which will be one of the principal features of the evening.

The current number of the New Zealand *Herald* well sustains the character of the paper.—Views of New Plymouth Harbour and Waiau river are especially deserving of notice.

THE defeat of the Gladstone Cabinet on their financial proposals has been a most unexpected event. Having survived, as they did, the proposed vote of censure on their Russo-Afghan policy, it might have been thought that they were all but invulnerable. It remains to be seen, however, whether the soreness of the country concerning the concessions made to Russia, and its anger at the way in which the ridicule and pity of the Continent have been poured out on it, may not have exercised some influence in this defeat. If such were the case we shall probably witness a failure in the proposed arbitration, and a new departure in negotiations with the Czar. It will be of much interest besides in several ways to watch the course of policy pursued by the Tories if they come into office, as we must naturally expect.

We copy the following sensible remarks from our correspondent the *Bruce Herald*:—The cost to the State of education in New South Wales, including that of school premises, has averaged £7 10s 10d per head for the last four years, and if the interest on loans for educational purposes were added, it would come for the last year to about £8 per head. The percentage of attendance was very unsatisfactory, there being 250,000 in the Colony of school age, and only 167,000 in attendance. Nearly three-quarters of a million of money was expended in teaching about two-thirds of the children for whom the schools were brought into existence. Without the aid of the State, fully as satisfactory results would have been attained educationally, and infinitely higher morally and socially, for about one fourth the cost. The balance which is chiefly expended on State machinery would thus have been available for other purposes. The same may be said, to a greater or lesser extent, of every national education system in the world.

IN connection with the reform of ecclesiastical music, for which an energetic movement is now on foot in Europe the following paragraph and letter clipped from a contemporary will be found interesting. We may add that copies of the Mass alluded to may be ordered of Messrs. Whitaker Bros. Wellington. "Mr. Joseph Short seems to have made a 'hit' with his mass, 'S. Joseph.' The following is the compliment (translated by Canon O'Sullivan), which Cardinal Bartolini, prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites at Rome pays:—'Most Honoured Sir,—The musical work, entitled 'Mass, (S. Joseph), sent by you to the Sacred Congregation, deserves all praise, because it has been composed upon rules suitable to sacred music according to the regulations published recently. Wherefore I have to congratulate you on your work, and to exhort you to continue to enrich this part of the Sacred Liturgy with other such praiseworthy compositions. With deserved regard, I have to subscribe myself, etc., etc., etc., D. Cardinal Bartolini, Prefect of Sacred Congregation of Rites, The Most Illustrious Professor, Joseph Short, Birmingham.

Mr. George Le Lievre, George street, Dunedin, executes with great ability all commissions entrusted to him in the way of electroplating and gilding.

Mr. J. Sheehan, boot and shoemaker, George street, Dunedin, may be visited profitably by all persons desirous of obtaining first-class goods at moderate prices.

Mrs. Gill's great clearing sale of millinery is now being held at her establishment Princes street Dunedin. Ladies will find their requirements supplied there in a very satisfactory manner.

The Property Tax Department advertises for Assessors.

Mr. R. A. Borrowes well and favourably known in connection with the establishments of Messrs. Wilkinson and Anning, and Messrs. Howard and Raymond, has opened a chemist and druggist's establishment in George street Dunedin. Mr. Borrowes' qualifications are an ample guarantee for the manner in which his business will be conducted.

Messrs. Brown, Ewing and Co., Princes street, Dunedin, finding their stock rather in excess of what they usually keep on hand, have resolved to offer a large portion of it at very moderate prices. The opportunity thus afforded to the public is an extremely favourable one.

J. H. KILGOUR, Grain and Produce Broker, reports under above date as follows:—Wheat: The market is quiet, and prices nominally the same as quoted last week—viz., 3s 2d to 3s 3d for white velvet and Tuscan, and 3s to 3s 1d for other milling descriptions; fowl feed is now offering freely at 2s to 2s 4d.—Oats: There is a fair demand for shipment, but supplies are quite equal to requirements, and only white, short quality is inquired for, which I quote at 1s 8d to 1s 8½d; ordinary feed, 1s 7d to 1s 7½d.—Barley: The demand is limited to really choice parcels of malting at a reduction on recent quotations.—Chaff: There is a fair demand for good quality, well cut, at 2s per ton.—Potatoes: Supplies have been coming forward more freely, and as the demand is limited to local requirements, prices are somewhat easier. I quote prime Derwents, 2s 10s.—Butter: I have inquirers for prime quality at 8½d per lb., but medium and inferior is almost unsaleable. Fresh is also wanted, but must be prime.—Eggs: 2s per dozen, and still scarce.—Turnips: 20s per ton for best Swedes.—Carrots: 22 per ton.