

maidens will now come forward and declare that the country is largely indebted to them on account of the free and godless education they have been compelled to provide for other people's children." And, no doubt, a reasonable and righteous claim this would be, for it does appear monstrously unjust that well-to-do people should pay no more towards the expense of the education of their children than their childless servants and labourers do. But these gentry, who are so intellectual and so proud of their intellectuality that even a hint calculated to disparage their abilities is absolutely intolerable, are unable, it appears, to see any disparity between the case of the unmarried men and women of the country and the Catholic body. These people have eyes and see not; at all events, in this connection they entirely ignore the fact that Catholics have schools which they provide for the education of their children, and that, consequently, having done their duty to their children, and provided for them all the State can demand, it is extreme injustice and tyranny to compel them to pay also for the free and godless education of well-to-do people's children. Here, then, we encounter a new argument very similar to the police and railway argument, and equally absurd on the part of men who are touchy as to their intellectual standing. Intellectual standing! oh, it is high, indeed. Their arguments prove how high it is. The Bishop, we are quite certain, is sorry for having said a word to depreciate the intellectual standing of the advocates of secular education in this country, but he is not to blame in the matter. If people make themselves absurd and ridiculous, how can he help it? They, not he, must bear the blame. Then as to France and Italy, to which "KALAMOS" points so triumphantly, he ignores all facts and seems to be ignorant that the state of things now prevailing in these countries has been brought about by anti-Catholic and foreign influence, and that it is in defiance of the overwhelming majority of these countries. Secret societies, and the ruffianism and the scum of all European countries, have chiefly, if not entirely, contributed to bring it about. See GARIBALDI'S red shirts for example. The prevailing element among these was most disreputable, and England herself contributed not a small contingent. If the masses of these countries were in a position to freely give their opinion, this state of things would be reversed to-morrow. Nothing can be more certain than this. In France a Government official dare not go to Mass, under pain of dismissal if noticed, and in Italy no one can vote without taking an oath of allegiance to the Sardinian Government now located in Rome, which the overwhelming majority of the people refuse to do.

A PASSAGE from the encyclical recently addressed by the Holy Father to the Catholics of Italy which deserves particular attention from the Catholic world generally is the following: "The chief instrument employed by our enemies is the Press, which in great part receives from them its inspiration and support. It is important that Catholics should oppose the evil Press by a Press that is good for the defence of truth, out of love for religion, and to uphold the right of the Church. While the Catholic Press is occupied in laying bare the perfidious designs of the sec's in helping and seconding the action of the sacred pastors, and in defending and promoting Catholic works, it is the duty of the faithful efficaciously to support this Press—both by refusing or ceasing to favour in any way the evil Press; and also directly, by concurring, as far as each one can, in helping it to live and thrive."

THE all important subject of the Catholic Press was brought under consideration at the Catholic congress recently held at Coblenz. "Among the many remarkable speeches," says a contemporary, "that of Dr. Schadler is worthy of special notice. He spoke on the work of the Catholic press in Germany, and gave a most encouraging account of its progress in recent years, attributing in great part to the Catholic journalists the victory won over Bismarckism and the Kulturkampf. 'The press,' he said, 'strengthens the hands of our clergy. They preach to hundreds, the press preaches to thousands. Every parish priest ought to look on himself as the local correspondent of the Catholic papers and help them to his utmost. In our battle the press supplies us with music; we march after it and press and people must move together for truth, freedom and right.'"

THE London Tablet has not only got hold of the keys of the Vatican but has even obtained command of the Holy Father's thoughts. The chance for poor Ireland, then, in Papal quarters may be easily guessed. Here is what our "cheeky" contemporary's Rome correspondent has to say, under date October 19. "It has got about that Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Dillon had intended or had

expressed the wish to come to Rome with the endeavour to obtain an interview with the Pope. However, I am authorised particularly to state that should they have come, the Holy Father would not have received them. His Holiness has been too much distressed latterly with the almost open defiance to his authority by some persons in Ireland even to think of admitting the two gentlemen in question." See that, now. Well, we once knew an old gentleman, who used to tell old stories, and he had an old wife who sat by, invariably repeating *sotto voce*, while the narrative went on, "Lies, lies, lies."

