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Current Topics

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

OPEN CONFESSION.

THE whole method of the Unionists in dealing with the Irish party is now briefly and neatly explained to us by one of themselves. It appears that lying for reasons of State is approved and admitted as just and proper. In this case, there is no question whatever as to the lawfulness of that time-honoured and much disputed motto, "The end justifies the means." The Statesman may lie boldly if only his general character be sufficiently sound to ensure to him belief. The point is explained as follows in a book called "Oliver Cromwell, the Protector," which has been lately published by Mr. Palgrave, chief clerk of the House of Commons, and who is one of the most respectable members of the Tory party.—"For leaders of men in this present evil world," he writes, page 144, "much allowance must be made. The higher the seat among the uppermost rooms of society, the further is the seat-holder distanced from those irresponsible ones who, having nothing to hide, can freely speak their minds. Diplomatic fallacy must occasionally veil unsightly truth—profane curiosity compels the just and necessary lie. For such a lie a Statesman is not esteemed a liar, if he be in the main honest, if the truth be in him, and if he rest habitually in truth." Here, for example, is the whole secret of the Pigottist conspiracy explained to us. Lord Salisbury, its chief, and who, notwithstanding its exposure, has tried still to profit by it, and to establish a claim that it had resulted in substantially proving what was desired, has certainly his seat high in the uppermost rooms of society. His character as being in the main honest and resting habitually in the truth, few people would be disposed to call in question. According to the showing of his follower Mr. Palgrave, nothing more is required to justify his Lordship, as a Statesman, in the most devious courses. What, therefore, can be made of the support given by him to the traffick in forgery, and the measures taken to bring about a desirable political end? But we may, on Mr. Palgrave's authority, understand the general tactics employed towards the Irish party, and all in any way associated with them. "Unsightly truth" has been systematically veiled in their regard. What truth, in fact, could be more unsightly than the justice of their ends and the legitimacy of the means employed to bring them about? To veil their truth the whole Unionist party have conspired, and so far as calumny and misrepresentation could go, they have effectually veiled it. But there is nothing to find fault with in that. Their whole action may be summed up as forming what Mr. Palgrave pronounces lawful as the "just and necessary lie." Mr. Labouchere, who, in *Truth*, gives us the extract we have quoted from Mr. Palgrave, makes use of it to excuse his own late refusal in the House of Commons, to believe the word of the Prime Minister:—"Whether a Member of the House of Commons," he says, "may decline to believe the Prime Minister if he is a Peer, or the Marquis of Ailesbury if he is not Prime Minister, is a point upon which Tories and Liberals differ. Whether a Prime Minister has a right to lie is also a point upon which they differ. The Liberals hold that this is not permissible, the Tories that it is. Mr. Palgrave, Chief Clerk of the House of Commons and one of the most respected of the Tories, lays down this right as a cardinal article of the Tory faith in an interesting, though, perhaps somewhat one-sided, work which he has just published, entitled, 'Oliver Cromwell, the Protector.'" It is obvious, however, that Mr. Palgrave's doctrine is capable of a much wider application and, as we have said, we have seen it exemplified also in the whole dealings of the Unionist party with the Irish movement.

SOME of the provisions of the Irish Land Purchase Bill, of which details have now reached us, seem hardly credible. Indeed, for some time, although we saw them in plain black and white, we doubted as to whether we understood them correctly. But the Bill really and actually does propose to give, as a guarantee of the payment by the purchasing tenants of the sums for which they become liable, the Government grants in aid of primary education, and of the support

of lunatics and the relief of the poor in Ireland. The introduction of this clause into the Bill seemed almost too much for Mr. Balfour himself, and he has thought it necessary to explain that he did not, in fact, contemplate any such contingency. But, surely, it is not usual for any statesman to introduce into a measure proposed by him a mere pleasantry—even under a form much less grim and unbecoming than that referred to. It is not surprising, however, that Mr. Balfour should have thought it necessary to excuse himself, even in the most glaringly incredible manner possible. But had he not contemplated the contingency he certainly would not have provided for it. Verily, the guarantee is something more than Conservative,—more even than ultra-Conservative. It takes us back into by-gone ages, and places us face to face with some of the most grievous failings and the heaviest wants of a rougher world. Ireland, if her tenants, cajoled or coerced, or persuaded by a mixture of coercion and cajolery, to purchase their holdings at exorbitant prices, do not pay for their land, is, for example, to be deprived of her primary schools, so far as they are supported by public money. Why, the step would be hardly removed from that taken in the penal days when education was made unlawful in the country. What in the present day when the tendency is to over-rate the necessity for schools, is to be thought of such a possibility? It is, moreover, on condition that the Irish population prove exceptionally destitute, broken in fact by the attempt to meet impossible engagements, and completely pauperised, so that of their unaided efforts they could hardly pay a salary to the old re-established hedge-schoolmaster, that such a state of things must occur. What statesman having a spark of sympathy with the progress of the day could in his wildest dreams entertain such a notion as this? Mr. Balfour does well to try and excuse himself, but his excuse is absurd and vain. Again, at a time when the country has been reduced, even to what is for her an exceptional state of distress, the poor-houses are to be emptied and their unfortunate inmates turned adrift to live on the charity of the impoverished people. A brave provision this for famine, produced or aggravated in cold blood and the especial fruits of legislation in the country. Nor is this all; to add horror to the scene it is not only the ordinary paupers, but also the pauper lunatics who are to be sent abroad. Can the imagination picture a more horrible punishment for any people, whatever might be their crime? Were it related of some of the tyrants of the middle ages how black the writers of history would colour the page on which they recorded it—what proof it would seem to afford of the general iniquity of the century in which it had occurred. Yet the proposal comes from the party boasting themselves highest in the most enlightened country in the world—and it is made, notwithstanding Mr. Balfour's senseless excuse, unblushingly and openly. If this proposal alone does not inform the English people of what the Tory party are capable, their dulness must be heavy indeed, and things are less ripe in every respect for salutary changes than has been generally supposed. The clause to which we allude makes the Irish Land Purchase Bill a wonderful Bill indeed.

AN IMPORTANT LETTER.

THE letter of the German Emperor in which he acquaints the Pope with his project of holding a Labour Conference at Berlin, asks for the co-operation and sympathy of his Holiness, and informs him that he has invited Mgr. Kopp, Prince Bishop of Breslau, to act as his delegate on the occasion, is a very important and suggestive letter. Whether or not, as they say, the German Emperor is of uncertain mind, so that it is impossible to count on any course of action adopted by him, the evidence thus borne to the place filled by the Pope and the homage paid to the influence exercised by him are very notable. This is all the more the case since it is from Germany the testimony comes, so that it may be taken as in some degree expiatory and as the fruits of a bitter experience. Germany had distinguished herself among the countries of the day by her attempt to curtail the influence of the Pope, or rather to get rid of it altogether. Germany in the past, moreover, had initiated the rebellion of the people against the Pope. In this appeal to Rome, therefore, made by the German Emperor a very particular significance may be seen. Whatever may be the points on which the Emperor differs from Prince Bismarck, and it is rumoured that this question of the working classes is one of the chief of them, it is plain that the abandonment of a policy hostile

to Rome is not among them. Bismarck, for his part, had thoroughly repented of his action towards Rome, and had so plainly made his repentance evident that not even his association with Crispi and his promotion of the Triple Alliance had been looked upon at the Vatican as compromising his more recent expressions of friendship towards the Holy See. On this point it is evident the Emperor agrees with the ex-Chancellor and has no intention of departing from the better and more conciliatory attitude adopted by him. Perhaps, it is open to us to doubt as to the perseverance of his Majesty in the benevolence of his desigus towards the workingmen. We find that people in Europe who have opportunities of forming judgments concerning him, and who are very capable of doing so, have not much confidence in his stability, but look forward with some misgivings to the development of his career. Should their provisions, however, prove false, as considering the great issues at stake, it is ardently to be hoped they may, we are justified in believing that the ties which unite the Vatican to Berlin will become still closer. The German Emperor has been taught a lesson in the experiences that preceded his reign as to the danger of opposing Rome. His own personal experience, if he takes time to acquire it, will certainly teach him the advantages of a contrary course. In the co-operation and sympathy of the Pope, for which he has wisely applied, he will undoubtedly possess the true means, and the only means of carrying out his benevolent intentions to a successful end. It is, nevertheless, to be added that the Pope must have full room for action. Curbed as he is in the exercise of his powers, imperfect results only can be looked for. The labour question, which the Emperor has taken it upon him to solve, is one affecting all the countries of the world, and so affecting them that the condition of things in one country must more or less influence that in all the others. The question of Socialism in Germany, for example, cannot be effectually checked while in France or Italy it is encouraged—and in both these countries, as things now are, encouragement is given to it. Indeed, the fact that the Emperor summoned the conference alluded to shows that he understood the nature of the case. For Germany he might have acted independently, but independent, isolated, action would be of no avail. A power acting alike in every country, therefore, but countenanced and assisted by the particular governments, is what is plainly required, and that power is and can be the Papacy alone. The letter of the Emperor to the Pope seems to indicate that his Majesty has already perceived this truth. Should he proceed with the benevolent project he has formed the results of his experience will certainly be his thorough conviction as to the true state of the case, and his full recognition of the necessity that exists for the untrammelled action of the Holy See. Great issues, therefore, may follow from this letter of the German Emperor to the Pope, and its influence on the history of the world may prove momentous.

WE conclude in our present issue the reproduction of an excellent paper on the Catholic Press, read CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS. at the congress recently held in Baltimore. In this paper is contained a well digested and able statement of what the province of the Catholic newspaper and the Catholic journalist is. And this, we may add, is a matter which should prove particularly useful, as both the one and the other are often misunderstood. There are probably few who have ever been engaged in the work of Catholic journalism who do not know of the demands occasionally made on the members of the profession to depart altogether from the object of their calling, and to produce what must prove anything rather than a newspaper deserving of the name of Catholic. The writer of the paper in question had for his guidance the decrees of a council of the Church on the subject, and, therefore, by authority as well as by experience and study, he was eminently fitted for the task committed to him, as his work also proved. As to what the writer in question has to say on the matter we may refer our readers to his paper. It is clear and comprehensive, and requires no explanation nor comment from us. Our allusion, then, will be confined to the demands that are sometimes made upon the Catholic editor. Sometimes these demands are such as could not under any circumstances be responded to. They would have the Catholic nature of the publication compromised, its objects and ends changed, and its whole purpose destroyed. The Catholic paper, as is pointed out must continue in all respects Catholic, must be in all its columns wholesome reading, and cannot pander to any lower taste or object. Sometimes, however, the demands made of the Catholic editor are such as he would be only too glad to comply with, and which it is a constant source of vexation to him that he is unable to supply—even apart from their being made. No one than he is more conscious of the short-comings of his paper, or more desirous of amending them. It is the means to do so only that fail him, and for that he is not to blame. Dr. Wolff, however, explains the difficulty under which the Catholic editor labours. His short-comings lie at the door of the Catholic public. Among them there is not the feeling there ought to be in favour of the support of a Catholic paper worthy of the name. Dr. Wolff has pointed out the necessity for this. He also tells us how commonly, or indeed how generally, the necessity is dis-

regarded. We hope, then, that our readers have paid especial attention to the paper alluded to. It was considered one of the most important, as it was one of the most able read at the Baltimore Congress, and we have no doubt that its good effects will be felt by the Catholic Press in the United States. It is, however, applicable to all countries in which there is a Catholic population, and it deserves full consideration in every one of them.

Colonial Notes.

MR. FERGUS'S speech at Queenstown necessarily ascribes great things to the Government in the past, and promises great things for them in the future. The approaching dissolution of Parliament and the general elections are plainly to be discerned in the tone of the hon. gentleman's utterances, and the roseate view of things given by him will need such a modification. The speaker contends for the *bona fide* nature of the surplus which has been questioned in some quarters, and which will no doubt prove to most of us a matter for congratulation. It would, nevertheless, be more satisfactory were it to be accompanied by a reduction of taxation, but taxation, we are told, is not in any way to be touched. It should be instructive to the people of the Colony to know, as Mr. Fergus also informs them, that a principal cause of this is the provision that must increasingly be made for educational requirements, including the building of school-houses. It is not to be expected that this should be considered less important, but some thought may, perhaps, be given to the possibility of doing it at a lower cost. The other chief points touched on by the speaker were local self-government—a system of which, he said, the country had already too much, and which he would have reduced by the amalgamation of some local bodies and the abolition of others. As to the land question, Mr. Fergus had a good deal to say. He dwelt, for example, on the desirableness of acquiring Native lands for settlement, and made a proposal that Government should do this by means of an issue of debentures, which would be made a first charge on the land. Roads, for opening land to settlement, the speaker suggested, might be constructed by similar means. Mr. Fergus's proposal for the compulsory sale by loan companies of the lands held by them is decidedly in the right direction. It does not, however, go far enough, as, in some instances, individual monopolists stand as much in the way as companies do. Still, as coming from a member of a Government favourable to monopoly, it must command especial approbation. It certainly shows the irresistible force of public opinion. Mr. Fergus is also to be commended for the support given by him to the proposal for the abolition of the gold duty, which no doubt will likewise have additional interest as given by a member of a Government from whom the miners rationally believe they have little to expect. On the whole, as we have said, the speech alluded to was as liberal and promising a speech as a member of Sir Harry Atkinson's Government could possibly make. It is to be hoped that the speaker did not calculate too much on sessions in the distant future for making the programme proposed by him practical.

Sir Robert Stout has been interviewed by a representative of the *Otago Daily Times*, and has given the interviewer a sketch of a system of local government that he thinks would be advantageous to the colony. Sir Robert would create 18 or 19 districts in the colony—giving to each district a district council which should manage all its business except that properly belonging to the General Assembly. Sir Robert, as might be concluded in advance, dwelt principally upon the dealings of the district council with education which would be carried on by means of a paid executive, and which apparently would be rather a costly item to its particular district. Indeed, as we might also conclude in advance, Sir Robert would expect his district councils to act generally in an educational direction, for he would give them enough political work to do to train men for the General Assembly. As to the General Assembly Sir Robert would be inclined to adopt the Swiss system by which the Legislative Council and the House of Representatives meet together every three years and elect an executive for a like period. Sir Robert thinks there is a great deal to be said in favour of responsible government, but the difficulty is to get fit men to enter Parliament. Trained in the district councils, however, able Statesmen would abound—and so far we certainly agree with Sir Robert Stout that our legislators require improvement, and even a good deal of it. Finally, the system proposed is the form Sir Robert thinks the federation to suit New Zealand should take. He does not believe in that outside ourselves.

A movement has been inaugurated in Dunedin for the formation of a Union in connection with the building trade. It is complained that for want of such an association the employees of the trade have suffered considerably, and occupy an inferior position. The benefits of trades unions, however, are now so well known and so firmly established that it is needless to point them out or to dwell upon them. Every branch of trade among whom no such union exists is palpably at a disadvantage. Particular unions, besides, are necessary to aid in bringing about the general amelioration in the position of the working classes. The building trade employees, therefore, have come to a laudable determination.

The struggle of the railway employees against their alleged grievances still continues. At a meeting of the Otago branch of their association held on Sunday afternoon a very determined stand was evident, and a resolution supporting the executive was unanimously passed. The meeting seemed to have very little confidence in the fair-play of the commissioners, and the President of the branch expressed a belief that, had the secretary of the Society, in communication with the commissioners, been an employee, he would have been speedily placed *hors de combat* by a removal to some other sphere

of duty. The secretary in question, meantime, has stated some special cases, which, if established, will completely justify the action of the men. They refer to the three points complained of, namely, boy labour, piecework, and long hours. Mr. Edwards also accuses the commissioners of deceiving the public by publishing as duly observed rules that they had systematically broken.—At the Dunedin meeting the returns were read of a ballot taken at Wellington as to whether the men would support the executive in extreme measures. The voting was in favour of extremes by 218 to 6. Extremes, however, are only allowable in very last necessity.

If misfortunes never come alone, as the tradition is, it would seem that honours also occasionally join company. Fast on the news of the rank of Count of the Holy Roman Empire conferred by the Pope on the Hon. Dr. Grace comes that of the recognition made by the Imperial Government of the hon. gentleman's professional services in this colony. "We" says the *Evening Post*, "have much pleasure in stating that His Excellency the Governor has been advised that Her Majesty has been pleased to confer on the Hon. Morgan Stanislaus Grace, M.D., M.L.C., of this city, the Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. This honour was recommended by His Excellency Sir. William Jervois in 1887, in recognition of Dr. Grace's services as head of the Military Medical Department of the colony during the war times. Dr. Grace, on retiring from the Imperial Military Medical Staff, on which he had done good service, was in 1865-6 placed at the head of the Colonial Military Department, and for several years acted in that capacity, to the great advantage of the colonial forces. His Excellency Sir William Jervois was struck with the fact that none of the colonial military officers had ever received Imperial acknowledgment of their services, and he brought the fact under the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, at the same time recommending the Hon. Dr. Grace for distinction. Sir Henry Holland (now Lord Knutsford), the then Under Secretary, in acknowledging the recommendation, wrote under date, 6th December, 1887:—"I will take care that Dr. Grace's good services are duly considered with the claims of others whenever a suitable opportunity occurs, although a large number of recommendations already noted prevents me from holding out hope that he can be selected for the Companionship of the Order at an early date." It has taken three years for the recognition to be accorded." But even though the honour has been delayed, it has been none the less well merited, and our hope is that Dr. Grace has still before him very many years in which to enjoy it.

A serious disease among horses is reported from South Australia. The supposition is that it is influenza. The probabilities are however, that, whether it be influenza or not, it is the same disease which has recently caused so much loss and inconvenience in South Africa. Its spread throughout the Colonies would be disastrous, and, if it be the same disease, its breaking out on this side of the Indian Ocean is most ominous.

The Australian Labour Federation has issued a manifesto, rather high-flown in its terms, but sound and sensible enough in substance, calling on the Unionists of the colonies to stand firm and trust one another in the industrial crisis on which the future of labour organisations in England and Australia vitally depends. The manifesto deprecates a fight but begs of those whom it addresses, if a combat is forced upon them, to cast no stain upon the sacred cause of labour. "Then break no law" it says; "abstain from liquor; give no enemy occasion to justify's anger." This is good advice, and men acting on it deserve to prosper in the cause upheld by them.

At the opening of St. Patrick's Cathedral School in Melbourne a week or two ago, the Rev. Father O'Malley, S.J., delivered an eloquent and able lecture entitled "The Story of the Danube." A speech was also made on the occasion by Archbishop Carr who dwelt on the great subject of education. His Grace pledged the Catholic people to constancy in the support of the religious training of the young. "This is a new country," he said. "This is a rising country. This is a wealthy country. But with youth, with wealth, and with material property, you have also growing up, side by side, the seeds of indifference, the seeds of infidelity, the seeds of sin in various forms; and if there be no others to attend to the rising generation on whom the destinies of this country mainly depend, I say that the Catholic people ought and will ever attend to the great work of the spiritual training of the young, so that when they grow up their thoughts, their words, and their acts may be regulated by that Divine law to which those conquerors Father O'Malley has referred to paid so little attention and on account of which all their efforts in the end came to naught and their works to destruction."

The Christchurch Early Closing Association, have taken a wise step in amalgamating with the trade unions. They have thus secured a support and sympathy which must tend to advance their object rapidly, and to lead to their complete success. At a meeting held last week a number of the unions were represented and resolutions in support of the Association and their object were unanimously carried. We are glad to see the promise of immediate success thus given to the very laudable undertaking of the Association, with which we have always been in perfect sympathy.

The township of Leeston (says the *Lyttelton Times*) is being improved by the erection of a handsome presbytery for the accommodation of the Roman Catholic Church. The building is situated on the main Southbridge road, and consists of a two-storied house of twelve rooms. The front elevation is somewhat in the early English style, with heavy gables, bow windows, and an ornate verandah. A fine staircase leads to the landings. From the upper windows can be seen Southbridge, Lake Ellesmere, and the Peninsula hills. The architect is Mr. John Whitelaw, who may be congratulated on designing so handsome and comfortable an edifice. It is being erected by Mr. W. Jacques, of Sydenham, and will cost about £700. Almost the

whole of this amount has been subscribed within the last two months in sums of from £1 to £50, and it is confidently expected that by the time the house is ready for occupation the remainder of the money will be forthcoming. The ground is a recent purchase from Mr. Paddy for the sum of £150. The land was subject to a lease of two years to Dr. Gosset, who has very generously waived his right in favour of the purchasers. The presbytery, when finished, will serve as the headquarters of the Ellesmere district, and from there the Rev. Fathers Chervier (rector of the parish) and Halbwachs will work the congregations of Leeston, Southbridge and Shand's Track.

Roman Notes.

THE freedom of the Press in Italy may be calculated from the manner in which the Government subsidises the organs that support it. The sum so expended by Signor Crispi last year amounted to somewhere about £40,000. The inducement thus held out is evident. But under the circumstances the independence of the newspapers may very well be called in question.

A sign of the times which shows that the Catholic faith still holds its ground in Spain has been given in the decree issued by the Holy Father in response to the prayer of Spanish Catholics that the Feast of St. Joseph should be made a holiday of obligation in their country. A national request of the kind is particularly cheering at a time when in so many countries religion seems to be more lightly regarded.

At a recent meeting of the Conference of Christian Archaeology Count de Rossi announced the discovery in Algeria of an ancient altar bearing an inscription which dates from A. D. 359, and which among other relics venerated there mentions a piece of the wood of the true cross. The discovery of the cross was made at Jerusalem by St. Helena mother of Constantine the Great in the year 326. This mention of the relic found in Algeria is, therefore, a matter of great interest.

Deep interest is attached to the approaching celebration to be held this year at Rome of the 13th centenary of Pope St. Gregory the Great. For English Catholics the anniversary must have an especial interest considering the debt due by their country to the memory of the great and glorious Pope.

A pilgrimage of French students expected to arrive in Rome during the course of the spring, is one to which much hope is attached. With the class in general very little respect for religion is associated as a rule. A change for the better among them would certainly produce excellent results in France, and it may be hoped that the undertaking referred to has at least some slight bearing on such a movement. At any rate the students as a body seem to have grown tired of mere materialism and numbers of them are turning their attention towards various mystic systems. It may rationally be believed that the claims of the Catholic Church will not escape their inquiry, and that a reformation, truly so-called, among them will be the consequence. This contemplated pilgrimage to Rome also points in such a direction.

A calumny attributed to the late Dr. Dollinger and published in a German newspaper since his death has received an authoritative contradiction from German savants. It was to the effect that imputations were offered to all but certain chosen scholars in their attempt to study the Vatican Archives. A number of learned Germans actually engaged in the study referred to have, however, given the statement an unqualified denial. What gives additional weight to their denial is the fact that they are, most of them, Protestants. Their testimony is:—"The administration has the merit of rendering the treasures of the Archives accessible to historical researches, without difference of nationality or religion." This, however, is not the first emphatic and conclusive contradiction with which the statements of the unfortunate Dollinger were met.

