

high figure, is considered sure to fail in presence of a more open market and a healthy trade.

It is strange to find authorities in Australia turning to Europe for arguments derived first of all from Australian experiences. In proposing the other day, to improve sanitary conditions by planting the West Melbourne swamp with gum-trees, one of the members of the Central Board of Health pointed to the Roman Campagna as an illustration of what his proposal was capable of effecting. It should not be forgotten, at the same time, that without the enterprise and devotion of the Trappist monks the experiment in the Campagna would never have been tried. If the Minister of Lands acts upon the recommendation of the Board, who adopted the proposal referred to, Melbourne will owe a debt of gratitude to a class of men whom too many of her citizens are inclined to despise and misrepresent.

The Victorian Bee-keeper's Association has been much exercised by contemplating the quantities of spurious honey flooding the market. At a late meeting of the Society one of the members gave as a test of the adulteration, the mixture of a little pure alcohol with a portion of the compound dissolved in water. The result would be a change of colour to that of dirty milk, while, if genuine honey were so treated the mixture would remain almost clear. An explanation of the manufacture of the spurious article was also given, among the primary ingredients mentioned being, for example, rags and sulphuric acid. The production of the busy bee is evidently, without much difficulty, the superior article.

Great things are still spoken concerning mining undertakings in several parts of the colonies:—In Western Australia a marvellous discovery is reported from the Golden Valley, which it is said will throw Kimberley into the shade, and prove the richest thing the colony has yet produced. The Bara silver mines in New South Wales are also declared about to bring forth marvels. At Broken Hill, meantime, a new discovery has been made; not, however, of gold or silver, but of what is of more value in the locality than either would be, that is an excellent supply of water, for want of which the place was pestilential and fever abounded. All that is required now is the pumping apparatus to make the supplies immediately available. Reports of mining wonders, nevertheless, should always be accepted with some degree of hesitation, and if they were, many people would keep out of harm's way. But the contrary is unfortunately the case—as has been pretty convincingly proved of late. In the case of the Beltana Broken Hill Company, for instance, shares were eagerly bought up, though hardly any pretence was made of giving information, much less a guarantee of any sort. The particulars furnished in the prospectus were of a ludicrously flimsy kind. But many people now who hardly see the fun of the thing are completely certain as to its folly. And yet people who have made their money in the colonies, and generally made it hard, should know better how to take care of it. Though mining reports, therefore, are flourishing it is to be hoped that caution will guide their reception.

The blacks of the Northern Territory continue to give trouble. In some instances they frankly declare that they mean to dispute the possession of the country, which they regard as their own, with the white man, and that their intention is to drive him out of it. Whether or not it may be taken as a proof of a superiority of race, they are evidently much more warlike and more alive to their own interests than were their brethren of more southerly districts. There is great danger in their neighbourhood, and murders by them are frequent. The captain, for example, of a vessel named the Spey was killed the other day by them on an expedition to cut mangroves, which he had undertaken contrary to advice, at Borrolooloo, and, about the same time, the body of a German who had met with a similar fate was found between the place named and Lagoon Creek. The unfortunate wretches are rapidly bringing on their own extermination.

The *Néo-Calédonien* in referring to the hoisting of the French flag at Futuna and the establishment over that island of the French protectorate, solicited once more by the natives as an immediate consequence of the establishment of the protectorate at Wallis, and hastened by the recent English and German annexations in these seas, gives us some interesting details. The island, says our contemporary, was discovered in 1616 by the Dutch Captain Schouten, is well watered, abounds in wooded hills and mountains of a considerable height and possesses a soil of great fertility. An unpleasant feature, however, in the surroundings is that an island from fifteen to eighteen miles in length, and six miles broad, of volcanic origin, is subject to frequent earthquakes seeming to threaten renewed eruptions. The island is the home of innumerable birds which cheer the forests by their warbling; but native beasts on the arrival of the missionaries were two only, a pig, and a kind of degenerate dog. The natives were industrious, but, what would seem to contradict a common notion that industry includes all other virtues, in every other respect they were abominably vicious. Cannibalism and infanticide were among their established customs. It was here that the martyrdom of Father Chanel, the process for whose canonisation is now proceeding at Rome, was followed by the complete conversion of the population, which has long been wholly Catholic.

