

of money and other instruments. The cause of the Irish party is the cause of the Irish race, no matter where its members may be found; and, consequently, it is the duty of Irishmen, all the world over, to lend a hand to the Home Rule Members in the terrible duel which is now commencing in earnest. There can be no doubt of the ultimate triumph of Mr. PARNELL and his fellows, but the fight will be expensive, and all should bear this in mind.

WE learn by a telegram from Hobart that His Holiness the Pope has created the Most Rev. Dr. Murphy, Bishop of Hobart, an Archbishop, and it is also announced that Launceston has been made a separate diocese. These are marks of progress on which the Catholics of Tasmania are to be warmly congratulated, and which increase the importance of the colonial Church generally. It is highly creditable to the Catholic community in question that their zeal in the cause of religion has had such happy results, for it is proved by these results how sincere and constant have been their efforts, and how great the sacrifices made by them in the good cause. Everywhere the Catholic Church grows and prospers, we find certain proof of the fidelity of her children, overcoming many obstacles and difficulties that nothing but the truest devotion could surmount. The dignity conferred also upon the venerable Bishop of Hobart is one that well rewards a long and most edifying career in the service of Holy Church. His Lordship only the other day celebrated his sacerdotal jubilee, looking back upon fifty years of able and devoted labours in the great cause of religion and receiving from his people the assurance of well-deserved confidence and love. The dignity to which he has now been elevated comes to crown a life full of honours and good works, and in conferring it upon him the Holy Father has but duly rewarded merit and recognised distinction.

SIR JOHN HALL (writes the Wellington correspondent of Wednesday's *Daily Times*), has always been an advocate of religious teaching in schools. Whenever measures have been introduced having for their object the affording of assistance to private schools, Sir John has been found consistently supporting them. Acting up to his convictions in this matter, he asked a question of the Premier to-night with the object of eliciting an expression of opinion regarding the intention of the Government anent the consideration of the question of State aid to private schools next session. The Premier, who is also a Denominationalist, replied that every facility would be given next session for the consideration of the subject.

THE Wallsend, Coalpit Heath, and Brunner collieries have been amalgamated, and will henceforward be known under the name of the Grey Valley Coal Company (Limited). Now that the attention of the colonies is particularly drawn to all matters connected with the supply of coal by the great strike in New South Wales, this event should be of particular interest. New Zealand, at least, may be able to congratulate itself on an arrangement that facilitates for it still more an abundant supply of fuel that cannot be surpassed, and whose excellence for every possible purpose has long since been well established. Mr. Martin Kennedy will act as the general manager of the Company, and, under his energetic and enterprising management, everything will be done to serve the interests of the public and to consult for their convenience.

MR. PATRICK FORD, of the *Irish World*, it is reported, is being held up to obloquy by certain members of the Democratic party, which party he has deserted, as having proved an indifferent soldier in the Civil war. Mr. Ford, however, in deserting the Democrats has been consistent to Protection, of which he was always an ardent supporter. He has, besides, been alienated by the pro-British leanings of Mr. Cleveland, being influenced as well by Mr. Blaine, in whom personally he thoroughly believes. He, therefore, has not been inconsistent by any means in his conduct, but, on the contrary, could not with consistency have remained a supporter of the Democratic candidate. As to Mr. Ford's having proved an indifferent soldier even if it be true, it is difficult to see how that can affect the present issues. And, besides, he is no worse, at the very worst, than men who have influenced, and still continue to influence, the world, although their taste for military life was very indifferent indeed.

WE publish elsewhere a letter from Wanganui with which we have received for transmission to Dublin a cheque for £72, collected in aid of the National Cause. This is the way to meet the necessities of the times, among which by no means the least are the sinews of war. But while our valiant leaders at home have good men and true, like those at Wanganui, at their back, they will be bold in facing all that Balfour, now more than ever, as proved by recent events of Tullia, more, deserving of the epithet of "Bloody," can devise for their persecution and betrayal. We shall forward without delay the amount to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, who, under the circumstances of the times, appears the safest medium.

