

professional blacklegs, defaulters who had embezzled the convent's money and cooked their accounts, cowed ruffians who were actually confined in the prisons of the monasteries for their crimes—these and the like were the men to whom the visitors looked, and whose inventions they reported, or even exaggerated. Considering the tremendous pressure used, and the incomparably unscrupulous character of the emissaries engaged, Mr. Gairdner is more than justified in his remark that 'the wonder, indeed, is that the recorded cases are so few, and that in spite of all the inducement offered under the new regime to appeal to the king's vicegerent or the visitors, there are not more frequent instances . . . a fact which, duly considered, seems to imply that the rule in most houses was far more wholesome and more willingly submitted to than many have been hitherto disposed to believe.' But these were the wretches who began the good work that has since been continued by such worthy members of society, for example, as Miss Biddy O'Gorman, and Messrs. Chiniquy and Theodore Oswald Keatinge, and other abandoned and vile, or criminal people. And the call for the wares so furnished is almost of the same character to-day that it was in the time of King Henry VIII. Then it existed principally in the lust and greed of the King and his minions, and now we find it in the itching for filth that distinguishes a base minded mob. The Orangemen especially were well foreshadowed in their great predecessors, Cromwell, and London, their comrades, and their myrmaids.

By the death of Mr. James McMaster, editor of the *New York Freeman's Journal*, which occurred recently in the city in question. Catholic journalism has lost one of its most able and estimable members. Mr. McMaster was a convert from Presbyterianism to the Catholic Church, and almost from the first devoted his talents and learning, which were both very considerable, to her service in the Press. It will be hard to fill the place which he has left vacant.—R.L.P.

THE plaintiff in the case in which Mr. J. Liston, of the Douglas Hotel, Dunedin, was lately defendant, has been committed for trial on a charge of perjury committed during the hearing of the case on the 7th inst.

ONE of the two scholarships given by Bishop Redwood (says the *Hokitika Guardian*), has been taken by Master James Ward, of St. Mary's School, Hokitika, which is conducted by Mr. P. Duggan. The competition was open to all schools in the Wellington diocese, which includes Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Wellington, Canterbury, Westland, and Marlborough. Master Ward is a son of Mr. J. Ward, of Hokitika, to whom as well as to Mr. Duggan, the success of Master Ward is highly satisfactory.

A CURIOUS freak on the part of a miser, lately came out in one of the American law courts. The individual in question happened to die, apparently leaving a good deal less property than he was reputed to possess. Litigation, however, arose concerning what he did seem to leave, and in the course of the trial one of the witnesses mentioned that there was in his possession a bundle tied up in a handkerchief, which the deceased had given into his keeping some years ago, and which he had never opened, believing it to contain manuscript only, as the miser had also dabbled a little in literature. The bundle accordingly was brought into court, and being untied there was found to contain notes and securities amounting to the value of £70,000. Under the circumstances, the feelings of the witness would, of course, depend upon the nature of his honesty.

THE Union Steamship Company have issued a very neat guide to the Colony, which should prove welcome to tourists desirous of visiting the various interesting localities. It is named "New Zealand, the Wonderland of the World," and the illustrations it contains well bear out the claim contained in the title. Graphic descriptions of the places mentioned are also furnished.

ON the 26th of November the Catholics of Copenhagen celebrated the 200th anniversary of the death of their celebrated countryman, Neil Stensen, the founder of the science of geology. Stensen, who was an eminent man of science, and had been the intimate friend of the famous pantheist Spinoza, became a convert from Lutheranism to the Catholic Church, and after a life of great devotion, and especially of charity towards the poor, died while exercising the office of a bishop at Schwerin in 1686.

