

prizes at public examinations. If it be asked, Why are the teachers of those children excluded from the patronage and the emoluments of the State? the answer must be that it is not so for the sole reason that the parents desire to send their children to schools which retain the genial religious atmosphere of the Christian home, and will not permit the bloom and fragrance of the virtues which should distinguish Christian youth to be lost with the tainted precincts of infidel schools. The present age is one of associations. The Church exhorts her children to embrace only those associations whose rules are based upon religion and justice and morality, and in particular to enrol themselves in those sodalities which have for their purpose to keep alive the lamp of piety in the heart and to lead her children to the feet of our Blessed Lord, there to partake in the holy sacraments of the blessings of His Divine mercy and love. These associations serve, each in its own way, to reveal the inner life of Holy Church, and to unfold the full beauty of faith, hope, charity, and religion which she cherishes in the hearts of her children. In a particular way the fathers of the council commend the Catholic temperance societies, which are engaged in a holy crusade against intemperance. No vice is so dreadful in its results as the vice of drunkenness. It brings ruin to innumerable souls. It wrecks countless homes and families; it undermines social peace and happiness; it sets every religious influence at defiance; and would fain pull down God from His throne in the hearts of His children. The Church, like her Divine Founder, is ever intent on saving her people from their sins. But she is not content with this; she wishes by those salutary societies to save them from sin by preserving them from it. The present age is in many ways a utilitarian one; men's minds are so often centred in self and fixed upon the accumulation of wealth or the pursuit of the pleasures and enjoyments of life. The Church, on the contrary, unceasingly exhorts her children to open wide their hearts in charity and to lay up treasures for themselves in heaven, "where no thief approacheth nor moth corrupteth. The Council has deemed it expedient to commend in particular to the faithful, solicitude and true charity for the propagation of faith among the aboriginal races. It is a blot upon the colonial policy of Great Britain that too often instead of the olive branch of peace being extended to native races, a policy of extermination has been pursued in their regard. Let it be our endeavour that at least "a remnant" shall be saved. The Marist Fathers have done not a little in the diocese of Wellington to impart the blessings of civilisation and religion to the Maori race, endowed as it is by nature with special gifts of bravery and intelligence. The Benedictine monastery of Nuova Norcia, in Western Australia, has probably done more in the great cause of Christian civilisation among the Australian aboriginals than has been achieved by all the richly-endowed Protestant denominations put together. It is the anxious desire of our prelates that such religious centres would be multiplied as far as possible among the aboriginals, that thus the blessings of true civilisation would be extended to the few that remain of these too long neglected races. The prelates will receive contributions towards the fund for so laudable a purpose; a commission of bishops is appointed to administer this fund, and it has been recommended that an annual collection should be made in each parish to promote this great work. Happy results shall, I trust, follow from it, for the salvation of souls, the spread of Christian civilisation, and the propagation of our holy faith in those regions now so desolate shall at no distant day resound to the praises of the Most High; the angels of heaven shall rejoice, and the Prophet's words shall be fulfilled—"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, and that preacheth peace." Thus it is that the Church pursues on earth her heavenward course, continuing, from day to day, the mission of her Divine founder, and perfecting His work "until we all meet into the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the fulness of Christ." A great deal has still to be done throughout the vast provinces of Australasia in the cause of religion and of Christ. There is a grand future in store for this Southern land. Its boundless resources, and the life and energy of its people, mark out for it an imperial destiny. May the growth of Holy Church and the multiplying of the blessing of Heaven keep pace with its material progress. So many peoples of Eastern Asia and of the Pacific Ocean are still shut out from the benign influences of Christian civilisation and Catholic life. May it be the mission of Australia to bring the light of divine truth to these our fellow-men; and may the paths of Holy Church be smooth in this fair land. May her children ever cherish charity, piety and peace, and through the mercy of God and the riches of His love, may it be given them to renew, beneath the Southern Cross, everything that was truly grand, truly ennobling, in the old countries in the days of their faith. For this is the victory that alone can overcome the assaults and the snares and the corruption of a sinful world—our Faith.

After the announcement of the Pastoral the Right Rev. Dr. Murphy, Bishop of Hobart, on behalf of the prelates and clergy, presented to the Cardinal an address of thanksgiving and congratulation.

