

enlighten a class of urchins not far advanced in the three R's. Its omissions, too, are very striking. Nothing is said about the crushing monopoly set up by his favourite system; how it has efficaciously shut up all private and denominational schools, with the exception of such as are Roman Catholic, and rendered healthy competition impossible. Nothing is said about the enormous and unnecessary expense except, indeed, to recommend an increase of it. Nothing is said about the £100,000 wasted annually in providing a restingplace, a system of nurseries for infants between five and seven years of age; nothing about the monopoly, by one class, of scholarships, although all the people are compelled to pay for them. The Minister's political vision must be very limited. He cannot even conceive a national system of education that would be religious and in accordance with the law of God. He has no idea that any except a godless system can be possible. He cannot imagine that all denominations might be compelled, and assisted on equitable principles, to maintain schools for their own children. He cannot even imagine that possible which nevertheless exists in Canada, England, Prussia, Austria, etc. So it is, and in view of this state of his mind it is not surprising his speech is so dull, spiritless, and utterly commonplace. It is not, however, without drift, and that is, that more money, even in these depressed times, should be spent in providing more godlessness, because he thinks it should be so. May heaven help the country that has such a Minister of Education.

### A SUGGESTION.

WE have a suggestion to make and we beg to recommend it to the careful consideration of the Canterbury members Parliament. Ninety-eight thousand pounds, for 21 years, are required to secure the building of the East and West Coast railway. It is not possible to get this amount by additional taxation? Our Canterbury friends may rest assured that the country will not stand any additional taxation for such a railway. Our suggestion, then, is that this amount be subtracted from the Education budget. Such a diminution of funds will not in the least interfere with godlessness. The system would under such an arrangement continue substantially as now. The only difference would be that some 25,000 infants under seven years of age would be nursed during the day-time at the expense of the parents instead of that of the country. A new clause in Mr. Stewart's little Bill would do the needful and make Canterbury quite happy. We recommend this suggestion to our neighbours; and we do so earnestly, because we wish them well and are desirous of seeing them very happy. The working men, too, if they are wise will hail our suggestion with joy. This little change in the education expenditure would secure the spending of four millions sterling in the country on public works, and would not impair the efficiency of this loved education system. What a chance for the working man and the unemployed. Will they avail themselves of it, and send up petitions to Parliament, asking for this little change in the school system and the four millions expenditure?

THE Scapular of our Lady of Pellevoisin, under the title of Mother All-merciful, has been blessed and approved of by his Holiness the Pope, and is now worn by many prelates in the Vatican, and by cardinals, bishops, and the heads of religious orders all over the world. The devotion is besides spreading daily among the laity and has been the source of countless blessings everywhere. Consignments of the scapular, and the book explanatory of the devotion have lately been sent to San Francisco and Sydney, and any of our Catholic booksellers desirous of obtaining a like benefit for New Zealand will do well to apply to M. le Curé de Pellevoisin, Indre, France, or to Miss M. B. Casey, 86 South Circular Road, Dublin, who will see that their requirements are attended to. Exceptional advantages may be gained by all those who interest themselves in making this devotion known and practised.

AND so all our "kids" are to become sprouting scientists incessantly. So, at least, decrees our minister of Education, and he is the supreme authority of course. All the big words are to be done away with and the infantile understanding is to be reached by means of the "well of English undefiled" as it exists in the brains of our primary school teachers. It is a pity by-the-way that Mr. Stout himself would not give a few lectures, or at least write a pamphlet, on a subject, which, as we all know, he is eminently qualified to deal with, but he may yet find time to do so and we shall await with impatience his series of lessons on words in whatever form they may appear,—

Mr. Stout, meantime, has done the next best thing and treated Parliament to a few specimens of the simple expressions he would substitute. Geology is to be called "earth-knowledge, botany plant-knowledge and so on." And philosophy, for is not that also scientific, O thou teacher of men? Philosophy will be called—perhaps goose-knowledge. Some such name at least, we should judge to be appropriate reasoning from several utterances made by our philosophical Minister, and by none more than the extraordinary fustian now put forth by him as an education statement. Surely the Colony sorely needs to be educated, and being so its first act would necessarily be to dismiss with all due ridicule those who now pretend to teach it. The choice between the pedant and the fool is verily a difficult one, and sometimes, for all the show of learning and wisdom, both characters seem inseparably combined.