In the greater world of politics the week has not been distinguished by any startling or unexpected events. Mr. Parnell's amendment on the Address-in-reply demanding concessions rather than coercion for Ireland has been defeated by a majority of 109. The rumour of an impending war between France and Germany still continues, and Russia is still said to be meditating some hostile undertaking, but as to whether England is to share in her hostility, or even to monopolise it, nothing as yet gives any clear indication. The assembling of a Russian fleet in Japanese waters may, however, give us some suspicions as to what is really intended. A petition meantime, is being signed by the Russian people praying the Czar to assume the sovereignty of such Christian provinces as remain under the control of the Sultan, while at the same time, another conspiracy against His Majesty's life has been discovered. In

Afghanistan a general revolt against the Ameer is said to be threatened, and in Burmah matters once more give signs of protracted disturbance. Portugal, again, displays an astonishing spirit of "cheek" in demanding of the Sultan of Zanzibar the surrender of territory declared to be his by England and Germany combined. In Italy Ministerial troubles, probably caused by the defeat of the troops in Abyssinia, are causing excitement. In New South Wales Sir Henry Parkes, the newly appointed Premier, has been mobbed and, perhaps not without excuse, threatened with rough treatment. In the New Hebrides the French are said to be ill-treating the natives, they themselves at the same time suffering from fever. And on the whole a rather uneasy condition of things seems to be generally prevalent with a complete uncertainty as to the final issue.

The drawing of the art-union in aid of the Port Chalmers Presbytery fund has been unavoidably postponed until March 17th. The prize list in this undertaking contains a large number of valuable articles, and of itself should serve as a very effective attraction. But there is besides the object to be served, and which recommends itself strongly to the consideration of all Catholics. The necessity of providing for the discharge of the debt on the building is pressing, and it is earnestly hoped that all who can do so will make an effort to ensure the success of the undertaking adopted for the purpose.

THE entertainments given this week in Dunedin in aid of the fund for converting the old church building into a hall and class rooms for St. Joseph's school passed off with great success. The young ladies who took part in the various plays entered into the spirit of the characters undertaken by them with great intelligence and gave excellent representations. The *tableaux vivants* were also exceedingly good and displayed a most artistic taste in their arrangement, and the musical selections both vocal and instrumental were all that could be desired. Besides the advantages to be afforded by the building in question as increased and unrivalled accommodation for the pupils of St. Joseph's school, the means it thus furnishes of holding choice and pleasant entertainments are very valuable and such as the Catholic congregation may well congratulate themselves on possessing.

We are requested by the Most Rev. Dr. Moran to acknowledge the receipt of £3, towards the Dunedin Cathedral building fund, from Mr. J. O'Connell, of Papakaio.

THE stained glass for the rose window in the facade of St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, the gift of Miss Murphy and Mr. P. Murphy, has arrived from the establishment of Messrs. Mayer at Munich, and is now being placed in the frames. It is of great beauty, and will form an additional ornament of a high order to the beautiful church.

Those requiring the services of a dentist should call on Messrs. MYERS and CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial work gives general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read.

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Mr. Arthur Smith has purchased Mr. A. Dornwell's business in Princess street, South, Dunedin, and will take care to provide his customers with meat of the best possible quality only, and at the lowest prices possible.

Mr. Denis Moloney, late of the Ocean View Hotel, South Dunedin, has taken the Kensington Hotel, which he will carry on in his accustomed excellent style.

A cheap sale is now being held at the Granite House, George street, Dunedin. Marvellous bargains in the way of drapery and everything connected with it are thus offered to the public, who, for their own sakes, should not be backward in taking advantage of the opportunity afforded to them.

The society of St. Petersburg is exercised by a scandalous affair, the unfortunate hero of which is Count Alexander Apraxine, member of one of the first and most notable families of the Empire. A youth of seventeen, he was sentenced to five years' banishment for theft, but he obtained a pardon from the Emperor. He had afterwards a disgraceful affair in Austria, and was obliged to leave that country. Now, for having forged some cheques, he has been sentenced to Siberia for 12 years. But the day after the verdict, at the earnest entreaty of his relatives, who belong to the very highest circles, and hold offices about the Court, the Emperor has again partially remitted the sentence, and there is no doubt whatever but that the Count Apraxine will never be sent to Siberia. It will be easily understood that this repeated clemency of the Czar in favour of so perverted a scion of nobility is looked upon by the Opposition with un concealed discontent. So implacable towards political offenders, the Czar is over-merciful to one who deserves neither pity nor forgiveness. It would be wiser and truer policy towards the aristocracy in these democratic days to remove, instead of preserving, its worthless and rotten branches.