

on the following subjects were also read and discussed at the conference, which extended over a week:—"The Church and Nonconformity," by Rev. A. H. Villiers; "Nonconformists and Catholic Doctrine and Practice," by Mr. W. J. Craig, J.P.; "How to bring the Catholic Faith home to Nonconformists," by the Most Rev. W. R. Brownlow, D.D., Bishop of Clifton; "The Temperance Question," by the Rev. Luke Rivington, M.A.; "The Work of the Catholic Truth Society and our duties towards it," by the Most Rev. Dr. Barry; "Modern Science and Ancient Faith," by the Rev. J. Gerard, S.J.; and "The Mischiefs of Misunderstanding," by Mr. B. F. C. Costelloe. This list of the subjects dealt with and the names of the contributors should be sufficient to give some idea of the interest and importance attaching to the conference just concluded at Hanley. Such a gathering, if successfully carried out, should serve at least three ends. It should gather Catholic zeal and Catholic intelligence, as it were, into a focus; it should stimulate Catholic activity and prove to outsiders the vitality of the Catholic faith; and it should bring together in pleasant and profitable relations priests and laymen who have similar interests at heart and the same zeal in carrying them out. Tried by these tests the Hanley conference appears to have been a complete success, and according to the testimony of one who was present the unanimous verdict of those who had taken part was that it was the best conference they had ever had.

ODDS AND ENDS.

The Anti-Masonic Congress.—The Anti-Masonic Congress, which has just been held at Trent, has evidently inspired the foreign members of the craft with no little anxiety. Signor Nathan, the

"Grand Master of the Orient of Italy," issued a denunciation of the gathering, in which he frankly stated that the Masonic Order is "a solid barrier, a formidable rampart," against the restoration of the power of the clergy "over bodies and souls." The remarkable success of the Congress was a fitting answer to this appeal to the Lodges. From a special correspondent, the *Catholic Times* learns that the hotels and private houses were all filled with foreigners from every country. Italy, France, Hungary, Austria, England, Germany, Spain, Portugal and America sent representatives to join in organising a crusade against a sect which, on the continent at least, is a declared enemy of Christianity. The Congress did not confine itself merely to an exposure of the evils wrought by Freemasonry. With the approval of the Holy Father, who in a letter which we have already published gave his hearty encouragement to the proceedings, it was decided to form an international organisation against the craft, with a central office in Rome. The public are to be enlightened as to the work of the lodges by public meetings and suitable publications, and medals and prizes will be given for the best essays on the subject. It is, therefore, probable that the resolutions of the Congress will mark an epoch in the struggle against Freemasonry.

Leo XIII and the Rosary.—His Holiness Leo XIII has just issued a new Encyclical on the Rosary, which breathes that tender devotion to our Blessed Lady, which he sought throughout his life to foster and increase. He has, he states, recognised what a source of protection this devotion is in times which are calamitous to Christianity and perilous to peoples, and now worn out by the cares of the apostolic office, the nearer he feels the approach of death the more confidently does he turn to the Queen of the Holy Rosary. The spiritual advantages gained by the recitation of the Rosary are then set forth at great length, his Holiness freely quoting the Scriptures, and the writing of the Fathers and Doctors of the Church. He recalls the directions with regard to the recitation of the Rosary in churches which he gave in the Apostolic Letter of the 31st December, 1883, and expresses the desire that they should be constantly and earnestly carried out. This practice of publicly reciting the Rosary he would also like to see extended to other gatherings for devotional purpose, and adopted at solemn pilgrimages to churches of note. The various occasions on which the faithful recited the Rosary with him in the Vatican Basilica he recollects with the liveliest sense of satisfaction. He now urges that during the month of October, in which the intercession of the Blessed Virgin has long been sought on behalf of the Church, this devotion should be cultivated with particular zeal, his special object being the furtherance of the Reunion movement which he has so much at heart, and which cannot be better promoted than by the prayers contained in the Holy Rosary.

Catholic Revival in Mexico.—The Church in Mexico has long been oppressed in consequence of the power secured in the Government's councils by the Masonic body. There has, however, been a revolt against the Masonic tyranny of late. The Church has asserted its strength, and everywhere throughout the land there are signs of renewed Catholic life. It is to be noted in the presence of a Papal delegate, in preparations for Provincial Councils, in the restoration of churches, in the frequent repairing of old convents, in the arrival of learned and devout priests from abroad, in the new

missionary zeal of the Church among the Indians, and in crowded attendances at the religious services. The Carmelite Order is labouring with great zeal. The Jesuits are growing in numbers, and are taking charge of many parishes, besides establishing seats of learning. Female educational orders are springing up and are tolerated by the Government. Even Liberals send their daughters to their schools, for the education given is of a superior quality. "A non-Catholic looking on," says Mr. F. R. Guernsey, the Mexican correspondent of the *Boston Herald*, cannot but admire the Christian zeal of the best of the clergy, who lead ascetic lives, are really poor, dependent on the aid of wealthy people of their faith, and are animated by a sincere desire to minister to the spiritual welfare of the masses." And yet there are parsons, well provided with the goods of this world, who virulently assail the clergy of Mexico for the want of self-denial.

