

There passed through from Australia, en route to America by the last outward mail boat, Mariposa, a distinguished Irish lady whose husband and brother played a conspicuous part in the exciting times of '48—viz., Mrs John Martin, widow of the treason-felon, John Martin, and sister to that fearless, out-spoken, and genuine Irishman, John Mitchel. Through the kind intimation of a relative, a resident here, I was enabled to enjoy a half-hour's chat with Mrs Martin prior to her departure. Entering the social hall of the ocean liner, my friend pointed out to me the object of my visit. What a flood of thoughts, scenes, and incidents, and, I might add, emotions, were mine as I approached this representative of a family who dared, and suffered, and lost so much because they loved old Ireland, not too wisely, but too well. If I were to commit them to paper I would exceed my *ultima Thule*, and only to recapitulate one more ill-advised, though highly excusable, attempt to overthrow an insolent, corrupt, truculent and sanguinary oligarchy. Other times and men, and more Christian and potent methods, are about to consummate this. 1848 and its exciting events, and more particularly the parts played therein by John Mitchel and John Martin, were eagerly, though hurriedly, talked over. In Australia Mrs Martin visited many of the places frequented by the exiles of '48, and fervidly described them, and here one of the local Irishmen told the lady that he was in Australia at that period, and described minutely Smith O'Brien, Meagher, O'Doherty, McManus, Mitchel, and Martin, and so faithful was his description of the two latter that tears filled the eyes of the visitor. Handing me a splendid double-cased gold watch, she said, "That was my husband's, and was one of seven made and presented in Dublin to the Young Ireland party." Speaking on contemporary matters, Mrs Martin deplored the split at Home, and said she felt convinced that external pressure was necessary to unite them once again. "What is your opinion of the Dublin Castle explosion?" I said. With all the animation of a Mitchel, she said, "Ah, 'tis the old game they are at. No Nationalist or Home Ruler did that." On landing in America Mrs Martin will proceed to the "ranche" of Mr William Dillon (brother of John Dillon), Colorado, where she is to stay a few months, then passing over to Ireland. "All ashore!" now sounded, and we all took leave of her, and bidding her to be sure and remember us all to John Dillon. The last person to leave the ship was the American Consul, Mr J. D. Connolly, who had only the moment before arrived, and whose time in the interim was occupied in transacting his official duties with the captain and purser. The gangway was about to be cut adrift when I acquainted the Consul of Mrs Martin's presence, and pointed her out. He immediately re-boarded the vessel and conversed for a time with the visitor—and here were her Majesty's mails detained while it lasted! A small band then gathered at the end of the quay to see the last of our visitor, hats and handkerchiefs were waved and acknowledged from the deck of the Mariposa as she commenced her voyage to the Golden Gate.

DEATH OF MR. D. HANNAN.

(From a Correspondent.)

Greymouth, January 10, 1893.

It is with deep regret that I have to write to chronicle the death of Mr Denis Hannan, who has been an old and respected resident of the West Coast for the last 25 years, and the news of his death caused a feeling of deep regret from one end of the Coast to the other, as he was widely known. For many weeks past he had been complaining of sciatica, although he was able to attend to his business in Kumara, he having followed the occupation of mining advocate for a number of years, and was looked upon by all as the very best on the Coast. On Monday week last he was taken to his bed suffering from influenza and pains in the stomach, which caused him to lose the use of his right side. Drs McBrearty and Monce did all they could to relieve the sufferer, but without avail. He having breathed his last on Monday night, at about 11.30, in the presence of his family and Father Carew. About six months ago his second youngest brother died at Home, and from the time he received the sad news he did not seem to be himself, although his family did not notice anything wrong with him. Mr Hannan came out to Victoria in 1838, where he resided in business until the rush to the West Coast set in, when he came down to Stafford, where he went into business as hotelkeeper and storekeeper. After spending a number of years there he went to Kumara, and has been identified with that place ever since, he being only three years a resident of this town, although he used to go to Kumara every week to attend the Warden's Court. He was Mayor of Kumara twice, member of the Borough Council four times, and up to the time of his death he was a member of the Hospital Trustees; in the early days of the West Coast he was a member of the first Road Board, along with the Hon R. J. Seddon. He was known by all to have an open hand and an open purse, and as an enemy of no man's. Many of his old friends and acquaintances showed their feeling of respect for deceased by coming from Reefton, Brunner, Kumara, Stafford, Waimea, and Hokitika, to have a last glimpse of him, and many of those who could not leave their places of business

sent telegrams of condolence to his good wife and family. Deceased leaves a widow and grown-up family, five daughters and two sons, to mourn his loss, among them being Mr Michael Hannan, barrister and solicitor, and chairman of the Grey County Council and Charitable Aid Board; also a member of the Hospital Trustees.

