

"until not a Catholic child is left in a public school. The late Council at Baltimore has assured this by its legislation, and if one chooses to read the acts of the diocesan synods held and to be held before the year ends, one will see the command to the rectors of parishes to build schools for the children within two years after ratification. A thousand new Catholic schools will dot the American landscape before the close of 1887, and two hundred thousand children will make their abode in them. Hitherto we have read of the depopulation of city schools only, but this year the country districts have suffered, and we have on our table a list of towns and villages whose school, have each lost from one to two hundred children by the building of Catholic schools. Within the next two years the number will have increased many times, and the demoralization of many district schools will be as complete as many of their enemies could desire."

THE spirit of the Irish landlord has received a striking illustration in the vindictive closing by Lord Cloncurry of the limestone quarries of Ardclugh in Kildare which for more than a hundred years have afforded employment to a thriving community.—His Lordship has taken the opportunity of a lapse of the lease to ruin these people completely.—And without a blush he admits that his sole motive is antipathy and vengeance against the Land League.—Such an action on the part of a representative man shows the worth of the party in whose interests it is still determined to ruthlessly oppress the Irish people.

Lord Clanricarde has been so far daunted by the campaign at Woodford as to offer his tenants a reduction of 20 per. cent. Considering his Lordship's well earned reputation as a usurer the concession is a most important one, and nothing has occurred more betraying the position to which the landlords feel themselves reduced.

The esteem in which Mr. Justice Day has been taught by his Belfast experiences to hold the Orangemen is well proved by his refusal to permit the epithet "respectable" to be applied to any of them residing in the Shankhill district. He directed that they should be called "well-to-do" instead, whenever the occasion required.

WE are requested to announce that the drawing of the art-union in connection with St Columbkille's Convent of Mercy, Hokitika, has been postponed until St. Patrick's Day.

United Ireland which has lately given some interesting details concerning the careers of the late Lord Clanricarde and the Marquis who now enjoys the title, quoting as a principal source of the information published certain records concerning the blackguardism of the former nobleman contained in a blackguardly letter written by the latter, among the rest, publishes the following paragraph:—"He has himself done much to maintain the family reputation he inherited. In lust and greed he has not disgraced his father, and if he shrank from the darker crimes of the bolder titled villain he has displayed instead a cowardly meanness that is all his own. It will be news to our readers, though it is no news in the haunts of London dissipation, that Sanguinetti (what an appropriate name), the notorious Jew money-lender, and the 'Most Noble' the Marquis of Clanricarde are identical. Indeed so closely has he trod in the footsteps of his illustrious parent that men gravely doubt whether the shame is greater to be son of the former Marquis of Clanricarde or to be father of the present."—Yet there are editors among ourselves who venture to pronounce Sanguinetti the Usurer an excellent Irish landlord.—But, let us give every man his due. Such editors are not necessarily to be accredited with favouring the Jew in a particular manner. Their motive is merely contempt and hatred of the Irish tenant, concerning whom they know nothing whatever.—But ignorance and prejudice may well give birth to misrepresentation.

THE Hibernian Society's Fête at the Caledonian grounds, Kensington, will be among the chief events of Boxing Day near Dunedin. These sports have grown in popularity yearly, and large numbers of people are to be reckoned among their regular visitors. Everything has been done this year to secure the comfort and amusement of those who attend.

MR. GLADSTONE replying to an article of Lord Brabourne's published in *Blackwood* speaks as follows:—"He seems to be unaware that historical dependence on the Crown, even the Crown of the *Dominus Hibernia*, was as strongly asserted by Dean Swift, for example, as dependence on the English Parliament was denied; and that the Parliament of the Pale grew into the Parliament of the nation, and would have obtained 90 years ago a worthy Constitution had it not been prevented by the British Government. Lord Brabourne will render good service to the cause he has espoused and will discharge the duty he has acknowledged if he can confute the assertions of Mr. Burke respecting the Grattan Parliament, and perhaps even more if he can perform the same office for the terrible proofs and citations contained in the memoir of Mr. O'Connell, published in 1843, which go to show, taken with what followed 1660, that the relations of England to Ireland have as a whole perhaps been more profoundly disgraced by cruelty and by fraud than those between any other nations in the entire history of Christendom."

MR. LAWRENSEN of Prince's street, Dunedin, has issued as a Christmas gift, a very pretty blotter. The idea is an original one and is tastefully carried out.

THE Christian Brothers' schools Dunedin, will re-open after the holidays on Monday January 24.

