

and that its restitution can only be brought about by the return of Catholic deputies to Parliament. The admission coming from such a source, means a great deal. In the extremity of alarm only could it be made.

Great things are spoken of the approaching visit of the German Emperor to Rome, of which, however, it is said Prince Bismarck strongly disapproves. The monarchists are in hopes that the precedent will be followed by other sovereigns, so far prevented from visiting King Humbert by fears of offending the Pope. The revolutionists also are hopeful, not that they have any desire to welcome crowned heads at Rome, but, because they hail with joy any prospect of offence against the Vatican. The Emperor William, nevertheless, has thought it right to conceal so much as that his first visit shall be paid to the Holy Father. He will go direct from the railway terminus to the Vatican, and, only after his interview with the Pope has taken place, will he receive the hospitalities of the Quirinal. In some degree therefore, the higher standing, if not the legitimate rights, of the Papacy, is to be acknowledged by his Majesty.

In noble contrast to the newly-erected monuments of the revolution that affront the eye in the Roman streets is the observatory that has recently been completed on the Janiculum. It is a monument to the late renowned astronomer, Father Secchi, S.J., and has been erected to his memory by his pupil and brother Jesuit, Father Ferrari. Even the extreme Press recognise the merit of this great work, and bear testimony to the grandeur of Father Ferrari's successful and unassisted enterprise. Perhaps, however, their liberality is in some degree to be explained by the fact that they are enabled to contrast the work thus accomplished with the very much inferior state of the Government observatories, as well as to draw attention to the frivolous and vicious pursuits of the millionaires of the country, who, as they justly complain, are nothing about science. The war of the revolution is against monarchy and capital only in a degree less fierce than against the Church. Still, Father Ferrari's task has been one that might well obtain even the sincere admiration of enemies—and we may give the benefit of the doubt to those who deserve it.

The Bishop of Madrid has aroused the indignation of the Italian Government by issuing a pastoral, in which he strongly denounces the bearing of the new penal code on the position of the clergy. As the right of defending the temporal power is involved, however, the Bishop has done no more than every Catholic is justified in doing. To make such a defence penal for the Italian hierarchy and clergy is a monstrous proceeding, against which the whole Catholic world should protest. It is said, nevertheless, that a remonstrance has been addressed on the subject by Signor Crispi to the Government of Spain.

T I M A R U.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE Cairnsore, barque, 878, tons Captain Scott, left here on the 17th ult., for the United Kingdom. On the day previous to her departure a letter appeared in the *Timaru Herald* from Captain Scott, in which he freely expressed his opinion of the port of Timaru. As the port is considered by many to be anything but a safe place for a vessel to visit, a few remarks on the letter may not be amiss. Captain Scott has a long experience as master mariner and has visited many ports during his seafaring career. His letter, therefore, must be considered a valuable and a thoroughly reliable one. He states that while in Timaru he experienced some very bad weather, including one of the heaviest nor-westers known in New Zealand for years, "yet his vessel rode out the gale with as much ease and comfort as she would have done in England and other places." He came here prejudiced against the port, having heard many disparaging reports about it, but he went away with very favourable opinions, and he would as soon bring his ship here as to any port he has visited. The quick despatch his vessel received despite the bad weather agreeably surprised him, and he considers the port has been much maligned in regard to the risk of loading vessels. When the masters of such ships as the s.s. Fifeshire, the s.s. Elderslie and the Cairnsore express themselves fully satisfied with the safety, accommodation and despatch of the port, they do much to remove the slanders which interested persons are persistently circulating about Timaru and its harbour.

Mr. William Evans, of Timaru, one of the New Zealand Commissioners to the Exhibition, has just returned from Melbourne. In a letter to the morning paper he has placed some of his views before the public. Mr. Evans was an old resident of Melbourne during the rosy days after the opening of the Victorian diggings, from 1851 to 1860. At that time a constant stream of population was flowing in from Great Britain, Europe, and America; yet he considers the influx of people now greater than it was then. There is at present in Melbourne plenty of room for skilled labour, as the houses are going up with great rapidity, the brickyards being mortgaged with orders six months in advance. Mr. Evans thinks, however, that this cannot last; that a re-action is inevitable, and that when it does come much want and misery will ensue. The land "boom," he states, is confined to Melbourne and suburbs; some land twenty miles from Melbourne bringing from £1 to £20 per foot. He expresses his opinion that it can be bought in a few years at that price with buildings, improvements, etc., given in. He also believes that hundreds of those who have left these shores for Melbourne "will return within twelve months sadder if not wiser men." At that rate the motto for all who have gone to Melbourne is "to make hay while the sun shines," and then we may see them returning to New Zealand with some of the harvest.

The friends of Mr. D. M. Ross have signed a requisition asking him to allow himself to be nominated for the Mayoralty. It is not known whether Mr. Jonas will stand again. Should he do so the contest between will be an exciting one, as both are gentlemen of large business experience and have numerous supporters.

