

What, then, are the rights of the case? Or what is the nature of the claim that the Imperial Government has in this matter on the colonies? The danger to these colonies arises from the Imperial connection. What is it, for example, that keeps France in New Caledonia, or makes her, if report speak true, hanker after the annexation of the New Hebrides? Is it not lest England should command a preponderance in these seas that might seem to belittle her own standing as a great rival nation, or to interfere with her interests as such? We may conclude, too, that her present undertaking in Madagascar is not carried on without thoughts of a similar kind to influence her, or without her having a design of placing or keeping herself in a position of closer equality. Germany, too, if she has a desire for colonial expansion or foreign settlement, may be taken as influenced by like motives. Even now the Berlin Press are calling out that, since, as they affirm, England is about to acquire an island off the coast of China, Germany also must secure a naval station in the East.

It is, in short, we say again, their Imperial connection that places these colonies in any danger that they may be in from hostile attacks. That in the event of war, in which England should be engaged, they would actually encounter such a danger is manifest. All doubts as to the part to be played by them, under such circumstances, for example, have been put an end to in the eyes of foreign nations by the expedition that went from Sydney to the Soudan at the time of the late war. If there had been any doubt before, which perhaps, was hardly possible, that demonstration must have put an end to it.

The necessity, then, of providing for their own defence, apart from the service of the navy, by which, as the *Times* seems also to acknowledge, England must in any case preserve the sovereignty of the seas, has been imposed upon these colonies by the Imperial tie. This has already subjected them to a very heavy expense, and, as Colonel Fox's recent report seems to show for New Zealand, a good deal more remains still to be expended.

The recommendation, therefore, of the Defence Committee would appear to be extravagant. The proposal of the *Times*, too, though more delicately put, is hardly less deserving of resistance. The burden of the colonies, with a promise, or a threat, of constant increase, is already sufficiently onerous, and it is borne by Imperial imposition and in Imperial interests. Colonial tax-payers should listen to no proposals of the kind alluded to.

CIRCUMSTANCES have made it necessary to anticipate by a day the time fixed for the juvenile opera and concert to be given at the Princess Theatre, Dunedin, in aid of the parochial schools conducted by the Dominican nuns. The night appointed is now that of Thursday, the 19th inst. Everything is prepared for an entertainment of a very high order, and people desirous of giving a helping hand to a most deserving object may purchase their tickets also with an assurance of obtaining full value for their money. The pupils of the nuns will be seen and heard at their best, and that is saying a good deal—in fact, we need say no more.

A WEEKLY singing class has been opened by the Dominican Nuns at St Joseph's Schoolroom, Dunedin. Ladies desirous of studying the art will find attendance at the class of great assistance to them. In order to facilitate such attendance the nuns have considerably fixed the fee at the lowest possible figure.

WE publish in another place the Government Inspector's report of the Catholic Schools in South Canterbury.

I ("TABLEY," in the *Advocate*) esteem it the greatest privilege of my life to have known the little patriarch of Kyneton, the late Dean Geoghegan, and now that it has transpired that he died without sufficient money to pay his funeral expenses, I pay homage to his memory more reverently than ever. The opportunities which the Dean had during his long career in Kyneton of amassing vast worldly wealth were great indeed, and his poverty at death speaks eloquently of the charity which he practised all through his life. That he gave his worldly wealth to the poor was only what might have been expected from one of his generous nature, but that he gave it without ostentation, and in such a way that but few, if any, knew of the extent of his liberality, reflects the greatest honour upon his memory. It is in the highest degree creditable to the Catholic priesthood of Victoria that such unselfishness as that represented in the case of Dean Geoghegan is by no means uncommon. The late Dean Donaghy died possessed of one solitary half-crown, and the late Father O'Dowd, of Ballarat, had not sufficient to pay for his burial.

