

Colony, and in this capacity we may believe, as we hope, a long career still lies before him. As a citizen he commands universal respect and regard, and in every walk of life deserves the highest esteem. It gives us much happiness to congratulate him on the mark of appreciation he has now received.

On Sunday the choir of St Joseph's Cathedral was again conducted by the Rev Dr Egan. The lady members had on the occasion the valuable aid of Mrs P. J. Kelly of Christchurch, who, as Miss Walker, was formerly one of their leading sopranos. The music performed was, in the forenoon, the "Kyrie" and "Gloria," from Mozart No. I, and the "Credo," "Sanctus," and "Agnus Dei," from Weber's Mass in "G." The solos were taken by Mrs Kelly and Miss Mills (soprano), Miss Murphy (contralto), Messrs Eager and Dunne (tenor), and Cantwell and Woods (bass). At the Offertory, Mrs Kelly sang, with very charming effect, Cherubini's "Ave Maria," and after the consecration a fine rendering was given by Dr Egan and Mr J. Knox, late choir-master at St Benedict's, Auckland, of the "O Sacrum Convivium." In the evening Miss Rose Blaney sang, with her usual success, Luigi Luzzi's "Ave Maria." Dr Egan and Mr Knox repeated their fine duet.

We are not at all surprised to find that our contemporary the *West Coast Times* thinks we are speaking in a hyperbolic manner. There are positions which, if truly described, must seem exaggerated to people of guileless, innocent, and honest minds. Our contemporary is certainly a person of that kind and he cannot conceive such a state of things as that relating to the Catholics of the Colony and the secular schools. But our contemporary is not only guileless, innocent, and honest: he is also able, and now that his attention has been called to the subject, he will master it and arrive at last at a perception of the truth. When he does that, we may rely on his honesty for it, he will speak quite as strongly in our behalf as we now speak ourselves. He will denounce the no-Poperyism of papers like the *Otago Daily Times* and of genteel young capitalists like Mr Allen or of anyone else in whom the plague-spot may be manifested, and he will denounce it well and effectually. He will also effectually support the block vote. All this must be a necessary consequence of his indignant innocence, his enlightened honesty, and his sterling ability. But our contemporary, besides being guileless, innocent, honest, and able, is pleasant. He likes his little joke and is capable of making it. That is a famous little joke he makes to the effect that a subscription now being raised in Hokitika to erect a house for the Marist Brothers, as well as donations for such purposes bestowed elsewhere by generous non-Catholics, invalidates the TABLET'S assertion that Catholics provide at their own sole expense an excellent education for their own children. (See our standing leader, a paragraph, we may add, quoted by almost all our Australian and American Catholic contemporaries.) Our readers will see the point of this little joke. To explain a joke is to spoil it, and to do that in this instance would be a thousand pities as well as an offence to the wit of our contemporary. Our contemporary, however, explains that for Catholics to adhere to the block vote would be for them to disfranchise themselves. "Is it wise to do so?" he asks. Nay, it is not for us to define wisdom to a pundit of our contemporary's profundity. But if folly serves their purpose better than wisdom—and the folly of the block vote must be very effectual—why should not Catholics wear the cap and bells? The TABLET has used no hyperbole but has told plain truth. If it is too strong for guilelessness, innocence, and honesty, as they exist at least among journalists at Hokitika, we can not help that.

THE Rev James Macgregor writes to the *Otago Daily Times*, under date Columbia Manse, Oamaru, May 27, *a propos* of the letter of the Rev A. R. Fitchett, and supporting the claim for religious instruction in the Government schools. The rev correspondent admits the difficulty, but says it must be surmounted. He instances the case of Scotland, where, he says, the leading newspapers, previous to the passing of the National Education Act, predicted ruin unless religious instruction were prohibited. "How would grants to schools, say, of Roman Catholics having conscientious difficulty about using the national school," he writes, "ruin the national education? (1) Only part of the cost of supporting the school would be met by the grant; and the expense and trouble thus falling on those who receive it would prevent the existence—or continuance—of subsidised schools where not really needed. The number of them in New Zealand would thus be inconsiderable. (2) The grant would be conditional on the secular part of the education being done to the satisfaction of national inspectors. Consequently, the children in these schools would be educated satisfactorily in the secular branches, as the children in our present schools are. (3) In the barely conceivable case of the national school not having a sufficiency of pupils because of, say, a Roman Catholic school in the district, that district could be dealt with as districts are dealt with where there are too few children for a complete school because of the sparseness of population. And if one district should in this way be placed somewhat at a disadvantage, on the other hand the nation as a whole would have the incalculable

benefit of the permission of religious instruction in the national schools." "I think it of very great importance," concludes Mr Macgregor "that this point should be considered by those who in good faith are desirous of the religious instruction, and will be thankful if the present letter helps to draw their attention to the point."

