

immortal were failures in their youth, whilst many of the most successful in their early days, not only sank into oblivion but became positively pests of society. An association of successful pupils, to the exclusion of all who were not successful in their school days is not only a ludicrous absurdity, but as it must minister to vulgar and inane pride, is wicked, mischievous, and clearly establishes what experts knew already, that in the administration of our education system, whilst there is a great deal of gush and fuss, there is little wisdom, and much that is mischievous.

We notice that the examinations for a large number of valuable scholarships, so valuable, indeed, that a real scholar would not disdain to compete for such were they to be obtained where genuine learning is to be found, are going on this week in Dunedin and elsewhere. But here as in other respects the exclusiveness, one-sidedness, and selfishness of our education system are apparent. These scholarships, provided at the expense of the general public, are appropriated exclusively to successful candidates from the public schools. The pupils of Catholic schools, although Catholics are compelled to contribute towards providing these scholarships, are excluded. This is a monstrous and tyrannical injustice, against which we energetically protest, although, for the present, at least, we know that our protest is in vain. We are met by the answer that the public schools are open to all. But our reply is, so are the Protestant Churches, and the High School, Dunedin, where alone those who win these scholarships must be educated, is as distinctly a Protestant school as, for example, the Christian Brothers' schools are Catholic. In the High School everything is Protestant—the Board of Governors, whose chairman is a Protestant clergyman, the Rector, Lady Principal, Professors, the books. To emphasise its characteristically Protestant spirit the business of class is daily commenced with prayer said by a Protestant in the Protestant form. And yet this exclusively Protestant establishment was entirely erected, and is supported in great part, by public funds.

On Thursday evening, 13th inst., a very beautiful and edifying ceremony took place, in connection with the mission of the Redemptorist Fathers, at St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin. The occasion was an act of reparation made to the Blessed Sacrament with peculiar solemnity. The decorations of the altar were extremely fine, and nothing so beautiful had ever before been seen in the church. The Rosary of the Blessed Virgin was followed by Exposition of the Most Holy Sacrament, but while the sermon was being delivered a veil, formed of a banner of the Sacred Heart, was placed before the remonstrance. The Rev. Father O'Farrell was the preacher, and his sermon was not only eloquent and fervent but powerfully argumentative, dealing with the doctrine of the real Presence in a controversial as well as a devotional strain. On its conclusion he called upon his Catholic hearers to stand up and publicly profess their faith in the great mystery, and this they did with enthusiasm. The Rev. Missionary then bade them kneel, and poured out a prayer of burning eloquence to the God of the Eucharist, by which he stirred the hearts of the congregation to their very cores. The crowd in the church was enormous. On Sunday at 11 a.m. Mass a magnificent sermon on faith was preached by the Very Rev. Father Vaughan. The Rev. Missionary is a preacher of wonderful power; strength, fervour, culture, and every quality that can be combined to form a sacred orator of the highest class are to be found in his deliveries. The Rev. Father Hegarty is also a preacher of exceptional abilities. But to criticise the powers of these rev. missionaries seems to us, for the present, a kind of profanity, and therefore we refrain. As to the rest, we have only to speak of crowded attendances, of the precincts of the confessional thronged morning, noon, and night,—from dawn to mid-night we might almost say—of missionaries who never weary, or if they weary bear their weariness without flinching. And for the immense good done we have to thank Almighty God.

THE sad news of the death of the Rev. Father Moreau has been received in Dunedin with especial sorrow.—There are still in this city numbers of Catholics to whom the venerable priest ministered for years, and who remember him with warm affection. On those of us, moreover, who had not the pleasure of being personally acquainted with him, the frequent mention made of him, and the various recollections repeated to us of all his amiability and goodness, seemed to confer an intimate knowledge of his character. We recognised in him the devoted pastor, the holy missionary who, in the true spirit of his calling, had sacrificed all that was earthly, and knew no interests or engagements but those that were heavenly. Even from the lips of many who were not of his flock we have as well received testimony to the beauty and sanctity of the dead priest's life.—On the arrival of the Most Rev. Dr. Moran in Dunedin, Father Moreau, who belonged to the diocese of Wellington, was

removed to the north, and ever since he had been engaged in the work of the mission there.—Some few months ago he went from the Manawatu district, in which he had passed several years, to the upper part of the Wanganui River where his perfect knowledge of the Maori language made his labours desirable. But about a month since finding his health failing, he came down to Wanganui where he died on Wednesday morning.—There are very many in New Zealand who regret the holy missionary's death, but there are none of them who do not recognise in it the passing away to his reward of a life-long and devoted servant of Christ, one who for forty years of a missionary's life in New Zealand had fought the good fight without faltering, and who has been followed to the Judgment Seat by an abundance of good works.—*R.I.P.*

