

Correspondence.

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

DR. BAKEWELL REPLIED TO.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—I notice in your issue of the 17th inst, a letter by Dr. Bakewell, and, I should like to make a few remarks on some of his statements made in this letter. Dr. Bakewell seems to have quite a dislike to the TABLET. Everything appearing in that paper is to him wrong. Only a short time ago he charged it with boycotting from its columns our present Pope. But I suppose that the doctor, as a rule, never looks at the TABLET, except to read over some communication in it written by himself. Hence the reason of that most ridiculous accusation. According to Dr. Bakewell it is quite right for the English Government to practise, without any notice being taking of it, any sort of tyranny, for English newspapers and reviews to continually vomit forth slanders, falsehood, and more than brutal insults on the Irish people and nation. Our colonial papers, may if they choose, with the utmost propriety, take up these, comment upon them, try to hammer them as real truths down our throats and inflame the populace against Irishmen, and against everything Irish or Catholic. The doctor however seems to think it very wrong on the part of the TABLET to put people here in possession of the real state of affairs as to the conduct of the English government with regard to Ireland, to expose and refute those falsehoods and slanders coming here by every mail, made by writers in English newspapers and reviews, or to write one word in reply to any charge however scandalous.

Dr. Bakewell admits that great wrongs have been committed by Englishmen against Ireland—well he might—but adds, "Those wrongs Englishmen have done their best to repair during the last fifty years." This does not accord very well with the following statements made by the hon. John Bright about eighteen months ago in the English House of Commons, and which I copy from an English newspaper. Speaking of Irish affairs, Mr. Bright said:—"Let me Mr. Speaker, give a brief history of coercion in Ireland. From 1790 to 1823 there were nine coercive measures passed for Ireland including three suspensions of the Habeas Corpus Act, one martial law, and five insurrection acts. From 1840 to the present date forty eight different coercive measures including seven suspensions of the Habeas Corpus Act have been passed by this House." In 1845 a bill was brought forward Lord Derby, the father of the present Lord Derby, in reference to the tenure of land in Ireland, and John Bright says in the same speech that if that bill had not been rejected by the House of Lords, the sad condition of Ireland would never have had to be written. The indignation of an eminent stuff-merchant in Leeds was so aroused by the rejection of that bill that he stated in the Leeds Mercury newspaper, that the benevolent designs of the Almighty had been thwarted by the English Government with regard to Ireland on that occasion. This, and other more recent Acts and measures, will show that the best has not been done to redress the wrongs of former times.

Dr. Bakewell says that:—"At the very worst of times English Catholics were subject to the same persecutions as their Irish co-religionists." This is historically false. The Catholics were certainly most barbarously persecuted and much more so than is generally known; as will appear from the following extract taken from a standard Catholic controversial work: "So rigidly were all these laws (the penal laws) executed that Lord Scrope was, in 1626, accused to the King of conniving at recusancy, inasmuch as he had only convicted one thousand six hundred and seventy Catholics in the East Riding of Yorkshire." But excessive as the persecutions in England were during the reign of Elizabeth, and subsequent reigns, they were more violent and lasted longer in Ireland at the corresponding times. If the penal code be looked through, many acts extremely cruel will be found which while they were never put in force in England, were rigorously executed in Ireland. A little later on Dr. Bakewell intimates that it was then necessary for the preservation of the State, to persecute the English Catholics. This is also incorrect. Nothing could be more unfinching and constant than the loyalty of the English Catholics during all these times of persecution. In proof of this, I refer the doctor to Bishop Milner's "Letters to a Prebendary," also to "The History of Winchester," by the same author.

Dr. Bakewell again says:—"The English are not a persecuting people, and had Catholicism in England and Ireland been entirely divorced from politics it would never have been persecuted." This, I think, may be safely said of any people who have ever persecuted, as well as of the English. It was for political reasons mixed with others, that the Jews persecuted and put to death Our Saviour and many of his followers,—that the Roman Emperors persecuted the Christian Church for three centuries—shed the blood of ten millions,—that Louis XIV. revoked the edict of Nantes,—that the Emperors of China and Japan sometimes commence terrible persecutions among the Christian converts in their dominions,—and that at the present time, the Russian Czar is forcing at the point of the sword, his Catholic Polish subjects to abandon the Catholic, and become members of the Greek Church.

In conclusion, for my part, I do not object, to but approve of, what is usually published in the columns of the TABLET, on the affairs of Ireland, though I have not the honour to belong to that nation, and I am of opinion that the N.Z. TABLET has done, and is doing, and will continue to do, a singular service to the Catholic cause in these Islands. Indeed, it may be said that the Catholic Church here would not have the same standing that it now has, but for its influence.

Vive La Tablette!—I am etc.

REMLIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE N. Z. TABLET.

