

Thugs to do the work. Care should be taken, however, to send them the other way on their departure.

LORD SALISBURY and his Cabinet are evidently very nervous in the matter of coercion for Ireland. They are putting off the evil day as long as they can, and announce that the powers afforded by the ordinary law alone will be availed of until the estimates and procedure rules are passed. The nervousness felt by the party generally is, moreover, shown by the recommendations made by certain of its members that a local government Bill on popular lines shall be introduced. The Conservative defeat by a majority of 545 at Burnley, as well as Mr. Goschen's recent failure at Liverpool, has probably had something to do with the state of doubt that is thus made manifest. The victory at Burnley, again, may be taken as a double gain for not only has a Conservative candidate been defeated, but a Gladstonite has been returned in place of Mr. Peter Rylands, the deceased Member, who was one of Mr. Chamberlain's most devoted followers.

If we are to judge of the manner in which the British navy, as it now exists, will conduct itself in action, and of the efficiency with which it will be commanded during any time of war, by certain events in which some of its iron-clads have recently taken part, our reliance on the prodigies to be performed by it must needs become somewhat weakened. The Sultan, for example, has proved unable to steam up the Tagus without sinking one vessel, that lay quietly at anchor there, and drifting against and staving in another, and the Minotaur, the flagship of the squadron, at the mouth of the same river knocked against the Monarch and caused much damage.—Whether the ships are unwieldy or their commanders are incapable probably in the end comes to the same thing, for better ships or better men cannot be procured at a moment's notice.—It will, moreover be remembered that other ironclads behaved in a somewhat similar way off the Irish coast two or three years ago.

THE occurrence of Mr. Gladstone's 77th birthday on Wednesday (says the *Nation*, of January 1.) was seized upon by his countless friends and admirers to demonstrate their feelings of friendship and regard toward him. All day the post-office kept sending on to Hawarden Castle every variety and form of congratulation—letters and telegrams by the bushel, and presents of all kinds—forwarded by all classes. From Ireland came special congratulatory messages, and ones that must have gladdened the heart of the grand old statesman. The great Archbishop of the South, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and the Mayor of Cork telegraphed Mr. Gladstone best wishes, and expressed the hope that he may have the glory of carrying forward to a triumphant success the glorious work for Ireland into which he has thrown himself with such noble ardour. This is a hope that will be heartily echoed by millions; and there is good reason for rejoicing at the fact that whilst confusion and dismay reign supreme in the councils of those who would continue the old evil traditions of British rule in Ireland, Mr. Gladstone's seventy-seventh birthday finds him strong in health and confident of the triumph of his policy, which has been stamped with the approval of the civilised world.

HIS Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney has had a triumphant visit to Perth in Western Australia where he went for the purpose of consecrating the Most Rev. Dr. Gilney, newly appointed Bishop of the diocese in room of the late Most Rev. Dr. Griver. The accounts of the reception given to his Eminence, and the homage paid to him generally, not only by Catholics, but by all classes of the community, are glowing in the extreme. It is gratifying to find the presence of one so well fitted to sustain the honour of the Church thus duly recognised, and the best results to religion and the welfare of the Catholic people in general may be expected from it.

Among the many amiable qualities possessed by Sir Henry Parkes, that of giving remarkable verbal descriptions of the persons of his political opponents is to be counted. We find him, for example, describing one Mr. Hyam at Balmain the other day as a "craven-spirited, poodle-headed creature." And again he spoke of a certain Mr. Luscombe as "that notable creature, who forever with his spear-eagle whiskers and extraordinary expression of face, puts me in mind of a withered tarantula." We do not know whether this kind of caricaturing in words adds to the honours borne by the redoubtable Sir Henry. Perhaps his supporters think it does, for it is hard to conceive how any man of a decent frame of mind can be found among them. But it is little to the credit of New South Wales that it owes for its Premier such a fish-fag. We are not very proud of many of our own New Zealand statesmen, but the meanest of them would hardly so disgrace himself.

A VERY successful and pleasant entertainment was given on Monday evening in Clarke's Hall, South Dunedin, in aid of improvements to St. Patrick's Church. The vocalists on the occasion were Mrs. C. L. Lemon, the Misses Woods, and R. Drummond; and Messrs. J. Congdon, T. Wootton, Packer, A. McKenzie, and Payne. Mr. W. J. Power gave a recitation, Master A. Peters a violin solo, and Masters J. D. and D. McKechnie a sword dance, Messrs. J. McLellan and J. C. McKechnie acting as pipers. The comedietta "A Match for a Husband" was acted with spirit by Miss May Vivian and Mr. Harry Clayton. Mr. C. L. Lemon filled the part of accompanist with his usual ability.

