

"skylarking in Europe" of his gentlemanly opponent. Commercial Dunedin, though stoutly even bitterly opposed for patent reasons to Mr WARD, would scarcely listen, at the present moment to anything but notes of congratulation to the New Zealander who has won the favour of the hard-headed financiers of London. A section of the Press, which, for party reasons, has been in hot pursuit of Mr WARD since he left our shores, is now compelled to join in the chorus of praise for the splendid success of his financial operations. No one really likes to see the star of New Zealand anywhere but in the ascendant. To be sure, as is to be expected, the conversion of his opponents is not whole-souled and perfect. Attempt is made to minimise the veritable triumph. We are told that his proverbial good luck has followed the honourable gentleman. The London money market is just in the state that money is plentiful, and people are anxious, because of the low rates at Home, to invest in good Colonial securities. Precisely so. Mr WARD has hit the nail on the head. It takes good judgment to know in the face of varying circumstances when really the iron is hot. And in dealing with the level-headed, well-informed, not-easily-gulled money lenders of London, something more than tact and good management is required. The gentlemanly manners of Hon Mr WARD, no doubt, impressed the people at Home, but courtesy and social attractiveness do not incite a cautious people to subscribe four times the amount required, at a lower rate of interest than the Australasian colonies have yet obtained. Mr WARD must have satisfied the London financiers that New Zealand was not in the deplorable down-the-hill condition that some politicians proclaim in this Colony, and even mischievously cable to Europe. The Sydney Daily Telegraph strongly expressed this idea in a recent leader. "Despite the efforts made to belittle the Colony's credit British gold has been showered on the Colony threefold in excess of the amount asked for. Instead of fear being shown regarding the stability of New Zealand there has been sensational competition for her securities among the money lenders which made the unexampled success of her loan the most dramatic and significant event in the recent history of Australian finances." Some months ago several Members in the House scouted the idea of New Zealand obtaining cheap money in London. Money would not be obtained at even 3½ per cent to carry out the provisions of the Advance to Settlers Act. Not content with "You won't get it," pessimistic croakers and political mischief makers cabled, in effect, Home, "Don't give it." The young Colonial Treasurer is scarcely landed, for the first time, in England when word comes that £1,500,000 has been borrowed on most advantageous terms at 3 per cent. Members of the Opposition may resurrect some antediluvian relation of Colonel FRASER and talk their endless talk about the corruption of the Government. The mission of Hon Mr WARD will not furnish a *piece de resistance* for the dramatic absurdities of the next session.

We have received from Mr Joseph Winter a communication informing us of the arrival of Mr Michael Davitt in Australia. Mr Davitt will make a tour of the Australian colonies, afterwards visiting New Zealand. The date at which we may expect him is not yet fixed nor the port at which he will first arrive. His stay in the colonies, however, is limited, and we shall not have long to wait for him. Our readers, no doubt, will look anxiously for the particulars with which, in due time, and as soon as possible, we shall furnish them.

A GREAT event of the period will be the opening of St Bridgid's church at Waitati next Sunday. Drags will start from Messrs Findlay and Parker's Rink Stables, Moray Place, Dunedin, at 9 a.m., and full accommodation will be found for all who desire to take advantage of the trip. The names, however, of intending passengers should be previously sent in to the proprietors—say on Friday or Saturday—so that everything may be in readiness, and no disappointment may occur. Of the beauties of the road we spoke in our last issue—and, indeed, in this respect there is little that need be said. The scenery is among the best to be found in the neighbourhood of Dunedin, and it may be questioned if, in its particular way, it can be surpassed in any part of the Colony. A contributor, for example, whose contribution, under the heading "A Chat About Education," we publish in another place, speaks of it as well repaying the passenger who traverses the road on foot. He also expatiates on the attractions of the bush in the neighbourhood of the township. What, then, can be more enjoyable than the drive that is now offered to all those who will avail themselves of the opportunity? To make the excursion completely perfect, there is its object—that, namely, of taking part as worshippers in a religious ceremony, than which hardly any

can be of greater interest—the opening of a church—a note of the progress of religion in the country. The ceremonies will be carried out with all the solemnity possible, and with the aid of a well-trained and numerous choir. The Rev Father Newport, pastor of the district, also will be aided by several of his brothers in the sacred ministry. Everything, therefore, combines to make the day a festival. There will, no doubt, be a large attendance from Dunedin.

