

destroyed, denominationalism becomes inevitable. Well, we say what exists in other countries cannot be impossible here. A different system exists, for example, in Canada, under precisely similar conditions. Why not, then, introduce the Canadian system here, and thus give contentment and justice to all, as is the case in Canada? We do not even desire the destruction of all public secular schools. If there are people who prefer these, we have no desire to deprive them of their preference; but if there are people, as there are, who prefer denominational schools, we think it is most unjust to place obstacles in the way of their having their preference realised. In Canada, schools are supported by rates, fees, when people are agreed upon them, and aid from the general Government. Wherever people establish a school and send to it a certain number of pupils, they become *ipso facto* entitled to a fair share of the rates and to a certain amount of aid from Government. This does not interfere with public schools, properly so-called, supported in the same way, but it secures justice for minorities, and promotes peace and harmony in the State. A similar system here would produce similar effects, and whilst relieving the general revenue, render the life of the Treasurer tolerable. It seems to us, after reading Mr. ROLLSTON'S speech, that whilst he will continue to advocate our public school system, he would not oppose a modification of it in the direction of the Canadian system, and we fancy that all our responsible public men would be only too glad to see such a system established in New Zealand. The present system is fast becoming an impossibility.

ON last Sunday the Bishop of the diocese assisted at the conclusion of the mission of the Redemptorist Fathers at Gore, and gave Confirmation to 98 persons. On Sunday next his Lordship will be in Balclutha to open the new church that has been erected there. On Wednesday last a mission began at Wrey's Bush, and on Sunday last the mission commenced in Invercargill. The retreat for the priests will begin in Dunedin on Monday next. The mission of the Redemptorists concluded in Winton on Sunday last, and the mission in Oamaru will begin on Sunday, the 20th. On Thursday next the Feast of St. Patrick, there will be High Mass in St. Patrick's, South Dunedin, at 9 a.m. On Saturday next, the Feast of St. Joseph, there will be High Mass in the Cathedral at 11 a.m.

OUR beloved brothers in the faith and edifying superiors in everything, the English Catholics of the Norfolk following continue ardent in making hay while the sun is shining:—"Mr. Edwin De Lisle, member for Middle Leicestershire, and one of the few Catholics returned by an English constituency," says a cablegram to the *Melbourne Telegraph*, "denounced the conduct of the Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, in issuing a manifesto against the payment of taxation in Ireland. He said that he would like to see the Archbishop tried for treason in London by a jury of English Catholics. His repudiation of Dr. Croke's conduct on the part of English Catholics was received with enthusiasm."—"But when they had condemned, hanged, drawn, and quartered, the Archbishop to their hearts' content, and great spiritual comfort, would not these English Catholics have to reckon with the Pope concerning the censure incurred by them in the matter?—That however would also be settled perhaps by the renewed diplomatic relations with the Vatican.—When that event takes place Mr. Edwin de Lisle, and all such cattle, are to do what they like with the Irish hierarchy.

THE New Anti-Clerical League have unfolded their banner at Milan. "Our banner," said the member who presented it, "is black as tradition would have the banner of the rebel angel to be." And yet this band who boast themselves enlisted under the devil's flag are possessed of the warm sympathies of many Christian people!

SHOULD a war occur, the Principalities themselves, as well as the Powers engaged in an attempt to settle their affairs, are likely to make some stir in the world. Bulgaria, Roumania, and Servia, taken together, possess a force of 316,000 men of all arms in the first line, and 280,000 in the second. This, it will be seen, forms a very respectable army, and should have some influence in deciding the course of events.

SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH has resigned his position as Chief Secretary for Ireland, still retaining a seat in the Cabinet, but without a portfolio. The pretext is cataract by which he is threatened with blindness. An attempt, however, to manage Irish affairs should be sufficient to open the eyes of any respectable English statesman to his purblind condition, and the fact of his practically avowing the discovery must be admitted as among the hopeful signs of the times. The odium and ridicule incurred by Sir Michael, owing to his examination on the recent trial in the Dublin Police Court of Mr. Dillon and his companions have no doubt contributed to bring about his resignation.

