

stands revealed in some of his sayings recorded by LOWE: 'Great questions are decided not by speeches and majorities, but by blood and iron.' This was said in 1862. Nearly 30 years later he declared that in their next war France and Germany would bleed each other as white as veal. BISMARCK'S will was not so much of iron as of BESSEMER steel. It ruled as a talisman from 1862 till his retirement from public life in 1890.

In the flush of his victory came the defeat of his life. The strong will had to bend. It was when he aimed a blow at the power of the Catholic Church. In the early seventies he began that long and bitter struggle with the Church which is known as the Kulturkampf. The Jesuits were expelled from Germany in 1872. In 1873-4-5 the FALK or May laws were passed. They required the sanction of the secular authority for every ecclesiastical appointment, and otherwise interfered with the rights and interests of the Catholic body. The FALK laws were ignored by the clergy. They led to the formation of a strong Catholic Party in the Reichstag; and, in the face of an alarming growth and activity of Socialism, BISMARCK went frankly to Canossa. The FALK laws underwent important modifications in 1881 and 1883. The Iron Chancellor hauled down his flag finally in the concessions which he made to the Catholic body in the revisions of the FALK laws which he made in 1886 and 1887.

A little persecution is sometimes a good tonic. The Church in Germany issued from her long struggle with the civil power with an added strength and vigour. A Protestant writer, Rev. Dr. WILLIAMS, in his *Christian Life in Germany* (1897), says: 'Nowhere in the world is the Roman Catholic Church doing better work.' Its institutions, says he, elsewhere, are stronger than ever. 'As the result of the expulsion of the Jesuits, and the FALK laws, the latter the outcome of the Kulturkampf, Romanism has gained in power and spirituality.' Out of the eater has come forth meat, and out of the lion's mouth, honey. BISMARCK had underrated the resisting power of a Church which, after more than 1800 years of life, still bears on her brow the symbols of everlasting youth, and within her an unconquerable strength whose sources are divine.

DUNEDIN AND DISTRICT.

We have learned with much pleasure that Mr. R. Dobbin, accountant of the Dunedin branch of the New Zealand Insurance Company, has been appointed interim Manager for the Company in Otago until the arrival of the newly appointed manager, Mr. W. P. Bolan.

On Sunday week, at South Dunedin, 15 Children of Mary were formally enrolled by his Lordship Bishop Verdon, and received the medal. Twelve others received the blue ribbon of aspirants. It was the first ceremony in connection with the sodality, which was started by the Sisters of Mercy.

A concert in aid of the Nautical Festival on behalf of St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, will be held in the Garrison Hall on August 19. The assistance of the leading local vocalists is being secured for the occasion, and everything points to an artistic and financial success. Fuller particulars will appear in a later issue.

The Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin, acknowledge with thanks the following sums kindly collected by Mr. John Boyle, Heddon Bush:—Cash, 5s; P. O'Meara, 3s; M. Crain, 2s 6d; E. Sheehan, 2s; a Friend, 2s; Miss M. Geary, 2s 6d; Mrs. Halloran, 3s 6d; P. Halloran, 2s 6d.

The Port Chalmers school was examined by the Otago Education Board's inspector on July 29th, and the result is gratifying in the extreme. The inspector examined the whole of the standards in the ordinary pass subjects, class subjects, and additional subjects such as recitation, drill and exercise, singing, needlework and comprehension, and all through he found that the children displayed great efficiency. There were only two failures in the school. The 'average' column of the inspector's report contains two 'satisfactory,' 5 'good,' 5 'very good,' and 6 'excellent,' and not one 'fair,' 'weak' or 'very weak.' The Sisters of St. Joseph who have the care of the school are certainly to be congratulated on this testimony to the excellence of their teaching methods.

Further serious damage was effected at St. Clair on Sunday night and Monday afternoon last. A heavy sea was rolling in from the South and the tides being exceptionally high the waves cut away another large section of the sandhills and cut into the properties which formerly adjoined the parade. The occupants of one house found it expedient to vacate the premises at 2 o'clock on Sunday morning and on daybreak of the following day it was discovered that the bow window projected over the embankment. Temporary support in the shape of piles was effected, but if the house is not removed there is every possibility of its being washed away. At the time of writing a strong southerly gale is blowing and fears are entertained that further damage will take place before temporary protective works can be effected.

NEW PRESBYTERY, WESTPORT.

