

New Zealand Gabel

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Current Topics

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

TWO ELECTION BILLS.

MANY of our readers have desired to see in print Mr Davitt's "Two election bills," which "brought down the house" wherever he related them. It were unfair to give them while the lecturer was here. He is gone. There is no harm in making an attempt at giving them now. During one of his lectures in Dunedin, Michael Davitt said he had copies of election agents' bills which were sent in after the contests which took place about forty years ago—one an English agent's bill, and the other that of an Irish agent.

The English Agent's Bill.

To 4 roasters of the word "Church," £40; to 400 gallons of Tory punch, £30; to brandy, £30; for a street show with which to dazzle the mob, £200; to 2 riots in the interest of the candidate, £200; and for a set of notorious liars, £50.

Irish Election Account.

Prior to reading the Irish agent's bill, Mr Davitt said the original copy of it could be seen framed in the drawing-room of Somerville House. It was presented to Sir Mark Somerville after a contest in Meath. The writer was an innkeeper in the town of Trim (time fifty years ago), who had been instructed by Sir Mark to look after the freeholders. "Looking after 16 freeholders for Sir Mark upstairs is to me £2 12s; to eating 15 more below, and two priests after supper is to me £2 15s 9d; to 18 horses and two mules about my yard all night, feed to every one of them, is to me £6 5s; to 6 beds in one room and 4 beds in another is to me £4 4s; to more than four voters in a bed at any time, cheap enough God knows, it is to me £22 15s; to breakfast and tea any of them as they liked to bring in with them as far as I can give is to me £4 12s; to breaking a pot above stairs and for other glasses and delf I am not sure, but as little as I can call it in all or thereabouts, to speak fairly and not to be particular, is to me £79 1s 8d; for a man for Tim Kernan, who was not expected to live, with everything done so as to keep him alive so as to get his vote in the morning is to me £1 1s. Total, with other matters not mentioned, and not to be too particular, say, and God knows I do not get much out of it, £149."

RUMOURS OF WARS.

WAR between America and England! Not at all. Neither nation desires it. American politicians are not apprehensive about external wars. What they fear in the not distant future is internal war—

civil war. A race conflict between whites and blacks is pretty sure to come. The negroes are increasing. The whites do not show proportionate increase. Of course immigration adds to the population. Natural increase, however, except in the case of Irish and German citizens is small. The detestable Malthusian doctrine has permeated American society. New comers, unrestrained by religion, are quickly affected. The consequence will be that the blacks, in a few years, will equal, and then soon outnumber the whites. Negro families are large—12 is a very common number, 19 and 20 in the household not uncommon. In the race conflict ignorant brute force will be worsted. But the horrors of war will long be remembered, unless the civilising influence of real Christianity avert a threatened danger. The conversion methods of the Methodist camp meeting will not turn into a softening channel the emotional nature of the ignorant negro. There is work for the Catholic Church to do. It is high time for her to be actively up and doing. A Catholic University is a noble work. So, too, in view of the future, is the Catholic school for the neglected negro child.

EDUCATION QUESTION IN BELGIUM.

THE *Lyttelton Times* makes a vain attempt to minimise the effect of the recent victory in Belgium of the advocates of religious education. It gives its readers to understand that there is general dissatisfaction among the people "against the return to clerical control." The *Lyttelton Times*, without doubt, gets his information from secularist and anti-Catholic sources. It is notorious that wealthy Jews in France and Belgium have vast power

through the Press, which in very many cases they own or control. The Jews, with their allies the Masonic Liberals, leave no stone unturned to regain the influence they have recently lost in Belgium. It is not difficult with the news agencies under their thumb to make the outside world believe that "popular demonstrations" against religious education "have taken place all over the country." A few men in the back parlour of a country hotel can constitute an indignation meeting and make "newspaper history" for those who live at a distance. That the National Liberal Association "has entered strong protest against the clerical policy" means about as much as if a numerically weak Association in New Zealand solemnly protested against the verdict of the mass of the people. The *Ligue de l'Enseignement* makes an appeal "to Belgian Constitutional law against the effort to control the religious opinions of the people." Six and a quarter millions of Catholics, coercing 14,000 Jews and Protestants, "protected by a conscience clause"! Absurd! Association of ideas recalls the action of Bagnault de St Jean d'Angely, 27th September, 1790, who called Rewbell and the opponents of giving civic rights to the French Jews to order on the ground that "they were opposing the Constitution." Louis XVI. signed the decree which placed the French Jews in a position to foster revolution and every movement which had for its object to unchristianize France. Catholic France has much matter for reflection, when in this connection she reads some pages of modern history. Few in numbers, the Jews are rich and powerful in France and the adjoining countries. "M. de Rothschild and his co-religionists (said the *Univers*, 11th May, 1889) are in our day more really masters in France than the president of the Republic and his ministers." What with reason is said of France is true *mutatis mutandis* of Belgium. The same anti-Christian forces, powerful in material resources and social influence, are at work. Will they again succeed? Success is difficult when the plotter is discovered, and his machinations unveiled. The enemies of Christian education are determined, if possible, to bring about a return to godless schools. The people, however, have opened their eyes to the fact that they were being skilfully manipulated by the lodges. They have expressed their *fiat*, and religion must henceforth be at the head of the educational programme. The *Lyttelton Times* does not understand the trend of Continental Freemasonry, which, controlled by Jews and atheists, wages war against the Church, by dechristianising education. The lodges may, through powerful members, control the news agencies and deceive those at a distance. The recent elections have shown all but the wilfully blind that they cannot long hoodwink a faithful Catholic people.

ODDS AND ENDS.

ATTENTION has lately been called to the fact that the Rev Father Calendoli, a member of the Dominican Order, has invented a type-setting machine that will compose fifty thousand letters an hour—a task equal to the labour of thirty-six compositors. The difference in speed, as compared with existing machines, lies in the fact that, instead of letters being made to fall separately into the composing stick, entire words can be composed in an instant by the simultaneous application of the fingers of both hands. It is a kind of harp, whose cords are replaced by metallic tubes adhering to each other in four series. All these tubes communicate through an ingenious electrical device with a key-board, or rather chess-board, divided in twenty-one small squares covered with electrical knobs. Each letter is printed on the little knobs. In these squares consonants are not repeated, but the vowels are triplicated and surround the consonants in a very ingenious way, which permits the composition of most of the syllables with a single finger in touching two knobs at the same time, as be, bi, bo, bu, etc. Practically, a skilful operator plays the parts of a pianist, who, by the use of his ten fingers, is able to strike fifty-thousand notes an hour; letters replace the notes in the type-setting scheme. An electrical current is produced at the precise time the compositor raises his finger from the knobs, and instantaneously the letters drop from the tubes on the inclined wire, which is placed in full sight of the operator on the right side of the chess-board. "Justification" is accomplished by the foot of the operator, and the beauty of it is that the copy is always in sight, which renders the

COMPARE SIZE AND WEIGHT OF STICKS.

Smoke T. R. Williams' JUNO. Smoke.