

THE Roman correspondent of the Liverpool *Catholic Times*, in writing of the Papal decree, says that no one is more dissatisfied with that document or with better reason than those who tried by fair means and foul to obtain it. He adds that it is hardly possible to describe all these people who have done to deceive the authorities at Rome. "That Ireland," he says, "has not been placed under an interdict, as the effect of their falsehoods, ought to be a clear indication to those malicious busy-bodies that the authorities here suspected them without any refutation of their tales." This is striking testimony as to the part taken by the London *Tablet* and the sanctimonious "doggerly" of which it is the mouthpiece. The correspondent in question also tells us that the conductors of the *Tablet* have received two admonitions from Rome as to their method of conducting the paper. This, he repeats, is true, although they deny it.—But that is a matter of course. The so-called Catholic who parts with his charity and humility has little regard for truth.

A PUBLIC meeting was held in Dunedin on Monday night, Mr. John Carroll in the chair, to advocate the construction of the Otago Central line by a syndicate. Sir Robert Stout, however, appeared upon the scene and marred the harmony of the situation by proposing an amendment to a contrary effect. Sir Robert, as usual, spoke in the interests of the men of the future, and with a view to make provision for a time when, evolution having progressed a further stage, and heredity being counteracted by something as yet unknown, a superior race, beloved beforehand by comparatively superior grandfathers, shall rejoice in the benefits arising from the nationalisation of the land.—What, nevertheless, seems requisite to less advanced minds is the immediate construction of the line, demanded both by the necessities of the people already settled in the districts concerned, and the interests of settlement and of the general welfare of the colony. Sir Robert was especially unhappy in his contemptuous references to some of our most respectable citizens, and not over felicitous in his explanations as to that distinction without a difference—his support of the Midland railway as contrasted with his opposition to the Otago line.—We ourselves are thoroughly opposed to any monopoly of the land, and should deprecate anything approaching the abuse of land grants to syndicates, such, for example, as that which has occurred in America, but, as we have before remarked, there is no similarity between such cases and that of Central Otago.—It is evidently for the advantage of the country that this work should be undertaken without delay.

THE latest items of especial interest, as bearing on the Irish cause, come to hand by the San Francisco mail as we go to Press, are as follows:—Captain Sinclair, a Gladstonian, has beaten the Tory candidate for Ayr, replacing a deceased Liberal Unionist. The result of the election shows a gain by Mr. Gladstone in the constituency of 1238 votes.—The Government have been defeated in Parliament by a vote of censure on the administration of the Admiralty, carried by 113 to 94. The vote was moved by Mr. L. J. Jennings a Conservative Member, and supported by a combination of Gladstonians, Unionists, and 21 Tories.—A special raid has been made on the members of the League in Ireland, numbers of them being arrested on alleged secret information.—Mr. Parnell gave a dinner in London on June 13, in honour of his lately imprisoned colleagues. Mr. Dillon, who was present on the occasion, said that the Papal rescript was a fortunate thing, showing as it did that while Irish Catholics were faithful to their Church they would not take their politics from Rome.—The Bishop of Limerick has issued a circular to his clergy commanding the enforcement of the Papal rescript, and denouncing excommunication against those who resist. *United Ireland* threatens to have a petition signed for presentation to the ecclesiastical authorities praying for the Bishop's removal from his See.—It is unanimously agreed that if an attempt be made to carry out the sentence of six months' imprisonment on Mr. John Dillon, he can hardly survive it. His state of health is visible to all who come in contact with him. He took an active part in the Ayr election.

THE drawing of the Riverton Art-Union has been unavoidably postponed until November 4. No doubt all those who are favourably disposed towards the undertaking will be glad of the opportunity thus given of advancing its interests.

WE have received from the Secretary of the I.N.L. at Kumara the sum of £66 11s 6d for transmission to Dublin. While we congratulate the generous and patriotic people of the district, however, we cannot agree with the Secretary in reproaching, as he does in a letter published by us elsewhere, the people of the West Coast generally for carelessness in the matter. Our experience is that they have, on the contrary, been most constant and liberal in their contributions, and deserving of the highest praise. Of their own good will, moreover, we have no doubt they will continue their efforts until the cause is won. But the Secretary errs through praiseworthy motives that will be fully understood.