THE Tory Government seem to be attempting to make the legitimate proceedings of the Land League in receiving such sums as tenants are able to pay in the way of rent and acting as their agents a pretence for coercing the country. We have, however, as yet only the version of the matter given us by the unfriendly hands that direct the cable, and cannot form any precise judgments. But our confidence in the wisdom of the League remains unshaken.

WE have to acknowledge the receipt from the Hon. Secretary of the Irish National League, Kumara, of the sum of £33 15s, for transmission to the Hon. Secretary of the League at Dublin.

WITH the next number of the TABLET we shall issue a handsome sheet almanac, containing besides the calendar, the despatch and arrival of the European mails, the principal Catholic festivals and fasts throughout the year, with some event to mark each day.

LORD DENBIGH, who has lately returned from a visit to Rome gives his Conservative friends a version of an attempt evidently made by him to re-enact the famous part played by Sir George Errington, at the Vatican. He does not seem to have succeeded very remarkably in his interview with the Pope, who clearly confined himself to what was polite, but strictly not committing. Lord Denbigh gives his friends to understand that with an English envoy at the Vatican, England could turn Ireland with ease around on her little finger. He deplores the complete ignorance of Irish affairs shown by the Holy Father, who, nevertheless, is exactly informed of all that takes place there through the Irish hierarchy. Nothing can be clearer, in fact, than the polite reticence maintained by His Holiness. Of Lord Denbigh's sagacity as to other political matters, we may judge by his expressed belief that since the advent of the Tories to power, foreign nations looked on England with more respect. Lord Randolph Churchill's fighting shy at Bradford of the proposal made to follow the policy of Lord Beaconsfield sufficiently answers that.

"THE CANTERBURY IRISH" AT THE CALEDONIAN SPORTS.

NEVER since the foundation of the province did the the good people of Canterbury celebrate the anniversary in such a thorough manner. Many and different were the attractions provided; sports, picnics, Sunday school treats, excursions, and even camp meetings were not wanting for those whose spiritual wants require such a stimulus. Thousands went to various parts of the country by rail and boat, thousands visited the sports and unemployed picnic at Hagley Park; whilst the varied and attractive bill of fare provided by the Caledonian Society at Lancaster Park brought together about 2,000 persons, the greater part of whom, no doubt, were born, or at least their parents were, beyond the Tweed. Among the principal items were a bayonet competition and a tug of war, open to Volunteer companies alone. There was a good deal of interest attached to both these events, as it was known for some time that the Scotchmen would strain every nerve to keep them, especially that for the bayonet exercise, in the hands of their compatriots. For the first-named, three companies competed, Scotch, Lyttelton Navals, and Irish, the latter being evidently out of the running, as they were a junior company, and had never entered before, so that the knowing ones, looked wise, shook their heads, and regretted in pure Doric the futility of such an attempt. Yet their surprise was great, although not near so great as their chagrin, when the judges announced that the Irish headed the list, being several points ahead of the Navals, the Scotchmen making a very respectable rear-guard. This was the more creditable to the successful squad, as they had only just arrived in town a few minutes before, after a hard morning's work at Kaiapori, marching over sandhills and through manuka scrub, whereas their opponents remained at home in order to be fresh for the contest. Four teams entered for the tug of war, one from each of the foregoing, and one from Kaiapori. It was evident however that the contest would lie between the Kaiapori men and the Irish the others, so smarting under their recent unexpected defeat, raised a churlish objection to the judges, who were the same as those in those in the bayonet competition, and consequently left the field. The teams seemed very evenly balanced, and it was a matter of much doubt for a minute or two which side would be victorious, but after a little it was seen that the pull was going steadily and slowly in the direction of the Kaiapori men, when a thousand Scotch throats shouted "Well done Kaiapori," but never did Chanticleer's note of defiance on his own dunghill produce such unexpected results. Whatever it did in the way of encouragement for the Kaiapori men, it had far greater effect on the Irish mettle, for the last notes had scarcely died out ere they responded by pulling their opponents over the line. The second attempt was somewhat similar to the first, and resulted in a win for the Irish team, thus on their first appearance in a public competition succeeding in carrying away two prizes from some of the smartest Companies in Canterbury. It is a pity that the Scotchmen did not take their beating in a more dignified manner, and not display such rudeness to the judges, and want of generosity to the victorious, especially as they were, to a certain extent, acting the parts of hosts at their own sports. After the competition, the successful and defeated teams were hospitably entertained by Mr. Wallace of the Central Hotel, who is richer by a couple of new hats through the success of the Irish team.