

domestic servants. In some localities it is true, no demand exists but the want seems made up for in other places. It can not be good news to shearers that in some districts their labours will be supplemented, or perhaps altogether replaced by sheep-shearing machines.

An improvement, or perhaps, more properly, a disimprovement on the state of affairs in the old country, has been shown in the letting for the season's cropping of land near Port Fairy. As much as £5, and even in one case £6 an acre was paid for potato land, and grain land brought from 15s to 40s. The circumstances of the case must be exceptional, indeed, or such a state of things is deplorable. It seems to point to a most undesirable monopoly.

The thrift and industry of the Chinese on which certain legislators so love to dwell, for reasons doubtless best known to themselves, have received an illustration in the arrest at Melbourne of three Chinese stewards of the steamer Chingtu, in the act of smuggling on shore a quantity of cigars. The thrifty and industrious had resorted to the expedient of stuffing themselves out with the contraband article, but a landing waiter was sharp enough to detect the counterfeit rotundity of the Celestial form divine. At the request of the customs department, the delinquents were discharged and sent back to their ship, their cigars being confiscated. It is not, however, to be understood that three Europeans could not be found capable of playing a similar trick if they got the chance. But there is a lurking suspicion in the minds of most of us that it would be hard to find three Chinese incapable of doing the like if an opportunity offered. That is about the chief distinction: a white man who offends goes against his principles, and may reform some time or another; a Chinaman has no principles to betray.

Sir, W. J. Clarke is erecting a magnificent mansion at Jolimot near the Fitzroy Gardens, Melbourne. The cost of the building is estimated at £50,000. Is not this a good example for absentees?

The souls of the just belonging to the Anglican community in Sydney have been vexed—like those of the just interested in the manner in which the worship at St. Paul's cathedral in London is carried out, by a reredos erected at St. Andrew's cathedral and accused of favouring "Popish" notions. The particular feature savouring of "Popery" is a panel on which the crucifixion is represented. It is hardly a reproach to "Popery" meantime that it should be so associated. As to whether the offensive carving will be cut out remains to be seen.

THE Sydney *Freeman's Journal* publishes the following cablegram:—Rome, June 18.—His Eminence Cardinal Moran and his secretary, the Very Rev. O'Haran, after a pleasant voyage from Sydney arrived in the Orient Co.'s s.s. Orient at Naples. The Cardinal came on almost directly to Rome, and was received by Monsignor Kirby at the Irish College. Yesterday His Eminence had a special audience with the Holy Father. His Holiness received the Cardinal with great friendliness, and in the course of a long conversation, it is understood, the affairs of the Church in Australia and the political affairs of Ireland were discussed. His Eminence will have another audience with the Holy Father before his return to Sydney. After resting some months in Rome His Eminence will proceed to France and Belgium to arrange for the teaching Orders of the French Christian Brothers and the Brothers of Charity.

An entertainment in the shape of a trip down the harbour was given on Saturday, June 16, by the city and suburban branches of the I.N.L. to the delegates of the country branches who had attended the convention. A very pleasant day was spent, and in the proposing of toasts and returning of thanks some capital speeches were made. Mr. F. B. Freehill, the President of the League at Sydney, in giving the Press, spoke especially in a highly complimentary manner of the part taken by the *Freeman's Journal* for more than 30 years in furthering and supporting Irish interests. He commended the newspaper to the gratitude of the Irish people of all the colonies on this account. There can be no doubt, we for our own part may add, that the *Freeman's Journal* deserves the special thanks and acknowledgments of the Irish colonial population. At the time of its establishment and in the earlier portion of its career, there were great temptations in Sydney to adopt a different course from that adopted and consistently carried out by it, and that it should lend its aid to a desire which prevailed in certain quarters to destroy all Irish associations and de-nationalise Irish settlers. The Sydney *Freeman's Journal* has been an Irish Catholic pioneer among colonial newspapers, which other newspapers have been obliged to follow, however at variance their doing so may have been with the true principles of their promoters.

A case was brought to light the other day in the Legislative Assembly at Sydney, in which the Government had remitted £900 of a fine of £1000 imposed, in July 1887, on the captain of a ship which had brought to the colony ten Chinese in excess of the legal number. The case is interesting as affording some kind of an insight into the manner in which it may become possible for the wily Celestials, aided by a wily executive, to evade all legislation devised for their exclusion. John, as we know, is not only thrifty and industrious but distinguished likewise by a capacity for playing tricks that, notwithstanding what the poet sings, are not always vain. And it is rumoured about that members of executives are not always quite incapable of any thing of the kind.

