

for self-government, and some small joking as to the riotous nature of an Irish Parliament. People, however, whose reading or experience is limited, cannot be expected to form judgments of any great value, and the small jester, according to his kind, must have his little joke. No one of any common sense could be influenced by stuff of that kind. A great loss the national party have undoubtedly sustained.—We cannot pretend to belittle Mr. Parnell, or to undervalue his services in the past.—They, however, owe to the leader who has failed them a very perfect training, by which their native talents and long experience have enabled them fully to profit, and they are now equal to maintaining the contest under a head appointed by themselves. That they will be supported loyally by the country, and that no division worth speaking of will occur, we are assured by the result of this election in Kilkenny.

Parisian Notes.

AMONG the more remarkable events of the day have been the conferences of the Abbé Garnier with some of the Socialist leaders. In some instances the meetings were riotous, but on the whole there is reason to believe that the arguments of the intrepid priest have produced a good effect. It is at least certain that he himself has been acknowledged to be sincere in his desire to serve the people, and the place won by him in popular esteem cannot fail to be shared more or less by the priesthood generally. An argument that gained the Abbé much applause was that in which he maintained that the wages of the labourer should not be regulated by any hard laws of supply and demand, but by the needs of the labourer and his family.

The national pilgrimage to Lourdes this year was fruit ful in miracles. It is remarked that many cures of consumptive patients, some of them in the last stages of disease, were worked. A great marvel, however, was that performed in the case of a woman from the diocese of Sens, who had been a sufferer for twenty years, and during the last two had been confined to bed by a cancerous tumour. The poor creature came to the shrine covered with sores, but, after the third bath taken by her, and at the passage of the Blessed Sacrament, she was restored in a moment of time to perfect health.

The first part of Pere Didon's long expected work, the Life of Christ, written in refutation of Renan's well known book, has appeared in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. It is quite equal to all that was anticipated, high as were the expectations, and promises splendidly for what is still to come.

The impending conscription of the Seminarists is causing some sensation. An amusing phase of the matter is the fear entertained in some quarters that the ecclesiastics will corrupt the army by inspiring and reviving the religious sentiment in its ranks. A battalion of clericals is a vision that has rare terrors for certain minds. On the other hand apprehension is expressed lest France, by being stripped of her priesthood, may become altogether irreligious. The Bishop of Orleans, meantime, has denounced the accusation brought against the French clergy of being guilty of cowardice and want of patriotism. Such an accusation, he says, contradicts fifteen centuries of history. He points to the recent services of the clergy on the battle field as refuting the charge that they shrank from the dangers and hardships of military service.

The Empress of Austria, who has been making a tour *incognito* at one time under the name of Madame Nicholson, and at another under that of Miss Simpson, has visited Paris and one or two other French cities. Her Majesty went about unnoticed among the crowd. In one instance, she had some difficulty in changing a money order, the banker's clerk seeing reason in the august lady's assumed names to suspect that all was not quite right. An opportune hint, however, fortunately prevented him from finally committing himself.

It is announced that an annual holiday, in memory of Joan of Arc, is to be given in the Government schools. The *fête* will be of a very different signification from that of some already observed. It is to be hoped that the effect on the minds of French school children may take some colouring from the character of her whose memory is thus honoured. If such turn out to be the case, however, the intentions of the powers that be will be thwarted—but not unhappily so. The matter is certainly of fair augury for France.

A monument is about to be erected at Aix to the memory of five thousand priests and religious martyred there under the Terror. All, however, were not directly executed, many dying from hardships and ill-treatment.

A statue of the late Admiral Courbet has been unveiled at Abbeville, his native place. The event took partly the nature of a religious ceremony, the memory of the admiral being revered as that of a fervent Catholic, as well as an eminent, brave, and victorious commander. The French navy is fortunate in possessing many distinguished officers who partake of a like spirit of faith and fervour.

A revival almost of the personages of our distant schoolbooks seems to have taken place in connection with the recent marriage of a daughter of General Canrobert. What! Canrobert, the father of a daughter still marriageable—not more, in fact, than some six-and-twenty years old. The daughter of the General's advanced age, it is true, but still the daughter of one whose renown is a matter of ancient history. What, nevertheless, does it prove but the rapid flight of

time, and the few years it takes to make us old, and to include momentous historical epochs. As for the young lady and young gentleman married, they are nowhere. They would be nothing, in fact, were they not startling time-marks.

