

undertaken by them, they are making admirable progress. school, for the present, is held in the Gordon Town Hall. A suitable building, however, is in process of construction, in which ample accommodation will be found. Its dimensions are 45 feet by 24 feet, and it will be divided into two compartments, each containing a fireplace. An addition also is being made to the house which serves for a convent, and which will provide the nuns with conveniences that they stand much in need of. To cover the expense of all this useful and necessary work an art-union has been set on foot, which, we are happy to learn, gives promise of success. Many non-Catholics as well as Catholics are among its supporters, recognising the excellence of the ends for which it is intended. We need hardly add that every effort made to forward the object alluded to is exceptionally praiseworthy—no more deserving object being possible than the establishment and advancement among us of the Sisters of Mercy, so famous for their good works, and self-denying services in the cause of faith and charity combined with the education of the young.

"MR. GLADSTONE expresses suspicion of Tory intrigues with the Pope." This is a cablegram just received. That Mr. Gladstone's suspicion is well founded we may well believe. As the inevitable failure of the Tories becomes more evident, they must necessarily grow more daring and more desperate in their expedients. To obtain the aid of the Pope must appear to them more and more a very desirable matter, and no doubt they are using all their efforts for the purpose. Whether they are likely to succeed or not is quite another question. But, if we may judge by circumstances, we should say the answer must be in the negative. The support, for example, given by the Irish and American bishops and those of these colonies to the movement the Tories would crush has certainly such a significance. But it is, perhaps, this very fact that makes an attempt on the Vatican seem all the more pressing. Nothing can be hoped for from the bishops, and the Pope alone remains. It is safe, however, to predict that the hope is a forlorn one. The intrigue can only end in the discomfiture of those who have adopted it.

It is reported that her Majesty the Queen is in ill health—suffering, it is said, from an incurable form of dropsy, which is only prevented from becoming malignant by the utmost medical care and skill. We may hope that report exaggerates, and that her Majesty may speedily regain her usual good health. If it is true, however, that she is suffering from dropsy, a curious coincidence may be noted with an incident in the earlier part of her reign.

THE chief item of Irish news for the week is the proclamation of a meeting at Tipperary. The police, it would seem, acting, no doubt, in accordance with Mr. Balfour's desires, had made up their minds for a day's sport, and had their rifles ready to shoot down the people if any resistance to his proclamation were made. Addresses, nevertheless, were delivered outside the town by Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien. Mr. Dillon, as we are given to understand he did, might well draw a contrast between the state of things existing around him and that he had lately witnessed in these colonies. It must, indeed, be a strong proclamation of the kind that Australians would not feel ashamed, as Mr. Dillon said they would, to obey. The proclamation of this meeting, meantime, adds to the suggestions already given as to Mr. Balfour's sincerity in declaring the state of the country brought about by coercion all that is satisfactory.

THE New York *Herald* has published the report of an interview between one of its representatives and the Pope. It would be well, however, to remember that Mr. Stead, a journalist of as high standing as that enjoyed by any member of the *Herald's* staff, signally failed in the visit lately paid by him to Rome for a similar purpose. But Mr. Stead had the ulterior object of obtaining the alliance of the Pope, as he had already obtained, or as he believed he had obtained, that of the Czar of Russia, in his projects for the good of mankind in general. Perhaps the ambition of the *Herald's* representative was less exalted and offered no obstacle to his receiving an audience.—There is nothing, meantime, to stamp the alleged utterances of his Holiness on the occasion with freshness or originality. If he spoke as reported, he did little more than repeat what he had already made publicly known. Indeed, the interview as published might be made up without difficulty from such matter. It refers to the esteem in which the Holy Father holds the American people; the anxiety he feels for the condition of the working classes, his efforts for the complete suppression of slavery, and the remedy for existing evils to be found in religion. A point we consider extremely doubtful in the interview is that in which the Pope is represented as informing his interviewer that he intends to have a committee of workmen or their sympathisers formed in every diocese with its bishop at their head. As a rule, the Pope's intentions with regard to bishops are first of all made known to themselves—but no rule is without its exception. The report adds that Herr Windthorst, the famous leader of German Catholics, has confirmed the *Herald's* publication by declaring the statements expressed to be those which

to his personal knowledge the Pope entertained towards America, adding that it was his own intention to support the Emperor William's policy on the Socialist question. An enterprising journalist capable of inventing a Papal cross-examination, however, need not fail in placing a few sentences in the mouth of a statesman, whatever his eminence may be.

