

The other questions were quite on a level. For instance, in arithmetic a simple sum in reduction of so many tons to pounds proved too hard for these lads; and as to the orthography or spelling of most of them, it was in a shocking state."

His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan was celebrant at the Nuptial Mass on the occasion of the marriage of Mr John Dillon, M.P., and Miss Mathew at the Brompton Oratory.

The *Irish Catholic*, December 21, announces that Mr Elias Lekove, a young Dublin Jew, has been received into the Church by Rev Father Farthago Begley O.P., at Mount Argus, Harold's Cross.

There is another vacancy in the Sacred College. The death is announced of Paul Melchers, Cardinal, and formerly Archbishop of Cologne, in his eighty-second year. His Eminence deceased was one of the victims of the Kulturkampf, having opposed the laws, in 1874, and having been sent to imprisonment for his resistance. On his release the resolute prelate continued in his course of defiance, and at length the German Court for Ecclesiastical Affairs resorted to the extreme measure of deposing him from his see. But, in the meantime, Archbishop Melchers had left his country and maintained his attitude at Limburg, in Holland, close to the Prussian frontier. He persisted in conducting the business of his diocese from that place of self-chosen banishment, and drew down upon himself a further sentence of thirty days imprisonment. This, of course, the Prussian Government could not carry out as he was beyond its jurisdiction, but the police inserted the judgment in the *Hue and Cry* as if he were an ordinary criminal. Subsequently, when the Kulturkampf lost some of its fury, negotiations were opened for his recall or the appointment of another prelate in his place, but the Archbishop quietly treated the proceeding as an attempt to carry out a *brutum fulmen*, refusing to look upon his see as vacant. In 1885, at the express desire of his Holiness Leo XIII he resigned the archbishopric and in the Consistory of the 27th of July of that year was elevated to

the faculty of blessing crucifixes with the Papal blessing in articulo mortis, and with the indulgences of the Stations of the Cross, with the provision that the latter might be gained at all times and places. Pius IX, misunderstanding his petition had granted it, but when informed of its real nature did not revoke it." The late Bishop of Dunedin, Dr Moran, we may add, during his long illness had one of those specially blessed crucifixes constantly by him. It was blessed and indulgenced by Cardinal Melchers, and brought from Rome by Rev Father O'Neill, of Milton.

The body of the late Cardinal Melchers was received by the whole of the Catholic clergy and a vast crowd at Cologne, where it was buried in accordance with the Cardinal's wish and by permission of the Emperor.

A good story is told in a north country paper of a Lancashire factory-inspector's visit to a mill. The manager telephoned through the mill, and all children illegally employed were bidden in various out-of-the-way places. While crossing the yard the inspector happened to observe some fingers protruding from a case, and, on raising the lid, he saw a curly-headed lad crouching down. He asked him why he was there; upon which the fellow replied: "Shut th' mouth, mon, and put t'lid down. Doesn't a know th' inspector's about?"

What became of Henry VIII's bequest for Mass. A cor dent in a Home paper writes: "Henry VIII, the English King, who proclaimed himself the head of the Church by law, established, in his last will and Testament left £600 per annum for Masses to be said for his soul, as recorded in Miss Agnes Strickland's history. Six hundred pounds of old Harry's time was of greater value than the same is now; but be that as it may, the question I desire to ask is, what has been done with the trust funds of the self-appointed head of the Church? The present Archbishop of Canterbury, the Hon and Most Rev Edward White Benson, receives £15,000 sterling per annum for his services. He is pretty well paid, and no doubt will leave a handsome sum to be disposed of by his executors, but it is not probable

## OUR WORD FOR IT.

The tide is setting strongly in the direction of a Prosperous Season. Yet, some will complain. There is no use in complaining. If we were to sell people common Boots and charge a big price for them they would not return. We sell Boots that fit well, look well, and wear a reasonable time, and customers are anchored thereby. They are "ours," so to speak. They come a second and a third time, and steadily on. Our profits are squeezed down to the lowest point, so don't fear on that score.

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the purple, taking the title of St Stephen of the Coeran Mount. He was a member of the Ecclesiastical Congregations of the Propaganda, of the Propaganda for the Affairs of the Oriental Rite, of the Index, of Sacred Rites, and of Indulgences and Sacred Relics. He was Protector of the Church and Confraternity of St Maria in Camposanto of the Germans and Flemings. He was born at Munster on the 6th of January, 1873, and Mgr Philip Kremenitz, Bishop of Treves, succeeded him in his old diocese in 1885. His residence has since been in Rome, where he passed away regretted — R. I. P.

Sheridan Le Fanu's poem of "Shamus O'Brien," the brave boy of '98, who escaped from the gallows to be so often murdered at recitations, has been adopted for operatic treatment by Dr Villiers Stanford, and will be produced early in the ensuing spring. Among the *artistes* engaged to appear in it is Mr Ludwig, than whom none can better render "The boys of Wexford."

Rider Haggard's improbable South African yarns stand a chance of being eclipsed by a strange story told by Reuter's correspondent at Cape Coast:—An extraordinary story has been brought from the Keranza country by Captain H. D. Larymore, of the Gold Coast Constabulary, who has just returned from service there. The region beyond the Koranzas to the north-east is as yet unexplored by white men; but the native caravans are constantly passing through the district, which is declared by those who have visited it to be inhabited by a race of white men living in caves. All accounts agree in stating that these cave-dwellers have light hair and blue eyes; and a Mohammedan priest and Hadji, who had seen them, told Captain Larymore that they were a strong and fearless but exclusive race, and did all in their power to prevent strangers from passing through their territory.

The late Cardinal Melchers," says the Roman correspondent of the *London Tablet*, "was well-known abroad for the special faculty of blessing crucifixes which he possessed. He had asked Pius IX for

that he will imitate the 'Defender of the Faith,' Does Henry's bequest form part of the £15,000 paid annually to his Grace, or what has been done with it?"

## THE EDUCATION QUESTION AT HOME.

WHAT THE *SPECTATOR* HAS TO SAY.

A LEADING article which lately appeared in the *Spectator* in connection with the resolutions on education in Ireland issued by the Irish bishops, will be read with great interest by Catholics in New Zealand:—

"That it will be necessary for the Unionist Government to come to close quarters with the Irish education question if not in the next session, at least in the earlier part of the new Parliament's life, is a fact which will be admitted on all hands. But dealing with the question of Irish education—elementary, intermediate, and academic—means dealing with the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, that is, with the Irish Hierarchy. It is no sort of good to reconstitute or rehandle Irish educational problems on abstract grounds, or for politicians and officials, sitting at their desks, to say such and such a system is the best fitted for a country divided like Ireland, between conflicting sects, or to insist, because a suggested scheme is in the abstract fair and reasonable, that therefore the Irish Catholic Church ought to be able to accept it—must, indeed, ultimately accept it with gratitude, because it is so obviously fair and reasonable. For minute theoretical injustices or apparent partialities we care nothing. As long as the State can and does prevent individual and practical unfairness, it must not worry about what is after all, only political symmetry. The great object is to find out exactly what the Irish bishops and priests want, and what they regard as the scheme that will satisfy them and give them not their abstract rights perhaps, or what an impartial third person would call their rights, but what they themselves consider to be their right. This having been discovered, it should be the duty of the Government to try to meet the views of

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