

or the public in the least. The knowing ones know how to play the land question and the education question to the advantages of the monopolists. If a candidate, sound on the land question, presents himself to a constituency, he is immediately questioned by some partisan of the land monopolists on the education question, and if he is found in favour of justice and fair play, he is forthwith denounced as a Papist, a favourer of Papists, and rejected by the idiots, who prefer a land monopolist to a Democrat who wishes to do an act of the simplest justice to a large section of his fellow subjects—and so on and so on in reference to many other questions. Extravagance and folly rule at present a very large number of constituencies, who prefer land monopoly to justice to Catholic schools, and a wild expenditure that is absolutely unnecessary to economy and efficiency in respect of schools. These constituencies do not want a system of education at once economical and efficient, if such system would work justly in relation to Catholic schools, and prefer a most extravagant and not very efficient system when it excludes Catholics from any participation in the expenditure of funds to which they largely contribute. It is a strange and comical state of things in a democratic community which is always crying out for liberty and economy. Well, they have their reward. They are the puppets of the knowing ones who, to their own advantage and the furtherance of their private interests, use them as their blind tools, whilst telling them what fine, liberal, and wise politicians they are. The education question seems, by common consent between representatives and their constituents, to be left out of the political programme, as if there were no need of any amendment of an Act which, after all, is universally acknowledged to be in many respects most defective and sorely in need of amendment. What is the reason of this? Why the fear that, if the Act be touched at all, it will fall to pieces in the hands of the amenders! What a comment on the Parliament and the electors of the country! The Act is so bad that an attempt to amend it will prove its destruction, therefore it shall not be touched at all. This is the wise, and statesman-like, and just, and rational conclusion of New Zealanders! Can folly go any further?

TO-DAY (Wednesday) being the Feast of the Patron of the church, Pontifical High Mass was celebrated in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, at 10 a.m. The Most Rev. Dr. Moran acted as celebrant, with the Very Rev. Father Mackay as deacon and the Rev. Father Hunt as sub-deacon. The Rev. Fathers O'Donnell and O'Neil were sub-deacons at the throne, the Rev. Father Lynch, Adm., was master of ceremonies, and the Bishop of Auckland was also present in the sanctuary. The Bishop of Dunedin spoke briefly in reference to the Feast, but limited his remarks, as, he said, the Most Rev. Dr. Luck would speak in the evening. His Lordship alluded to the debt still remaining on the cathedral, amounting to a sum of £250, which he especially desired to see paid off, so that attention could be given to other necessary works. The Bishop mentioned the purchase just concluded of a site for a church and schools in the North-East Valley. The music of the Mass was sung, in their accustomed excellent manner, by the Dominican nuns' choir.

THE Rev. Father O'Donnell has been appointed pastor of the Port Chalmers district. Father O'Donnell, during his residence in Dunedin, has recommended himself to the affection of the Catholic congregation, and his departure from among us is much regretted.

WE announce with deep regret the death of Mrs. McArdle, wife of Mr. Peter McArdle, local manager of the Grey Valley Coal Company, which occurred at her residence, Dunedin, on Saturday, the 15th inst. The deceased lady was suddenly taken ill on Friday night, and after a few hours, notwithstanding every effort to save her life, died of an apoplectic seizure. She leaves to lament her loss an affectionate husband and three little children. She is also mourned for by a large circle of friends and relations, including the family of Mr. M. Kennedy, late of Greymouth.—R.I.P.

MASSES were celebrated on St. Patrick's day in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, at 7 and 10 a.m. At the second Mass the music, including a hymn to the Saint of the day, was sweetly sung by the Dominican nuns' choir. At St. Patrick's, South Dunedin, a Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by the Bishop. In the evening vespers proper to the day were sung and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament was given in the Cathedral.

THE Irish delegates have evidently lost no time in getting over the ground. Sir Thomas Esmonde is now reported as giving an account of his Australasian tour at New Orleans,

AMONG the visitors to Dunedin this week, has been the Rev. Father Kirk, S.M., of Wanganui. The Most Rev. the Bishop of Auckland arrived in town on Tuesday evening. His Lordship is the guest of the Most Rev. Dr. Moran.