A SAN FRANCISCO mail telegram informs us that William O'Brien's novel, which he wrote while in prison, has just been issued. It is entitled "When We were boys," and is an historical story dealing with Fenians. The book has been well received by the reviewers.

WE regret to learn by the San Francisco mail that Sir Thomas Esmonde met with a severe accident while riding in London on the morning of April 30, so that he was carried into the House to vote for Mr. Parnell's amendment on the Land Purchase Bill. As however nothing further has been reported here concerning the matter we may conclude that no more serious results have followed.

"PRINCE NAPOLEON has written to M. Carnot protesting against the latter's visit to Napoleon First's home in Corsica as sacrilege. He asks what there is in common between the first consul, who made the new France, and Carnot's Government, which is disorganising the country."—Plon-Plon, perhaps, thinks that he himself is better able to fill his uncle's boots. Béranger described Napoleon's shroud as capable of enveloping all the kings of the period—and possibly Plon-Plon would find concealment, in their wake, beneath its uttermost hem. His conceit, however, might be less easy to hide.

THE Rome correspondent of the Dublin *Freeman* wires as follows under date April 7:—"Amongst the visitors attracted to Rome by the splendour of the Church's celebrations of the Feast of Easter was Mr. William O'Brien, M.P. Yesterday, in company with Father Locke, Professor Marucchi, and Mr. Connellan, Mr. O'Brien visited the catacombs of St. Callixtus. Mr. O'Brien, of course, paid a visit to the new Church of St. Patrick, which Very Rev. Prior Glynn is building in Rome to the honour of the National Apostle of Ireland. By no means the least interesting of the events of the day was a visit which Mr. O'Brien paid to the Convent of St. Isidore, where he had an interview with the brother of Mr. John Dillon, M.P. Mr. O'Brien dined with Prior Glynn. In spite of the most cordial invitations to prolong his stay in the Eternal City, Mr. O'Brien left last night for Ireland, to attend the opening of New Tipperary on Saturday.

#### DUNEDIN CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting of this Society was held in the Christian Brothers' School on Wednesday, the 21st. inst. There was an excellent attendance of members, and the Rev. P. Lynch occupied the chair. Three gentlemen (Messrs. English, Miller, and Sullivan) were elected members, and two others (Messrs. McKeay and Poppelwell) were nominated.

This being the opening meeting of the eighth session, the President delivered his address proper to the members, and exhorted them, in a few well-chosen remarks, to be exact and diligent in all their relations with the Society.

Messrs. P. Carolin and R. A. Duone read papers, which showed careful preparation. Mr. S. Simmons delivered a recitation ("Bygone Days") in his usual vigorous style, and Messrs. F. Cantwell, C. Columb, and J. Hally contributed recitations.

The motion in favour of a fortnightly meeting was thrown out by a large majority.

Messrs. McKeay and Carolin promised papers, and Messrs. Drumm and Falkner recitations for the following evening. Mr. C. E. Houghton (one of the original members of the Society) promised a paper entitled "Rambles in Rome" for Wednesday, 4th June.

The meeting was brought to a close with the usual vote of thanks to the chair.

The Watkin tower, which will be erected in London and overtop the Eiffel tower by 335 feet, is to have six legs instead of four. It will cost about 1,200,000 dol.

I (*Truth*) do not doubt that there are many honest Conservatives amongst the constituencies. There are, however, fewer, I suspect, than would appear from the polling at elections. Of conscientious Conservatives there are comparatively few. The Conservative vote is mainly made up of persons who are influenced, either by fear of offending powerful neighbours, or by the direct incentive of "bread and circuses." On the other side, the Liberals have become far more Radical than they were, and there are far more persons in the Liberal ranks who take an enlightened interest in politics than in the Conservative ranks. In the long-run the voting will, therefore, remain with the Radicals, provided that there be no attempt to fool them by substituting shadow for substance. The first thing is clearly to understand what they want; the next thing is to make it clear to them that they will get what they want if they succeed in converting the Tory-cum-Judas gang who now have a Parliamentary majority into a minority. Compromise, shilly-shally, and a disposition to play fast and loose with pledges made when in Opposition, have placed the Radical party in a minority, and have made many a good Radical a Gallo who holds aloof,