WE have received another "brimstone" number of the *Whitshell Review*, in which the aristocratic meanderings of the late egg-merchant

are again replaced by a kind of vitriol inspired clucking on the part of the present more elevated editor. But Mr. Keith Angus had better beware. Let him look to Tullamore, where scoundrelism has developed into suicide. He also may come to find that he has some remnants of a conscience and of a capability for remorse hidden away in the depths of his being, small and shallow as they are. Mr. Angus tells us, for example, he is tired of the "bog but with the hole in the roof, and the pig playing with the potatoes." Perhaps his weariness arises in particular from early recollections of some Scotch bothy or London garret with its appropriate pastimes. But now by dint of "booming" Mr. Angus has risen a step above that. Long may he enjoy the favour he has earned so meritoriously.

## TUAPEKA MINING NOTES.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

THERE has been very little of interest transpiring of late in mining circles, and beyond the ordinary work-a-day operations of the various mines and holdings throughout the district there is nothing to speak of to record.

A rather good story is in circulation regarding the 12cwt. of stone which Captain Pearse, the agent of the Waipori quartz miners, has taken with him to London as a sample of the O.P.Q. reef—not a picked sample, you know, but a sample taken promiscuously from the reef. The work of picking the stone was entrusted to certain miners holding a direct interest in the concern, and so it could hardly be expected that they would select the worst specimens with which to dazzle the eyes of intending English investors. They just did what nineteenth-century miners might be expected to do under the circumstances. They got together into that 12cwt. parcel of "promiscuous" quartz the very best specimens they could lay their hands on. I don't know how much of this to vouch for; indeed, I will not vouch for any of it, but as the story is in pretty general circulation, I think the readers of the TABLET may as well have the advantage of it.

As an old settler in these parts, and one who has seen the progress of the district at heart, it makes me glad to see the tide of English capital flowing in this direction, and I would not be the first one to say anything that would tend to stem that tide and turn it in some other direction. But I must most emphatically object as a New Zealand colonist and one who cherishes the good name of my adopted country above all personal considerations, against the system of gross misrepresentation which the promoters of mining ventures have of late been indulging in. If they have a property to sell let them tell the truth about it, so that when English capitalists do invest their money they will know what they are getting for it. There are many really good mining investments on the Otago gold-fields which would handsomely repay an investment of capital if judiciously expended; but if, in disposing of them, we represent them at fifty or a hundred times their true value and demand prices for them far in excess of what they are worth, disappointment is sure to follow, and New Zealand will come to be recognised as the land of mining swindles and the happy hunting-ground of dishonest adventurers. By-and-bye, I may revert to this question, but for the present I think I have said enough. I may have occasion to say more shortly.

The Blue Spur and Gabriel's Gully Gold Mining Co. has now been in operation four months, and the yield of gold to date is 335 ounces, valued at £1,255 5s. As only one branch of water has been at work, this return may be considered very good. The manager expects to have four jets on shortly, but it remains to be seen whether this will quadruple the yield. Let us suppose that it does; a year's working with four jets would only give £15,075 worth of gold. This would be the gross revenue. According to the report of the meeting of shareholders published in the *Financial News*, Sir Walter Buller told them that from the tailings alone they were to get a net profit of £50,000 a year for eight years. I'm afraid Sir Walter will be a trifle out in his reckoning at the end of the year. The men at present engaged on the Spur by the company are working in three shifts. When the additional jets are turned on the number of men is likely to be increased.

I understand the Otago Company, one of the claims on which 10 per cent. was advanced with the option of purchasing at the end of the year, had a fairly good washing up a few days ago.

The operations of the Fidelity Company, which is the only other claim at work on the Spur, have been interrupted for the want of water. After a run of several months the men are now washing up.

Not a little feeling has evinced itself of late over the manner in which political considerations have been introduced into the management of the Spur claims. I think it is a very wrong thing that a workman's fitness for a billet should be gauged by his political leanings, and that the manager should be obliged to employ men, whatever his opinion of their fitness may be, for no other reason apparent, than that they voted straight at last election.

In speaking of the Tailings Company's claim in my letter of last week I stated that though that property was guaranteed by the agent who was commissioned to execute the sale to yield an annual net profit of £50,000 a year for ten years, yet it was disposed of for £30,000. In this statement, I have, it appears, somewhat erred. The Tailings Company's claim was sold not for £30,000, but for just the half of that amount—£15,000, two-thirds cash, and one-third shares. Nothing of the kind has been heard of in modern times—a clear profit of £50,000 a year going a begging for £10,000, the one-third shares of course I don't attach much importance to—nobody does, except, perhaps, those singularly confiding Cockneys who are learning colonial experience at the hands of Sir Walter Buller and Co.

Joe Martin, of Paxton, Ill., captured nine cub wolves on April 21 in a shock of corn on his father's farm in Campaign County. The old wolf escaped.