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MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiæ causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.
Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.
April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.

Current Topics.

Pre-sessional Oratory.

The voice of the pre-sessional orator is howling in the wilderness of more or less deserted halls throughout New Zealand. Some are explaining how they saved the country, others are explaining how they are going to save it, by Act of Parliament. Others still are explaining things away. Mr. Millar, M.H.R., walked the tight-rope in Dunedin and 'came a cropper' in a vain endeavor to show how he failed to close the Catholic orphanages of the Colony or to make other political capital out of the furious sectarian howl against the Marist Brothers of Stoke. Mr. Arnold followed, but he was dumb as to his share in the disgraceful kulturkampf. So was Mr. Barclay. We are watching with interest for some explanation from the remainder of the Parliamentary Boxers who turned the House of Representatives into a sectarian bear-garden and pushed to its furthest verge the effort at panic legislation to the detriment of the Catholic body in New Zealand. We refer to Messrs. Atkinson, Hutcheson, Pirani, Meredith, 'Tam' Mackenzie, G. W. Russell, Buddo, Collins, Ell, Fowlds, W. Fraser, Graham, Guinness, Hardy, Hennes, Hogg, Hornsby, Lang, Laurensen, McNab (the underground engineer of the troupe), Rhodes, Tanner, R. Thompson, and J. W. Thomson.

Some of these had their faces sprained and their jaw-bones tied up in bandages by reason of their clamor for legislation to wipe our Catholic orphanages off the surface of the earth, and of the voluminous and ear-splitting howl which they raised against the Marist Brothers while the cases against them were still pending. It would probably—to use the words of Kinglake—'dislocate the supple tongue of Satan' to offer an adequate and satisfactory explanation of the conduct which disgraced the House of Representatives during the last session. But every Catholic voter in the constituencies of the members whose names we have given, and every man, whether Catholic, Protestant, Hebrew, or Agnostic, who values common fair-play, equal laws, and the decent administration of justice, are nevertheless entitled to an adequate explanation or a frank apology from this group of noisy and not particularly brainful legislators whose fantastic tricks before high heaven have brought so much discredit upon themselves personally, upon the electorates which they represent, and upon the parliamentary institutions of the Colony.

The Catholic University.

Butler aptly described the prejudiced man in the following lines:

For all men live and judge amiss
Whose talents jump not just with his.

The opposition to the establishment of a Catholic University in Ireland comes chiefly from a set of noisy and strong-jawed sworn intolerants who would not allow themselves to be drawn into kindly thought or friendly feeling towards their 'Papist' fellow-citizens even 'though one rose from the dead.' The solution of the difficulty may be greatly aided by the conviction

that is growing fast in the minds British political parties that the outcry against the foundation of such a University is merely the expression of a strong sectarian feeling.

In its issue of April 27 the *Saturday Review* says:—'The opposition to the Catholic University is theological in the worst associations of that term. We should be sorry to call it religious. None of the arguments put forward against the expediency of creating this University bears examination. It is said, for instance, that the teaching in such a University would have a Roman bias right through. That is an argument against denominational education in general. Those who are in favor of the English denominational schools and colleges, which are mainly kept up out of public money, have no right to use such an argument. But it is just they who are using it. Secularists are entitled to the argument. It resolves itself simply into animus against a particular Church. That is not a legitimate position; it is a position no Englishman ever takes up except in the case of the Roman Church; and the real statesman will not recognise such illogical intolerance as a guide in policy.'

Matters in France.

In their eagerness to get their knife inside the pericardium of the Church in France, the French Government and its tag of Radical and Socialist followers do not seem to have paused to consider that there is a hopeless disproportion between the risks and the red meat of the Associations Bill. Some weeks ago we figured out the extent of the injury which would be done to the nation by the suppression of the religious Orders. The *American Messenger* has some further facts and figures in point which make interesting reading.

'The dangerous and unjust character of the bill (says our American contemporary) is quite well understood. It is seen to be a sop to the Socialists, who have one of their number, Millerand, actually in the Ministry, and who are in France decidedly revolutionary. The Government is deliberately encouraging the men and the doctrines, whose fruits were the horrors of the Commune. Hence, protests have been made by men of all professions, positions, and beliefs. There are most striking signs of a popular awakening and reaction. The nefarious measure has unmasked completely the men who control the Government just now, and revealed the presence in the Chamber of a compact and disciplined body hostile to the persecution of the Church. Generally speaking, this body counts 239 deputies, many of whom are not Catholics at all, and all or most of them attached to republican institutions. A committee, formed by prominent merchants, cultivators, and manufacturers, representing 200 Chambers of Commerce, and 42,000 adherents, have published a statement signed by the heads of various societies and organisations and representing all industries and employments, in which statement it is estimated that by the Associations Bill, 20,000 establishments will be closed and 200,000 persons, patrons of trade, etc., will be exiled; and that thus there will be a commercial loss of 200,000,000 francs (£8,000,000). Moreover, 1,000,000 children, costing 1000 francs (£40) each, will be thrown out of school; and at least 100,000 will follow their teachers out of France, and so the loss to trade will amount to 100,000,000 francs

RIDE "ANGLO SPECIAL" CYCLES.