

pletely justified for his frame of mind. His predicament would, indeed, be strange were he to be conscious within him of the commotions the privilege he deprecates, so much to Mr. Kirkland's indignation, must produce, and it might be a difficult task for him to reassure himself concerning his identity. To form a whole Presbyterian Synod in himself might prove too much for the constitution of a Goliath and would be a situation overwhelming in its contradictions.

DR. COPLAND in speaking in the Presbyterian Synod expressed himself as unable to see how the Catholic claims in education had any reasonable connection with the refusal to permit of Bible-reading in the schools. It should, however, require but little acuteness to perceive the injustice and oppression of taking the money of Catholics for the purpose of applying it to the direct teaching of the Protestant religion, which is identical with the reading of the Bible among the sects. It might also be easily perceived that it would be a grievous violation of the liberty of Catholics to compel them to support a method of employing Holy Writ which they look upon as a breach of the divine law, and which their Church condemns. The injustice of all this is even more clear than that of compelling Catholics to support the godless system—evident as that must be to all unprejudiced and uninterested men.

THAT was a bold acknowledgment made the other day at the Anglican Synod by the Rev. A. R. Fitchett. "The Church," he said, "had charge of education in former times, and should not be afraid to go back to those times. He went on to argue that before the Reformation, the Church, which then had charge of education, did the work well, and that after the Reformation there was a great falling off in the education of the people, especially the lower orders." This, as we have said, was a brave acknowledgment, and even if the speaker erroneously confounded the Church that educated the world before the Reformation with that institution which arose from the Reformation, he should not lose the credit due to his candour.

THE financial statement as made by Major Atkinson on Tuesday evening estimates the deficit for the current year at a total of about £399,500. Retrenchment is to be vigorously undertaken, and among its chief features are to be reductions in the cost of the Governor to the Colony, in the salaries of Ministers, and in the honorarium paid to members of both Chambers. A Bill will be introduced, moreover, to reduce, at the end of the present Parliament, the members of the House of Representatives to 70. The salaries of civil servants will not be reduced but consideration will be given to the possibility of reducing their numbers. A saving of about £60,000 in the expenditure on education will be brought about by limiting the capitation grant to £3 15s, and by giving no capitation in the cases of children under six years of age. Provision, however, will be made not, on this account, to close any country school. An increase in the property tax to 1d will take place, but there will be no revision of the tariff until next year. In addition to the North Island Main Trunk Railway loan, a loan of £1,000,000 will be proposed for the completion of works already begun, Government giving a pledge to borrow no more for a period of three years from March 31st, 1888. The Premier gives hopeful promises of energetic and liberal measures for the settlement of the lands, and of a due attention to the mining industry whose importance he particularly recognises.

WE understand that preparations are being made by the young ladies of the Dominican convent schools, Dunedin, for a concert which will be given in St. Joseph's schoolroom at the end of the present month. The object is to clear off a portion of the debt, arising from the recent changes in the room which is still due, and this together with the attractions of the programme in preparation should draw a full attendance.

WE have received the following telegram from Arrow:—The Gallant Tipperary Company's return from 60 tons of stone was 103 cwt., amalgam from plates only. This company intend clearing up about middle of this month when a very satisfactory return is expected. The stone still continues to improve in quality, and the battery will be kept going all the season.

THE declaration of no dividend made in Auckland last week at the half-yearly meeting of the Bank of New Zealand has been a topic of much interest. It is, of course admitted on all sides that the matter has its grave aspect, as, had the condition of the Colony been prosperous, nothing of the kind would have occurred. But it is also pronounced that the prudence of the step taken is most reassuring as to the present position and future prospects of the Bank. The Directors have not only proved themselves men of courage and resolution in voluntarily encountering a situation that must needs be more or less unpopular, but they have given, by their boldness an earnest of the confidence they entertain in the stability of the institution they conduct. The shareholders, many of whom will doubtless suffer some inconvenience, may, therefore, find more than one consolation, and

may congratulate themselves that their interests are in such careful and conscientious keeping.

