

lic schools, Rev Dr RYERSON, may be appositely quoted: "As far back as 1858" he said, "in connection with these separate schools, our public school system has been developed, and has advanced and extended beyond precedent or parallel in any count. In a few rural sections some temporary or local inconvenience may be experienced from them, but in cities and towns it may be questioned whether the character and efficiency of the public schools are not rather promoted by the existence of separate schools." In the report of the Minister of Education for 1887, the following words occur:—"From the reports of inspectors . . . it will be seen that the separate schools are steadily prospering, and that, both as regards teachers and pupils, they are becoming more and more efficient every year." In Quebec the system is practically denominational; a Catholic Board managing the Catholic schools, and a Protestant Board managing the schools of the Protestant minority. Though Catholics are in the majority in Quebec it is well to bear in mind Catholics have not been in a majority in the Canadian Parliament. Protestants appealing for continued justice to their co-religionists in Quebec, have helped to conserve the arrangement meting out justice to the Catholic minority in Ontario. The bogey, set up so often here that the State must not pay to teach religion, does not frighten the sensible Protestants of the Dominion. They see that the funds which separate school trusts disburse would not pay for secular instruction were there not question of Catholic heroism and devotion in the cause of education. If we received substantial aid for the schools in New Zealand built and equipped by ourselves out of our own money, we should not be adequately paid for the secular instruction imparted, even if we received the same allowance as the public schools. The debt of New Zealand to the Catholic body in the matter of instruction in secular matters is so great that no matter what happens it will never be truthfully said that the State contributes to religious education. The interest of the money wrung from the Catholics of New Zealand since 1877, to support a system of education of which they cannot avail themselves, would make a large endowment for the Catholic schools of the Colony.

AN art-union in aid of St Patrick's Basilica, Oamaru, is now fairly afoot, and all who could not be present at the opening will now have an opportunity of assisting this grand work, and of sharing in the chances of the finest distribution of works of art yet attempted in these parts. The promoter, Father Mackay, has determined to adhere strictly to the letter of the law relative to art-unions, that every prize shall be, in the true sense of the word, a work of art. But to many of the prizes are added very valuable trophies, such as a suite of very handsome furniture, being made to order by Messrs Scoullar and Chisholm, of Dunedin; a return saloon ticket to Melbourne or Sydney; a beautiful chair, the gift of Messrs A. and T. Inglis; a cigar stand and musical box combined, the gift of the Rev Father Regnault, of Waimate, etc. All the paintings may be said to be the work of New Zealand artists of note and name, many of them by our distinguished teachers in the various convents, and their gifted pupils—who have most generously responded to the call for help, by cheerfully contributing the labour of their heads and hearts, and several of whose names appear on the tickets. Dunedin, especially, which has so largely in years gone by profited by the generosity of the Oamaru Catholics, as his Lordship the Bishop has on many occasions declared, will no doubt be well to the front in helping Oamaru in its day of need.

A NEW Catholic church will be opened at Waitati on Sunday the 12th inst. Convenient arrangements have been made to convey visitors on the occasion by drag from Dunedin. The road, as everyone knows, lies through very beautiful scenery.

THE petition to Parliament on behalf of the Catholic schools was presented for signature in the porch of St Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, on Sunday. The arrangements, under the supervision of Messrs P. Hally and J. Dunne, were very convenient, and the members of the congregation had no difficulty in affixing their names.

The special devotions of the month of Mary begin this (Wednesday) evening in St Joseph's Cathedral. An altar of the Blessed Virgin has been erected beneath the picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. The adornment of both picture and altar are most appropriate and tasteful.

OWING to the work occasioned by the recent bazaar at Wellington, the drawing of the art-union was postponed until to-day (Wednesday, May 1). The winning numbers will appear in our next issue.

THE Empress Frederick of Germany, who, on St Patrick's Day, wore a bunch of shamrock and a costume made of Irish material, is expected probably to visit Ireland in the autumn.