THE revolt in Bulgaria, which, in itself seems of little consequence, and has been easily subdued, was still probably of consider-

able importance as being excited for the purpose of affording a further excuse for interference in the affairs of the country. That some Russian subjects and some friends of Russia have been killed or executed is quite in accordance with this view of the situation, for the Government of the Czar would take little account of human lives, whether of friends or foes, were anything to be gained by their sacrifice. The treating attitude apparently assumed by the Russian Press because of these executions may probably be taken as a proof that the desired end has been secured and the needful pretence furnished. Meantime, the report that the Austrian Minister has given grounds to suspect the real mind of his Government towards the Russian aggression is probably well founded. Austria's great objection to Russian rule at Constantinople is known to be the fact that under such circumstances the Danube would become exclusively a Russian river, and that her interests would thus be gravely affected, or possibly completely destroyed. Were Salonica given to her as an equivalent, however, things would assume a different aspect, and suspicions have existed all along that an understanding prevailed to that effect.

LORD SALISBURY in his banqueting seems to share the fate of an ancient Egyptian at a feast. A skeleton is always present among the good cheer placed before him, and it constantly stares him in the face. He carries his skeleton about with him, in fact, and acts something after the fashion of a showman towards it. Everywhere he is expected to parade it and to explain all its various points. We allude to the Irish question on which his Lordship has been again holding forth—this time at a banquet given by the National Conservative Club. The Marquis is clearly in what we may vulgarly call a fix, and would, no doubt, be glad to be rid of his burden, but, like the traditional Tartar, it cannot be got rid of. The break-down of the jury system, it seems, is the particular phase of difficulty that prevails at present, and the question is how to raise it up again, or to abolish it with any appearance of decency. From the history of the Sligo jury, and the unblushing manner in which it was packed again and again, we may gain some notion of what Lord Salisbury's admission involves—and of how completely all the old engine—whether devilish or otherwise—by which the Irish people have been so long bullied has failed its employers. If juries can no longer be packed, let them, indeed, be abolished—but to replace them, there is the rub. By-the-by, could not a universal and permanent jury be appointed for all Ireland, consisting, let us say, of Mr. Edwin de Lisle and his pals: If the mountain will not go to Mahomet, why, let Mahomet go to the mountain. If Dr. Croke cannot be brought over for condign punishment, let this religious band manipulate him in his own archdiocese. Were their pretence hand so brought into use, what rebel could escape the halter?

THE correspondent of the *Times* writes from Paris on January 5 as follows:—"A decree of the Congregation of Rites has been issued to-day at the Vatican, which, by a decision of the 4th of December, approved by the Pope on the 9th, confirms the *cultus* rendered to Cardinal Fisher, Sir Thomas More, and 54 other English martyrs. This decree is equivalent to canonisation."—We have not yet received intelligence of the publication of the decree in England by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster—from which we shall in due time learn the full details.)

MR. THOMAS A. DICKSON, J.P., formerly Member of Parliament for County Tyrone, and always one of the most advanced thinkers among Ulster Liberals (says the *Dublin Freeman* of January 15), delivered a whole-hearted Home Rule speech at Tuesday's meeting of the Protestant Home Rule Association. For twelve long years Mr. Dickson fought the battle of the Northern farmers in the House of Commons. He tried to have leaseholders brought within the scope of remedial legislation, and he endeavoured to have tenant-right in town parks legalised, but he did not succeed. Mr. Dickson was not slow to see that the only policy which could produce the desired effect in the British Parliament was the policy pursued by the Irish National members, who have brought legislation for leaseholders and owners of town parks not only within measurable distance, but to the point of realisation at the hands—*mirabile dictu!*—of a Tory Government. Mr. Dickson expresses his belief that Northern Protestants are getting their eyes opened, and that very many of them are in favour of Home Rule who would not venture to say so publicly. We felicitate Mr. Dickson, who has now taken his proper place in the ranks of the active politicians of the time.

*United Ireland* refers as follows to the death of Lord Idlesleigh:—"The troubles of the Tory Ministry are thickened by a most tragic and ghastly event. Unfortunate Lord Idlesleigh dropped dead at the Prime Minister's residence just after he had been most foully and cruelly expelled from the Foreign Office in consequence of the changes necessitated by Mr. Goschen's sinister accession to the Ministry. It is no exaggeration to say that Lord Idlesleigh's blood is on the head of the ill-fated Ministry. His heart was literally broken by the scurvy treatment he received. Only two days ago his son complained of it indignantly in a public letter. Lord Salisbury will find Mr. Goschen's ill-omened co-operation but sorry compensation for the uncomfortable public feeling that will