AN address (says the *Sydney Freeman* of August 31) was delivered on Monday night in the Centennial Hall, Brisbane, by Prior Vaughan on the condition and betterment of the English masses. The Colonial Secretary presided, and the attendance was very large. Prior Vaughan stated that Mr Samuel Eordern, of Sydney, had promised to supplement the first £1000 collected with a cheque for £200. A motion to the effect that the movement was worthy of their support was moved by the Attorney-General (Mr Byrnes), seconded by the Mayor, and carried unanimously.

ANOTHER member of our old nobility, we learn, has distinguished himself—as thus:—"Lord Wodehouse has been removed from the commission of the peace for assaulting the chairman of an election meeting in East Norfolk."

THE time for holding the Milton Art Union is drawing near, and friends are requested to send in blocks and remittances as soon as convenient. A list will be published in next issue of the *TABLET*. It is most desirable that no postponement should take place, and it is not intended that there should be one.

THE Rev Father Hilary, O.P. (says the *Monitor*) is expected in Hobart early in September to conduct the retreat for the Sisters of Charity. He and Father Callistus will then return to the Passionist Monastery, Goulburn, N. S. Wales, as the New Town parish is too poor to provide for the maintenance of two Passionist Fathers, and the rule for Regulars prohibits one only having care of a mission.

SOMETHING more, then, than "gas," explosive or quiescent, has come of the Premier's late visit to the Uriweras. A deputation from the tribe, which visited Wellington last week to make friendly responses and overtures, may, for example, be taken as a result of quite another kind, and as very creditable to Mr Seddon's diplomacy. The deputation also invited Lord Glasgow to visit their country—his Excellency signifying a gracious consent.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE thirty-sixth yearly meeting of the Canterbury Chamber of Commerce was held last week and the committee presented the annual report. When speaking of the Chatham Islands steam service the report says:—"Your committee has used its exertions to thwart the steps now being taken in certain quarters to transfer this service from Lyttelton to Wellington. The Government have announced that the service will at least not be disturbed during the present contract, which ends in March next, and it is to be hoped that every effort will be used to prevent Canterbury being deprived of a trade which she has created and cultivated for years." A local paper points out that, though the Canterbury Chamber of Commerce is entitled to the thanks of the community for attempting to prevent a diversion of the Chatham Islands trade, yet stronger reasons than those urged for its retention as at present are needed. Neither the fact that the islands have been developed by Canterbury capital nor the fact that the present service was established by Canterbury enterprise, form any unanswerable argument against a change. The Government will have to consult the wishes of the settlers on the islands, and should Canterbury wish to retain the trade she will have to convince them that their best interests are served by maintaining their connection with Lyttelton. The question is one which cannot be decided on sentimental grounds. Therefore Canterbury will have to defeat the efforts of Wellington to alter the Chatham Islands trade by showing that expediency as well as sentiment are on the side of the present arrangement. A majority of the settlers, it seems, are in favour of letting matters remain as they are.

At the recent Anglican Synod in this city, the president, Bishop Julius, delivered an annual address, and when speaking of the Anglican Church at Home, he said:—"Never, during the past three centuries, had men so yearned for religious unity as they did to-day. The Evangelical Alliance of the Grindelwald conferences was a movement of striking interest in the Established Church in Scotland; the reunion of Methodist communions in Australia was also a sign that Christian men were learning to recognise the simple folly of division. Hence it was that the Papal letter to the English people had created a deep and widespread interest. The letter was not addressed to the Anglican Church, but, to the English people who seek the kingdom of Christ in the unity of faith." It makes no proposals and suggests no concessions, but was merely, as a Roman Catholic writer truly says, one long insistence upon the efficacy of prayer, and an almost pathetic appeal to the English people to join with the Pope in prayer for the blessing of reunion upon the Church. But though all Christians, Catholics included, are fully at liberty to agree to pray in order to gain a good and a common advantage, yet the Catholic Church does not permit her children to join in the ritual of any other Church. This must be simply the meaning of the warning which Catholics are said to have received on this point, and therefore the Bishop must be somewhat in error when he says:—"The letter to the English people marked a distinct