

Journal); and it is an unspeakable satisfaction to find from recent accounts that excessive indulgence in the cup that cheers and queers one too is much less common in Ireland now than it has been for many years past. Several judges at the close of their late circuits have commented favourably on this glad fact, and the strange part of the business is that this marked sobriety apparently started on last St. Patrick's Day. In Dublin, the next day's court proceedings showed hardly any cases of drunkenness, while Cork could only raise one, and the solitary offender in that case was described as a "stranger from London." The leaders of the Parnellite party are temperate all through, and now that the people seem to be following them, let us hope that Sullivan's great desire of Ireland sober and Ireland free is on the eve of realisation.

The following paragraph, which we take from a contemporary, speaks eloquently for the better state of things now prevailing in Germany:—Sister Gabriel, of the Sisters of Mercy, who in the most self-sacrificing manner has devoted nearly the whole of her life to the nursing of the sick, celebrated, the other day, the 50th anniversary of her religious life at the City Hospital of Coblenz. The German Emperor drove to the Hospital to congratulate Sister Gabriel in the most gracious manner, and remained with her for half-an-hour.

SURELY the president of the British Medical Association in citing her most Gracious Majesty as an example of a woman engaged in the fulfilment of those functions which he pronounces detrimental to her offspring has no intention to throw reflections on the qualifications of our future king. Still it must be acknowledged that the following sentences taken in connection with what has gone before, have a suspicious tone:—"Many times, indeed, woman's fate has set her in the foremost place; in some of those times, no doubt, such place has been well and grandly filled by her. Yet, even then, our admiration is not untinged with compassion. Even in this year of approaching jubilee, is it not so with us when we think of that Crown, Royal and Imperial, which, splendid as it is, has so long been left 'a lonely splendour?' 'Victoria Regina et Imperatrix'—bravely, proudly, gloriously is the burden borne; but would she who knows its weight wish a like weight to be laid upon any daughter?"

If we may judge by the admissions of the *Corriere di Roma*, a newspaper of their party, Italian Liberals show some signs of a return to a sounder frame of mind. This newspaper acknowledges that the glory of modern Italy has for the most part been derived from the Papacy, and that without the co-operation of the Sovereign Pontiff a great destiny cannot be fulfilled by her.

ONE of the severest judgments passed upon Freethought is that silent but practical one of French infidels who, notwithstanding their own defalcation, try to bring up their children in the Catholic faith. The editor of the *Dionysienne Siècle*, a Freethinking publication has recently testified that even in Paris few of the pupils of the Lyceums are entered as Freethinkers, and none at all of them are so entered in the provinces:—"Families," says the writer, "have on this subject ideas which I will not discuss, because it is solely their own affair; but it is evident that with very few exceptions they ask for religious education." The ideas, nevertheless, are evident also. Fathers and mothers, whom weakness and worldliness have separated from their faith, still recognise their misery and try to save their children from sharing it. And thus Freethought is condemned most powerfully by its own adherents.

JUDGING from present appearances Hungary is forcing Austria to resist Russian predominance in Bulgaria.—England according to the resisting power a moral support, and hoping to have her battles fought without herself being obliged to fire a shot.—Germany refuses to interfere with Russia, who evidently means to persevere in her sinister undertaking, and who perhaps has offered to reward the German government for a neutrality that may bring about the fulfilment of her designs upon the East, by the transfer of Poland to them—a step already proposed in Russia as the means of overcoming the difficulties created by the competition of German manufactures established in that country. In this instance, however, the proposal was that Germany should buy the territory in question for a large sum of money.—But an equivalent in the Balkan peninsula would probably be quite as acceptable.

WE are happy to see that Mr. M. Donnelly has returned to Dunedin, where it is his intention to practise his profession in future. We have no doubt that Mr. Donnelly's well-known abilities will speedily place him among the leading members of the Bar in this city.

THE entrance examination of the University of New Zealand for matriculation, junior scholarship, and medical profession will commence on Monday, December 6th.

THE collection made in Dunedin, on Sunday, in aid of the Cathedral building fund, amounted in cash to £300—with about the same amount promised. The names of contributors will be published in due course.

THE first general meeting of the shareholders of the N.Z. TABLET Printing and Publishing Company was held at the Office of the

Company, Octagon, Dunedin, on Friday evening. The following gentlemen were appointed Directors of the Company for the ensuing year, namely, Messrs. J. B. Callan, F. Meenan, J. J. Connor, T. Reynolds, and T. Murray.

