

even before it, they are very doubtful. The *Scotsman*, for example, some years ago published an article in which the writer affirmed that the results of a careful inquiry had convinced him that a large percentage of the pupils who had attended the Scotch schools, in a few years afterwards, had forgotten all that they had learned, including even the art of reading. What is still more to the purpose, again, the Royal Commission lately held in England on the work of the public schools has brought out the fact of a similar forgetfulness. Young people who had spent the required time at school, on presenting themselves afterwards at the night-schools, have been found to be in a complete state of ignorance. And this is a condition of things that must be promoted by the nature of an educational system by which the pupil on leaving school is lost sight of, and no longer forms an object of interest for anyone belonging to the educational staff of the country. Its remedy is only to be found in a system under which the late pupils would continue to receive due care and attention—such as might, and for the most part would certainly, be bestowed upon them by the patrons of denominational schools.

The poor man, then, not only pays for the education of his wealthy neighbour's children, while his own must leave off their studies, but receives for all his share of the benefits an imperfect equipment for his children, which is insufficient probably to be of any practical use to them, and which may be altogether lost by them before many months have expired.

Into the provisions of retrenchment, therefore, the educational taxation of the Colony may very well enter, for, as we see, nothing can be more unjust than its present apportionment. It is unfair to the isolated country settler, as it is to the Catholic everywhere, and it is unfair especially to the poor man, from whose slender resources it takes for the benefit of the wealthy—conferring upon him instead at best an imperfect and probably a totally worthless and useless return.

THE Most Rev. Dr. Moran was expected to return from Melbourne by the s.s. *Mararoa*, which arrived at Port Chalmers on Monday, and preparations had been made for the presentation, to which we have already several times alluded, to take place on Wednesday evening. A letter, however, was received from the Bishop to the effect that he had acceded to the request of the Archbishop of Melbourne that he would delay his return for another week—to which he consented the more readily since some nuns of the Dominican Order, destined for Dunedin, had arrived at Adelaide, and his Lordship desired to accompany them in their passage to this Colony. It is expected that the Bishop will certainly reach Dunedin on Tuesday, and as the presentation will most probably be made to him on Wednesday evening, it is requested that those who have still contributions to the testimonial to forward will do so by Monday, or Tuesday at latest.

THE Venerable Archdeacon Coleman was present on Wednesday evening at the meeting of the Confraternity of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin. The Archdeacon delivered to the members a most interesting and practical discourse, recommending the frequent reception of the sacraments and attention to the devotion of the Rosary not only in the church but in their own houses. He also congratulated them on their numerous attendance.

WE are glad to learn that mining affairs at the Shotover continue to present most gratifying features. A private message informs us that in the Gallant Tipperary last week's scraping resulted in 68ozs. of amalgam from 50 tons of stone. Such tidings are particularly cheerful in these depressed times.

THE funeral of Mr. F. J. Tracey, which took place last week in Christchurch, was remarkable for the attendance at it of the members of the Bicycle Club to which the deceased had belonged. A procession of cyclists leading their machines followed the *cortège* to the New Brighton cemetery, where the Rev. Father O'Hallahan officiated. The event is regarded as a gratifying proof of the spirit of good fellowship prevailing among the wheelmen, as well as a striking testimony to the respect in which their late comrade had been held by them.

WE regret to announce the death of Mrs. Donnelly, a lady well-known in Dunedin, and for many years a highly-respected member of St. Joseph's congregation, which took place on Sunday at Wellington. Mrs. Donnelly, who was the mother of Mr. Michael Donnelly, editor of the Christchurch *Telegraph*, and of Miss A. C. Donnelly with whose graceful pen most of our readers are acquainted, had been in delicate health for some time previous to her departure from this city, which occurred some months ago.

MR. and MRS. AGNEW, we see, have applied to the Dunedin Charitable aid Board for assistance, but without very much success. If it be true, as confidently alleged, that these people were wrongly deprived of their improvements on their land by a mistake of the Government, and that in consequence they are unable to live upon it, their case is something more than a hard one to themselves, for it gives, besides, to all the Colony an example of lasting injustice. It is much to be desired that an inquiry may be made into the matter and that, if restitution be due, it should be made without delay.

