

voice extensive Protestant feeling when he said: "If the result of State education was to dissociate religion from education the sooner it broke down and perished the better, and it would do so." The very general determination among the non-Catholic laity and a large proportion of the Protestant class is to maintain at all costs the present free system with its plums in scholarships and appointments. Bishop NEVILL will not succeed in arousing his people to follow him even in the effort to secure a modicum of religion in education. Most of his own congregation, like Mr. GEORGE FENWICK, "give respectful and interested attention" to everything the Bishop says on the subject, but are careful to avoid committing themselves to agreement with the views of their spiritual leader. Anglicans are apathetic. The New Zealand public requires something more than a few published addresses on the question before coming to the conclusion that real earnestness and thoroughness of purpose characterise the school agitation in the Church of England. Catholics are invited from time to time to ally themselves with Anglicans. No doubt if the two denominations, with combined and decided effort, pressed the solution of the question of religion in schools, satisfactory progress would be quickly made. However, can they who have done so little to show sincerity, expect that the people who have done so much will enroll themselves under a standard in which the word compromise is clearly inscribed. Catholics want something definite—our own money to educate after our own fashion our own children in our own schools. We want Catholic education for Catholic children. Our programme is well defined and unmistakable. Solidarity on the school question is not characteristic of Anglicans. Divergence of views plainly indicates division. Some advocate the Scripture lessons. Others would be satisfied if only the Bible were read. Others again want opportunity for giving religious instruction during school hours. Dr NEVILL is perfectly outspoken. He prefers denominationalism—pure and simple—to any other form of education. He recognises that he will not get what he wants and so he strives for the nearest approach to it—religious instruction during school hours by authorised ministers of religion. He does not exclude the Scripture Lessons scheme, but he wishes "spiritual application to be given to the dry bones of the school teachers' lesson." Dr NEVILL is not a believer in Bible-reading, or even reading of selected Scripture lessons, as a remedy for existing dissatisfaction. At the meeting on Tuesday night he said "he knew that there were many excellent and devout men among our school teachers, but after the public statements made by some of them it was folly to think that they could be so safely trusted with the moulding of souls that the ministers of religion might sleep in peace." The Catholic hierarchy of England have turned away in disgust from alliance with the Anglican body, which, on a recent important occasion, had not the backbone to resist temptation to compromise. It is quite evident that nothing is to be gained by seeking union with colonial Anglicans. The union of a strong force with an apathetic disunited body fringes on the absurd. We must fight our own battles. Catholics only, as a body, have so far raised aloft and fought under the standard of religion in education.

#### PUBLIC WORKS STATEMENT.

THE HON. HALL-JONES has delivered his first Public Works Statement. The sum of £983,732 is available and will be allocated for public works. The amount is made up as follows:—Under the legislation of the present session a million will be borrowed—£250,000 for railways, £200,000 for the development of goldfields, £50,000 for the development of our thermal springs and national scenery, £250,000 for land improvement account, and £250,000 for Native lands purchase account. £150,000 will be transferred from the consolidated revenue to the credit of public works fund, and £20,000 will probably come to credit from other sources. A balance on March 31 of £134,418 makes the gross total £1,304,418. Deducting liabilities £320,636, there is left £983,782—"the largest sum," says the Minister, "available for public works during the last five years." The Government do not intend to largely increase the expenditure on public works. On the contrary, after the completion of necessary works in connection with railways, land and goldfields, they "deem it advisable, in the interests of the Colony, that the expenditure on public works should

be reduced to the lowest possible limit." We said months ago when the proposed borrowing was first announced that the Government did well in advocating a million loan to be spent in the manner indicated. We are only sorry that a much larger sum will not be available. The present is a most opportune time for expenditure on land settlement, the mining industry and necessary railways. There are unmistakable signs of returning prosperity, and every possible effort should be made to take advantage of the favourable tide.

WE have received a copy of "The Second Episode of the Temuka Tournament," which has now been published in pamphlet form. The publication is much shorter than its predecessor, but it is full of valuable information on important controversial points. It is written with Father Le Menant's usual vigour and the author replies in detail to every point made—or attempted to be made—by his opponent. We heartily commend the pamphlet to our readers. It may be obtained (price 3d) from the author, Catholic presbytery, Temuka.

THE mission for women which is being conducted at St. Joseph's will conclude with the renewal of baptismal vows at three o'clock on Sunday afternoon. The mission for men will commence at half-past six the same evening.

BY a decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, dated 22nd May, the hanging of mortuary wreaths on the walls of churches and public oratories has been prohibited.

TUESDAY, 29th September, was the tenth anniversary of the elevation of the Most Rev Dr. Carr to the Archbishopric of Melbourne. His Grace was consecrated Bishop of Galway on the 26th August, 1883, and appointed successor to the late Most Rev J. A. Goold, O.S.A., on the 29th September, 1886. *Ad multos annos.*

TWO members of the community of Loretto Abbey, Mary's Mount, Ballarat, recently paid a visit to Perth, W.A., with a view to establishing a branch of their Order in the Westralian capital having been invited thither by the Right Rev Dr. Gibney. It is not yet known if the nuns have decided to open a college for young ladies there.

GENERAL regret is expressed (says the *Wakatipu Mail*) by the respective congregations, and many friends at the early departure of the Rev. Fathers Burke and Lynch. Father Burke is dearly loved by the little people of the school, who, as well as their elders, intend, we hear, to present him with a small memento of their esteem.

SPEAKING at the opening of a bazaar held in the Hibernian Hall, Melbourne, in aid of the fund to enable Father O'Connell, of Carlton, to introduce the Sisters of Charity into his parish, Archbishop Carr stated that "he could say fairly that there were no better teachers in the world than the Sisters of Charity, and there could not be a greater blessing for any parents than to have them among them."

IN our advertising columns will be found the winning numbers in the art-union in aid of St. Patrick's Church, Singleton.

MR. P. T. MACGINLEY, vice-president of the Belfast Gaelic League, has in preparation an Irish "Reader" on practical modern lines. The book (says the *Gaelic Journal*) will contain selections from the best modern sources, and will be quite in touch with the spoken language of the present day. It will be provided with suitable notes and vocabulary. Such a work has long been wanted and will be welcomed by thousands of students.

It is stated that Mr. Justin McCarthy has arranged to bring his "History of our own Times" down to date. He hopes to have it ready by next autumn. The last volume of the history stops with the general election of 1880. The sixteen years since are not the least interesting or important of the Victorian period, whether in politics, social development or literary evolution.

IN our advertising columns will be found the winning numbers of the Ross Convent art-union. The Sisters of Mercy are very grateful to all who purchased or disposed of tickets.

THE twenty-first annual report of the St. Vincent de Paul's Boys' Orphanage, South Melbourne, has been published, and shows that excellent work is being done by that institution. We make the following extracts:—There were present on the 1st July, 1895, 181 orphan boys. Admissions during the year '95-'96 were 33; handed over to friends, or sent to situations, 41; number of boys in the orphanage on 30th June, 1896, 178; daily average for the twelve months, 180.4; number apprenticed or at service, 103; total number of boys under guardianship of the institution, 281