

of the homesteads which many of our colonists have laboured hard to make, but, owing to the badness of the times and the defects in the land laws, may not be found able to keep. This is a matter, for example, that will require serious consideration during the next session of Parliament, and which should be urged upon the attention of Government.

The speech of the Premier at the banquet to which we refer, meantime, was not one to inspire much confidence among his hearers. It was rather negative in its tone, and dealt more with explanations and apologies relating to the past than with any ameliorated prospects in view. We may, nevertheless, hope that the retrenchments, for which Sir HARRY ATKINSON takes so much credit to himself and his colleagues, and which, he says, it was such "terrible work" to perform, will turn out as satisfactory as expected. But we cannot help thinking that if the civil servants discharged were, in fact, the capable men and good servants that Sir HARRY says they were, their loss must inevitably be felt, and the public service must suffer. The only valid excuse for discharging these servants is that they were men superfluously employed. But this the future alone, sooner or later, can determine, and we shall hope for the best. As to the reductions made in the salaries—from the Governor down—that also has its other side. Anything, in short, that tends to cut down earnings generally—to encourage the sweating system, for example, is to be deprecated, and it is to be feared that these reductions may have such an effect. They will certainly give an impetus to the nefarious desire for cheapness—and a large class of the population, the civil servants, will necessarily be driven to practise such economies. Their wants will remain the same, but their means will be much diminished. Will Lady ONSLOW, for example, be excused by the ladies of the *élite* if she appears in a bonnet of less splendour than those worn by Lady JERVOIS, whose income was a third greater? And if the appointments at Government House are diminished in taste or richness, is there not danger that visitors there will come away in something of the frame of mind shown by Aunt DILAH on witnessing the thrift of Miss OPHELIA—"These here Northern ladies ain't ladies no how?" The reductions, then, as well as the dismissals, have their reverse side. As to Sir HARRY's explanation of the exodus from the colony it was not at all to the point. The exodus does not consist, as he said, only of young men going out to see the world. It is largely made up of men and women long since weary of seeing the world, but forced to go out, not to see, but to seek for food and clothing. And it is not a hopeful circumstance that the Premier makes light of a serious situation—whether he understands it or not.

In conclusion, we regret the termination of the period of office which removes Sir WILLIAM JERVOIS from our shores, and heartily wish his Excellency happiness in whatever sphere it may be his lot or his choice to fill.

THE Dominican Convent bazaar will be held in the Garrison Hall, Dunedin, on the closing days of the month, when the nuns hope that their friends will come generously to their assistance. The object of the bazaar, as already stated by us, is to form the nucleus of a fund for building the class-rooms and dormitories provided for in the plan of the convent, of which not quite one half has been completed in the present building. The services of the nuns to the community generally need not be recalled. They are well before the citizens of Dunedin in the numbers of highly accomplished young ladies who move in society, and who owe, in many cases, the whole, and in several at least the completion, of their education to the Dominican community. We may, indeed, claim, without fear of contradiction, that the community have done their part well in the work of culture and refinement. It is, therefore, not only due to them but to society generally, that when they seek to increase the sphere of their usefulness by providing additional accommodation, the aid they need should be given them. Arrangements are being made to produce the grand march to take place on the occasion with magnificence, and generally to provide for the entertainment of visitors. The music, we need hardly say, will be very fine, several leading amateurs, as well as the pupils of the convent, having promised to give their services. The following gentlemen have kindly consented to further the arrangements personally, or by every means in their power:—Messrs. J. B. Callan, F. W. Petre, M. Fagan, F. Meenan, J. Carroll, W. J. Hall, J. Liston, H. Robinson, P. McAlister, R. A. Dunne, Davy, C. Columb, Brookes, W. Cantwell, Ward, J. F. Perrin, J. Murray, T. Deehan, J. J. Connor, D. W. Woods.