Erratic genius still seems to characterise the line of the late Victor Hugo. His grandson, George, has just been placed in the hands of guardians, whose duty it is to prevent his insane squandering of his fortune. The youth, it is said, would otherwise prove swifter than even another "Jubilee Plunger."

Doctor Després, having failed to move the Municipal Council, of which nevertheless he is himself a member, has announced his intention of appealing to the Chamber of Deputies in order to obtain the restoration of the Sisters of Charity as nurses in the Paris hospitals. And yet the Doctor is far from being in sympathy on other points with the "clericals."

The African missionary, Père Dorgère, was lately employed by the Government of the Republic to negotiate their treaty with the King of Dahomey. His success in the matter has obtained for him the decoration of the Legion of Honour.

The centenary of Lamartine's birth has been celebrated at Magon. The principal lay speaker on the occasion was M. Jules Simon. Mgr. Perrand, Bishop of Autun, preached a sermon referring particularly to the religious features in the poet's character.

The bicentenary of the Blessed Margaret Mary, which occurred on October 17th, was celebrated with impressive solemnity at Paray-le-Monial. In the church of the Sacred Heart at Montmartre also it was imposingly observed, the Archbishop of Paris presiding.

Bull-fighting has become a popular amusement in Paris. It is carried out in a somewhat modified form, both horses and men being protected from injury in the encounter. The bull, however, although not killed, is cruelly tortured, and taken at its best the sport is a brutal one. Demoralisation is quite apparent among the crowds of fashionably-dressed people of both sexes and all ages who look on and often applaud with enthusiasm. The sport is also not without its danger. Recently a bull tossed one of the men engaged in goading it with barbs, and inflicted very serious injuries upon him. In Spain the sport survives as the remnant of a less cultured age, but the significance of its introduction into France as an accompaniment of the highest secular culture to which the world has yet attained is very evident. Intellectual development, if such really exists, evidently goes hand in hand with moral deterioration. The chances are, meantime, that the boasted culture of the age involves intellectual no less than physical degradation.

Paris had been much grieved by the death from typhoid fever of the favourite actress, Jeanne Samary. This lady was not only the first comedian on the Parisian stage, but was distinguished by admirable virtues, being exemplary as daughter, wife, and mother.

One of the noble ladies of the day is the Duchesse d'Uzes. She is a lady of many accomplishments and excels in some branches of the fine arts. Her chief distinction of later days, however, has been derived from the great sum she lavished in an attempt to promote the interests of the Comte de Paris through the misadventurous General Boulanger. The sum in question is estimated at £120,000. The Duchess indeed is rich, but an expenditure on so vast a scale would prove the devotion of another Croesus. The Duchess comes of the ancient family of Mortemart, of which formerly was the notorious Madame de Montespan. She also however, and as it is rumoured somewhat to her discomfort so far as pride of lineage is concerned, though pride of purse may perhaps be set off against it, comes of the family to which belonged the Veuve Cluot, well known in connection with the "sparkling vintage of Champagne." Whether it is the blood of the Mortemarts or the blood of the Cluots, that is the more accountable for the attempt to elevate the great grand-son, and perhaps the not inconsistent great grand-son, of Egalité, to the throne of St. Louis must be left to the discernment of those who are rightly inspired to make the necessary distinctions.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN DUNEDIN.

On Christmas Day Masses commenced in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, at 5.30 a.m., terminating with Pontifical High Mass, 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. Father Lynch also preached, delivering a sermon appropriate to the feast of the day. The choir had been reinforced for the occasion by an orchestra under the leadership of Mr. Parker, the well-known violinist. The music performed was the "Kyrie," "Gloria," and "Credo," from a Mass composed since his arrival in New Zealand by Signor Squarise, who acted as conductor, with the "Sanctus" and "Agnus Dei," from Weber's Mass in G. The "Kyrie" opened with an *andante sostenuto* movement, the introduction as well as the chorus all through, being very good and full. The "Christe eleison" begins as a soprano solo (taken by Miss Woods), and passes first into a duet with baritone (taken by J. Jago), and finally into a trio, the third voice being a tenor (taken by Mr. Carolio). The chorus is afterwards reintroduced, the harmonies being rich and striking, and the whole effect remarkably fine. The key is that of E minor, and the music is particularly appropriate to the prayer, the tone of plaintive, penitent, supplication being clearly brought out and well sustained. The "Gloria" opens with a rapid and triumphant movement, the solo, duet, and trio being again judiciously employed. The chorus also is, as before, full and rich. The "Qui Tollis" begun by the baritone, is answered by the