

MGR. PERSICO, heretofore secretary to the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, has been promoted to the office of the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences and Holy relics, in place of Cardinal Sapiacci, deceased.

LORD SALISBURY, in his speech at Derry on Friday, (says the *Liverpool Catholic Times* of June 2) indignantly repudiated any desire to arouse religious animosities. Yet in the same breath, he coarsely assailed the Irish clergy, referring to them as "a lamentably disciplined corps of Celtic priests." The Celts are sometimes said to be boastful, but in worthless boasting as to the superiority of him- self and those who agree with him, Lord Salisbury can easily beat all competitors.

THE Blue Book on the Kapaka question (says the *Liverpool Catholic Times*) reveals the fact that at certain Protestant mission stores the stock consists not of Bibles or hymn-books, but of cases of Old Tom gin and beer, bags of shot, and boxes of percussion caps for Enfield rifles. The Government agent asserts that the only missionaries who are really busy and zealous in religious work are the Catholic clergymen—the French Jesuit priests.

THE Financial Debate is still proceeding. The principal speech on Tuesday was that of Mr Scobie Mackenzie, who, however, does not seem to have said much that we had not heard before. He did not deny the surplus, but said that it had been already in existence, and that it was, to use the language of Mr Toots, of no consequence whatever. Mr Mackenzie also repeated his charge of imposture, and again displayed an anxiety for the bursting up of the large holdings. He instanced the purchase of the Cheviot Estate as a proof that the Government intended nothing of the kind. Here, however, we perceive a *non sequitur*. Surely if the Government paid too much for the estate in question they should be all the more eager to get others free of cost. Mr Mackenzie also added to the fame of the *New Zealand Times*, by loudly complaining of it. But the fortune of this paper is made. For our own part we had always regarded it as a newspaper like another. Now we feel almost inclined to put down our name upon its subscribers' list. Finally, that is in the order of our paragraph, not in that of Mr Mackenzie's speech, Mr Mackenzie complained that two of the civil servants had begged of him not to be seen speaking to them. Mr Mackenzie meant by this to prove that a state of terror existed in the Service. Might there not, however, be some other reason. Perhaps, for example, Mr Mackenzie had dirty hands. Civil servants, we know, as a rule, are swells. The debate, meantime, was adjourned.

THE Wellington correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times* announces the appointment of the Hon Mr Montgomery as a Minister without portfolio in the Upper House.

AND here we have Moliere's doctors once more. They are for ever turning up. In answer to a question of Mr O'Connor's, Mr Reeves said that he could do nothing towards forming night schools as it would be irregular for his department to step in between the education Boards and their own day schools. The children, then, must be taught by rule or not taught at all. To save all the lives in the world no physician must depart from the laws of the Faculty. Mr O'Connor's question, meantime, is significant of a marked failure in the famous system.

MR W. HUTCHISON is troubling himself on a question of doctors' fees. The case of Dr Lindo Ferguson and Mr Mondy has vexed his sparing soul, and he appeals to the Premier to prevent anything of the kind—that is, to prevent specialists who perform an operation in one or two minutes and so perfectly that nothing further is needed, from charging twenty guineas. But here is the Socialist principle of labour-time plainly counselled. The more skilful the operation, it might seem, the better worth paying for. Fancy, for instance, estimating the merit of a painter by the time he had taken to fill his canvas. So reckoned any unwieldy daub might be worth ten of the priceless gems of art. Let us hope the common sense of the Premier will avoid the risk of branding New Zealand as a land laid out for mediocrity or hardly even for that if it can find encouragement elsewhere. Had such a beggarly spirit prevailed when the old world was younger than it now is, where would have been the magnificence that forms the boast of Europe? But then they had their Lorenzos and Los. Now we have our Hutchisons and Mondys. The doctor who spares his patient and does his work quickly and perfectly is the doctor who deserves his fee.

The platypus brand of eucalyptus remedies is highly spoken of in colds, measles, and other affections. They are found most efficacious.

Messrs Kerr and Barnett's Stanmore Nursery, Christchurch, claims the particular attention of farmers and gardeners.

Mr David Ross, architect, may be consulted at his central office, Custom House Quay, Wellington. Communications by post receive immediate attention.

AUCKLAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

July 13th, 1893.

A SPLENDID picture of the crucifixion, valued at £100, the work of Mr Steele a renowned artist, has been presented by that gentleman to Dr Egan, who contemplates at an early date hanging it at St Benedict's. This fine picture will add further to the beauty of the church in Newton.

