

had the sympathy of everyone whose sympathy was worth having. Those narrow-minded few, he added, who opposed him were not fit to live in such a land as Australia. Father Kavanagh went on to deprecate all hatred and revenge on the part of Irishmen towards England and to point out how much better were the methods of reason and argument by which the English masses were becoming convinced of the justice of the Irish cause.

It is not often that any man holding a high public office signalises himself by a public and unprovoked display of bitter sectarian bigotry. This distinction, however, has been reserved for his Honour the Chief Justice of Western Australia, who, under the pretence of delivering one of a series of popular lectures lately given there, and taking for his subject, "The England of the 16th century," entered upon a fierce denunciation of the Catholic Church. The circumstance, which happily seems without precedent in the history of the judicial bench of the Australian colonies, has given reasonable offence among the Catholic community, with whom, moreover, the better disposed among the non-Catholic population are in full sympathy.

The announcement made that the Launceston district is about to be divided from the diocese of Hobart and created a separate see, has not been received very favourably in Tasmania. It is argued that the small number of the Catholic population makes such an arrangement undesirable, and more particularly, since, owing to the peculiar circumstances of the colony, no very rapid increase can be looked for.

The rather doubtful experiment of liberating several thousands of convicts in India in honour of Her Majesty's Jubilee, is reported after a year's experience not to have had any appreciable result upon the crime of the country. Whether this may be taken as a proof that the maintenance of prisoners in the country is a more or less useless expense, or that rejoicing loyalty has a salutary effect upon the criminal mind, we need not stay to examine. The effect upon the population generally, however, was not quite so wholesome, the number of malefactors, exclusive of the released convicts, being largely increased.

A case of voluntary suttee is reported from the neighbourhood of Cawnpore, where a widow, having waited until the mourners had left the smouldering pile on which her husband's body had been consumed, threw herself into the embers that still had sufficient strength to cause her death. The act of the unfortunate creature, however, is less attributed to despairing love or religious superstition, than to the fear of enduring the degradation that is the fate of the Indian widow. In this the benefits that Christianity has conferred upon the world are once more apparent. But whatever excuse for British rule is offered by the prevention of the suttee, as an established custom, it seems a good deal modified, by the conditions, still, obtaining, of the woman's life.

If we are to judge of the prospects of Christianity in India, meantime, by the success of Protestant missions there, it is much to be feared that heathenism will hold its own. A native missionary in Bombay has, for example, just read a paper on the Church, in which he states that, as a result of 75 years labours, the whole number of converts of all sects, except the Salvation Army, concerning which he has no certain information, is 454, it adults alone be taken, or, including children, 356. As to the Salvation Army in Bombay, they have not as yet made a regular establishment there, and if they have fifty native followers it is the most. So that, in round numbers, 1000 would represent the whole result of the seventy-five years. But if this be compared with the vast sum of heathenism, the prospects of Protestant Christianity are obvious.

As the habits of the Chinese should be of interest in colonies where some people intend that they shall have large settlements, and the sooner the better, a few details lately given to the Royal Asiatic Society at Shanghai will not be out of place in these notes. The subject treated of was infanticide which is suspected of existing very markedly in the country. It seems that, as the bodies of little children even among the better classes are hardly considered worthy of burial, among the lower classes they are deprived of it altogether and thrown into the fields or canals. To such an extent does this practice prevail that in some cities, notably Peking, cars provided by Government go round continually to gather up the little corpses and convey them to a place of burial. No inquiry, say the authorities in question, is made into the condition of the bodies, which proves that Government is indifferent as to whether or not infanticide is committed. The tenderness of the parents, however, is often testified to by the fact that the infants thrown out as dead are found to be alive, when, we are told, they are conveyed to a founding hospital, where the preservation of their lives depends upon their being speedily adopted. We see then what refining and civilising influences we might expect our Chinese settlers to bring at best amongst us. At best a barbarous and revolting habit, striking at the most sacred feelings of civilised people, and at worst, and the worst is probably the fact, a habit of murder in a most detestable form. Verily the advocates of our friend John show a deep understanding of morality in belauding his virtues, and a sweet solicitude for the future of the colonies in desiring to establish him as a leader among their settlers.

General Prajevalsky, the Russian explorer, has left St. Petersburg on his journey of discovery to Tibet. He will pick up on the way a selected band of hardy Cossacks to accompany him. It is fully in accordance with Russia's policy to send out enterprises in the guise of explorers: and at this moment, when war is as good as declared between Tibet and the British in India, and may break out at any moment, Prajevalsky's progress will be very closely watched.

American Notes.

