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Current Topics

A HOME AND ABROAD.

THE *Star* *Herald* of July 26th published the following article. We do not, however, by any **HIGHLY SATISFACTORY!** means vouch for the truth of our contemporary's views as to the intentions of the Holy Father. The Pope, we feel assured, does not in the least doubt as to the attitude of the Irish priesthood with respect to "loyalty and union," and if any attempt is made anywhere to destroy the nationality of the Irish people, it is certainly made without his sanction. As to the remainder of the article we have nothing to say, but submit it, without note or comment, to the consideration of our readers:—"Whatever," (says our contemporary) "may be thought of the infallibility of the Pope, or of the religious system generally of which he is the representative, few would be disposed to deny that he holds a place among the chief diplomatists of the period. That much is proved by his reconciliation with Germany, and the marked consideration shown him by Prince Bismarck. The ecclesiastical appointments of the Roman Catholic Church which have been made in this Colony may, therefore, be regarded with considerable satisfaction, and in them may be seen favourable auspices for the future of the people. In selecting Marist Fathers as the principal bishops and priests in the country, the Pope has made a most judicious choice, and one which shows how great his desire is for the promotion of loyalty and union. The Marist Order is one which has had ample experience of revolutionary proceedings on the Continent of Europe, and has suffered considerable loss at the hands of men engaged in them. It may, therefore, be concluded that their sympathies are entirely against anything of the kind, and that, consequently, Fenianism and all its kindred movements will always find warm opponents in them. Archbishop Redwood, indeed, from the early connection of his family with that of Lord Clifford, may be looked upon as especially the representative of the English branch of Roman Catholicism in its best form, and as belonging to that party which is represented at Rome by Cardinal Howard, and other English ecclesiastics of high or noble birth. Although the exigencies of Dr. Redwood's position oblige him to show himself as more or less condescending towards the prejudices of his Irish flock, his whole conduct is in evidence that his sincere desire is to raise them from their peculiar condition, and place them on a level with the other people of the Colony by obliterating all those national and distinctive characteristics which now separate them from the other settlers. In this effort it is tolerably certain the Archbishop will be ably seconded by the new Bishop of Christchurch, Dr Grimes, who came (comes?) to the Colony from officiating at an English watering place, and, no doubt, shares in the opinions of the classes which have been members of his congregation, and has modified any extreme views he may have inherited from Irish parents under the influence of the better state of things prevailing in England, where, it is said, he was born and for the most part educated. The Colony in general will have something to thank the Pope for, if, as is to be hoped, these appointments made by him result in smoothing away all vexatious differences among the population, and promoting peace and harmony by removing those so-called national distinctions by which communities, where the Irish element is largely represented, are so often disturbed."

TRUTH AND FOLLY. DR. NEVILL's strictures on the godless schools have been the occasion of a tremendous amount of indignation, expressed in all possible manners. And the opinion of impartial people generally seems to be that, although his Lordship said nothing but what was true, he acted very foolishly in saying it. Statements which may be expected to produce a great commotion should hardly ever be made unless irrefutable proofs have been already prepared to sustain them. As to the schoolmasters who have given testimony in contradiction of the Bishop, it is delightful to witness the *couleur de rose* through which they look upon their pupils. But if their view of the matter be the correct one, the echoes of our localities bid fair to be aroused by the voice of Rachel weeping for her children. Such an immaculate race of youngsters, having elsewhere no existence

outside the pages of a goody book, cannot possibly reach maturity. It is to be noticed, meantime, that some of the masters speak with contempt of "children of a certain class," as they call them. Is that to say the children of people who are not well-to-do? When, however, Bishop Nevill again speaks the truth in public, it is to be hoped that he will do so with a greater degree of wisdom.

THE disgraceful enormity of our American system of divorce (says the *Catholic Columbian*) was, perhaps, never better exemplified than it was a few days since in Logan, Ohio, where a Mrs. Ellen McDonald was granted a divorce from her husband, and within ten minutes was "spliced" as helpmate with a Mr. Hart.

THE *Daily Telegraph* (says the London correspondent of the *Dublin Freeman* of June 11) published a ridiculous, though malignant, canard yesterday, to the effect that at a meeting of the Irish party held on Monday, at which Mr. Parnell was not present, Mr. Davitt's recent speeches were condemned. All that need be said of this story is that no meeting of any kind whatever has been held since Parliament met or since it separated. Although to the Irish people inventions of this kind carry their character on their faces, it is always better to nail them distinctly, so as to avoid the shadow of a chance of misconception.

It is an interesting fact (says the *Dublin Freeman*) that Mr. Gladstone's Swansea speeches were delivered at the residence of one of the members of Parliament who voted against the second reading of the Home Rule Bill, and thus created the situation which Mr. Gladstone's speeches are now designed to remove. Mr. Hussey Vivian, M.P., of Singleton Abbey, Swansea, is now back to the Gladstonian fold.

MONSIGNOR KIRBY, of the Irish College in Rome (says the correspondent of a New York paper), is an old man, eighty-seven years of age. Before he was a priest he was a Home Ruler. He spoke with O'Connell at Waterford more than sixty years ago, and he has never wavered in his devotion to the nationality of Ireland. He has never been associated with the foes of Ireland. When Sir George Errington was in Rome in his celebrated attempt to enlist the authority of the Vatican on the English side, Monsignor Kirby went personally to the Pope, who had been his college class-mate, and earnestly warned the Holy Father against the English intrigue. Monsignor Kirby is the close friend of Archbishop Walsh of Dublin; he was the teacher of Archbishop Croke. In regard to Ireland their sentiments are his. There is no difference of opinion or feeling between them.

MISS ELLA MILLER, a Baptist missionary, writes as follows:—"The Roman Catholics are everywhere in India. I would sooner contend with Brahminism and Buddhism, or any other form of heathenism, than with Catholicism." Of course she would, and most naturally. Falsehood may prevail against falsehood, but truth is impregnable. The devil is not divided against himself, and therefore all false religions must have something in common. We can quite understand Miss Miller's sympathies.

THE Brief on Temperance addressed by the Pope to Bishop Ireland has called forth the following testimony on the part of the *Lancet*:—"Leo XIII., even more than his predecessor Pius IX., has made the social amelioration of the masses an object of Catholic concern, mobilising the forces of the Church, and even calling on public hygiene to assist in the philanthropic crusade."

GERMAN COMPETITION. ON Friday, June 4, the Emperor of Germany at Keil, laid the foundation of the principal lock of the great ship canal that is to connect the German Ocean and the rivers Elbe and Weser directly with the Baltic Sea, and thus renders the war and commercial marine of the Empire independent of all European Powers in keeping up com-