A member of the Senate has just offered to the Italian Government some advice which it would be prudent on their part to take. He predicts the meeting of an European Congress into whose discussions will enter the independence of the Holy See. The result will be, says Signor Jacini, the Senator in question, a settlement that the Government will be forced to accept. Would it not now be better for them, he asks, while there is still time, to act of their own accord and seek of their own free will to come to an agreement with the Holy See? Such wholesome advice as this, however, is not according to the taste of Signor Crispi. Compulsion only would bring him to his senses in the matter. But compulsion, sooner or later, and of one kind or another, he will probably have.

That, notwithstanding its boasted secrecy, Freemasonry has also its *enfants terribles* has lately been once more proved by the publication of a circular in which the sect take credit to themselves for all the legislation that has been carried out in Italy harmful to the interests of the Catholic Church. The circular speaks in high terms of Signor Crispi, whom it especially commends for his boldness in "defying the God of the Catholics," as its blasphemous expression is. Surely such an exposure of the true mind of Freemasonry should have an effect on those well-meaning but falsely-judging Christians who give it the support of their sympathy and membership.

Quite in accordance with the defiance of the God of the Catholics made by the leading statesman of the country is the record of crime for last year. The number of people guilty of ordinary

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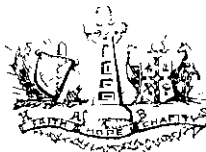
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District Secretary Auckland

offences had steadily increased year by year from 3,947 in 1883 to 17,429 in 1889. The results of fighting against the Church and defying God are, therefore, palpable.

The next monument erected in Rome is to be a statue of Mazzini, which will be close to that of St. Paul in the Piazza Colonna. The joke of the matter,—its especial indecency being its neighbourhood to the statue of the Apostle—is that King Humbert is patron of the erection, and the chief subscriber to it. It is, nevertheless, doubtful whether the revolutionist whose memory is about to be honoured would have excepted his Majesty from the common lot of assassination which he advocated for kings. Humbert is certainly false in his admiration for the worthies whom he is continually called on to honour or else he is inconsistent in still submitting his head to the weight of the crown. As the president of a republic he might be an honest man. As a king he is acting dishonestly towards one side or the other.

The mission of Sir John Linton Simmons to the Vatican has come to a conclusion, satisfactorily, it is said, so far as an agreement with the British Government on religious arrangements in Malta is concerned. Sir John was present at the banquet in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, given at the Irish College, on which occasion he was quietly but plainly given to understand by Archbishop Kirby that no English representative at the Vatican must interfere between the Holy See and the Irish people. The Envoy is believed to have hoped to make a point in the direction referred to by his visit to the College. If so, he found himself completely checkmated. Archbishop Kirby, by his admirable remarks on this occasion, has once more earned the gratitude of Irish Catholics—already frequently deserved by him.

A German mission has been appointed to the Cameroons, a district in the country recently annexed by Germany in Africa. The missionaries are to be German Fathers of the Pious Society of Missions, and it is stipulated by the German Government that they are to be under the immediate direction of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda.

On St. Patrick's Day the Pope wore a spray of shamrock which had been presented to his Holiness by Prior Glynn—the Augustinian Father whose association with the building of the Irish national church has made him so famous. It is a remarkable fact, meantime, that the Irish emblem is better known at Rome than that of any other nation. Indeed its spiritual origin deserves for it such a distinction. The Pope's wearing it will certainly not render it more obscure. St. Patrick himself might have rejoiced to foresee the occasion.

The retirement of Prince Bismarck has occasioned a good deal of discussion as to what is to be the fate of the triple alliance. Signor Crispi especially loses the advantage undoubtedly derived by him from his association with the German Chancellor. How Italy will be affected by the change is naturally a subject of anxiety.

The Emperor William has written a respectful letter to the Pope acquainting his Holiness with his project for the international labour conference at Berlin, and asking for his sympathy and co-operation. The Holy Father's reply assured the Emperor of the interest he took in the matter, and of his determination to do everything to further the amelioration of the working men's condition. The letter of his Majesty is very favourably regarded by the Catholic world. It is felt that, even supposing him to have been influenced in some degree by a desire to conciliate Herr Windthorst and his following, he has nevertheless acted in a becoming manner, and one showing a praiseworthy frame of mind.

The disposition of the secret societies has just been illustrated at Leghorn by the murder, in the open street, of a young priest who was quietly and inoffensively pursuing his way. He was, nevertheless, followed and stabbed to death—no motive except that of unreasoning hatred being assignable for the deed. The victim was only 23 years of age, and had only been a few weeks ordained.

The Marquis of Lorne and his wife, the Princess Louise, have paid an incognito visit, under the title of Lord and Lady Sundridge, to Rome. They, nevertheless, called on King Humbert and the Queen and received a visit from their Majesties in return—not, however, at their hotel, which was quite an ordinary one, but at the British Embassy. They had also an audience of the Pope. Her Royal Highness seemed to take especial pleasure in going about without ceremony, and would even call her own cab, without betraying any particular shame or trepidation. The Marquis also had about him the look of being out of school.

A Roman audience acted rather shabbily towards Colonel Cody, otherwise known as Buffalo Bill, in connection with the defeat of the *buttaris*, famous riders of the Campagna, by his cow-boys. They hissed and booed the Colonel, and generally showed themselves ill-humoured and ill-mannered. Cody was further accused of acting dishonestly respecting a wager arising out of the affair, although, for his part, he had done even more than he had undertaken. Only one of the Italian riders succeeded in riding a buck jumper, and that only for a minute or two.

On 27th March, at Tipperary, a young lad named Mornan was sent to gaol for one month for alleged intimidation of a fish-bawker named Ellen Keys to prevent her from selling fish to the servant of one of the police. The intimidation consisted in the defendant's having remarked to another boy, in the hearing of Mrs. Keys, that the purchaser was buying fish for the police, and that she was boycotted.

A WONDERFUL PICTURE.

(From the *San Francisco Chronicle*.)

DURING the last 15 years Professor Richard D. Willoughby has been a character in Alaska well known among whites and natives. He is favourably known from Fort Tongas to Mount St. Elias. He lived a third of a century along the coast, and his knowledge of Alaska forms an arctic encyclopedia. He left civilisation so long ago that he does not remember ever having seen a locomotive or a train of cars. He is a man of robust stature, and about 60 years of age. As a miner he has no equal in the territory. He has exposed more locations of mineral wealth than any other three men. Among other things upon which he employs his spare moments is photography. While pursuing this scientific amusement, Professor Willoughby frequently discovers remarkable mirages, and after four years of labour, amid dangers, privation, and suffering, he accomplished for the civilised world a feat in photography heretofore considered problematical. It was on the longest day in June, 1888, that Willoughby's camera took within its grasp the reproduction of a city remote and, at first glance, thought to be within the recesses of another world. This remarkable photograph was taken at 9 o'clock at night in Glacier Bay. The mirage city was named by Professor Willoughby the Silent City. The first two copies were sent to the Government officials at Washington, D.C., the second was placed in the hands of the pursuer of the Alaskan steamer, and the third copy was sent to the *Chronicle*. It is ten inches in length by eight inches in width. The view, somewhat indistinct, is apparently taken from a public park or garden on a hill. In the foreground is a gravelled walk, a stone fence, a rustic seat, and a little child at play. Beyond the stone wall are roofs of houses, with clumps of trees at the sides. In the distance are the half-completed towers of a cathedral and several tall public buildings, while far away, enveloped in what appears to be a cloud-like atmosphere, are tall smoke-stacks and towers of churches. The style of architecture is decidedly modern, the roofs are like those of England or the British provinces. The chimneys are made of tiles. Taken as a whole, it is a remarkable photograph. A hundred people or more saw the mirage picture yesterday. Some regarded the thing as a fraud, while others believed it the genuine photographic result of a mirage. Mirages, as a general rule, represent scenes in the immediate vicinity, not over a few hundred miles away at the best. At first the city of Victoria was suggested, but an old resident of that city denied the likeness. Victoria is fully 900 miles from Glacier Bay, where the alleged photograph was made. A score of persons ventured an opinion as to the location of The Silent City. However, no one could be found who recognised the scene. At Tabor's and other photographic establishments it was thought the picture was that of a city in France or Germany. A dozen persons agreed that it resembled Montreal or Quebec, possibly Halifax. The agents of the Canadian Pacific were divided in opinion as to Halifax and Montreal. In the latter city there is a cathedral building resembling the one in the photograph. As a final result of yesterday's investigation Montreal appears to be the most likely city represented in the picture of The Silent City.

LEARNING A LANGUAGE.

How annoying it is not to be able to understand a language, says a correspondent of the *Boston Traveller*. With the scanty Spanish at my command I am able to ask for and get whatever I want, but in conversation can only obscurely guess the speaker's meaning by a word caught here and there, generally at the end of a sentence. If only they would speak slowly, and use the shortest sentences and simplest words! Yet it is a decided advantage to be able to speak the language of the country, if only a little; for the people always suppose that you understand and know more than you really do, and this is a material benefit. One can learn with ease and in a very short time all that is absolutely necessary to make one's way through a foreign land. Here are a few hints:—

Take first a lesson or two in pronunciation from a competent teacher; then master about a dozen verbs—the auxiliaries, of course—and several other irregular verbs should be acquired with perfect flexibility. Among the most useful of the latter are, in French, *avoir*, *venir*, and *aller*; in Spanish, *poder*, *querer*, and *ir*. Then the numerals should be learned, and so thoroughly as to be able quickly to count a hundred backwards. After all, these amount to only two dozen words. Next follow half-a-dozen prepositions and half-a-dozen adverbs of time and place. And lastly, brief vocabularies of nouns—those in use in travelling (perhaps a dozen), at the hotel (a score), and in inquiring one's way about a town (a dozen).

Altogether, I believe that a vocabulary of ninety words, carefully selected, would answer every pre-sing need. Of course, in order to be thoroughly comfortable, one should carry with him a pocket dictionary. It is far better to procure this than any of the conversation manuals offered at the bookstores as royal roads to the acquisition of language. These are not to be recommended; their vocabularies contain words that one would never need, and omit some of the most necessary; their "conversations" are highly grammatical, stilted and unnatural.

Mr. Swift MacNeill, M.P., writes (says the *Dublin Freeman* of 5th April) to direct attention to a wrong inflicted on the Irish Protestant clergy, as well as on the British taxpayer. He complains that army chaplains are brought over from England to minister to Protestant troops in Ireland, when the same duties could be performed by the Irish Protestant parochial clergy at one-third the expense. Mr. MacNeill, who has brought the matter before Parliament, shows that a similar grievance was successfully overcome by the Irish Catholic hierarchy.

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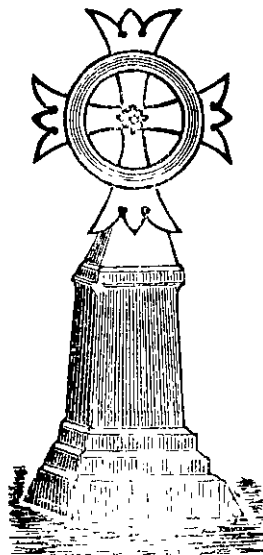
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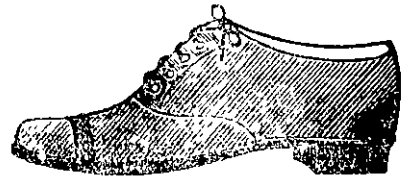
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THE MISSION COMMUNES IN PARAGUAY.

(By PHAROS, in the *Lyttelton Times*.)

"But it is in the New World that the Jesuits have exhibited the most wonderful display of their abilities, and have contributed most effectually to the benefit of the human species. The conquerors of that unfortunate quarter of the Globe acted at first as if they had nothing in view but to plunder, to enslave, to exterminate. The Jesuits alone made humanity the object of their settling there."—Robertson "Life of Charles V."

"The Indians were undoubtedly far better off materially than our own workmen."—E. De Laveleye.

"L'établissement dans le Paraguay par les Jésuites Espagnols, paraît à quelques égards le triomphe de l'humanité."—Voltaire.

I HAVE headed this article with the foregoing extracts from authors chosen as not at all likely to be prejudiced in favour of the Jesuits. In Protestant countries, and, for the matter of that, in Catholic countries, too, there are numbers of readers likely to receive with suspicion, if not downright unbelief, anything written in praise of a Jesuit organisation. Everything done by this famous Order has been made the subject of venomous controversy. Amongst the rest their missions in Paraguay have not escaped. They have been accused of making their Indian converts labour in bands, little better treated than slave gangs, for the Order's benefit; of getting up kidnapping expeditions among the neighbouring tribes of free Indians; of keeping their converts in a state of childish ignorance; of aiming to build up a theocratic empire over the whole of South America. Above all, they are blamed because they did not elevate their Indians sufficiently in the scale of civilisation to enable their communities to hold their ground after the expulsion of their preceptors. Those who admit that they made thousands of gentle, peaceful, industrious villagers out of scattered forest tribes of shy, ferocious, savage hunters and fishermen, still complain that they did not do enough—that they did not raise these reclaimed savages to the level of the most intelligent, shrewd, independent of the educated, self-governing European races. For nothing less would have enabled the Missionary Communes of Paraguay to continue to prosper and progress under Spanish rule after the Jesuits had been driven out. But colonists, living as we do with missionary work going on near at hand, know what the task of civilising savages means. We are hardly likely to echo this last complaint. We are more likely to find it difficult to credit that the Jesuits managed to establish their many strangely organised, but certainly flourishing and contented communities in the midst of a wilderness of tropical barbarism. What will seem surprising to us is not what they left undone, but the fair and systematic structure which they succeeded in building up.

For several generations the Spaniards, who discovered Paraguay early in the sixteenth century, made little headway in its colonisation. They found the resistance of the Guarani Indians too tough, and their country too remote to reach easily, and clad much of it with impenetrable forest. Moreover, it offered no gold mines to tempt them on. Like the settlers, the Jesuit missionaries made, at first, slow progress. Marching into the woods and marshes, armed only with cross and breviary, hundreds of these brave men laid down their lives, slain by fevers or the Guarani arrows. But early in the seventeenth century the heads of the Order were happily able to obtain a great concession from the Spanish crown. This was the right of governing independently all mission establishments they might form in Paraguay. In order that they might labour undisturbed in the work of conversion, no other Europeans were to be allowed to interfere with their settlements. To pay the expenses of the mission work the Jesuits were to be allowed a monopoly of any trade they could create. In return they contracted to pay to Spain one golden crown a year for every Indian settled at their mission stations. It was stipulated that their converts were to be freemen, safe from slave hunters. Having thus bought off the Government wolves and shut out the private ones—the trader and slave dealer—the missionaries bent to their work with an enthusiasm and systematic energy which soon produced great results. In 1605 they first collected together their scattered converts into a fixed settlement called Loretto. The plenty and comfort enjoyed by the settlers there soon had its effect in attracting the savages of the forest round, who, like all their kind, were exposed to periodical seasons of miserable want and starvation. In canoes rowed by their disciples, the monks passed up the innumerable rivers and streams of their wild, well-watered, luxuriantly beautiful land. Often the psalms and hymns sung by the crews drew the Indian hunters and fishermen to the river bank, and made the beginning of peaceful intercourse. By degrees the kind and gentle demeanour of the preachers won the confidence of the savages. Gradually station after station was set up in the same fashion as Loretto until the whole of Paraguay, and the region to the South, still known as the Province of "Missions," were sprinkled with well-built, busy, pleasant-looking townships. Before its expulsion from the country in 1767 the Order had thus reclaimed and partially civilised many tribes, so that the population of their stations has been variously estimated at from one hundred and fifty thousand to ten times that number of docile, industrious, contented Indians. Robertson says loosely, "some hundred thousand." Mr. Gifford Pallgrave, in the charming article on Paraguay in his "Ulysses," says, "certainly not more than 170,000." The fullest account of the Missions I have seen (a French one) estimates the Mission Indians at 100,000 families.

Out of these people the Jesuits set themselves to work to form a Christian Republic. Each settlement or "Reduction" was organised as a perfect community of fellow-labourers, managing its own affairs under the direction of two missionaries. Policemen, soldiers, officers, magistrates, registrars, foremen, inspectors, all were educated Indians, elected to their posts by the general body of the inhabitants, but only out of a limited number of candidates nominated by the two fathers. Two schools were set up in each township, one for teaching reading and writing, the other for dancing, singing, and orchestral music. Great attention was paid to these latter arts at which the Guarani was most apt, and which were considered both to brighten and soften their natures, the Jesuits and Shakespeare being here in accord. On

passing childhood the mass of the people were destined for manual labour, either in their own family allotments, or in the public plantations and storehouses, or, in the case of those with a turn for mechanics, in the communal workshops. The women remaining at home spun, wove, and attended to household duties. Specially bright and promising children were, however, reserved for something higher than handicrafts; they were given a complete course of education in a sort of seminary—"as Plato advises," says the monkish historian. There they learned something of science and literature, and were subjected to a rigid moral discipline. These pupils furnished the settlements with magistrates and officers, or were admitted into the Church's service. Early marriages were encouraged. Morality was as severely insisted upon as industry. But crime of any kind was almost unknown. The punishments were of the lightest; a first offence was met by a private admonition; a second by some public mark of disgrace; a third by a slight flogging—an extreme very seldom resorted to. Private property and trade were forbidden. In the centre of every commune, in addition to the church, the schools, an inn for travellers and the priests' house, was a commercial store to which the produce of the district found its way. Thence the necessaries of life were distributed regularly to each family. From this store the sick, the aged, the destitute, the officials, and the missionaries were all fed. The surplus went to meet seasons of famine, or was exported to provide the tribute to Spain and other expenses. No public treasure was amassed. At the expulsion of the Jesuit Fathers only £2000 in cash was found by the Spaniards on seizing their establishments. Daily labour and attendance at church services were, of course, compulsory on all inhabitants. The numerous saints' days and Church festivals provided plenty of holidays. Religious processions, with music and solemn dances, were arranged with much care and artistic taste. The churches—large, and of massive stone—were adorned with pictures divided by frames of green, living creepers framed up the walls. A long, white sacque was the simple dress of the women; a shorter tunic that of the men. A purple dress was the reward and mark of distinguished merit.

Compare this system with the hideous cruelties inflicted on the Peruvians; the awful fate of the West Indian Caribs, the speed of whose extermination was the only mercy vouchsafed to them; or the infernal horrors of the Middle Passage—the trade then encouraged by every maritime Power in Europe. Where in the wide world, except in Paraguay, was the white man kind, or the brown or black man happy beneath his rule, during those dreary seventeenth and eighteenth centuries?

Life was not without colour or amusement at the missions. Nor was it always placid. Those were the days of slavery and slave-hunting. The surrounding Spanish and Portuguese often looked with a covetous eye on such valuable chattels as the skillful, hard-working mission Indians. They ventured to try raiding expeditions among them. But the Fathers, arming and drilling their converts and providing them with muskets and cannon, taught the slave-hunters that the quiet, loyal Guarani were as good at fighting as at music and dancing—a truth which the five years' war against Dictator Lopez has amply proved again within our own generation. For obvious reasons the missionaries made the most stringent rules against intercourse between their people and the outside Europeans. No white visitor might stay more than three days at a mission. The natives were never allowed to speak Spanish, though the seminary pupils learned to read and write it. Their own soft and musical tongue, the Guarani dialect, was reduced to writing and made the language of Paraguay. It still holds that place in spite of the large Spanish element now mingled with the Indians. Other traces of the Jesuits' teaching are, perhaps, still to be found in the fondness of the modern Paraguayans and Guarani for music, dancing, and flowers, in their conspicuous personal cleanliness and skill in the arrangement of drapery, in their cheerful, agreeable manners, and in a freedom from crime and violence not common among other American half-breeds. "Crime is rare in Paraguay," writes one recent traveller. Another paints bright, almost rapturous, pictures of bands of white-robed, smiling, neat, Guarani women, with their fine figures and erect carriage, bearing baskets of golden oranges to the schooners anchored at the river-side towns. He describes to us one of the old Jesuit Missions still inhabited, though not by the Fathers or their flock—these vanished more than a century ago. But still three sides of the square are bordered by the comfortable stone dwelling-houses, each opening at the back on its garden, and in front on the common verandah or cloister, which surrounds the square and shelters foot-passengers from the direct rays of the tropical sun. Under this children play and women sit and gossip in the cool air of the evening after the day's work is done. Still in the centre rise the battered belfry and church—battered like everything else in Paraguay now. And in other parts—in the remoter country where the fields of the old Communes have lapsed into jungle, marsh, and tall forest—the traveller sometimes stumbles upon the ruined walls of a deserted pile, overgrown with bushes and lianas, and teanted by bats, snakes, and wild birds. This, he is told, is one of the Jesuit churches. In it he sees evidence of what the Christian Communes were and what they effected. And he sees comment upon the men who destroyed them, and, ruling in the Jesuits' stead, have failed where they succeeded, and fallen back where they advanced.

John Burns, the London labour leader, describes a certain crowd of alleged workmen as "a lot of gaol-birds who go out in the morning to look for work and pray God they may not find it."

The idea that a city like Hartford should have become nearly half Catholic in population within three or four scores of years is wonderful. Half a century ago a Catholic was a "rara avis" in Connecticut, and in the rural regions they would have examined him to discover the horns upon his head. We have changed all that. The Puritan race is dying out, and it is being replaced by the vigorous Irish and the fertile French Canadians, whose family virtues make them multiply and increase, just as the opposite vices are slaying the older stock.

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Fresh brands of spirits always in stock.

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Good Stabling. Terms Moderate.

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(Next Town Hall).

J. LISTON PROPRIETOR.
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First-class accommodation for Boarders and
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THOS. CODY, Proprietor.

Good accommodation for boarders and
travellers.

Best brands of liquors kept in stock.

Irish News.

Antrim.—The Town Commissioners recently adopted plans submitted by Mr. Crosbie for the erection of ten dwelling-houses in Broughshane and Springwill streets, Ballymena.

Human remains were discovered recently in a field belonging to Mrs. Heenan, in Drumcaw, near Clough. It appears her servants were removing a large pile of stones, locally known as "The Cairn," when their attention was drawn to a cavity under one of the large stones which, on being removed, revealed a large cavity about three and a half feet long by two and a half wide. A careful search resulted in the finding of a skull with the teeth still adhering. Bones, supposed to be of the legs, were also discovered. On further search a piece of flint shaped like an arrow head, also the remains of an old urn, were found.