MR JUSTIN MCCARTHY, M.P., who presided at the National celebration on St Patrick's Day in London, declared that the cause had never been stronger than it now was, and spoke with strong hope of the future.

WE are informed by cable that Mr O'Kelly, a supporter of Mr Justin M'Carthy, has been returned for the vacant seat for Wicklow in the House of Commons, caused by the resignation of Mr Sweetman, who resigned after seceding from the Eedmond party. Mr O'Kelly's majority was 62.

OUR contemporary, the *Triad*, for the current month has a further enlargement of four pages. The musical supplement contains Reeve's "Friar f Orders Grey," a song sung by Mr Santley in Dunedin, and Wagner's "Rienzi's Prayer" arranged as a pianoforte solo. An art supplement gives excellent likenesses of six of our local musicians. The literary matter is, as usual, interesting and various.

THE following, sent to us from the Salesian Oratory at Turin, Italy, has come rather late to hand. We are, nevertheless, happy in complying with the request to publish it:—"The well-known Association of Salesian Co-operators, which was founded by Don Bosco for the maintenance and propagation of his numerous charitable institutions, will hold its first International Congress at Bologna (Italy) on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of April next. The Holy Father has given his blessing to the promoters and the programme they submitted for his approval. The Congress will be under the honorary presidency of His Eminence Cardinal Svampa, supported by several Cardinals, Archbishops, and Bishops. Besides the Salesian Co-operators Catholics of every country are invited to assist at the sittings of this important assembly. Persons desiring further particulars may communicate with the Salesian Fathers, the Oratory, Turin; or the *Curia Arcivescovile*, Bologna.

READERS of the *Catholic Times* (writes the Rome correspondent of our contemporary of March 22), may remember the scandal which was caused by two canons of St Peter's, Campello and Savarese, withdrawing from the Catholic Church and founding an Italian Protestant one, not very many years ago, within a stone's throw of the Vatican. Their conduct was, of course, approved of by various Protestant societies, and large sums of money were subscribed to assist the ex-canons in their enterprise. The sequel of the story is that Savarese, after many adventures, is staying in a Catholic monastery, full of repentance, while Campello arrived in Rome a short time ago "sick unto death," and at his express desire was taken to a convent, where he is nursed with the greatest devotion. To quote his own words, when speaking about the nuns to a person who visited him one day this week: "These Sisters are angels upon earth." It is said that Campello will shortly return to his allegiance also.

THE IRISH WORLD AND THE "PATRIOT BISHOP OF DUNEDIN."

ALL the way from New Zealand we (*Irish World*, March 9) have an illustration of the evil which the dissensions in Ireland are doing to the Irish cause. In that distant land there are patriotic Irishmen who are willing and eager to help the country of their fathers as they have often helped it before. There is a patriotic Irish bishop there, too—Most Rev Dr Moran, Bishop of Dunedin—and there is a good newspaper, the *TABLET*, whose editor is a man of the right sort. This gentleman—Mr Perrin—being desirous to have formed in New Zealand some branches of the Irish National Federation, very properly thought it well to have the advice and co-operation of the Bishop. He therefore wrote to Dr Moran on the matter, and he received a reply which we think well worth placing in full before our readers. It is as follows:—

"My dear Mr Perrin,—In reference to your letter regarding the establishment of branches of the Irish Confederation League, I beg to say that, though an earnest and strenuous advocate now as hitherto of a domestic legislature for Ireland as essential to the peace and prosperity of that country, I regret I cannot recommend the establishment of the branches you speak of till the dissensions of Home Rulers in Ireland are healed and one strong party is formed in the Home country. I am sick and ashamed of the dissensions and recriminations of Home Rulers in Ireland, and would not recommend our people to take sides or actively engage in the agitation till our friends at Home drop their dissensions, which make us all here lower our heads and blush for shame.—I am, etc,

P. MORAN."

In this letter Bishop Moran well and truthfully expresses the feeling which, we are convinced, is universal amongst good Irishmen everywhere. They are all "sick and ashamed of the dissensions,"

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