

The following figures are useful for those who are talking about the Bossendale election:—

Total poll in 1892, 10,907; do in 1885, 10,288; increase in 1892, 619. Total poll in 1892, 10,907; do in 1886, 9,348; increase in 1892, 1,559.

Liberal poll in 1892, 6,066; do in 1885, 6,060; increase in 1892, 6. Liberal poll in 1892, 6,066; do in 1886, 3,949; increase in 1892, 2,117.

Tory poll in 1892, 4,841; do in 1885, 4,228; increase in 1892, 613. Tory poll in 1886, 5,399; do in 1892, 4,841; decrease in 1892, 558.

Liberal majority in 1885, 1,450; Tory majority in 1886, 1,832. Difference in balance (added), 3,282.

Tory majority in 1886, 1,450; Liberal majority in 1892, 1,225. Difference in balance (added), 2,675.

This difference is made up of a Liberal gain of 2,117 and a Tory loss of 558—2,675 as compared with 1886. This is the extent of the victory.

As compared with 1885, before the split in the Liberal Party, there is an increase in the poll of 619—the Tories being 613 better and the Liberals six better. This is the full measure of the present influence of Lord Hartington's apostasy. But how that influence has been declining. How are the mighty fallen! In 1886, when his influence was at its height, the Liberal poll fell from 6,060 to 3,949, a loss of 2,111, whilst the Tory poll increased from 4,228 to 5,399, an increase of 1,171—a total difference of 3,282.

A remarkable fact in this election is that whereas the total poll has increased and the Liberal poll has increased, the Tory poll has decreased. Thus the last crumb of comfort for the Tories is taken away. In previous bye-elections both parties usually had an increase, the Liberals winning because their increase was the greater. On this fact the Tories built their hopes and founded their excuses. What will they do now?

Of course in these calculations we use the word Tory throughout, instead of Unionist or Liberal Unionist. The latter terms are misnomers and the word Tory is best understood.

A GRACEFUL PROPOSAL.

(From the Melbourne *Advocate*.)

A FEW of the many friends of Mr Gerald H. Supple, B.L., from whom that gentleman parted some years past when he went to New Zealand, propose to publish a selection of his poems in a rich and handsome binding, as a means of raising a substantial testimonial to his excellent qualities as a friend, and to his abilities as a *litterateur*. From the very long and intimate acquaintance we have had with Mr Supple as a friend and a valued contributor to this journal we feel assured that he has no wish that a step of this kind would be taken; but as his sight has for some years failed him, and he has consequently been unable to keep his income up to an adequate figure, it has been thought well to overlook any objections he might offer to the proposal now made. In bringing it under the notice of our readers, we may appropriately mention that from the time he reached man's estate, Mr Supple has been an able advocate of Irish nationality. At the most brilliant period in the modern history of the Irish struggle Mr Supple devoted his splendid talents to the cause in Dublin, and as an associate of its leaders, shared with them all the perils they incurred. He was amongst those who left their native land with heavy hearts when it was thought by some of the exiles that the corpse of Irish nationality was on the dissecting table; but when famine, plague, and coercion had done their worst, and there was again a glimmering of the old spirit, Mr Supple was among the first of Ireland's sons abroad to gladly hail the revival. And he subsequently did all in his power to advance the cause to which in his younger days he was so unselfishly and bravely devoted. To this journal he was naturally attracted at a very early stage of its existence, and contributed to its pages a series of very able philological articles in which the source of many words in the Irish language was traced to an eastern origin. Ill-health and other circumstances obliged Mr Supple to withhold from us for a time his valuable co-operation; but when he became free again to follow the bent of his inclinations, he once more became a contributor to our pages, and we may now venture to divulge, to his credit, that he is the writer of those much prized contributions to our columns entitled "Some Notes on Irish Subjects." There was no more beautiful writer on the Press of this colony than Mr Supple when he was attached to it, and that his splendid intellectual gifts are not impaired by the visitation with which he is afflicted is very evident from the high esteem in which his literary efforts are still held. We have had some hesitation in writing thus frankly on a delicate subject, but our reluctance has been overcome by motives of friendship and national considerations.

Gentlemen desirous of dress themselves or their boys at once cheaply, fashionably, and durably should visit the shop of Messrs Parker and Tribes, 199 Cashel street, Christchurch.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

March 9, 1892.