The brig Stagshaw, commanded by Captain Crozier, and owned by T. McVeigh, jr., Belfast, arrived in Queenstown recently in a damaged and leaky state from Rosario with a cargo of bones and bone-ash. The vessel had a very protracted passage of over 100 days. Very bad weather was experienced and the provisions ran short. On February 8 the Liverpool ship *Philomena* was sighted, and her captain kindly supplied the Stagshaw with a quantity of stores. Owing to adverse winds very little progress was made, and on March 2 only 13 biscuits remained on board. The crew had to subsist on these for four days, during which they worked hard on the pumps, as the vessel was making water. On her arrival at Queenstown the captain and crew were much exhausted from fatigue and want of food.

Armagh.—Mary Cromie, a widow, who resided in the townland of Ballinliss, County Armagh, was buried recently in Killeary chapelyard. The deceased had attained her 101st year and was able to be about her house until a few days before she died.

Carlow.—A meeting of the '98 Memorial Committee was held in the hall, Graigue. P. J. Conlan presided, and there were also present—John Kelly, John P. Clowry, N. P. Roche, Robert Gough, James Feelson, and P. McDonald, Hon. Secs.; J. Dunne, John Conlan. Mr. Byrne attended, and handed in a tracing of the plot taken from the ordnance survey sheet. The spot was marked on the ordnance map as "burial place of 640 United Irishmen," thus showing that the place has been always regarded as a burial ground. Mr. Roche proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Byrne for his kindness in surveying the plot. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. Mr. Clowry said he begged to propose that Mr. Byrne be co-opted as a member of the committee. J. Conlan, in seconding the proposition, said it was most fitting that Mr. Byrne should find a place on the committee. Every reader of the history of '98 knew how Mr. Byrne's ancestors had fought and suffered, and the prominent part they took in the '98 movement. The motion was carried by acclamation.

Cavan.—The people of Kingscourt sincerely regret the death of Mr. Biggar. A solemn Mass was offered for the repose of his soul by Father Flood, at which the people of the entire parish attended.

Clare.—Matt Birmingham's farm at Ballyket was recently visited by the Sheriff and 14 head of cattle seized for rent. A mistake was made, and several of Patrick Breen's cattle were seized with Birmingham's.

On a "got-up" charge of assault and rescue of a prisoner the Ennistymon magistrates recently fined William Cotter £3. At the same sessions Thomas Healy was fined £1 for an alleged throwing of a stone at one Constable Huggard.

The Grand Jury of the County Clare recently entered into the consideration of a scheme for the construction of a light railway running from Miltown-Malbay terminus and the Ennis and West Clare Railway to Kilkee and Kilrush. The attendance in the Grand Jury room was very representative, several Catholic clergymen being among those present. After hearing arguments for and against, the scheme was endorsed by the Grand Jury. The following resolution was unanimously passed at same sitting:—That we, the Grand Jury, assembled at the Spring Assizes, 1890, are of opinion that it would be of great advantage to this County that the Midland Great Western Railway Company should be allowed to purchase the Ennis and Atherry line, as it would be a great boon to have one continuous system for passenger and cattle traffic between Ennis, and Dublin, and the West of Ireland.

Cork.—The tenants on the Hicks estate at Dercenstra, near Schull, have made an arrangement whereby, on payment of two and a half years' rent, they will get a clear receipt. Five years were due.

At the recent Castlemartyr Sessions ejectments were obtained against 44 "Campaigners" on the above estate. Great interest was felt in the proceedings by the people of the district, who attended in great numbers.

Derry.—Amidst circumstances of special impressiveness, the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dougherty was solemnly consecrated Bishop of the Diocese. The Primate and eight bishops were present. Almost all the clergy from the Diocese of Derry and the neighbouring one of Raphoe were also in attendance. A large number also came from the Archdiocese of Armagh, Down, and Connor. Clogher and Ardagh were numerously represented, whilst the ranks were swelled considerably by priests from almost every part of Ireland. The consecrating bishop was Most Rev. Dr. Logue, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, and the assisting prelates were Most Rev. Dr. Nulty and Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly. The other prelates present were—Most Rev. Dr. McAlister, Lord Bishop of Down and Connor; Most Rev. Dr. Woodlock, Lord Bishop of Ardagh; Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Lord Bishop of Raphoe; Most Rev. Dr. Magennis, Lord Bishop of Kilmore; and Most Rev. Dr. McGivern, Coadjutor Bishop of Dromore. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell preached an eloquent sermon on the text, "Let a man so look upon us as the ministers of Christ and the dispensers of the mysteries of Christ." He dwelt upon the

attachment of the Irish people to the true religion, and the dignity of the episcopal office.

Donegal.—The Public Works Commissioners gave their decision on the recommendations of the Light Railway Commissioners, who held inquiries in the county, and report in favour of the lines from Buncrana to Carndonagh, Stranorlar to Glenties, Letterkenny to Falcarragh, and Donegal to Killybegs. Terms are annexed to each recommendation, those in the Stranorlar and Letterkenny cases being that the baronies should supplement the Government grant by a £1000 guarantee.

The Falcarragh evictions have been postponed for a little time on the estates of Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Swiney, though the warrants for possession have expired. In addition to the fifty families to be evicted on the Olphert estate, forty-six families are to be evicted on Mrs. Stewart's property and seven on that of Mr. Swiney. In all a total of over five hundred human beings will be rendered homeless. In many instances the families to be evicted are just recovering from severe attacks of influenza.

Down.—Thomas Bailie, of Ballycurry, was recently evicted. Bailie, his wife, and six children, left peaceably, and were received into a house Henry Brown had prepared for them in anticipation of the occurrence. The evicted family were very kindly treated by all the neighbours.

At the recent meeting of the Newry Town Commissioners, on the motion of Mr. Fowler seconded by R. Dempster, the following resolutions were adopted:—1. That the site to be chosen for a town hall be that of the Newry Savings Bank Buildings, or a site upon the river in the vicinity if practicable. 2. That the Board advertise for and offer two premiums—the first of £20 and the second of £10—for the best plan or design either of converting and extending the present building or of erecting a new town hall on its site or upon a site upon the Newry River. It was also decided to construct a bridge over the tidal river from Hill street, facing the proposed new town hall and municipal buildings.

Dublin.—J. J. Farren presided at last Clondalkin League meeting, when a reply was read from Mr. Parnell in acknowledgment of the resolution of the branch congratulating him on his glorious victory over the *Times*. The letter was ordered to be inserted on the minutes. The branch unanimously adopted a feeling resolution in reference to the death of Mr. Biggar.

Very satisfactory progress is being made by the contractors for the iron work of the loop line between Westland Row and Amiens street. At the former station some extensive alterations as regards passenger traffic will come into practical operation at an early date, including an exit for incoming travellers by a passage running right through the old refreshment rooms, thus avoiding the existing crush which is experienced daily by parties arriving and departing in their progress to and from the various platforms. The iron girders for the first span from Westland Row are now in position, and in the construction of the bridge spanning that busy thoroughfare there will be no interference whatever with the level of the street, and the whole height of 16 feet will be given as arranged with the Corporation.

Galway.—Mr. Biggar bequeathed £1,000 to the Convent in Loughrea, chiefly because a daughter of his was educated there and as a mark of his high appreciation of the institution.

There was a private reception at the Convent of the Poor Clares in Galway, recently, to which more than ordinary interest may be attached; Very Rev. Father Larkin, Guardian of the Abbey, officiated. The young lady who had the felicity of being received into the community was Penelope Mary Harnett, only daughter of the late Wm. Fuller Harnett, New Castle West, County Limerick, a patriotic gentleman, and who was a personal friend of O'Connell, of Smith O'Brien, and the leading politicians of his day. Miss Harnett, who now has joined the Poor Clares, is a lady of superior culture and a poetess of marked ability. Two of her compositions have found a place in the "Emerald Gems," a compilation of select patriotic poetry of different Irish authors, compiled by T. D. Sullivan, editor of the *Nation*. The pieces are "Ireland to Parnell," and "An Exile's Dream of the Shannon."

Kerry.—The Tralee Town Commissioners passed a resolution denouncing the cruel treatment of John Daly and demanding a sworn investigation into his condition.

Constable Buckley, of Tralee, has applied for £500 recompense for an alleged injury received when bringing a prisoner to the barracks. The Town Commissioners have instructed their solicitor to oppose.

At the King's County Assizes held in Tullamore recently, William Coakley, Cornelius Casey, and Timothy Sullivan were charged that they with others entered into a conspiracy with intent to injure divers persons who occupy lands from which certain tenants were evicted, and that they did solicit persons not to sell cattle to persons styled "The Battering-ram Company, Limited," who occupy evicted farms near Fines. The jury acquitted Casey. With regard to the other prisoners, they could not agree on a verdict and they will be tried again.

The landlords have not given up their diabolical courses in this County, for at the recent meeting of the Tralee Guardians the following notices of impending evictions were laid before the Board:—P. L. Marshall, landlord; M. Hartnett, Meincitrum, tenant; H. A. Herbert, landlord, and Spencer Cambell Thompson, against Anne Brosnahan, Scartaglin; W. Blennerhassett, landlord; William Prendeville, Kicusna, tenant; H. A. Herbert and S. C. Campbell, landlords; John Harold, Clasgaron, tenant; same landlords; John Harold, Clasgaron, tenant; same landlords; William Collins, Lisheenbawn, tenant; John Huggard, landlord; Patrick Lacy, Coolnaolad, tenant.

Kildare.—Father Hogan, Celbridge, a trustee of the Celbridge Reading Rooms, resigned because there were two policemen, members of the institute, who assisted at the recent Clongorey outrages.

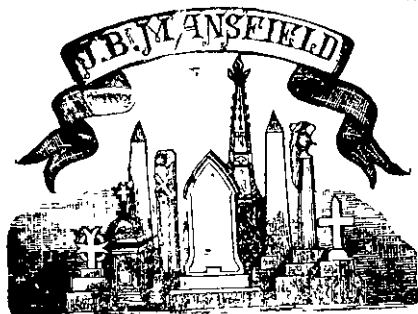
Kilkenny.—Father Healy presided at the recent meeting of the Johnstown League, at which the following important resolu-

HORSE CLOTHS! HORSE CLOTHS!
HORSE CLOTHS!

P. O'CONNELL,
Manufacturer of
Tents, Flags, Taraulins, Nets, Horse Clothing,
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Save your Money and Purchase of the Maker.

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N.B.—Marquee tents of all sizes for Sale or Hire.



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PREVENTS TOOTHACHE, AND IMPARTS
AN AGREEABLE ODOUR TO THE BREATH.

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Having made Extensive Alterations in the
above Hotel, which is now replete with every
Modern Convenience, I am now prepared to
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Finest Quality of Wines, Liquors and Beers
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Splendid Accommodation for Boarders.

The Best Brands of Spirits, Wines, and
Ales kept.

Good Stabling provided Free of Charge

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FEMALE PILLS, 3s 6d and 5s Box,
are invaluable; no irregularities or obstruction
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CAUTION.—When asking you
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my body until I was a mass of corruption.
Everything known to the medical faculty was
tried in vain. I became a mere wreck; at
times could not lift my hands to my head,
could not turn in bed. I heard of the **Certi-
cure Remedies,** used them, and was perfectly
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CERTICURA LOTION allays Irri-
tating Eruptions, Itching, Rashes, Sun-
burns, Removes Freckles, Cleanses the Scalp
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CERTICURA OIL instantly relieves
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Brain Remedy. N.B.—One month's treat-
ment sent Post Free on receipt of 5s in stamps
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tions were unanimously passed:—That we consider our County and City M.P.'s should not be absent from any important divisions taken on questions affecting our National interests in the House of Commons; that it is the duty of their constituents to fulfil the engagement of paying the Parliamentary expenses of members agreed upon at the Kilkenny Convention of 1885.

On Father Kinsella's release he was received by Alderman Fenton, Mayor of Kilkenny, and Mr. Murphy, solicitor. The reverend "criminal" was in excellent spirits, and delivered a stirring speech in response to the calls of the people.

The Mayor of Kilkenny and the "criminals" confined in Kilkenny Gaol are receiving every attention from Alderman Fenton, the Mayor. His visits are not uncertain and spasmodic; they are daily occurrences. During his short term of office he has proved himself a people's representative.

King's County.—The Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire has granted a reward of two guineas to Louisa McAdam, a child of seven years of age, for extinguishing the burning clothes of her younger sister, Fanny McAdam, at Geashill, in November last, thereby saving her life.

Limerick.—The police were engaged in Newcastle West recently billeting extra forces of constabulary drafted into the town for the purpose of assisting at impending evictions on the Glen-sharrod estate. An effort was made some time ago by Rt. Rev. Doctor O'Dwyer to arrange the dispute, and the owners of the property offered a reduction of 30 per cent, but the tenants would not accept less than 40. The negotiations then fell through.

Louth.—That the police force is a conservative body has been demonstrated beyond a doubt by the refusal to shoot a donkey that got so injured in the Market Square of Dundalk that its destruction became necessary. The R.I.C. said they could not put the Government to such expense. If they were as saving of their ammunition in Mitchelstown and Tipperary, where they shot down the people, some valuable lives would have been spared.

The last Castleblinham Fair was in a general way well stocked and a brisk business done. A good attendance of buyers caused competition. Young stock met a ready sale and fully maintained recent high rates. Beef and mutton were scarce, and met a ready sale. The following were about the ruling prices:—Prime heifer beef, 56s to 60s per cwt.; second class and inferior, 48s to 52s per cwt.; wether mutton, 8½d to 9d per lb; hoggets and lambs, 30s to 38s; young springers of good quality, £18 10s to £22 10s; second class, £15 to £17; freshly calved cows, promising good supply of milk, £17 to £20; second class, £13 to £15 10s; strippers and dry cows, £11 to £14 10s. A large supply of pigs; active demand.

Queen's County.—The Castletown branch of the National League, Rev. Thomas Feehan presiding, passed this resolution at last meeting:—"That this branch adopt James Dowling, Castletown, as a suitable candidate to represent the Poor Law Electoral Division of Donore, and we call upon all the Nationalist electors to support him, as Mr. Phelan intends to contest it with the aid of the Unionist vote." The Secretary was directed to write to the Mountrath branch, claiming their support in the matter.

Tipperary.—Doctors Laffin and Conway, who attended young Cleary, of Tipperary, since his liberation from prison, have signed a requisition calling on the Coroner to hold an inquest into the circumstances of his death.

The police recently forced an entrance into the Cashel Town Hall, where the regular meeting of the Town Commissioners was being held. When requested to leave Sergeant Haggarty replied that "England expected every man in the Royal Irish Constabulary to do his duty."

The men of Tipperary have not backed down. The fight is carried on with as much vigour as the first hour it commenced. During the recent evictions James Morris, Chairman of the Radical Association, North Somersetshire, was present. At a special meeting of the Town Commissioners, held recently, the Chairman, R. Ronan, presiding, the following resolution was proposed by Dr. J. F. O'Ryan, and seconded by Bartholomew McCarthy, and passed:—"That we, the Town Commissioners of Tipperary, congratulate the owners and tenant, of the 50 houses now under eviction in the town on the splendid spirit of sacrifice and devotion they have displayed and are displaying, and we point to their action as a refutation of every statement made by either Mr. Smith-Barry or Balfour against our unanimity and devotion to the cause of the oppressed.

The following tenants in the town of Tipperary were recently evicted:—Maria Toomey, Mrs. Foley, David street; Patrick Ryan, Jeremiah Allis. From this point the brigade proceeded to Bridge street, where they untenanted the two sides of the street with the exception of two houses. The tenants evicted here are Mrs. Bridget O'Donoghue, publican; Jeremiah Cotter, publican; Margaret Dunn, provision dealer; Mrs. Elizabeth O'Connor, Railway Hotel; Margaret Dowdell, Bridget O'Brien, fancy warehouse, and Julia O'Brien. The Sheriff's forces next visited the dispensary house in Abbey street, where all had been cleared away during the morning. John Bradshaw, victualler; James Lonergan, boot and shoe warehouse; Morgan M. Darcy, chemist, and John Cummins, butter merchant, were next evicted. It is stated that the premises of Mr. Cummins, which was built a few years ago at a cost of £3000, is now about to be converted into a barracks for extra police. This will bring the number of police barracks up to the extraordinary number of five. The next place visited was that of Richard Ronan, Chairman Town Commissioners, in Main Street, where Mr. Ronan has for years been doing a flourishing trade in the boot department. Mr. Ronan totally suspended business three months ago, and since then his shop has been partially closed up. The tobacconist establishment of Mrs. Mary Cotter, also in Main street, was visited and possession taken. Michael Whelan, grocer and publican, Main street, was then turned out. Patrick O'Brien, M.P., was present at the evictions, and took photographs of the different incidents. Father Humphreys was also present, and gave valuable assistance in preserving the peace.

Tyrone.—A farmhouse in Ardumber, convenient to Cookstown, was recently discovered to be in flames, and, in spite of all efforts to save it, was totally destroyed. It appears that the house and farm had been recently purchased by Philip Long, a grocer in town, who was formerly a head constable of the constabulary. The house was uninhabited, and it is believed the burning was malicious. Head-Constable Martin and some police visited the place, but no arrests were made. A claim for compensation for malicious injury will be made. The loss has been estimated at about £70. It is a very convenient way for policemen and discharged policemen to avoid serious loss to themselves by stating that everything in the shape of burnings and cattle-maimings are perpetrated on them because they are or had been policemen.

Wexford.—The people of Gorey are making arrangements for the reception of Edward Byrne, when liberated from Kilkenny. Byrne made the staunchest struggle against the emergency men ever witnessed in Ireland.

Hugh Maguire presided at the last meeting of the Wexford Corporation, and the following resolution passed:—"That the members of the Council be requested to meet and proceed in a body to the train in order to meet our worthy Mayor on his return home after two months' incarceration under the Coercion Act."

Wicklow.—The Rathvilly League passed the following resolution at last meeting:—"That, in unison with our fellow-countrymen, we indignantly protest against the barbarous and inhuman treatment which John Daly and other political prisoners are subjected to in English prisons, which exceeds the worst form of Russian despotism, and we trust that the Irish Parliamentary party will vigorously press for a sworn inquiry to ascertain the motive for such vindictive proceedings."

Mr. Pannell's quarry at Arklow Rock is giving a good deal of employment to the labourers of that district. Several tons of stone are severed from the rock every day, and dressed into blocks or sets. Up to the present a pretty good trade has been done in these sets, and every day it is expected the output will increase. Present appearances point to that conclusion at all events, for now it is intended to run a railway from the quarries to the pier-head, a distance of over two miles. The construction of this railway will give a good deal of labour, and that certainly is wanted by many willing hands in the locality at present in need of work.

THE AYR BURGHES ELECTIONS.

The result of the Ayr election has been declared as follows:—Mr. James Somerville (C), 2610; Mr. Edmund Routledge (L), 2480. Conservative majority, 130.

This seat was captured by us from the Liberal-Unionists in June, 1888. The voting on that occasion was:—Mr. J. Sinclair (L), 2331; Hon. E. Ashley (U L), 2268. Liberal majority, 63.

The voting at the previous general elections were:—

	1886,	1885,	
Campbell (U L) ...	2673	Campbell (L) ...	2460
Sinclair (L) ...	1498	Low (C) ...	2118

Unionist majority ... 1175 Liberal majority ... 342

United Ireland, writing on the election, says:—"We have lost Ayr—a crumb of comfort for the Unionists in their period of doubt and stress; but it was not lost by any big majority, but after a tough fight. From the outset the contest was not hopeful, as the late member only won it by the skin of his teeth—and he was a strong candidate because of his great local influence and personal qualities. The contrary was the case with Mr. Routledge, the Gladstonian candidate, who has now failed to hold the seat for the party. He was an entire stranger to the electors, but he proved himself during the contest to be an able and popular man. The Unionists only carried the seat by a majority of 130.

The Laccadive Islands are suffering from a dreadful plague of rats which have destroyed the cocoanut plantations and reduced the inhabitants to destitution. The plaster of Paris cure is being tried. It consists in sprinkling plenty of powdered plaster of Paris upon boiled rice. After eating it the rats become thirsty, it is said, and when they have drunken, the water hardens the plaster of Paris and kills them.

A Pennsylvania railroad man says young men are selected as drivers of the locomotives on fast trains because old men do not have the nerve to stand the strain of the terrible speed of those trains, and even the nerviest young man gets afraid of them after a while. Then they get to letting up a little in speed, the trains run behind time, the engineers are given other runs and new men are put on in their places.

Tippoo Tib, observes a contemporary, is a nice man to know. If you reside anywhere within his "sphere of influence," which seems to include almost the whole of Equatorial Africa, you have to be very careful what you are about. If you shoot an elephant, you must present the astute scoundrel with one of the tusks and sell him the other at a price fixed by himself, which probably comes to very nearly the same thing. If you omit these attentions he will have you shot. So far Captain Taioier, the French explorer, whose experiences of Tippoo seem to be very similar to those of Mr. Stanley. In this way he keeps a virtual monopoly of the ivory trade, against which it is exceedingly difficult for European traders to struggle. Tippoo Tib annexes the bulk of the ivory to begin with; and the white trader, when he succeeds in obtaining ivory, has his profits reduced by the necessity of paying three or four middlemen. The position, moreover, is growing worse because the elephants have been so persistently molested along the coasts that they have taken refuge in the interior, and have thus made themselves subject to Tippoo. What reserve of elephants there may be in the interior of Africa no man knows; but it seems not unlikely that their fate may be as the fate of the American buffalo.

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MR. DAVITT ON THE LIVERPOOL STRIKE.

ON Tuesday, March 25, Mr. Davitt addressed a monster meeting of dock labourers of Liverpool, held at the Pier Head, there being about 30,000 people present. In the course of his speech Mr. Davitt said—Let me say at once that while I am with the workers in this or any other country in their demands for full justice, I am somewhat conservative in the matter of strikes. A strike is a most serious fight to engage in. A strike is a weapon which should be handled with the greatest possible care, but when it is once entered upon, and the workers find firm ground under their feet, and when they issue an appeal to the public conscience for a judgment upon their righteous demands, then what they have got to do is to stand together in a spirit of loyalty such as has characterised your action from the beginning to the present moment (cheers). Now, I have listened to your case, so ably set out by Mr. M'Hugh, and I confess I was somewhat surprised to find that the issues in this contest were not what I believed from the public Press (cheers). I imagined that your demand, in the first place, was for some increase in wages; and, secondly, that the one main difficulty now in the way of a settlement was that you refused to go back to work with the non-union men, or the people who had been called by very uncomplimentary names—names which I am not going to use. And I will tell you why. In coming down from London I was told that a number of these men were in a waiting-room, that they were coming down from London to take some of your places. I went in and spoke to them. I appealed to them as men not to come here and stand in your way, not to be induced to come here and do a wrong to their brother workmen of Liverpool (cheers.)