His remains were buried in the Greymouth cemetery on Wednesday, having been followed by about 800 persons and 40 horsemen and vehicles, who came from all parts of the West Coast. The pall was carried in front of the hearse by six of his oldest friends, viz.,—Hon R. J. Seddon (Minister of Public Works and Mines), Messrs W. H. Jones (barrister and solicitor), T. V. Byrne (Mayor of Kumara), T. McEneaney (clerk of the B.M. Court, Kumara), D. Sheedy (member of the Grey Borough Council), and Matthew Davidson (Kumara). The funeral service was conducted by the Rev Father Carew, assisted by the Rev Fathers Walsh (Kumara), McManus (Abaura), Carolin (Wellington), and Servijeau (Greymouth).

Mass was offered up for the repose of his soul in St Patrick's Church on Sunday.—*Requiescat in Pace.*

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN VICTORIA.

(Auckland Star, January 9.)

WHATEVER opinion may be held with regard to the attitude of the Roman Catholic authorities towards secular education, it is impossible to view without admiration the sacrifices made by the adherents of that body in carrying out their principles. Since the Education Acts were passed in the various colonies, which provided for a secular, free and compulsory system, the Roman Catholics have never ceased to protest. They have not contented themselves, like some of their Protestant sympathisers, with "great cry and little wool," but have erected schools and maintained teachers at considerable expense. In Victoria especially strenuous efforts have been made to compete with the State schools, and some of the clergy have sacrificed a considerable portion of their incomes to that purpose. The annual report of the Roman Catholic schools in that colony has just been issued, and shows that during the year £12,713 19s has been expended in building new schools and improving old ones. On one school, erected in Geelong, erected by Archdeacon Slattery—whose assertion that he was ready to draw "a free and flashing sword" in defence of a religious system of education has often been quoted—a sum of £6000 has been spent. The total number of pupils attending Catholic schools in the archdiocese is 18,792. The authorities claim that the education imparted is a sound one, and the report dwells with pride upon the fact that in an open competition at Bacchus Marsh against the State schools of the district, the local Catholic school carried off 41 prizes out of 50. Many of these schools are officered by members of religious orders, and are thus maintained at comparatively small cost; but still the drain upon the Catholics, who have, in addition, to furnish their contribution to the national system of education, must be a very heavy one. The average cost per child in attendance at the State schools in Victoria is a little over £5. On this scale the Roman Catholic children attending the schools in that colony, founded by their own Church, represent an expenditure of over £90,000 per annum.

Mr James Lowther, who was Chief Secretary for Ireland under Disraeli, in 1878 is to be Chairman of the coming Agricultural Conference and will strongly advocate a duty on grain imported into England, to relieve the great depression in the farming business now existing in that country.

The *Italia del Popolo* of Milan states that priests and clerical students forced by the military law to serve in the Italian army, have been subjected to systematic ill-treatment. It challenges enquiry and offers to produce names, dates, and details before a competent tribunal.

Mr D. Robertson, who is relinquishing the business carried on by him in High street, Dunedin, offers for sale, at exceptionally low prices, his large and handsome stock of marble and granite monuments.

Mr A. T. McWilliam, well-known as a former driver with Messrs Cassidy, Young and Co., is now running a line of coaches between Hokitika and Springfield. Tourists and travellers generally will find this convenience and comfort thus admirably provided for.

Mr J. K. Warburton, Public Trustee, Wellington, may be depended on as a thoroughly reliable and in every way a most satisfactory administrator or executor of intestate estates, wills, and money trusts. Investments made with the Trust Office, besides being profitable, have the advantage of perfect safety.

Dyeing and cleaning are carefully and well done at the works, 116 George street, Dunedin. Terms are moderate, and in every case satisfaction is ensured.

We beg to draw the attention of our readers to an advertisement of Messrs Jameson, Anderson and Co., Christchurch, this firm was the first in Canterbury to make a speciality of pure unblended Ceylon and Indian teas, and as they have been importing from the same gardens since 1886, their teas (*unlike the various blends*) can always be relied upon for evenness of character, purity and richness. These teas which are known as the Palm Brand may be obtained in nearly all the principal towns in the Colony and we would advise our readers to them a trial.