

totalisator, nevertheless, seems to make gambling easy for a class whom the bookmakers could not approach. A resolution was carried opposing the formation of a New Zealand Jockey Club.

REVELATIONS made in connection with the ODDS AND ENDS, Panama Canal scheme shed an ugly light on honesty among the Frenchmen of the day. One of the most significant facts is the extent to which the Press was bribed. We may probably conclude that Lesseps, though involved in the defalcations, was ignorant of them and innocent. Culpable conduct on the part of so eminent a man would form a dark blot on the nation. Indeed, it would possibly affect the reputation of science generally.—The *Queen* contends that, notwithstanding the competition into which women have entered with men, deference is still due to womanhood. Why? Womanhood in itself is not better than manhood. It is weaker, indeed, but weakness is a defect. It may perhaps, claim to be better in the bearing of children. This, however, it sacrifices to its new ambition, the contest being injurious to maternity and its prospects. Deference to womanhood depends altogether upon sentiment. That the sentiment is good and ennobling is admitted. Therefore women who do what must necessarily undermine and destroy it are acting against the interests of society. How can they justly complain if they be forced to pay the penalty?—Mr Keir Hardie, M.P., seems to reject the old aphorism that honesty is the best policy. Speaking recently at Leeds, he alluded to a report that the Conservatives had been financing the labour party, with a design of splitting the Liberals. "He was quite willing to receive help," he said. "He would not ask where it came from so long as it was the current coin of the realm." Mr Keir Hardie may perhaps be worldly-wise, but there is little that is manly in such an expression—little, for example, of the spirit of Felix Holt, the Radical.—All is vanity. Jay Gould, the American millionaire, is dead, after a few days' illness of pulmonary consumption. He leaves to his heirs an enormous fortune, from twelve to thirty-four millions sterling it is said, and to charities a few million dollars. The American Press express a pity they do not feel, and a gladness

Empress, who is said to have been severely hurt by the matter. It is on this point that the chief importance of the authorship seems to turn. Had Sir Richard Wallace told the stories referred to they would take a colouring which otherwise they would not have. Against some of them her Majesty bore, written on her very face, an irrefutable contradiction. Bigotry against her, which, shameful to say, still exists in some quarters—Mr Forbes apparently included—seeks to prove the stories genuine. For his own sake it is to be hoped the author may prove to be irresponsible.

MEETING AT NEW HEADFORD, LINCOLN.

A THOROUGHLY representative meeting of all the adult Catholics of the parish of the Reparation was held in the school hall on Sunday, November 20th. At the invitation of our pastor, Rev Father Foley, every man and woman who assisted at Mass repaired to the school, which was prepared for the occasion with extra sitting accommodation. The hall was quite filled, the men occupying seats on one side, the women on the other, and the members of the school committee taking their places on the platform.

Father Foley presided. All being seated, he stepped forward and asked the meeting to elect a secretary. Owing to the unavoidable absence of our secretary, it was necessary, he said, to elect one for the occasion. Mr Richard Lloyd was unanimously chosen to fulfil that duty.

The rev chairman stated that the object of this meeting was to consider the resolutions formulated by the Catholic hierarchy of New Zealand at their recent meeting in Dunedin in the month of August last, and to carry out, as far as lies in our power, the wishes of our venerable Bishops. He then read the resolutions, also the decree of the Plenary Council of Sydney, referred to by the bishops in their first resolution. After which, addressing the audience, he said:—"Ladies and gentlemen,—You will easily understand the reason of the bishops' solicitude concerning Christian education after hearing read the commission of our Divine Lord to His

IF we were timid and afraid of the ground we stand on because of the lack of faith in our Goods, we would write our advertisement like this :

*City Boot Palace,
Corner George and St. Andrew Streets.*

But as we are not timid and know the value of our Goods, the knowledge makes us bold and we therefore write like this :

CITY BOOT PALACE,

Corner George and St. Andrew Streets.

