

these advantages. This enlargement, therefore, of our staff of religious teachers may be looked on as suspicious in several respects, and we are happy to give them a hearty welcome, in which we are convinced our readers will sincerely join with us.

The ordinary fortnightly meeting of the Dunedin branch of the Hibernian Society was held on Tuesday evening at St. Joseph's school-room. The balance sheet for the past quarter showed the branch to be making good progress, over 20 new members having lately joined. One candidate was initiated and two proposed for membership. The sick fund now amounts to over £500. The secretary, Brother Cunningham, was granted leave of absence to visit the West Coast on business. It was resolved to hold the 14th annual sports on Boxing-day, and it was suggested as a source of extra attraction that a hurling match between town and country players should take place. The Secretary reported that the tickets for a concert in aid of an invalid brother were being disposed of rapidly. After further business of a routine nature, the meeting closed in the usual manner.

A DISCOVERY of natural gas made in the province of Wellington and which is pronounced fit for all the coarser purposes that gas is used for, is a little clouded by calculations that have recently been published concerning the gas districts of the United States. An awful example is quoted from China, where, it is said, a whole territory was exploded, and a like fate is predicted for the country of which Pittsburg is the centre. Towns and fields will disappear, they say, with sudden commotion, and a lake will fill the vast abyss. If such be truly the prospect opened by utilising such discoveries it may be as well to let the Wellington treasure-trove exhaust itself without interference. The mysteries contained by the bowels of the earth in the North Island have already manifested themselves in a somewhat ominous fashion, and discretion in this instance may prove the better part of industry, as well as generally of valour. But then, be it also said, there is every reason to suspect that the impending fate of the American gas districts may be an invention of the smarter journalism not wholly unknown in the States.

We (Sydney *Nation*) are pleased to note that the Marist Brothers at St. Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill, have been exceedingly successful in this year's University Public examinations, having passed all the boys (viz. 5), sent for the Senior Examination: It was intended to have sent up more, but the altering of the date of the examination from November, as it used to be, to September, this year, somewhat interfered with the work of other intended candidates. It may not be generally known that there is now no High School for boys at St. Patrick's, Sydney; that branch having been transferred, some time back, to St. Mary's. Three of the boys attending the latter school were successful in the Senior Examination.

We often hear of the benefits of the Press. We receive an illustration of its dangers, in rather a round-about way, but which, if it be not quite terrible, is certainly amusing. Some time ago the Cooktown *Independent*, a newspaper published in a remote and tropical town in Queensland, threatened all kinds of awful things against the French in the Pacific, the very least of which was the seizure of New Caledonia, which as a settlement of incurable convicts would doubtless be a brilliant acquisition, if it were only for the sake of putting Australian settlers in mind of old times. The *Neo-Caledonien* took over the thunderbolts, which, in some way or another, were conveyed to Noumea, and in turn transmitted them to France, where they seem to have taken due effect. The *Petit Marseillais*, therefore, publishes a warlike article in reply, and calls upon the Republican Government to establish New Caledonia as a naval and military station of the first rank. But since the famous day on which the Skibbereen *Eagle* threatened the Czar of Russia, and, by fixing its eye upon him, made that potentate quail in his jack boots—Czar Nicholas always wore them, at least in *Punch*—nothing has been heard of like this. Did our remote editor indeed, ruminating perispiringly among his mangroves and mosquitos, and chiefly concerned to get rid of the superfluous heat as best he might, realise what he was doing? It is a *tour de force* that should be answered for which creates a French fortress to menace our settlements in these seas. The Cooktown *Independent* is indeed a power in the hemisphere.

At the great demonstration of the London Radicals, held in Trafalgar Square, on August 27th. to denounce the proclamation of the League, a resolution condemning the measure as an iniquitous interference with the right of combination, was moved by the Hon. Hamilton Bromby, of Tasmania. Our readers will remember that some few years ago, Mr. Bromby visited New Zealand, delivering in several places an extremely powerful lecture on Irish history. As the Irish question had not then secured any share of the interest or support since accorded to it in the Colony, Mr. Bromby deserved all the credit due to a courageous pioneer, and as such, should be remembered among us. We are happy to see that he still boldly adhering to the course on which he entered, *motu proprio*, with such spirit and ability.

