

But even if it were not so, should the fact of a man's being a Catholic prevent his ability and value of his services being considered? Out upon such bigotry and ignorance!"

A very enjoyable social or "surprise party" was given in the Panmure Hall on Friday evening last (says the Auckland Herald of the 11th inst.). Monsignor McDonald, as usual, presided, and endeavoured to make everybody perfectly at home. The weather was anything but propitious; still a good number attended and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Messrs Hogan and A. Loomb, who were in splendid voice, did justice to their well-selected songs, whilst Masters Fleming and Sykes delighted the audience by their admirable rendering of the pretty song, "The Dear Little Shamrock." Mrs J. Hogan played the accompaniments with taste and effectiveness, and deservedly received a large measure of praise. The spacious and pretty hall was tastefully decorated by Miss Honan and other kind friends, and it was generally remarked that it never looked better. Mrs Fleming, with a few willing assistants, looked after the refreshment department, the quantity and quality of which could not fail to please even the most fastidious. The after music was supplied by Mrs Hogan and Mr Loomb to the intense delight of the pleasure seekers, the onerous duties of M.C. fortunately falling to the lot of Mr Howard. Father Walter, at the close, thanked the kind friends who had been instrumental in getting up the "surprise party," and expressed the very great pleasure he felt in being present at their innocent amusement, such as the "surprise," which he hoped would be at no distant day repeated.

Our suspicions respecting Sir George Grey seem to be justified. Sir George appears to have returned from Australia inclining still more to the character of Philippe Egalité than before. It is reported that he is dissatisfied with the proposals of the Government, and looks upon them as altogether too Conservative. Sir George, we are told, means to carry a land tax that will be completely bursting-up in its effects. His hopes seem to be based upon becoming the leader of the labour party. It will, nevertheless, be a matter for regret if this party allows itself to be misled. They would show themselves more independent and give a better promise of success by choosing a leader of their own class, and on whose sincerity they might rely.

The Sydney Freeman's Journal, in referring to the death of the Rev Michael Kelly, S.J., which has recently taken place in Sydney, speaks as follows:—"We are told that there are saints moving about in our daily life unknown to the world, and Father Kelly's old parish ioners were guilty of no irreverence in claiming their pastor as among the number of these holy souls and ministers of grace. He himself thought the noblest occupation of man was to do God's work on earth; and in the straight and oft-times thorny path of duty he went on till death, 'without one side look,' to use celebrated words, 'without one yielding thought, without a motive in his heart that he might not have laid open to the view of God and man.' He had been ailing for many long months, but no murmur escaped him." The immediate cause of death, adds our contemporary, was inflammation of the lungs and weakness of the heart. Deceased was in the 63rd year of his age.

In acknowledging a pamphlet on the persecution of the Jews in Russia, which had been sent by the Honorary Secretary of the Sydney branch of the Anglo-Jewish Association, a letter has been received from Cardinal Moran. His Eminence writes:—"I beg to assure you that my entire sympathy is with your co-religionists in the suffering to which they are at present subjected in the Russian dominions. Furthermore, I do not hesitate to affirm that not only the Catholic community, but the whole public sentiment of Australia, is associated with me in this heartfelt sympathy. Were Russia a minor State the other Powers of Europe would have intervened long ago to prevent those deeds of persecution of which we read every day in the public press. But because it is a military Empire all Europe remains silent and permits it to pursue unchecked its career of cruelty and outrage. Believe me to remain, your devoted servant, PATRICK F. CARDINAL MORAN, Archbishop of Sydney."

Dr O'Doherty, the veteran of '48 (writes a Brisbane correspondent to a contemporary), who in his time has been member of both Houses of Parliament in Queensland, as well as member for Meath in the House of Commons, will be urged to re-enter political life. No man connects the old and the young ideas of progress more than he does. Although the great old patriot has grown grey, still his elastic step denotes that his physical strength is unimpaired, whilst his ideas and spirit have all the glow, freshness and vigour of youth. If ever there existed an unselfish patriot the genial doctor is one, and his experience would prove invaluable in directing the destinies of our colony, especially when we look round and see so many aspirants for legislative honours.