J. MCKAY, Proprietor.



to be rid of a sinister influence on the country, which, no doubt, is genuine. It was for this the millionaire lived and died. Is life worth living? has been asked. There is a more important question:—Is death worth dying?—Princess May, they say, is betrothed and soon to be married to the Duke of York, brother of her late *fiancé*. Such a marriage would have a precedent in that of the Empress of Russia. It would have one a little less exact and infinitely more sinister, in the marriage of Catherine of Aragon to the Prince who became King Henry VIII. *Absit omen*.—We see from a report in our contemporary the *Dunedin Evening Star*, that at a pan-Presbyterian council recently held in Canada, a Dr Leitch, of Belfast, to quote our contemporary, "dealt with the effect of the Reformation in awakening the intellect and conscience, in which he showed the light, liberty, progress, and prosperity, enjoyed by those nations that were under the influences of the Reformation in contrast with those nations that were not." That is, the rev man tried to show all this, and succeeded in doing so to eyes that were as blind as his own. If he had known anything about the matter, what he might have shown was, for example, that the great danger and misery of the times, especially in England, that is the condition of the labouring population, was a direct outcome of the movement of which he foolishly made his boast. As to the awakening of intellect and conscience, let us take as a suitable illustration of it an Orange mob in full yell.—The mystery that envelops the author of the letters of Junius bids fair to be rivalled by that attending on a book recently published and entitled the "Englishman in Paris." It has been ascribed to the late Sir Richard Wallace. If he, however, were its author, it has been shown to prove him singularly ignorant, not only of French and English literature, but of the French language, which he spoke as his mother-tongue. A more likely guess seems to be that it is a clever compilation of anecdotes, more or less current at various times. The sinister point connected with the book is that the Empress Eugenie is very spitefully and cruelly dealt with—as Mr Archibald Forbes, indeed, with his usual want of gentlemanly feeling, has explained in one of the London periodicals. Against this, and in particular relation to Mr Forbes' article, a protest has been made on behalf of the

Apostles, and in them to the bishops of the Catholic Church. The solicitude of the fathers of the Church for the sound training of youth in Christian principles is begotten of that divine command, 'Go, therefore, teach all nations,' etc. Upon bishops, priests, religious teachers, and paren's devolves the obligation of spreading the light of faith by sowing the seed of Christianity in the minds of children. Bishops and priests would be unworthy of their exalted offices were they to forget this duty or become indifferent or uncertain in their decision. Ladies and gentlemen, you owe it to the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ—the chief Pastor and Bishop of our soul, the Founder and Protector of the Church—you owe it to this spiritual mother of the faithful to know the true doctrine of salvation—what you must believe and do in order to be saved. Unlike the teachers of the various modern sects, who, having no divine commission, know not the truth, and whose teaching and opinions upon religion change with every vicissitude of time and place, within whose ranks there is no uniformity of dogma, but as many conflicting and contradictory beliefs as there are individuals in every sect. Thank God we are included amongst the members of that one true Church—the oracle of divine truth, the ark of salvation. For this blessing we have reason to be grateful to God, grateful to our martyred fathers and mothers who, in order to transmit to their children the heirloom of faith, suffered cruel persecution, loss of property, honour and life. They gave us this inestimable inheritance sealed with their blood, and we resolve to guard sacredly and transmit to posterity the same gift of true faith, unsullied and unstained, like worthy children of noble sires. To do our duty in this respect we must be of the same mind in matters pertaining to faith and morals. We must obey the Church, who speaks to us through her prelates. We must be ready and willing to co-operate with them in safe-guarding the faith and morals of our children, lest we deserve that malediction pronounced upon all who are traitors to the discipline of the Gospel, 'He that hath no care for his own, and especially those of his household, hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel' (1 Timothy, V. 8). Ladies and gentlemen, after these few preliminary remarks upon the necessity of united action in this matter of religious education, I ask you to give