

But as to the interference of the law, as authorised by the Pope, Cardinal Manning is very decided. Writing in reference to the London strikes, "Leo XIII," he says, "in such cases goes beyond the intervention of peacemakers in a voluntary effort to reconcile contending parties. He affirms that the State may intervene. 'If,' he says, 'by a strike or other combination of workmen, there should be imminent danger of disturbance to the public peace, or if circumstances were such that among the labouring population the ties of family life were relaxed' . . . 'finally, if health were endangered by excessive labour, or by work unsuited to sex or age, in these cases there can be no question that within certain limits it would be right to call in the help and authority of the law.' So little does the Encyclical recognise the absolutism of employers, and so fully does it justify the action of Parliament in the Commission on Sweating, in the Committee on the Hours of Labour, and now in the Commission on Labour in all its relation to Capital. Leo XIII gives to legislators a supreme counsel: 'The laws should be *beforehand* and *prevent* these troubles from arising, they should lend their influence and authority to the removal in good time of the causes which tend to conflict between masters and those whom they employ.' " The Cardinal assumes that the "voluntary tribunals of arbitration, composed of employers and employed in their respective unions or associations," recommended by the Pope, should be legally authorised bodies, whose decisions, therefore, would be binding in law.

Socialism is said to be one of the factors in the Pittsburg strike. To this is attributed the attempt on the life of Carnegie's manager. Some brutal treatment appears to have been inflicted, by the officers of his regiment, on a soldier who expressed sympathy with the would-be murderer. Mr Carnegie, meantime, declares that he has had nothing personally to do with the business for three years, having had confidence in his managers—a confidence that would seem to have been, in some degree, misplaced.

At a meeting of the Dunedin Labour Day Committee held on Wednesday evening, July 27, officials were elected as follows:—President: Mr J. A. Millar; vice-presidents, Messrs J. Cockburn and B. Slater; treasurer, Mr G. Purches; trustees—Messrs Pinkerton, Slater, and Carados; secretary, Mr R. Clark.

All the Auckland factories, excepting one small one, are now connected with the newly-formed union, and that one is expected to come in at an early date.

The *Otago Daily Times* publishes an interview between its Wellington correspondent and Mr Tregear, head of the Labour Bureau. This gentleman declares that the number of the unemployed shows a marked decrease. The greatest number of applications, he says, come from the South Island, where, in the winter months, there is no work for casual hands. Mr Tregear also gives it as his opinion that the bureau will result in a saving to the country: "To show that there will be a saving let me point out to you that we sent up to Hunterville and to the Government works at Pahiatua about 120 men, who in the first six months sent £8000 to Wellington for their wives and families, so that the general taxpayer was spared the payment of charitable aid to that amount, and so much money was put into circulation." The bureau, we are told, has 200 agents throughout the colony who keep it informed of urgent matters. A particularly useful office performed by it, we may add, is that of directing men in search of work, but not in need of money for the road, as to the particular district in which they are likely to find it.

In an interview with a representative of the *Barrier Miner*, the Bishop of Wilcannia, who had formed one of a citizen's deputation from Broken Hill to Adelaide and Melbourne, expressed himself as little gratified at the reception which he and his colleagues had met with from the shareholders. His Lordship thought, however, that good had been done by their making the state of the case better understood—especially in Melbourne. In Melbourne an official interview with the directors was refused to the deputation, unless the defence committee consented to withdraw the pickets. The picketing and the slight excesses which it had led to in the first few days of the strike, the Bishop added, were the chief difficulties the deputation had to encounter. Public feeling was against the system in question, although it was admitted that the miners had a strong case with regard to the agreement. His Lordship thought that, if the directors gave a guarantee not to introduce non-union labour, the defence committee might consent to withdraw the pickets. Otherwise he could see little hope of a conference.

Le Caron the informer is now seriously ill in a secluded English village. He has written a history of his life, but it is safe to say the circulation of such a production will be limited.

Cardinal Ledochowski has written a letter to the Catholics in the United States, which will finally close the Cahensly incident. The Vatican, he says, is immovably resolved to adhere to the rules of the Baltimore Conference. European immigrants in the United States must coalesce as one people and form one nation.

DUNEDIN CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

THE weekly meeting of the above Society was held in the Christian Brothers' school on Wednesday evening July 27.

The chair was occupied by the vice-president (Mr P. Hally.)

There was a large attendance of members and visitors among whom were his Lordship the Most Rev Dr Moran and several of the clergy.

Mr F. W. Petre read a highly interesting paper on "Archæology as an aid to the Historian," a *précis* of which will be given next week.

His Lordship the Bishop read a biographical sketch, and the rev president (Father Lynch) was to have read "A Belic of Bobbio, an ancient hymn of Christian Erin," and "a Game of chess, a legendary tale of pagan," Erin but owing to the length of the programme the first item was only contributed. Both selections were read in an exceptionally good manner.

Mr L. Purton selected for his reading Washington Irving's "Birth-place of Shakespeare." This young member acquitted himself creditably. Mr James Simmonds recited "Orange and Green," by Gerald Griffin in good style; and Mr James P. Eager "took the members by storm," by reproducing an extract from a speech delivered by his Lordship the Bishop when contesting the Peninsula seat for the House of Representatives. The items were commented on by several of the members and were accorded a vote of thanks.

The usual compliment to the chairman concluded the business.

G E T T Y S B U R G.

[Read at the dedication of the "High-Water-Mark Monument," on the field of Gettysburg, on June 2, 1892.]

There was no union in the land,
Though wise men labored long
With links of clay and ropes of sand
To bind the right and wrong.

There was no temper in the blade
That once could cleave a chain;
Its edge was dull with touch of trade
And clogged with rust of gain.

The sand and clay must shrink away
Before the lava tide;
By blows and blood and fire assay
The metal must be tried.

Here sledge and anvil met, and when
The furnace fiercest roared,
God's undiscerning workmen
Reforged His people's sword.

Enough for them to ask and know
The moment's duty clear—
The bayonets flashed it there below,
The guns proclaimed it here:

To do and dare, and die at need,
But while life lasts, to fight—
For right or wrong a simple creed,
But simplest for the right.

They faltered not who stood that day
And held this post of dread;
Nor cowards they who wore the gray
Until the gray was red.

For every wreath the victor wears
The vanquished half may claim;
And every monument declares
A common pride and fame.

We raise no altar stones to Hate,
Who never bowed to Fear;
No province crouches at our gate,
To shame our triumph here.

Here standing by a dead wrong's grave
The blindest now may see,
The blow that liberates the slave
But sets the master free!

When ills beset the nation's life
Too dangerous to bear,
The sword must be the surgeon's knife,
Too merciful to spare.

O Soldier of our common land,
'Tis thine to bare that blade
Loose in the sheath, or firm in hand,
But ever unafraid.

When foreign foes assail our right,
One nation trusts to thee—
To wield it well in worthy fight—
The sword of Meade and Lee!

JAMES JEFFREY ROCHE.