

Coast, where as an Irishman and a Catholic he had no superior.—
R.I.P.

THE new Parliament was opened at Wellington on Thursday, 6th inst.; and on Tuesday Major Atkinson announced the formation of the Cabinet as follows:—Major Atkinson, Premier, Colonial Treasurer, and Postmaster-general; Mr. E. Mitchelson, Minister for Public Works and Native Minister; Mr. T. W. Hislop, Colonial Secretary, Mr. T. Fergus, Minister of Justice and Defence; Mr. G. Fisher, Minister of Education; Mr. G. F. Richardson, Minister of Lands, Immigration, and Mines; Sir. F. Whitaker, Attorney-general; Hon. Mr. Stevens in the Upper House without portfolio. We do not know that there is anything particular for us to say about this Ministry. Some of its members are untried as Ministers and of those that are familiar in the character there is no very favourable record to recall. But the old proverb says, "It is never too late to mend," and as long as it is possible, we shall hope for the best. There is, at least, plenty of room for improvement and urgent need of it.

In the Anglican Synod lately held in Wellington strong arguments were urged in favour of denominational education, which was preferred to the introduction of Bible-reading into the schools. Among the reasons brought forward in advocacy of the change were the saving to the country that must result; the inefficiency of the present system, which fails notably in country districts, where large tracts containing numerous children are unprovided with schools; and the peculiar nature of the prevailing larrikinism, which a gentleman who judged by his personal experience pronounced worse than anything to be found among the factory boys of the great English cities. The speaker referred to what he called the "educated well-bred larrikins." The Right Rev. President pledged himself to continue his denunciation of the godless system as long as he should live.

THE Pectoral Cross to be presented to Dr. Grimes, the new Catholic Bishop of Christchurch, is very elegant, the design being by Mr. J. F. Stratz, jeweller, 261 High street, Christchurch. It is an Irish Trefoil Cross, with shamrocks and lilies entwined and embossed on it, and the crest of the Bishop engraved in the centre. It is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and weighs 4 ounces of solid gold; attached is a solid gold chain, 33 inches in length, complete with slide and tassel, weighing 5 ounces. Mr. Stratz received the order to make them, which he did on his premises, and has them now exhibited in one of his windows. As this is the first pectoral cross and chain manufactured in Christchurch, and most likely in the colonies, Mr. Stratz must be congratulated on the very handsome and artistic manner in which they are finished.

WHEN all the branches of trade and industry in Ireland for which Government aid and encouragement is alleged to be necessary are considered it might almost seem as if some exaggeration existed, at least in the expectations of what must result. The aiding hand is claimed in every direction, and if there be no fault on the part of the people, the sum of culpable neglect to be amended is indeed gigantic. Where there is not neglect there is mismanagement, as, for instance, in the railway system, which, although managed by ten times as many directors, with an immense staff of assistants, as those who manage a certain English company owning a line of almost equal mileage, and possessing a capital three times as great and annual receipts amounting to four times the capital and receipts combined of all the Irish railways, is still a dismal failure, and an impediment rather than an assistance to the welfare of the country. The management of the Irish railways needs Government control and assistance; so do the flax and woollen trades; so does the drainage of the country; so does agriculture, and, in short, everything almost that can be thought of. There are, however, two examples that may be pointed to as proving conclusively that neither the claims made nor the expectations of results formed are wild or exaggerated. There is the enterprise of Mrs. Hart in Donegal by which it is proved how effectively the people may be aided by instruction, supervision, and assistance. There are, besides, and on a larger scale, the great results produced in Baltimore by the judicious liberality towards the fisheries of the Lady Burdett-Coutts. The necessary conclusion come to, therefore, is that culpable neglect has hitherto prevailed, and that it always must prevail, until a system of local government is established to deal fully with all that requires amendment. The task is beyond the power of the Imperial Parliament, even if the goodwill to undertake it were present there—and can be performed only under the system of Home Rule.

ONE or other of the London weeklies publishes a letter which is supposed to contain a faithful illustration of the general state of affairs in Ireland. The correspondent relates how an awful and wonderful construction in the way of a baby who had just learned to talk, on being told that the mother of a little comrade was dead, naively inquired "Who shot her." "There is where the joke comes in." Irish babies take it as a matter of course that everyone who

dies has been shot. Verily, a dreadful country standing sorely in need of perpetual coercion!

