

O'Shea, Mr. Parnell specially disapproved. Never was there such a collapse.

MR. GLADSTONE'S political speech at Hawarden (says the *Paisley Mail Gazette*) was chiefly interesting—apart from its vehement eloquence—for his vindication of Mr. Parnell's action in the Scotch courts. Mr. Gladstone is clearly convinced—as the *Freeman's Journal* and Archbishop Walsh are—that Mr. Parnell has discovered the missing clue to the origin of the famous letters, and that he will be able to prove exactly how the *Times* was either hoodwinked or an accomplice in the "forgery." If this be so, Mr. Parnell's legal action is only what he always announced as his intention, and it will have the advantage of securing the punishment of the *Times* for "a wicked and outrageous wrong." The *Times* has already given notice that it will do all it can to balk the Scotch action. It will be necessary, therefore, to watch very closely the preliminary proceedings of the English Commission. The way in which the judges deal with the "forged letters" will be a touchstone of their fairness.

THE Emperor William has had a cordial reception at Rome, where all that was to be expected, with a little more, has taken place. The little more has been the health-drinking to the Italian and German armies, and the allusions made by his Imperial Majesty to the manner in which German unity had been won by the sword, and the consequent analogy implying perpetual agreement between the Italian and German nations. This seems in some degree to point to an alliance of offence. As to the meeting of the Emperor and the Pope, it was naturally friendly, but we may doubt the genuineness of any particular detail given. That especially to the effect that the Emperor had advised the final abandonment of the temporal power, and an alliance instead with the conservative Sovereigns, seems very untrustworthy. It is hardly possible that his Majesty would have presumed to give any such advice. Had he done so, however, the effect must be contrary to that desired by him. Such advice would show how much the Pope stood in need of complete independence so that his actions should be directed by no external influence, and so that no union with despotism should make the Papacy an object of suspicion to the masses. The decoration by the Emperor of Signor Crispi, with the order of the Black Eagle, and his Majesty's remark that no one had ever deserved it more, may be taken as a necessary part of the ceremonial. It is quite impossible that the Emperor can have any confidence in the statesman so honoured by him.

NEARLY the whole of the dissenting ministers of Ireland, we are told, have risen up in a protest against Home Rule, and are about to banquet Lord Salisbury as a pledge of their resolution and sincerity. But who, we should like to know, are the dissenting ministers of Ireland, and what is their importance? Taking away the Orangemen of Ulster, whose opposition, with its true reasons, has always been known, the dissenters of Ireland are a very insignificant body, indeed, and, in fact, a man might quite well live in the country all his life without so much as seeing one of their ministers at a distance. The truth is he must, as a rule, go out of his way to do so, and then he would have mighty little to see as a reward for his pains. Things must be going hard with Balfour, when he has to get up this agitation as a last resource. But as for the banquet, is there not Secret Service money enough in the coffers of the Castle, to pay for a much more pretentious feed? Lord Salisbury filled with the victuals and drink of a genuine dissenting banquet of the kind, would as anxiously call for an antidote as any man ever represented in *Punch*, as having partaken of a cheap champagne supper. The protest and petition of these dissenting ministers are among the chief jokes of the period. But there would be nothing in the way of a joke to the Prime Minister in the inevitable cholera that must ensue should he venture to enjoy himself at that feed, and supposing there were no Secret Service money available. Poor fellows, we do not grudge them their banquet. The probabilities are they stand sorely in need of it, and the money would probably go into worse stomachs than theirs. Seediness, after all, is neither a vice nor a crime.

THE Dublin committee, we see, are appealing for aid to the Parnell defence fund. The need is pressing, as Mr. Gladstone besides has very clearly and powerfully explained it in his Hawarden speech. On the one side is the *Times* with mines of wealth at its command and actually making money by its reports of the commission and the libel action; on the other is Mr. Parnell, a man of moderate fortune, but under the necessity of bearing expenses that must swamp the owner of super-abundant riches. Nor is the cause in which he must meet such an enormous strain that of Mr. Parnell himself. It is the cause of the Irish people to which he sacrifices his life and all his resources, and on the results of the inquiry and the action their interests depend. It should, therefore, devolve upon the Irish people to meet the necessities of the hour, and they may justly be called on to act generously in the matter. As our Christchurch correspondent also points out, the Irish inhabitants of Westport have already recognised their duty in the case, and are engaged in its performance, the example they