OUR contemporary the Brooklyn *Catholic Review* has lately quoted from the London *Evening News*, for the amusement of its readers, as it says, a tale told by the "Rev. Oswald Keatinge" as to his initiation as a Jesuit. The "Rev. Oswald Keatinge" is undoubtedly a smart person, though we may doubt as to whether the results of his

smartness are always found very amusing by those who experience them—to wit, that Evangelical congregation to whom the rev. gentleman lately ministered in Dublin. We do not think, moreover, that Catholic readers, if they will duly consider the matter, can find much to amuse them in the light and lying inventions published by a notorious gaol-bird as to Catholic matters, and into which a venerable religious Order, and even the saints of God themselves are introduced. There are many men on the Evangelical stump who do not fail in smartness. There is, for example, Nobbs, *alias* Widows, eclipsed, however, for a time, as at present he is undergoing a sentence of ten years, incurred by him lately when acting as pastor of a conventicle called the Martin Luther Church, and in a way not to be spoken of but habitual to him, as his gaol record shows. There is also one Dr. Hammond who has recently re-appeared after an interval of some ten or twelve years, consequent on certain circumstances that occurred in connection with a certain relic of the True Cross, and in which the late Father William Browne, of Stamford, took a leading part. The inventions of these people are not, as a rule, wanting in smartness, but that is no reason why they should be quoted without comment and for the mere amusement of Catholic readers. If they need a reply, as in general they do not, being but the claptrap suited to those dregs of Evangelicalism that find their level in the kennel, let them be gravely replied to. Otherwise contempt will have its best expression in silence. We cannot think that any decent Catholic, on reflection, will consider himself acting consistently in seeking amusement from the ribald inventions of a ticket-of-leave man like Keatinge, or a man whom it is impossible to describe in any respectable company like Nobbs or Widows, or any other scandalous fellow of their kind. Let the No-Popery platform that is so occupied by the source of amusement to people who find themselves at home in such company, but let Catholics avoid it. We are, therefore, unable to congratulate our contemporary, the *Catholic Review*, on the quotation alluded to. It seems to us quite out of keeping with our contemporary's truly Catholic and elevated tone.

By the death of the Earl of Lucan, just announced, Ireland loses one of the cruelest and most unrelenting evictors ever known by her oppressed people. The old man may have gone to the grave covered with military glory,—for they say he was a brave soldier—but he has left behind the records of a life stained by tyranny, accompanied by the cries of the widow and orphan, and the pangs of the victims of famine and pestilence. This, we know, is not in accordance with the old pagan motto, adopted among ourselves by a false and un-Christian charity, *De mortuis nil nisi bonum*. But it is the incontrovertible truth, as a desert in Mayo can witness—and many graves beneath the ocean and in foreign lands.

A PETITION, we see, is being signed in Auckland on behalf of Sir Charles Burdett, severely sentenced for having gathered a few flowers in a public place. The sentence, even if allowed by law, was outrageous in the extreme. In fact it would be much better not to ornament parks and public places by planting flowers in them, if a consequent necessity be that of punishing people severely. The offence of gathering flowers is one that no one of any common sense can look upon as extreme in itself. In fact there are people, and respectable people, too, who cannot be brought to look upon it as an offence at all. To bring people, therefore, into the danger of incurring a heavy sentence and losing their characters by such a trifling and almost ludicrous matter is unfair and unjust. If the flowers cannot be otherwise preserved, public places can very well do without them. Sir Charles Burdett should be released at once, and with an apology for the treatment given him.

WE are happy to see that a determined resistance is being offered by Queensland to the appointment of Sir Henry Blake, knighted for the occasion, as Governor of that colony. That favourite of Hymen may be made recognise, even for his own benefit, that to act as a traitor to his country under the auspices of Dublin Castle, is not the way for a man to deserve the veneration of mankind in general. It is to be hoped Sir Thomas McIlwraith, the Queensland Premier, and his supporters will prove successful, as they probably will, in this matter, which concerns the colonies generally.

ANOTHER back-down on the part of the triple B.B. is evident in the release of Mr. W. Redmond—refractory though he had proved himself—whose sentence does not terminate till Christmas eve. Bomba the Brave and Bloody has clearly felt the force of public opinion, and having been balked by it in his fell designs, as revealed by Mr. Blunt, is now discouraged in proceeding even half-way. Kill or cure having failed him, he seems inclined to throw up the sponge.

THE tug of war is to come off with a vengeance on Boxing day in the Caledonian grounds Kensington. There will not exactly be a meeting of Greek with Greek, but there will be something quite as good. Indeed, as the modern Greek is reported degenerate in some degree we may look for something better. It is to take the shape of a hurling match between the local members of the H.A.C.B.S., and the Dunedin Irish Rifles. We do not meantime know which side must