

New Zealand Gazette

VOL. XVI.—No. 28.

DUNEDIN: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1888.

PRICE 6D.

Current Topics

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran, during his recent stay in Ireland, visited the town of Callan in his former diocese of Ossory, for the purpose of making arrangements there for transferring thence to Paramatta, near Sydney, a community of the Sisters of Mercy. His Eminence, on the occasion, preached an eloquent and beautiful sermon, in which he spoke of the thoughts that had arisen in his mind, as a few days before he stood on the Rock of Cashel and saw the surrounding trophies of Ireland's earliest sanctity. The subject was one with which his Eminence, from his special qualifications as a scholar, as well as his Catholic fervour, was thoroughly fitted to deal. The Cardinal took for his principal theme the missionary calling, under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin, of the Irish people, tracing their labours in this connection from the earliest times up to the present. Our readers will find the following passages relating to the establishment of the faith in the new world, and particularly in these Australasian colonies, of the highest interest:—"Wherever," said his Eminence, "the English-speaking world extends its sway, it is the sons of Ireland that plant the standard of the Cross and assure the triumph of religion, of Christian love, and of all true virtue. Throughout the United States, in the eighty great dioceses that now adorn that glorious Church, it is the sons of Ireland who have built up the sanctuaries of God, and in like manner they have upheld the standard of religion in Canada and other colonies. These would seem a triumph of Irish faith. But I must in a special way attest, as an authentic witness, that the same triumphs of Irish faith are to be found throughout the length and breadth of Australia. Not so many years ago the power of darkness erected every bulwark that malice could devise to shut out Ireland's faith from the Continent of Australia. I was reading the other day the origin of the colony of South Australia, and in the programme published in London inviting the first settlers to that colony it was proclaimed, and proclaimed in an official manner, that all citizens would be free to settle in that colony excepting Pagans and Papists. The same regulation was made in the colony of Otago, and restrictions scarcely less severe may be found in the beginnings of the other colonies. But the malice of man might devise its schemes in vain whilst the Providence of God was watching over the future destinies of this great southern continent. Those first pilgrims—those first exiles from Ireland—when they saw the standard of the Cross emblazoned among the constellations of the southern sky, shed tears of joy and tears of hope, though away from every consolation that religion might give; they prayed in the fervour of their hearts, and their prayers were heard, that that sign of the triumph of faith would not have been set in the southern sky in vain. And the malice of man was conquered by the grace of God. At the present day we see how our holy Faith is spreading its triumphs throughout every colony of Australia." His Eminence afterwards spoke of the sympathy that unites the Irish race, far apart as they may be scattered:—"I must also assure you," he said, "that in Australia, not in one diocese alone, but in every colony, and in the twenty-five dioceses that are now erected there under the Southern Cross, all our people share not only in the piety and religious spirit of their countrymen here at home, but they are united with them heart and hand in every aspiration for the material blessings and independence of this country. If agitation—political agitation—is necessary to attain the results to which you aspire, you may rest assured of the hearts of the Irish faithful throughout the world in securing them. The fervent and disinterested prayers proceeding from the loving and devoted hearts of the sons of Ireland throughout the world shall not ascend before the Throne of God in vain. Sooner shall heaven and earth pass away than that these prayers shall fail to bring down a blessing upon this favoured land. Through these prayers and through the exertions of our faithful people at home and abroad, I have no doubt that before long not only the spiritual blessing of heaven shall abound among our people, but the material blessings of true freedom and the abundance of prosperity and peace shall be multiplied among us.

THE exposure made by the Archbishop of Dublin BALFOURISM. in the *Contemporary Review* for September, of the tricks of Mr. George Wyndham, secretary to Mr. Balfour, should make even a Unionist blush. Those who are not Unionists, but honest men, must feel highly disgusted at the matter. Mr. Wyndham wrote in the May number of the *Review* in reply to an article of Mr. Davitt's, and the Archbishop's statement, although Mr. Davitt may have thought the misrepresentation so blatant to need an answer, he was wrong in not pointing out to the public generally, all of whom could not be looked upon as fully informed, the grossness of the misstatements. The Archbishop tells us his own notice was attracted to the subject by finding in an out-of-the-way town in North Italy a copy of the London *Graphic* lying among other newspapers on the table of a reading-room in a hotel. In this *Graphic* was a notice of Mr. Wyndham's article, and the Archbishop says that on reading it, his conclusion was that the writer in the newspaper had made a mistake. On returning home, however, he found that the writer had been correct, and that the errors were Mr. Wyndham's. The statement was to the effect that official statistics proved that the Land Commission in Ireland had increased rather than reduced the rents, and as an instance certain cases were quoted. In Fermanagh, for example, it was stated there had been an increase of 168.3 per cent. in eleven cases, in Kildare a rise of 21.1 per cent, and in the Queen's County one of 2 per cent., while the increase for Leinster as a whole was 6.7 per cent. The Archbishop says he can hardly believe that the writer is the Mr. George Wyndham who is Mr. Balfour's secretary, and who must have particular facilities for knowing the truth. It is beneath the Archbishop, but we find it quite on our own level to say that Mr. Balfour's secretary must also have particular facilities for knowing what is false, as he has particular reasons for stating it. That he does state it Archbishop Walsh most clearly proves. The cases in Fermanagh, for example, as stated plainly in the official table whence Mr. Wyndham took them, had not been decided by the Commission itself, but were cases in which a decision had been given upon the reports of valuers appointed upon the joint application of landlords and tenants. But, even in such cases, a reduction had been generally given; the average for the whole country where, from 1883 to 1887, 728 cases of the kind had occurred, being, for the whole five years, 11.6 per cent. During the same years the cases decided by the Commission in the ordinary way had been 41,501, with an average reduction of 20.5. As to the eleven cases in Fermanagh decided by valuers, and said to be increased by 168.3 per cent., the statement also is inexact. Out of the whole eleven cases the former rents paid in three only were known. These three amounted to £37 6s, the increased rents in the whole eleven cases amounting to £100 12s 6d.—And it was by comparing the sum total of the three former rents with that of the eleven new rents that the large percentage of increase was arrived at. But that method of calculation is evidently misleading. As to the assertion made by Mr. Wyndham again with respect to the Province of Leinster, where he says an increase of 6.7 per cent. had taken place, the Archbishop shows that, whereas the valuers' table contains only 8 cases as decided with an increase by arbitration, 894 cases had been decided by the Commissioners with an average reduction of 34.7 per cent. His Grace also refutes Mr. Wyndham's statements with regard to Kildare and the Queen's County. The Archbishop quotes Mr. Wyndham as saying in his reply to Mr. Davitt:—"A correct is in most cases as short as an incorrect statement of figures. It is only the capacity for making the former—which appears to be the rarer gift of fortune." His Grace, at the conclusion of the exposure made by him, refers humorously to this passage as bearing upon the conduct of Mr. Wyndham himself. But such is Balfourism. All things are lawful to it, and there is no statement, however false, that it will not brazenly publish to the world and as brazenly sustain to serve its nefarious ends.

A WRITER in a late number of the *Month* deals THE CONVERSION with the probabilities of the conversion of England OF ENGLAND. to the Catholic faith, bringing forward, in support of the hope, many curious and interesting predictions of holy men and women. Among other things, in speaking of the crusade of prayers originating with the Passionist Fathers, on whose labours, foreseen miraculously by their founder, St. Paul of the Cross, much reliance is placed, the writer alludes as follows to the