

Irish people would have known how to value such an act, and by so doing he would have given them an additional reason for confidence in his judgment and political sagacity. Here we feel ourselves compelled to stop. The subject is too painful for further comment, and we venture to express the hope that Irishmen everywhere will also drop the question, and, whilst ranging themselves under the banner of Mr. JUSTIN MCCARTHY and Mr. GLADSTONE, make up their minds to discuss no more the sorrowful incidents of Mr. PARNELL's latest developments. Little said is easily mended, and as Irishmen cannot possibly, with honour to themselves or loyalty to the cause of Home Rule, now follow Mr. PARNELL as leader, they will wisely abstain from all discussion, which cannot result in any good to that cause, and can only do mischief to the best interests of Ireland, and their own good name. It is deplorable it should be so, but the fault lies with Mr. PARNELL himself, and not with the Irish people or any of the friends of Home Rule. We said in the beginning that we had little confidence in the cablegrams, and we think any attentive reader of these must coincide in this opinion. Not infrequently these cablegrams are contradictory; sometimes they make statements which we know to be contrary to fact. For example, only on Tuesday last a cablegram told us that the Limerick Bank was to honour cheques on the Parliamentary Fund. Well, the fact is there is no Limerick Bank; and this is not a solitary instance. It will be wise, therefore, to wait till the newspapers belonging to all parties arrive before coming to a final decision on all the circumstances of Mr. PARNELL's case. Meantime we may consider ourselves safe in believing that the majority of the Parliamentary party has seceded from him and elected a chairman in his stead. And this is sufficient to show us on which side we should range ourselves. We shall never, however, cease to feel extremely grateful to Mr. PARNELL for his great services to Ireland and extremely sorry for the misfortune that has overtaken him.

THE following cablegram, dated London, December 9, was received last week by the Most Rev. Dr. Moran. Owing to his Lordship's absence from Dunedin it did not reach us in time for insertion in our last issue:—"Cause saved. Party relies on New Zealand, and stands firm. Justin McCarthy, chairman; Deasy, Esmonde, whips." Similar messages, we understand, have been received respectively by the Hon. Mr. Buckley, Wellington, and Mr. Sheehan, Auckland.

THE Christian Brothers desire us to return their sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the school prize fund. The names of contributors will be inserted in our next issue. The pupils' annual display will be held in St. Joseph's Hall, Dowling street, at 8 p.m. on Friday, the 19th inst.

MR. LARNACH has addressed a farewell letter to his late constituents of the Peninsula, in which he very legitimately recalls the benefits conferred by him personally or through his instrumentality on their district. But does not Mr. Larnach know that we have changed all that, or are about to change it, directly Parliament meets? It is not the part of the capitalist now to plead the useful manner in which he has spent his money. He should excuse himself for being the owner of money at all. And, what is more, money is not wanted. The people in Bellamy's book go shopping with a card and a pin, and that is what we also are going to attain to. Mr. Larnach has done very well according to his lights, but all that is relegated to the dark ages. A different course altogether lies before Mr. Larnach's successor.

THE Sisters of Mercy acknowledge though the advertisement columns of the Wellington *Post* of the 12th inst. the receipt of a donation of £723 towards St. Joseph's Orphanage Building Fund, as the joint contribution of Mrs. Grace, Mrs. Perceval, Mr. Sydney Johnson, and Mr. Charles Johnson.

I (*Truth*) think it was a mistake in Mr. Dillon to give an interview to Blowitz, of the *Times*, for he might be certain that he would be misrepresented. Of course, Mr. Dillon never said that he renounced dynamite. No one has ever suspected him of ever having had anything to do with such tactics. Blowitz must have been perfectly aware of this. The *Times*, in printing the letter of Blowitz, must have been aware that the alleged observation never had been made, and the indignant Tory newspapers who write articles denouncing Mr. Dillon for having admitted that he once was engaged in dynamite proceedings, must have been aware that the assertion was as impudently mendacious as were the Pigott letters.

WHEN Mr. Stead went on his famous journey to Rome (says the *Liverpool Catholic Times*), he assured the readers of the *Pall Mall Gazette* that "Rome does not care for the Press." The statement

was one of those hasty conclusions to which this undoubtedly able journalist has rushed from time to time. The truth is that there is no man in Europe who appreciates more thoroughly than Leo XIII. the value of a sound, vigorous, honest Press. Witness what he says in his latest Encyclical. He earnestly impresses upon the faithful that the Catholic Press is one of the best possible means for the defence of truth, and that it is their duty to support it both directly and indirectly. His Holiness is fully alive to the importance of placing in the hands of the people an antidote to the stream of misrepresentations of Catholic doctrines and practices poured forth by interested and bigoted journalists.

