

led by their own invincible, senile, and ignorant prejudices, or who are the mere servants of a party whose interests depend on keeping down the body of the people, and that naturally dread the effects to be produced by the success of a popular movement in any part of the world. Such men as these are merely contemptible, and Dunedin is hardly to be congratulated on its acquisition of one of them. In particular who seems to unite the situation of Jeames with a native fitness for the office. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the superiority of the gentility that, according to George Eliot, says "Oss"—and moreover that it is admirably represented by our contemporary the *Daily Times*, to whom we especially allude.—It might, meantime, exist and pursue its lofty ideals perhaps quite as successfully, and certainly much more creditably if it would confine itself to an honest contempt of the vulgarity that says "Oss," and refrain from bellying and calumniating it most shamefully.—But then let us remember it was a lady of quality who accused the Land League of being unable to account for the expenditure of its funds, and, even if the poor lady was slightly wandering in her head, a cracked member of the aristocracy we may conclude would, *faute de mieux*, be a worthy object of veneration to the madams on stilts and budding squires who rule the *Daily Times*.—When there is a question of persons of quality, Jeames, of course, must appear in full powder and plash, and behave with all obsequiousness. What of the "h' Irish" and Maories, and all the "oss-pronouncing vulgarity in such a presence"? The "Oss-pronouncing gentility," as a matter of necessity, despises them.

But as for that clever remark that we find repeated, to the effect that the people of New Zealand have no more right to interfere between England and Ireland than the Imperial Government would have to interfere with this Colony's treatment of the Maories, we wholly fail to see its depth or appositeness. We are of the opinion, and are ready to maintain that, in case the Colony were to grossly ill-treat the Maoris, and refuse them justice, the Imperial Government would not only have the right of interference, but would be bound to interfere.

Finally, as to the warning given by the *Times* against encouraging assassination, that also smacks of My Lady, and is, therefore, an utterance to be received with all due observances, and respectfully celebrated by powder and plash in the very best manner possible to their wearer. Did it not smack of Her Ladyship, it would, nevertheless, be a remark smacking of the most villainous Billingsgate possible, but it suits the "quality," no doubt, like all the article in which it occurs, and it is quite happily illustrative of low life above stairs—to reverse the title of an old play and meet the circumstances.

It seems to be the general conclusion of our editors, however, that the Home Rule which Mr. Redmond advocates, means separation from England, in spite of all that Mr. Redmond may say, and in spite of all his explanations and assurances to the contrary. Our editors, moreover, are modest, and do not think that the power is in them to distinguish true arguments from false, or to determine when a man is honest and when he is a schemer. Notwithstanding all their modesty, and all their doubts, nevertheless, Mr. Redmond is not the advocate of separation, and no true friend of Ireland has the least desire to see the empire on which the sun never sets stripped of so much as one of its dependencies.—For our own part, indeed, we are prepared to resist with all our powers the threatened attempt to separate these colonies from the old country, on the question of annexation,—or on any other that may arise, and, in our advocacy of Home Rule we honestly advocate a measure that we believe would be for the good of the empire at large.

The condition and disposition of Ireland, as it is at present, are not only a crying grievance, an unspeakable injustice, and a source of everything that is wretched and harmful, to the unfortunate country itself, but they are, as well, a source of weakness to the empire generally, and one that must increase in gravity every day.—This is seen plainly enough outside the empire, and the Continental Press is speaking out very openly on the subject—take, for example, the following extract from the *Republique Française*:—"Do you think you are very safely established in your possessions? See how you are respected in your empire in South Africa. The Zulus are tearing each other to pieces, and fighting against you. The Boers are derisively defying you, and you dare not even remonstrate with them. The Basutos you disarmed under a promise of protecting them, and you abandon them to the tender mercies of their enemies, who are your enemies too. And then look at home. In that island, the stronghold from whence you defy all foreign attacks, you are incessantly struggling with an internal foe, who will never disarm, and who in the hour of national danger will drive you to the brink of the abyss. You condole with us on having political Parties—it would be more accurate to say Party leaders—who repudiate the Constitution: And your Fenians? Do you consider that they scrupulously respect your fundamental laws? Possibly, were such an exchange practicable, you would not mind handing over to us your Irish rebels, and taking our Legitimists and Bonapartists instead. And as to your Constitution, are you so blind as not to see that it is no longer

working regularly since its essential principle, the presence of two clearly-defined Parties, now exists only in appearance; and henceforth you may never again have such a thing as a homogeneous Cabinet."—This is a very fair description of the state of things, as it actually exists, and we cannot think that any man of common sense can affirm that anything done towards amending such a condition of things would be done amiss towards the welfare of the empire—Home Rule, then, means nothing else except such an amendment, and it, therefore, deserves for this alone the support of every loyal British subject.

