

'The Government this week has been forced to unsheathe the deadly weapon with which Mr. McKenna had threatened the Church schools, and behold a dummy and a sham. It is explained that the Church is not so criminal as was thought. In other words, the bye-elections have proved it to have more friends possessing votes than was supposed. Accordingly the "short, simple, and drastic Bill" of February last has become in the brief space of three months "admittedly only a draft for amendment"—we quote the "Daily News"—"a basis for compromise."

But (as the 'Saturday Review' remarks) on the question of religious education, 'for the Church to bargain is to palter with principle, and to do that is to be lost.' And the Birrell Bill, the McKenna Bill, and the S. Asaph Bills 'all mean the same thing—the State establishment and endowment of a Parliamentary compromise, historic Christianity being relegated to the position of a tolerated extra, a fancy article to be paid for out of the pockets of those eccentrics who believe in it.' It is, practically, the sort of 'simple Scripture teaching,' of miscalled 'unsectarianism' and 'undenominationalism'—a pandenominational compromise on somewhat pantheistic lines—so long pressed for, in a score of protean forms, by the defunct Bible-in-Schools League in New Zealand. On such a question, the Church can never compromise—whatever the denominations may be content to do. In England, the tendency of some leaders of the Anglican Church to bargain and compromise in the battle for definite Christian education may yet have the upshot described in the 'Saturday Review' by an Anglican Churchman. Paltering now on the part of the Established Church would (he opines) give to the Church of Rome 'the greatest opportunity that the last four hundred years have brought her in England.' 'There can,' he adds, 'be no rest for any earnest heart within the gates of a Church that dare betray her heritage and forsake her children.'

## THE IRISH UNIVERSITIES BILL

PASSED IN THE COMMONS

### THE IRISH BISHOPS' VIEWS

A cable message in last Tuesday's daily papers announced that the Irish Universities Bill had passed the House of Commons. In this connection we may usefully quote the text of an important statement on the measure by the Irish Bishops—a statement just now to hand, but which was set in a somewhat false light by a cable message some weeks ago. The following is the text of the document in question:—

'Having given our best and most anxious consideration to the Universities Bill now before Parliament, we are of opinion that, in setting up a new University in Belfast and another in Dublin with constituent and affiliated colleges, it has been constructed on a plan which is suited to the education needs of the country, and likely to lead to finality on the Universities question. While we must regret, as one of the evils incidental to the present system of legislation for Ireland, that the provisions of this Bill with regard to the University of Dublin and its colleges are not framed in accordance with the religious convictions and sentiments of this Catholic nation, we freely recognise the limitations which existing Parliamentary conditions impose upon the Government, and desire to render their task in trying to solve this grave question as easy as possible. Within the fundamental conditions within which, as we are informed, the Government has to act, we believe that a good deal more than is proposed in this Bill might and ought to be done to meet the legitimate requirements of the Catholics of Ireland, and as a consequence to promote the efficiency of the new University. It will readily occur to most people, for instance, that the headmasters of secondary schools should, on account of their close connection with University work, be represented on the governing body of the provincial colleges and the University, these schools being scheduled by the Commissioners of Intermediate Education. A most important, and, indeed, vital, question is that of the status and condition of the college to be established in Dublin. We have seen with dismay that it is not to be residential, and if this determination is persevered in we feel that the consequences for the University and the college may be disastrous, from a moral and religious, as well as an educational, point of view. We should regard it as indefensible to throw hundreds of young men on the streets of Dublin, and side by side with the splendid provision which is made, at the cost of the Irish nation, for the Episcopalian Protestants in Trinity College, for it would reduce our students to a position of intolerable inferiority.

'We beg to state that we cannot undertake to send the students of the Arts Faculty in Maynooth to reside in Dublin, and that, consequently, the result of the adoption of Mr. Butcher's amendment would be to deprive the hundreds of students resident in this college of the opportunities which they at present enjoy in gaining University degrees.

