

manfully provided for their own children, to contribute largely towards the free and godless education of other people's children!!! This is tyranny, oppression, and plunder.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE.



IN two previous issues we published the report from *Hansard* of the debate in the House of Representatives in reference to the *No Report* of this now famous committee. To-day we publish from *Hansard* the debate which took place in the Legislative Council on the same subject. From both, several things are manifest. First of all a strenuous effort was made to burke all enquiry, and turn Catholic petitioners ignominiously out of court. This failing, an effort was successfully made to render all enquiry extremely difficult by a vote of the committee refusing to pay expenses of witnesses. Whatever evidence, then, was given before this committee was purely voluntary and without expense to the State. In this, the committee condescended to such contumelious treatment of Catholics and others suffering injustice under the present education law as would not have been given to a complaining rabbit.

In the second place, two gentlemen residing in Wellington were reluctantly asked to give evidence, but not summoned to do so.

In the third place, the evidence of these gentlemen was so strong in favour of justice to Catholics and other petitioners, and so condemnatory of the tyrannous and most unjust treatment to which they have been subjected by the secularist sect, that the secularist leaders on the committee and in the House of Representatives, fearing justice might possibly win in the committee, thought the only way to prevent this was to pack the committee by adding a number of secularists to it, so as in any event to secure a majority determined to uphold injustice, and accordingly they packed the committee.

Fourthly, it was with difficulty that the majority of the committee consented even to hear the evidence of Bishop MORAN, who came all the way from Dunedin to Wellington to help the committee to understand the case of the Catholic petitioners.

Fifthly, the evidence of Catholic laymen was refused; and, sixthly, a hypocritical whine was heard complaining that the whole world was not examined, in order to afford information to enable gentlemen to make a report, who had, nevertheless, already made up their minds to present no report.

All these things are very evident from the various reports on the subject contained in *Hansard*.

Then, finally, an effort, and a strong and passionate effort, was made to prevent the public from knowing anything about the proceedings of this committee, or the evidence taken by it. The entire proceedings, so far as secularists are concerned, are discreditable in the extreme, petty, tyrannical, hypocritical, and mean.

In addition, a persistent effort was made to misrepresent the position of the Catholic petitioners. It was asserted, again and again, that they were endeavouring to destroy the great idol of godless education. They were not endeavouring to do so; they were not seeking to prevent its votaries offering adoration to their idol. They sought for nothing but justice for themselves; they only asked that, as taxpayers, they should not be compelled, after undergoing the expense of the education of their own children, to contribute largely to the free and godless education of other people's children. If the secular idolaters were determined to maintain their idol, Catholics regarded that as no affair of theirs.

Not only Catholics, but all men who understand what justice is, and love it, are amazed at the brazen tyranny that compels men, who educate their own children at their own sole expense, to pay taxes in order that other people's children may have a free education. And so astounding is this, no one need be surprised at the persistent and angry efforts made by the patrons of this monstrous tyranny to prevent inquiry, the publication of the evidence, which would place it in a still more odious light, and all discussion on the subject. Not satisfied with trampling on the necks of people anxious to bring up their children Christians, and educate them as Christians ought to be, these secular tyrants fall into a rage at the bare mention of anyone even daring to complain of the injustice done him by this monstrous system of plunder and partiality.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER TRANSLATED.

ILLUSTRISSIME ET REVERENDISSIME DOMINE,—

It is a recognised fact that the faithful have always and everywhere obtained great blessings from God by having recourse to the powerful patronage of the Blessed Virgin MARY. And it is well known that, as often as heresy raised its head, vices prevailed, and great calamities threatened the Church, the pious exercise of the Most Holy Rosary has been found by the faithful of Christ to secure a special protection. For this reason the Roman Pontiffs have never ceased to recommend the devotion of the Rosary, and, the better to exhort and excite to this holy practice, to grant indulgences, as often as serious evils appeared likely to fall on the flock of CHRIST. Our Holy Father LEO XIII., meditating on these things, and following the example of his predecessors, has directed that the patronage of the Blessed Virgin MARY should be most earnestly sought by the whole Church, to the end that by this means aid might be more copiously and easily obtained from the Giver of all good, and in view of the Feast of the Rosary this year has commanded certain things to be done which he charges this Sacred Congregation to make known to your Lordship.

His commands are:—

1st. That the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary shall be celebrated this year with special solemnity and devotion.

2nd. That from the first day of the month of October to the second of the following November, five decades at least of the Rosary, together with the Litany of Loretto, shall be said in all churches set apart for the care of souls. The Rosary, with the Litany of Loretto, shall also be recited in all churches, and oratories of the Blessed Virgin MARY, in accordance with whatever directions the ordinaries may give.

In addition to this we wish that, whenever it can be conveniently done, the sacrifice of the Mass should be celebrated daily, or Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament given.

But in order that the faithful may the more readily comply with these regulations and derive more fruit from them, the Holy-Father has graciously granted out of the Treasury of the Church the following indulgences:—

1st. A Plenary Indulgence to all who, after confession and communion, on the Feast of the Rosary, shall visit any church and there pray, according to the intentions of His Holiness, for the relief of the necessities of the Church. But if through scarcity of confessors any be unable to go to communion on the feast itself, this indulgence can be gained by complying with the above conditions on any day during the Octave.

2nd. An Indulgence of seven years and seven quarantines to all who during this time say the Rosary for His Holiness's intentions in any church. But those who cannot assist at this pious exercise in churches, can gain this indulgence provided they recite the Rosary and Litany privately for His Holiness's intention.

3rd. A Plenary Indulgence, on any day during the month selected by themselves, to all who during this time have assisted ten times at the Rosary and Litany in a church, or, being legitimately prevented from doing so, have recited these privately, provided they have confessed and gone to communion and prayed for His Holiness's intentions.

I do not doubt but that your solicitude in executing the commands of the Supreme Pontiff, and your zeal for the spiritual good of those committed to your care, will induce you to give timely notice to your diocesans of these indulgences, and that the Omnipotent God, hearing the prayers of all the faithful through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin MARY, may mercifully grant the aid so earnestly asked by the Church.

Meantime I pray God to preserve you.

The Palace of the Propaganda,

Rome, July 16, 1883.

Your Most Devoted Brother,

JOHN CARDINAL SIMEONI.

D. ARCHBISHOP OF TYRE, Secretary.

IN another column will be found a programme of the tour to be made in New Zealand by the Messrs. Redmond and Walshe, beginning at Hokitika.—The dates of their visits to the various towns are not, however, given, as they depend on the means of travelling and other circumstances. Mr. J. E. Redmond M.P., will probably arrive at the Bluff towards the end of the present month, and will address a meeting at Invercargill.