Father Buckley, M.A., is expected any moment from Sydney, and is to take up his duties in this diocese. He was educated in Carlow College, and should be a worthy acquisition to our diocesan clergy.

At St Patrick's on last Sunday night week there took place a most highly edifying and devotional ceremony—the children of the parish offering an act of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The girls all dressed in white with veils; the boys wearing cardinal sashes, the whole bearing lighted candles. Before the ceremony was a procession composed of the Children of Mary, Guard of Honour, in their respective regalias, the boys and the girls referred to above, and the altar boys. Father Gregory of St Benedict's, bore the Sacred Host under the canopy, borne by four of the Mariast Brothers, followed by his Lordship the Bishop. The boys then assembled inside the altar rails, the girls outside, when the Bishop read the Act of Consecration, the children repeating it. The whole subsequently singing, accompanied by the organ, "To Jesus' Heart all burning." The sight was a grand one, and could not but arouse a religious fervour in those who took part in and witnessed it. The girls were under the charge of Miss Kate Sheehan, the boys under Brother Cuthbert.

A large number of men-of-war men attend the second Mass every Sunday at St Patrick's, from the ships Orlando, Katoomba, and Ringdove. The Katoomba's are always to the fore, a fact to be attributed, no doubt, to her good Catholic commander, Captain Bickford, O.M.G.

A musical and dramatic entertainment is take place next Monday evening in St George's Hall, Newton, in aid of St Benedict's Church Fund.

It is not the first time that I have referred to the indefatigable labours of His Lordship the Bishop. On last Saturday evening he heard confessions at St Patrick's. On the following morning he celebrated first Mass there, and then celebrated episcopal High Mass at 11 a.m. at St Benedict's and also preached. In the evening he attended Vespers at St Benedict's. Our good Bishop does not spare himself in the execution of his duties.

Sunday last being the Feast of the patronage of St Benedict, Pontifical high Mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock by his Lordship the Bishop, Father Gregory, O.S.B., deacon; Father Gillan, sub-deacon; Rev Father Downey, O.S.B., assistant-celebrant. His Lordship delivered a splendid discourse on the life and times of St Benedict and his order, the powerful influence exercised by the latter on religion, science, and society. Reference was also made to a Council of Benedictine abbots, about 500, held recently in Rome, and the formation of a grand college under the patronage of St Asselem of Canterbury, a learned Doctor of the Church and of the Order. The choir under the able baton of Dr Egan, O.S.B., rendered Haydn's No. 1 in B flat. Miss Annie Lorrigan in her well-known style took the soprano solos, Miss Brannigan, alto; Dr Egan, tenor. A small but efficient orchestra was lead by Herr Zimmermann, Miss A. McIlhorne presiding at the organ. During the Offertory an "Ave Pater," composed by the Rev Dr Turner, O.S.B. was beautifully sung. When the congregation was dispersing the orchestra played the "War March of the Priests" from Athalia. In the evening after Vespers Father Gillan preached a panegyric on St Benedict. The spacious Church was filled both morning and evening.

The annual social in aid of St Patrick's presbytery building fund took place in St George's Hall on last Tuesday night week, and was a pronounced success in every way. Too much praise cannot be given to the good ladies of the committee who discarded all pleasure in order to contribute to the pleasure of others. The committee comprised the following:—Mesdames Leonardo and Guscott, the Misses Sheehan, Gough, Hickson, Harkins, Martin and Ryan.

Colonel Fox's report on the local volunteer forces has been honest, outspoken, and to the point. Like the Duke of York's famous warriors, they are formidable to everyone but the enemy. It is really time this too expensive game of playing at soldiers came to an end. Colonel Fox's report states that up to the present time we have spent £500,000 in defences (?) and continue to spend "a considerable amount annually." "The vote has averaged £83,435 during the past eight years." Over half a million in eight years and what have we to show for it? Absolutely nothing. Far better to have spent it in regaining the public estate. One would imagine that we had an Alsace-Lorraine to wrest from a greedy neighbour, or an ambitious young man at our head eager for military renown. It is about time this costly farce was ended; come along the Iconoclast.

At a meeting of the Board of Education held on July 4, a letter from his Lordship Dr Luck was read as follows:—"In pursuance of the powers invested in you by section 97 of the Education Act, I