

not able, to assist them from public funds. But when the Government goes beyond this, and compels people, who, being alive to their obligations as to the education of their children, provide sufficient education for them at their own expense, to provide funds to give a free education to the children of well-to-do people, it becomes a tyrant—unjust and impolitic. A natural, a religious, and a social obligation rests on all parents to educate their children, and to provide the means necessary to do so; and when the State steps in and liberates parents from these obligations, and compels all to contribute equally for this purpose, it is guilty of unfairness and injustice to all the other members of the community. But this unfairness and injustice become enormously aggravated when Government, as in the case of Catholics, compels parents who provide education for their own children at their own expense to contribute large sums of money to give free education to the children of other people, who, in most instances, are much better off; more independent than they are themselves. And what is the consequence of this to the community at large? It is obvious that in pursuing such a policy the Government is adding to injustice and foul play—an attempt to do the impossible. No Government, not even the richest in the world, could from its consolidated revenue provide means to give a free education to all the children of a nation. An attempt to do this must inevitably end in national bankruptcy. What Government can do, and ought to do, is to compel well-to-do people to pay a fair amount of school rates, and then out of the consolidated revenue, in consideration of those who can pay no rates, to vote annually a sum out of the general revenue in aid of the rates. Were this done, and the rates of individuals given to the schools to which they send their children, and also a *pro rata* share of the subsidy of the general Government, justice would be done to all; there would be no complaints, and the Government would secure a state of things at once wise and politic. By such an arrangement as this a considerable saving would be made and a large amount secured to aid in settlement and the development of all the resources of the country. There is also another way in which a considerable saving could be effected. There are too many administrators of school funds, and, consequently, too much expense arising from this multiplicity of administrators. There is no necessity for so many School Boards and committees. School Boards might be abolished, or if allowed to exist, the committees might be abolished. A Minister of Education and school committees could easily do all that requires to be done in the way of administration, or it might be a Minister and a very few School Boards. Then in towns and suburbs, one committee could easily do all the work that is now done by four or five, or, perhaps, six committees. Looking at the entire machinery, a dispassionate observer would be forced to the conclusion that our present system of education is simply ludicrous: an army of men administering funds which they do not provide; an army of men seriously engaged in doing work which could be better and more wisely done by half-a-dozen men of common sense, and done at the one-hundredth part of the present expense. We have no doubt that until our education system is put upon a just, equitable, and rational basis there will be no prosperity in the country, no general settlement of the land, no stop to emigration, and no lasting peace among classes. Until this is done the Government cannot expect to have the monetary means of promoting public works or the development of the abounding resources of the country. Until this is done nothing can be expected but stagnation, dissatisfaction, and the diminution of the population of the country; nothing but instability in the executive of the country, and perpetual and abortive appeals to the constituencies.

#### NORTH KILKENNY ELECTION.

UNDER the circumstances, the result of this election must be gratifying to all patriotic sober-minded Irishmen. They will no doubt regret that a necessity for opposing Mr. Parnell has arisen. Reluctantly and sorrowfully we have been forced to the conclusion that it could not be otherwise, all things considered. It is another illustration of the truth of the teaching which impresses on men the obligation and wisdom of carefully avoiding dangerous occasions. Our recollection of the many and great services rendered to the cause of Home Rule by Mr. Parnell, and our gratitude for these invaluable services, check the expression of our indignation at what is

not only criminal and dishonourable, but blind and fatuous, in one holding the position he did in the esteem and affection of his countrymen, and, indeed, of many besides. Our pen refuses to place on record strong words and expressions in the presence of a great man fallen and discredited. We prefer to fix our mind on what he was and what he has done for Ireland, and the recollection of this will not fail to cause us to pause and think the best we can of one for whose misfortune we entertain the deepest sympathy, though we cannot refrain from passing on his recent course the severest censure possible. As to the main cause of all his late misfortune we prefer to say nothing. The subject is one that it is little less than an outrage to even name amongst Christians; but we do not hesitate to speak of his policy in endeavouring to retain a leadership which, it ought to be manifest to him, the Irish people, being what they are, could not possibly tolerate. How a man so clear-sighted in many things, and gifted with such a high intellect as Mr. PARNELL, could persuade himself that, after the O'SHEA case, he could hope to lead the Irish nation and people all the world over, is to us a mystery. We had thought that even a little acquaintance with Irish views and practice would have made it evident that no man in Mr. PARNELL's present position would be tolerated by that people. And the only explanation we can offer is that afforded by the sad example of SOLOMON. We regret, though we are not altogether surprised, that even a few in Ireland could be found to cling to him as their political leader, and we are happy to know that the overwhelming majority of Irishmen have not permitted themselves to be blinded by the splendour of his old leadership, but have seen at once where their duty lay, and whither their honour and true interests lead. For his own sake, and very much for his own sake, we deplore the obstinacy with which Mr. PARNELL insists on attempting to maintain the leadership of a people who have rejected him for the strongest of reasons; and we do hope that even now he will bow to the inevitable and gracefully retire from a position which both angers and pains, as well as humiliates, his countrymen, who, notwithstanding all that has recently happened, would be only too glad to be afforded an opportunity of cherishing towards him the kindest feelings, and would be only too happy to forget the past, and in due time condone it, if possible. If Mr. PARNELL would only calmly consider the matter, he could not fail to understand how intense is the pain he is causing to the men whom we have no doubt he loves sincerely; and consequently he would retire into private life, whither the good wishes of his countrymen would follow him, and leave the arena he once so greatly adorned to the leader chosen by the majority of their representatives. His doing so would confer on them a favour, and give them another reason for gratitude. It would be his crowning service to his country, and go far to reinstate him in the good opinion of Irishmen everywhere.

A SUPPLEMENTARY bazaar in connection with that held last year for the purpose of discharging the debt on the Dominican Convent at Oamaru was opened on Wednesday. The bazaar in question was to have been held on St. Patrick's Day, but the lamented death of the late Monsignor Colman necessitated its postponement. It is hoped that the results of the sale now being held will suffice to discharge the balance of debt still remaining, and, in that case, the mission at Oamaru will be completely out of the hands of the creditor—a matter that must reflect most honourably on the memory of its late pastor.

It is intended to commemorate the opening of the new schools of the Dominican nuns in Dunedin by holding a bazaar and art-union at the beginning of October. The undertaking is necessary to aid in clearing the new buildings of debt. The cost of their erection, as may easily be gathered by all who see them, was large, and must remain a burden on the community for some time. The Dominican nuns, however, have well merited the aid they seek in their effort to free themselves from their liabilities, and we have no doubt that it will be willingly accorded them. Some handsome prizes have already been provided for the art-union, which it is intended to make a particularly choice one.

ON Sunday the 11th inst., a Dominican convent will be opened at Milton by the Most Rev. Dr. Moran. The Rev. Mother Prioress and some other members of the Order will leave Dunedin on the 9th inst., to make the new foundation.

IN reply to a letter of condolence on the death of the late Cardinal Newman, addressed to the Fathers of the Oratory by the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society, the Rev. President has received the follow-