THE second concert for the season of the Choral Society given in Dunedin on Wednesday evening, proved very successful. The music performed consisted of Mendelssohn's "Hear my Prayer;" Raff's "Morning Song"; and Sterndale Bennett's "May Queen"; each of which was rendered with exceptional excellence. The solo singers were, Mesdames Israel and Gore, Miss Joel, and Messrs. Blenkinsopp, Smith, and Cleghorn. The chorus and orchestra were also very efficient. Mr. Barth, the conductor, is much to be congratulated on the happy results of his labours.

If we may judge by the liveliness of the debate on the Address in Reply when the House meets on the 28th inst., after the adjournment a stirring fight may be expected on the part of the Opposition. It is impossible that Sir Julius Vogel can quietly look on while the affairs of the Colony are in the hands of a Ministry such as he describes them to be. According to the worthy Knight, a more complete team of non-entities were never got together, and even the manner of their getting together he derides as irregular and reprehensible. We do not, however, see the inconsistency that to Sir Julius seems to lie between defence and justice, for surely it is justice only that any civilised community would seek to visit even upon an enemy attempting to invade their country. The combination of public works and Maoris, may, perhaps, be a more legitimate subject for astonishment, but for our own part, we are content that there also the situation may be allowed space to develop itself. Poverty, as we know, makes us all acquainted with strange bed-fellows, and everything that appears to require explanation in the present state of affairs may be explained by the word Retrenchment.—There is where our interest centres, at present, and if Major Atkinson can show a fair way of bringing it about without at the same time occasioning stagnation or retrogression, and we do not now say anything of our expectations as to the matter, it is to be hoped he will be given time to try how his plans will work.—But, as we said, if the temper of the Opposition be anything like what we have already seen when Parliament reopens, an evil half-hour or two will be experienced there.—Absit omen! May the results not extend to the Colony in general.

Mr. Larnach who, to do him justice, always showed a disposition to improve the position of the miners which it is to be desired may also distinguish his successor, has left in the mining statement prepared by him, and with permission of the House laid on the table, some very important particulars.—A mining population, he tells us, of 11,782 men pays in the matter of gold duty and other gold-fields revenue a tax amounting to £39s per head.—But to this must be added the consumption of dutiable goods by a population—including women and children, of 57,000 persons, amounting to 16s 6d per head, so that every bread-winner of those 11,782 miners is annually taxed to the figure of £7 9s.—Surely this is a state of things that loudly calls for amendment.—Is there any other country in the world, it may fairly be questioned, that imposes upon the very cream of its population, for the miners will be acknowledged on all hands to take the lead both in intelligence and industry—as well as in the immense stimulus given by them to the development of the country's resources of all kinds—so heavy a burden—amounting to a positive prohibition.—The Minister for Mines, in whatever combination he may be found, has here an opening for his relieving genius, and, whatever may be the line that retrenchment may take, some stretch of liberality must meet this crying necessity.

Is it respectful to the Parliament of the Colony, which Sir George Grey rightly hailed several years ago as "august," that its opening should be made the occasion of getting rid of a lot of bad powder that cumbered the Government stores? Such, at least was the explanation given by the Minister of Defence in replying the other day to a question asked by Mr. Pyke—who, perhaps, desiring to forestall retrenchment, seemed anxious about the waste that was made in firing the vice-regal salute.—Or is there anything deeper in the matter than meets the vulgar gaze. Is it meant, *par exemple*, to typify much of the eloquence that is about to take place by an explosion of rubbish? We, for our part, are of the impression that if the thing be done at all it should be properly done, and that the salute should be fired in the very best powder obtainable. But even £1 9s 2s, the cost of the salute as stated by the Minister, seems a good deal to pay for powder that is absolutely worthless. On what, it would be interesting to know, does the Minister base his calculations, or is a talent for valuing rubbish also a connecting link between justice and defence?