

so strongly expressed to sweep away existing abuses. They fancied some good might come out of the commotion. They praised the reformer, patted him on the back, cheered him on. But when they grasped the import of the new gospel and saw its results among the people, they abandoned him in disgust. Among those whose eyes were opened by the natural fruits of the *Evangelium* was the famous ERASMUS of Rotterdam. 'This new gospel,' says he, 'produces a new race of men, harsh, impudent, seditious, quarrelsome, mendacious, sycophantic, deceitful' (Letter 19). 'Formerly, religion made men mild, peaceful, kind in speech. Those men have become thieves, cheats, seditious, slanderers of good men. I see new hypocrites, new tyrants, but not even a crumb of the spirit of the Gospel—*ne micam quidem evangelici spiritus.*'

LUTHER attributed the moral depravity of his followers to the devil. He always fell back upon the devil when mischief was done. But, assuredly, the new gospel was calculated to give very material assistance to the devil. We will make no mention of his laxity in regard to divorce and bigamy and his gross opinions on kindred topics. It will be sufficient to say that LUTHER told men that good works were not necessary for salvation; that faith or trust was absolutely sufficient; that they might sin bravely provided that they believed more bravely and they should be saved; that, in fact, sin is only a good means of bringing home to us the consoling convictions and peace of the gospel; that, above all things, man has no free will; that he merely obeys a rider and does ill or well according as his will is ridden by GOD or the devil. Such were the principles from which many were glad to draw the obvious practical conclusions. So deep were the veneration for LUTHER and the gratitude of the mob for the sweet liberty which the *Evangelium* gave them, that he said contemptuously of them:—*Adorabunt sterora nostra et pro balsamo habebunt!*

It is true that decent people guided by the decent instincts of humanity managed to forget and ignore the distinctively Lutheran tenets of the new gospel. It is true that for decency sake they were compelled to substitute a legendary LUTHER for the real one. It is true that learned historians have riddled again and again the LUTHER myth. Yet such is the force of religious prejudice that millions and millions still adhere to it with unwavering assent, and preachers can lash them into a fury of rage when a hostile finger is laid upon the historic fetish. Poor human mind! What an illustration of thy dulness and ineptitude.

#### NOTICE.

DURING the absence of the Editor (Rev. H. W. Cleary) on a well earned and much needed holiday, the attention of correspondents is specially directed to our standing rule that all communications connected with the literary department of this paper—such as reports, correspondence, etc.—should be addressed to 'The Editor.' Closed communications addressed by name to Rev. H. W. Cleary will be treated as his private correspondence and will be forwarded to his temporary address in Australia.

#### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

For a considerable time it has been noticed that a slight lateral movement has been taking place in the tower at the Rattray street side of St. Joseph's Cathedral, causing the wall to crack for some distance. As the defect might prove difficult to deal with if allowed to continue without being attended to it has been decided to remedy the matter immediately, and with the object of taking the necessary steps a meeting of the parishioners was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Sunday evening after Vespers. His Lordship the Bishop, who presided, said that the movement of the tower had been noticed soon after the Cathedral was finished. This was the source of much anxiety to the late Bishop, and also to himself since he had come to Dunedin. The meeting had been called in order to decide what steps should be taken to remedy the defect. There was no immediate danger, but it would not be wise to delay taking action. Mr Petre had inspected the Cathedral, and had drawn up a report which would be submitted to the meeting. Mr Petre then read his report, in which he gave his opinion as to the probable cause of the movement of the tower, and suggested certain works which would remove the source of the trouble. Mr Callan said it would be well that Mr Petre should have the opinion of two other architects on the matter before the work was undertaken. It was a difficult matter to deal with, and the course he suggested was one that was very generally followed in the medical and legal professions. Mr Petre welcomed the suggestion of Mr Callan. After a conversational discussion it was decided to procure the services of

two architects, who, with Mr Petre, were to make an inspection of the Cathedral, and present a joint report. The Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, and Messrs Callan, Carroll, and Woods were appointed a committee to carry out this proposal, and to confer with the experts and consider the best means for giving effect to their recommendations. After the passing of a vote of thanks to his Lordship for presiding, the meeting adjourned to a date which will be notified later on.

#### NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE New Zealand Shipping Company's new steamer Rimutaka has been launched at Dumbarton.

THE Right Hon. the Premier says it is difficult to convince the public that it is wrong to take advantage of the Tax Department or the Custom-house.