Father Michael Kelly, S.J., whose death is announced this week (says the Sydney Freeman's Journal of June 13), was a very saintly man. Some few years ago the witty and brilliant Father William Kelly, resting from College work, was staying with his namesake and brother Jesuit at North Shore. Father Michael, who was in charge of the district, happened to be out one day when a parish ioner called at the presbytery. Father William opened the door, and in response to the question "Is Father Kelly in?" startled the questioner with "Is it Kelly the saint you want or Kelly the stunner, for if it's the saint you're looking for I'm sorry to say he's out."

The meeting at which Mr J. R. Cox, M.P., was to have pleaded the cause of the evicted tenants in Sydney, on June 8, was postponed until after the general elections for the colony had terminated. It is understood that his Eminence Cardinal Moran, as well as the Archbishop of Melbourne, is opposed to the holding of any public meeting relative to Irish affairs, so long as the present unhappy division in the National party continues. His Eminence is said to be apprehensive lest political strife should also be stirred up amongst Irish colonists.

A diamond mine lately discovered at Wessington, South Africa, is said to be the richest discovery of the kind yet made. Diggers are rushing into the district from every part of the country.

The effects of Masonic secularism are apparent in every part of the world. Our contemporary the *Annales* of Mauritius, of May 2 quotes the testimony of a journalist of the colony and a partisan of the system, as to the condition of things obtaining there in the Royal College. "It is an ascertained fact," writes this gentleman, "that ill-bred children are more numerous than is believed in what is called the leading class, in the bosom of families which pretend that they are paragons of good taste and good education. . . . One of my young friends, a pupil of the Royal College, has declared to me that the most ordinary discipline does not exist in what is sometimes called our 'first house of education.'" The *Annales* adds that there is nothing to be astonished at in this. One has only to read the programmes of Freemasonry, says our contemporary, of which the present rector of the College is a fervent adept, to be convinced that the system in force has no *raison d'être* but that of being destructive of religion and morality, and consequently of reverence and good education.

The *Annales* quotes from the *Journal de Maurice* the following anecdote illustrative of the spiritual equality existing outside the Catholic Church:—"Quite recently something rather queer occurred in the Anglican chapel of the Plaines Wilhelms district. It was communion day. Two young girls of the coloured population, who were about to communicate for the first time, had come early and taken their places on the first bench close to the foot of the pulpit. Half an hour after an English family arrived, who also were to communicate. Somebody—a cross between a sacristan and a beadle—went and begged the young girls of colour to give up their places to the whites who were coming in.—And this was done.

Que diable faites vous dans cette galère? There is our contemporary, the Wellington Post, a newspaper we were inclined to accredit with some degree of common sense, also going in for gallantry and that kind of thing. Our contemporary strongly advocates the female franchise. He goes further, and predicts as sure to follow, the female Member of Parliament—no doubt unconsciously conscious that misfortunes never come alone. "The presence of a few women in the House," he says, "might, and probably would, have a refining effect upon members, and lead to the observance of greater propriety in the discussion of public affairs." Don't you believe it, honest friend. "Evil communications corrupt good manners." When they get there they will be as bad as any of the rest, if they are not worse than them. As a matter of fact the way in which women have begun to go about competing with men in America has had a bad effect there. In the public conveyances, for example, we are told men no longer rise to make room for a lady who enters. Let them abide among the home life which you say they are so calculated to adorn Parliament, Heaven knows, has adornments enough without them.

As a piece of reverential gush this is about as neat a thing as you will often see. Its subject is Sir George Grey and its author is the Wellington correspondent of the *Globe*. It is to be hoped it will not escape Sir George's own eye, for he is known to have a keen sense of humour and could thoroughly enjoy the joke:—"I doubt whether that bent figure will be seen slowly walking up the Parliamentary garden path when the day of complete freedom has dawned upon New Zealand. Whether he will live to be the guest of an elective Governor, the elder brother of an elective Council, or the mentor of an elective House, I know not; but I do know that the memory of his wonderful and fascinating personality, of his self-renunciation and apostolic zeal will live for ever green. It may not be his 'to