The horrible occurrence of the murders at Normanton, Queensland, has hardly been surpassed for many years.—A Javan who had quarrelled with his companions rushed to a tent inhabited by three Europeans. Two of them he stabbed to death through the side of the tent, and the other coming to their aid he attacked and mutilated fearfully. The consequence was a rising of the whites against the coloured camp, which was burned and destroyed—the demerzans, subjects

of several foreign powers, being put to flight. Numbers of them were afterwards captured and placed on board a hulk. The boats and fishing nets of these unfortunate people were destroyed, as well as their other property, their loss being estimated at over £2,000.

The agitation for the separation of Northern Queensland is being revived. At a meeting held the other day at Townsville, a resolution was passed urging its renewal. Among the measures advocated is the establishment of an inland capital.

The directors of the Taranganba mine assert that it exceeds Mount Morgan in richness. The average is stated to be 3oz per ton, at £4 2s an ounce, and there is said to be no known limit to the quantity. The gold formation at Mount Morgan narrows from the top, at Taranganba it widens.

The association for the promotion of Australian nationality going ahead in Queensland. Sir Thomas M'Ilwraith is its especial patron. All white settlers who will support the objects of the association are admitted to membership.

The following passages occur in a letter addressed by the Bishop of Goulburn to the clergy of his diocese and ordered to be read by them in their respective churches on the Sunday within the octave of S.S. Peter and Paul:—"We have been disturbed for some weeks past by telegrams about a Papal letter sent to the Irish Bishops. Some of these were absolutely false, and some exaggerated. Certain principles of Catholic morality are asserted:—That contracts with mutual consent entered into cannot be broken by one of the parties only and that wrong is done by interfering with mutual freedom to enter into contracts, both referring to land contracts in Ireland as between landlords and tenants. This is stated as being still more obligatory, because there are land courts to secure justice for those who have reason to complain. The document admonishes the clergy and the people not to overstep the bounds of justice whilst seeking relief from the evils which afflict them. As it is also a principle of Catholic teaching that evil should not be done that good may follow, the admonition rests on that principle of Catholic morality. From the facts placed before the Supreme Congregation of the Inquisition at Rome, the decision of the Congregation was that what is called the Plan of Campaign and boycotting are against the moral principles set forth. If the state of Irish affairs were an ordinary condition of things, the leaders of the Irish people could raise no question as to the principles set forth, for they are necessary for the peace and security of society. But those who introduced these methods for the purpose of saving the Irish people from extermination, and for forcing the civil power to apply the required remedy, could not look on the state of Ireland as an ordinary one nor to the courts as affording safe relief. Many non-Catholics are glad because they look on this document as likely to make the Irish people careless about the Pope, and likely to put them wandering like themselves. But as the Pope is the Rock on which the Catholic Church rests, and which secures unity for the Church and preserves it from being tossed about by every wind of doctrine, any pain given will not produce that calamity. The document is addressed to the Irish Bishops, in whose hands the civil as well as the religious interests of Ireland find their best and safest guides; and what appears a shock may turn out a valuable means for securing the present objects of Irish agitation. The agitation may be carried on with greater care and with greater force until the desired end is obtained; and this appears to be the sentiment prominent in the Papal document."

In connection with the Victorian land boom, the following cases are of interest:—£9,200 has been lately refused for 23 acres distant 10 miles from the Melbourne Post Office; for a slightly larger paddock at about the same distance, £16,000 has been refused. An offer of £5000 for 9 acres at a distance of 12 miles from the city has been similarly treated. Let us hope there may come no hour of repentance on the part of the proprietors.

Scotch Notes.

AN interesting exhibition was opened in Edinburgh on May 7 of the works of lady artists. The exhibits include paintings in oils and water-colours. Besides the usual canvas and paper, plaques, tiles, china, screens, and tables form the material on which the work has been done. Some of the paintings are very clever, but, if a judgement may be arrived at from the subjects treated, the movement for a rivalry between men and women has not made much progress in Scotland. At least one-third of the pictures show a distinctively womanly taste, in representing fruits and flowers.

Mr Bradlaugh has caused some amusement by questioning the Lord Advocate in Parliament as to the right of Mr. Kenneth J. Brand Secretary of the Conservative Association in East Edinburgh to sell tickets for a lottery whose prizes include, among other things, a box of cigars. The object of the lottery, it may be added, is to furnish the hall of the Association. The Lord Advocate, in replying, remarked that the only objects on the list of prizes that might properly be named works of art were portraits of certain noble Lords, a screen, and possibly a volume of Lord Beaconsfield's selected speeches. And there is certainly a sense in which these speeches may be regarded as very notable works of art. There was but little of nature's generous promptings in the utterances of Lord Beaconsfield.

A meeting of the Dalkath Free Presbytery has carried the following resolution:—When as the Confession and articles of belief, being uninspired, are liable to error and imperfection; whereas in the providence of God, fresh light has been increasingly thrown on