THE inquiry appointed by Congress into the labour of immigrants and its effects upon that of the native population, has brought to light a very wretched state of affairs. In the Italian department especially outrageous hardships have been revealed, culminating in a complete system of slavery maintained by one particular contractor. This is a naturalised citizen of the States, named Vincenzo Palumbo who, owing to the treatment given by him to the men in his employment, is looked upon as a desperado in his infringement of the law. The men engaged by him were each obliged at the outset to pay five dollars for the engagement, and were then treated, to all intents and purposes, as prisoners. Women, however, have also testified to extreme pressure; some of the witnesses examined being in the habit of rising at three o'clock in the morning, and working until ten or eleven at night to earn a sum of forty or fifty cents. In the cigarmaking trade again, which has been almost completely taken out of the hands of the American workmen, it is stated that, on pretence of doing a work of charity, some years ago, several of the manufacturers combined and brought out Jewish refugees from Russia. The result has been to reduce wages to a level at which no American workman could possibly live, but at which the unfortunate foreigners are forced to labour if they would avoid absolute starvation. It is proved in fact, that a state of things exists which imperatively calls for amendment. It is vain for the advocates of protection to resist the lowering of the tariff, while in the heart of the country a system of freetrade virtually exists, against which it is impossible for the American workingman to contend, and which, besides, must have demoralising effects generally. As an instance of the moral standing of the manufacturers in whose benefit the system is maintained, it may be added that, in some cases, employees were discharged by them for telling the truth under examination on oath before the commission of inquiry.

The condition of things revealed by the commission of enquiry into foreign labour must seem anomalous indeed, as considered in relation to the demonstrations made on September 3rd—our Labour Day as it is called. The occasion in question was the second anniversary, and it was celebrated in all the principal towns of the States. A procession took place, in every city, of the various labour organisations and in every instance the importance of the workingman was made evident. No reflective looker-on could avoid the thought that these were the men in whose hands the destinies of the country lay. No one, moreover, of ordinary powers of observation could avoid seeing in the fine appearance of the men, and their independent bearing and manly demeanour that the country could not be in better hands. Whatever abuses, therefore, may creep in unawares, or even run an unhappy course, confidence must still be maintained, and the certainty that every evil will eventually and in its turn be remedied. This bringing of the working-men together and enabling them to see their own power, and how capable they are as a whole of using it for the public benefit, cannot fail to have salutary effects. Labour Day, therefore, bids fair not to be the least useful among American institutions.

The President's letter accepting the nomination, a second time to the Presidency contains a very patriotic programme of intentions. He speaks of his experience in the Presidency as having impressed him with the great responsibilities of the position, while it has quickened his love for American institutions. The necessities of the position, he adds, involve the protection and maintenance of American rights, both at home and abroad. These, he says, include the following: A sound financial system; the defence of the national safety and maintenance of the national honour; the protection and preservation of the national domain; a recognition of the value of American labour; the limitation and check of monopolistic tendencies; provision for surviving soldiers and sailors, as well as for the widows and orphans of those who have died;—protection against an injurious servile immigration; adherence to the principles of civil service reform; a guarantee of all their rights of citizenship to coloured citizens; a firm and humane Indian policy; the introduction of economical methods in every department of government. All these points, adds Mr. Cleveland, are contained in the Democratic platform, which he endorses. He then goes on to explain his views, as to the tariff, whose reduction, he explains, is absolutely called for to remove an unjust imposition of taxation on the people. The surplus revenue he says, not only gives conclusive proof of exorbitant taxation, but withdraws a vast sum from the circulation needed in the channels of trade and business.—As a matter of course, Mr. Cleveland's supporters declare that his explanation of how the matter is to be adjusted is all that it should be and has no bearing whatever on the introduction of free-trade. But, no less as a matter of course, Mr. Cleveland's opponents declare that his proposals mean death to protection, and must be opposed by every possible means.

Mr. Blaine's visit to Europe has given him great advantages as a prop of the Republican party. He has returned brimming over with statistics as to the condition of things in the European labour market, which is supposed to represent what it would be in the States also were freetrade to carry the day. Mr. Blaine professes himself sure of the country from the Pacific coast to the eastern borders of Ohio, and looks for the brunt of the fight to take place in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The victory, meantime, in Maine, where the State elections have resulted in a Republican victory, with a majority of over 20,000, has been the source of fresh prestige to Mr. Blaine, as to his personal influence and efforts the victory is in a great degree attributed. Protection was the issue of the contest.

The immigration from Ireland for the year ending June 30 reached a total of 73,238, the total for last year being 68,130. The number of