

take the trouble to ascertain the real nature of the battle now being fought out in the primary schools of Belgium, if he will learn, as he may even from the Liberal newspapers themselves, that the war which the party now in power are waging is a war, not only against Catholicism, but against Christianity, nay, against the very idea of God, we think well enough of him to believe—certain expressions in his own paper are our warrant—that he will be sorry to have posed as the champion of the cause of the devil.

THE ordination to the priesthood of the Rev. P. Lynch took place at St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin, on Sunday last. The ceremony was a grand and impressive one, and was witnessed by a crowded congregation. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m., the Bishop pontificating, with the Rev. Fathers O'Malley, S.J., and Newport as deacon and subdeacon, respectively. The Rev. Fathers MacKay and O'Neill were deacons at the throne. The Rev. Father Burke was assistant priest, and the Rev. Father Walsh master of ceremonies. The vestments worn by the Bishop and his clergy were extremely rich and handsome, and in union with the adornments of the altar and sanctuary made up a scene of great beauty. During the celebration of the Mass the Sacrament of Holy Orders was administered in the usual manner by the Bishop. The music rendered on the occasion was Haydn's Imperial Mass, the choir being under the conductorship of Mr. A. H. Norman, and enjoying the valuable assistance of Mrs. Murphy, whose clear and flexible voice and artistic execution were very noticeable in the performance. The ordinary members of the choir present were the Misses Hill, Carroll, Norman, Walker, Faulkner, and Tobin; and Messrs. T. J. Leary, Milner, A. Corrigan, W. Corrigan, J. Kelly, N. Smith, W. Williamson, and Landon. Mr. J. C. Norman, as usual, acted as organist with his accustomed ability. On the conclusion of the ceremonies the larger number of the congregation remained in the church for the purpose of receiving the blessing of the newly ordained priest, which was first conferred by him on his mother and a number of the friends of his family who were present.—Mrs. Lynch having come expressly from Hokitika for the occasion. We may add that the Rev. Father Lynch is son of Mr. Daniel Lynch, of the Occidental Hotel, Hokitika, whence he went Home some nine years ago to be educated for the holy calling he has now embraced. The collection made at the offertory of the Mass in aid of the Cathedral Building Fund amounted to £35.

IN connection with the Privateers' Cricket Club, a scratch match was played on Saturday week, on the Asylum Grounds, and resulted in a win for P. Hally's side by four runs. For the victors, Claffy and Hally were the principal contributors, while Griffen and Rowal played well for the losers. Gunning and Hally bowled splendidly for their respective sides.

WE have received towards the fund in aid of the boy Webb, from T. S. Graham, Esq., £6 7s 6d, being the proceeds of the lecture delivered at the Temperance Hall, Dunedin, by Mr. M. Donnelly, exclusive of advertisements and the hire of the hall, which amounts in all to £7 18s 6d. We have received also from M. Fagan Esq., towards the same object, 10s.

The report of the first half-yearly meeting of the New Zealand Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society, is issued as a supplement to our number of this week.

THE Melbourne *Advocate* in referring to the sentence passed on O'Farrell writes as follows:—"O'Farrell's aberrations were criminal and dangerous, yet he will be turned loose upon society in less than a year and a half. Neither we nor others had any wish that the unhappy man should experience the extreme rigour of the law, but we did expect—and certainly not unreasonably—that he would be so dealt with that he would not be allowed a further opportunity for putting his insane and deadly threats into execution. But as justice, in the first instance, has failed, other steps must be taken later to protect those against whom he has uttered his homicidal threats.

THE committal to prison of Mr. Edmund Dwyer Grey, of which Wednesday's mail brought us the full particulars, has certainly been chief among the many extraordinary and high-handed things done in Ireland throughout the agitation. A Mr. William O'Brien, it seems, who was a resident in the Imperial Hotel, wrote a letter to the *Freeman* complaining that on the night before the jury had returned their verdict of Guilty in the case of the Queen *versus* Hynes, they had conducted themselves with gross impropriety, behaving riotously until a very late hour in the hotel where they were supposed to be kept apart for the consideration of their verdict. The Solicitor-General, accordingly, in the Commission Court before Judge Lawson, moved for an attachment against Mr. Gray, both because of the publication of the letter in question and certain articles commenting upon the selection of juries, from which Catholics had been rigorously excluded. Upon this Judge Lawson, without taking any evidence, sentenced Mr. Gray to three months' imprisonment in Richmond, and to pay a fine of £500; also, at the end of the three months, to give bail for his good behaviour—himself in £5,000, and two sureties in £2,500 each—which of course meant that the *Freeman* was to be silenced so far as the national cause was concerned. Mr. Gray being