Cardinal Moran replied as follows:—"I am most grateful for the kind words which his Lordship the Bishop of Hobart has addressed to me in the name of the fathers of this Plenary Council. The days of this Synod have been to me days never to be forgotten—days of edification and instruction, of consolation and joy. And should I not rejoice to see assembled here the angels of all the Australian churches, harbingers of heavenly blessings to us, and, with a piety and zeal that could not be surpassed, fulfilling the sublimest duties of their divine mission. We met in council in obedience to the voice of the Vicar of Christ, and we assembled here beneath the shadow of St. Mary's, the mother church of all these colonies. It was under the auspices of Immaculate Mary, on the very feast of her patronage, that we entered upon the duties of the Plenary Council, that we began our work by invoking the Holy Spirit of Wisdom and Charity to be with us in our deliberations, to instruct us, to enlighten us. And it is not too much to say that that Divine Spirit was our teacher, our guide, at all our meetings. Some of our fathers of the council met here for the first time; many of them were strangers to each

other. All discussed the matters proposed with perfect freedom, and with the earnestness of men who are guided by conscientious convictions and who have at heart the eternal interests of those entrusted to their care. Yet there was not one word uttered, nor one sentiment expressed, that was opposed to charity. And how important, how vast, was the work in which the Fathers of the Council were engaged. It was no other than to lay down deep and broad the foundations of the faith in this favoured land, to build up the sacred fabric of the Australasian Church, and to promote the salvation of souls for whom Christ has died. I must thank you, venerable Fathers, for the kind consideration and indulgence which you extended to my inexperience and many shortcomings. But, notwithstanding this drawback on my part, the work which you have achieved is worthy of your Plenary Council, and for years to come the laity and clergy of Australasia will look back to it with consolation, and pride, and joy. It is with heartfelt regret that I shall say adieu to every member of the council. Many of us shall not meet again here below. But the Church on earth is only a preparation for the heavenly Jerusalem, and, as St. Augustine teaches us, the bishops, priests, and faithful, assembled around the altar are a picture of our Mother who is above, that of the triumphant Church, rejoicing around the throne of the Lamb. May it be our privilege to meet there once more, rejoicing before the Saviour's throne, presenting to him the fruits of our spiritual toil!"

At the conclusion of his reply the Cardinal gave the kiss of peace to each of the bishops, and the members of the council left the Cathedral in procession.

Correspondence.

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

AN APPEAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF N. Z. TABLET.

SIR,—As an Irishman I cannot refrain any longer from giving vent to my feelings of joy over the recent elections in Ireland. Who could imagine Parnell was going to have 86 followers in the next Parliament? Never before was there ever known such a mighty band of trained and stalwart men to fight the cause for Ireland, trained because nearly all of them have tasted the plank bed, men whom English gold cannot buy. Oh, what a sight at the opening of Parliament next January to see Mr. Parnell marching down Downing street with his mighty host. Won't they frighten John Bull? Let his horns be ever so long, they will soon shorten them. Won't they tax Joey Chamberlain to his utmost with his thirty-four millions against four. Hethought they (the Liberals) were going to carry England and Scotland by fire and sword, and have such an overwhelming majority that they could defy Tories and Parnellites combined, but he forgot there were Irishmen in England, when they returned seven Tories and one Parnellite for the great working city, Liverpool. Irishmen of New Zealand, you cannot imagine what a mighty sum the elections will cost, and how hard it was to pick suitable candidates. Some of them, you all must know, require some support, for they are not all men of independent means. One time Mr. Parnell contested the county Dublin, and it cost him £10,000; that will give you an idea of the immense sum it has cost him now. Moreover, he had to fight all the wealth of Ireland (the landlords). So, Irishmen of New Zealand, why do you lie sleeping when all the world is aroused?—America sending her thousands and also Australia, the Irishmen on the West Coast have done their part manfully, also those of Christchurch and Lyttelton. What about the famous Timaru men? is it possible they cannot get together and form a branch of the National League? I know nearly all of them, and believe all it wants is for the wheel to be set in motion, and I am confident Timaru and the surrounding districts would realise a good sum. All it wants is a couple of energetic men to start the movement. I would also suggest Temuka and Geraldine to form together; I know they can do it, for there are some good men in the district. I for one will lend a hand, as I ought to have some experience, having done my part in the hottest time of '82 and '83, when no man's life was safe from the informer and the spy. Irishmen, perhaps this will be the last time you will be ever called upon again to help the land that gave you birth. Who is the Irishman so base, so vile, that would not help their brothers in exile? Let each and every one of us give a little. Who is he who has not got a father, a mother, a sister, a brother, or some relations there. Think on why you left the loveliest clime on earth; think how your ancestors have been treated in the past; wouldn't it make your flesh creep, and the blood in your veins grow cold? Think on how the poor people at home have subscribed so manfully and stuck to the League; therefore, they shall gain their reward. Finally, Irishmen, when the gleam of sunshine, of freedom is dawning upon our land, let us not lose grasp of that which is within our reach *i.e.* an Irish Parliament in College-green.—I am etc.,

A PARNELLITE.

15th December, 1885.

Impressive, significant, and full of good omens and encouragement for the Irish people were the religious and secular scenes which were witnessed in the ancient town of Kildare at the latter end of last week. The Very Rev. Dr. Kavanagh, the patriotic parish priest of Kildare, was the means of bringing together under his own hospitable roof the most prominent ecclesiastics and laymen in the national movement, and we are not much mistaken if substantial advantages for the national cause do not result from the meeting of such men as his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, and Mr. Parnell, the leader of the Irish people.—*Nation*, Oct. 17.