I could not feel anything like hatred or ill-will in my heart towards these poor men. They have wives and children like the men I see before me; and undoubtedly false statements were made, false representations were put before them, to come here and to prolong this fight to the detriment of you and of the whole city of Liverpool. Now, I am satisfied, from what I have heard here to-day, that you are willing to make this concession to public feeling and to public interests, that you are willing, if your very reasonable demands are conceded, to go back and work alongside these misguided men; and I am satisfied if you promise to do it you will keep your promise. Do you imagine for one moment that, assuming your other demands are conceded, and that you go back, that these shipowners will continue to employ men, four of whom could not do the work of one dock labourer (laughter)? Do you imagine that they will continue to pay extravagant prices in the hope that by this means you will be starved out? No. My advice to you is this—Make this concession fully, honestly, and heartily to public feeling in Liverpool. Go back to your work, and believe me, in a very few weeks' time these imported men will be wise, or rather their employers will be wise, and the latter will discharge them, and send them back to where they came from (cheers). Now, I confess that I have learned with pride, with unbounded pleasure, of the magnificent demeanour that has characterised you, the workmen of Liverpool, throughout this trying ordeal. You have borne it in a manner which reflects credit not only upon yourselves but upon the great cause of labour in which you are enlisted. You have shown a patience, a forbearance, and a good temper which makes me proud to think that a great many of you belong to the same country which I hail from (cheers). Continue, then, to show these admirable qualities, and believe me public opinion in Liverpool and throughout England will rush to your side with overwhelming force, as was the case in London, and that in a very short time victory will be written upon your banner (cheers.) I am not going to say one harsh word either against the capitalists engaged in this strife, or against any individual among them who may have made himself more or less obnoxious to you. I am not here to take sides—if I may say so—in this strife. Doubtless, strong words have been said on your side, and probably—say, I am sure of it, insulting observations have been made on the other. Therefore, I am not going to indulge in any observations one way or the other. I am simply here to ask you, in the first place, to continue showing the admirable discipline and order that has characterised you so far, and to make this concession to public feeling. For if your demands are conceded you will go back to work, and advise these poor men to join their union in their own locality, and become like you their own best friends and the best possible soldiers in the cause of labour. Mr. Cunningham Grahame has referred to what might possibly be done on the other side of the Atlantic in connection with the struggle in Liverpool. I need not tell you that Liverpool and New York are very closely commercially united. Well, I hope and trust there will be no necessity, that you will not be driven to implore the working men of New York—the trades organisation of that great city—to take any action there with reference to ships belonging to your opponents here in Liverpool. I would be very sorry both for the city of New York and the city of Liverpool that this struggle should be prolonged, and that any angry feeling should be imported into it. But if, after you have made this concession to public feeling, your opponents will continue to act unreasonably and unjustly, then I can say, as a member of the Knights of Labour of America and of other labour organisations, that our friends will be ready to respond to any reasonable appeal that you will make to them (cheers). Unless you stand loyally together in your organisation you will be beaten in the end, and you may expect no mercy from your opponents. Stand together as faithfully in the future as you have done up to the present; show, if necessary, increased moderation, because in a battle of this kind it is everything to have public feeling and sentiment on your side. Having these as allies, and having justice and reason as your demands, be prepared to conclude public opinion to every possible extent, and, believe me, in a few days' time, and I hope to God I am speaking the truth, I am prophesying what will come to pass, in a few days' time this great struggle will be terminated, for your peace of mind, for the advantage of the commercial interests and the public peace of this great city (loud and prolonged cheering).

THE BERLIN LABOUR CONFERENCE.

(From the Nation)

THE Berlin Labour Conference has ended its deliberations and published its recommendations. On Saturday the delegates concluded their work in what, till an hour later, was Prince Bismarck's palace. As they left, the crowds were beginning to gather to give the founder of German unity a more than royal farewell. The coincidence was not without meaning. The two events were the conjoined beginnings of a period during which a policy of conciliation instead of a policy of coercion is to be followed in the effort to solve the social problems. All the Governments of Europe have now before them the recommendations of the Conference as to the proper measures for the solution of the more glaring social evils. Those recommendations were limited by the scope of the original programme. They are not aimed at the establishment of an ideal condition for the labourers; they do not do more than answer the question of how industry is to be carried on if the industrial classes are not to be debilitated, demoralised, and physically ruined. The question of the distribution of profits is not touched, nor is there even a remote suggestion of any improvement in the present rough and injurious method of determining the shares of capitalists and labourer. In his valedictory speech, indeed, the president of the Conference, Baron von Berlepsch, is reported to have declared that there is only one limit to what the laws and customs of any country should grant to the working classes—namely, the continued existence and prosperity of industry itself, on which the welfare of the working class is dependent. That declaration will be readily accepted by all parties in the social contest: but it will not advance them one whit nearer to agreement.

More definite, however, are the answers to the questions originally proposed to the Conference. They deal practically and definitely with the regulation of the labour of children, youths, women, miners, and with the problem of the day of rest. With regard to the labour of children, the Conference recommends that the employment of children under twelve should be prohibited in all industries whatsoever. The Conference, however, admitted the exceptional case of the southern countries, where, it was contended, children arrived at maturity more rapidly, and suggested ten as the limit in those countries. From this suggestion of an exception the English delegates dissented. With regard to the employment of children between the ages of twelve and fourteen the preliminary compliance with an educational standard is advised, and it is stated to be desirable that such children should not be employed either at night or on Sunday, that the length of their working day should not exceed six hours, and that their employment in unhealthy or dangerous occupations should be absolutely prohibited. Humanity itself demands compliance with these suggestions. As to youths, the Conference thinks that they should be afforded the protection of the law until they have attained the age of eighteen; it is desirable that between fourteen and sixteen they should not be employed at night or on Sunday, nor for more than ten hours; while between sixteen and eighteen special regulations should rule their employment as far as regards the maximum day's work, night work, work on Sundays, and work at peculiarly dangerous or unhealthy trades. No more important question engaged the attention of the Conference than the question of female labour. The present system of employing women has, in many countries, absolutely destroyed the domestic life of the industrial classes, and in some cases is simply ruinous to their physical condition. As far as they go the propositions of the Conference are welcome, but they do not go nearly far enough. It is desirable, the Report says, "that girls and women above sixteen years of age should not work either at night or on Sundays; that the total number of working hours should not exceed eleven daily, with intervals amounting to at least an hour and a half; that exceptions should be admissible for certain branches of industry; that restrictions should be imposed in the case of occupations especially unhealthy and dangerous; and that mothers should only be allowed to return to work four weeks after their confinement. One can easily imagine what the condition of the worker's life is in those countries where it requires a law to compel these principles to be adopted. The code that still admits the employment of women from seven in the morning until half-past seven in the evening, with a half-hour's rest for breakfast and an hour's rest for dinner, is scarcely one at which legislation on this point is to stand. When could a woman so employed fulfil the duties of a Christian mother? She should be absent from "home" for thirteen hours out of the twenty-four; she would require eight for rest, and her maternal duties are to be discharged in three. Can the society that permits such work be called a Christian society? Underground work in mines should be altogether forbidden for females, the Conference thinks. Children should be excluded until they reach the age of fourteen. Even in the case of men the duration of shifts should be limited either by statute or administrative regulation or voluntary agreement. The importance of the miner's work receives international recognition. A regular supply of coal is essential to the carrying on of all industry, and the Conference suggests that an effort should be made to obviate strikes. The principle of arbitration receives a new sanction. "Experience shows," says the Report, "that the best means of preventing strikes is for masters and men, in all cases where their difference cannot be adjusted by direct negotiation, to agree to invoke the decision of an arbitrator." The revolutionaries who delivered the workers from the "tyranny" of the religion that ordained the Sunday's rest, receive their solemn condemnation from the Conference. It is recommended that Sunday work should be prohibited in the case of children, youths, and women, and that one day of rest should be "allowed" to all workmen where the industry does not require continuous work. The representatives of France alone dissented from the recommendation that the day of rest should in all cases where practicable be Sunday. Their dissent was a lamentably significant fact; but, of course, the suggestion was a condemnation of one article of the creed of the inflexible Revolution, and it had to be resisted.

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Thanking the Public for former favours,
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THORNDON QUAY, WELLINGTON.

D. DEALY ... Proprietor.

D.D., late licensee of the Cricketers' Arms, having purchased the Lease and Goodwill of the above Hotel, begs to inform his numerous friends, old customers, and the travelling public generally, that he has renovated and re-furnished it throughout, comfort, cleanliness and moderate charges being his motto.—A conveyance leaves every night to convey guests' luggage to and from both railway stations. No charge for conveyance of luggage to station. Passengers by early trains can have breakfast before leaving. Free stabling. Wines and Spirits of the best brands. Night Porter in attendance.

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FOR LYTTELTON, WELLINGTON, NELSON.—PENGUIN, s. s., on Monday, June 2. Passengers 3 p.m. from Dunedin wharf. Cargo till noon.

FOR AUCKLAND, VIA LYTTELTON WELLINGTON, NAPIER, and GISBORNE.—TARAWERA, s.s., on Wednesday, June 4.

FOR SYDNEY, VIA LYTTELTON, WELLINGTON, NAPIER, GISBORNE, and AUCKLAND.—TARAWERA, s. s., on Wednesday, June 4.

FOR SYDNEY, VIA LYTTELTON AND WELLINGTON.—WAKATIPU, s. s., on or about Saturday, June 4.

FOR MELBOURNE, VIA BLUFF.—WAIRARAPA, s.s., on Thursday, June 5.

FOR FIJI, from AUCKLAND.—ARAWATA, s.s., about Saturday, June 21.

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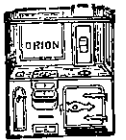
FOR TIMARU, LYTTELTON, WELLINGTON, NELSON, and WESTPORT.—MAHINAPUA, s.s., on Friday, May 30.

FOR GREYMOULI (taking cargo for Hokitika), via Oamaru, Timaru, Lyttelton, and Wellington.—ROSAMOND, early.

FOR AUCKLAND, via OAMARU, TIMARU, NAPIER, and GISBORNE.—Steamer early.

FOR LYTTELTON, via TIMARU AND AKAROA.—BEAUTIFUL STAR, s.s., every Tuesday from Dunedin Wharf at 4 p.m.

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TOMATO SAUCE.

A strictly first-class table sauce.

Pleases the taste
 Promotes digestion
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This Sauce is made once a year from the whole, fresh Tomato, and has a piquancy attained only by our new process.

Ask your grocers for it. If they won't supply you, we will.

CONNOR AND CO.,
 Hanover and Castle Streets.

The real test of the value of the Conference is to come, however. The delegates could only discuss; they could not pledge their Governments. Are the deliberations and the discussions to be labour in vain? There is no compelling force in the suggestions of the Conference; but we believe that public opinion—international as well as national—is strong enough to compel legislation in the directions indicated. The one obstacle to the adoption of the principles commended would be the suspicion that their adoption would lead to the loss of advantage in the competitive battle. To do Lord Salisbury and the *Times* justice they have done what they could to spread that suspicion. The former not long since declared that Great Britain is placed at a disadvantage by the observance of Sunday; the Berlin correspondent of the latter declares that England may expect to benefit by the restrictions on the labour of children and women, restrictions nearly all of which are in force here, and the adoption of which in other countries will reduce their industrial output. A pernicious fallacy underlies both statements. The truth is, the countries whose industrial system is based in inhuman principles have everything to gain by the recognition of human requirements. Only by so doing will the maximum efficiency of their workers be reached, and the maximum profit from their labours as well. Experience will teach that truth to the Continental nations, and when it has been learned, the way will be cleared for a new advance.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, DUNEDIN.

ON Sunday the Feast of Pentecost Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship the Bishop at 11 a.m. The Rev. Father Golden acted as deacon, the Rev. Father O'Neill as sub-deacon, and the Rev. Father Lynch, Adm., as Master of Ceremonies. An excellent sermon on the Festival of the day was preached by Father Golden. Haydn's Mass was performed by the Choir, and at the offertory Giorza's "Gratia Agimus" was sung as a duet by Mrs. Angus and Miss Smith. Mr. W. Ward conducted, and Miss D. Moran played the organ. In the evening, Vespers and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament took place as usual. At the conclusion of Vespers a reception of aspirants into the Sodality of the Children of Mary was held, the Bishop officiating. The altar of the blessed Virgin had been beautifully adorned for the occasion, and owing to the exceptional mildness of the season a profusion of choice flowers had been available for the purpose of which the ladies of the Sodality had made the best possible use. The arch above the picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, surmounting the altar, had been illuminated, and a blaze of lights added very effectively to the beauties of the whole. When the ceremony terminated, a hymn to the Blessed Virgin was sung by the congregation and choir in union, and afterwards the Bishop preached a short sermon on the descent of the Holy Ghost and the foundation of the Church. While the high altar was being lit for the Benediction, Mr. Schacht, with his well known skill, played a solo on the violin. After Benediction had been given the Blessed Sacrament was removed from the Tabernacle and an address of congratulation was presented to his Lordship the Bishop on the payment of the balance of the debt due on the Cathedral. This step had been determined on at a large and representative meeting of the congregation held in the afternoon. Messrs Callan, Meenan, and Perrin, the gentlemen appointed for the purpose, entered the sanctuary, and Mr. Callan spoke as follows:—

May it please your Lordship,—During the past week the gratifying intelligence came to the knowledge of the congregation that the final debt on this beautiful cathedral had been paid, and that there is not a single shilling now owing. The congregation thought that such an event ought not to be passed over in silence, and they came to the resolution to present you with an address in which to express their congratulations and reasons for feeling proud. They thought also that this was a suitable occasion to present an address because they heard that about this time—I believe it was yesterday—was your birthday. They met—the meeting I might describe as a very large one, and it was very enthusiastic—and resolved to mark the occasion, and they thought the best way to mark it was by an address. It is needless for me to dwell on the occasion, because I would only be repeating what the address says. I will now read the address:—

"Lord Bishop,—We have come together this evening to congratulate your Lordship on the complete freedom from debt in which your cathedral now stands. Such a result, so soon obtained, must be very gratifying to you. It must be the more so since the heavy burden entailed upon your people by the treatment they receive in the matter of education might be supposed to hinder them in contributing towards other Catholic works. The efforts, however, that a Catholic people, led by a wise, devoted, and zealous pastor, can successfully make have often been remarked, and it would have been strange had your Lordship and the people you guide proved an exception to the rule.

"We also desire, Lord Bishop, to congratulate you on the occurrence of your birthday, and it is our ardent hope that you may live to see many returns of it, and many more years filled with good works and labours for the benefit of your people.

"It is our very particular aspiration, and our sincere prayer, that your Lordship may especially be spared to carry out to a victorious end your valiant struggle in the cause of Catholic education, which, even though it has not as yet resulted in full success, has at least had the effect of putting the Catholic people of the colony thoroughly on their guard, of instructing them in their duty, and of confirming their resolution never to relinquish their determination of educating their children in accordance with the law of God and the precepts of His holy Church.

"Signed on behalf of the congregation.

"J. B. CALLAN.

"JOHN F. PERRIN.

"FRANCIS MEENAN."

The Bishop, in reply, said.—My Dear Friends—You have every reason to congratulate yourselves on the pleasing fact that this cath-

edral is free from debt. And not only you, but every Catholic also in this diocese will rejoice and give expression to feelings of thanks and gladness on hearing the good news. This affords another proof of what priests and people united, sympathizing with each other, forming confidence in each other, and working together for a common object can effect within a reasonable time, and it is to be hoped that the lesson thus taught will bear fruit throughout the entire diocese in all future time. It is only becoming and just on this occasion to thank all those not belonging to this congregation, or, indeed, to the Catholic body, who during the erection of this cathedral have generously aided us to bring it to completion so far, and whilst doing so we should be careful to pray the great and good God to bless abundantly their liberality and charity. My thanks are due to you for your kind words on this occasion, and are hereby heartily given. Continue to pray that your bishop may have to the end all the graces he may need to secure for him necessary light and strength here and in the end a happy death and a favourable judgment. On the question of education a great deal might be said, but whether this is the time or place for saying all one would be disposed to say, is not quite clear. It may be permitted to me, however, to repeat what has been already affirmed in many quarters, that certainly the claims of Catholics to have their schools recognised by the Government and aided out of the public revenues, are acknowledged and supported by an ever increasing number of the most experienced and intelligent amongst our fellow-citizens. Any one who has read the speech of a Cabinet Minister at Queenstown the other day will see that notwithstanding the progress the Catholic School question has made, it has not reached the Cabinet, and that whilst money is to be borrowed to build schools for children who pay no fees, the old, shocking injustice done to Catholics is to continue. It is to be hoped that the Catholics of Queenstown and every other constituency will bear this in mind, and steadfastly refuse to vote for every candidate, no matter who he is, who refuses to concede justice to us in reference to schools. The attitude of certain members of the New Zealand Government and certain members of Parliament on this question is simply unjust, and were it not so unjust it would be ridiculous. To aid Catholic schools out of public funds towards which Catholics contribute their fair share would be an act of the commonest justice, an ordinary act of honesty, whereas the present system is one of dishonesty and plunder, so far as Catholics are concerned. In the second place, to aid Catholic schools would be the promotion of economy, and calculated to save the State a large sum of money each year. Let us see how the case stands. Suppose the proposal made last session of Parliament were carried into effect, the result would be an enormous saving. It was proposed to give Catholic and private schools a subvention of £2 sterling per head for all children attending such schools. Well, suppose again that, say, 20,000 children were withdrawn from public and sent to private schools, a saving to the Government of £40,000 a year would be the result, so that a large saving would be effected, because instead of paying £80,000 a year for these children to public schools, the Government would be only called upon to pay £40,000 to private schools. So that the policy recommended by Catholics, whilst securing peace and largely aiding the cause of real education, would at the same time enact justice and most powerfully promote economy. We must not, however, close our eyes to the objections raised to the concession of justice to our schools. One is that such concession would lead to additional expense. From what has been already said it is manifest that such would not be the case. But it is affirmed that if a subvention of £2 per head be granted to Catholic children, will not this entail on the Government the necessity of providing an annual expenditure of £40,000? Our answer to that objection is, if the 10,000 children now frequenting Catholic schools be withdrawn and sent to public schools, this additional £40,000 must be provided. What does the objection amount to, then, but a mean determination on the part of enemies of Catholic schools to make money out of the great steadfastness to principle of Catholics, and to pocket their money because they are Catholics? If it were not well known that this objection is urged, no decent, right-minded man would believe that any New Zealand citizen would be capable of entertaining such an idea. Another objection is that if Catholics obtained aid the consequence would be the break up of the present public school system. Our reply is that no intelligent well-informed man thinks such a result would follow. In the province of Ontario, Catholic schools are not only subsidised by the State, but are on a footing of perfect equality with public schools, and yet the public school system is not only not destroyed but is actually flourishing. In England, Scotland, and Wales all denominational schools are aided by the State, and, nevertheless, the public school system in these countries is not destroyed. There is no reason in justice or policy for treating Catholic schools as they are treated here by the public authorities.—On the contrary, both justice and policy demand that Catholic schools should be recognised and assisted. We have been asked, Are we prepared in the event of obtaining substantial aid from the public funds to submit to Government inspection? My answer is certainly. We not only do not fear inspection, but in the event contemplated we should court it. There is nothing reasonable to which we have the least objection. My dear friends, I thank you very heartily for this address—this new proof of your kindness and consideration for which I feel extremely obliged, and pray God to bless you in every way in this life and the next.

The congregation, which was densely crowded, then dispersed.

After nearly four centuries of Lutheranism the Emperor of Germany is forced to face a social problem that threatens the church and society. The Kaiser's declarations regarding the duty of the State towards the working classes are very much in accord with the sentiments expressed by the Holy Father on the same subject. The Emperor's sincerity is questioned by some, but no breath of suspicion attaches to the utterances of Pope Leo who has pointed out the way by which the relations of labour and capital can be adjusted. The ruling powers in Europe would find a study of the Pope's encyclical profitable.

ARTHUR M'DONALD AND CO.,

BOND AND CRAWFORD STREETS,
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Mr. James Leach (per J. Holland), ... £0 10 0

MISSING NUMBERS OF "TABLET."

SUBSCRIBERS holding copies of the undermentioned dates, will oblige by forwarding same to this office.—No. 15, August 3, 1888; No. 33, December 7, 1888; No. 35, December 21, 1888; No. 39, January 18, 1889; No. 17, August 16, 1889.

The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1890.

PROGRESS AND JUSTICE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

THE Catholics of New Zealand provide, at their own sole expense, an excellent education for their own children. Yet such is the sense of justice and policy in the New Zealand Legislature that it compels these Catholics, after having manfully provided for their own children, to contribute largely towards the free and godless education of other people's children!!! This is tyranny, oppression, and plunder.

O B J E C T I O N S.



