

take place on Friday the 26th inst., at 10.30 a.m., and the relatives and friends of the children are freely invited to attend.

THE latest important deliverance reported on Irish affairs takes the shape of an article in the *National Press* from the pen of the Archbishop of Dublin. His Grace declares that Home Rule is a forlorn hope for the present century. Some relief, however, is afforded us in the consideration that the century has reached its last decade. Still the postponement of the great measure for even ten years must seem to us a grievous disappointment.

MR REEVES'S Labour Bills.—Factory Bill, Truck Bill, Shop Hours Bill, appear to be very much to the point and to contain nothing that is not desirable. But what a comment do we not find in the Shop Hours Bill on the selfishness of some and the greed of others. Had the public been duly considerate and shop-keepers as a rule moderate in their desires no such Bill would have been necessary, and what is now made a matter for legislation would have been brought about by mutual consent. There is nothing extraordinary in the Bill, which provides for the closing of shops at 6 p.m. on four days of the week, at 9 p.m. on one and at 2 p.m. on another, the particular days not being specified. Among the shops exempted we perceive that those of the tobacconists are included. But why should this be, tobacco being neither a necessary of life nor a perishable ware? The Bill, however, is deserving of support.

THE Financial Debate was opened on Tuesday evening by the Hon. J. Bryce, who made an attack on the proposals of the Government, and pointed out several respects in which they must prove ruinous to the country. The Hon. Member's speech, however, savoured rather of clap-trap, and Mr Reeves, who replied to it, had not much difficulty in exposing its sophistries. Mr Macarthur followed with a speech which was characterised by the Hon. J. G. Ward as one of the bitterest and most fault finding which it had ever been his lot to hear—but which, nevertheless, does not appear to be considered a very brilliant effort even by supporters of the party to whom the Hon. Member belongs. It is believed that the debate will be protracted.

THE Rev. Michael Kelly, S.J., whose death has recently taken place in Sydney, paid a visit of a few weeks last summer to Dunedin, en route for the hot springs. Those of us who then had the happiness of making his acquaintance can fully understand the reputation for sanctity which we are told he enjoyed among people who were intimate with him. We regret to learn that his visit, in search of renewed health, to New Zealand proved so sadly unsuccessful. Still he had certainly benefited in a considerable degree by his short stay in this city. While here, he frequently celebrated Mass and preached once in St. Joseph's Cathedral.—*R.I.P.*

"A COMMISSION of Cardinals will henceforth administer Papal property, owing to irregularities in management during the past." If there is any truth at all in this it is that the Pope has taken some measures to try and protect the remnant of the Papal property from the plundering Government.

THE Labour party have had a success in the elections for New South Wales, returning several of their representatives. Sir George Grey has been equal to the situation and cabled his congratulations. But does not Sir George in turn deserve to be congratulated—on his astuteness?

"THE German Government is considering the question of forbidding pilgrimages from Alsace and Lorraine to Mount Rouner, Lourdes, and other places in France on a plea that superstition and ignorance are fostered thereby. The real reason is a political one. The people of those provinces, after visiting France, are more irritable and uneasy under their German rulers." We do not know where "Mount Rouner" is, nor can we conjecture what place is meant by the name, but Lourdes of course means Lourdes. If the German Government, however, again make an attack on religion they will again live to repent it. Religious pilgrimages can only encourage a spirit of submission to all that is just and right, and if the German Government fear the sentiment to be thus aroused, there is proof positive that their presence in Alsace and Lorraine is an outrage on justice.

"Of a total of 127,000 subscribed towards the Plan of Campaign, £3000 is unaccounted for, £20,000 was granted to tenants, £47,000 went in fees to lawyers and barristers, and £40,000 was spent on New Tipperary." This is probably a composition intended to affect the mission of Mr J. B. Cox, M.P., to the colonies. Were it otherwise, it would be rather an eye-opening phrase is, and that in more senses than one. With all respect to the Bar, none of us could wish to see its members going on like that—hardly even if Sir George Grey's Bill had been passed. We were all among them—every man Jack of us. But it is to be hoped, we would remember that honesty, as they say, is the best policy.

