

pendent of the ecclesiastical authority. And (5) they are the mere creatures of the Council of State—that is (as the London 'Saturday Review' printed elsewhere in this issue, has pointed out) of the Executive for the time being. And the Council (as the same journal rightly declares) is constituted by law a secular and partisan tribunal to decide on grave questions of faith and morals.

The public worship associations, as thus constituted by law, were naturally and necessarily rejected by the Pope and the French episcopate as wholly incompatible with the constitution and discipline of the Church. It would be as if the New Zealand parliament were to permit Presbyterians to worship in their own fanes only on condition that they radically altered their present system of Church government, and adopted another and wholly incompatible one drawn up by an anti-Christian machine, or 'Bloc.' The Pope, says the 'Saturday Review,' is fighting, with far better justification and far greater moderation, the very war that Chalmers and the other founders of the Free Kirk waged in Scotland sixty years ago for the 'Crown rights of Christ.' The Covenanters also fought to the death against the dominance of the secular arm over the Church or conscience of a free people. The Pope, says the review already quoted, is fighting the battle of Christendom. French Catholics may not, after all, sit down as quietly, and accept the confiscation of their churches—or their seizure by atheists masquerading as Catholics—as tamely as M. Des Houx and his anti-Catholic associations may imagine. Our readers have probably not forgotten so recent a matter as the history of the inventories.

## Notes

### School Tyranny

Victoria (as we have shown from time to time) has furnished some instructive examples of the sort of things that may befall Catholic and Jewish children under a 'free, secular, and compulsory' system of State instruction, with equal rights for all. Pennsylvania has of late been emulating its more southerly rival, as the following paragraph from the Milwaukee 'Catholic Citizen' of September 29 shows: 'The A.P.A. of Williamstown, Pa., have won the first legal victory in their anti-Catholic crusade. At their request the school directors of that town ordered the Protestant version of the Bible to be read in the public schools. Catholic parents decided to send their children to the schools when the Bible reading was over. But then they were refused admittance. They thereupon applied for a mandamus compelling the directors to allow the children to enter after the Protestant Bible is read. Judge Kunkel has refused to accede to their request, and so, until a higher court pronounces upon the point, Catholic children are forced to attend a sectarian service in the public school.'

The Philadelphia 'Catholic Standard' of September 22 states that Judge Kunkel's decision was given in the Dauphin County Court, that the version of the Bible read in those public schools is the Protestant one; that Catholic children will (by virtue of the judgment) be compelled to attend the Protestant religious instruction under pain of expulsion; and that the Jews, as well as our co-religionists, are aggrieved by this ruling. If Catholics, Jews, Buddhists, agnostics, or atheists secured a majority on the School Board, they would (in virtue of Judge Kunkel's decision) be legally empowered to force the children of minorities to attend the expositions of the religious belief or unbelief of the dominant party. We have pointed out all this before in speaking of the Bible-in-schools movement in

New Zealand. And Pennsylvania, be it noted, is one of the States of the American Union that have been paraded by Bible-in-schools advocates as shining examples of the conditions that should prevail in the public schools of New Zealand. If in the green wood they do these things, what shall be done in the dry? The situation (as experience in Ireland and Australia shows) is not substantially improved by conscience clauses, which are mere ornamental make-believes, and, like clay pigeons, are meant to be knocked into smithereens as soon as the occasion offers.

### A Splendid System

They do things better in the German Fatherland. The German educational system (says the gifted Dr. O'Riordan in the September issue of the 'Irish Ecclesiastical Record') is denominational. The Catholics have their own schools. The other denominations have theirs. Where a community happens to be a mixed one, and the number is too small for a separate school, then a mixed one is formed, but careful and adequate provision is made for the dogmatic religious teaching of the minority by members of their own creed. And where such a school requires the services of two teachers, care is taken to provide that one of the teachers shall be, if possible, of the religion of the minority. The qualities which go to make the good citizen, and to form character and conduct, are inculcated, not alone on civic motives, but also on those of religion. Recently (says the 'S.H. Review') when the chairman of the Boston School Committee (Mr. James J. Storrow) was travelling in Europe, the fact that impressed him most was the surprising commercial progress of Germany. 'This progress (adds our Boston contemporary) he attributes to the excellent system of education in that country. Mr. Storrow said: "She not only surpasses in higher education, but in the wonderful development of her industrial and commercial training schools she is rapidly establishing her commercial supremacy over Europe." And (says the 'S.H. Review') "this splendid system of education, which has placed Germany in the forefront of the nations is not, be it remembered, a secular system. It is a system which recognises God. It is a system which is fair to Catholics, Protestants, and Jews."

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

His Lordship Bishop Verdon is at present on a brief visit to Hanmer.

The following are the results of the practical examination in music held at the Dominican Convent, Queenstown, by Mr. Charles Edwards, on behalf of the Trinity College, London:—Senior grade.—Pearl Evans, 82, honors, recommended for higher examination; Chrissie Bonner, 78, pass; Intermediate.—P. Aldridge, 84, honors; Mary McCarthy, 80, honors; Letitia Constable, 61, pass; Junior grade.—Colleen Evans, 76, pass; Nell O'Connell, 69, pass; Monica McBride (singing), 63, pass; Letitia Constable (violin), 60, pass. Preparatory.—Molly Simmonds, 92, pass; Erin Constable, 78, pass.

The first full-dress rehearsal in connection with the Spanish-Columbian Festival took place on Friday night, when, in spite of its being a holiday night, there was a full attendance, over 200 taking part. Everything went with vim, the effect of some of the tableaux being brilliant. Advantage was taken of the presence of the stallholders to draw for colors, names, and places, with the following results:—Refreshment stall—Miss Staunton, Fonda Espanola, costumes blue and white. Stall No. 1—Miss Heley, dolls and lollies, Barcelona, costumes red and black. Stall No. 2—Miss Mackay, Castille, costumes red and yellow. Stall No. 3—Mrs. Mee, America, costumes stars and stripes. Stall No. 4—Mrs. Milne, Madrid, pale blue and white. Stall No. 5—Mrs. Marlow, Santiago, red and yellow. Stall No. 6—Mrs. Meenan, Monte Video, pink and green. The secretary reported having secured the latest novelty in the shape of a Mammoth Duplex Rotoscope. This was imported especially for the Exhibition, but arrived too late. The committee is

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