

Irish pursue the same policy. Are these also rebellious? Is Mr. GLADSTONE rebellious? Is Mr. JOHN MORLEY rebellious? Is the entire Liberal party in England, Scotland, and Wales rebellious? Is the Scotch Home Rule Association rebellious? Are the Scotch crofters rebellious? No; no one pronounces any of these rebellious, but we are told that the Vatican regards the Irish priests and bishops as rebellious because they agree with all these and pursue a similar course. Rubbish! only silly men in the silly season could be demented enough to send abroad throughout the world such nonsense. Irishmen, therefore, in these colonies will not be in the least disturbed by such cablegrams as have lately appeared in the public papers. But there is one thing of which these telegrams afford a clear proof—viz., they give evidence of intrigues, and that the old policy of endeavouring to play off the Vatican against Irish nationality is yet alive and kicking. The enemies of Ireland and Irishmen are still earnest in their efforts to enlist the services of the Pope against both. But it is all in vain. The everlasting rock cannot be moved.

We would again remind our readers of the lecture to be given by the Rev. Father Burke, in the Choral Hall Dunedin, on Tuesday evening, the 6th, inst. The "Men of the Home Rule Movement," we may again mention, is the subject, and a spirited sketch of stirring times may be expected. The object, as we have already stated, is that of defraying the cost of improvements lately made at the Christian Brothers' schools, and amongst them the new gymnasium. Very *appropos* of this subject, has been the success of the Brothers' pupils at the gymnastic competition held by Professor David at the Garrison Hall on Friday evening last. Seven prizes were awarded to all the boys competing, representing four different schools, and of these seven prizes the Brothers' lads carried off four. It was a grand sight to see the green at the top of the ropes first in five successive heats. All the schools had their own colours, and the Brothers' boys of course, wore the colour of the Emerald Isle conspicuous on their breasts. They had merely four months' training to compete with lads who were at it probably for years. This suffices to show the stuff that is in them if they get but fair encouragement from the people. We may add that those people who find themselves unable to attend the lecture may give as efficient aid, though not with so much pleasure to themselves, by sending donations, which will be thankfully received.

THE state of affairs in Europe generally seems anything rather than quiescent. The row between Sir. Morell Mackenzie and the German doctors, in the first place, seems destined to attain to the magnitude of an international difficulty. Mackenzie declares that his book was written at the request of the Queen and the Empress Victoria, and the Emperor backs up the German doctors by inviting them to dinner. The matter finally has reached a stage at which the Prime Minister of England and the German Ambassador are in communication respecting it, and there is a good deal of tension on the increase between the countries concerned. In the second place in France, while a sharp contest is going on between General Boulanger and the Premier, the one demanding the creation of what he calls a National Republic and the other insisting on the sufficiency of his own revision of the Constitution, the aspect of foreign affairs is declared to require an enormous outlay on purposes of defence. Finally Germany is said to have recommended the Porte to recognise Prince Ferdinand as reigning Prince of Bulgaria. But, on the other hand, the Russian Ambassador has warned the Grand Vizier that, if this is done, Russia will regard it as a *casus belli*. A week ago when the communication with Europe was interrupted we were left in the assurance that everything gave certain promise of uninterrupted peace. Now when communication is restored we find that everything is on the very brink of a general war. The cry of "wolf" however has been so often raised of late that we shall hardly be able to believe our ears when it has at length been uttered in earnest. To-morrow or next day may once more find everything calmed down.

We are requested to acknowledge on the part of the Dominican nuns, the receipt of art-union blocks and remittances from Mrs. McQuigley, Westport; Miss O'Hagan, Pukerau; Mr. James Costello, Skippers.

THE Rev. Father MacKay, who returned last week from his visit to the Australian colonies, celebrated the 8 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday, and preached at 11 a.m., on devotion to the holy souls. The rev. gentleman left for Queenstown on Wednesday.

