

favour of Te Kooti, who might plead the excuse of native barbarism and a savage nature, which would make his deeds less guilty than those of the civilised, even if plain and unpolished, European. The credit of the Colony, then, as well as that of Mr. Bryce, requires that the true version of this event described by Mr. Busden may be at once published.

BUT in connection with the outrages in Ireland and the clamour that has been made for the leaders of the League to control and prevent them, the thought presents itself to us that an impossible claim is made. The leaders of the League are impotent to control the men who do these things, and no degree of denunciation on their part could restrain the commission of crime. The men who commit crime are not capable of being restrained by moral influences, and the effort to persuade them would be wholly thrown away. Were the leaders of the League, indeed, able to follow up their denunciations by repressive measures, and to punish criminals, there would be some reason to call upon them to act, and to condemn them as the accomplices of crime were they to refrain from action, but as it is they are powerless. They must, indeed, be more than human if by a word they could control millions of people, and had so gained their confidence that no man among those millions should hold them capable of making a mistake, or refuse to accept their decision in all instances as final.—Wild spirits there are in abundance, and the members of secret societies, who will look upon them as cowards, and consider their own device of violent measures far the best. Let the leaders of the League speak or be silent, and these men would still follow their own way. But let power be given to the leaders of the people by which they can enforce their denunciations, let them have power, in a national parliament to pass repressive measures as well as denounce crime, and the face of affairs will be altered. An Irish Parliament would be still more severe upon the evil-doers of the country, than the English Parliament has been.—But it would be so upon the evil-doers only, and would not confound the innocent with the guilty,—so that the whole force of the well-disposed people of Ireland would be brought to bear upon repressing crime and rooting it out.

#### INVERCARGILL CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

It may interest your readers that there exists in Invercargill for the past nine months, a Catholic Literary Society, conducted under the same principle as the Timaru and Christchurch Societies. The first meeting of the Society was held on the 19th July, 1882, which was attended by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. M. Rooney, D. E. Lawlor, E. J. Dennehy, M. J. Gavin, D. Bradley, W. J. McKeown, M. O'Brien, B. Bradley, L. McIntyre, and E. Laidlor. It was then unanimously agreed to form the above Society, having for its object to create a friendly union amongst the Catholic young men, the introduction of good Catholic literature, also for the improvement of the members by debates, recitations, readings, etc. The following members were duly elected to the respective offices:—Rev. Father McEnroe, S.J., spiritual director; M. Rooney, president; D. E. Lawlor, vice-president; E. J. Dennehy, secretary; M. J. Gavin, treasurer; B. Bradley, librarian; and W. J. McKeown, steward. The first important step taken was to form a library fund, and directly afterwards the Society agreed to order suitable books from Mr. E. O'Connor, Christchurch, and Whitaker Bros., Wellington. The Society lost no time from that date in getting into working order, which followed in the shape of a very interesting debate on the present discontent in Ireland, and the *pros* and *cons* were very fairly discussed. The receipts up to date have reached the handsome sum of £45, including a donation of £5 from the Rev. Father McEnroe, S.J. As there is an election of officers every six months, the following members were duly elected:—M. O'Brien, president; P. Mulligan, vice-president; J. Weavers, secretary; J. McIntyre, treasurer; W. Powell, librarian; D. Bradley, steward. At the last meeting the President (Mr. M. O'Brien), produced several catalogues of books which he had received from the local booksellers, and these have been carefully examined. The members gave the necessary authority to the committee to purchase those approved of; with the additional number of books the Society will possess a large and well-selected library,—the books of which are from the best authors, and are very widely circulated among the Catholic congregation. After the ordinary business had been transacted and one new member elected, and another nominated, the Rev. Father McEnroe, S.J., delivered a short but interesting address on the laws of debate, which was chiefly intended for the edification of the members who are preparing to take part as debaters on the different subjects to be discussed during the winter months. The reverend gentleman was loudly applauded and received a hearty vote of thanks. A reading from the "Life of Nelson," by Mr. George Weavers, and an Irish comic recitation by Mr. P. Reid, brought a most enthusiastic meeting to a close.

A Donaghadee correspondent says: "One of the severest storms that has ever been witnessed on this part of the coast took place on a recent Saturday evening, but as the gale was from the west, little damage was done to property in the town or harbour."

The body of a woman named McAnally was discovered dead on the roadside at a place called Cornamuckla, near Dromore. Evidence having been given of the finding of the body, the jury returned a verdict in accordance therewith, and added that they had no evidence to show how death was brought about.