It is said that if all the tenants take advantage of the Crown Tenants' Rebate of Rent Act the loss to the revenue will be about £17,000 per annum.

WITHIN a few weeks quite a number of motor-driven vehicles will be running in the vicinity of Christchurch. The *Press* states that Mr N. Oates is bringing from England two motor vehicles—one a voiturette to carry three persons, the other a 'quad' to carry two.

It is stated (says the *Lyttelton Times*) that Messrs. D. and A. Macfarlane have offered another block of the Lyndon estate for sale to the Government. The property, which consists of 16,000 acres, is about six miles from the Waiau township, and adjoins the Leslie Hills estate. The block is nearly all ploughable, being practically level, is substantially fenced, has a plentiful water supply, and is well adapted for close settlement. The Lyndon property already acquired by the Government is well under survey, and will shortly be open for selection.

MRS. MARY SCANLAN, a highly respected resident of Milton, died suddenly on Saturday evening. The deceased was returning from a visit to her sister (Mrs. Walsh, Helensbrook Flour Mills) when she was taken ill, and before medical assistance arrived she had passed away. The deceased, who was relict of the late Mr. Thomas Scanlan, was a native of County Waterford, Ireland, and had been in the Colony about 20 years. She was about 45 years of age, and leaves a family of two boys to mourn their loss.—*R.I.P.*

A VERY enjoyable smoke concert and supper were held at Ryan's Hotel Kokonga, recently, for the purpose of bidding Messrs. Gillies and J. Ryan farewell prior to their departure from the district. About 40 persons were present, and Mr. R. Logan presided, Mr. R. Scott being vice-chairman. The Chairman proposed the toast of the evening, 'Our Guests,' and Messrs. Gillies and Ryan both returned thanks. Several other toasts were proposed and responded to during the evening. Songs were contributed by Messrs. J. Mathewson, Mann, Monk, Reakes, Amies, Harris, Riley, Robertson, and Logan, and recitations by Messrs. Scott and Wilson.

A PAINFULLY sudden death occurred in Dunedin on Friday evening, when Mr John Hislop, jeweller, Princes street, passed away. Mr Hislop had been ill for some time, but had sufficiently recovered to come to business on Friday. Whilst speaking to a customer about five o'clock he was taken ill, and expired in half an hour afterwards. Mr Hislop was a straightforward business man, a good citizen, and well liked. He was 69 years of age, and had been in business in Dunedin for 38 years. He was a native of Scotland, and spent some years on the Bendigo goldfield, in Victoria, before coming to Dunedin. Mr Hislop was married twice, and leaves a wife and a large family, who have our sincerest sympathy in their bereavement.

WRITING with reference to the operation of female suffrage in this Colony the New Zealand correspondent of the *Brisbane Courier*, in a letter dated September 20th, says:—I cannot point to one single good result which I can attribute to the extension of our franchise to women. Social questions are, it is true, rather more frequently and prominently before the public and the Parliament, but I cannot find that they are any more thoughtfully dealt with, nor can I find any trace of a raising of the moral tone of the community. Politics are no better than they were, nor is the general level of the House of Representatives in character or ability any higher. I should be sorry to say it is lower, but if there is any difference, it will be found to tend in that direction.

MR. BALDWIN (head-master of the Sydenham State school) examined the Convent schools, Lyttelton. We extract the following from his report.—The school has passed a very satisfactory examination in most of the pass subjects. The writing, spelling, and drawing throughout the school are good. The following were the results: Standard VI., 7 presented, and all passed; Standard V., 10 presented, 9 passed; Standard IV., 12 presented, 10 passed; Standard III., 9 presented, 8 passed; Standard II., 7 presented, 7 passed; Standard I., 4 presented, 4 passed. The four failures are due to irregular attendance. Mrs Baldwin reports the needlework as very good. I was much pleased with the behaviour of the children, showing that the discipline of the school is satisfactory. Of 70 children on the roll 49 were examined. All the pupils presented from the High School passed.

THE borough of Greymouth took over the local gasworks on October 2 from the company which had run them successfully for about 30 years. At the gathering which took place in connection with the formal transfer Mr. Sheedy, who presided, delivered a lengthy speech, in the course of which he eulogised the services of Mr. Kennedy, the manager, who had been in the employment of the company for over 11 years. He said that the company had been very well satisfied with his work. He had been instrumental in saving the company large sums annually as a result of his careful