

We have Hon J. G. Ward, who is true as steel on the school question. We had others in past so-called Liberal administrations. How many Catholics have occupied seats on the Treasury benches during the so-called Conservative regime? A straw shows how the wind blows. This fact does not point to a kindly feeling between the Opposition and Roman Catholics.

What could past Governments do for us? What can the present Government do for us? Simply bring in the question, make it a Government measure, be defeated, and resign, to oblige us, and show a little sympathy. In the present Government there are three advocates of aid to private schools. Let us suppose that they, with the consent of their colleagues (a likely thing!), introduced a measure of relief in the direction indicated, out they would go, and in would come Messrs Rolleston, Kaitangata Mackenzie, no-Popery Allen, and Co. Of course they would make aid to Catholic schools a strong plank in their electoral platform! Judging by the past, no matter what overtures Catholics made to them, they would rather inscribe "Down with Catholic schools" on the banner of their party. It will take a deal of Clutha water to wash Kaitangata coal off "dirty hands." The taking up the school question by a responsible Minister and a Parliamentary party is a most desirable thing. The time, I am afraid, has not yet come. The time will soon come if Catholics be loyal to their natural leaders and true to themselves. How can we expect the present Ministry to warmly espouse our cause when they are not encouraged by many Catholics. Catholic writers should make the education question the great question of their articles and letters, and yet we find the present Ministry favourable to Catholics in many ways, more favourable probably, all things considered, than any preceding Ministry, abused and condemned collectively and individually in the most scathing terms. With truth the present Government may say to some Catholic opponents, "What evil have we done to Catholics? What have we omitted to do that we could do? If you are bent on taking up a party at the next election, why vote for the Opposition without giving us a chance of meeting your wishes? Vote in a body for the Liberal party, and we shall be in a better position to induce our followers to assist in doing what you want and most of us wish.

I humbly venture to think that we should at the present time pay little heed to either the "ins" or the "outs." Whenever we have a sufficient number of Members in Parliament favourable to carrying a Private Schools Bill, the Government of the day will have little difficulty in making it a Government question.

What do Catholics in New Zealand want? They want a Windhorst. They want a man—a true man—to espouse their cause and make it the work of his parliamentary life. They want a man of integrity, a statesman of ability, who will command the respect of his fellows and have the wisdom of a skilful leader, one in a position of trust in the House—the acknowledged mouthpiece of the Catholic body. He would watch and organise, and wait and strike. He would create a party that would soon bring both the "ins" and "outs" to terms. We must not expect anything from so-called Conservatives or so-called Liberals. We must rely upon ourselves. If Catholics from Bluff to Auckland be only true to themselves they will have little to fear. We have been our worst enemies. We must form a distinct party if possible in the Legislature. Then the Liberals and Conservatives, or more properly speaking, the "ins" and "outs" will parley for support, and cater for our good wishes. At the present time there is no such thing as a Conservative party, nor is there a Liberal party properly so-called. Members with very little reason change their seats and move across the floor of the House. The so-called Conservative leader of the Opposition calls himself a Liberal, and so does Mr Allen, of Bruce fame. It is simply a question of "ins" and "outs." Our duty is to secure a sufficient number of "ins" on the education question to place our opponents among the "outs."

I see by the public papers that the authorities of the Church in New Zealand are to have a meeting shortly in Dunedin. No doubt the education question will be discussed. Catholics will look with interest to the result of their Lordships' deliberations. If the bishops determine upon a certain plan of campaign, it will be followed by every loyal son of the Church in New Zealand. In their deliberations they will have the prayers of the Catholic people and the good wishes of a large and increasing number of Protestants, who, seeing the widespread modern paganism induced by secularism, heartily desire religious education in the schools.

TAX,

Mr James Rugg's Kumara Hotel offers visitors to the town in question accommodation not to be rivalled on the Coast. It has lately undergone extensive improvements and will be found in every respect a first-class place of call or residence. All the conveniences required for the comfort of visitors or boarders have been provided and the house is in every respects well conducted.

His Holiness has sanctioned plans for a new villa, on the highest ground overlooking the entire city of Rome. Walks and carriage drives are being laid out. All modern improvements will be introduced.

JUVENILE ELOCUTION.

WE have just received from the compilers, the Christian Brothers, a leaflet entitled "Vocal exercises for young elocutionists." It commences with the simplest vowel sounds; then follow the diphthongs, next come the double consonants, and these are followed by a list of words which, as a rule, young people find a great difficulty in pronouncing. This list is prepared with great judgment and care and is evidently the result of many years of careful observation on the part of the compilers. Exercises on the final *ing* and *tion*, on the H and O with a list of miscellaneous words, complete the first part of this useful publication. The second part contains in a tabulated form "Vowel and consonant sounds combined." In this table will, we venture to say, be found almost every sound that occurs in the English language. We have taken the trouble of counting them, and there are no fewer than three hundred and twelve different sounds in the table, whilst directions are given at the end by which these sounds may be varied indefinitely. The young vocalists are then brought on to real practical work in the recitation of two very well chosen pieces, viz., "The bells" and "The downfall of Poland." To the conscientious teacher who is really desirous of giving his pupils a first-class training in what, for want of a better word, we may term "vocal gymnastics," this leaflet will be simply invaluable. We may add, the publication is so got out that it can be conveniently inserted in any reading book, and used in conjunction therewith. We fear not to assert that the teacher who gives these "vocal exercises" a trial of say ten or twelve minutes a day for three months will be amply repaid by the great improvement he will notice in the pronunciation of his pupils. The whole is printed in clear, distinct type on good paper. "The vocal exercises" can be had at the office of this paper for the small charge of five shillings a hundred, post free.

BROKEN MEASURES.

LIFE is full of broken measures,
Objects unattained;
Sorrows intertwined with pleasures;
Losses of our costliest treasures,
Ere the heights be gained.

Every soul has inspiration
Still unsatisfied;
Memories that wake vibration
Of the heart in quick pulsation,
At the gifts denied.

We are better for the longing,
Stronger for the pain;
Souls at ease are nature wronging—
Through the harrowed soil come thronging
Seeds, in sun and rain.

Broken measures, fine completeness
In the perfect whole:
Life is but a day in fleetness—
Richer in all strength and sweetness,
Grows the striving soul.

—New England Magazine.

The house at Youghal, Cork, formerly occupied by Sir Walter Raleigh, the great adventurer, was offered for sale at auction on Tuesday. The highest bid was £1,250, and the owners bought in the property.

The steamship Gaelic, which has arrived in San Francisco from Shanghai, brought intelligence of savage assaults being made upon the Christians in different and widely separated portions of the Chinese Empire.

When the three hundred and thirty-six public schools in Paris directed by religious were suppressed they taught 47,000 children. The schools which have since been provided by the private contributions of Catholics now contain 75,000 pupils.

A flow of natural gas has been struck at Salt Lake City at a depth of 600 feet, the pressure being 160 pounds to the square inch. Several companies are engaged in sinking wells in that locality with favourable indications of finding the gas in considerable quantities.

The young Emperor of China is studying French. His tutor is one of the priests of the Lazarist mission.

The discussion in the protracted meeting held by the shareholders of the *National Press* in Dublin, was hailed by the English "Unionist" papers as the beginning of a new split. They took much too literally some of the sharp things said in the passage of arms between Messrs Dillon and Healy. Happily the debate ended in an agreement between the Nationalists, to the utter disappointment of the Tories who had been rejoicing at what they described as the new Irish revolt. It is to be hoped that this will be the last serious debate within the camp.