ON Saturday, the 5th inst, his Lordship the Bishop (Dr Grimes) paid a visit to Leeston, and received an enthusiastic welcome from the Catholics of the district. His Lordship drove from Christchurch, and was met at Irwell by a large escort, consisting of about 30 vehicles and 50 horsemen, who conducted him to the church at Leeston, where he was presented with an address of welcome by Mr T. Fabing on behalf of the Catholic residents. After a short service his Lordship was escorted to the presbytery by the whole congregation. On Sunday his Lordship administered the sacrament of confirmation to 37 candidates at Leeston and 19 at Springs on. On Monday he visited the parish schools at Leeston, when the children, under the guidance of Mr James Murphy, presented him with an address, which was read by Miss Rose Campbell.

The parishioners of St Mary's, Manchester street, are very busy with preparations for a bazaar to be held during Easter week in the Tuam street hall in aid of the building fund. Their energy seems likely to be well rewarded, as the bazaar promises to be a great success.

The usual quarterly meeting of the Catholic Literary Society was held on Tuesday evening, March 1. The Bishop was unavoidably absent, not having returned from Leeston. The principal business was the election of a president. After several nominations had been received, the matter was postponed until next meeting. A discussion also arose as to the formation of an institute for young men, but was also adjourned to a future meeting.

BOOK NOTICE.

"VOICE Culture and Practical Suggestions to Singers," by C. N. Baeyertz, teacher of singing. Dunedin, Stone, Son and Co. This is a handy little manual, which, we should say, would prove very useful to the fortunate class for whom it is intended, and from which others less fortunate may also take a hint or two. To the critic, for example, who is obliged to forsake his routine work on the race-course, or in the pugilistic ring, to take an accidental turn in the concert hall or the opera house, it should prove a perfect God-send. But how is the ordinary newspaper reviewer qualified to point out either the perfections or the faults in a technical work of this kind? We should say it must involve some considerable progress in the art of the musician fully to appreciate its excellence. And, by the way, is not the anatomist to some extent also concerned in the work? The chapter at least that deals with the mechanism of the voice is very suggestive of the fact that we are awfully and wonderfully made. It should form a useful exercise for the memory alone to remember all the hard words contained in its paragraphs. As to the idea of having all that in your throat, why, freedom from it is almost enough to console those of us whom nature has not endowed with vocal charms. The author, however, writes as one who has entered *con amore* into his task, neglecting nothing in connection with it, and the merest tyro can see that he is a devotee of the art he undertakes to teach. The parts of the book that we are more qualified to understand are so undeniably excellent that we are prepared, in a great degree, to take the rest of it on trust. It is not for us to say, for example, who the master is whose exercises are to be preferred, or to distinguish between the various means of improving or producing the voice, but the instructions given, for instance, for acquiring a proper mode of breathing while singing, or for clear and intelligent phrasing, must commend themselves to everyone of ordinary understanding. The writer deals sharply, but we should say wholesomely, with the singer who mounds his words. Indeed the sincerity and plainness with which he speaks are in many instances remarkable. A particularly interesting chapter, it strikes us, is that on German songs. The writer seems especially well versed in the merits of German composers, and he has much to tell us on the subject that is worth hearing. His hints as to the choice of English songs are also worthy of attention. We have spoken of the faults of the book, but we really do not see anything in it by which we can make good our word. An inexact distinction made in one instance between certain singers is most probably a mere slip of the pen, if not a typographical error. Grisi and Mario, for example, were certainly contemporaries, and, although the tenor kept the boards after the great soprano had retired, it was then a vexation of spirit to listen to him. The exquisite grace in a great degree survived, but the voice was gone. How great was the loss none who had not heard the singer in his prime could possibly imagine. Sims Reeves too might almost be counted a contemporary of Mario and Grisi—more justly so than of Patti, or, still more, of Madame Melba. For our own part, we heard Sims Reeves sing in 1854 and then he was not a young singer. Patti did not appear before '60 or '61, and Melba is still of yesterday. But this is to cavil at a mere accident. On the whole the book is a useful one, well and pleasantly written, and admirably calculated to serve the purpose for which it is intended. It is carefully and neatly printed, and turned out altogether in a manner creditable to the publishing firm.