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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

Three Lone 'Democrats.'

Some weeks ago we pointed out the flagrant violation of Democratic principles of which Messrs. Millar, Barclay, and Arnold, M.H.R.'s for Dunedin, were (with others) guilty during the last session of Parliament. This promising trio of pseudo-Democrats are now posing in the rôle of champions of Democracy and Lord High Guardians of its principles and its honor. They saw—or affected to see—red ruin to the Cause in Sir Joseph Ward's acceptance, from the hands of Royalty, of an honor which he has so well and ably won by his services to his country and to the Empire at large. Rome was once saved by the cackling of geese, and Messrs. Millar, Barclay, and Arnold endeavored to save Democracy by raising their united voices in piping warning against Sir Joseph's acceptance of the Knighthood. It was the only rasping voice amidst the chorus of congratulation that flowed in upon the newly-made Knight from every quarter of the political compass in Australasia.

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When Don Quixote met with a mean opponent he sent his squire Sancho Panza to thwack the fellow. Our new Knight does not, however, depute such a duty to others, and this (according to a special wire to the Dunedin *Evening Star*) is how he deals with the rude and jarring joint telegraphic message of Messrs. Millar, Barclay, and Arnold:—

'Wellington, June 19.

'I am in receipt of your telegram of to-day, and in turn I deeply regret that you should take the view expressed therein. I may say that your message is the only discordant one I have received throughout the Colony, or from beyond the Colony. I will repeat to you a cable received by me to-day from one of the most Democratic leaders in the Australasian colonies—viz., the Right Hon. C. C. Kingston, which is as follows: "Hearty congratulations on well-won honor. May you live long to wear it." The following extract from a telegram received from one of the most Democratic leaders of New Zealand may also be of interest to you: "The signal services you have devoted to your country, the work you have performed for the good of the people, and the sacrifices you have made as a man to defend the public and your own honor, under the most trying circumstances that anyone could be called upon to face, give you a distinct claim for recognition at the hands of the Crown. The occasion is unprecedented. We are being visited by Royalty, and you are accepting a title direct from the hands of your future King, and this is compatible with your position as an advanced colonial statesman." I withhold the signature in this case, as the gentleman is trusted by and occupies a foremost position among, the Democrats of our own country, and whilst I have no objection to your entertaining your own opinions, I merely place against them these two out of many hundreds of congratulatory communications I have received. I can only add that the honor offered was, as far as I am concerned, absolutely unsolicited, and I have every confidence that, even in the face of such an opinion as that expressed by you, my future political life will show that views such as those you have wired to me are entirely unwarranted. Kind regards.

'J. G. WARD.'

It is pleasant to remember that, in the matter of their protest, Messrs. Millar, Barclay, and Arnold represent only—Messrs. Millar, Barclay, and Arnold. The weapon which they aimed at Sir Joseph Ward has returned like a boomerang and wounded themselves, or has hit them in the recoil after the fashion of the ancient muskets of which John Trumbull writes in his *McFingal*:—

... Some muskets so contrive it,
As oft to miss the mark they drive at,
And, though well aimed at duck and plover,
Bear wide, and kick their owners over.

The farcical, melodramatic joint message of the Dunedin trio has served one useful purpose: it has given the public the benefit of a wholesome fit of forty-rod laughter—at the expense of Messrs. Millar, Barclay, and Arnold. And a laugh of public derision hits a cheap politician harder than a slung-shot or the recoil of a rusty Queen Anne firelock.

The Pope's Successor.

DON QUIXOTE mistook a barber's basin for Mambrino's helmet, and a good many editors of secular dailies are just now mistaking for solid truth the vaporous rumor sent forth to the world by the London *Times* to the effect that the Pope had made a will designating his successor. This, of course, would mean abolition of the process of election—a radical departure from the long-established method of choosing a Pope by the votes of the conclave of Cardinals. But the foolish bit of fiction which the imaginative Rome correspondent of the *Times* builds up with one hand, he carefully pulls to pieces with the other. For does not the unwary wight assure the world in the self-same message that the successor of Leo is to be voted into office in the usual way, and that, moreover, the contest is, in all probability, going to be a keen one? In fact, the gay romancer tell us that Cardinal Rampolla is 'aiming for the tiara,' that he has 33 votes assured, and that he needs 36. One end of the story eats the other up—like the legend of the serpent that fell into the bad habit of dining off its tail, and wound up its disreputable career by devouring itself to the last morsel. The Rome correspondents of the *Times* and the *Daily News* are much given to blowing iridescent literary soap-bubbles for the public benefit. But they would do well to avoid the pit-fall known as the fallacy of the Kilkenny cats.

The Facts of the Case.

THE Church is an elective, not a hereditary, monarchy. Gaetano and Bellarmino are against the appointment of a successor by any Pope, and such a proceeding would be in flagrant opposition to general principles, positive law, and historic precedent. Dr. Croke, the well-informed Rome correspondent of the New York *Freeman's Journal*, deals as follows with the rumor set afloat by the London *Times*:

'If there is even a scintilla of truth in this cablegram, then there is a most radical departure from the long-established process of choosing a Pope, and a release from the oaths which every Cardinal takes upon his elevation to that eminent position, and when he enters into the secret conclave for the election of a new Pope.

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'What (continues he) are the solemn demands and restrictions of the oath administered to a Cardinal succeeding his

RIDE "ANGLO SPECIAL" CYCLES.