THE days when the doings of Irish landlordism or the Government that backs it up can be misrepresented with impunity in England are evidently gone by for ever. Mr. Norman, the correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, who was present at the Bodyke evictions, was contradicted by Mr. Balfour, speaking in Parliament, who said that the reports published were a mass of fabrications. Mr. Norman now publishes his letters in book form, and challenges Mr. Balfour to repeat his contradiction of the statements made, in any place where Parliamentary privileges may not hold him irresponsible, so that the truth or falsehood of the matter may be proved in a court of law. But Mr. Balfour preserves a prudent silence, leaving the country to judge. Of what its verdict will be we cannot entertain much doubt.

THE Roman correspondent of the *Nation* gives the following directions as to sending jubilee gifts to Rome:—They must be addressed as follows: Vatican Exhibition. To his Holiness the Sovereign Pontiff, Leo XIII., Vatican, Rome, (Italy).—The objects must be carefully packed, and each must have attached a small card indicating the name and surname of the donor, the name of his diocese, the name of the object, and, if the exhibit is intended to compete for diplomas and medals, the formula of declaration prescribed by the regulations of the *Commission Promotrice* or the National Committee. The nature of the articles must be clearly indicated on the despatch notes. Immediately after the despatch of the exhibits the sender must advise the Roman committee by a letter to "Mgr. le Command. Filippo Tolli, Via della Maddalena, N. 27, Rome"; of the date of despatch, the place from which they have been sent, the list of articles contained in the case, the name and surname of the donor, and a copy of the declaration prescribed for articles intended for competition. If more than two cases are sent they must be numbered, and the number indicated in the above letter accordingly. The articles must be sent, carriage paid, to Rome. Articles so sent will be free from all Italian tax. No letter must be enclosed or otherwise the parcel would run the risk of confiscation.

THE news of the reception which Monsignor Persico is receiving from the Irish people is producing a lively satisfaction here (writes the Roman correspondent of the *Nation*). The declaration of his Excellency that the Holy Father would receive with joy these expressions of the love of the children of St. Patrick is noted; and one of the journals recalls the fact that when in London in 1846, the Pope, then Nuncio at Brussels, met O'Connell, "which fact," says the writer, is one bond more between Leo XIII. and his Irish children."

MR. GLADSTONE still keeps up his heart, and seems cheered by the prospect of nearly approaching success. In replying the other day to a deputation from Kidderminster, which presented him with a handsome carpet, he predicted the speedy settlement of the Irish question, and attributed it to the action of the Tories. The congratulations thus bestowed upon them in advance must be particularly pleasing to Lord Salisbury and his party.

MR. BRIGHT declares that a necessity exists for Irish tenants to free themselves from the suspicion of conspiring to encourage dishonesty and crime. But who suspects them? Or is it worth their while or possible for them to clear themselves in the eyes of men whose interest lies in such suspicions, and who, in spite of all evidence, are bound to invent them. Mr. Bright should propose to his friends that they should clear themselves from prejudice and voluntary blindness, so that the undertaking he proposes to the Irish tenants may have a fair prospect of success.

Is it conducive to the peace of Europe, which Signor Crispi boasts has been secured by the alliance formed by him for Italy with Austria and Germany, that he openly declares the step was taken to thwart the designs of Russia towards the Levant? And also that the purpose of checking French aggression has been stated to have entered closely into the matter? It may be so, but there are still various considerations that seem to make the idea doubtful. We have, for example, heard an influential Russian newspaper express an opinion that the consolidation of the German Empire depended on the weakening of Russia and France—and that Prince Bismarck was prepared to effect this when the time arrived.—Is it likely that Russia and France will patiently await the threatened hour?

A MINUTE by which a Blue-book recently issued on trade-unions is prefaced gives the total membership throughout the country as probably amounting to 600,000. The percentage of unemployed is high and that of the sick and superannuated is quite sufficient. To provide for these chances is one of the most useful objects of the unions. The report contradicts a common notion that trade-unions demand a uniform rate of wages. What they do is to lay down a minimum