give the rest of the colony being most praiseworthy and deserving of imitation. We are confident, however, that very little persuasion will be required in the matter, and that everywhere an anxiety will be spontaneously felt to have a part in so honourable and necessary an undertaking. New Zealand hitherto has kept well to the fore in aiding the great cause, according to her means, and we need have no apprehension that she will now prove backward. No fervent appeal therefore, on our part is necessary, but we can leave the cause in the hands of our Irish readers feeling convinced as we do that of themselves they will, as usual, do all that concerns their credit, and reflects honourably on their liberality and goodness of heart.

It is again reported that two nationalist delegates are about to visit these colonies. It appears definitely settled that one of them is to be Mr. John Dillon, and there is not a man in the party whom we should more gladly receive or be prouder to see. For the other the names of Mr. T. D. Sullivan and Sir Thomas Esmond are mentioned, and to either we shall accord a hearty welcome. Were the choice given us, however, we should, as it seems but right and natural, prefer the visit of the tried veteran. Sir Thomas Esmond is a fine young fellow, who does honour to the cause he represents, and is deservedly admired wherever he goes. But T. D. Sullivan is the old and trusty friend and leader of the Irish race; the sweet singer too whose strains have long cheered the exile's dwelling, and nothing but ingratitude could prefer any man to him. Besides there would be something to look forward to in the verses that Mr. Sullivan would be sure to give us afterwards, and of which Ireland and our southern lands would be the common theme. Nevertheless a hundred thousand welcomes shall await the delegates, be they who they may.

WE have much pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the honourable position obtained by the Catholic Colleges of New South Wales in the Senior Public Examination, recently held at the Sydney University. Thirty-six, out of one hundred and ten successful candidates are from the Catholic Colleges—a fact which, taking into consideration that the Catholics are less than one-third of the population, and labour under considerable disadvantages, speaks volumes for the teaching powers of our educational institutions. Marist Brothers' College, 13 pupils passed; Jesuit College, 6 passed; Bathurst College, 5 passed; Goulbourn College, 4 passed; St. Vincent's College, 3 passed; Marist Brothers' High School, 3 passed; Maitland College, 2 passed. Total, 36.

NOWADAYS, when the world is moving on, and the Church of England apparently moving with it—if, indeed, it is not going somewhat faster—the appearance of Dr. Nevill in a London church, wearing a cope and cloth-of-gold mitre, as reported the other day, may perhaps cause no amazement. Time was, however, and that not so very long ago, when the arrival of Macaulay's New Zealander himself could have occasioned no greater commotion. His Lordship, it seems, not only made the imposing appearance alluded to, but also took part in ceremonies in which banners, and candles, and incense were used. The Bishop, we have no doubt comported himself so as in all respects to do honour to his adopted country, but could the quiet old fathers of a generation or two have arisen, in their plain old gowns and surplices, not to speak of their Geneva bands, though perhaps these, coming also from foreign parts, were wont as well to give some hint of universality, their astonishment would have been very pronounced. It might have taken the explanation, given on the occasion by the Bishop to someone or another as an additional mark of Catholicity, that a rod driven through the earth from the spot where his Lordship made his appearance would come out close to his residence when he was at home, to explain the phenomenon to them. Indeed it is very probable that some at least among them would think it quite time for the New Zealander of literary prediction to make his famous sketch. But in the days when tattooed heads were the chief curiosity brought to the old country from New Zealand, who could foresee how much more remarkable phenomena lay in the womb of the future? The world moves fast to-day, as we have said, and what is universal must necessarily move with it.

THE judges who form the Parnell commission have evidently been taken a good deal aback by the refusal of Mr. Graham, the counsel for the *Times*, to make any definite charges against particular persons, or to do anything more than attempt to substantiate in a general sort of a way the accusations published in the articles called "Parnellism and Crime." The court seems to have expressed their disapproval of the course without disguise. But as the object of the inquiry has all along been apparent, and the intention of the Government plain, there is nothing to astonish us in the matter. We are told the Irish party express themselves satisfied with the situation, and we can easily believe that they have reason to be so.

WE have received from Mr. M. Ryan, Broadfield, £1 in aid of the evicted tenants fund.