

the meaning of the Divine Word since the Westminster standards were drawn up; and whereas it is right and requisite that the written standards and the living faith of the Church should be in fullest harmony, it is hereby overruled by the venerable the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland by the Free Presbytery of Dalkeith to take this whole subject into earnest consideration, and to do in the matter as may seem good." The creed of the Covenanters appears to be in some degree of danger, and it seems within the range of possibilities that we may yet behold the strange phenomenon of a Church looking back upon martyrs who differed from her in very essential points, and would probably submit to be martyred again rather than acknowledge themselves as holding the present beliefs. But such are the vagaries of private interpretation.

A discovery of great interest to archæologists has been made at Lochavulin, near Oban. It consists of a partly submerged lake-dwelling. Quantities of human bones have also been found in the immediate neighbourhood. Learned people from all parts of the country are hastening to inspect and examine these remnants of another world—though hardly a better one.

The Glasgow exhibition was opened by the Prince of Wales on May 8th. His Royal Highness, who was accompanied by the Princess, received an enthusiastic welcome, and everything went off with the greatest possible éclat.

The Government system of emigration has been brought into action in Lewis, whence 21 families, consisting of 113 persons, have been sent to Manitoba, each head of a family receiving £120, repayable in annual instalments at the end of four years, and every male immigrant over the age of 18 obtaining a free grant of 160 acres of land. The movement, however, is not popular among the crofters, who, in a meeting held by them at Aline, have condemned it—while land at home is withheld from them. They have also expressed their intention to use all constitutional means to put an end to the substitution of game for human beings, and the sport which they look upon as their ruin. In a reference made at this meeting to the refusal of Lady Matheson to give the people more land, as they had petitioned her to do, a contradiction was given to certain statements of her ladyship's as to the subdivision of crofts by the tenants. It was affirmed that, on the contrary, such subdivision had been made by the employee of the landlord, and the divided crofts let at double rents. A protest was also made against the Government's neglect to comply with the recommendation of the Napier Commission by building a harbour and piers, and their rendering loans abortive by prohibitive conditions. Six of the Barvas men have been fined for throwing down, in December last, a dyke belonging to a man whom they tried to make join them in taking forcible possession of land occupied by the minister of the parish. It is, further, reported that the men discharged by the Sheriff on the charge of breaking down dykes on Dell Farm, Ness, have seized on the land and sown it with potatoes and oats. Lady Matheson meanwhile has let Stornoway Castle, and betaken herself to foreign parts—shaking off the dust of the ungrateful island, refusing to starve with due submission, from her aristocratic shoes. But if just enough would fall from her shoes to give the crofters the additional soil they require they would not greatly regret her ladyship's departure. It is to be reasonably hoped that the ordinary charities dispensed by her will be continued by the incoming tenant of her mansion.

The Chief Constable of Edinburgh has informed the Town Council of an extensive Sunday trade done in methylated spirits by the druggists of the city. The stuff is purchased under various names such as "finish," "dynamite," "polish," &c. for dram-drinking purposes by degraded members of the population, but the difficulty in stopping the trade will be that of proving a knowledge of this purpose existing on the part of the druggists. Bad as is the ordinary drinking at the public-houses, the practice in question is infinitely worse. Here, besides, is Sabbath-breaking extraordinary in Auld Reekie.

Church matters in Skye show something of a disturbed aspect. At the Episcopal church a row is going on relative to the extreme Ritualism of the incumbent, who, according to the "unco guid," has swallowed a double dose of "Popery," which is breaking out in all his actions.—At the parish church a battle is proceeding about the introduction of instrumental music. And, on the whole, if the devil has not a high old time of it, he is not the humorous being which, in some quarters, he is taken to be.

The labour party express themselves as determined to secure representation in Parliament. If opposed by the Liberals they declare they will vote for the Tory candidates. Although their cause is one that deserves sympathy, and in which the interests of the great body of Irish settlers in Scotland are involved, it will be a great pity if anything is done by the party to give effect to the old watchword "divide and rule," and to increase the Unionist majority or weaken the strength of their opponents. But of this there is manifest danger.

Mr. William O'Brien M.P., has commenced an action for libel against the *Glasgow Herald* for publishing the following passage in its issue of March 21:—"Mr. O'Brien made a scathing speech at Manchester on Monday night, in which he taunted Mr. Balfour, amid the applause and laughter of the audience, with taking such precautions for his own safety that it is practically impossible for any section of Nationalists to repeat in his person the victory of the Phoenix Park."—The words in Italics constitute the alleged libel.

The Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, and Father McDonald of South Uist, have each written a letter to the London Catholic Needle-

work Guild relating the sad condition in which the islanders are situated. They are in a state of chronic starvation and in need of everything that charity can supply. Even the reductions made in their rents by the Land Court have not as yet resulted in giving them any relief.

