

done to a Protestant minority, and they and their friends have no right to complain.

"X." wants to know "was any portion of the public revenue devoted to Protestant schools in Rome." We answer no, because there were no Protestants in Rome; and we answer further, that if there had been a minority of Roman citizens Protestant, their schools would have been placed on a footing of equality with those of Catholics.

"X." tells us that the Church of Rome is opposed to Parliamentary Government. "X." must be profoundly ignorant of ordinary history. Were he not he would have known that it was Roman Catholics who established Parliamentary Government in every nation of Europe where it existed, and that it was Protestantism that first introduced Parliamentary tyranny into Christian Europe. It was Protestantism that gave birth to the doctrine of the divine right of kings, as it is Protestantism and its daughter, the Revolution, that has introduced the divine right of the majority to do what it pleases, even to repeal the law of God and trample on the principles of eternal justice.

"X." quotes from "Louis Veuillot" and the "Civiltà Catholica." Our answer is, Catholics are not bound by what these write; and in the second place, we refuse to accept "X.'s" translation of their words. We have some experience of the unfitness of Otago gentlemen to undertake translations of foreign languages either ancient or modern. Let "X." tell the public where the passages he pretends to quote are to be found. Then his fidelity as a translator can be tested.

"X." says—"That conscientious Roman Catholics cannot make reliable citizens in a free community is a fact that should never be forgotten." With all due respect to "X." this is not a fact at all. But it is a palpable falsehood and a shameless calumny. And all this tissue of falsehood, misrepresentation, spite, and calumny arises from the fact, that Catholics in New Zealand demand justice in a peaceable, orderly and constitutional way. We break no law, we violate no precept, human or divine; we act on the lines and within the bounds of the constitution. We do precisely as our fellow citizens do when they protest against any grievance or fancied grievance. We proceed by way of legitimate agitation,—petition, public meeting, and discussion in the Press; and because we adopt and confine ourselves to this constitutional course, a portion of our fellow-citizens become rabid, and look upon themselves as injured because we complain of having to pay for the free and godless education of their children. And not content with venting their displeasure at our unwillingness to continue to pay freely and largely for their exclusive benefit, they spare no pains to raise a false issue in order to poison the minds of fair-minded men against us.

But this will not silence us, we are grievously hurt and we mean to cry out, feeling assured that there is still left in this community enough of honest, just, dispassionate citizens to see justice done to us in the end.

A LAMENTABLE accident occurred near Ballarat on the 9th inst, by which the Rev. Michael Sheridan, one of the priests of the diocese, lost his life. He was, it seems, driving out from the town to give religious instructions in the Catholic schools at Navigators and Dunstons, when his horse bolted and he was thrown from the buggy, striking his head against a stump in the fall. When found he was, however, sitting up and declared that nothing serious had occurred to him, nor could any marks of injury be seen except a cut over the right ear. He was, nevertheless, suffering from concussion of the brain of which he died in two hours afterwards. Father Sheridan, who was a native of Cavan, and had been educated at All Hallow's, Dublin, had been only four years in Victoria. He was a young man of great promise, and especially beloved by his people, among whom his premature death has occasioned deep and sincere sorrow. R.I.P.

THE Rev. Father O'Neill has been appointed to the Queenstown mission, where he will act as assistant priest to the Rev. Father Mackay.

THE opening of the Dominican Convent Chapel and the blessing of the new school will take place at Invercargill on the second Sunday in November. Pontifical High Mass will be celebrated on the occasion by the Most Rev. Dr. Moran, at 11 a.m., in St. Mary's Church, where his Lordship will also administer the sacrament of confirmation. A procession will be formed at St. Mary's Church at 3 p.m., and all persons who take part in it will wear badges. It has also been arranged that admittance to the convent grounds on the occasion shall be by ticket only.—The badges and tickets may be obtained by applying at the Dominican Convent.

TENANTS in Ulster object to the valuations appointed in connection with the Arrears Act, and Mr. Trevelyan has announced that the Act, if it does not work successfully, will be abandoned. An association called the Patriotic Brothers is said to have been discovered having for its object the murder of landlords—but to this report we do not give too much credence. It is further reported that Mr. Parnell has agreed to support the Closure Bill in return for Mr. Gladstone's pledge to advocate the concession of a large measure of Home Rule. These, however, are all telegraphic reports.