THE Very Rev Father Devoy (says the Wellington Post, of the 2nd inst) entertained the ladies connected with the recent bazaar and their friends at the Skating Rink last evening. The ladies themselves assisted in the entertainment and the provision of the ample supper. There were songs by Mr W. Ross, Miss Ross, and Mr G. Parsons, and dancing was kept up with spirit till midnight by the 200 to 300 present. During the evening Father Devoy presented Mr F. Oake, on behalf of the Bazaar Committee, with a handsome baton, as some recognition of his services in connection with the music at the bazaar. The art-union in connection with the Newtown schools was drawn on the stage, the operations being conducted by Mr R. Davis. The result was as follows:—First prize, a gold monstrance valued at £30, Miss Kate Donnelly, Palmerston North (ticket No. 116, sold by Father Golden); second prize, vestment, value £10, Rev Father Walsh, Kaikoura (ticket No. 144); third prize, altar linen, value £5, Rev Father Binsfield, Meanea (ticket No. 666).

THE Rev Father Treacy, we learn, is about to leave Hawarden for a visit to the Australian colonies. We regret that ill-health forms the reason for the rev gentleman's tour. We hope, however, that a complete restoration will ere long enable him to return to New Zealand to labour, as heretofore, zealously and effectively in fulfilling the duties of his holy calling.

THE excursion of the children attending the Catholic schools to Waimate yesterday (says the Oamaru Mail of May 1), was a great success. About 600 left with the train in the morning, which number was largely augmented at way-side stations. On arrival the children formed into procession, and, escorted by the Rev Father Regnault (Waimate), Rev Father Mackay and Father M'Mullin (Oamaru), marched to the Catholic church grounds. The visitors were most hospitably entertained by Rev Father Regnault and the Sisters. Football, racing, and other contests were indulged in, and a most enjoyable day was spent. Before their departure three cheers for Father Regnault and the Sisters were heartily given by the visitors. Altogether there were more than 1000 excursionists, and many found their way to the Point bush and Knottingly and Victoria Parks, while the footpaths in Queen Street (according to the Waimate Times) were crowded with pedestrians during the whole afternoon, giving the main street an unusually lively appearance. The excursionists left on the return journey immediately after the arrival of the express, and arrived safely home about 7 o'clock.

THE details of the Turkish massacres and outrages in Armenia, which have now been published as the result of an inquiry made by the greater Powers, are of indescribable horror. The Sultan, nevertheless, shows himself obstinate, and seems determined to defend the criminals. Mr Gladstone is moving in the matter and calls on the Imperial Government to take steps to prevent anything of the kind in future. The time, in fact, seems come for dealing finally with the "sick man," who has been all too long, for the interests of humanity, in giving up the ghost. Short shrift is all that should now be allowed him.

A MISUNDERSTANDING, that threatened serious consequences, between Russia and Japan appears to be settled by the consent of the Japanese Government to relinquish their claim to the territory whose proposed cession to them by China was the cause of the dispute. We may, therefore, look upon the war in question as ended. The results, as affecting commerce or the position of the European Powers in the East, will declare themselves in due time.

ON Sunday, the Feast of the Patronage of St Joseph was observed in St Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin. High Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m., the Very Rev Father Lynch acting as celebrant, and the Rev Fathers Murphy and Howard respectively as deacon and subdeacon. Father Murphy preached on the festival of the day. In the evening the proper Vespers were celebrated, and Father Lynch preached on St Pius V. and the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin. At Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament Father Murphy was celebrant, Father Howard, deacon, and Father Lynch, subdeacon.

OUR readers may remember that some little time ago the admission of women to the H.A.C.B.S. was advocated in our leading columns. We have now to announce that the executive of the Society at Auckland have issued a dispensation for the establishment of a

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