THERE was a very large attendance of parents and friends at St. Mary's Convent, Hill street, yesterday afternoon, (says the *Wellington Post* of the 10th inst.), when the prizes were distributed to the young ladies attending the High School in connection with this institution by his Grace Archbishop Bedwood. Before the prizes were handed over to the successful pupils an entertainment was provided in a manner which spoke volumes for the excellent training to be had at this school. The programme was as follows:—Entree, "Don Juan" (duet arranged for two pianos), Misses L. McDonald, L. Wright, O. Walkley, and J. Murray; chorus and solo, "Sweet Wild Rose," the school and Misses Carkeek and Brady; recitation, "The King and the Child," Miss A. Kennedy; song, "Home they brought her Warrior dead," Miss L. McDonald; "Gaieté de Cœur" (duet on two pianos), Misses Brady, Wright, L. McDonald, and Tracy; recitation, "The last night of Joan of Arc," Miss E. Carkeek; chorus and soli, "The Voices of the Night," the school and Misses McDonald, Carkeek, and Brady; duet on two pianos, "Echo of Lucerne," junior pupils, Misses F. Wright, L. Corrado, N. Falconer, and G. Gallagher; song, "Kathleen Mavourneen," Miss L. McDonald; recitation, "Scene in a tenement house," Miss Wright; chorus and soli, "The Music of the Birds," the school and Misses McDonald, Carkeek, and Brady; French recitation, "Les Animaux malades de la peste," Misses O'Connor, L. McDonald, Brady, J. Murray, Wright, J. Reid, and M. Gallagher; duet on two pianos, "Gaëcana mazurka," Misses Brady, Carkeek, Fairhall, and Tracy; recitation, "David's lament for Absalom," Miss Sullivan; "Orpheus," duet on two pianos, Misses Sullivan, Gallagher, Duignan, and Corrado; finale, "All Hail! Zealandia!" the school. During a short interval in the proceedings the friends present were enabled to inspect the needle-work of the scholars, also the drawings and paintings in oil and water colour, and some really beautiful works were to be seen. His Grace Archbishop Bedwood having distributed the prizes thanked the young ladies and their teachers for the capital entertainment provided and complimented them on the highly gratifying results obtained at their recent examination. He trusted that still greater results would yet be achieved. It gave him much pleasure to hear their general conduct so highly eulogised, and he hoped that they would carry this into their home life. One thing he wished particularly to impress upon them and that was the necessity for regularity of attendance on the part of day pupils.—His Grace expressed his high appreciation of their musical and literary accomplishments, drawing, painting, etc., but trusted that while no chance was thrown away for improvement in these branches of their education they would not forget the very great importance of making themselves thoroughly acquainted with the ordinary duties of the housewife. In conclusion, his Grace wished one and all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and a return to school with renewed vigour. The proceedings, which had been very enthusiastic throughout, terminated amidst hearty applause from the young people.

WE accidentally omitted to mention in our last issue the arrival in Dunedin of the Rev. Father Coffey, a priest lately ordained in Ireland for the diocese in question. The rev. gentleman, we may add, is a nephew of the Rev. Father Foley, S.M., the genial and popular parish priest of Pimaru. Father Coffey came to New Zealand by way of the Australian colonies, and was present at the celebration of the Bishop of Maitland's Jubilee, of which we recently published a report.

THE annual concert of Mr. Leech's violin school, which took place at the Choral Hall, Dunedin, during the week was again a pronounced success. The performance of the pupils showed unmistakable marks of painstaking and skilful instruction—and quite a wonderful degree of proficiency had in several instances been attained by them. Songs, which proved very acceptable to the audience, were sung by the Misses Leech and Morrison, and Mr. Manson.

OUR contemporary the *Napier Daily Telegraph*, devotes a leader to an expression of his joy that Messrs Dillon and O'Brien have been sentenced to six months imprisonment. Our contemporary also gives a definition of boycotting as evolved from the imagination of an Emergencyman with which a bountiful nature seems to have copiously endowed him. But our contemporary had already told us that a great part of his life had been spent as a cadet on a station. Should