But what is the meaning of the cry of separation in connection with Home Rule? It has no meaning, in fact, and no one but an old woman could believe it to have a meaning. How could Home Rule make separation more easy? Would it weaken the strength of England, reduce the number of her soldiers, or break down the power of her fleet? Would it increase the dislike of the Irish people to her rule? The cry is senseless, and has arisen either from malevolence or ignorance, that needs some pretext to oppose the cause, and has not one word of sound sense to advance against it.

Mr. Redmond, then, is advocating not only the interests of Ireland, but those of the empire at large. He asks for moral support in this good cause, and for pecuniary aid only from those who accord their moral support to the cause.—The object he advocates has been nobly supported on the West Coast, and favourably listened to, and substantially aided, in the larger towns north of Dunedin.—Have we not reason to believe that in our own city, that makes its boast of liberality and popular sympathies, it will also meet with support and approbation?—Unless every liberal pretension be vain, and every liberal profession hollow among us, it must certainly do so.

We very much regret to say that we have suffered a serious disappointment as to the special correspondence we had arranged for in connection with Mr. W. Redmond's visit to the West Coast. The gentleman who had undertaken to attend a number of the meetings for us met with an accident by which his notes were lost, and we awaited in vain from day to day expecting his communication.—Fortunately a friend at Kumara kindly forwarded to us a copy of the local paper in which a very full report was given, and this will be found in another column. The enthusiasm, moreover, that prevailed at Kumara was equalled in all those other towns where the delegate spoke, and his tale of old Ireland's wrongs, and the valiant effort that is now being made to right them must have been the same everywhere. The generosity of the dwellers on the Coast, and the noble spirit of fidelity to the cause of Ireland that animates them are amply borne testimony to by the liberality of their subscriptions amounting in all to over £1460—or £400 more we are told than the Messrs. Redmond had hoped to obtain in the whole Colony. Among the tales, then, of their tour in these colonies that the delegates will have to relate when they return to Ireland that concerning the West Coast will not be the least creditable.—For our own part, we may, however, add—since we have now for several years had an opportunity of knowing the character of the men who live in the districts referred to, we expected little less of them, and are by no means surprised to find that they exceeded every expectation that had been formed of them.

We understand that a concert will be given at Port Chalmers in aid of the presbytery building fund on the 30th inst. The services of several very accomplished musicians have been secured and everything will be done to insure a treat to the audience. Meantime we regret to learn that the prospects of the art-union to be held for the same purpose look rather dull. The tickets seem to be going off but slowly, and the returns so far received are small. It is earnestly hoped that matters may take a turn for the better, and the Rev. Father Newport be supplied with the sum necessary to meet the requirements of the cause.—The rev. gentleman will be glad to receive the proceeds of the sale of tickets as early as possible.

Mr. J. E. Redmond is expected to arrive in Dunedin on Saturday evening, and his first lecture will be delivered on Monday evening in the Queen's Theatre. His Worship the Mayor had consented to take the chair but as a meeting of the City Council takes place on this evening appointed he is unable to do so.—We may add that it is perhaps quite as fortunate for his Worship's fame hereafter that this obstacle has intervened, for our contemporary the *Daily Times* declares he would have been guilty of disloyalty in presiding and who knows but that might involve his Worship's being described, for instance, in some travelling show by and bye, as the "Mayor as 'ad thrown his h'egis over the h' Irish rebellion in Dunedin" for a gentleman who has come to the colony in the character of a Barnum may depart from it all in good time in a similar capacity. Meantime as to the qualifications of our editor to lay down the law as to loyalty, we may judge from his decision the other day that Mr. Service had broken the law in excluding the Irish informers from Victoria but that had he not broken the law he would have been guilty of immorality. Such an editor as this plainly does not know what he is talking about and may as well chatter nonsense concerning dis-