WE learn that the Very Rev Father Vaughan, O.S.S.B., will leave Waratah, N.S.W., shortly for a visit to Europe, returning towards the end of the year. Father Vaughan will be accompanied by the Very Rev Father Bennett, Provincial of the Order, and also by the Rev Father Mangau, with whom we in New Zealand are so well acquainted. We heartily wish the good Fathers a safe and prosperous voyage, but, above all, a speedy return. It would be unwelcome news to the Catholics in this Colony—and we may safely say elsewhere—to hear that in future missions they were to miss Father Mangau.

A PROPOSAL made by the Anglican Bishop of Durham, and accepted by the men for a settlement of the coal-miners' strike would seem to show that the demand made by the strikers was not very extravagant. It would appear that 13½ per cent. had been struck off the men's wages. The bishop's proposal was that 10 per cent. should go, but that the remaining 3½ should be referred to arbitration. The consent of the strikers certainly proves their moderation. It, however, remains for us to learn what the circumstances were that justified the proprietors in their own eyes for such a sweeping reduction. The consequent stoppage of the iron-works in Yorkshire, at least, seems to point to the fact that there had been no falling off in demand.

THE following readjustment of portfolios has been finally agreed to by the Cabinet:—Hon J. Ballance—Premier, Colonial Treasurer, Commissioner of Customs, Commissioner of Stamps, Government Insurance, and Public Trust offices. Sir P. Buckley—Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General. Hon R. J. Seddon—Public Works, Mines, Defence and Marine. Hon W. P. Reeves—Education, Labour, Hospitals and Charitable Aid. Hon J. McKenzie—Land, Agriculture, and Native Land Purchase. Hon A. J. Cadman—Native Affairs and Justice, to which is now attached Native Land Courts. He will also take charge of all legislation affecting the Native race. Hon J. G. Ward—Postmaster-General. Hon J. Carroll—Member of the Executive representing the Native race.

AT the usual weekly practice of the Dunedin Liedertafel, on Monday last, Mr W. J. Cantwell, the librarian of the Society, was presented by the members with a handsome marble clock on the occasion of his marriage. Mr W. F. Young made the presentation, and, in doing so, referred in eulogistic terms to Mr Cantwell's long and valuable services to the Society and to the esteem and regard in which he was held by all the members. The health of the newly-married was then proposed by Mr Young and responded to with musical honours. Mr Cantwell in a neat speech feelingly and suitably responded.

AT the conference of the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association held in Christchurch last week, a resolution was unanimously passed for teaching elementary agriculture and farm book-keeping in the public schools. If all such resolutions passed in different quarters be carried into effect the notions of the children will become rather mixed. And what about the cost? But that is of no account so long as we produce prodigies of technicality and other fade. Let us then make way for the infant phenomenon—gruesome successor of the *enfant terrible*.

"LONDON, May 30.—The Belfast *Telegraph* publishes Ulster's plan of resistance, in the event of Home Rule being granted. Elections to the Dublin Parliament and all judicial and magisterial appointments are to be ignored, and only the Queen's taxes will be paid. A special police is to be enrolled, and the custom houses in Belfast, Londonderry, Larne, and Newry are to be seized; and while refraining from aggression, steady preparations are to be made for war."—Bosh!

THE second reading of Mr Balfour's foolish Local Government Bill for Ireland has been carried by a majority of 92. The Irish Members seem to have been taken by surprise—holding the Bill, perhaps in too great contempt. In any case, 27 of them are said to have been absent from the House. There has been some talk as to a postponement of the dissolution owing to the Tory victory. It, however, does not appear to be regarded as quite genuine, and the probabilities are that it will have no such effect.

Builders or people generally interested in building will do well to visit the timber yard of Messrs C. Leith and Co, George and King streets, Dunedin, where they will find all their requirements provided for in a manner leaving nothing to be desired. Their selection may be made from a large and well-chosen stock.