N another column will be found Bishop MORAN'S reply to the address presented to him on Sunday last by the congregation of St. Joseph's Cathedral. In this reply the Bishop shows the injustice done to Catholics by the system of public education prevailing in New Zealand. He points out that Catholics, whilst contributing their fair share of the funds devoted to this purpose, are shut out from all participation in their expenditure. But this was not his main point, and, therefore, he only referred to it incidentally. It was not then necessary to do more. On this point Bishop MORAN has discoursed and written for years, so that his attitude on the question, and his views and arguments are so well known that more than an incidental allusion to them was quite unnecessary. His main contention on Sunday was that whilst the aiding of Catholic schools out of public funds would lead to considerable economy, doing so would not, as is contended by some, lead to the destruction of our system of public education. These are two important points, and for

years the great obstacle to the concession of justice to Catholic schools has been the prejudice raised by their enemies, by the never-ceasing repetition of the statements that justice to Catholic schools meant extravagance, and the destruction of the public school system. Naturally, therefore, the Bishop, when an opportunity presented itself, as it did on the occasion of the presentation of this address, availed himself of it to combat this twofold objection, or, rather, these two objections. And we think that all who will be at the pains to read his reply will concede that he has successfully grappled with them. His arguments seem to be unanswerable. In the first place he shows that the aiding, from public funds, of Catholic and private schools on the scale proposed in the last session of Parliament must necessarily lead to very considerable saving of public funds. He made a supposition, on which he built up an argument which cannot be upset. Suppose, he said, the aiding of Catholic and other schools induced twenty thousand (20,000) children to be transferred from public to private schools, would not a saving to Government of £40,000 ensue? At present the Government is paying to the various School Boards £4 per head for the education of children—that is, paying £80,000 a year for the education of these 20,000 children. But if these 20,000 children were transferred to Catholic and other schools, the sum to be paid would be only £40,000, so that a saving of £40,000 a year would be effected. This is only an illustration, for a still greater saving might be effected. See what this would do for the country. It would then be possible to do a great deal for the development of the material resources of the Colony by the saving certain to result from doing an act of justice and giving Catholics a portion, at least, of what is due to them. There can be no doubt that what Catholics ask for would lead to enormous economy. This is a consideration that should be pressed upon public attention in season and out of season. The cause of justice, policy, and economy demands this.—In the second place, the Bishop proved that the concession asked for by Catholics would not lead to the destruction of the national system of education—or, at all events, that it need not do so. In England, Scotland, and Wales Catholic schools are subsidised by the State; nevertheless, this does not destroy the national system in these countries. In Ontario, and indeed throughout the entire Dominion of Canada, Catholic and all other denominational schools are on a footing of equality with public schools, and yet the public schools flourish. These facts at once dispose of the groundless assertion that what Catholics claim, if conceded, would destroy public schools. Experience in England proves such would not be the result. Experience in Canada establishes the same; and so thoroughly persuaded are the Canadians of the soundness and wisdom of their policy in this particular that they have embodied the principle of equality as to all schools, public and denominational, in their Constitution, so that no legislature, Dominion or Provincial, can make a law to repeal the School Act or interfere in any way with the system which treats all these schools on a footing of perfect equality. The assertion, therefore, that aid to Catholic schools would in any way help to undermine the public school system is groundless, and contrary to all our experience. People may rest assured that much greater danger threatens the system from a denial of justice than from such a concession as Catholics demand. In his reply, the Bishop stated that in the coming conflict between parties at the general election, Catholics should be careful not to vote for any candidate who refuses to pledge himself to support in Parliament their claim on this question, no matter who or what these candidates might otherwise be. We hope that Catholics will take the Bishop's words to heart, and in every instance follow his wise advice. To do otherwise would be to act foolishly and cowardly, would be a negation of principle, and the conduct of slaves, of men who had lost their manhood and qualified themselves for slavery. But we have no fear on this head. We know the Catholic body well, and are fully persuaded that Catholics throughout the entire country will do their duty to their children, themselves, and the State.

WE receive from Gore encouraging accounts of the progress the Sisters of Mercy are making there. Their school continues to be well attended, and their popularity among the children is very apparent. The little ones quite understand the interest taken in them by their devoted teachers, and show themselves grateful for it in a manner most creditable to them. In all the branches in which they are instructed by the nuns, who are in every respect qualified for the task

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 Riffel 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,

CHRISTCHURCH.

(From a special Correspondent.)

THE Secretary of the Christchurch Early Closing Association has grown very wrath at a few innocent remarks which I made in my last letter anent the early closing movement in this city. So angry, indeed, was the worthy secretary that he felt impelled to write a long letter to the TABLET for the purpose of demolishing an enemy who was only an enemy in the "Honorary Secretary's" own imagination. I can solemnly assure Mr. Clarke that instead of being opposed to the early closing cause, the movement has my entire sympathy. He would not be better pleased himself than I would to see every shutter between St. Albans and Linwood put up at six o'clock, or at five o'clock, either, for that matter. But one may be a very enthusiastic supporter of any cause and still claim the right to disapprove of the means by which that cause is sought to be gained. But apparently unless one is prepared to swear by every dot and cross on the i's and t's in Mr. Clarke's programme one must, in his opinion, be actuated by "malice prepense," or some other unworthy motive, in any remarks which one makes concerning his association. Having read his letter I feel more than ever that a little salutary advice to any association of which he is secretary, as to the prudence of practising moderation in endeavouring to effect social reforms, would not be at all inappropos. Mr. Clarke must learn to be a little more tolerant than he is of other people's opinions, even when these opinions differ from his own. He must not be too ready to get his back up at every criticism upon the tactics of his association, nor waste his energies in running tilts at windmills which exist only in his own imagination. Above all, he should curb the desire to unnecessarily rush into print. At least he should make it a rule, as "fixed as the Northern star" to never put his pen to paper when he feels angry. If he will act upon this good advice, which in the friendliest spirit, and in the interests of the association, I give him he will become a more level-headed man, and a more judicious secretary for a reform association than he is at present, and better fitted to pilot it to success.

For some weeks past the first query on the lips of every second person whom one met in the street or elsewhere was "Have you read 'Looking Backward'?" Then, without waiting for an answer, the querist would proceed to expatiate upon the merits of the book—"Grand book that; will cause a revolution in society. Bellamy's the man to paint the future. Another book-like that and poverty and oppression would be wiped out." And so on. Two or two-thirds of those who profess to admire the book so intensely have probably never read it at all, or, having glanced at its pages, parrot-like repeat the criticisms which they have heard from others. I have read Mr. Bellamy's book twice, and I must say that I have not been able to discover any very transcendent merit in it, either from a literary or philosophical point. It is not much more than a kind of modernised version of the old Grecian philosopher's dream of an ideal state, with a good scrap of Comtist-sum-Bickertonian altruism, worked in. Interwoven with all this is the theory of every nation raising its own food, clothing, &c., and supplying the same to its people in big national stores. Under Mr. Bellamy's regime idleness would disappear, and with it its natural concomitant—poverty. To work will be compulsory upon everyone, and as everyone would be compelled to labour, labour could carry with it no degradation. This would be all very well, but I would like to see to what system of training Mr. Bellamy would subject his grand industrial army before he would get them to come up to scratch and do their twenty-five years hard graft for a bare subsistence. Humanity, as we know it at present, would require a longer drill than it could get in a hundred and ten years or so to bring it into such an altruistic frame of mind as Mr. Bellamy paints it in the year 2000. On different occasions he makes one of his characters state that human nature had not changed, that it was just the same as it was when the Rip van Winkle of the book fell asleep. That is nonsense. Human nature, as it has existed since we have had any record of its existence, would certainly have to undergo a most wonderful change before it could come to lose the element of selfishness which has ever been its leading characteristic and the chief incentive to human beings to perform labour of any kind. Mr. Bellamy's ideal social system and his unaltered human nature are incompatible. Had he placed the date of his philosophical romance two thousand years hence, and painted the slow progress of human nature from its present selfish individualism up to the unselfish socialism which he describes, his effort would have been more artistic. It would have had the elements of feasibility about it. In his last chapter he justifies the rapid transition from the sociology of the nineteenth century to that of the year two thousand, by instancing certain great political changes which have taken place in the history of America and European nations in a comparatively short space of time. But a local political change, and a radical change, in the thought and feeling and actuating motives of the whole human race are two different things. A political change is the work of a year, a month, or even a day. A change from selfishness to entire unselfishness in the whole human race would be the work of ages. His each nation its own producer and its own consumer scheme would not work, neither would his elaborate plan of industrial volunteering. It would take some motive more powerful than public opinion to make the immediate descendants the prototypes of some of the old "jokers" whom I saw skipping in and out of the Charitable Aid office a short time ago, come up to scratch to do their quarter of a century's hard graft for the State. It would take something more than "moral suasion" and a dread of high interest, I think, to prevent the young bloods of Mr. Bellamy's golden age from pricking off more than one year's credit cards in the twelve months. His mode of arranging commerce between the different nations is more suggestive, surely of a reversion to a very primitive state of civilisation than to a perfected civilisation. Altogether, though it may be high treason to say so, seeing that Mr. Bellamy's book is regarded by many people as a kind of inspired humanitarian gospel for the regeneration of the world, I think that his conception of

the brotherhood of man and of a federated world, though clever in many respects, has the fatal mark of utter impracticability upon it. As a panacea for existing evils the book is useless. Its theories are politically and philosophically unsound. From a literary point of view the book is inartistic. The story, as stories "with a purpose" should be, is not made an artistic setting for supposed truths. As a vehicle for conveyance to the world, in a popular form, of the chimerical reforms in the sociology of the civilised world, or a portion of it is altogether too heavy and lumbering. And worst of all, as I have inferred, the load which makes the wheels creak so much is practically valueless from a sociological and philosophical point of view. Far better would it be for writers like Mr. Bellamy to devote their abilities to advocating possible amelioration of poverty than the impossible abolition of it. Sorrow and suffering seem to be heaven-ordained conditions of human existence. It is vain to seek to entirely change those conditions. The wisest lips that ever spoke upon this earth have told us that there shall always be poor amongst us. That the human race should suffer is but the fulfilment of a Divine sentence which it is idle to dream of evading. The utmost that can be done is for the great human family to try to lighten that sentence for each other—to make the chains chafe a little less painfully upon each other's limbs. In order to learn their duty in that respect they need not go to the pages of Mr. Bellamy's ephemeral pamphlet. The lesson to "love one another," to "love your neighbour as yourself," is far more powerfully and more eloquently inculcated in other pages than his. That old lesson taught long ago and so awfully emphasised by the example of its Teacher seems to be forgotten, while people clap their hands and shout themselves hoarse with applause at what at best is but a new-fangled parody upon the sublime lesson which Christianity first taught of men's duty to each other.

Another book which was lately recommended to me as very fine and would probably find admirers among those awfully clever people for whom Christianity has become altogether too slow and "unsatisfying," is entitled "The New Continent." Since George Eliot and Edna Lyall made such a success of the hungering-after-truth kind of literature, the number of literary women who have endeavoured to follow in the same path has been legion. "Robert Elmore" seems to have given a new impetus to the production of books of the same kind. I must say that I have got very much surfeited with books in which gigantically-souled heroes or heroines grope after "truth" and wrestle agonisingly with doubt through the several hundreds of pages of a novel. The "truth"-seeking heroine and hero in "The New Continent" are about as wishy-washy and as mentally knock-kneed as the most colourless creations of this kind are made nowadays. These two people have great souls—souls much too big for Christianity to fill. I always observe that rejecters of Christianity fatten up their vanity with the belief that their souls and minds are about ninety-nine and three-fourths per cent, bigger than their neighbours. Well, these two great souls in "The New Continent," after an exhaustive grubbing-up of the old stumps of Christian superstition out of their minds, fill up the vacant holes with positivism. They throw themselves into the arms of the "new religion" and of each other at the same time. "Ha, ha!" they cry, in effect, "we have found something worthy of our doubly-distilled and a thousand times refined double-barrelled worship. Humanity is our God. The 'priest of positivism' to whom they betake themselves pats them on the head, and says, "The blessing of humanity be upon you," and dismisses them. The same jargon that these shallow-pated fools gabble in the book one frequently hears talked by other shallow-pated fools in real life, under the impression that they are making good their claim to be considered "advanced reasoners."

Mr. T. P. O'Connor's book, "The Great Irish Struggle," has just come to the hands of subscribers here. It is a handsomely got-up volume, and a most valuable addition to the National literature of Ireland. The cost of the book, 27s, is somewhat high, but it is beautifully bound in green cloth with gold letters. It is printed on fine, thick paper, and plentifully illustrated with representations of the Irish leaders and eviction scenes. The opening pages give a very fine description of Mr. Parnell, of the birth in the House of Commons of the now famous and powerful party weapon "obstruction," and of its originator, Mr. Biggar. The writer then goes on to deal exhaustively with the "great Irish struggle." It is to be hoped that cheap editions of the work will be shortly issued. It is one which should be in the hands of all Irish people.

The Rev. Father Halbwachs has departed for Shand's Track, and appears to be delighted with his new locale.

The text of the address which is being prepared for presentation to the Pope was published in the daily papers last week. The address, I believe, is to be a very unique and artistic affair when it is completed. The country districts are enthusiastically aiding the town in the matter.

For the first time, last Sunday I had a look at the township of Rangiora, and was very much surprised indeed to find it such a substantial little town. The main street would not disgrace a city. The hotels and the banks are very fine buildings. In fact, it only wants a cathedral to make it a very respectable little inland city.

While I was there a very large procession passed along the street and filed into the church. This was the funeral cortege of Miss Ellen Murray, the step-daughter of Mr. S. Green, an old and much respected resident of Rangiora. The deceased young lady, who had grown up in the district, was much esteemed, and her death was deeply deplored by a large circle of friends and companions.

Mr. Michael Lynskey, a son of Mr. Lynskey, of Kaiapoi, bids fair to make a name for himself in the scholastic world. This young fellow, who is not yet twenty years of age, has studied to such good purpose in school and out of it that at the last teachers' examination he won the D certificate, and was at once appointed third master in the Kaiapoi school. The perseverance and the studiousness which have enabled him to attain so good a position at such an early age will undoubtedly help him to gain still greater distinction in the profession he has chosen.

Very great and widespread sympathy is felt all over Canterbury for the young widow of the late Captain Fitzgerald, who was

drowned up north a week or two ago. A very sad fate, indeed, is hers. Seven months ago she was a bride. Now her new-made husband has been snatched from her in this tragic fashion.

I am very much pleased to be able to announce that at last the Brothers have a prospect of not having their existence prematurely terminated by residence in the damp, dusky old hovel in which they are located. Their new house, I believe, is to be begun immediately. The money for the building is to be borrowed at a low rate of interest. Twenty or twenty-five gentlemen guarantee to pay the interest, so apparently all difficulties in the way of the Brothers obtaining a decent abode have vanished.

Brother Joseph, who has recently shown symptoms of succumbing to the unhealthiness of the old place, is recovering from his indisposition.

Father O'Connor, too, according to the latest news of him, is becoming convalescent.

The weather gives indications of keeping fine for Father Le Menant's *fete*. It is anticipated that there will be 10,000 people on the grounds.

Father Cummings, assisted only by Father Aubrey, must be finding his office of parish priest in Barbadoes street no sinecure. The work is very heavy indeed.

I learn from a private source that our old friend, Mr. P. Leahy, who left us to reside in Dunedin eighteen months or so ago has joined the happy rank of Benedictines. His friends here, who are many, wish him all possible felicity on the auspicious occasion.

Father Le Menant's lucky star is in the ascendant. Monday morning has brought with it glorious weather, so the last and most important condition for the success of the great *fete* is fulfilled.

THE POPE AND THE EMPEROR.

(Roman correspondence of the Liverpool *Catholic Times*.)

The letter addressed by the German Emperor to the Holy Father is taken in Rome as indicating a disposition on his Majesty's part to cultivate good relations not only with the Vatican but also with the members of the Centre Party. Of course it is of the utmost importance to him to secure the support of the Centre, and it may be that this *arrière pensée* lurks in the letter which he addressed to the Holy Father. All the same his courteous and respectful attitude towards the head of the Catholic Church must be looked upon with gratification by all Catholics, who cannot fail to remark the contrast it presents when compared with the action of the Italian King and Government. The German Emperor wrote:

"Most August Pontiff.—The splendid manifestations by which your Holiness has always made your influence felt in favour of the poor and destitute of mankind inspire me with the hope that the International Conference which, on my invitation, will assemble at Berlin on the 15th of this month will attract the interest of your Holiness, and that you will follow with sympathy the progress of the deliberations, whose aim will be to ameliorate the lot of the working classes. In these circumstances, I consider it my duty to communicate to your Holiness the programme which will serve as a basis for the labours of the Conference, the success of which would be singularly facilitated if your Holiness would lend your benevolent support to the work of humanity in which I am engaged. I have therefore invited the Prince Bishop of Breslau, who I know is thoroughly imbued with the ideas of your Holiness, to take part in the Conference as my delegate. I willingly take this opportunity again to assure your Holiness of my esteem and of my personal devotion." This letter was signed by Prince Bismarck as well as by the Emperor. The Holy Father wrote in reply:—"Your Majesty,—We thank your Majesty for the letter you have been pleased to write with a view to interest us in the International Conference which is about to assemble at Berlin, with the object of finding means to improve the condition of the working classes. It is particularly agreeable to Us to congratulate your Majesty on having taken to heart a cause so noble, so worthy of serious attention, which interests so deeply the whole world. This cause has never ceased to engross Us, and the work undertaken by your Majesty responds to one of Our dearest wishes. We have already, as We are reminded, expressed Our thoughts on this subject, and in Our utterances We have strongly upheld the teaching of the Catholic Church, of which We are the head. On a more recent occasion We again referred to this teaching, and with a view to the just solution of this difficult and important problem, and to the proper safeguarding of the legitimate interests of the industrial classes, We pointed out to the various Governments the duties and special obligations which are incumbent on them. Undoubtedly, combined action on the part of the various Governments will greatly contribute to the success of the end so much desired. Unanimity of views and legislation in the several countries will tend greatly to advance the general inquiry towards an equitable conclusion. Thus We cannot but welcome most favourably all the deliberations of the Conference which are likely to raise the condition of the working classes, as, for example, discussions upon the arrangement of hours of labour in a manner more suited to the special characteristics of each worker, the age or the sex of the labourer, rest on the Lord's Day, and, in general, a discussion upon all those matters which tend to degrade the labourer to the position of a vile instrument, and have no regard for his dignity as a man, his morals, or his domestic well-being. It cannot, however, escape the notice of your Majesty that the successful solution of a matter of this importance will require, besides the wise intervention of the civil authority, the powerful co-operation of religion and the benevolent intervention of the Church. The religious sentiment, indeed, is the only thing that can give authority to law; and the Gospel is the only code containing the principles of true justice and those maxims of mutual charity which should unite all men as children of the same Father and members of the same family. Religion teaches the employer to respect the dignity of the workman and to treat him with justice and equity. It inculcates in the labourer a feeling of duty and responsibility, and makes him moral, sober, and

honest. It is because society has neglected and misunderstood the principles of religion that it is now disturbed to its very foundations. To recall these principles and to fill them with new life is the only way to re-establish society and to assure to it peace, order, and prosperity. Now it is the mission of the Church to preach and scatter abroad throughout the world these principles and doctrines. It is fitting, therefore, that it should exercise a large influence in the solution of the social problem. This influence We have exercised, and We shall continue to exercise it especially for the amelioration of the working classes. The bishops and the lesser clergy on their part will follow out these lines in their various dioceses; and We hope that this salutary action of the Church, far from meeting with opposition from the civil Powers, will receive from them aid and protection. We have, as assurance of this, in the first place, the interest that the various Governments are attaching to this grave question, and in the second place the kind invitation that your Majesty has just addressed to Us. Meanwhile, We earnestly pray that the work of the Conference may be full of the most beneficial results, and thoroughly satisfy the general expectation. Before closing We wish to express here Our pleasure in learning that your Majesty has invited to take part in the Conference, as a delegate, Mgr. Kopp, Prince-Bishop of Breslau. He will certainly feel greatly honoured by this mark of your Majesty's esteem upon this occasion. Finally, it is with the liveliest satisfaction that We express to your Majesty Our most sincere wishes for your Majesty's prosperity and for that of the Royal Family."

THE CATASTROPHE AT MONTREAL.

(Melbourne *Advocate*.)

THE large hospital for insane women destroyed by fire in Montreal was conducted by the "Grey Nuns," a congregation founded in Canada, in 1792, by Madame Jourville, a widow lady, who prevailed on several others of her sex who possessed large fortunes to unite their property with hers in one common fund, to be devoted to purposes of charity. They bound themselves by vow to the fulfilment of their respective duties as superintendant and assistants of a charitable asylum, and to support themselves by their own industry. Mr. Buckingham, in his "History of Canada," speaks of the work done by the Sisters in the highest terms. He says that on a visit paid to their hospital he found the wards for the sick and the insane better fitted with requisites, more spacious, airy and clean, than any of those in similar institutions which he had visited. The number of Sisters in charge of the place is nearly 100. In addition to caring for large numbers of lunatics at Long Point House, they provide a home for foundlings and orphans of whom they have in another building in Montreal nearly two hundred. "The properties of the Sisters (says Mr. Buckingham) yield a handsome revenue, which they judiciously and benevolently spend in works of the most disinterested charity, to which they devote all their labour and care. They are not stimulated by the admiration of the world, nor rewarded by the praises of mankind, but appear to be solely actuated by sincerely devotional or religious and benevolent feelings to the performance of their duties, for which their only reward is an approving conscience."

Our purpose in giving these particulars will be understood from the statement in the *Age* message that seven of the nuns perished in the flames while endeavouring to induce the patients to leave the burning building. According to the statement of the *Argus* correspondent, hundreds of the unfortunate patients, paralysed by fear, resisted all attempts to rescue them. Evidently the nuns persevered in the hopeless task till retreat was impossible to them. These heroic women thus died at their post, martyrs to a sense of duty.

A BLOW FOR ANGLICANS.

SIR G. G. STOKES, an eminent man in the scientific world, whose voice has been heard pretty often at Church Congresses and Church Defence meetings, delivered a most remarkable lecture in London last Sunday. Not only did he declare that the doctrine of the immortality of the soul was not, in his opinion, a part of the Christian faith, but he also gave it as his opinion that the doctrine of the resurrection of the body was "extravagant and incredible," and one with which it would be "very wrong indeed" to encumber the Christian religion. St. Paul, he observed, had denied the latter dogma! This is tolerably plain speaking for a champion of the Church of England; but, what is vastly more important, Sir G. G. Stokes said that he had letters from three Bishops of the Establishment who agreed with him that the doctrine of the immortality of the soul was not a thing to be necessarily believed. One of these prelates added that he had ventilated his opinions from the pulpit before he became a Bishop. It seems that the Episcopal consecration has at least imparted to this dignitary the virtue of prudence. But the point to which we wish to call the attention of our Anglican friends is this—Who is to decide the question? They will doubtless agree with us that this is a most dangerous, a practically dangerous, heresy; yet, on their theory, mankind must wait until the Roman, Greek, and Anglican Churches shall have settled their differences and held a General Council, before a really authoritative sentence can be pronounced against it. In fact, their theory plainly reduces the Church to absolute impotence, and leaves mankind to believe anything they choose, exactly as if the Church had never been founded at all.—*Liverpool Catholic Times*.

The Florence *Giorno* of a recent date publishes the retraction of Dom Eduardo Terzi, formerly a Capuchin Father, who some time ago became a Protestant. Father Terzi has done public penance, and been reconciled to the Church.

Commercial.

MESSRS. DONALD STRONACH AND SON report for the week ending May 21, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—The supply greatly exceeded the requirements of the trade, 335 head being yarded, and as a natural sequence values suffered a serious decline, say about 20s per head as compared with the rates current last week. The impression, however, is that this is the last very full market likely to be experienced this winter, and as turnips are none too plentiful it is not unlikely that values from this date will steadily improve. In the interests of graziers it is much to be desired that prices should harden, for the rates lately current cannot but have left them very serious losers in their operations. The cattle yarded this week included some extraordinary prime bullocks, notably the drafts from Edendale estate, Paihi, and Keith Hall.—Prices ranged as follows:—Best bullocks brought from £9 to £7 10s; good, £7 to £5 10s; light, £5 to £3 10s; cows, £6 10s to £2. We yarded 76 head and sold as follows:—33 head for Mr. M'Donald, 17 head for Mr. M'Donald, and small lots for Mr. W. Shand and Mr. Dundas at quotations.