The Caledonian Society of Otago have allotted the handsome sum of £410 to be contested for in the various events to take place at their annual gathering on January 1, 2, and 5. The programme is an interesting and well-chosen one, and the sports this year are likely to prove more exciting even than usual because of the presence at them of Donald Dinzie, the famous athlete, who has just arrived from San Francisco.

THE Show of the Dunedin Horticultural Society, held in the Garrison Hall last week was a pronounced success. The display of flowers and plants was very fine and of much beauty, and a particular proof was given that the laudable effects made by the Society to encourage a taste for the refining and civilising art of floriculture have not been by any means lost. Among the principal exhibitors were Messrs. W. Reid, Gebbie, Law, Somner and Co., Martin and Son, Thomson, Purdie, Martin, Mackerras, Chapman, and Hitchcock; but there also were numerous others for whose names we are unable to find space.

THE news from the old country confirms our suggestion made last week that the American lawyers expressed dissatisfaction with the manner in which O'Donnell's trial was conducted. We are told, for example, that General Pryor has stated his conviction that the unfortunate man acted in self-defence. Our confidence, moreover, in the strict justice with which the trials of suspected Irishmen are conducted is by no means strengthened from our finding the following telegraph in reference to the underground railway explosions:—"A correspondent in one of the leading English journals, which attributes these explosions to American dynamiters, suggests that some of the Irish leaders should be taken as hostages and executed after every explosion." There are evidently very respectable people, then, whose proposals leading English newspapers are not ashamed to publish, or, perhaps, endorse, and who are only anxious for vengeance in whatever way it may be obtained. Nay who desire to see outrages that have probably been committed by enemies of the Irish party visited on the Irish leaders. And who can say that such a spirit does not preponderate among all those who conduct the trials of Irishmen, or, at least, among the majority of them? The unusual haste, moreover, with which O'Donnell's sentence was carried out bespeaks an uneasy mind on the part of Government.

THE *Saturday Review*, referring to what he calls a "legend among political gossips," that Sir Stafford Northcote had remonstrated with Mr. Parnell on the career he was about to follow, writes thus:—"It might well seem sad to a good-natured and experienced Statesman that an English gentleman, almost of the whole blood, with the full advantages of an English education, and with others sufficient to enable him to lead an independent and honourable political career, with evident abilities and an uncommon aptitude for parliamentary life, should not find some better part to play than to aim at the leadership of a gang of adventurers seeking a ruinous end by disreputable means." In the opinion the *Saturday Review* pronounces with regard to the Irish party, their object, their method, or their ends, we are but little concerned. It is the opinion of a violent partisan incapable of reasoning on this matter, but as capable of adopting any discreditable means of maintaining the iniquitous oppression of Ireland, as were, for example, the authorities in India to uphold British rule there, even by supporting the atrocious rites of Juggernaut. What we are concerned with is the high testimony borne by the *Review*, a bitter enemy, and therefore borne with force, to the abilities of Mr. Parnell, and the brilliant career that lay open to him had he chosen to apply those abilities to the acquisition of selfish ends. And this is a point useful for us to consider now-a-days, when interested or stupid people are desirous of making it appear that Mr. Parnell has profited by his advocacy of Irish rights, to befool the Irish people into enriching him all undeservedly. The national tribute paid to him, then, splendid as it was, has been but a trifling set-off against all that he had already sacrificed without a thought of recompense. A successful parliamentary career, for which the *Review* admits Mr. Parnell has exceptional aptitudes, may lead to anything, and the man who casts it away in order to adopt a feeble and detested cause, for the amelioration of a suffering people, in which he can hardly hope to be successful before his lifetime is well nigh spent, can not be truthfully accused of a devotion to self-interest.—That he should be accused again in calumnies that had been already amply refuted, savours of dishonesty in the man, or stupidity in the journalist, who makes the accusation.