Father Regnault paid a visit here from the West Coast. The rev. gentleman is travelling for the good of his health, which is not very robust. He preached on Sunday, the 14th ult. As it was in Timaru Father Regnault made his first essay at a sermon in the English language, his many admirers here were glad to see that he has made himself master of the language—his sermon on the Blessed Virgin on the date mentioned being an exceptionally good one. The Rev. Father, after staying a week, left on Wednesday last, his health, I am glad to state, being much improved.

The Albany freetrader has bested his oppressors. On the application of Mr. Joynt, in Christchurch, the conviction in the recent illicit distillation case was quashed, on the ground that the Magistrate had no power to commit for a longer period than six months. I have not heard whether the liberated distiller has yet applied for his "plant." It would be mean to deprive him of it.

A summoned meeting of St. Mary's branch of the Hibernian Society was held on Thursday, 18th ult.; Mr. T. Sheehy in the chair. The balance-sheet was read, and showed the branch to be steadily increasing in funds. It was decided to take steps to form a juvenile contingent in connection with the branch. This is a very wise step on the part of the promoters. A juvenile branch will be a grand recruiting ground for the older one, and in transacting the business of their branch, the boys will receive that special training which will make them desirable and efficient members of the Society. The Rev. Father Foley on Sunday last requested parents to get their boys to join, and it is to be hoped he will meet with a generous response, and that we will soon see a flourishing juvenile branch in Timaru.

The cattle show and races are close at hand, and business people seem to be a little less morose. These events make things a little brisk, and give the townspeople a "show."

The *Timaru Herald* of October 20th has a leader on Mr. Parnell and the *Times* Commission. It comments on a cablegram "that Mr. Parnell having issued an English writ on the day before the Scotch action was commenced the case must be tried in England," and after remarking that Mr. Parnell's "chances" would have been as good in London as in Edinburgh, concludes by quoting an article from the "Scottish Journal of Jurisprudence and Scottish Law Magazine." The cablegram in the first instance is wrong. It was Mr. Jno. E. Redmond and another Irish member that issued the English writs. Mr. Parnell took action in Edinburgh only. In reference to the amount of justice Mr. Parnell would receive in London, we can judge of that by the amount of that commodity he has already received there. Twice he applied for a Select Committee in the House of Commons to enquire into the charges and forgeries brought forward by the *Times*, and twice he was refused. Mr. Parnell knew that had his request been granted the majority of the Committee would be hostile to him, yet he was willing to accept it. Then, as he was determined something should be done, the Government promised him a Commission of Judges, the names and leanings of which are known to all. The *Times* secured the Attorney-General as counsel, and though not a Cabinet Minister he was summoned to the Cabinet meeting at which the Bill was framed. Mr. W. H. Smith had also a secret conference with the proprietors of the *Times*; and, everything having been arranged to their mutual satisfaction, the next day the terms of the Charges and Allegations Bill were published; an express clause being inserted to protect the *Times* from any action-at-law. All amendments proposed by the Irish or Liberal members were negatived. The Government carried the Bill by brute force, and Mr. Parnell and his colleagues found that they were in the peculiar position of being charged with everything in general but nothing in particular. No definite charges were to be made, only a general fishing enquiry extending over an indefinite period, during which the *Times* would be recouping its expenses by publishing the reports of the Commission, while Mr. Parnell would have the privilege of having eminent counsel at his own expense. This is the justice and equality he has already received in London, and the *Herald* is surprised it does not agree with him. The "Buzluz" of the Scotch law journal thinks "the action in the court is intended to defeat or discredit the Commission enquiry." The "Sergeant" is particularly wise in his generation. Yet, when we see a powerful Tory Government in league with a newspaper with a "mine of wealth" at its back, and both combined against Mr. Parnell and his colleagues, Members of the Imperial Parliament, it seems strange that Mr. Parnell should be anxious to blacken with discredit such a homogeneous combination. I doubt very much if he could. It would be difficult to find a white spot in them. No, Mr. Parnell has a much more important object than that. He intends to sheet home to the *Times* its fabrications and forgeries, and show the people of England to what a plot the Government has lent itself. Then we may reasonably expect the overthrow of Salisbury, Balfour, and Co., and the accession to power of a party who now recognise the rights and wants of Ireland and who will cause a real union between England and Ireland by doing the latter justice.

A few days ago the *Riforma* assured us that the account given by the Government inspectors on the condition of the schools was very dissatisfactory for the Catholic schools, that therefore it was quite possible those schools would be shut up very soon, and that, if such a step were not sufficient, the Minister of Public Instruction would present to Parliament a measure concerning the teaching in some schools. I can say, on the most reliable authority, that the statement as to the account given by the inspectors is false; on the contrary, the inspectors praised some Catholic schools highly, and declared that in many Governmental schools the teaching was very bad, especially in the Italian language. An inspector told me that there are in them young people who are not able to write even a simple letter to their relatives. Signor Crispi has not only allowed the *Riforma* to speak falsely, but has declared in Parliament that he will very soon present a law by which elementary schools will all belong to, and be under the control of the State.—Correspondent *Catholic Times*.