Some months ago the Holy See announced its intention of substituting for the Latin Vicars-Apostolic in Southern India a native Syriac hierarchy to minister to the spiritual wants of the Malabar Syriac Catholics. That hierarchy has now come into existence, though not exactly in the form then anticipated. Instead of regular dioceses of the Syro-Malabar rite, Leo XIII. has erected three Syro-Malabar Vicariates-Apostolic, to take the place of the two Vicariates under Latin bishops. The names of these three Vicariates are taken from the towns of Trichur, Ernaculum and Changanacherry, all of which are important centres of Catholic life. The first, which is in Cochin, was already the residence of the Latin Vicar-Apostolic of that name; the other two are in the old Vicariate of Kottayam. The Holy See has further been pleased to appoint as incumbents of the new Vicariates the Very Rev. Father John Manacherry, late Bishop's Secretary, as titular Bishop of Paralud and Vicar-Apostolic of Trichur; the Very Rev. Father Aloysius Pareparambil, also hitherto Secretary to the Vicariate of Kottayam, as titular Bishop of Tyana and Vicar-Apostolic of Ernaculum; and the Very Rev. Father Matthew Makil, hitherto Vicar-General of the Sudist section of the rite, as titular Bishop of Tralles and Vicar-Apostolic of Changanacherry. The two retiring European prelates, who are by this new decree relieved from the pastoral charge of the ancient Syro-Malabar Church of India, are Bishop Medlycott, of Trichur, and Bishop Lavigne, S.J., of Kottayam, both of whom were consecrated in 1887, in which year Pope Leo XIII. first separated the Malabarese from the Latin rite, and erected the two above-named Vicariates. The reason of this new substituting of new native Vicariates instead of diocesan sees is probably to be found in an effort to avoid friction with the Uniate Syro-Chaldean Patriarchs of Babylon, who have continually claimed a jurisdiction over the Malabar Church in India, which neither Pius IX. nor Leo XIII. has been willing to allow.

NAPIER.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

AMONGST the passengers by the Rotomahana to this port on last Friday were their Lordships the Most Rev. Dr. Grimes, Bishop of Christchurch, the Most Rev. Dr. Verdon, Bishop of Dunedin, and the Most Rev. Dr. Gallagher, Bishop of Goulburn, Australia. Their Lordships, accompanied by Fathers Grogan and Herbert, visited the convent-school, the new church, (St. Patrick's), which they greatly admired, and also the Marine Parade, which they said had no equal in the colonies. They also paid a visit to the Meanez Seminary, where they were kindly received by the Fathers, who showed them over the mission station. Their Lordships returned in time to resume their voyage at 8 p.m., well pleased with Napier and the district. Our illustrious visitors were on their way to Auckland for the consecration of the new Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan.

The Very Rev. Father Aubrey, Provincial of the Marist Fathers in Sydney and the South Sea Islands, accompanied by Father Ollier, of Tonga, are here for a short holiday. Father Aubrey preached in St. Patrick's last evening on the progress of Catholicity in the islands. The rev. gentleman was listened to with marked attention. Father Ollier was celebrant at last Mass. I understand both gentlemen are to return on Tuesday for the great ceremony at Auckland.

The dispute between Mr. Saunders, contractor for the breakwater, and his men, has been amicably settled. At the public meeting, convened by the sympathisers of the employees, the principal speakers were Mr. Cohan, the Very Rev. Father Grogan and Dean Hovell. The speakers by fairly and forcibly explaining the difficulty brought Mr. Saunders to understand that he has been treating his men unjustly even from the commencement. He had, however, the good sense to give way to reason and to agree to give the eight shillings per day as requested. Father Grogan and Dean Hovell have received many congratulations on their success in the settlement of a difficulty which might have proved serious.

The weather here is all that can be desired and the season promises well.

Vicount Kilcourse, who sat in the '86 Parliament for a Western constituency, became Earl of Cavan, but, being an Irish Peer, retained his seat. The new Earl spoke to Mr. Fitzgerald in the lobby of the House of Commons, and, observing that he looked puzzled, was good enough to say pleasantly, "I see you don't know who I am. My name's Cavan." "Of course, of course, my dear fellow," was the answer; "but for the moment, I admit, I took you for that ass Kilcourse!"

LANGDOWN & STEEL
Family Butchers,

178 and 180 Colombo Street, Christchurch.—Hams, Bacon, Beef Sausages, German Sausages, Brawn, White Puddings, Pressed Beef, Corned Beef, Corned Pork, Ox Tongues, and a good supply of Small Goods. Orders solicited daily and delivered punctually. Ring up Telephone 389.