

(‘neither God nor master’), and their aim is the destruction of civil organisation and of the principle of authority in the State, whether represented by King or Kaiser, Emperor or President.

The anarchist share in the Lisbon tragedy seems to be assumed by many well-informed papers. ‘The lesson of the Lisbon tragedy,’ says (for instance) the ‘Fall Mall Gazette,’ ‘is the need of an international agreement for war against these human vermin.’ The point, though not new, is well taken. England, France, Switzerland, and the United States are amongst the worst offenders in the matter of affording asylum to dark-lantern associations that plot against the safety of other States and their rulers. There was a ring of ‘true vigor in what Bismarck said of those leagues of assassins: ‘Hunt them down like rats!’ Years ago, in dealing with this subject, we instanced the manner in which British officials suppressed the old-established, secret, and desolating scourge of the Thugs, who, in organised hands, practised assassination as a sort of religious rite in India. Mark Twain describes the process of their eradication in his ‘More Tramps Abroad’:—

‘In 1830 the English found the cancerous organisation embedded in the vitals of the Empire, doing its devastating work in secrecy, and assisted, protected, sheltered, and hidden by innumerable confederates—big and little native chiefs, customs officers, village officials, and native police, all ready to lie for it, and the mass of the people, through fear, persistently pretending to know nothing about its doings. And this condition of things had existed for generations, and was formidable with the sanctions of age and custom. If ever there was an unpromising task, if ever there was a hopeless task in the world, surely it was offered here—the task of conquering Thuggee. But that little handful of English officials in India set their sturdy and confident grip upon it, and ripped it out, root and branch!’

It took nine years of persistent and enormously difficult work. But Lord William Bentinck and Captain Sleeman stamped it out at last. And what they did in the East, may not Governments, in alliance for the purpose, do by the degraded Thuggism of the West?

## Notes

### National Defence

The Cardinal-Archbishop of Sydney evidently holds, with Washington, that preparedness for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace. A man that makes a sheep of himself is commonly fleeced, and a country that is unable to protect its borders may expect to find the stranger’s flag flying in time above its soil. ‘I hope,’ said Cardinal Moran recently, when opening a school at Epping, ‘that the blessings of peace will long continue to be the heritage of Australia, but we cannot close our eyes to the dangers that may imperil us from time to time, and it is the duty of Australian citizens to equip themselves for any future dangers. It will not do to commence to prepare when the tempests of war fall upon Australia. We must be prepared in time. There is an old saying that “if we wish to preserve peace, we must prepare for war.” Readiness for war is the best preservative of peace. In one respect the people must be equipped to know their rights, and on the other hand they must be equipped to defend those rights, either against domestic enemies or those who assail them from without. And on the grounds both of patriotism and of discipline, he extended his cordial approval to the cadet movement.

### As Others See Us

Sir John Madden, Chief Justice of Victoria, must have done a good deal of ‘skipping’ during his recent tour in the North Island. For he confided to a representative of the ‘Otago Daily Times’ that he was

disappointed therewith. The soil (said he) did not look productive; ‘the scenery was grand, but seemed barren, and the earth appeared good for nothing but docks, weeds, thistles, and “Prince of Wales’ feathers”, which flourished in abundance’. And finally, he wondered at first how ‘such an eminently sensible man’ as the late Mr. Seddon could have named New Zealand ‘God’s own country’. Sir John’s sweeping statements furnish—for a lawyer, too!—a curious example of the dangers of hasty generalisations and of judgments passed on a very imperfect knowledge of facts. Not to mention other places, the Victorian Chief Justice must have ‘skipped’ the teeming fields, the deep grass, the sleek flocks and herds, the rich harvests, the laden orchards of Hawke’s Bay, the Wairarapa, and Parānaki. Sir John, however, discovered ‘God’s own country’ in the rich farming and grazing lands of Canterbury and Otago. And he is lost in admiration of ‘those beautifully clear streams, runnels with flat banks, gradually falling to the sea from perennial snows’.

### A Registration Board

In good cause or in evil, the pugnacious Witherington in the old story fought doggedly on. He met his match, however, but even then, though fighting a lost and wrong-headed cause, he cut and hacked and slashed away on his stumps, even after his ‘pegs’ had been smitten off. Of such a kidney is, apparently, the acting-chairman of the Teachers’ Registration Board in Victoria. He fought long and fiercely to penalise the Catholic primary and sub-primary schools of Victoria by forcing upon them a programme for the training and examination of their teachers which was far more difficult and exacting than that which was devised for the State schools. ‘What we desire,’ said the Archbishop of Melbourne, ‘is to have a programme which will keep us fully abreast of the State school system, and at the same time give us protection from the fads of amateur educationists, apply a common test to our teachers and the teachers of the State schools, and save our schools from the injustice of being used for experimental purposes.’ This ‘perfectly reasonable and simple request,’ as the Melbourne ‘Age’ termed it, was flouted with insults by the Board, under the tactless guidance of the acting-chairman. The fact that their action met with the clamorous approval of the Orange Grand Lodge ought to have had a sobeting effect upon the enthusiasts of the Board. Happily, the matter was to some extent taken out of their hands. A conference was arranged between representatives of the Registration Board, the School Board, and the Archbishop of Melbourne. The Premier (Mr. Bent) presided. And the upshot was a victory all along the line for the Archbishop. Even the acting-chairman of the Victorian Registration Board realised at last that the time had come for even a Witherington to ‘hands-up’ and surrender. And thus a long and (on the part of the Board) extremely bitter struggle has reached the consummation that lovers of fair play had all along devoutly wished.

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The parish schools re-opened on Monday, last. In a private letter the Very Rev. Dean Burke states that he will be back in Invercargill early in March. On Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph’s Cathedral from last Mass until Vespers. In the evening there was the usual procession in which the various confraternities took part. Fathers O’Brien, Howell, and McInerney (S.J.), all of Victoria, returned by the ‘Warrimoo’ on Monday. Among the visitors from Victoria who arrived in Dunedin this week were the Very Rev. Fathers O’Connell (Carlton), Hearn, S.J., and O’Connell (diocese of Sandhurst). Fathers Goggan, S.M. (Temuka) and Price (Hawarden) were also in Dunedin during the week.

We understand there is to be a change in the staff of the Christian Brothers’ School. Brother Moore, late of Sydney, takes the place of Brother Ryan, who has

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