

IS IT SETTLED?



ETERMINED conduct on the part of the English Government, and spirited conduct on the part of the populace of Lisbon, have formed the chief sensation of the last week or so. Spirited conduct there seems to have been also on the part of Portuguese officers in Africa, who more than once pulled down the British flag, they claimed as unfairly hoisted on Portuguese territory, in sight of all the tribes bordering on the Zambesi.

And it must be admitted that, supposing the necessity of maintaining English interests in Africa, such a proceeding could not be allowed to pass unnoticed or unrebuked. News, we are told, travels swiftly among the native peoples. It even crosses the deserts with rapidity, and all native villages would otherwise soon have formed their own conclusions with regard to British power. There must not only be taken into consideration the effect to be produced on the remoter tribes, but also that which might have ensued among the nations on whose attitude the welfare of the South African colonies in a great extent depends. The lowering of English prestige in Africa, in fact, must involve serious consequences that can now be seen, and might probably have consequences as well, that are less apparent, though ultimately hardly less important. A storm in Lisbon, or even in all Portugal, is a little thing to set off against all this.

The Portuguese Government have yielded to Lord SALISBURY's imperative ultimatum, but the mob of Lisbon tore down the British arms from over the gate of the Embassy, and higher society still shows its disapprobation by withholding its civilities and its intercourse from the representative of England. Portuguese abroad, moreover, denounce what they call English piracy, and hint at an alliance, under the form of a united republic, with Spain, that should prove a terror in all future times to the lion that forms the figure-head of the English ship of state.

It is perhaps a little unfortunate that the determined attitude adopted towards Portugal, and the contempt with which Portuguese public opinion has been treated, should seem to contrast with an attitude otherwise adopted. Towards Germany, for example, when of late she appeared also to treat the claims of England with scant respect, but little determination was shown. Even in that Africa, where above all things it is desirable that English prestige should be maintained, accommodation rather than determination was certainly the order of the day.

But, after all, is there not in this consideration something more of sentiment than the sound sense of the day can afford to entertain. The prince who goes to war without counting the cost is, as we have it on authority, a foolish prince. Because great Germany cannot be prevented without an excessive cost, or even perhaps at any cost, from doing what pleases her, is that any reason that little Portugal, easily to be repressed, should be allowed to do grievous harm? Whatever sentiment may answer, common sense will reply in the decided negative.

Meantime, it is to be hoped that the matter has been settled, at the expense of some apparently inconsistent determination on the part of the English Government, and of a good deal of burning indignation on the part of the mob of Lisbon, as well as of some dignified resentment on that of higher Portuguese society. There still appears prevalent, however, some notion that the matter has not as yet been finally settled, but that other powers may still desire to have their say in it.

Under these circumstances, it will be interesting to watch the conduct of the English Government and see if it be equally determined, the more so as having braved the spirited behaviour of the mob of Lisbon and all other marks of anger or dissatisfaction that have been shown, it can hardly now with any pretence of honour draw back from the position taken up by it.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS,
DUNEDIN.

THE Christian Brothers' School, St. Joseph's, Dunedin will re-open on Monday next, the 27th inst. Parents are earnestly requested to see that their children are early and regular in their attendance. No solid progress can be made

in study where boys are irregular or unpunctual in attending school. This point cannot be too strongly impressed on parents.

We are pleased to learn that two boys who passed the Civil Service examinations from the school in '89 have recently obtained good Government appointments. We allude to Master JOHN MEENAN who has obtained a position in the Public Offices, Wellington; and Master WILLIAM MORKANE, who has received a cadetship in the Government Life Insurance.

During the past year several parents in the country availed themselves of a notice formerly given in this paper, and sent their sons to respectable boarding houses in the city, so that the lads were thus enabled to attend the day school besides being well looked after outside school hours. Full particulars on this head can be obtained from the Brothers by those at a distance who wish to send their boys to the school. Now that the Christian Brothers' pupils have made so very creditable a display in the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition, we are certain the schools will be well filled for the coming year by the sons of those parents who are desirous of giving their boys a sound religious and literary education.

THE INFLUENZA.

POOR human nature, then, seems always destined to suffer. In vain our men of the future predict better things; in vain our men of science make sanitary discoveries and search out the destructibility of microbes. Some improvement there has still taken place. The black death that more than decimated the men of the middle ages is no more known. Faces scarred by small-pox are no longer as common as they were in the days of our fathers. But the cholera still goes its rounds at intervals, and the yellow fever continues to hold its periodical sway. In the influenza, again, that still more or less prevails, with such fatal results, in Europe, we are admonished as to the abiding ills that are with us, and from which we cannot hope wholly to escape. If old forms of disease have been eradicated or modified, new forms of disease are evidently to succeed them, and there is no complete deliverance to be looked for.

But how has it happened that influenza, which we have been accustomed to regard as merely a lighter ailment, hardly resulting sometimes in the death of some aged person, has taken so serious a turn? The young as well as the old are swept away by it, and that numerously. We have just been told, for example, of the death of Lord CAIRNS, as well as of that of Lord NAPIER of Magdala; the first—*de mortuis nil nisi bonum*—distinguished only by his youth; the second, whom we remember in the zenith of his fame, some twenty-one or twenty-two years ago, as the conqueror of Abyssinia, and who was not even then a young man. We do not, however, recollect any laurels obtained by him as qualifying him to occupy a tomb between those of Wellington and Nelson, where we are told it is the special desire of her Majesty the Queen that his body should repose. The Royal will, nevertheless, is equivalent to much.

The serious consideration, meantime, is, how has this ordinarily milder disease attained to such gravity? Is there a microbe nourished by favourable conditions into more robust proportions and greater venom?—or is there something poisonous generally in the atmosphere? We, at least, are given the warning that, at best, our precautions can meet with partial success, and that nature still has malign secrets which we cannot hope completely to fathom, and reserves for us afflictions from which we cannot escape.

IN St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, on Sunday evening after Vespers, the Rev. Father Lynch took the opportunity of alluding to the fervent devotion of the late Right Rev. Monsignor Coleman to the holy souls,—recalling to the congregation how earnestly he was wont to recommend them to their prayers, and especially to request them to say the Rosary, towards which he was also particularly devout, in their aid. The Rev. Father called on those present to join now with him in offering the rosary for the repose of the deceased prelate's soul, and this was accordingly done in an exceptionally fervent manner. The church was crowded in every part.

AMONG the more consoling incidents attendant on the death of the late Right Rev. Monsignor Coleman we may reckon the kindness of the Very Rev. Fathers the Society of Mary, present in Dunedin on the sad occasion, in prolonging their visit so that they might take part in the funeral ceremonies. While doing so the Fathers no doubt recalled