

Moody and Sankey's hymns they would have been most successful. We now see the drift of secularisation; those children who attend Godless schools belong to this army of 9,000 scholars who make up the "Union," no matter whether they be Jew or Gentile, Protestant or Catholic; another sign to Catholics that though they are made to support such schools they cannot avail themselves under any pretence of them for the education of their children.

"St. Patrick's Day," the national holiday for poor old Ireland, was duly celebrated by many of his faithful children here on the 17th instant. Happening as it does during the penitential time of Lent, a dinner was dispensed with, many preferring to approach the table of the Lord in honour of their patron Saint. Besides, those who misunderstand us are only too anxious to get an opportunity of making a public demonstration on that day, a party one, and rather than be classed on a level with Orangemen, whose recent processions were solely for the purpose of exasperating Catholics, the latter, guided by their priests and their own good, common sense, chose the better way of spending the day, and dispensed with everything but that most becoming to themselves and their religion. Though not a holiday of obligation it was kept as one by hundreds, as was evident from the number of people (mostly men), who attended the various Masses and Vespers in the evening. The children attended the 10 o'clock Mass, which was said by Rev. Father O'Donnell, Father Ginaty being also present. A hymn to the old air of "St. Patrick's Day" was sung by them, led by our good sisters, and accompanied on the organ by Mr. Towel, which must have brought to the mind of many present, scenes and memories of the "Old Sod." May those children who sang the praises of the patron Saint of Ireland on that day never forget their duty to him, and show, by their actions, their love for the land he Christianised, the land of their fathers. At the end they sang, "Faith of Our Fathers," with a will as if they were determined to die if necessary in its defence. I only wish His Excellency the Governor had been present to hear them sing, he would have heard words from the very heart sung with all the life and energy of guileless children. No fear of "breakdowns" like those of the scholars of the "Union" a few days ago when essaying "God Save the Queen," and I think I may say if he ever visits the Catholic Schools here (which, thank God, have nothing to do with the "Union"), he will hear the National Anthem sung as it ought to be, and in a manner notably melodious, because sincere.

Saturday, the 19th instant, being the Feast of St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church, was celebrated with even greater respect and devotion than St. Patrick's Day. There were two Masses, and Vespers and Benediction in the evening. A neat and moderately sized altar, beautifully decorated, and containing a large statue of St. Joseph with the infant Jesus in his arms, stood in the sanctuary on the Gospel side, which is to remain during the present month, as it is one dedicated by the Church to him.

On Sunday, Rev. Father Ginaty gave an instructive sermon on the many good qualities of Joseph, exhorting his people to imitate him as nearly as possible. He casually referred to the present deplorable condition of Ireland, and from his words and feelings, there was no difficulty in understanding where his sympathy lies. Whilst condemning agrarian outrages and other crimes he thought much consideration should be given to what those poor people have suffered and put up with for years from cruel and tyrannical landlords. He thought it was the duty of every man, by fair and constitutional means, to help the Irish in their present struggles with landlordism.

The St. Leo's High School is now taught by Mr. Vincent, Mr. Bathurst having resigned, he having been called to England on urgent business. The pupils had a friendly game of cricket with those attending St. Patrick School, on the 11th, which resulted in favouring the latter. A second game was played on St. Patrick's Day, and resulted greatly in favour of St. Leo's.

OUR ROMAN LETTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

29th January.

THE King Humbert, the Queen, the young Prince of Naples, and Prince Amadeus have been touring it in Sicily, and have everywhere, according to the ministerial journals, been received with an enthusiasm described as phrenetic and approaching to madness. Indeed at one place the people, when they saw the Queen issuing from a church, were struck as by a vision and seemed inclined to adore her Majesty as an apparition from heaven. At Syracuse, or Catania (I forget which place), the royal train stopped when the passengers by an earlier train were still on the platform, and these loyal folks insisted on carrying their majesties from the train to their carriages. During this operation, somewhat irregular it must be confessed, the young prince became separated from his mother, and the Queen began to scream. The demonstrations of the people were of course spontaneous, but at the same time the printed and published manifestoes of the several Corporations contained notices to the effect that the inhabitants of houses along the route of the royal procession were to be supplied gratuitously with flags, banners, means of illumination, torches, and bundles of flowers to be tossed into the royal carriages. The manifestations of loyalty were, therefore, to some extent official. A manufacturer of snuff boxes threw a specimen of his handiwork at the King, but the fragrant missile missed its aim and struck Cairoli on the nose. A shoemaker insisted on presenting their Majesties with a pair of shoes, and doubtless was rewarded by an appointment as bootmaker in ordinary to the King. The university students in Catania met some days before the royal visit, and decided to take no part whatever in the civic demonstrations or rejoicings. In Catania the students are Republican, in imitation of their rector, who is a poet and atheist of repute. However, means were taken to rescind the first resolution of the students, and they actually fought for the honour of first place in the public procession. They fought with knives, bludgeons, and razors, and several of them were severely

wounded, the son of the Questor, or chief of police, being found armed with a razor, with which he distinguished himself as a leader in the fray. The local and other independent journals contain great complaints of the cruelty of putting the almost bankrupt Corporations of Sicily to the cost of entertaining their Majesties. During the absence of the royal family from Rome, the anniversary functions for commemoration of the decease of Victor Emmanuel were performed in the churches of the Sudario and the Pantheon. The principal chaplain to the court, Canon Auzino, said the Masses in both churches. In the Pantheon, the decorations were the same as last year, and the Mass was attended by nearly the same official personages, and most of the Protestant strangers in Rome. It was noticed that few knelt, even at the elevation of the host.