How fortunate is our colony in having justice and righteousness both together administered to it by the members of one household—by man and wife. For the administration of the justice the public pays, but that of the righteousness we gather is conferred upon it gratuitously—not that we are for this reason to consider it the less valuable; no doubt it will be found in the end to have been far more so than the justice. His Honor Judge Ward, then, as we have long known, dispenses justice among us, and now we learn that "Mrs. Judge Ward" has become a dispenser of righteousness. Here is an announcement we clip from the *South Canterbury Times* of Saturday, and which cannot fail to give edification to many people:—"Mrs. Judge Ward will preach, morning and evening, at the Primitive Methodist Church to-morrow." How fortunate, we say again, is the colony in possessing such a household—Mr. Judge dispensing justice, and Mrs. Judge dispensing righteousness—and albeit the lady steps forward into the pulpit with an announcement of the dignity the judicial bench invests her with, her humility is still manifest in the pulpit she selects—which indeed is frequently to be found constructed of an inverted barrel, and stigmatised as that of the "Ranters." But when greatness stoops at all it is well it should let its humility be marked. This union of the ermine with the Geneva bands in their humblest sphere is very touching. Let us hope, however, the lady has good lungs, for without them all the worldly dignity she can summon up will avail her, nothing among the Ranters. They know what a rousing sermon is, as many an unfortunate Anglican parson interrupted in his sanctuary by their shouting can testify. Is "Mrs. Judge Ward" equal to the occasion?

OF Mr. Stout's ingenuoussness, and the sincerity of his pure benevolence, and the nature of the universal brotherhood he so loudly advocates we find a certain proof in his allusions to the contents of the Christian Brothers' schoolbooks. Surely Mr. Stout esteems the legend of St. Dorothea and that of Clovis' conversion as being quite as authentic as the accounts of any of the Scripture miracles. His only reason, then, for making such an allusion must have been an anxiety to avail himself, in his fight for atheism, of the bigotry and fanaticism of religious Protestantism—which, nevertheless, he so much professes to condemn. Mr. Stout, who "goes in" for the bluff and honest should also "go in" for consistency, but for this he must be a little more careful and better conceal his hand. As it is the eye that cannot see through his "little game" must be blind indeed. But bigotry will carry the day, and Mr. Stout knows it; so long as the cry of "no Popery" is maintained it matters not one jot to him whether it be kept up by religious fanatic or atheist. It will work out his godless ends and that is all he wants.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Timaru Herald*, complains bitterly that folk will not "stick to" their Bibles. They sell them most commonly at auctions, he says, and that is a grievous matter. "I regard it as a very bad sign of religious growth in our midst," he complains, "and it appears to me like people parting with their Maker to part with their Bible." Can Bible-worship go much further than this? But can this correspondent find no compassion in his heart for the benighted ones "who jeer and ridicule God's Word when it is offered for sale." If they were versed in the contents of the Book, and had pondered them, and privately interpreted them, would they make thus light of them? Impossible—or why should we have a movement on foot for the introduction of the Bible into schools? Is it only in auction-rooms it can be ridiculed and jeered at? A man of true compassion, moreover, should rejoice to see the Bible not only sold in any way, but even given gratis—as in fact it is by the thousand, and we very much fear with hardly a better result than that produced among the impious attendants of auctions at Timaru. But since those who attend auctions at Timaru are impious and ignorant of the Word, would it not be well that not only should Bibles continue to be offered them for purchase there, but that an agent of the Bible Society should attend each sale and distribute his volumes gratis. All that is needed we know is the distribution of the Book, or else the *raison d'être* of the Bible Society has vanished into thin air. This correspondent, then, is a most uncharitable Christian, and, like a certain prelate reproved by Constantine the Great, manifests a disposition to plant a ladder and climb up into heaven by himself.

WE find from an advertisement in the *Irish Times* that the military officers employed in hounding down the unfortunate peasantry occupy themselves during their leisure, and keep their hands in at the same time for the work they are engaged at, by a very congenial amusement. "The officers of the garrison can have rats at all