

Legislature that it compels these Catholics, after having manfully provided for their own children, to contribute largely towards the free and godless education of other people's children!!! This is tyranny, oppression, and plunder.

## THE TIMES.



THE times are dull, very dull. Depression reigns everywhere, even in newspaper circles. When a man with the morning paper in his hand is asked what is the news to-day the answer invariably is: Ob, nothing; there is nothing in the paper to-day. But, like many other things, this is an exaggeration. Notwithstanding the depression, there is no want of interesting news from all quarters, though at the present moment there may be nothing very exciting. For example, who can read the scraps one finds in the English and Irish papers in reference to the coming general election at Home without being deeply interested. Then there is the Roumelian affair which may yet set all Europe in a flame. Here in New Zealand have we not the profound speeches, or, if you will, talks of the Premier, and the deep political harangues of the Hon. Treasurer and Mr. Holmes? Why, after all, there is no end of interesting matter to be found in the newspapers, if people had only the capacity of appreciating it. What, indeed, can be more interesting than the sayings of the inimitable theologian who does not know God, looks upon creeds exactly from the opposite point of view of St. PAUL, and, although he happens to be Premier and Attorney-General, teaches the right of everyone to think and say what he pleases. Now is the time in which infidels, slanderers, and liars may enjoy a carnival. For, of course, our Freethinking Attorney General will not prosecute anyone who merely exercises his liberty to think and say anything and everything that comes into his head. There is something, however, still more interesting than the Attorney-General's profound philosophy on the subject of licentious thoughts and words, and that is his amiable advocacy of liberty as he understands it practically. A glowing penegyric on liberty does not cost a man of the Premier's sober imagination much, and we are not to look to such a one's words for his real meaning so much as to his actions. Of course, everyone knows that this hon. gentleman never tires of proclaiming his admiration and love of liberty, and one reading his harangues on this subject without knowing what manner of man he is would fancy him to be a great stickler for real liberty. But, alas, for the consistency of human nature, this would be an erroneous impression. The Hon. Mr. STOUT's deeds contradict his words: in reality, he has liberty on his lips, and tyranny and injustice in his heart. How do he and his treat his Catholic fellow subjects; how much liberty does he allow them? Well, the liberty he allows them is simply the necessity of paying, sorely against their will, for the free and godless education of other people's children. We only wonder that, when this hon. gentleman has the effrontery to speak of liberty and freedom, the words do not stick in his throat and choke him. Nor are these the only interesting items contained in the dailies, and suggested by their columns. When one reads of the pretty frequent journeys of the Premier from Wellington to Dunedin, and cannot fail to observe how admirably they coincide with opportunities of in one way or another glorifying the Lyceum, he is inevitably struck with the coincidence, and wonderingly asks himself: Who pays for these journeys—the public or the Lyceum? This is a nice and most interesting speculation. Then there is the discussion, both by letter and public meeting, of the important questions of Free-trade and Protection, in which so much either of the prosperity or injury of the country is involved. There is much to study on both sides, only that practically, let the theory be what it may, we have about as much Protection as we can bear and as little Free-trade as is possible under the circumstances. The great danger now is that some of our industries may be protected out of existence. Who can truthfully say, then, that there is nothing in the papers? To us it appears that there is a great deal, and a great deal too that is momentous. We only regret that this does not appear to be sufficiently realised.

In the presence of three men who sat almost beside each other on Tuesday night (says the *Nation* of September 5, referring to a banquet given by the Lord Mayor of Dublin to Mr. Parnell and his colleagues)

there was to be found a symbol of the continuity of Ireland's struggle for her rights and her unwavering fidelity to the principles of freedom. When, shortly after the Lord Mayor had taken his seat, Dr. Kevin Izod O'Doherty approached the O'Gorman Mahon and shook the old man warmly by the hand, the year of the reform fight of 1829 and the era of the subsequent fight of '48 touched in that clasp; and later on, when both joined in applauding the uncompromising sentiments of Mr. Parnell, it seemed as if the spirit of the past specially attended to cheer on the effort of the present. It is not given to every Lord Mayor to have around him at the same moment the fighting men of three generations.

