

we rejoice, although at the same time we protest against such ridiculous statesmanship. But all this confirms us in an opinion we have long entertained—that the present system of education was elaborated for the express purpose of placing Catholics at a disadvantage and to render it extremely difficult for them to obtain any education whatever. If Catholics are prepared to abandon the teaching of the Church and accept godlessness they will be welcomed in these schools, but as Catholics it was never intended or expected to receive them there; and it was from the beginning the determination of its authors that children determined to remain Catholics should have Catholic schools provided for them by their parents at their own sole expense, whilst contributing largely to the maintenance of godless schools. This was certainly the original intent, and the people generally, whether consciously or unconsciously, we stop not to say, understood this idea, and participated in it. The very fact, which all seem to admit, that aid to Catholic schools would destroy the system, confirms us still more in our conviction. Our present system of education was an adroit attempt, not so much to educate, as to prevent Catholics as such from having any education at all, so far as possible, and to make it extremely difficult for them to have any education whatever. This was always our opinion, and is so still. The two arguments against justice to us, to which we have just now referred, make this evident. A third argument against justice to our schools is that such aid would introduce denominationalism as against nationalism. Well, what of that? What is in a name? In many countries denominational schools are the national schools. Why, it is so at the present moment in England. The secular system there, that is the Board Schools, is only supplementary to the denominational schools, and in these denominational schools three-fourths of the children of England are educated, whilst only one-fourth is educated in the Board schools, and this one-fourth costs the country unnecessarily more than the three-fourths in the denominational schools, although the education given in the former is not one whit better than that given in the latter. We conclude by congratulating the Catholic young men of Dunedin on the stand they have taken, and the conspicuous ability with which they have maintained that stand.

If the Parnellites have got human hearts (says the *Liverpool Catholic Times*) they must feel now how withering and fatal is the blight cast upon Ireland by the misconduct of the ex-chief. It is not merely the National cause that has suffered; the supporters of that cause in every part of the land have been severely smitten. Saddest of all is the fate of those who bore the brunt of the fight at Tipperary. Ample resources would have been secured to enable them to obtain a complete victory; but the fount of sympathy was sealed through Mr Parnell's dishonour, and after undergoing sacrifices and sufferings that cannot well be described they have been forced to capitulate.

A PRINCIPAL topic of interest at present is the late fire at the Dunedin *Globe* Office and the verdict of the inquiry that incendiarism was the cause. Nothing so far has transpired concerning the parties implicated. For more than one reason, however, it is to be hoped the matter may be cleared up.

GREATNESS decidedly carries its penalties with it. The distinction, for example, gained by Lord Randolph Churchill in England subjects him to indignation in the Transvaal. A local paper makes the following complaint:—"We are in the position of the hero who met the Geni in the fairy story. We have in our midst a distinguished visitor, who, although he possesses the magic ring of speech, will utter no sentences for our behoof. Such an attitude is neither noble nor courteous, and, above all, most unbecoming in a member of a party which in some measure represents a Government, which is at present greatly concerned in the movement (political and otherwise) which is going on around our Government. Lord Randolph Churchill may try to pose as an enigma, or as the 'great Sphinx' of a former political epoch, but it cannot be said that he is distinguishing himself, in a foreign country which presents the most extraordinary problem of his time, by an affectation of silence, which can only be excused on the ground of ignorance, and which can only be explained by an assumption of contempt which is far more degrading to individual insolence than to the country which is assumed to be insignificant."—But only fancy anybody's being angry with Lord Randolph for holding his tongue.

SIR GEORGE GREY has had the most brilliant idea of all his life—a life of brilliant ideas. He proposes not only to give women the franchise, but to return them to Parliament, and to substitute

their Chamber for the Legislative Council.—Burke's cardinal error that the days of chivalry are passed is once more exposed. It would, meantime, seem a pretty, as well as an appropriate, reward to make Sir George himself the new Speaker.

LORD LURGAN retires under favourable circumstances from his position as an Irish landlord. His Lordship has sold his estates in Armagh under Lord Ashbourne's Act, for the handsome sum of a quarter of a million sterling. Under such conditions it does not appear that Irish landlords have much reason to be displeased with the results, so far, of the popular movement.

If it be true, as frequently stated, that Madame Bernhardt is addicted to "strange experiences unmeet for ladies,"—her taste has been fully gratified by the events of her passage, *en route* for San Francisco, from Sydney to Auckland in the *Mariposa*. The vessel encountered a fierce North-Easterly gale, and for some two days had about as bad a time of it as any vessel not actually on the verge of shipwreck could have. Madame Bernhardt has decidedly learned that life on the broad Pacific is not all "skittles and beer"—as the saying is. The recollection, no doubt, will suffice to enliven for her more prosaic days on her native boulevards.

THE cable-agency is evidently much exercised concerning the exposition of the Holy Coat at Treves, and has something to say, in gasps of rather a sneering tone, concerning it. The agency, nevertheless, had nothing to tell us, for example, of the display recently made, and perhaps still continued, at the Naval Exhibition in London, of clothing formerly owned by Lord Nelson. Human nature, however, must make a distinction. The relics of its heroes it may lawfully preserve and venerate; those of a higher character it must destroy, reject or deride. But such contradictions belong only to our less reverent age. The Catholic world, whose traditions are those of all the ages, can know nothing of them.

WE publish in another place an able and important letter addressed by his Catholic constituents to Mr W. B. Perceval, M.H.B. By referring to it our readers will obtain further evidence as to the firm and united attitude maintained by the Catholics of the colony towards the Education Question, and of the soundness of the arguments they urge in support of their claims.

PREPARATIONS are now being made for erecting the flight of steps leading up from Smith street to the porch of St. Joseph's Cathedral. When completed a very fine addition will be made to the surroundings of the building. The enclosure will be in the shape of a cut-stone wall topped by iron railings, with iron gates in the centre and on either side a handsome lamp. The steps will be of concrete, but so built as to leave room for a covering, after a little time of encaustic tiles.

THE 9th anniversary of the establishment of the local branch of the H.A.C.B.S. was celebrated at Leeston on the evening of August 12 by a social. Mr W. Holley, junr, took the leading part in the event, and Christchurch was represented by Messrs B. P. Lonargan and E. O'Connor. Representatives of the branch at New Headford were also present, as were also those of the other friendly societies of the district—the Druids, Foresters, and Oddfellows. The vocalists who gave their valuable services on the occasion were Miss Cooper and Messrs T. and F. Holley, Cooper, and Bilbrough. Miss Spring acted as accompanist throughout the evening. A very pleasant time was spent.

It is rather odd (says a society paper) that the newest of our "fathers in God" should rejoice in the name of the Almighty. Yet "Her Gott," of evidently Teutonic and mercantile origin, has been appointed to the vacant See of Truro. We have got them now with a vengeance—Worms and Hirschen, and other German Jews. But a Christian bishop whom some of the less educated of his flock will call perhaps "My Lord Gott!" Really the idea is monstrous.

THE question of women's franchise is really obtaining serious consideration at Wellington, and we are gravely informed that, in all probability, the measure will become law this session. The Wellington correspondent of the *Daily Times* informs us that one enthusiastic Southern Member has described the matter as "coming like an avalanche that cannot be stopped." Let us accept the omen. It is a mercy that, although an avalanche may do an immense amount of mischief, it cannot last. We may hope that sad experience, if not common sense, will result in bringing about a repeal of the Act, if it does pass.

THE old Catholic Presbytery (says the *Wellington Post* of the 15th inst.), which has recently undergone considerable alterations, in order to enable it to be used as a meeting hall for the various Catholic societies in Wellington, was opened last evening under the appellation