As a rule we must take with a good deal of reserve any reports that reach us through the cable or any other non-Catholic source, touching matters in which the Pope is principally concerned. We may, however, receive it as most probable, as reported, that His Holiness

has been displeased by the speeches made at the Quirinal by the German Emperor, and that, in consequence of the disposition shown by his Majesty, a plain departure from the later policy of his grandfather, German Catholics have been advised by the *Moniteur de Rome*, the Pope's newspaper, to be on their guard, and especially to insist upon their right of obtaining Catholic Schools. Their children can not be safe in the schools of a Government whose arbitrary head shows himself unfriendly towards the Church. We may also reasonably believe that the Pope, in the face of recent events, has thought it necessary, once more, to protest against the usurpation of Rome, and to claim it as the capital of the Catholic world. It is plain, moreover, from this, that His Holiness repudiates the invitation, reported as given him by the Emperor, to become the ally of the Conservative Sovereigns—whether despotism or the revolution is represented by them—and is firmly resolved to maintain his independence. As to the rumours relating to the disposition of the Pope towards the Irish cause, such, for example, as that Cardinal Moran's action in Ireland was obnoxious to him, or that he is troubled at the state of the country, and looks upon the attitude of the priesthood as rebellious—we may dismiss them as unworthy of consideration.

THE Sisters of *Notre Dame des Missions* of the monastery of the Sacred Heart, Christchurch, are about to appeal to the public in aid of a fund to pay off the debt remaining on their convent. The Nuns have been very forbearing in the matter and have for a long time deferred a step so necessary for the comfort and welfare of their community. The appeal in this instance will take the shape of a grand Shakespearean Festival, which will be held in the Palace Skating Rink, during the last week in January. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the people of Christchurch will do all that lies in their power to advance the interests of the good Sisters, to whom they owe so much, and that they will keep their forces in reserve for the occasion alluded to.

THE Most Rev. Dr. Moran returned on Monday to Dunedin from Oamaru. His Lordship, during his visit, spent Tuesday and Wednesday in examining the schools, with whose proficiency he expressed himself very much pleased. On Sunday the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation and preached in the forenoon. In the evening vespers were celebrated, at which his Lordship again preached, and afterwards a procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place, in which the whole congregation had a part. The procession was carried out in a most devotional and edifying manner.

OUR Christchurch correspondent alludes to a delightful suggestion made by the brilliant "Puff" of the Wellington *Press* about Mr. Michael Davitt. "Puff" follows the common philosophy of human nature and judges of others by himself. But if there is a forlorn hope in maligning the Irish, as there apparently is also in championing the Chinese, let not our correspondent attempt to rob a fellow-creature in distress of his last resource. Go ahead, "Puff," old boy. The world has used you badly. Take it out of the Irish to your heart's content. Relieve your spleen and save yourself an attack of jaundice.

THE brave Mr. Balfour is in Ireland, and the triple B.B.—Brave Balfour, Bloody Balfour, Bomba Balfour—is proving his bravery by going about half smothered in policemen. There is a walking proof for you of good government and the restoration of the golden age. B.B. should recollect that one action is worth a whole litany of professions, and no doubt he does recollect it. But lying is his trade and that he must follow. It would never do besides, to let himself get killed in proof that he had been telling lies. No doubt, philosopher though he is, he would like a few minutes or two at the last gasp for repentance. We can, therefore, understand B. B.'s position among his Pealers.

THE action brought in Scotland against the *Times* has evidently forced the party concerned to stand by the forged letters. Every disposition to let them go was shown, but Mr. Parnell's insistence has kept them well to the fore. The Attorney-General, in his opening address, affirms that the *Times* possesses the fullest proofs of their genuine character. This, however, it remains for him to establish. The question naturally arises, as to why the letter attributed to Mr. Egan, and said to have been found in Carey's house, was not produced on the trial of the Invincibles. This must be acknowledged a suspicious circumstance. If the utterances made publicly by Mr. Parnell in America, as also stated by the Attorney-General, are to form another of the chief indictments, we may easily perceive that the case against the gentleman in question is not very strong. Ford's cabling to Egan to prompt Parnell to issue the no-rent manifesto from Kilmainham gaol is also a rather absurd matter on which to base a grave accusation, and, on the whole, the Attorney-General does not appear particularly fortunate in the brief he holds.

WE have received from Messrs A. Kinney and M. O'Keefe a cheque for £26 collected at Hyde in aid of the National League. The sum does great credit to the generosity of the district.