STRIKES are still the order of the day in England. They culminate in that of the colliers, who number some 100,000 or 150,000 men. The working man, in fact, seems at length to have learned his strength, and the end is not easy to foretell. It is safe to say, however, that no mere expedient will meet the requirements of the situation, and the longer a definite and complete settlement is deferred the greater will be the risk. The labour conference, meantime, has assembled in Berlin, and it is much to be desired that some wise decision may be arrived at. With an Emperor, however, who allows discussion but reserves to himself the right of enforcing his own particular views—as the Emperor William has recently explained the position as being—some doubt as to results may well be entertained.

IT seems strange that while in New Zealand an unusual drought, and so far as Dunedin at least is concerned one almost unprecedented, prevails, serious floods continue in Australia. Extensive destruction of property with some loss of life is reported.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL is playing the mischief with the Tories. He began by making an onslaught on the Parnell Commission, of which he told a few plain truths in apparently a very striking manner. He condemned the Commission, root and branch, as forced on Parliament by means of the cloture, and deserving only to have its records blotted from the journals of the House. Lord Randolph frightened the Member for Stockport, who, therefore, refused to move his amendment blaming the Commission for accusing members of the House of complicity with murderers. Mr. W. S. Caine, however, remained steadfast, and moved the amendment, which was rejected by a large majority—emphasising Mr. Labouchere's declaration that the Parliamentary majority are a disreputable lot. Lord Randolph, meantime, is catching it in both his ears from the Tory partisans, who would drive him openly out into opposition if they could. But he appears equal to the situation, and continues defiant. He denounces the promoters of the Commission as traitors. The Government have evidently not yet seen the last results of their alliance with the *Times*. Lord Randolph Churchill, with the courage of his convictions, is an awkward adherent for them, their life depending on support through thick and thin.

"PRINCE BISMARCK has had an interview with Herr Windthorst with a view to negotiating for the union of the Cartel (Ministerial) and Clerical parties, in order to secure a working majority in the Reichstag." How many days was it that the Emperor Henry, at Canossa, according to Protestant tradition, stood, clad only in a white sheet and bare-footed, in the snow? Prince Bismarck has evidently taken up his stand there permanently. It is to be hoped he will not get cold, but even the influenza would be no more than he has merited. It is one thing to make laws in May, quite another to repeal or repent them in November. Prince Bismarck now thoroughly appreciates the difference.

ANOTHER English bye-election, that of Stoke-upon-Trent, has resulted in favour of Mr. Gladstone. Verily, if the report of the Commission has been generally accepted as identifying the Parnellites with murder and infamy of all kinds, England is not only going to the dogs but has got there. Mr. Leveson-Gower, a Gladstonite, has beaten Mr. Allen, a Tory, by a majority of 1151. The voters who gave their support to dynamite and murder were in all 4,067. *O Tempora! O Mores!*

MR. JOUBERT has issued a pamphlet containing the opinions of the Press on the proposal for holding a New Zealand Exhibition in London. The majority are in favour, and for the most part strongly in favour, of the proposed undertaking. Contrary opinion, however, is also candidly quoted, but the quotation only serves to strengthen the opposite arguments. For our own part we are ready to repeat, and even to emphasise, the support already given by us to the project. The pamphlet referred to may be read with effect by those who desire information on the subject.

THAT wish that is "father to the thought" is once more, we perceive, the source of a rumour as to the imminent disruption of the Irish movement, because of dissensions between Mr Davitt and Mr Parnell. Mr Davitt, however, has once more set the matter right. He candidly confesses that there are points on which he differs from Mr Parnell. But at the same time he renews his act of submission, and declares he is still determined to follow Mr Parnell as his leader. So far, therefore, from apprehending any danger from a breach between Mr Davitt and Mr Parnell, we may see even in their differences a pledge of union. Mr Davitt's resistance will be