No more bitter censure has ever been passed on any class of people than that unconsciously pronounced against the English aristocracy by Mrs. Blood the other day during the course of the recent detestable divorce case. This lady was asked if, knowing as she did the true character of the Duke of Marlborough, she considered him fit company for her daughter. Her reply was to the effect that she did so consider him, and that there were many other members of the higher ranks of society who were quite as bad or even worse. The Duke of Marlborough, meantime, is the patron of eleven livings in the Church of England—and of him and his kind—those who are as bad or worse, does the hereditary Chamber that controls the British Empire in a great degree consist.

AN edition of the "Messenger of the Sacred Heart" is now issued in Melbourne. The periodical appears monthly and in every respect does credit to the Rev. Father Ryan S.J., its proprietor, and the Rev. Father Watson S.J., its editor. The desirableness of securing a large circulation for this excellent and edifying publication is obvious and the small subscription of half-a-crown a year paid in advance should make that easy. Orders should be sent at once to the Rev. Father Ryan S.J., St. Patrick's College, Melbourne, and we hope to find the Catholics of New Zealand ardently endeavouring to promote so deserving an undertaking.

REPORTS of growing disorder in Ireland as received here by cable must as usual be received by us with reservations and caution. We may allude particularly to the announcement that the Archbishop of Cashel had recommended the non-payment of taxes. The recommendation, meantime, made by the Land Commissioners that rents should be revised every five years goes far to justify the Plan of Campaign and to bear out Archbishop Walsh's approval of that undertaking.

A good many people were distressed at finding that General Sir William Butler, the husband of the painter of the Roll-Call and himself a Catholic officer of distinction, was one of the persons accused in the infamous Colin Campbell divorce case.—There does not seem however, to have been a shadow of doubt as to the General's complete innocence—and his refusal to appear on the trial may well be explained as arising from the natural indignation of a high-spirited man at finding himself called upon to appear in such a position on the mere word of a lying servant-girl.—Sir William Thompson had, besides, made a declaration that his relations towards Lady Colin Campbell were those only of a friendly acquaintance. It is evident that nothing approaching even to a close friendship existed between the parties in question.

THE Dunedin Catholic Literary Society meet on Wednesday next. All the members are requested to attend.

The capital sentence has been carried out at Auckland on the men found guilty of the Great Barrier murder. They seem to have been very penitent for their crime, but, perhaps, a little too much has been said about the manner in which they gave themselves up to religious studies, and enjoyed the perusal of pious books. Such reading however, appears to have been a favourite pursuit of theirs all along for even on their involuntary voyage to Australia in the *Sovereign of the Seas*, they are reported to have carried a Bible and a hymn-book with them.

A SERIES of three entertainments has been undertaken by the members of St. Joseph's cathedral choir, Dunedin, for the purpose of defraying the expense of improving their organ by the purchase of two new stops. The entertainments will take place respectively on March 3, and 24, and April 21, and as they will be under the conductorship of Herr Benno Scherk an ample guarantee is afforded of their high character. As any improvement in the organ will be a benefit very fully partial in by the congregation at large, the object is one that should prove popular and secure a hearty co-operation.

THE usual fortnightly meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society, was held on February 9,—Mr. R. A. Dunne in the chair. The programme consisted of readings by Messrs. Dunne, Gunning, and Dundon, and recitations by Messrs. Hayes, Power, and Eagar. These gentlemen were accorded a hearty vote of thanks for their efforts by the meeting.

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 a 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.

WANTED.—A live, energetic man or woman in every town to act as our agent, £10 a week and expenses paid. Permanent employment given to all. Valuable samples and all particulars, free. Address at once, J. F. HILL & CO., Augusta, Maine, United States. *Don't miss this chance. Write to day.*

Mr. F. H. Ashbury, Castle street, Dunedin, calls attention to his patent process for warming and ventilating buildings of every kind. Nothing can be more conducive to health and comfort or more calculated to remove all the difficulties and unpleasantness attendant on old-fashioned methods.