The *Journal Officiel* of Tahiti gives an account of the annexation of the Windy and Islands, last March, by M. Lacascade, Governor of the French establishments in Oceania. The flag was first hoisted at Huahine, where the Governor addressed the people, assembled before the palace of the Queen, explaining to them that the convention concluded between France and England in 1847 had been abrogated and that France was now mistress of the situation. He, at the same time, offered a pardon to those who had taken any part against France, and especially in deposing the Queen who had been friendly to that country in favour of her differently-minded daughter, on

condition of their attempting no renewal of their offence. He also proclaimed full religious liberty: When the French flag had been hoisted the lawful Queen was restored to her rights and the usurper withdrew quietly into private life. At Raiatea matters were more difficult, as there a hostile chief had betaken himself with a band of armed followers into an interior fortress. The Governor, however, acted with firmness, and while he declared that no authority but that of the Vice-Roy could be acknowledged in the island, he offered pardon to the rebel leader and his followers on condition of their speedy surrender.—At Borabora the people acknowledged the annexation by religious ceremonies and prayers—more especially for the welfare of France. On returning to Huahine, nevertheless, an unfortunate conflict took place with a body of ill-disposed natives in which a French sailor was wounded and a naval officer killed. Several of the natives also lost their lives. Submission was afterwards made by the surviving offenders and promises of amendment given. Perhaps, on the whole, the rejoicing of these islanders at the protectorate established over them was that of a people who could not help themselves.

The reverend Jones, expelled from the Loyalty Islands, has been holding forth at the May meetings in London. The reverend Jones represents himself as the most ill-used of men, and makes a skillful point by declaring that he is the victim of "Popish" rather than of French intolerance. If it be answered that other Evangelical missionaries have not been interfered with, Exeter Hall will hear no such excuse. The reverend Jones declares himself worse treated than the Reverend Shaw of Madagascar, and no doubt values his suffering at a higher price. The Reverend Shaw got £1000, shall not the reverend Jones have more than that? Let "Popish" enmity be paid for by the ounce. Verily a life among the untutored children of nature has still left the reverend Jones rather wide-awake.

American Notes.

MR. PHELPS has undertaken a mission to Washington with the hope of inducing the Senate to adopt the Extradition Treaty, consideration of which has been postponed until December. It is said that the President and Mr. Bayard base their hopes of success in this matter on Mr. Phelps's influence. These two worthies are most anxious for the success of this Treaty which would strip the United States of their character as a place of refuge for Irishmen making themselves obnoxious to the British Government in the cause of their country. There is, indeed, a great deal for British influence in the States now to attempt. There is, for example, likewise the Fisheries Treaty, which has lately been summed up even by a prominent Democrat as to result in the destruction of the American fisheries, in a death blow to all prospects of an American navy, and in a British monopoly of American markets. It is doubtless partly to advance these particular British interests, as well as that chief one of freetrade, whose great advocate is Mr. Cleveland, that so much talk is being made about the effects to be produced by the naturalisation of British residents.—By exaggerating the influence to be thus brought to bear, through the British vote, on public affairs, it is endeavoured to secure some advantage in advance, and to free public men from that wholesome fear of the Irish vote with which they are accredited. But of all the objects sought for,—freetrade, the ratification of the Fisheries Treaty, or any other—the most shameful to the Republic would be the adoption of the Extradition Treaty—which, besides all its other base features would have that of casting a reproach on the memory of the men to whom America owes her own freedom. The honour of the country, therefore, is in many ways bound up with the failure of Mr. Phelps's mission.

It is announced that St. Paul has been erected into a Metropolitan See, with Dr. Ireland as Archbishop. The new province, which is the thirteenth in the United States, includes Minnesota and Dakota, in which at present there are but two suffragan bishops, the Vicars Apostolic respectively of the Northern districts of these States. Archbishop Ireland was born in Kilkenny, in 1838, and was ordained for the diocese of St. Paul in 1861, being appointed as coadjutor to the Bishop, Dr. Grace, in 1875, and himself succeeding to the bishopric in 1884. He is an ecclesiastic of great distinction—known as the Father Mathew of the North-West, from his labours in the cause of temperance, the promoter besides of the flourishing Catholic settlements in Minnesota, and a chief mover in the establishment of the Catholic University. He is also like every true son of Ireland devoted to the national cause.

A meeting of the friends and supporters of Mayor Hewitt, sustained by the efforts of a German band playing patriotic British airs, has been held in the Cooper Institute, New York, for the purpose of upholding the action of the Mayor in refusing to hoist the Irish flag on St. Patrick's day. The meeting was a very noisy and disorderly one, and it is acknowledged freely that many of the sentiments expressed were extremely un-American. Some of the arguments used were ridiculous, and some as false as they were insulting. It was, in fact, never contemplated, as suggested, that the American flag should give way to that of any other nation, and a wild imagination only could represent the American flag as being in danger, which was likewise affirmed. But, as was also done, to stigmatise the Irish flag as having no national character is only excusable by the ignorance it shows of history, and almost of everything else as well. It has, meantime, been recalled that Mayor Hewitt as a member of Congress in 1853 had first introduced a resolution of inquiry into the legality of the trial of an American citizen in London, that is the late Patrick O'Donnell, executed for the murder of James Carey, and had then gone privately to the British Minister at Washington, and