Fat Sheep.—The number penned was 2919, all crossbreds of good to extra prime quality, with the exception of about 300 merino wethers. There was a good demand all through the sale, both for export and local consumption, and last week's values were well maintained. Prime crossbred wethers brought from 16s to 14s; medium do do, 13s 6d to 12s 6d; light do do, 12s to 11s; prime do ewes, 14s to 12s; medium do do, 11s 6d to 10s 6d; light do do, 10s to 9s; prime merino wethers (extra), 12s to 10s; medium do do, 9s to 6s. We sold drafts as follows:—On account of Mr. C. Bills, crossbred ewes at 16s; Mr. J. Henderson, crossbred ewes at 10s 9s; Mr. J. Rutherford, ewes at 11s.

Store Cattle.—In this class of stock we have no transactions to report.

Store Sheep.—A good demand exists for suitable lines of crossbred wethers for finishing off on turnips, but there are not many good lots offering. We also note a considerable inquiry for good crossbred breeding ewes.

Pigs.—A moderate supply came to hand, only 190 penned—say, about half of them good bacon pigs, and the other half porkers and stores. The demand was not great, but prices notwithstanding were just a shade better than last week. Bacon pigs brought from 42s to 28s; porkers, 27s to 23s; stores, 20s to 11s; suckers 10s to 6s.

Fat Lambs.—Only 280 penned, most of them fit for the freezing chamber. Under keen competition they found purchasers at from 11s 6d to 10s for best lots, and at from 9s to 7s 6d for medium quality.

Sheepskins.—The sales at the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday passed off as usual very satisfactorily. There was a full attendance of the trade, and late prices were well maintained. Butchers' green skins met with the most competition, but dry country skins are also in good demand. We quote—Butchers' green crossbreds, best, 4s 4d, 4s 3d, 4s 2d, 4s, 3s 10d, 3s 9d; good to medium and inferior, 3s 8d, 3s 7d, 3s 5d, 3s 3d, 3s 1d, 2s 11d, 2s 10d, 2s 9d, 2s 8d, 2s 7d; green merinos, 3s 4d, 3s 2d, 3s, 2s 11d, 2s 10d, 2s 8d, 2s 6d, 2s 3d, 2s; green lambskins, 4s 4d, 3s 10d, 3s 9d, 3s 7d, 3s 5d, 3s 3d, 3s 1d, 2s 10d, 2s 8d, 2s 6d; country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, 1s 5d to 3s 11d; do do merino, 1s 4d to 3s 3d; full woolled crossbreds, 4s 7d to 5s 9d; do do merino, 3s 3d to 5s 6d; dry pelts, 4d to 1s 3d.

Rabbitskins.—Buyers having large orders on hand are purchasing freely at equal to late quotations. The sales on Tuesday were well attended, and the bidding was spirited. The next series of sales in London open on the 23rd inst., and as the result of these will regulate the price here they are looked forward to with some degree of interest.

Hides.—All consignments as they come forward are taken up by local manufacturers at current prices. Prime heavy hides are greatly inquired for, and very good prices are paid for such as come up to that standard. A number of country consignments are almost ruined by the careless way in which they are flayed and through not being kept clean. In many cases a loss of fully 3s per hide is suffered through such carelessness. Quotations are unchanged since last reporting.

Tallow.—A strong inquiry exists for all descriptions, and full equivalents to London prices are now given. Best mixed tallow, in tins and other packages, is worth from 18s to 19s; and best rough fat, from 12s to 13s; other qualities in proportion.

Grain.—Wheat: A good demand continues to be experienced for prime milling samples at late quotations. Tuscan and velvet are in great request, but other varieties, too, meet with a good demand. Soft tough parcels are only saleable as fowls' wheat, which has a steady demand for shipping and local use. We quote:—Prime milling Tuscan and velvet 3s 3d to 3s 5d; other sorts, 3s 1d to 3s 3d; medium, 2s 9d to 2s 11d; inferior and fowls' wheat, 2s 3d to 2s 8d. Oats: A moderately fair amount of business has been transacted during the past week on the basis of last reported quotations, but, owing to the bulk of the consignments now coming forward being held for higher prices, it would be difficult to secure large lines of either feed or milling, except at an advance on prices lately current. The quantity of prime bright milling is much short of what might reasonably be expected, considering the favourable season; three-fourths of the samples presented show signs of being badly harvested. While a fair demand exists, we have no improvement to note in values, which we give as before, viz.—For stout bright milling, 1s 4d to 1s 5d; best short feed, 2s 3d to 1s 4d; medium, 1s 3d to 1s 3d; inferior, 1s to 1s 2d (ex store, sacks extra). Barley: There is no change to report in this cereal. Transactions, with the exception of an occasional purchase to execute a shipping order, are confined to the prime samples. A limited quantity is taken up for milling, but feed is unsaleable except at ridiculously low prices. We quote prime malting, 3s to 3s 3d; medium, 2s 6d to 2s 10d; milling, 2s to 2s 6d; feed, 1s 8d to 1s 10d.

Ryegrass.—Very little doing. Shipping demand has entirely ceased, and until the spring sowing commences we do not anticipate that much business will be done. Quotations unchanged.

MESSRS. DONALD REID AND CO. report for the week ending May 28, as follows:—

Sheepskins.—At our usual weekly sale on Tuesday we submitted a large catalogue. About half were dry skins and half green skins from town and country butchers. There was a poor attendance of buyers, and bidding was exceedingly slack, there being hardly any competition except for extra choice lines, and prices all round showed a decline of from 6d to 1s per skin. Butchers' green crossbreds sold at, 1s 8d to 4s; butchers' green merinos sold at, 1s 10d to 2s 4d; butchers' green lambs sold at, 2s 1d to 3s 6d; dry crossbreds sold at, 1s 3d to 4s 8d; dry merinos sold at, 1s 1d to 4s.

Hides.—Since our last report prices have not improved any; but there is a steady local demand, and all coming to hand are readily disposed of. We quote—prime heavies, 2d to 3d; medium to good, 2d to 2d; light and inferior, 1d to 2d; bulls' and slippy, 1d to 1d per lb.; calf skins, 6d to 1s 6d each.

Tallow.—The market continues bare, and all coming forward meets a ready sale. Prime is inquired for, but the supply available is very small. Medium and other grades meet a ready sale at late quotations. We quote—medium rendered, 15s to 16s; inferior, 10s to 13s; rough fat, 9s to 12s 6d per cwt.

Wheat.—Only a very limited supply came to hand during the week, and of this the greater portion has been of inferior quality. Only a very small quantity could be classed as suitable for milling. Really prime samples are still required, and notwithstanding that prices for ordinary milling are easier than they were a week ago, prime quality would still find ready sale at late prices. Medium and inferior sorts are plentiful, but meet with no demand from millers, and are only saleable as fowl wheat. We quote—Extra prime milling, 3s 2d to 3s 3d; ordinary prime milling, 2s 11d to 3s 1d; medium, 2s 8d to 2s 10d; fowl wheat, 2s 3d to 2s 7d.

Oats.—A large and steady supply is still arriving, and as the export business is at present practically at a standstill for want of freight, there are but few sales, and stocks are assuming large proportions. Fortunately for the market, growers as a rule are holding in the meantime, and sales are not being forced to any extent. Were the reverse the case, with the present limited demand, the effect would be disastrous. We quote—Milling, 1s 3d to 1s 4d; feed, 1s 2d to 1s 3d, sacks extra.

Barley.—A very limited business is being done at late quotations. **Potatoes.**—The arrivals are by no means large, but the demand being small, prices have not yet recovered. We quote—Prime, £2 10s to £2 15s; ordinary, £2 to £2 5s.

Chaff.—There is to-day a very full supply and prices have receded to some extent. The consumption is now large and we expect to see the market cleared again in a few days. Prices are, however, low, and likely to rule so as long as oats remain at present values. We quote—Prime heavy oatsheat, £2 to £2 5s; mixed chaff, £1 15s to £2.

Ryegrass.—There is no demand. Stocks are exceedingly light, and prices are likely to rule in sellers' favour. We quote—Farmers' dressed, 3s to 3s 9d; machine dressed, 4s to 4s 6d; off old pastures up to 5s.

Cocksfoot.—Best Akaroa, 4d to 4d; medium, 3d to 4d per lb.

RABBITSKINS MARKET.

MESSRS. ROBERT CLELAND AND CO. report as follows:—Supplies direct from the country are reaching us with greater freedom. The decline at the London sales last Friday prohibits any advance in price here further than the better quality of skins now killing warrants. We quote good autumns and early winters at 1s per lb.; inferiors in proportion.

Mr. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices:—Oats, 1s 2d to 1s 5d, bags extra. Wheat: Milling, 2s 10d to 3s 5d; fowls', 2s to 2s 9d, sacks included. Chaff, £2 10s for best; inferior, 30s to 40s, unsaleable. Hay: Oaten, £3; rye-grass, £3. Bran, £3. Pollard, £1. Potatoes: Seed, £2 10s; derwents, £2 10s to £3. Flour: Stone, £8 5s, for sacks; £9 for fifties; roller, £8 15s; fifties, £9 15s; Butter, tresh, 9d to 1s—rather scarce; salt, 6d to 8d—demand moderate. Eggs, 1s 6d.

Canon Basil Wilberforce is not a man who minces his words.—Speaking the other day to an audience at Southampton, he said that "the two most immoral works published during the century were Zola's 'La Terre' and Walter's 'Parnellism and Crime,'" and he added that "the two meanest apologies since the creation were Adam's to God and Webster's to Mr. Parnell." You cannot expect a healthy crop from a barren soil. As Shelly says, "Fear, Revenge and Wrong bring forth their kind. The foul cubs like their parents are."

The "Almanack of Gotha" has appeared annually for the lengthy period of one hundred and twenty-seven years. Its first number recorded the existence of only three republics—Switzerland, Saint Marin, and Andorra; to-day the number of republics is twenty-six. Of the reigning sovereigns the Holy Father is the oldest, having reached his eightieth year; then come the King of Holland, William III., who is seventy-three years old; Christian IX., King of Denmark, seventy-one; and the Queen of England, seventy. The youngest is Alphonso XIII. of Spain, who is only three years of age. Next to him come Alexander of Servia, Carlos I. of Portugal, and William II. of Germany, whose respective ages are thirteen, twenty-six, and thirty-one years. The Almanac mentions one hundred and seventy-eight orders of chivalry, fourteen of which are for women; Spain has the largest number. The oldest order is that of St. Andrew, created in England in 787.

Dublin Notes.

(From the National papers.)

NEW TIPPERARY will be honoured by the presence of some distinguished visitors in Easter week, among others the Hon. Bernard Coleridge, son of Mr. Justice Coleridge, Mr. George Leveson Gower, who is a nephew of Lord Granville's, and Mr. Spencer Balfour. There will also be a contingent from the Eighty Club. No more suitable spot could be found in all Ireland in which to see both sides of the question—on the one hand, the indomitable spirit and heroic self-sacrifice of the people; on the other, the fiendish work of ruthless destruction carried on in the name of British law by Irish landlordism.

The Dublin Poor Law elections this year have been signalled by a great increase in the Nationalist and Catholic vote. No fewer than five seats have been won; and two Nationalists are to sit for the forthcoming year as the representatives of the Fitzwilliam Ward at the South Dublin Board of Guardians. Neither a Nationalist nor a Catholic, since the Poor Law Act was passed, ever represented the Fitzwilliam Ward before. The victory represents the high tide of national feeling among the Dublin ratepayers. It is another sign of Mr. Balfour's success.

An old Irish prophecy, says the *Daily News*, declares that when an O'Doherty rules in Derry and an O'Donnell in Raphoe, Ireland will be free. Old Irish prophecies have before now been verified by events, and it is certainly curious that Dr. O'Doherty has just been consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Derry, in St. Eugene's Cathedral, Londonderry, and that the preacher on the occasion was Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe.

Trial by jury—even when it is a trial of Catholics by a Protestant jury and of Nationalists by an Orange jury—is not as bad as trial by Removables. So the Carrickmacross boycotters, who were brought all the way from Monaghan to Derry to be tried by their political foes, inspired, exhilarated, and encouraged by Mr. Justice O'Brien, have found. Notwithstanding the ingenuity of Solicitor-General Atkinson and the harangues of Judge O'Brien, the packed jury who tried the Carrickmacross men disagreed on Tuesday. A conviction may yet be secured by the methods known to jury-packers and jury bullies, but the significance of "a mere change in the administration of the law and not in the law itself" is made plain to all men.

The devastation of Donegal is an expression of the sentiments and opinions of the Cabinet that has framed the Land Purchase Bill. Those evictions have confiscated the property of the tenant in the soil. That is the aim of the Purchase Bill also. The evictions would, if the landlord had his way, put the cost of maintaining the people on their richer neighbours. That is the object of the Purchase Bill also. Up to the present Mr. Olphert has pocketed the charitable offerings of the people of Ireland and America for the relief of his tenantry as rent. The object of the Land Purchase Bill is to make the offerings not voluntary, but compulsory, to make the Viceroy and the tax-gatherer the collectors of them. So there is no inconsistency in Mr. Balfour's championship of the Purchase Bill and his support of Mr. Olphert.

On Friday March 28 the House of Lords adopted the Judges' Report. Let them be excused. They have reason to be angry with us, poor doomed impotents. There were just a couple of sentences in Lord Salisbury's speech that deserve notice on this side of the Channel. Speaking of the answer made by the Parliamentary party to those who charged them with complicity with crime Lord Salisbury said: "We have some scepticism on this. We did not charge them with complicity in crime, we charged them with using crime. We said there was a communication between the two parties which enabled the Parliamentary party to allow crime to go forward or restrain it in proportion as their political interests might require. As has been well expressed, they had their hands on the throttle-valve of crime. When they allowed crime to go forward it acted; when they pressed it, crime retreated. We were unable to admit, then, that no alliance of a tacit character existed between the bodies connected with such phenomena." That "we" is most material to the understanding of the conspiracy. It is the first confession of the Tories that it was they who were behind "Farnellism and Crime." It is the first public association of the Government with the *Times*. The "we" of the Forger and the "we" of her Majesty's First Minister are at length proclaimed to be one. This is the only thing worth remembering about the debate.

The two vacant Ulster seats were filled without a contest. Down is not the county on which our hopes are built for the increase of the Home Rule majority. Tyrone and Londonderry have first to be won before we make the final assault on the stronghold of suspicion and bigotry in the north-east. Dr. Kentoul, the new member, though he is a barrister and an LL.D., plays the raw-head-and-bloody-bones as well as ever Sanderson did. He swore before high heavens at the polling-booth that there will be a Golgotha ere Ulster submits. If there be, his cranium will not be among "dead men's skulls" that will strew the plain. This valiant County Councillor is described by the *Pall Mall Gazette* as "a fairly regular attendant at the meetings of the London Council, but he never—or hardly ever—takes part in the debates. He has an amiable weakness for appearing resplendent in a gorgeous sealskin-trimmed overcoat, and from the depths of that wondrous garment he blandly smiles upon his fellow councilors what time they fight the battles of Bettefremont, Blackwall Tunnels, and the like." We dare say he will wear his gorgeous sealskin and his bland smile at the promised charge of Ulster's chivalry.

Mr. Verey Knox is now "the hon. member for West Cavan." So passes the title of the trusty Joseph Biggar. Well, his successor promises to wear it worthily. He is the eleventh Protestant elected for an Irish constituency where the bigoted Catholics are in the majority. By the way, when will the Catholic Unionists get a chance. Is there no corner of the small domain of Unionism where

a place might be found for those uneasy Unionist spirits, Messrs. Quill and Sherlock? Still we cannot lay the blame for this exclusiveness wholly on the rampant Orangeism of the Irish Coercionists. They have enough of deadheads already—*vide* T. W. Russell *passim*; and any addition from the ranks of the Catholics would increase the number. Two other contests will shortly be decided in Great Britain—in the constituencies of Carnarvon and Windsor. The former being situated in gallant little Wales should send the Unionist to the right about, although up to the present the vote of its representative has been cast for coercion. Windsor, on the other hand, ought, as Mr. T. D. Sullivan said of the Isle of Wight, to grow nothing but primroses. Not so thinks the Liberal candidate, Mr. Grenfell, who is fighting to win, and deserving victory. Even in Windsor the tide is said to be sweeping for Home Rule.

If there was any danger of the constituencies forgetting the atrocities that form the staple record of Mr. Balfour during his reign they are not to be permitted to do so. Clongorey came in time for North St. Pancras; Glasserchoo affords the cruel object-lesson to the electors of Carnarvon and Windsor. Still, there is a sign of wavering in the dealings of the brave champion of the exterminators in Donegal. Twenty-five families were evicted on Wednesday, but it was not until the last moment that "the forces of the Crown" were placed at the service of the evictor. The writs on two other estates were allowed to lapse, and for the first time Mr. Balfour imitated the humane policy of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. This is a sign of the times.

In the meanwhile that wonderful Tenants' Defence Fund continues to grow. When we prophesied that it would reach £50,000, we may confess it now, we mistrusted our rashness. However, there it stands at more than £54,000, and it is quite apparent the only rash statement we could make about it is a statement that would place a limit to the self-sacrifice and determination of the people. In view of the proposal to impound a quarter of a million a year in order to create an insurance fund for the repayment of the landlord's arrears, the money is well invested by the ratepayers. It is the best "contingent guarantee" for the national credit that could be created.

The law has received another magnificent vindication. On Friday, March 28, an old woman of eighty, one of the Clongorey tenants, her niece and her niece's husband and infant child, were seized by the agents of the law and hauled to prison for the crime of refusing to demolish the shelter erected on the old woman's farm for her fellow-tenants who had been evicted from their homes. The arrest was accomplished under a warrant issued by the County Court Judge in conformity with the law as expounded by Vice-Chancellor Chatterton. Judge Darley did not conceal his doubts as to the correctness of the judgment, for which no reason was alleged except the fact that the sheltered tenants were Campaign tenants. The warrant, moreover, has lain by since January, as its indecent cruelty was too conspicuous. Now, however, it is produced before the disgust excited by the proceedings connected with the arrest of Father Kinsella has had time to subside. Under what extraordinary plea the tenants' relatives, who were merely living with her, have been arrested we cannot discern. It looks as if the illegality of the previous proceedings was being repeated. Legal or illegal, the indecency and cruelty are the same, and they are both perpetrated at a timely moment to remind us of the character of the constructors and commanders of the new Land Bill.

Sir Thomas Esmonde is coming back by a French port. He was due there on Tuesday, April 1, and in London on Thursday. Both the delegates deserve the heartiest of Irish welcomes after the work they have done during the past year.

The decision which was delivered by Mr. Meldon, R.M., in Cashel court-house on Thursday, March 27, is the most extraordinary and most scandalous yet delivered in a Coercion Court, and that is saying a good deal. There was not a particle of evidence against Mr. Kelly. He was proved to have visited certain tenants of Mr. Smith-Barry, and to have asked one of them what he served with a writ; and on this he is found guilty of conspiracy to compel the tenants not to pay their rents, and a sentence of four months' imprisonment with hard labour is imposed. It is an outrage—a violent outrage. The Chief Baron has to test Mr. Meldon's law, but even if his law be correct his construction of the facts is a scandal.

A Coercion Court was erected for the first time in the County Carlow, week ending March 29. The cause of the appearance of two Removables in the model county is not without instruction at the present moment, when the credit of the taxpayers is about to be pledged over their heads for the carrying out of other agreements. The "criminals" were charged with resisting seizures made for a levy in aid of a railway guarantee which the unrepresentative Grand Jury sanctioned. Carlow has no rent trouble. It has been panegyricised by both Pether the Packer and Mr. Justice William O'Brien. But the infliction of a tax for the purpose of inflating the dividend of the Great Southern and Western Railway is more than the peaceable county can stomach. What is likely, we may ask, to be their attitude to a tax levied by the Viceregal order for the purpose of making good the bad debts of some tenant who has enabled his landlord to walk off with one and a-half times the value of his property? The Removables will have something to do in Carlow in that event, and their work there will, judging from experience, be but a faint reflection of the work cut out for them in other parts of Ireland. This Carlow prosecution is a most seasonable incident.

Mr. Sexton brought an ardent Pigottist to book on Friday, March 28, in the House of Commons. Sir W. Marriott, who has been rewarded by the Tory Government for his desertion from the Liberal ranks with the post of Judge Advocate-General, made a most malignant attack upon the Irish party in the United Club, in the course of which, referring to the Forgeries Commission, he had the cool audacity to state that, on the whole, the *Times* had substantiated the points with which they started, and that the letters were not charges against the Irish members; that they were only evidences of charges. This coming from one holding an official position in the Government was certainly cool; but the shuffling way in which the

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creature endeavoured to get out of it when Mr. Sexton brought the matter forward as a matter of privilege is more characteristic of the Liberal Unionist allies of the Tory party than anything that has happened for a long time. The Speaker having decided that the matter could not be raised as a matter of privilege, suggested that the easiest way would be to ask the right hon. gentleman for an explanation, whereupon Sir William rose and stated that "a great deal of what was said was not serious, but was rather chaff." Mr. Sexton's retort was magnificent, and brought a volley of cheers from the Opposition, in which the voice of the Grand Old Man was prominent. "I will leave him," said the member for West Belfast, "to what he has richly earned—the contempt of the House and the contempt of the country."

THE CATHOLIC PERIODICAL PRESS.

A PAPER BY GEORGE DERING WOLFF, L.L.D., AT THE BALTIMORE CONGRESS.

(Continued.)

ANOTHER improvement in Catholic newspapers, we are inclined to think, would be their more commonly republishing editorials and "Church News," or summaries of them, taken from other Catholic newspapers and duly credited.

Still another and a highly important requisite is their taking measures to secure fresher and fuller reports written by loyal, devout Catholics, of what Catholics in other countries are doing, and also of what the enemies of the Church are doing in those countries.

The great need of this will be obvious to every one if he considers that the news agencies of Europe are almost entirely under the management of persons who are not only non-Catholics, but in a large number of instances infidels and bitter enemies of the Catholic Church. We believe that our leading daily newspapers, with a few exceptions, honestly wish to be fair and truthful in the reports which they publish respecting Catholic affairs, but their foreign correspondents being in some cases anti-Catholic, in others non-Catholic, and in only a few instances real, true Catholics, as a matter of course, the reports they send, even of true occurrences, are discoloured, one-sided, and often intentionally falsified. Moreover, their news agents and correspondents are always on the *qui vive* for "news," and consequently seize upon every report and rumour, without delaying sufficiently to enable them to ascertain its authenticity or accuracy. They enlarge upon it, comment upon it, give it the shape and colouring which they think will make it most sensational, and then telegraph or mail it at once to this country. Here it is quickly published. Our Catholic newspapers have no such facilities for promptly receiving authentic news. They may be fully convinced of the falsity of the reports that are published in the non-Catholic newspapers, but they cannot promptly contradict them nor satisfactorily explain and expose the discolourations and prevarications of those that are partly true and partly untrue. After a week or two they obtain definite information, and are able to disprove the false report or to give a true version of what has been misrepresented. But the falsehoods and misrepresentations have already done their bad work in misleading public opinion, and the corrections and refutations made by Catholic newspapers, if made at all, are too late to attract attention.