SIR,—I notice in this week's issue of your valuable paper, a letter from Dr. Bakewell, informing your readers that he will not contribute to your columns any more. When you reply that few will regret it, you speak the mind of the majority of your readers,—especially those who have followed Dr. Bakewell's public utterances must ere now have come to the conclusion that the Doctor is a man of culture, with a grumbling disposition, which, unfortunately, is allowed to spoil his good work. Few will deny the good that has been done by the publicity that has been given in your valuable columns to the supernatural cures at Lourdes. But then the grumbling disposition manifests itself, and spoils a noble work which must have cost a great amount of exertion to put before the public. But, sir, this is not the only time that the Doctor has distinguished himself. Only a few months ago the same individual that says, "I quarrel with no man for being a Nationalist" brought a motion forward at a meeting of the Canterbury Catholic Literary Society to censure the Executive of that Society, for daring to allow a nationalist meeting to be held in the Society's rooms. I would like to ask Dr. Bakewell to be consistent at least. At the present time he stands in this: to-day he would not quarrel with a man for being a nationalist; yesterday he quarrelled with a number of men because they were nationalists. As regards the statement that you are injuring the Catholic cause in New Zealand, that is a statement which we will charitably suppose will be regretted in calmer moments. It is a statement that refutes itself. As you truthfully say, the Anglo-Saxon claims the right (and exercises it) to inquire, misrepresent, and abuse, without the obligation to hear a honest truth. In conclusion, you are to be congratulated on the firmness you have shown.—I am, etc.,

A NEW ZEALANDER.

Christchurch, 20th July, 1885.

CATHOLIC AFFAIRS, LYTTLETON.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

THE Catholics of Lyttelton and their worthy parish priest, Rev. Father O'Connor, are to be congratulated on their persistent efforts to maintain their school in a high state of efficiency. Your correspondent is informed on good authority that the school scored 82 per cent. at the late examination by the Government Inspector. I fancy that a Government school with a staff proportionately more numerous and vastly more expensive, would consider this amount of successful answering something to boast about. It is also worthy of remark that this is the first time these Lyttelton children were before a Government Inspector. Untrained to the system of Government examinations their substantial answering should be all the more appreciated. To prosecute their good work still more successfully, another teacher has been added to the staff.

To meet the increased demand on their finances, Father O'Connor and his committee appealed to the public. That they have been successful the subjoined report from the Press will make known:—"On Thursday evening there was held in Lyttelton a most successful concert in aid of the funds of St. Joseph's Catholic school, Lyttelton. The hall was crowded to excess. There was a large and exceedingly good programme. The special feature of the evening was the appearance of Mr. J. M. Morgan, the premier harpist, who certainly rendered a grand march, and a solo in first-class style. Miss Lily O'Brien sang the "Flower Girl" in splendid style, and was loudly encored. Misses Hill, McCarthy, Morgan, and Pender, also sang some first-class songs, for which they were loudly applauded. Misses Malcolmson and McLellan gave one or two good pianoforte duets in good style. For the gentlemen Messrs. Collins Grantham, and Milson sang well, and Mr. Griffin gave a very good comic reading. During the evening Messrs. Bennington and Smyth gave a sailor's hornpipe, for which they were loudly encored. "It is right to supply the omission of Mrs. Keilly's name from this. This lady with Mr. Collins, contributed two duets to the entertainment, which were well received and applauded. The performance of Masters McCarthy and Collier on the violin exhibited taste, and, indeed, talent that bespeaks a future proficiency on that instrument of no mean order. The overtures were by a string band composed of members of the permanent Artillery. Miss E. O'Brien acted as accompanist, and it is needless to say maintained her reputation for good playing."

There is no doubt that the Catholics of Lyttelton have passed, and are passing through a critical and trying struggle to educate their children in the faith of their fathers. What is said of Lyttelton can be said, as far as I can see, of every parish in New Zealand. When will a government be found honest enough to recognise this steadfastness to principle and religion? Mr. Stout not long since complained in the House of having been persecuted for his principles. No doubt, and one can see it, he thought it a great wrong done to him, as he instanced how it touched his pocket. Yet this same gentleman is every day doing what he can to persecute us, and touch our pockets because our views differ from his as to the education of our children.

Conflicting rumours prevail in Vatican circles concerning Mr. Errington and his reported mission. It is confidently asserted that Mr. Errington was not a little nettled at the scant attention given to his observations on Irish questions and notably in connection with the nomination of the Archbishop of Dublin, and was also offended at the presence at the Vatican of another secret agent. Mr. Errington's friends assert that he will return to Rome properly accredited and probably even with a baronetcy, which would have the natural effect of closing up all the other channels by which the Vatican and the Propaganda are reached by agents, all apparently with equal credentials, but coming from different sources.—Daily Chronicle.