WE are requested to acknowledge on behalf of the Dominican nuns blocks and remittances in connection with their art union from Mr. J. Sheedy, Alexandra, and per Mrs. W. J. Hall, Dunedin. The community also desire to express their thanks to Mr. Lenihan, Dunedin, for the gift, as an art union prize, of a fine, and handsomely framed picture of the battle of Fontenoy.

It is somewhat suggestive as to the true nature of this age of athletic sports and exercises that official returns show fifty per cent. of the recruits who offer themselves in England for military service to be rejected as physically deficient by the doctors. An explanation is given in the education craze, which, among the rest, drives the population of the country into the towns. But, in any case, the fact is significant and alarming.

IN a sensible letter to the *Otago Daily Times*, Mr. Hallenstein deprecates the rush to Melbourne. He points out that the apparent prosperity of that city rests on no valid foundation, and that people who go there from New Zealand are making a bad exchange. This colony, he says, is evidently on the turn for better times. An increase in settlement, a rise in raw products, greater activity in coal and gold fields, and the protective policy adopted, all combine to give him confidence, and, although he himself also has had a struggle to hold his own, he looks forward with hope to the immediate future. One sentence, however, in Mr. Hallenstein's letter strikes us as particularly deserving of notice—not only as giving hope for the future, but as in a great degree explaining the past and present. It is this: "Agricultural and pastoral lands are approaching prices at which they can be profitably settled." There is the whole mischief of the period explained in a few words. The shutting up of the lands has been the occasion of all the evil—and even now they are only approaching prices at which they can be profitably made use of. There is even now a large body of settlers,—industrious, deserving people—working like slaves to pay impossible rents and interest, and with the fate staring them in the face that many others have suffered before them. In another place we publish a letter from an unfortunate victim of the system who put all the hard earnings of many years into the land, adding skill and labour, but only to lose all together. Other colonies find it to their advantage not only to give free grants of land to immigrants, but also to aid by other means in settling them on the land. But even a moderate measure of relief is refused by the Legislature of New Zealand. Mr. Hallenstein's letter, then, while it gives good advice and a useful warning, contains also a reproach that is well deserved and very suggestive.

THE usual meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society was held on 22nd inst., when there was a good attendance of members, the Rev. President occupying the chair. Mr. James Eager read a short but excellent paper on "The attitude of the Church on the Slavery Question," which was favourably criticised by the members, and commended by the president. Recitations were given by Messrs McKelvey, Simmons, Eager, and McCormick; and the remainder of the evening was occupied with the reading of part of Shakespeare's Henry VIII., by all the members present.

THE entertainment in aid of St. Leonard's church building fund, will take place on this day (Friday) week in the Dunedin Choral Hall, Moray Place. Among the many ladies and gentlemen who have promised their assistance we may mention Mrs. Brett; Misses Corrigan, Blaney, Poppelwell, Reany and Woods; Messrs Brett, Jones, Hunter, Young, Dechan and P. Carolin, the latter a member of the Literary Society and who will make his bow to an audience for the first time as a singer. The evening's fun will be brought to a close with "Bob Sawyer's Party," from Charles Dickens's "Pickwick" the characters in which will be taken by members of the Literary Society. The tickets of admission are one and two shillings and at this low price the hall should be crowded.

THE great strike of coal miners at Newcastle, N.S.W., by which the coal trade of the Australian colonies is almost completely paralysed is likely to prove a serious matter. Strikes, as a rule, are foolish things and generally end to the disadvantage of the striker. And if it be true that the average earnings of the miners were from 11s to 13s a day, there does not seem to be much grounds for their action. It is not only the miners themselves who will suffer, but all those whose employment depends on their industry. The matter, therefore, is most unfortunate. As it is an ill-wind, however, that blows nobody good, New Zealand may profit by the strike. The mines on the West Coast are fully equal to any call that may be made on them. In quantity they are inexhaustible, and in quality unsurpassed. We see that already the Grey Valley Company state their readiness to answer all requirements, and there can be no doubt they will be as good as their word.

A CABLEGRAM informs us that Mr. Edward Wakefield of Wellington, has written a letter to the *Times*, in which he condemns opposi-