#### CANTERBURY CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

AFTER the ordinary routine business of the above Society had been transacted at its usual weekly meeting on April 23, the programme of the evening, which was a debate, "Whether the statesman, the soldier, or the poet has contributed most to the well-being of mankind," was next discussed. Mr. Perceval, in the course of a very humorous speech, contended that the greater number of those who took war for a profession were of a cruel disposition, and chiefly actuated by ambitious motives, caring but little for their fellow-men, so long as they were able to gain their desires. Statesmen were not exactly so bad, but were not to be compared to poets, who were the most unselfish of mortals. He gave several instances of the writings of ancient and modern poets, which specially appealed to man's better feelings.

Mr. O'Connor took a similar view. He said not only does the poet urge us to nobler and higher ideals, but he also contributes in no small degree to our amusement and instruction. When statesmen and soldiers would be forgotten, the memories of the poets would be fresh in the minds of their countrymen. Wallace and Bruce might be forgotten by Scotchmen, but Burns' name would not die out as long as the English language lasted, neither would that of Moore. He showed that the ideas of poets were not always impracticable, as often alleged, as the poet and statesman were often combined in the one person. For example, the leading poet of New Zealand was a statesman of some repute.

Messrs. Oakes, Sullivan, and Baxter were of a like opinion. Mr. Dobbie, in the course of an eloquent speech, argued that although the statesman and the poet had in ancient and modern times served mankind, yet the result was in no degree to be compared with the good done to the human race by the soldier. Were it not for Wellington, England would be only a French dependency to-day. What did Napoleon care for the songs of poets, or the sayings of statesmen? Russia was hovering like a bird of prey over Asia at the present time, and was only prevented from swooping down on some of her weaker neighbours by the combined armies of Europe. It was the soldier who made the flag of England respected throughout the world, and established that empire on which the sun never sets.

Mr. Lavery supported the previous speaker. The President was of opinion that the world would have got on without any inconvenience in the absence of poets or warriors, but statesmen were always necessary in the government of the human race. If there was any good to be got from reading poetry, it was read by so small a number that its effect in improving mankind would be scarcely noticeable. The theories of poets were in most cases impracticable. If Russia was not of an ambitious and warlike disposition, there would be no necessity for the other Powers of Europe to oppose her designs on Asia. Had it not been for the ambition of Napoleon there would be no need of a Wellington, and although the latter was successful as a soldier, he was not so as a statesman.

Mr. Barrett, whilst admitting that soldiers and poets had done a vast amount of good for mankind, yet the statesman was the true benefactor of his fellow-men. It was said that the poetry of Moore, by finding its way into the drawing-rooms of English society, had done almost as much for Emancipation, by disarming the prejudices and exciting the sympathies of the upper classes of England, as did the statesmanship of O'Connell. But this was a solitary example. Statesmen were necessary for the proper government of a country, to make laws for the protection of the well-disposed, and the punishment of evil doers. The world would neither feel the want of poetry or war, but without statesmanship all would be chaos.

Mr. Geegan criticised the arguments of those in favour of poets and warriors, which he considered illogical. Good government was essential to the well-being of the community, whilst without good statesmen this could not exist.

Messrs. Hall and Crooks agreed with the last speaker. On the question being put to the vote, it was found that about half of the number present were for statesmen, the remainder being equally divided between the soldier and poet.

The *World* of this week contains the following paragraph:—"Only three months ago Mr. William O'Brien, M.P., eloquently, and Mr. T. D. Sullivan effusively, proposed and seconded the election to the Dublin Town Council of their tried and trusted friend of long standing, Mr. James Carey, Land Leaguer, murderer on his own showing, and, within the last few days, "accusing spirit" against some of his associates in the criminal dock. Of course the newly elected councillor was welcomed by Lord Mayor Dawson, in his most felicitous phraseology, to his seat in the conclave of patriots and publicans in the City Hall; and from his well-known close alliance with Mr. Parnell, Mr. Biggar, and Mr. Egan it was generally understood in Land circles that Mr. Carey would in due time be put forward as a Parnellite candidate in the House of Commons." In all this—from beginning to end—there is not word of truth. Mr. O'Brien did not propose Carey's election to the Corporation; Mr. Sullivan did not second his election; and neither of them could have proposed or seconded it, as neither of them is or has been a Burgess of Trinity Ward, for which James Carey was returned. We may add that Mr. Sullivan never saw Carey but once previous to his election, and had nothing whatever to do with his candidature. The other statements of the *World* are equally without foundation. And this paragraph in the *World*, for which there is not the smallest foundation, is a fair specimen of the writing of the English press on the Carey incident. The most desperate, unscrupulous, and reckless attempts are made just now by English writers to discredit the Irish National party, the hope being that some at least of the mud flung will stick. We are not surprised at this circumstance, for we have long been aware of the nature of the fairness of mind with which the animal John Bull is said to be endowed; and, moreover, we are not a bit frightened at it. It is, in fact, a sign of coming victory for Ireland, for it is only a tottering cause that requires to be buttressed up by falsehood.—*Nation*, Nov. 24.