To relieve the Catholic Press of this enormous disadvantage two things are necessary. The first is to establish and maintain an active, vigilant, and energetic Catholic associate press agency. The second is to establish in one of our large cities a Catholic daily newspaper, subsequently to be followed by the establishment of others in other large cities. The idea of a Catholic associate press has been mooted before and pronounced impracticable by persons of large practical experience and keen business insight. Yet, for all that, we remain unconvinced of its impracticability, and urge it upon the attention of our brethren of the Catholic Press. We do this all the more confidently and earnestly because we are strongly supported by persons whose judgment is entitled to high consideration. Among them are several experienced Catholic journalists who have spoken favourably of the undertaking.

The establishing of a Catholic daily newspaper is necessary, because Catholic weekly journals (owing to the fact that they are published only once a week) cannot quickly expose and refute the falsehoods and calumnies that are constantly invented and spread abroad respecting the Church, and especially respecting the Holy See. In this rapidly moving age of ours what is to be done effectively must be done at once. In our conflict with the enemies of our religion our counter strokes must follow their blows with lightning-like speed.

The Fathers of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore thoroughly understand this. They declare:

"It is greatly to be desired that in each of our large cities a Catholic daily newspaper be maintained, fully equal to the secular daily newspapers in financial strength, and the sagacity, vigour, and power of its writers. Nor is it necessary that the word Catholic be displayed at the head of its pages. It is sufficient that, in addition to recent occurrences, and all those things which in other daily newspapers are eagerly desired, it defend, whenever a proper opportunity present itself, the Catholic Church from the assaults and calumnies of its enemies, and explain its doctrine; and, moreover, that it carefully abstain from placing before its readers anything that is scandalous, indecent, or unbecoming."

It is argued that a Catholic daily newspaper cannot be successfully maintained. Why? Is it because of want of sufficient capital, of sufficient journalistic talent, of sufficient administrative ability among the Catholics of the United States? Emphatically, it is *not*. There is to-day more than enough capital invested by Catholics in non-Catholic newspapers all over the land to amply provide for a dozen or score of Catholic dailies. There are, on the great non-

Catholic dailies of our large cities, Catholics, who, in sagacity, quickness, fullness of knowledge, and all that goes to make a successful journalist, are peers to any of their non-Catholic fellow-workers. As for administrative, executive, directing ability, we have Catholics managing successfully and with distinguished ability railroads, mills, mines, factories, banks and insurance companies. Passing strange would it be if Catholic talent could not be found competent to cope with the difficult task of managing a great daily newspaper. What is really wanting is the *will*. As soon as the Catholics in the United States will to establish such a newspaper, the men and the money to maintain and conduct it will quickly be found. And until such a newspaper (or a number of them) shall have been established, the Catholics of this country will not be doing what they might do and ought to do to defend the Church, and to promote the welfare, social, moral, and religious, of the great people, of which Catholics are an integral component part; and consequently they will not be doing what they might do, and ought to do, to preserve and perpetuate our civil institutions, of which it is needless to say that morality and religion, combined with intelligence, are the firmest supports.

And now to prevent any possible misunderstanding we add that we have passed over, as not needing to be suggested, that as a matter of course, Catholic newspapers designed for a general circulation should not confine themselves to subjects of a strictly religious character. They should discuss intelligently the events and occurrences of the day, questions of civil polity, questions that refer to the industrial, commercial, and other interests of our country, but not in a narrow or partisan sense. Along with this they should furnish their readers, according to the condition, circumstances, tastes and social status of those whose support they respectively aim at securing, what will best amuse and interest them. In short, they should aim to present in their columns all that characterises a pure, fresh, entertaining, vigorous newspaper.

The importance of this seems to us self-evident, but it is not sufficiently attended to by the editors of some of our Catholic newspapers. Their pages lack variety. In some instances they are too heavy. The range of topics covered both by their editorials and their selections is too narrow. The "scissors and the paste-pot" are employed too hurriedly, and without sufficient thought or good judgment. In other words, too little care and discrimination are exercised in making selections of matter taken from other newspapers and periodicals. There is too much "padding." Too little attention is given to the process of "boiling down"; the art and power of summarising and condensing into smaller compass, yet preserving the pith and substance of what is thus summarised, are too seldom employed. There is room for improvement in these respects in many of our Catholic newspapers. We are sure, too, that such improvement will be followed by increased circulation.

But that Catholic newspapers may even approach the realisation of what we have been urging, it is necessary that a support far greater than that which any of them now receive be accorded them. Until this is done, and it is not done now, much that we have written will be entirely impracticable, purely visionary. Editors of Catholic newspapers and their assistants are notoriously overworked and underpaid. There are, among editors and writers for Catholic newspapers, men of eminent ability, sincerely desirous to do their full duty in their respective positions; men who, in other pursuits, or on non-Catholic journals, might win their way to fortune and fame, yet who receive a meagre compensation. They are *overworked*, for no one or two or three men can properly and thoroughly do the work that is comprehended in an *ideal* Catholic newspaper as we have sketched it. Yet the ideal is not, emphatically *not*, a visionary or impracticable one.

Were it necessary to give sharper point to what we have written, we might easily do it. We could name at least ten or twelve Protestant journals, which, as respects numerical strength of editorial staff, number of regular contributors and correspondents, scholarly work, careful thought, and painstaking, discriminating labour employed on them, contrast most forcibly and favourably with even the best of our Catholic newspapers. In the respects mentioned they are incomparably superior to almost every, if not to every Catholic newspaper in our country. It is unpleasant to say this; it is unpleasant to you to hear it; but, unhappily, it is true.

Whose fault is all this? Is it that of the owners or business managers of Catholic newspapers? To the latter question we answer no. There are exceptions, but, as a rule, we believe that the current supposition is entirely false. The fault lies at the door of the *Catholic public*, and we believe that our intelligent, educated Catholics are *most to blame* as regards this. They expend for themselves and their families ten, twenty, fifty dollars on non-Catholic publications for every two or five dollars that they expend on Catholic periodicals and newspapers. Converse with one of these intelligent, educated Catholics. He tells you he is deeply interested in some special subject which directly concerns the interests of the Church or some movement in favour of or against the Church. Hand to him a Catholic newspaper, or monthly, or quarterly, which contains an interesting article from a Catholic writer of distinguished ability on that very subject—say from Cardinal Manning or Cardinal Newman. He thanks you warmly, he will read it with great pleasure; not now; he has not time; but soon. The article could be read in five minutes. It is placed on his table, perhaps it speedily finds its way, unread, into his waste basket; or it is labelled carefully, placed where it may be easily found, and then it is forgotten. Meanwhile he and his family consume hours every day in reading non-Catholic newspapers and periodicals, some of which contain things which every Catholic should conscientiously abstain from reading. This is no fancy sketch. Every observing Catholic writer knows that it is true.

As regards Catholic young men and young women, and Catholics of the less educated class, it is notorious that they spend dollars for sensational, trashy "story papers" and novels, where they spend five cents for a Catholic newspaper.

There is still another class: Catholics who attend to their religious duties, and take a daily or weekly non-Catholic paper for the sake of reading the "news," but who take no Catholic news-

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Rome, 17th August, 1889.

My Dear Lord,—I have just returned from the Vatican, where I had the happiness to present His Holiness the beautiful manual sent to me [ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER BOOK], which he graciously accepted.

I explained to him its import and contents—prayers, hymns, and devout canticles; adding that there was one also for the Pope. He gave most graciously his Apostolic blessing to the religious community that compiled it, to the editors and publishers, and to all who will devoutly use it.—My dear Lord, yours always affectionately,

† T. KIBBY, Archbishop, etc.

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paper, no Catholic journal or periodical of any description; who are content to be as ignorant as "a heathen" of all that is going on in the Catholic Church, outside of their own parish, who hear and know nothing whatever of what is going on even in their own diocese, who know nothing whatever about what the Church is doing throughout our country, or in Europe, Asia, or Africa; nothing whatever about the movements of its enemies, nothing about what is doing in defence of the truth and for the welfare of society; nothing whatever about its great charitable and missionary operations. The Holy Father might be tortured, or murdered, or driven from Rome, and they would remain ignorant of it until told of it by some better informed fellow Catholic, or by some sneering, scoffing non-Catholic acquaintance.

The Catholic newspaper Press *cannot* be what it ought to be, and what it might be, until it is much more generally and generously sustained. This we state emphatically as a self-evident fact.

To obtain these, the owners, managers, and editors of Catholic newspapers must, as a necessary requisite and despite their limited resources strenuously strive to make their respective journals more worthy of support than very many of them now are.

Where are we to look for a remedy? We reply unhesitatingly, to the Catholic clergy. Without their active, practical assistance owners, managers, and editors of Catholic newspapers will labour in vain to secure for their publications the support they ought to have, and which, for the proper promotion of Catholic interests it is necessary for them to have. We have the goodwill of the Catholic clergy so far as general approval and desire for our success go; but these are not enough. We need, we require their earnest, active efforts to increase the circulation of Catholic newspapers in every one of their respective parishes.

Our Holy Father has blessed Catholic writers and their work, and especially Catholic journalists. The Fathers of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore have repeated that blessing. They declare that those of them who give themselves faithfully to the work are worthy of all praise, and that their memory will be held in benediction. They desire that their numbers and strength shall daily increase. They desire that the circulation of Catholic journals shall be greatly enlarged. But these same Fathers also declare in their pastoral address:

"But all this will be only words in the air, unless it can be brought home to each parent and made practical in each household. If the head of each Catholic family will recognise it as his privilege and his duty to contribute toward supporting the Catholic press by subscribing for one or more Catholic periodicals and keeping himself well acquainted with the information they impart, then the Catholic press will be sure to attain its rightful development and to accomplish its destined mission."

Who can reach the heads of Catholic families—reach them effectively? The Catholic press, using its best efforts, employing the most successful canvassers, *cannot*. We mean cannot without the active assistance of our prelates and clergy. Even with their assistance it will be a difficult work. We have the testimony of worthy zealous priests who have energetically laboured to increase the circulation of Catholic newspapers in their respective parishes, that their efforts were attended with but little success. Yet, difficult as the work is, it must be undertaken, continued, and persevered in, until success crowns, as success eventually will crown it, if it be thus carried on. For until this work is accomplished, the Catholic press of our country, to a great extent, will fail to fulfil its high mission, but when it shall have been accomplished, then will our Catholic periodical press become, as Our Holy Father Leo XIII. urges it should strive to become—a most efficient and potent instrumentality for advancing the highest instruments of society and defending the Church.

The *Figaro* fathers the following bull upon the author of an essay upon "La Domestie en France," which (so it says) has just been published; "We have spoken of that sanguinary year, 1793. In those troubled times it was that French domestics set an example of the greatest devotion. There were many even who, rather than betray their masters, allowed themselves to be guillotined in their place, and who, when happier days returned, silently and respectfully went back to their work."

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Father Richardson is giving a course of lectures on the inspiration of Scripture, at the Catholic Church of St. Wilfrid, Ventnor, Isle of Wight. Having expressed his sorrow at the sad concessions now being made by advanced High Churchmen to the worst excesses of German Rationalism, he has received a characteristic letter from the Venerable Archdeacon Denison. Addressing Father Richardson as his "Dear Brother in Christ," the Archdeacon thanks him for his "true kindness," and adds, "In my eighty-fifth year, at the close of life, so to speak, of perpetual contention, for the rights and liberties of the Church of England, I am brought face to face with 'Lux Mundi,' the most grievous specimen of 'Defence of Truth' of all those I have had to contend against, and the most ruinous under all the circumstances of its production—a blow 'ab intra' without parallel. The Archdeacon says that the "Branch Theory" finds no favour with him, and that he knows of "one only Church Catholic throughout the world." Why, then, does not our venerable friend join it? As a confirmation of Father Richardson's remarks we may state that a minister recently lectured on the Bible at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and unbelievers wrote to the local press expressing their satisfaction at finding that there was really no difference between him and them.—*Catholic Times*.

PRISCILLA'S FORTUNE.

"You were born to good luck, Priscilla," said stout Mrs. Hackett, as she accepted a cup of fragrant tea from the hands of her niece. "You know I always said so from the time you were a baby."

Priscilla Carew looked about her, a faint smile on her lips. The room was small, the furniture old, the floor covered with a rag carpet, very much the worse for wear. The damask on the tea table was the last of her mother's wedding set, and had been darned in every direction; and the only comfortable chair was a big wooden rocker, with a faded patchwork cushion, stuffed with duck's feathers. The room has a cosy look, however, for Priscilla was a born house-keeper, and about her always reigned order and cleanliness. The cookstove was as bright as a daily polish could make it, the row of bright tin pans on the dresser shelf were without a stain, and the old dresser itself was white with innumerable scrubbing. In the family sitting-room beyond, the andirons before the fireplace shone like gold, the bricks were newly reddened, and an immense bunch of feathery asparagus filled the empty space, for it was only on state occasions that a fire was built there. The floor was covered with plain dark, three-ply carpet, to buy which Priscilla had made many sacrifices of youthful inclinations in the way of cuffs, collars, and ribbons. A round table stood in the centre of the room, and on it were the family Bible, two small albums, a copy of Shakespeare, and a large lamp. There were half a dozen wooden chairs against the wall and a settee covered with a cretonne cushion. On the high mantel were a pair of glass vases, a china shepherdess, a cup and saucer that had belonged to Priscilla's great-grandmother, and a small basket of wax fruit under a glass case.

Priscilla's gaze took in every article of furniture in the two rooms, and then her eyes rested on her mother, a faded, weary-looking woman, whose life has been one long struggle with care, privation, poverty and hard work. Priscilla always felt a little bitter towards fate when she thought of her mother. It seemed hard that even now in her old age, her mother was obliged to toil, and to turn every penny before she spent it.

"I never thought myself very lucky, aunt," said Priscilla. "That's because you ain't of the thankful sort," said Mrs. Hackett. "You'd find plenty o' girls willin' to step into your shoes, now you're to have old Matthew Pounce's fortune."

"Oh, very likely, now," said Priscilla. "But don't be too sure that I'll have the fortune, Aunt Hackett. The will may be found after all."

"Tain't likely now; they've looked everywhere for it. Simpson was up there searchin' before the breath was fairly out of the old man's body. Pity he died so sudden. But perhaps it's better for you, Priscilla, that he did, for he might a' cut you out o' your fortune. What are you going to do first, Priscilla?"

"I am going to wait until the fortune is really mine before I do anything, Aunt Hackett. Meanwhile, I shall teach school, as usual."

"Well, if you ain't the queerest! You don't seem a bit set up. Some girls would 'a' gone clear out o' their heads over such luck. But maybe you're right to hold on to your school, for your Uncle Eden says it'll be some time before the estate can be settled. I'll look for you to make a good match, now, Priscilla."

A sudden flush dyed Priscilla's cheeks scarlet. Her thoughts flew to John Morris. Would he be considered a good match? Probably not, for John had only his farm and stock, and if report did not speak falsely, old Matthew Pounce had been worth a hundred thousand dollars.

Time had been when Priscilla, planning for the days to come and sure of John's love, and that he would some day ask her to be his wife, thought of the comfort her mother would enjoy at Cloverdale Farm, her working days over for ever. But now it was of Matthew Pounce's big stone house that she thought. If she were, indeed, heiress to a hundred thousand dollars she would not care to live at Cloverdale Farm. But would John consent to share her wealth? Would he, for love of her, give up his independence? These were questions she could not answer.

She walked to the garden gate with Mrs. Hackett when that good woman went away, and stood there looking out into the dusty road long after Mrs. Hackett's substantial figure had disappeared in the dusk.

Priscilla had talked very little of Matthew Pounce's fortune, but she had thought of it a great deal, and had made vague plans for the future already, though in the great stone house on the hill the undertaker and his assistants were yet busy.

Matthew Pounce had never married, and Priscilla was the only child of his only nephew, and the last of the line. But she had never looked upon herself as the old man's heiress. He had been cold, crabbed and selfish, and had never been known to do a kind or generous act. Priscilla well remembered the day, ten years before, when she had gone to the stone house to ask aid for her dying father, who would never have made the appeal himself. It had been refused in no gentle terms.

"I've never asked anyone to help me," said the old man, "and I started without a dollar. What one man can do another can. When a man's down it's his own fault, usually no one to blame for it but himself, and he can't expect other people to suffer for his faults. My money was made by hard work, and I ain't goin' to squander it. You won't get a cent of it now, nor after I'm gone. Don't expect it; you'd only be disappointed. My plan for disposing of my money has been cut and dried for twenty years."

The cold, heartless words came back to Priscilla now, as she stood at the gate in the dusk of the June evening, the fragrance of roses filling the air. Matthew Pounce was dead, and no will could be found. If he had died intestate, as seemed to be the case, Priscilla would have everything.

"It's only on mother's account I want it," she thought. "Poor mother! She won't know herself as mistress of Uncle Matthew's big house."

She heard the sound of horse's hoofs on the hard road and looked up eagerly, her colour brightening as she saw John Morris on his big

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black mare Diana. It seemed at first as if he did not intend to stop, and Priscilla's heart turned sick with disappointment and surprise, for John seldom passed the cottage without pausing for a few words with her at least.

But just beyond the gate he pulled up the mare with a jerk.

"I hear you've come in for a big fortune, Priscilla," he said, as he swung himself from the saddle. "I suppose I ought to congratulate you."

"Wait until the fortune is really mine," said Priscilla.

"Oh, there seems to be no doubt that you'll have it," said John, gloomily. "And I can't afford to wait, for probably I shall leave here in a day or two."

The colour died out of Priscilla's face. For a moment she could not utter a word.

"What do you mean, John?" she asked, when she could command her voice.

"Only that I've had an offer for the farm, and I think I'll take it. I want to try ranch life in Colorado. Cicely's going to be married next month, you know, and there'll be nothing to keep me here."

He did not look at her as he spoke, but kept his eyes on the ground.

Priscilla said nothing in reply. She was asking herself what could be the cause of the change in her lover. She could not understand it. He was usually radiant with good humour, and she had expected to talk freely with him of her changed prospects, but his air of gloom and the coldness of his manner did not invite confidence.

Her heart was very heavy when he had ridden away again, and as she washed the supper dishes and put the kitchen in order for the night, she was scarcely conscious what she was doing, so occupied was her mind with thoughts of John Morris. It was almost a year since he had begun to be attentive to her. He had met her often as she was leaving the schoolhouse at 4 o'clock, and had walked home with her, leading his horse by the bridle, and saying all sorts of pleasant things, which, while neither brilliant nor witty, made Priscilla's heart beat fast, and gave her the assurance that she was beloved.

He had made a practice, too, of coming to tea on Sunday evenings, and lately had referred more than once to his dread of being very lonely when Cicely should be gone, and only old Sarah Cole left to keep him company.

And Priscilla had fondly imagined this was the prelude to asking her to make Cloverdale her home.

"Seems to me you're awful quiet this evenin', Priscilla," said her mother who was knitting by the light of a kerosene lamp. "You don't seem a bit pleased over your fortune."

Her fortune! Priscilla had, in her misery, forgotten all about that. What did it matter if she were rich or poor if John Morris were to be hundreds of miles away from her, roughing it on a Colorado ranch?

She cried herself to sleep that night, and dreamed that she saw John Morris married to a Colorado girl, who was terribly old and ugly and walked with a limp.

She was reminded of her dream the next morning when Cicely Morris stepped in on her way to the village, eager to talk to Priscilla about old Matthew's money.

It was Saturday, and there was no school, and Priscilla was at home busy making cake. It was a jelly cake, and the jelly was laid very thick between the thin loaves—just as John liked it. For Priscilla cherished the hope that John might come to tea as usual the next evening.

"You don't look a bit like an heiress, Priscilla," said Cicely.—"You're as sober as an owl."

"What ought I to do?" asked Priscilla.

"Well, I don't know exactly; I never saw an heiress before.—I'll read up the subject and let you know. Are you going to the funeral this afternoon? But of course you are. Everybody's going; everybody except John. He has gone to Barnesville, and won't be back till night. I shouldn't wonder if he were courting Amelia Bacon."

The knife with which Priscilla was spreading jelly dropped to the table with a clatter. She pulled open the table drawer, and bent over it, pretending to be searching for something.

"Who is Amelia Bacon?" she asked.

"A girl he met at the country fair last year. She lives in Barnesville," answered Cicely.

"Is she ugly?" asked Priscilla, remembering her dream.

Cicely stared at her a moment.

"What a queer question," she said. "No; she's perfectly lovely. But she isn't the sort of a girl to get along on a farm. John ought not to think of her for a moment."

Mrs. Hackett came in just then to see if Priscilla intended to wear mourning to the funeral, and so the subject of the fair Amelia was dropped. But enough had been said to add considerably to the weight of Priscilla's heart, and she began to feel as if the gulf between herself and John was getting very wide indeed.

The funeral was a long, dismal affair, the discourse commonplace and tedious; and Priscilla was very glad when it was all over, and she was at liberty to return home.

She had hardly removed her bonnet and the black dress she had worn out of respect to her Aunt Hackett's idea of decorum, when Mr. Simpson, her late grandfather's lawyer, called to see her. His manner was the very essence of respect. It seemed to Priscilla that he did not forget for a moment that she had inherited old Matthew's money.

"There's been a thorough search made for the will, Miss Carew," he said. "But it hasn't been found. I can't account for its loss, for Mr. Pounce wasn't a man to burn one will before he had made another. And his heart was set on building an hospital for old men; he spoke of it to me very often. But as things are, you're the heir, and you can move into the stone house to-morrow if you like."

"I think I'll wait awhile," said Priscilla, coolly. "I want to be on the safe side, and the will may yet be found."

"There's not much chance of it," said Mr. Simpson, but he did not argue the matter.

Priscilla put on her best dress and tied a pink ribbon at her throat on Sunday evening, for, in spite of what Cicely had said about Amelia Bacon, she felt that there was a chance that John might come.

But hour after hour passed and he did not appear, and only Mrs. Carew tasted the jelly cake at supper. Priscilla would not touch it. She told herself she was sorry she had been so foolish as to make it, and that she might have known there'd be no one to eat it except her mother.

"Let him go to Colorado," she thought, as at nine o'clock she repaired to her own room. "I sha'n't say anything against it, and he can marry that Amelia Bacon. I don't care!"

She cried herself to sleep, nevertheless, and looked like a ghost when she came downstairs the next morning.