'That we are satisfied and sustained in our conviction by the experience gained in the examinations of the Royal University, that the teaching in Maynooth is fully up to the University standard.

'That we are willing to accept any suggestions that may be made by the Senate of the new University for the regulation of the courses of studies or for the strengthening, in so far as it may be found necessary, of the social staff.

'And, finally, we consider it would make much more for the dignity and efficiency of the new University to leave such questions to its determination than to impose upon it a disability which is without precedent in any University in these kingdoms.

✠ MICHAEL, CARDINAL LOGUE, Chairman.

✠ RICHARD, BISHOP OF WATERFORD,

✠ ROBERT, BISHOP OF CLOYNE,

Secretaries to the Meeting.'

## DIocese OF DUNEDIN

A concert will be given to-morrow (Friday) evening in the Sacred Heart Schoolroom, North-east Valley, by the Dominican pupils. An excellent programme has been arranged, among the contributors being Misses Violet and Effie Fraser, Newcomb-Hall, D. Miller, Gawne, C. Finnerty, A. Heffernan, Carter, M. Brennan. The programme is well selected, and the entertainment should attract a large audience.

The St. Patrick's Young Men's Social and Literary Club, South Dunedin, held their weekly meeting on Monday last, when Rev. Brother Brady delivered a lecture on 'Chemistry.' During the evening Brother Brady illustrated his instructive lecture by several experiments. The lecture was highly appreciated by the members, and at the close a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Brother Brady.

At the usual weekly meeting of St. Joseph's Men's Club on Friday evening a discussion on the Arbitration Act Amendment Bill was held. The debate was under parliamentary rules, the Rev. Father Coffey occupying the position of Speaker. Mr. E. W. Spain, the Premier, introduced the Bill, and explained and defended its various clauses. Mr. Hussey, as leader of the Opposition, opposed the Bill, and entered into a keen criticism of its main features. Messrs. Lovell and M. Rossbotham also spoke at some length. As several other speakers have yet to express their opinions, the debate will be continued on next Friday evening.

On Tuesday evening the members of the Hibernian Cadet Corps assembled in St. Joseph's Hall for the purpose of making a presentation to their honorary captain, Mr. T. J. Hussey, who has severed his connection with the cadets. Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., and Rev. Fathers Corcoran and Parthing, and the Christian Brothers were present. Captain Columb, in asking Captain Hussey's acceptance of an enlarged photograph of the Cadet Corps, referred in eulogistic terms to the deep debt of gratitude which the corps owed to him as its founder and first captain. During the four years of its existence Captain Hussey had spared neither time nor trouble in bringing it to a high state of efficiency, and that his labors had been rewarded was evident to all. The corps had commenced operations with a debt of £130, but, owing to the business capacity of Captain Hussey, it was now in the proud position of possessing a credit balance of £70. Rev. Brother Brady also complimented Captain Hussey on the state of the corps, and counselled the members to strive hard to make the company efficient in its drill. Captain Hussey, in thanking the members for their kindly expression of appreciation of the part he had taken in connection with the Cadet Corps, said he could always look back with pleasure to the happy times he had spent amongst them, and although he was severing his active connection yet he could assure them that whenever he could spare the time he would be found amongst the cadets. Lieutenant J. S. Columb presented Rev. Brother Moore with a framed photograph of the corps, and in doing so paid a high tribute to the great interest which the Christian Brothers had taken in the corps, and the extent to which their efforts had contributed to its success. Songs were contributed during the evening by Rev. Father Parthing, Captain Hussey, and Master Yule, and a recitation by Master O'Brien. At the conclusion of the proceedings Rev. Father Coffey returned thanks to Misses Columb, Purton, and Martin, who had kindly provided light refreshments.

The latest and most fashionable novelties are to be found at the D.I.C., Dunedin, which holds one of the largest stocks in the Dominion....