BISHOP MORAN (says the Dunedin *Evening Star*, of October 29) has now been resident amongst us for about eighteen years, and it is not too much to say that his high character and his unswerving consistency to principle have won the respect of the people generally, even of those who disagree with him most distinctly on some vital questions. Into these questions or any debateable matter connected therewith or otherwise, it is not our purpose to enter. The occasion which dictates what we have to say altogether excludes any such reference. The Roman Catholics of Otago have for some time had it in contemplation to mark their sense of what their chief pastor has done for them during the course of his episcopate, in a manner worthy of him and of themselves, and the opportunity was taken of Dr. Moran's absence in Australia to bring the matter to a point. A money testimonial was, for good and sufficient reasons, decided on—Catholic prelates, it has to be recollected, have no revenues beyond the contributions of their flocks—and in the short space of six weeks the sum of £1,140 was collected, which was handed to the Bishop on Wednesday evening. The most gratifying testimonial, however, was not this, nor was it comprised in the several addresses expressive of the warmest feelings of regard and affection which were presented, but rather we conceive, the immense gathering of his people who thronged to the Cathedral to do their bishop honour. There can be no question that Dr. Moran thoroughly deserves all honour that they can give him. He has through a long series of years devoted himself to their service, and has done much to elevate their religion and social status. They have, thanks to his exertions, churches and schools all over the provincial district, and in Dunedin a material portion of the magnificent Cathedral, which in the future will adorn the City. It need hardly be said that on the education question we entirely differ from the Bishop; but we do not the less respect him for the position he unflinchingly maintains, and for acting as he does, up to his principles.

THE session, if it proceeds as it has begun, promises to be a busy and useful one for the colony generally. The manner in which the Government have taken up the Midland Railway and evidently mean to push it forward is much to be commended. A possibly hopeful step also seems to be the appointment of a committee to consider the question of reductions in the educational expenditure, as well as the claims of denominational schools, and of those sections of the community who desire the introduction of Bible-reading. The support given by the House to the second reading of Sir George Grey's Law Practitioners Bill is, on the other hand, much to be regretted. Should such a measure become law the worst results must follow. Another source of temptation, for example, would be added to draw young men away from the more necessary branches of colonial industry and labour, and the number of the seekers after light and genteel occupations would be increased by the provision of another opening. An army of greedy, half-educated, and incapable lawyers, moreover, would be turned loose upon the population, and the growth of litigiousness would be promoted. Many abuses in the administration of law, such as we frequently hear of as occurring in America, would also take place. And all this would be risked or certainly brought about for the very chimerical purpose of affording a path to genius that must otherwise be repressed. But true genius never can be kept beneath the surface. We, hope, therefore, that the Bill in question may once more suffer the only fate it deserves. Indeed, already too much favour has been shown to it.

THE newest and strangest association of the hour is that of dynamite with bronchitis. An inquest held on a man who died the other day in London revealed the rather ordinary fact that he had died of bronchitis, and also seems, in a manner not quite so ordinary to have revealed a connection between the deceased and the dynamite faction that, as a reality or an imagination, exists in America. We do not pretend to understand the matter, but merely attempt to unravel as much as possible of the mystery that has appeared in print. The police, however, as we understand, glorify themselves by taking credit for dispersing a conspiracy that had been set on foot for the purpose of salting the recent Jubilee celebrations on every side with dynamite, and whose members seem to have been travelling in a promiscuous sort of manner all over Europe. But fortunately the London police, as they say at least, went with them, and forcing them to keep moving on, made them spend all their funds, and, being thus starved out, to return to America. The whole affair, in short, seems not quite credible. But are doctors henceforward, as a rule, to look upon their patients who suffer from bronchitis as suspicious invalids?

THERE is fresh justification for Mr. Gladstone's statement at Nottingham that the dealing of the Unionist party with Ireland might be stigmatised as impertinent, in Lord Hartington's assurance made the other day at Truro, that the Irish people must abandon the