AN account of the new presbytery at Westport appears in the *News*. It presents, says our contemporary, an imposing appearance in a view down Brougham street. The site is well chosen for drainage purposes, and the building, modelled more or less on the lines of the Nelson presbytery, is a substantial structure, well adapted to withstand West Coast weather. Within there is every evidence of the cosiest comfort, and an abundance of accommodation which will enable any visiting clergymen to be retained as guests. On entering, one is ushered into a spacious hall, and finds that there are no less than nine rooms on the ground floor, drawing room, Father Costello's study, Father Walsh's secondary study, a spacious dining room well lighted, and a bright cheerful apartment, etc., until the culinary department is reached, when it is found that, even to the wash-house, the domestic arrangements can be carried on without risking exposure to the weather. Upstairs there are five rooms, including bath room, with hot and cold water laid on. A charming room is Father Walsh's study in front of the second story flat, and commanding a view of Victoria Square, Tennis Ground, and indeed the best part of Westport, quite a pleasing vista for the eye to rest upon. The views for the other upstairs' rooms have an equally refreshing range. There are two spare bedrooms in the house, and in congratulating the good priests on the comfort of their new quarters, there is the additional pleasure that occasionally they may avail themselves of the company of their confrères. The building is marked throughout by faithful workmanship, and reflects credit on the contractor, Mr. Jas. Scanlon, and on Mr. O'Neil (painter) and Mr. Sarsen (plumber).

INTERCOLONIAL.

The recently-consecrated Bishop of Northern Queensland, the Right Rev. Dr. Murray, O.S.A., has proceeded to his distant mission to Cooktown. He is accompanied by the Right Rev. Dr. Reville, O.S.A., Coadjutor Bishop of Sandhurst. After their arrival at Sydney they were the guests of his Eminence the Cardinal and Bishop Higgins, with whom they remained a week. They have probably reached Cooktown by this date.

News reached Melbourne recently that the Most Rev. Dr. Carr, Archbishop of Melbourne, and the Right Rev. Dr. Moore, Bishop of Ballarat, were occupants of the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery in the House of Commons during the Foreign Office policy debate. They were introduced by Mr. Thomas Curran, and in the course of the evening Mr. Dillon, Mr. Blake, Mr. Davitt, and other members paid their respects to them. Both Dr. Carr and Dr. Moore, who are paying their periodical visit *ad limina* to the Holy Father, are now in Ireland.

In our issue of last week we recorded how the Most Rev. Dr. Gibney, Bishop of Perth (W.A.), had paid a visit to Wexford, and secured two students of St. Peter's College for future work in his diocese. From the *Catholic Times* we learn that he has already brought out a community of nuns from the Convent of St. John of God, Wexford, and is prepared to take out another community.

PRESENTATION.

A TELEGRAM which reached us just after our last issue had been sent out records a very pleasing ceremony which took place on the 25th ult. at St. Patrick's School, Palmerston North. The school was crowded by people who came thither to witness a presentation which was made to the Rev. Father Patterson on the occasion of the feast of his birthday. A very attractive programme of songs, recitations, etc., was got up for the occasion. Mr. Aisher took the chair about eight o'clock and in a few brief remarks explained the object of the meeting. During an interval in the music Mr. Hanlon read the address and made the presentation, which consisted of two very handsome mounted cruets, a large decorated crucifix, 6 feet 4 in. in height, and a purse of sovereigns. At this stage the chairman addressed the meeting and spoke in eulogistic terms of the very worthy pastor, and dwelt at some length on the progress made by the Church under his charge since he (Mr. Aisher) had come to Palmerston ten years ago. The speaker concluded by wishing Father Patterson many happy returns of the day. The Rev. Father, who was received with loud applause, returned heartfelt thanks, and spoke in high terms of the faithfulness of his flock. Refreshments were then partaken of, and the musical programme was completed. Those who contributed vocal selections were Mrs. Adams, Misses Reish, L. Brophy, and Hickey, Messrs. Gamble, Hanley, Dallows, Rodgers, Adams, W. Brophy. Mr. Joseph Rodgers contributed a recitation, and the accompaniments were tastefully supplied by Misses Scanlon and Oakley, and Mr. W. Brophy. The whole proceedings passed off without a hitch, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The Children of Mary very kindly provided the refreshments and the Dramatic Club presented the large handsome decorated crucifix.

The L.V.W. road races will this year be contested with a high amount of interest. The Victorian League, according to all accounts, has increased its prize money, whilst the Austral Cycle Agency will give a fifty guinea Challenge Cup to the event.

The Otago sub-agencies of the New Zealand Insurance Company are advertised in this issue. The company insures property of every description, and special facilities are offered to shippers and importers.