The Pope is now quite restored in health, and is able to undergo much fatigue. Last week he admitted to audience over 400 persons, and to every one of them said a few words. The Chevalier O'Clery, late M.P. for County Wexford and formerly a Papal Zouave, had a private audience on the presentation of General Kanzler, the former Commander in Chief of the Pontifical Army. Leo XIII. praised highly the valour and fidelity of the Irish Zouaves, but did not touch on matters of Irish politics in this interview. The Russian Grand Dukes Paul and Serge were received at the Vatican by their own special desire, and were closeted with the Pope for nearly an hour. The relations between Russia and the Vatican are now on a friendly footing. Already the Czar has permitted many of the Polish exiles to return to their native land, and has restored many Catholic priests to the free exercise of their ministrations. The Russian Grand Dukes visited Cardinal Jacobini, Secretary of State, and His Eminence returned the visit the following day, and was received with great cordiality, at the villa Sciarra on the Janiculum, by their Imperial Highnesses.

The Italian Government was defeated in the election of a Deputy for the 2nd College of Rome on the 16th, for the opposition candidate, Agosta Ruspoli, was returned by the exertions of the moderates by 872 votes against 667. The radical organs ascribe this defeat to the influence of the Catholic Associations, which, however, took no part in the contest. On the same day, the 45th anniversary of the birth of Francis II., King of the two Sicilies, three Catholic newspapers in Naples, the *Discussione*, *Italia Reale*, and *Crociata*, were sequestered by the police for articles concerning the dethroned sovereign. In Naples thirty-five of the persons arrested and imprisoned on the eve of the arrival of King Humbert are to be tried for treason. Italy is supposed to be preeminently the land of freedom, but there is little real liberty of the subject. Individuals innocent of crime may be arrested and detained by the police with impunity. Last week the Marquis Quartaro left Naples by train for Caserta, his only object in travelling so far on the way to Rome being to take leave of a dear friend who was *en route* to that city. When the train reached Caserta the Marquis got out on the platform, and his friend went on to Rome. The Marquis, while waiting for the next train to take him back to Naples, smoked a cigar and walked up and down, and attracted the attention of a too-clever policeman, who suspected the Marquis was an agent of the international, and probably an intending Passanante. Being asked to give an account of himself, the Marquis presented his visiting cards and told his story. But the police did not believe it, and the Marquis was arrested and detained that night and the following day, until the authorities in Naples sent orders to release him.

OPENING OF THE CHURCH AT WINTON.

(Southland Daily News.)

WRITING on Monday, our correspondent says:—You are no doubt aware that our Roman Catholic friends have erected a church, a neat and substantial building of brick and concrete from the designs of Mr. Burwell, the construction of which reflects credit on the architect, and Messrs. Forest and Darling, contractors, and while it is an honour to our Catholic friends it is looked upon as an ornament to the suburban township of East Winton. The opening ceremony took place on Sunday, the 20th, when a special train from Invercargill conveyed the Most Rev. Bishop Moran, Rev. Father Kehoe, and a number of ladies and gentlemen from the city, including several members of the choir of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, whose efforts were highly appreciated, indeed the musical portion of the service, both vocal and instrumental, was an unqualified success. The ceremony was begun by the rev. the Bishop proceeding to bless the Church, which he did by walking around it, the usual forms being read by the Rev. Father Kehoe. The last-named gentleman officiated in the celebration of the Most High Sacrifice of the Mass. The Most Rev. Bishop then proceeded to deliver a most admirable and impressive discourse from the words, "This is the house of God, and this the gate of heaven." His Lordship feelingly thanked all concerned in the erection of the Church, including the architect, contractors, congregation, and the rev. Father in charge of the congregation. His Lordship's discourse was listened to with wrapt attention by the very large congregation, a number not being able to gain admission. After the sermon the rite of confirmation was performed, and the proceedings were brought to a close. His Lordship's visit to Winton will be long remembered, and looked back to with pleasure by the many who had the privilege to listen to his able discourse. I was not able to learn the amount of the collection, but, judging from the "pile" of notes and gold (saying nothing of the silver in abundance) it must have been liberal, although, the Church not being entirely free of debt, his Lordship informed the congregation that it (the Church) was not fully "consecrated," but, for the present, was dedicated to the worship of the Most High God.

THE Queen's Arms Hotel, Princes Street South, Dunedin, has been taken by Mr. W. Fitzgerald, late of Port Chalmers. The hotel will be conducted in the best style, and offers unsurpassed accommodation of all kinds to visitors and residents.