

there, amongst the rest, "The abuses of the Church were now manifest; its errors were plain; the idle and corrupt life of many of the clergy and monastic Orders caused honest men to blush.—Pope LEO X. wanted money to finish the Church of St. Peter, Rome. For this purpose he sent out monks to sell indulgences, or pardons of sins." It is unnecessary to add to these extracts. What has been quoted suffices to show why Catholics are dissatisfied with the class-books in use in all the schools of Otago. We dare say the Catholics of the other Provinces have reason to be equally dissatisfied. Is it not a shame, a reproach to the civilisation and liberality of the age, to compel Catholics to pay for the maintenance of a system which approves of the teaching of such nonsense and lies to the rising generation, even to their own children, should they have the misfortune to be confided to its tender mercies. Let Catholics learn from this how terrible their responsibility if they permit their children to be thus stuffed with misrepresentation and falsehoods, which are calculated to undermine their faith and demoralise them. For Catholics there is only one safe course to be pursued, and that is, to provide Catholic schools for their own children, and, no matter what the inconvenience, to keep them from the public schools. The system of education established here, no matter what may have been the motives of those who actually inaugurated it, was devised and intended to destroy, if possible, the faith of Catholics first, then that of all Christians. The men who first conceived the idea of it, had in view the ruin of Christianity, and the re-establishment of Paganism on its ruins.

L. S. D.

Pounds, shillings, and pence; such is once more our ungrateful theme. But what can we do? Our powers are human merely, and, what is more, we are quite as amenable to the laws of bankruptcy as any other people in the Colony. Therefore, whether we like it or not, we are obliged to call upon our subscribers for help. We really cannot continue to publish our paper unless subscriptions due to us are punctually paid. Type has to be set, and the printing press has to be kept going, and the power by which all this has to be done is to be maintained only by punctual payments on our part. Unfortunately we do not possess a private mint, and even if we did, it would be useless to us without a goldmine at its back, and the TABLET reef has yet to be discovered. We are thrown, then, altogether on the support of our subscribers, and have no other reliance. We are not, however, ashamed to own our independence; neither are we excessively discouraged by it. We know we have to deal with honourable people, every one of whom is willing to help us according to his means. And, if a little forgetfulness now and then seems to overtake our subscribers, why, all we have to do is to jog their memories, as we are now doing, and all is sure to come right. We, then, very earnestly appeal to our subscribers to forward to us without delay the amount of the accounts with which they are furnished. It is indispensably necessary that we should be immediately provided with means to carry on our business, and all our hope lies in them. We are confident that, now, when we have candidly placed our necessities before them, they will not fail us. Our parting words—but not, let us hope, our last dying speech—are: Send in your subscriptions, and—if you wish to overwhelm us with delight—send in also with them the names of two or three new subscribers.

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE.

THE rivals of the Government Life Insurance Department are apparently determined to lose no opportunity of assailing it, whether by fair means or foul. The telegram, however, from Napier, on the 16th instant, which was smuggled through the Press Association, is carrying this sort of thing too far. In it the department were charged with refusing to pay the claim of "Percival Bear's" policy, on account of his having omitted to give his first name when insuring. On the face of it the charge was absurd. Yet it was one well calculated to cause uneasiness in the minds of many who are not too well informed in such matters. We must certainly credit the Press Association with doing everything in their power to undo any mischief which the untruthful telegram we refer to may have caused, since, after being satisfied that the story was an entire fabrication, they promptly circulated the correction afforded them by the claimant's solicitor, which was to the effect that he had not yet put in a claim, and that the department required only the ordinary proofs of death. Still there are doubtless many who saw the original

telegram slandering the department, who yet know nothing of the correction, and, if this should unfortunately be the case, much apprehension will be felt by many who are now reminded of an error or omission in their proposal. That these may rest perfectly assured concerning their contract with the office, we may state that *no error in age, or omission of name, or, to be brief, nothing short of actual fraud*, invalidates a Government policy. We do not think a fairer one could possibly be framed, and, without in any way disparaging the private companies which are seeking business in our Colony, we can without hesitation say that we consider the Government Life Insurance Department an institution we should be proud of in every way. In an amazingly short time it has become one of the most prominent and successful offices, not only in the colonies, but in the world. Its adherents claim that, considering the low rate of premium charged, its results are unequalled, and that on newer policies at a slightly higher rate of premium, which have been issued since October, 1885, the bonus is the largest paid by any office, although the premiums are still lower than those of its rivals. All things considered—amongst them, especially, the low rate of mortality here compared with that of the other colonies (New Zealand about 10, average of Australian colonies about 16, in the 1000), a rising rate of interest in the Government Department as against a falling rate in many of its opponents, a public and pure administration of its affairs, and the local investment of its funds at a fair rate of interest on particularly easy terms—and we may fairly say that the Department has many claims for preference. Last year showed a marked increase in its business, and we learn with pleasure that this bids to be even more prosperous. We are especially gratified to learn that in our own district this has, notwithstanding the depression, been the most successful year the Department has ever experienced. We congratulate the management most cordially, and wish the office the success we believe it to so thoroughly deserves.

THE *Quid-nuncs* seem to be justified in their previsions as to the course of events in Germany. They had foretold that Count Von Waldersee would, through his wife, become all-powerful there, and this seems to be taking place. A slight deviation occurs, however, in the Count's successful rivalry having for its object, not Prince Bismarck as supposed, but General Von Moltke, whose place he takes. But as a military man this seems the more congenial movement for him. The confirmation given to the belief that the Count's American wife *nee* Mary Esther Lea, and through her the Count himself, would be the power behind the throne is very striking. Its more serious point is that it does not seem to make for peace. Von Waldersee has been always regarded as a leader of the war party, and, coming now as he does, to replace at the head of the army a man renowned for his great victories, while he himself has to boast of lesser distinction only his position is most ominous. We have an Emperor, who claims to be a soldier, before all things, but who has never seen a shot fired, filling the throne of soldiers distinguished on many battle-fields. We have a commander at the head of the army identified with no conquests, but taking the place of a great conqueror. How long is it likely that these men will be able to refrain from seeking that which alone can set them on a level with their predecessors? The answer depends on the degree in which each is a philosopher and a humanitarian, rather than a soldier and a man of ordinary feelings, in these circumstances exposed to temptations of no ordinary kind. But no great good was looked for by those who predicted the pre-eminence of Von Waldersee and no great good seems likely to come of it now it has begun.

A REPORT repeated two or three times, to the effect that the Princess Helena, third daughter of her Majesty the Queen, and wife of Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, had become a convert to the Catholic faith, has been contradicted, as we felt convinced it would be. The Princess Helena is, it is true, an excellent lady, much engaged in works of charity and beloved by the poor, but what we know of her pursuits otherwise does not encourage us to believe that she has any Catholic leanings. She has, for example, lately published translations of certain German books that would hardly seem to have occupied the attention of a mind engaged upon vital questions of religion. Besides, the circumstances under which her marriage took place were completely at variance with the requirements of the Catholic Church, and conversion for her Royal Highness would involve serious matrimonial difficulties. The report, on the whole, has evidently, like many others, originated in ill-directed zeal, or something less creditable, if not in mere idle gossip.

THE Emperor William, then, shows his teeth. His declaration on unveiling the statue of the late Prince Frederick Charles, that 18 army corps and 42,000,000 of people would rather die on the battle-field than surrender Alsace-Lorraine, can only be taken as a wanton provocation offered to France. The man must be blind, indeed, who does not now see the value of the Emperor's professions of a regard for peace, and an infinite hope only can look forward to any very lengthened postponement of war.