TE WHITI, Titokowaru, and the other Maori prisoners were tried on Wednesday in the Supreme Court at Wellington, on the charges of forcible entry and rioting, and malicious injury to property. The result being, in Te Whiti's case, imprisonment for three months, and a fine of £100, and in the case of Titokowaru and the others, one month's imprisonment and a fine of £20.

THE cost of Ministers to the Colony for the year 1885-86 was, in all, £14,712, as against £2,913 in 1860-61, their travelling allowances and expenses having been for the year almost double what they had ever been before. During the last five years, over the greater portion of which the depression has extended, the increase in the expense of the Ministry to the Colony has been £4,196. But have we not Sir Robert Stout for a Premier, and with a philosopher to caper for us who would grudge to pay the piper?

WE can beat all to sticks the Australian bunyip or the Maori taniwha or whatever it was that, in size a calf, in likeness partly an alligator, made the other day in Auckland a "sudden and awful appearance." Here are three young men who the other night on the Ocean Beach beheld a mermaid. As they were promenading in the moonlight, a human figure standing by the water's verge fled from their advance and disappeared beneath the waves. In the dusk they mistook it for a man or woman enveloped in a long cloak, but nothing can be more evident than the fact of its being a mermaid whose long hair and fishy extremities might well under the circumstances be taken for a garment. A constable has been told off to patrol the beach in search of any remains that may come to land, but let us hope he will not meet with a sentimental end. The mermaid, they say, is very beguiling.

## CANTERBURY CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

Christchurch, October 4, 1886.

THE dramatic section of the above Society gave another variety entertainment on the 21st September, before a crowded audience. Miss Dobbs, who acted as pianist, played a very nice selection as an opening piece. Mr. Hennessey, Mr. Price, Mrs. Kelly, and Miss Burke rendered songs. A concertina solo by Mr. Nolan and a golden shoe dance by Mr. Carr brought the first part to a close. "His Last Legs" was then given, the cast of characters being the same as in the last farce, with the addition of Mr. Carroll and Mr. Gamble, the last named gentleman having received only one day's notice to prepare himself. As a whole, the performance of the farce may be said to have been very fair, with the exception of a slip that occurred through a wrong cue being given. The cause of the slip is not difficult to point out, and it is to be hoped it will not occur again. It is evident that there is a someone wanted to "coach" those who would fain be footlight favourites. The talent is there undoubtedly, it only wants bringing forth. The method of scene-shifting is very primitive indeed. In future it is very likely that a charge of sixpence will be made at the door, and in all probability a concert will be held in the Theatre Royal during the coming carnival season.

At last it can be said that the Society is out of debt. This may seem to the uninitiated a very small matter to rejoice over, but to those who bear in mind the fact that the subscription is only 12 shillings a year, it will be very plain that the members have very often to consider that very unpalatable subject—Ways and means.—Now that we are told by our President that we have sufficient money in hand to pay all our debts, let us at least be grateful that that very much desired state of events has arrived. Our President, never content to stand idle, has interviewed Mr. A. J. White anent a piano, the result being that Mr. White, in his well-known liberality, has offered to supply one at cost price.

Messrs. Bennett and Son, long connected with the firm of Lane and Co., have taken over the cordial and aerated water business, lately conducted by Mr. A. M. Lewis. The articles produced by this firm are of exceptional excellence and only require to be tried in order to give the utmost satisfaction.

Messrs. Nimmo and Blair, Dunedin, call attention to their large and first-class stock of farm and station seeds. Their seeds for the vegetable and flower garden will be also found unequalled. The firm supplies all requisites for the station farm, or garden.

The bargains in drapery, millinery, and clothing of all kinds to be obtained at the Granite House, George street, Dunedin, are quite unrivalled.

Mr. George Matthews, Moray Place, Dunedin, offers for selection a superior stock of farm and garden seeds of all varieties. Mr. Matthews' collection of plants in pots is also most deserving of attention.

Right Rev. William Ullathorne, Bishop of Birmingham, celebrated the 40th anniversary of his consecration on the 21st July. He began his work as a Catholic missionary fifty-four years ago in Australia, and spent six years there ministering to the convicts, who were then almost the only European inhabitants. He was consecrated vicar-apostolic in 1846, and became Bishop of Birmingham on the re-establishment of the English hierarchy. In his diocese in 1848 there were but fifty churches and eighty-six priests; now there are 117 churches and 198 priests. He is a Benedictine.