She rode to the schoolhouse after breakfast in Farmer Nesbitt's light waggon, having thankfully accepted the offer of a "lift," but before she had driven a rod she wished she had gone on foot as usual, for Mr. Nesbitt began at once to talk of John Morris.

"John told me last evenin' that he had to give an answer to-morrow about the farm," said the old man. "He seems set on goin' to Colorado, an' won't wait no longer'n to get Sissy married. I don't see who first give him the notion o' gain'. I allers thought John one o' the steady sort."

Priscilla was glad when the schoolhouse was reached and she could escape the sound of her lover's name. But she found it hard to give her thoughts to her work, and her teaching that morning was purely mechanical. She could not forget for a moment that John was going to Colorado.

At recess, as she sat at her desk trying to give her mind to the correction of some examples in multiplication, she was surprised to see her Aunt Hackett enter, breathless and excited.

"Priscilla, I've got some awful news to tell you," she cried, as she threw herself exhausted into the nearest seat. "Try to bear it, child. They've found the will—tucked away in an old dictionary. And you won't get a penny—not a penny. It all goes to a hospital. Oh, ain't it shameful! I declare, I could 'a'burst out cryin' when I heard it."

Priscilla had started to her feet as her aunt began to speak, but now sank into her chair again.

"I always supposed they'd find the will, Aunt Hackett," she said, "I never felt at all like an heiress. And you see I wasn't born to good luck, after all."

Mrs. Hackett was amazed at her niece's coolness.

"Never in my life did I see anybody take news as easy as Priscilla," she said later, in telling her story of her call at the school house. "If anything, she seemed glad she lost her fortune."

It was a long, weary day to the young school teacher, and she was detained at her desk later than usual, having to prepare some work for the morrow. It was nearly 6 o'clock when she locked the school house door behind her, and turned away—to see John Morris standing under a tree not a yard off.

"I've been waiting for you, Priscilla," he said, as he took from her the pile of books she was carrying. "I want to tell you that I'm not going to Colorado, after all."

"Not going!" exclaimed Priscilla. "Why have you given it up?"

"Because you've lost your fortune, Priscilla, and I want to take the place of it, if you'll have me, darling. I couldn't ask you to be my wife if you were going to be rich, Priscilla, but—"

"And—Amelia Bacon," interrupted Priscilla. "Cicely told me—"

"A lot of nonsense. She told me about it, dear. She only wanted to find out if you really cared for me. Do you Priscilla?"

It was quite dark when Priscilla entered the snug kitchen of her humble home, where her mother and aunt were discussing over the tea table the loss of old Matthew's money, and wondering why Priscilla didn't come home to discuss it with them.

The girl's eyes shone like stars—her cheeks were flushed and her mouth smiling.

"Aunt Hackett," she said, bending over that comely little woman to press a kiss on her still smooth cheek, "you were right. I was born to good luck."

"Whatever do you mean, Priscilla? Gracious! to look at you one wouldn't suppose you had just lost a fortune."

"I've lost one and found another," laughed Priscilla.

And then she told them about John.—Exchange.

Three-fourths or more of the Catholics of Great Britain are Irish; nearly all of the Australian Catholics are Irish; the proportion of Irish in the Catholic population of South Africa is very great, and a considerable percentage of the Catholics of Canada and Newfoundland. That would give us close on six millions and a half; and we would not be much out in fixing the number at six and a quarter and six and a half millions.

It is said to be the intention of the Emperor of Japan to make the Catholic the religion of his empire. He is said to look upon Catholicity with great favour, and has expressed himself as much pleased with and strongly favourable towards the coming Council of the Church in his dominions. In many parts of Japan our missionaries have found traditions, and even practices of the faith preached there more than two hundred years ago.

The committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund announces some important discoveries at the Pool of Bethesda. A fresco has been discovered on a wall of the crypt of the ancient church which marks the Pool. It represents an angel troubling the water, and thus shows that in the days of the Crusades the place was fully recognised as the spot mentioned in Biblical history.

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A PLAIN QUESTION.

I (*Truth*) have recently endeavoured—vainly—to extract from Mr. Matthews a plain answer to a plain question. My question has been this: Was Frederick Jarvis at Kansas City, and subsequently at Del Norte (the town close by Sheridan's Rancho), at any time during the months of November and December, 1888? Mr. Matthews persistently replies that the Chief of the Criminal Investigation Department says that Frederick Jarvis was not there during that time. Asked whether he will cause inquiry to be made of Jarvis himself, he declines to do so. I do not exactly know who the Chief of the Criminal Investigation Department is. But this I assert: either that he has not inquired of Jarvis, and knows himself nothing of the movements of Jarvis, or that he is deliberately telling an untruth.

The denial is important, because it shows that the Government are fully aware how damning it is to them if it can be shown that one of their constables was aiding and abetting the *Times* in its attempt to induce Sheridan to come forward as a *Times* witness, and that it will stick at no *suggestio falsi* or *suppressio veri* in order to escape from admission of this. I again repeat that Jarvis was at Kansas City and at Del Norte at the time that I have mentioned; and I defy Mr. Matthews, or the Chief of the Investigation Department, to obtain a statement from him that he was not.

If the exact facts were known it would be found that, in order to evade possible inquiry, Jarvis was at that time given a nominal leave of absence. That he should have betaken himself to Del Norte—a small town situated in a remote part of the State of Colorado—for his own private affairs or for his private pleasure, is simply incredible. He went there in connection with the *Times*' attempt on Sheridan, and I do not entertain the vestige of a doubt that he reported—either in writing or verbally—to his superiors what he did there.

JUST DO YOUR BEST.

(By JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.)

THE sign is bad when folks commence
A findin' fault with Providence,
And balkin' cause the earth don't shake
At ev'ry prancin' step they take,
No man is great till he can see
How less than little he would be
If stripped to self, and stark and bare,
He hung his sign out anywhere.

My doctern is to lay aside
Contentions and be satisfied;
Just do your best, and praise er blame
That foliers that counts just the same.
I've allus noticed that great success
Is mixed with troubles, more or less,
And it's the man who does the best
That gets more kicks than all the rest.

MEASURING THE BABY.

We measured the riotous baby
Against the cottage wall—
A lily grew at the threshold,
And the boy was just as tall!
A royal tiger lily,
With spots of purple and gold,
And a heart like a jewelled chalice,
The fragrant dew to hold.

Without, the bluebirds whistled
High up in the old roof trees,
And to and fro at the window,
The red rose rocked her bees:
And the wee pink fists of the baby
Were never a moment still,
Snatching at shine and shadow
That danced on the lattice sill.

His eyes were wide as blue bells,
His mouth like a flower unblown,
Two little bare feet, like funny white mice,
Peeping out from the snowy gown;
And we thought, with a thrill of rapture,
That yet had a touch of pain,
When June rolls round with her roses,
We'll measure the boy again.

Ah me! in the darkened chamber,
With the sunshine shut away,
Through tears that fell like a bitter rain,
We measured the boy to-day;
And the little bare feet that were dimpled
And sweet as a budding rose,
Lay side by side together,
In the bush of a long repose.

Up from the dainty pillow,
White as the risen dawn,
The fair little face lay smiling
With the light of heaven thereon;
And the dear little hands, like rose leaves
Dropped from a rose, lay still,
Never to snatch at the sunshine,
That crept to the shrouded sill.

We measured the sleeping baby
With ribbons white as snow,
For the shining rosewood casket
That waited him below;
And out of the darkened chamber
We crept with a childless moan;
To the Height of the sinless angels
Our little one had grown.
—EMMA ALICE BROWNE.

THE STILL-REFLECTING HOUSTON.

I (*Truth*, March 27) published a fortnight ago a letter from Messrs. Wontner, informing me that I had libelled their client, Mr. Houston, and, in any case, that I had been guilty of an unwarrantable impertinence in regard to his respected name. Regarding it as a piece of unwarrantable impertinence of Messrs. Wontner to pester me with their opinions of my conduct, I published the letter without condescending to reply to it. Messrs. Wontner concluded their letter with a dark hint as to legal proceedings on the part of their client. This, from lawyers of their eminence, I thought foolish, for the alleged libel was simply a skit upon the gross and criminal credulity (I use the mildest terms) of Mr. Houston, and I should have had no difficulty in proving that the innuendoes contained in the alleged libels were true in substance and in fact, and were published for the public benefit.

I have received no further communication from Messrs. Wontner in respect to this matter, and I confess that I am somewhat disappointed in not having an opportunity to draw from their client under cross-examination a good deal respecting his relations with Pigott, which still remain veiled in mystery. Personally, I have no feeling against Mr. Houston, and if he likes to send me a letter explaining all connected with the purchase, etc., of the letters, I shall be most happy to publish it. What I particularly want to know is from whom he received the money to purchase the letters; how he came to have such confidence in Pigott as to send him on a fishing expedition to get hold of letters; why he accepted and paid for the letters without testing in any way their authenticity; and finally, why he destroyed all communications between himself and Pigott when he received a subpoena to appear before the Special Commission.

Houston himself seems to have been the instrument of others. He had been employed in some humble capacity on a Dublin newspaper, and he was made Secretary of the Loyal and Patriotic Association, the leading spirits of which were English and Irish Liberal-Unionists. He wished to distinguish himself by making some sort of a *coup*. He was told that compromising letters would be useful, and he turned to Pigott to produce some. His explanation to the Special Commission of how he first obtained the money to engage Pigott to look for such letters, and how he got the money to pay for them when produced, was by no means satisfactory. He said that the money was lent to him. "Lent" seems hardly the right term for the advance. Pigott having handed him over these letters, and he having paid Pigott, he submitted them to Lord Hartington and to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, asking for them an amount in excess of what he had paid for them. Ultimately the *Times* bought them and published them, without even asking through whom they had been procured. What Houston's precise relations with Pigott were we shall never know, for he destroyed the letters that passed between them. When I last saw Pigott he told me that he had a number of communications from Houston, some signed and others unsigned. These, he said, were in his house at Kingstown, and he offered to give them over to me. Thinking that he might repent of this determination, no sooner did he leave me than I sent for two men of energy, and told them that I should want them to go over by the night express to Ireland, and to find themselves in Pigott's house the next morning. They were to tell the servant that he had desired that the letters were to be handed over to me, and, in fact, to come back with them. But when I stated what I was about to have done, the legal element was startled, and registered a protest against these quasi-legal proceedings. The directions were therefore countermanded.

In the meantime, Shannon, as agent of the *Times*, saw Pigott. What occurred at the interview is not known. But the result of the interview is known. Pigott withdrew a portion of his confession. He telegraphed to his maid-servant to destroy Houston's letters. He sent her £30 in notes, which were subsequently traced to Mr. Sames. He left the country, and on his arrival at Madrid he telegraphed to Shannon to say that he was there. As Pigott is dead, and the law does not allow Shannon to be racked, how far all this was *post*, and how far it was *propter* will never be known.

General von Capriovi, the new German Chancellor, never has a pipe out of his mouth when he is awake, except during his meals, and he drinks beer by the gallon. He is a man of considerable ability and most deliberate in all his proceedings. He always meditates for a minute or two before answering even the most trifling question.—*Truth*.

The rule is that unconsciousness, not pain, attends the final act. A natural death is not more painful than birth. Painlessly we come; whence we know not. Painlessly we go; where we know not.—Nature kindly provides an anæsthetic for the body when the spirit leaves it. Previous to that moment, and in preparation for it, respiration becomes feeble, generally slow and short, often accompanied by long inspirations and short, sudden expirations, so that the blood is steadily less and less oxygenated. At the same time the heart acts with corresponding debility, producing a slow, feeble, and often irregular pulse. As this process goes on the blood is not only driven to the head with diminished force and in less quantity, but what flows there is loaded with carbonic acid gas, a powerful anæsthetic, the same as derived from charcoal. Subjected to the influence of this gas, the nerve centres lose consciousness and sensibility, apparent sleep creeps over the system, then comes stupor, and then the end.—*St. Louis Republic*.

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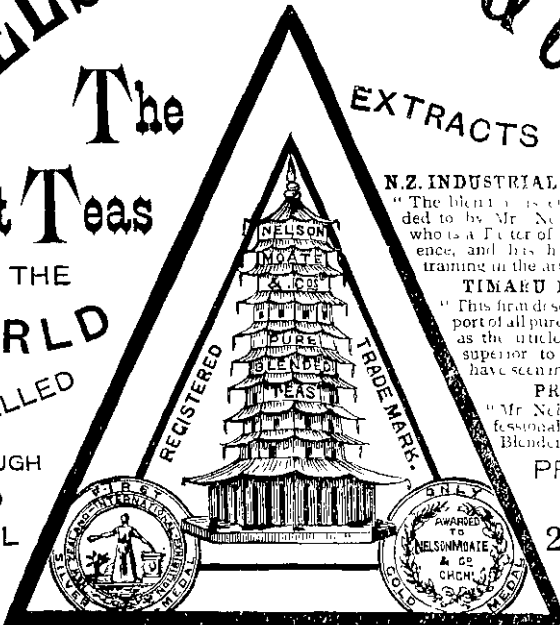
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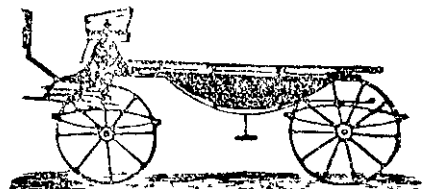
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A THOROUGHLY BAD BILL.

(United Ireland, April 5.)

THE last of the Land Bills, in its dreary expanse of complicated clauses and sub-clauses, is at length before the world. It seems a strange thing to say that its complication is the very best thing about it from its promoters' point of view. But it is true. Nothing could be so fatal to its prospect of passing as to be clearly understood. Therefore, the attempt is made with much ingenuity to smother its meaning in mystery. It is as intricate as a maze. It is a succession of screens. The object is to conceal from every class concerned how far they are injuriously affected. From the British taxpayer is hidden the unpleasant fact that on the British Exchequer must fall the ultimate liability for the £33,000,000 dealt out to the Irish rack-renters, and that all the interposed securities are shams. On the other hand, the Irish ratepaying public are assured that the wild scheme for making the funds for the support of lunatics and paupers, and for the promotion of education in Ireland, responsible for the rack-renters' purchase money, is a mere piece of financial playfulness, never intended to have any serious effect. "I decline," said Mr. Balfour, to "contemplate any such contingency." But, all the same, the contingency is contemplated, and the provision is included in the Bill, and the British taxpayer is assured it is a valuable security for his protection. To the Irish tenant the audacious pretence is made that it is a special kindness to him to compel him, for the first five years, to pay an instalment largely in excess of the full interest on his purchase money—in many cases double the amount—as a kind of collateral cash security for an extravagant advance to his landlord. Let each one of these three great classes once come to understand what is really intended; let them realise that the interests of all three are to be sacrificed to the most worthless and justly-despised class in the community, the Irish rack-renters, and there is an end to the measure. It is a thoroughly bad Bill from whatever point of view it may be regarded. There is no real guarantee for the £33,000,000 which the public Treasury is to be induced to advance on false pretences. The contingent security of the Irish Poorlaw Educational Fund and local rates is a transparent fraud—indeed, it is an almost admitted fraud. It may give trouble, but it won't supply coin. If the worst come to the worst, it can never be seriously proposed that Irish paupers are to starve, Irish lunatics to be turned out of the asylums, and Irish peasant children forbidden to learn their A B C, for the sake of extravagant Irish rack-renters—the Abercorns and the Waterfords, and the other noble and most noble friends and *protégés* of the Coercion Government.—It must be remembered that there is and can be no moral sanction for this sequestration of Irish local rates and Imperial contributions to local purposes. The consent of the ratepayers is neither obtained nor demanded. The Bill, if it passes at all, will pass by force and against the unanimous protest of the representatives of three provinces, at least, of Ireland.—There is no moral obligation to submit to such extortion. Concerted resistance to the contingent guarantee will be not merely a right, but a duty if resistance become necessary. The British, taxpayer, then must look to the primary security, the land itself, for the loan if he be foolish enough to make it. This would be good security enough if the price were a fair one and voluntarily contracted to be paid. But the contract between landlord and tenant is pretty certain to be forced, and the price is not likely to be fair. We cannot forget that Sir James Caird, a high authority, once declared in the columns of the "Forger" that the 558,000 holdings in Ireland were of "no commercial value whatever," and that "their rents were not recoverable either by the Government or the landlords." The "Forger" at the time vehemently endorsed his statement. This bold statement may not be true in its entirety, but it certainly has a larger spice of truth in it than is generally to be found in the utterances of the "Forger." The nominal rental always in arrears is no test at all of the value of the lands, yet on this nominal rental the Land Purchase scheme is to be based. While exorbitant arrears of rack-rent are preserved, while Coercion is maintained, and while eviction is encouraged, there can be no real contract between the Irish rack-renter and the Irish tenant who is so completely at his mercy. The British taxpayer is to plank down £33,000,000 on the strength of mock contracts, made under stress and often impossibility of fulfilment. He has the land to get, of course, in default of repayment. But the question arises, how the Government is to realise this security? The Government can hardly hope to farm at a profit ten-acre holdings in Donegal or Connemara; and as to reletting on the plantation system farms evicted for nonpayment of an impossible purchase-money, Captain Hamilton's experience at Coolgreany does not give much countenance to that prospect as a paying commercial speculation. The real security, as we have said, would be free sale at fair prices, and possibly a collateral free local guarantee by a competent local authority. All these things are absent from the Bill. We need not labour to show the general injustice to Ireland of a measure which proposes to confiscate and lock up all local funds, and all Imperial contributions to local purposes, however useful, or even necessary, in the interest of the rack-renters alone. To the tenant-farmer the Bill is especially unjust. He has been hoping for, and was entitled to, something much better than Lord Ashbourne's Act; he is offered something much worse. We cannot dwell too long or too strongly on the iniquitous "insurance" fraud; especially as its meaning is sought to be ingeniously obscured by terms of the Bill. At the risk of wearying our readers we will endeavour to further expose it. For making such things clear there is nothing like a special illustration. We give an illustration of its working. The Taaffe estate in the county Mayo is a typical congested estate. On the Taaffe estate the tenants were by judicious pressure induced to offer, under Lord Ashbourne's Act, seven years' purchase of the rental of their miserable holdings. But the Commissioners refused to sanction the sale on the ground that the price was exorbitant and the security insufficient. We are, therefore, justified in assuming that seven years' purchase will be regarded as a

fair price for holdings on many estates in the congested districts. We will take such an estate. We will take it that the tenant of a £10 a year holding buys for seven years' purchase on his rental. If he buys under Lord Ashbourne's Act his annual instalments from the first will be interest at the rate of 4 per cent on his purchase money, £70—that is to say, only £2 16s a year. If he buys under the provisions of Balfour's Act, he will have for the first five years to pay an annual instalment of £8, or interest at the rate of nearly 10 per cent on his purchase money. In one case he gets a reduction of £7 4s, in the other of £2 a year. A careful consideration of these figures ought, we think, to dispose of the Act so far as the Irish tenant-farmer is concerned. The congested district provisions are really too silly to be seriously discussed. As we have already shown, the insurance fraud presses harder and harder, the more worthless the land and the poorer the tenants. The philanthropic provisions seem to have been devised by children playing at legislation, or by their grandmother in her dotage. A philanthropic board of Castle-hacks and place-hunters, setting up as retail dealers in seed, oats, and potatoes, and ascertaining before they sell a stone of either, not merely the solvency, but the good faith of each individual purchaser, or regulating to the hour the period that a Connemara peasant may, with due regard to public interest, permit his married son to reside in a separate house on his holding, are absurdities that must be met by ridicule not argument. The Bill is, as we have said, thoroughly bad. It will be bad for both countries, if it passes. But it is just possible it may prove to be a bad one only for its fraudulent promoters.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

I (*Truth*) never expected that the German Emperor and the German Chancellor would hit it off long together. The former is a Prussian Lieutenant, under the illusion that he is not only the Emperor of his country, but the ablest being within his own dominions. He is by no means a fool, but lacks experience, as well as most other things which, taken together, make a statesman. At the present moment his fad seems to be a desire to be a "father" to his people, and, like the first King of Prussia, he regards any one who ventures to differ from him as an enemy of all that is good. When tired of his whim, he will probably revert to soldiering, and seek to emulate the deeds of Frederick the Great. A more unsatisfactory young gentleman to have in his hands the destinies of a great nation and the peace of Europe cannot well be conceived; and that the Chancellor should have preferred retirement to making himself responsible for the flighty politics of such a master can well be understood.

Prince Bismarck may fairly say of himself what Lord Grey said in 1834:—"I have descended, not fallen, from power."

History repeats itself. The German youth who is now Emperor would do well to ponder over the following episode in the record of King Rehoboam:—

"But he forsook the counsel of the old men which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him.

"So Israel rebelled against the House of David until this day. . . . There was none that followed the House of David but the tribe of Judah only."

For Rehoboam read William, for David read Hohenzollern, for Israel read Germany, and for Judah read Prussia.

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If you take a severe cold, and are threatened with a fever, with pains in the head, back, and limbs, one or two doses of SEIGEL'S OPERATING PILLS will break up the cold and prevent the fever.

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Often times disease, or partially decayed food cause sickness, nausea, and diarrhoea. If the bowels are cleansed from this impurity with a dose of SEIGEL'S OPERATING PILLS, these disagreeable effects will vanish, and good health will result.

SEIGEL'S OPERATING PILLS prevent ill-effects from excess in eating or drinking. A good dose at bedtime renders a person fit for business in the morning.

These Pills, being Sugar-coated, are pleasant to take. The disagreeable taste common to most Pills is obviated.

FOR SALE BY ALL CHEMISTS, DRUGGISTS
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It having been represented to us that an intermediate quality of Twine between our PRIZE MEDAL DOUBLE-BEELED MANILLA and N.Z. Flax Brands was required to meet the Competition (IN PRICE) of inferior Makes, we have decided to manufacture 50 to 100 TONS of

SECOND QUALITY TWINE

(Half Manilla Fibre and half New Zealand Flax).

Whilst having every confidence that this Twine will give more satisfaction than have the inferior ones above referred to, we do not however, give the same absolute assurance—as we do with our Prize Medal Manilla—THAT NO HITCH WILL OCCUR IN THE CASE OF HEAVY CROPS IN BAD WEATHER.

In order to prevent mistakes, we shall put a Dark-Blue Ticket on this Class, thus:—

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In finish and construction it is far superior to any other."

DOUBLE-FURROW PLOUGHS (the Best Material and Workmanship throughout).

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"A' 'AE OO."

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The New Zealand Public are asked to recognise the benefit to them of being able to purchase

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In addition to the above funds, the office has an ANNUAL INCOME of over ...	£288,000

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* Information can be obtained at the Head Office and all Branches and Agencies, and also from the Travelling Agents of the Department.

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