

calling and a duty, one of the most important and most complicated duties of society, to be a capitalist. Of those trying tasks that fortune imposes, says M. BEAULIEU, democratic imbecility and jealousy take no reckoning.

A case of particular interest to us to which the writer applies his doctrine is that of large land-holders. This is a class of men of whom, for the most part, we are now accustomed to hear little that is good, and in favour of whose bursting up a great deal has been urged. M. LEROY-BEAULIEU is of a different opinion. It is believed, he says, that it would be advantageous more and more to develop small ownerships at the expense of those that are great—to do away with the latter altogether. But this, he asserts, would be to destroy the principal element of agricultural progress. Great proprietorship in good hands, he continues, has, from several points of view, a considerable superiority over small. Great proprietorship has proportionally more capital. Besides, up to a certain point, capital acquires by concentration a force which excels that which it has in a divided state. The soil can thus be better worked, and will return more fruits. The greatest advantage, however, possessed by the great ownership the writer attributes to its scientific and industrial superiority. This scientific and intellectual superiority of great modern proprietors, he says, is the pivot of all agricultural progress. The writer quotes examples of what the great proprietors have done. To them has been due, for instance, improvement in manuring; the adoption of new crops; the successful treatment of vines infected by oidium and phylloxera. At the present time they are concerning themselves about the cure of other pests. The mind of the small owner, we are told, is not active enough to take a lead in such matters. The State is too stiff and conventional to take the place of private initiative. Another advantage which the writer attributes to the great ownership is that of agricultural responsibility, without which, he says, there can be no methodic organisation, to decrease to a minimum the chances of checks and losses, and to increase to a maximum those of discovery and progress.

A great deal more the writer has to say and to adduce in support of his argument, as, for further example, the advantage to the small owner of the neighbourhood of the great owner, and the benefit, accruing from the system of tenancy, of giving a personal interest in the land to men of the liberal professions and others—men of the highest intelligence in the nation. We have, however, quoted enough to show our readers that something may also be said—and well said—on the other side. We leave them to draw their conclusions for themselves.

The social function of fortune, M. LEROY-BEAULIEU says finally, consists in supplying for the initiative, always arbitrary, often wasteful, generally but little enlightened or little impartial, and insufficient, of the State; and to guide and instruct, whether by direct contact or by practical examples, the classes in less easy circumstances. The social function of fortune is to be initiative and auxiliary.

#### THE TESTIMONY OF FRIEND AND FOE.

WE reproduce elsewhere the report of a speech recently delivered at Tralee by Sir THOMAS H. GRATTAN ESMONDE. We do not know of any source whence a better or a sounder view may be derived of the spirit by which the more sensible body—that is the great majority—of the Irish people are actuated.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE speaks in a tone of firm hopefulness that at the present time is particularly reassuring. He looks defeat in the face like a man, and declares himself ready to renew the fight, enumerating at the same time all the points that have been gained. Throughout the speech is characterised by a marked tone of moderation. The speaker proclaims himself the partisan of no party, and the sworn follower of no leader. The great object that he keeps in view is the welfare of Ireland and the means of obtaining for her the measures necessary to promote her interests. Although a check has been received, he sees that the true strength of the cause remains intact, and that there is no reason to despair of its being once more rallied and brought to bear upon the opposing camp.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE too, like Mr SEXTON and Archbishop WALSH, to whom we alluded in a recent article, perceives the crying need of the hour, and the point wherein the power of the Irish people lies. He also may be

depended on to use all his influence, which, indeed, is of no light weight, to bring about the reunion whereon so much depends. "If," he said, "they had the Irish people behind them it did not matter how big was the hostile majority against them. They wanted only a good, strong, and secure footing at home." To confirm these words we may quote testimony uttered with a very different feeling—that, namely, of the London *Times*. The *Times* expresses disappointment, and implies more than it expresses, at the result of the elections in Ireland. Everywhere else, it says, the Unionists have made notable gains. "But Irish constituencies remain by a great, and indeed slightly increased, majority Separatist."

While Ireland, then, remains to all intents and purposes, notwithstanding some bickering—or even some shillela flourishing—among sections, one in determination, the chief point remains intact, and the source whence ultimate victory may be looked for continues sound.

This speech of Sir THOMAS ESMONDE's, therefore, borne out by the unwilling testimony of the *Times*, may serve to reassure us. Sir THOMAS ESMONDE tells us that so long as the Irish people remain constant there is nothing to fear. The *Times* admits, with chagrin, that they do in fact remain so.

ON Sunday the 8th inst, Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, the Very Rev Father Lynch Adm, acted as celebrant of High Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Auckland. In the evening, he preached at St Benedict's. On the Sunday previous the very rev gentleman had preached at Rotorna to a congregation of Maorie. Father Lynch returns to Dunedin to-day (Friday.)

ELSEWHERE we publish details of the success of the pupils of the Dominican nuns at the musical examination of Trinity College, London. It was the first time that the pupils of the nuns had been submitted to this test, and the per centage of passes gained by them—that is about 74—must be regarded as very creditable. We may add that extern pupils also are received at the Convent to be prepared for the examination in question.

THE funeral of the late Mr C. J. O'Regan, took place at Reefton on Tuesday, the 10th inst. The attendance from all parts of the district and outlying places was very large. The Rev Father Rolland, who officiated, paid an affecting tribute to the memory of the deceased. Among those who sent to the bereaved family telegrams of sympathy were his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington, and the Hon Mr Seddon.

A CONCERT of a very choice and refined nature was given at the Choral Hall, Dunedin, on Tuesday evening. The occasion was the production of a programme drawn up entirely from the compositions of Miss Annette Wilson, A. Ph. S. Miss Wilson had long since earned a high reputation as a musician in this city. Still the full display now made of her talents and attainments must have come as a revelation to many. The music, which embraced a large and varied selection, was in every instance charming, one of its chief characteristics being a daintiness and grace that were particularly delightful. Most of the pieces were interpreted with an exquisite touch and fine expression by the lady herself on the piano; she was, however, assisted by a number of competent singers. The concert was throughout thoroughly enjoyable. We are happy to congratulate Miss Wilson on the laurels she has so admirably won.

A BREAK-UP of the drought is reported from Australia.

WE quote with deep regret the following telegram. "Lyttelton, September 15. A sad accident happened here this morning. A boy named Edward Loader, with two younger brothers, was hill climbing when Edward made an attempt to climb an old monument, which is built of rough rocks. It stands 12ft high, and was used in connection with the construction of the tunnel. Loader on getting some distance up the face caught hold of a stone, which gave way with him. He jumped backwards on to the ground, but the stone, which weighed nearly 3cwt, landed fairly on his head, and killed him instantly." The bereaved parents have our sincerest sympathy.

Mr E. Dunne, George street, Dunedin, has recently received several additions to his excellent stock of books and pious objects. A book which must especially commend itself to Catholics is a fine and comprehensive prayer-book—named "The Path to Heaven." This volume may be safely recommended to those who are in search of a work of the kind. It contains prayers for almost every occasion that can be thought of, as well as devotions well calculated to enkindle and sustain the pious spirit. A well selected number of hymns completes the work.