## THE VISIT OF DR. GRIMES TO AKAROA.

(From the *Akaroa Mail*.)

THE visit of Dr. Grimes to the Catholics of Akaroa has created considerable interest amongst most classes of the community and from those over whom he holds spiritual authority the welcome accorded him has been as warm as he could have anticipated. It is no less than eleven years since a Roman Catholic Bishop visited Akaroa, so it can be judged no little interest is felt, and when we state no fewer than forty-five had been prepared for Confirmation in such a small community it will show how wide that interest is. The Bishop arrived by coach on Wednesday, and alighted at the entrance to the church, which had been specially adorned in honour of the visit, and in spite of the unpleasant weather presented a very festive appearance. There were six arches of evergreens and flowers, and these were decorated with many flags. Over the porch at the gate was the Irish inscription "*Cead mille faillte*," a hundred thousand welcomes, and over the porch was the legend "Welcome, Prince of the Church." The church itself was most beautifully decorated with flowers and foliage, a wonderful display considering the season. Having robed himself, the Bishop entered the church porch, accompanied by Father Kickham, where he was presented with the following address by Mr. F. Narbey of Onuku, who read it very distinctly and intelligently:—

"To the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, S.M., Bishop of Christchurch.  
"My Lord,—We, the undersigned members of the committee on behalf of the Catholics of the district of Akaroa, respectfully beg to offer you a sincere and cordial welcome to this, the oldest settlement in your extensive diocese, and to express our sense of the honour conferred on us by your visit here to-day. Our heartfelt gratitude is due to the Holy Father for the consideration he has extended to his children in this remote part of the Apostolic See, in promoting their spiritual welfare by proclaiming the new Bishopric of Christchurch; and, whilst congratulating your Lordship on your elevation to the Episcopacy, our humble prayer is offered that you may be granted long life and abundant grace to perform the onerous duties attaching to the exalted and holy office which you have chosen to fill. We hasten to assure your Lordship of our steadfast loyalty and obedience to the Church, and our earnest desire to gratefully acknowledge the great benefits we daily derive from its teachings. We are anxious to record the appreciation of the services of our present pastor, whose untiring energy and thoughtful solicitude for us at all times has fully earned our love and esteem. It is unfortunate that, being situated at such a considerable distance from the parish church at Lyttelton, our pastor is only enabled to visit us once in each month, but we humbly submit to your Lordship our hope that the oldest Catholic community in your diocese may yet enjoy the blessings and advantages to be derived from the presence of a resident priest. We regret we cannot direct your Lordship's attention to any educational institution of our own. We are compelled by circumstances to avail ourselves of the present system, but trust ere long the just claims of the Catholics, aided by your Lordship's able advocacy, will be admitted by the Legislature, and State aid granted to enable us to provide for our children the inestimable blessing of a sound Christian education. Humbly beseeching your Lordship's blessing, and devoutly praying that you may long be spared to govern the diocese of Christchurch, we beg to subscribe ourselves—Your faithful and obedient children,—Francis Narbey, Antonio Bolingus, Joseph Vangioli, Victor Narbey, Patrick O'Callaghan, Antoni Kotlowski.—Akaroa, June 21, 1888."

The address was printed in gold and colours on white satin, and was a great credit to Mr. Pennington, of the *Mail* office, being beautifully finished.

In reply the Bishop said that the presentation of this address was a surprise, and a most agreeable one. He was pleased indeed to see the children of the Church pay respect to the most High, through him. This, the oldest settlement of the Church in his diocese, had particular interest for him, and he had come as soon as possible to visit them to make himself acquainted with their wants. The Sovereign Pontiff had sent him amongst them to see how their spiritual wants had been attended to by the priests, and he was happy to tell them that he had found this had been well done. They owed gratitude to their Holy Father for the interest he had taken in their wants, and this was no new interest, for the want of a Bishop for this diocese had been known for ten years, and spoken much of in Rome when he was there, and they had only waited to obtain the necessary information before making the appointment. He did not know then he should have been chosen for this great work, and wished one more worthy had been selected, but would do his poor utmost for the greater glory of God, and hoped, whilst saving his own soul, to help others. He thanked them for their words of congratulation; they wished him long life, but long life was not always desirable, and what he wished for was the abundant grace to fulfil his duties. He was glad of their steadfast loyalty to the Church and its teachings. These should not be merely uttered by the lips, but should sink into the heart. In all times since the establishment of the Church it had been the custom of their Sovereign Pontiff to send his delegates to civilise and Christianise the world. There was that dear land of the West, to which St. Patrick had been sent by the Pope; St. Augustine had been sent to England by St. Gregory, and France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and other countries had been civilised and Christianised by bishops of the Holy See. Priests had been sent to this settlement of Akaroa forty years ago from France, the land of saints, willing to encounter all hardships for the glory of God and the saving of souls. How's great they now possessed a pastor of such untiring energy, but regretted