THE famous English contralto, Madame Patey, commences a short concert season in the Garrison Hall, Dunedin, to-morrow (Thursday) evening. Madame Patey enjoys the highest reputation in her profession in the Old Country, and it is to the credit of the musical taste of the Colonies that her singing here also has been highly appreciated. Everywhere she has delighted crowded audiences. The company by which she is supported are also highly spoken of.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

June 23, 1891.

THE Triduum which was celebrated throughout the Diocese of Christchurch in honour of St. Aloysius during the past week was brought to a close on Tuesday evening at the Pro-Cathedral by a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, and the solemn dedication of the newly formed guild of St. Aloysius to the patronage and protection of that great model and guardian of youth. The Very Rev. Father Cummings preached an eloquent and impressive sermon on the life and virtues of this servant of God, to a very large congregation, many of whom were members of other denominations. After dealing with the principal points of the saint's life, his consecration by his mother to the service of God, his father's determination that he should be a soldier, his own choice of a profession, which was that of a humble member of the Society of Jesus, and his death at an early age whilst spiritually and temporarily assisting the plague-stricken—the Rev. Speaker brought out into prominent relief the principal virtues for which he was distinguished. These were the virtues of purity, self-denial, love of God, love of the neighbour, and love of the Church,—virtues which were not practised to any great extent at the present day by the world, not even by our Catholic people. St. Aloysius was our model and if we followed in his footsteps we would one day enjoy his society among the elect in the Kingdom of God.

I regret very much to have to chronicle that one of the good Sisters at the Convent lies dangerously ill. At Mass and at Vespers on Sunday the prayers of the congregation were asked in an especial manner for the recovery of Sister Joachim.

The roll-stuffing by the brewers had contributed in no small degree to the success of the Prohibitionists at the last licensing election in our erstwhile model borough of Sydenham. It would seem indeed as if the bungling of the Prohibitionist Committee was likely to bring ridicule and disaster on their cause. When Judge Denniston threw his legal bomb-shell in their midst there were only two courses open to them—either of which would entitle them to the respect of all moderate minded men, to stand to their colours and refuse all licenses, or else resign their position and appeal again to the electors. They have done neither, but have set themselves to regulate the liquor traffic in the district in open violation of their election pledge and in direct opposition to their oft-repeated assertions that the liquor trade is a curse and a blight wherever it is, and that it cannot be regulated by the law of the land. Even very indifferent politicians change their opinions gradually, and only after the lapse of reasonable time, but the Sydenham Licensing Committee have out-distanced even the most inveterate rail-sitting independent, for in the short space of six weeks they have run counter to their public professions, swallowed their pledged words, and commenced to grant certain licenses for the sale of that which they consider to be a vile moral poison. In promising to grant two out of the eight licenses they seem to be guided by a very peculiar standard for prohibitionists, that is, the drinking capacity of the neighbourhood in contra-distinction to the requirements of the travelling public. They refused, on "their own motion," whatever that may mean, to renew the license of the Southern Cross Hotel, the nearest one to the saleyards, and within a quarter of a mile of the A. and P.A. show grounds, which are used for many public gatherings. Surely it is inconsistent for men who profess such a hatred for drink to set so much value on a bar trade and so little on accommodation for travellers. The adjournment meeting was held on the 22nd inst., when the further consideration of those licenses which were not to be renewed was taken into consideration, and also evidence in support of the applications, showing that such houses were required in the various localities. After receiving a vast amount of evidence as to the wants of the neighbourhood and the manner in which each hotel has been conducted, the committee adjourned again until the 23rd inst., when it is hoped common sense and justice will guide them in their decisions.

On Monday evening, June 22, an entertainment was given in the boys' school by the "Black Swans," a dramatic and musical combination composed of a number of our Catholic young men, a notice of which appeared some time since in your columns. This was the best of its kind that has taken place here for a long time, both from an artistic and musical point of view, the farce being well staged and exceedingly well played, whilst the musical items were thoroughly appreciated by a crowded and enthusiastic house, attracted no doubt by a very liberal programme, and also by the very popular object for which it was got up—the funds for building the