a member of Parliament, however, Judge Lawson was obliged to write to the Speaker of the House of Commons acquainting him with the sentence, and on his letters being read a debate took place, in which Mr. Sexton read several affidavits made by persons belonging to the Imperial Hotel, and not only hearing out Mr. O'Brien's statements as to the conduct of the jury, but adding several gross particulars not mentioned by him—and which drew from the Attorney-General an admission that, if the affidavits were true, they revealed a terrible state of things. He, further, promised that the Lord Lieutenant should enquire into the charges made. Sir Charles Gavan Duffy has, meantime, written a letter to Mr. Gray, in which he says he had read the proceedings against him with "nearly as much surprise as if they were a trial for witchcraft," and thanks him for the stand he had taken as to the systematic exclusion of Catholics from juries, and for "not suffering the best fruits of emancipation to be snatched away in silence." Sir Charles adds that he knows nothing about the conduct of the jury in the Hynes case, but that in Judge Lawson's place he would not have first refused to hear evidence and then pronounced "a decisive and dogmatic opinion on facts which he had not investigated." He concludes by inquiring whether besides the law which dispenses with juries in Ireland there is also one to dispense with evidence. But as to the result of the enquiry into the charges against the jury, we are justified in supposing that it was their full establishment, since Mr. Gray, as we learned from a recent telegram, has been released. It is, however, to be hoped that the Irish party will not suffer Judge Lawson's conduct to fade from the memory of the House, where already in the debate on his letter, Mr. Macfarlane has stigmatised him as having obtained his seat on the Bench by a gross and shocking case of wholesale corruption in a southern borough.

WE have received from Mr. J. A. Macedo, Princes street, Dunedin, a neat copy of A. M. Sullivan's "New Ireland." This book as our readers no doubt are already for the most part aware, contains a comprehensive history of our own times in Ireland, and no Irishman who desires to be thoroughly acquainted with the whole course of events relating to his country that have marked the century up to present day should be without it. The cost of the book is almost nominal.

OWING to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold back several paragraphs of local news, and other interesting matter, including the report of the Canterbury Catholic Literary Society, which will appear next week.

A PARAGRAPH in the letter of our Christchurch correspondent has unfortunately met with an accident which renders it impossible to set it in type. Its general contents, however, were a description of the Catholic books now obtainable at Mr. O'Connor's Catholic book depot, Barbadoes street, and which are spoken of as being an admirable selection. The extremely low prices placed upon prayer books and books of devotion generally, are especially mentioned by our correspondent. Mr. O'Connor's advertisement will be found in another column.

MESSRS Mackley and Leijon, Princes street, Dunedin, advertise the blasting and gun powder for which they received a gold medal at the Christchurch Exhibition, and which will be found invaluable in mining, quarrying, or the sporting field.

THE thirteenth annual meeting of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, lately held in Sydney, resulted in a very gratifying statement of affairs. The past year especially was found to have been exceedingly prosperous, there having been an increase in the Company's assets of nearly £49,000, which raised the whole amount to £237,096. The interest from invested funds had met all the mortality claims, and so enabled the directors to add all their premiums, as well as the income from new business, to their general funds. The great success of this Company will be for the benefit of all assurers, the Association being a "mutual" one, which involves the division of profits in bonus additions, or cash at stated periods.

MR. F. MEEHAN, Great King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, Oats, 2s 10d to 3s 2d per bushel; milling wheat, 4s 3d to 4s 9d per bushel; fowls' feed, 2s to 3s 8d; barley, malting, 4s 3d to 5s; milling, 3s 6d; feeding, 3s to 3s 6d; hay, £6 10s per ton; chaff, mixed, £4 10s; hay chaff, £5 10s; straw, £2 10s; bran, £5 10s; pollard, £5 10s; potatoes, £3 10s to £4; oatmeal, £16; flour, £11 to £11 10s; butter, medium to prime, 10d to 1s per lb.; salt, 10d per lb.; eggs, 9d per dozen; bacon, sides, 8d per lb.; rolls, 7½d; hams, 9d; pork, 4½d; cheese, 8d to 9d.

MESSRS. MERCER BROTHERS, Princes street, report:—Fresh butter (in ½-lb. and 1-lb. prints), best quality, 1s 4d per lb.; ordinary butter, 1s 2d per lb.; eggs, 8d per dozen; roll bacon, 8d per lb. good salt butter, in kegs, 10d per lb.; cheese 8d per lb.

We are so accustomed in England to hearing of the mammoth farms of the Western States, that it sounds almost unreal to say that, after all, America is really a nation of small owners and occupiers. The great farms of thousands of acres are the rare exception. In 1870 the average size of farms, according to the Government returns, was 153 acres, and the average since then has considerably diminished. In California, where most of the large holdings are found, 482 acres is the average. Even in Texas, where there are many cattle ranches of enormous extent, the average size of the farms is no more than 338 acres. In New England the average is under 100 acres, and in Utah, a land of orchards and market gardens, the average is barely 30 acres. It is upon farms averaging 100 acres that the most money is made—farms, that is, which can be easily worked, and require no very considerable amount of capital.—*Land*,