FATHER REGINALD COLLINS, the hero of McNeill's Zereba, has been recommended for the Victoria Cross. We regret to learn that Father Collins has returned to England in ill-health, and we wish him a speedy and full recovery.

MR. DION BONICHAULT is now playing his famous Irish characters in Dunedin. It is needless for us to attempt to paint the lily by referring to the excellence of his representations, but every Irishman should see those parts acted which, like the *Melodies of Moore*, have done so much to bring the Irish character in its true form before the English public, and have greatly helped to dispel so many prejudices. Mr. Bonicault, as the author and actor whose work has produced such an effect, deserves the gratitude of the whole Irish world.

HIS LORDSHIP the Bishop of Wellington has returned from his visit to Rome, and has been joyfully welcomed back by his clergy and people. His Lordship came by the San Francisco mail route.

IN a case heard on Wednesday in the Resident Magistrate's Court, Dunedin, one of the witnesses stated that "he knew that Captain Hume kept a prisoner two days over his time, and then gave him hush money." Such a statement as this is very grave, and seems to call for examination on the part of Government. Captain Hume can hardly afford to let it pass unchallenged.

MR. GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA delivered his last lecture, that on Dickens and Thackeray, in Dunedin on Wednesday, to a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Sala is a very agreeable speaker, who makes no pretence to oratory or rhetorical display, but delivers himself in a clear, audible, and impressive manner, with all the admirable diction and polish of a master in literature, who occasionally, moreover, rises to a burst of true and lofty eloquence. His lecture consisted of personal reminiscences of the great authors, with an explanation of the motives of their work, and passages of a keen and finished criticism. He ascribes to the speeches of O'Connell and Stiel, among others, a share in forming the style of Charles Dickens. His judgment of the relative merits of Thackeray and Dickens is to the effect that they move in parallel lines, never meeting. For our own part, nevertheless, although we accord to Thackeray an admiration no less warm than that we feel for Dickens, we believe the latter to have been the greater artist. The range and variety of his characters is, for example, larger, and, the author is kept more fully, and completely, out of sight. In listening to one of Dickens's tales it is impossible to divine what manner of man is speaking, just as it is in the case of Shakespeare. Through the writings of Thackeray, on the contrary, whatever may be the cynic or saure, the hand of the kind-hearted man is ever to be discerned. We count it a privilege to have heard Mr. Sala's lecture, and its memory will form a lasting treasure to us.

WE clip the following also from the *Nation* of September 5. Another illustration of the fact that Ireland is always ready to honour those of her children whom England, for political reasons, would seek to degrade and punish, was afforded in the proceedings in the Dublin Corporation on Tuesday, when Dr. Kevin Izod O'Doherty, a "felon" of '48, was admitted to the ranks of the honorary citizenship of our Metropolis. The hearty and enthusiastic welcome which greeted him when he rose to sign the roll on Tuesday must have given Dr. O'Doherty some slight compensation for the many years of exile he has known, but that welcome must have been sweeter to him for the reason that it proved that the citizens of Dublin endorsed the brave and self-sacrificing conduct which brought him into the dock in Green-Street in 1848. The deliberate abstention from Tuesday's meeting of the anti-popular section of the council was an acknowledgement and a proof that the strength of West Britonism is broken and crushed in Ireland's capital.

THE annual meeting of the Dunedin Cavalry to be held at Tahuna Park Musselburgh on the 31st inst, promises to be a marked success. A most interesting programme has been drawn up and every step will be taken to ensure its being carried out in the best manner possible.

THE Roumelian affair still drags its weary length—when the first news concerning it reached the Colony we were of the opinion that something concerning the matter was to be understood. But as it is thanks to the agreeable lucidity of the cable, unmitigated confusion is all that we can discern. We know nothing and can conjecture nothing.

THE proceeds of the two very agreeable concerts given by the Children of Mary in Dunedin in aid of the Cathedral Building Fund,