THE Dominican Convent High School and the Schools of the Christian Brothers, Dunedin, were re-opened, on the termination of the midwinter holidays, last Monday.

WE would remind our readers in Dunedin and its vicinity of the concert to be given in aid of the Cathedral Building Fund at the Princess' Theatre on August 7. The rehearsals promise a true musical treat, and the object will commend itself to every member of the Catholic community and secure the active co-operation of all.

"TAPLEY" writes as follows in the Melbourne *Advocate* of the 11th inst.:—I had an interview with Mr. Boucicault during the week, and, as I expected, I found that he is an Irishman of whom his countrymen may well be proud. He is a gentleman with strong feelings for his native land, and he has always given expression to these, even though his candour may have sometimes caused him some pecuniary loss. I give Mr. Boucicault, on behalf of his countrymen, a *cord mille faillite* to Australia.

IN reference to the denial given by our Minister of Education to the fact that secular education produces crime, and the authoritative hope uttered by him that he might hear no further accusations of the kind, we beg leave to say that his aspirations will be fulfilled when crime and immorality all over the world have ceased to increase as godlessness advances; when the figures—whether cooked or otherwise—relating to convicted criminals, cease to be supplemented by the number of suicides; of fraudulent people undetected or unprosecuted, but known to exist; of those addicted to gross vices but untouched by the law, and by all such cases.—The tendency of secularism everywhere is shown to be the promotion of immorality, and in some instances common decency is outraged even in the lessons given by its hand-books. In Italy, for example, the lessons on "beast-knowledge," hitherto known as zoology—but a science in this instance well named by the rather obscure simplicity of the new title,—whether the idea expressed relate to the knowledge concerning beasts, or to that possessed by the beasts themselves—since the filthy manner in which the subject is dealt with is pronounced to be such as would not be suffered by the decent students of any anatomical school, and may well bestialise the minds of the boys and girls obliged to receive it.

DUNEDIN, which has lost several of its chief musicians of late, is now about to suffer another loss in the departure of Signor Carmini Morley. It is proposed to give this gentleman a farewell benefit on August 11, when his claims upon the public should result in attracting a full attendance.

"TAPLEY" also writes thus:—I am glad to see that the miners of New Zealand are again to the fore in the National cause. Recently over £250 was received from that colony for the Payment of Members' Fund, and I learn that another £40 have been received. I have always contended that the miners of New Zealand are the best specimens of Nationalists to be found in Australia. Like their co-patriots of Temora they are continuously subscribing to the National cause. They believe in the doctrine of practical patriotism. I am sorry to notice that Victoria is behind the other colonies in reference to the Payment of Members' Fund. This fund is, to my mind, the question of questions for the Irish people. If the members of the new Parliament can be sustained in their labours, legislative independence is certain; but if from any cause there should be a break down, it will be many years, if ever, before such a favourable opportunity will present itself again. What a vast amount of money was collected and expended in O'Connell's days in the attempt to win Repeal, but the question was never so ripe for settlement as it is now. This fact should encourage all to lend a helping hand in sustaining the efforts of the Irish Parliamentary Party in the great struggle which will soon take place.

Messrs. W. and G. Turnbull and Co., High st., Dunedin, have received a large stock of the Bull Dog stout and ale for bottling, and of all the various produce connected with their importing trade. Their silver-light kerosene is particularly fine.

A correspondent writing from Secunderabad to a contemporary says: Lieutenants Seymour and Bentley-Innes, of the 14th King's Hussars, were killed by lightning in their messhouse on Thursday afternoon, the 28th ult. They were playing billiards together, other officers being in the verandah. Bentley-Innes was struck dead, and though poor Seymour's heart's action continued for a quarter of an hour he was practically dead too.—*Bombay Catholic Examiner*.