Mr. Chamberlain is then gone at last to take up his duties as President of the Canadian Fisheries Commission. But what was the meaning of his tour in Ulster made previous to his departure?—By a common consent and as we indeed ourselves perceived when the appointment was first announced here his acceptance of the position was due to the necessity he was under of escaping from the predicament in which he could no longer continue his career as a Liberal Unionist, and dare not openly join the Tories. Has his Ulster campaign been undertaken to make the way smooth for him on his return and will he come back as a full fledged follower of Lord Salisbury. There is not much good now in his returning in any other character for as a consistent Liberal he can never again put in an appearance.

ACCORDING to the report of the *Echo de la France Catholique* the New Hebrides appear to be islands that possess many valuable features, but the question of whose permanent fertility seems doubtful. Among the indigenous products are several kinds of fruit, and those of the tropics and of southern Europe are considered likely to succeed there. The recognised native quadruped appears to be a curious combination of two animals that elsewhere are considered least alike—that is the pig and the deer, if, at least, we may judge by the name of *cochon-cerf* given to it by the French. The dogs of the islands, which were probably introduced from Europe, have, strange to say, lost their power of barking, and, perhaps, this may be a case for the consideration of the Darwinists. Are the brutes, *par hasard*, about to develop a taste for talking and is their conversation destined to be held in French, in English, or the native tongue. The 'Vagabond' who is the master of all sciences, as well as of everything else that can be known, might perhaps, investigate the matter with profit on his next visit to the islands, and some of the *révérends* might give him as exact information on the subject as they apparently have given him or others connected with their mission. The islands, however, cannot become a place of general European settlement. The fever which prevails, owing to miasma arising from the soil, although not fatal in itself, puts an end to that. The precautions necessary to its probable avoidance are, we are told, the following.—An airy dwelling, raised as high as possible from the ground; a regular life free from all excess, especially in strong liquors; a change of clothes when wet by the rain; freedom from exposure to the noonday sun, and no attempt when fasting to break the soil for cultivation. But ordinary colonists could never subject themselves to such a discipline as this. The water also, no matter how clear it may seem, is dangerous to drink. The islands, then, would hardly even be suitable for settlements of the recidivists, unless death from sickness were substituted for the guillotine.

A long felt want supplied.—By an entirely new process Mr Armstrong, dentist, is enabled to extract teeth without the slightest pain, or unpleasant after effects. For years past Mr. Armstrong's artificial work has given not only entire satisfaction, but health, comfort, happiness, and beauty. He is now in a position to supply the best American and British dentistry at one half former charges. Preservation of natural teeth a specialty. Note address, 172, Princes street, exactly opposite Cargill's Monument—ADVT.]

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 teeth 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—[ADVT.]

A requisition to Mr. R. H. Leary to allow himself to be again nominated for the Dunedin Mayoralty will be found elsewhere.

Orders for the Australasian Catholic Directory for 1888 will be received by Mr. James Dunne, 141 George street, Dunedin. Orders immediately forwarded will be supplied at Sydney prices.

The great sale of the Continental Boot Depot, Princes street, Dunedin, is about to close. The opportunity of obtaining almost incredible bargains will be lost by those who loiter.

The Catholic Book Depot, Barbadoes street, Christchurch, is now distinguished by two excellent things that should recommend it heartily to the patronage of the Catholics of the Colony—that is to say, a fine new stock of publications and a great decrease in prices.

The prospectus of the Fair Maid and Gladstone Gold-Mining Company will be found in another place. A most promising opportunity for investment is evidently offered by the proposed undertaking.

We refer our readers to an advertisement of the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society, Limited, appearing in another column. We have reason to believe that the progress of the office is without parallel in the history of the life assurance. The Society is represented in New Zealand by a strong directorate, containing the names of Sir Robert Stout, the Hon. W. J. M. Larnach, the Hon. George M'Lean, Mr. E. J. Spence, etc. The special feature of the Colonial Mutual is its modified tontine system, which combines life assurance with a really good and profitable investment. We confidently recommend the consideration of the Society's prospectus to intending assurers. Its accumulated funds exceed £700,000, while its annual income exceeds a quarter of a million.