WE see that a proposal has been mooted to present Mr. A. H. Ross late Member for Roslyn, with a testimonial, prior to his removal from Dunedin, to take up his residence in the North Island. Mr. Ross has politically been an enemy of ours. He has opposed our claims to justice and therefore we have opposed his return to Parliament. Nevertheless, we recognise his merits as an old and respectable citizen of Dunedin, and one who has done much to promote the interests of the community. In the various local matters in which he has taken a prominent part, he has done good service. The proposal alluded to, therefore, seems to us only right and proper. The people of Dunedin, in fact, would be guilty of ingratitude in refusing to act on it.

WHO is "Russell Ready," who figures as a virago and administers a "tongue-thrashing" to Bishop Moran in the Otago Daily Times? Echo answers, "Nobody." "Stone's Directory" does not record the name of a Russell Ready as residing at Palmerston, whence this nonentity dates its letter, or anywhere else in Otago. Let us, however, give the coward, throwing its mud and running away under the signature of "Russell Ready," credit for all the writer deserves. It is, after all, something to be ashamed of a lot of vile vituperation and screaming without sense or meaning—though why under the circumstances it should be published seems rather enigmatical. The scold, however, cannot help himself. He must have his say even although he is ashamed of it. Echo rightly describes such a character as "Nobody."

FOR goodness' sake are there not any thistles about? Is there no succulent morsel to stop a mouth and keep the bray from coming out? Why, there is another man worse than "Nobody," who does not live in Palmerston. "Secular Educationist" this one signs himself. Well, hasn't the Bishop told us the truth? His Lordship lays the blame of the whole affair to want of brains, and the people he angers bear out his argument. Again, we ask, are there no thistles to keep these creatures suitably and harmlessly employed?

RECENT Home papers make it evident that Mr. Balfour's tour in Ireland was no voluntary undertaking. It was forced upon him by public opinion. The following despatch to the American press, under date, London November 3, gives as the latest reliable particulars:—"Balfour finished his tour through the West of Ireland within a week, returning to Dublin October 31. He carefully steered clear of some of the most distressed districts. In the beginning of his lightning-like progress, preposterous reports were put forth by the Tory press that the people received him with demonstrations of delight; that a priest at Newport, whose name, by the way, is not given, said that he was the greatest benefactor Ireland ever had, etc. All this was based simply on the forbearance or the apathy of the people. Some of the peasants were putting in practice the lessons of self-control given them by their leaders. Others as in Connemara, were too engrossed with their own sad prospects to show any interest in the visitors."

THE drawing of the art-union undertaken for the establishment of the Sisters of Mercy at Gore, will come off without fail on April 23. We need not point out to our readers the importance or desirableness of the object referred to. The fame of the Sisters of Mercy requires no renewing at our hands. Every one will recognise the merit to be gained by aiding in so admirable a work, and one that harmonises so completely with the spirit of the Catholic Church. All, therefore, our readers require is to be reminded of the opportunity now offered them of partaking in so meritorious a task. Very effectual means of doing so are offered in the assistance demanded to make the art-union a success.

WE have received, for transmission to Dr. Kenny, M.P., at Dublin the sum of £10 10s, contributed by the Dunganville branch of the Irish National League, and forwarded to us by Mr. Bartholomew North.

"KALAMOS" means pen, does it not?—that is, of course, goose-quill. We may, therefore congratulate that pundit of the Dunedin Star on having had scholarship enough to choose an appropriate name. Verily, the anxiety shown to corroborate Bishop Moran's statement as to the contents of the secularist brain-box is extraordinary—and we must admit, besides, that it is extremely successful.