

overcome right. Show us where our reasoning is wrong. Falsify our attitude towards education; disprove the relative value which we allot to the essential parts of education, and you will have done something; but when you say 'no,' instead of 'yes,' you will have to account to reason and to natural justice, for your denial of the rights of our position.

It is necessary to be brief, yet I would ask permission for two remarks. With regard to those who raise a cry against Catholic rights, I would wish to impress upon you, as Catholics and the friends of Catholics, that such people must not even be noticed. Truth never disputes, it shines like the sun, and those who are not blind must needs see it. The Head of the Catholic Church who promised to abide with her for ever, is One Whom we adore, and no one should write to a paper undertaking, as it were, the defence of the Catholic Church, bringing

Himself and His Feeble Knowledge

forward when they had better remain in obscurity. Even a New man would not rashly undertake to defend Catholic truth against its gainsayers. The Catholic Church has now performed her mission for 19 centuries. The history of her Councils, the official acts of her supreme Pontiffs are in the hands of all students. The archives of the Vatican are open to all the world, and we find even the brightest minds of Protestant England, where Protestantism has been enthroned in ascendancy, and the most distinguished graduates of the seats of learning, Oxford and Cambridge, recognising the truth and prerogatives of the Catholic Church, and sacrificing all things to come and receive Baptism and be regenerated within her fold. It is beneath the dignity of our convictions, and is a serious mistake for any Catholic to heed those cries people choose to raise. It is impossible to prevent discussions, but no sensible person who appreciates religion would ever mind a discussion on religion which is carried on in the columns of a newspaper. This should be your tradition. If you would read some of the utterances of former citizens who did honor both to Church and State, you would find they agree with me on this particular point.

But what of those who oppose us on the ground of secularism? They say: 'We have a sound system of education; if we were to admit Catholics to a share of State aid it would be too costly; we won't do it.' It was sometimes said that Catholics were retrograde, that they cribbed and confined the human spirit. We ask those persons with all respect: 'Do you look on

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If they reply it is not, then I say we must agree to differ. If they concede that religion is required, then I answer: 'You have no right to prescribe to parents what religion is to be taught, or to enact that they must be content with a fragment of religion. If you say that the Catholic Church is the foe of liberty, allow me to demand what are you doing? Are you not denying the Catholic parent full liberty in the education of his child? If he sends his children to a school which corresponds with his faith, you will give him nothing from the Treasury of the State, but if he sends the child to a school that you have established, and where religion is not free, or where it is excluded practically for certain hours, I say you are interfering with the right of the parent, for you say to him, 'Send your child to this school where there is little or no religion, and we will help you to educate him, but if you send him to another school in the same street where religious education is given, you will have to pay for him there, and for the other school as well. If you talk of rights, adhere to the principle of common sense you must. Where rights of citizenship are restricted there is no freedom.' But it will be said to us: 'You are in a minority, and the majority must rule.' Well, we are in a minority. We are in a minority, and we are Catholics, and the Catholic Church forbids all disorder, and the Church is the mainstay of all Governments, and as Catholics we will be good citizens whether our rights are recognised or not. We will be an orderly minority, and will be courteous and neighborly, because we recognise all are children of the same Father in heaven. We do this not in the spirit of defeat. We do this knowing that we are fighting a noble cause in which it would be a glory to suffer even defeat. But where is defeat? Look at this hall which records a new triumph. We have a sound and complete education, whether we have assistance from the State or not; the cause will be carried to triumph by a Catholic minority. The late W. B. Dalley—whose memory the people of the State revere—said in the year 1879 in a speech, that the archdiocese of Sydney had spent on the work of education, in buildings, in introducing nuns and brothers, £125,000. Since then, how have things been carried on! Those figures have been doubled and trebled. At the present time there are 23,887 children receiving sound and complete education in Catholic schools, and if we take what the State takes, about £4 for each child, you will find the Catholic body, over and above their common contribution to the State schools as taxpayers, spend £95,548 annually.

Dr. Power, of Sydney, is now on a visit to his brother, Very Rev. Canon Power, P.P., Emily (says the *Irish Independent* of July 10). The Dublin University conferred the M.A. and M.D. degrees on Dr. Power recently.

Referring to the fact that the Rev. Dr. Rentoul has completely changed his views on Orangeism, the Melbourne correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times* notes with 'satisfaction the evidence of a broader and more tolerant spirit between Roman Catholics and Presbyterians which is becoming evident. Archbishop Carr and Dr. McLaren (the head of the Presbyterian Ladies' College) have conducted a newspaper debate on religious education, which has been notable for its friendly tone; indeed, the Archbishop specially commends Dr. McLaren as his 'courteous and esteemed' opponent. And a few days ago, when the Rev. Dr. MacGregor died in Carlton, the finest wreath on his coffin was from the Rev. Dr. Kelly, of St. Brigid's, opposite.'

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

August 28.

Rev. Father Ainsworth left on Friday for Patea. The examination of the Thorndon schools was concluded early this week. The examiners were well pleased with the results.

The annual dance of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association takes place next Wednesday.

A conference of the clergy will be held at the Archbishop's residence on Tuesday next and will be presided over by Very Rev. Dean McKenna, of Masterton.

Ex-Inspector Pender and his family left by Monday's boat for their new home at Sumner. Quite a number of their friends were on the wharf to bid them good-bye. Mr Pender and his daughters were very popular during their residence in Wellington.

Several members of the late bazaar committee entertained the ladies and gentlemen who took part in the recent operas at a social in the Druids' Hall on Wednesday evening. An excellent supper was provided. Mr McLauchlin made an efficient master of ceremonies.

The Silver Jubilee of the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, Provincial, occurs to-morrow, the feast of St. Bartholomew. Archdeacon Devoy will be celebrant at the Solemn High Mass which will be celebrated at St. Mary of the Angels' on that occasion. Many priests of the archdiocese are coming to Wellington during the week to offer the Archdeacon their congratulations.

The following pupils of St. Mary's and the Newtown Convents were successful in passing the examinations in theory held in June last by the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, London:—Senior (harmony), Miss D. Maudsley; junior (harmony), Miss A. Fitchett, Miss J. Levastam; school (harmony, higher), Miss A. Jenkins; school (harmony, lower), Miss C. Reardon; rudiments of music, Misses C. Simpson, T. Shapter, L. Pulsford, I. Oliver, E. Bailey; school (rudiments of music), Misses E. Gray, E. Barton, J. Duncan, S. Campbell, L. Delaney, C. O'Leary F. Fownes and M. Fownes.

'The Wearing of the Green' was repeated in the Exchange Hall on Monday evening in aid of the schools in the Te Aro parish. A large and appreciative audience, which included all the members of the Te Aro clergy, was present. The cast of male characters was as at the previous production, and the experience then gained enabled the performers to present the drama much more creditably. The character of the heroine, Grace Redmond, was taken very successfully by Miss A. Marshall, and that of Molly O'Connor by her sister, Miss Marshall. Acceptable songs and dances were given during the evening by Messrs H. Liardet, J. Flanagan, C. Gamble D. McPhee, and Miss B. Foley. The orchestra was under the conductorship of Mr F. Oakes.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

August 25.

His Lordship the Bishop was on a business visit to Hamner Springs during the week, and on Sunday last, accompanied by the Very Rev. Dean Foley, was at Rangiora making an episcopal visitation and administering the Sacrament of Confirmation. Oxford, Kaiapoi, and other parts of the Rangiora parish will be visited in succession.

About 4000 children, those of tender years, were entertained on Friday last in Canterbury Hall in commemoration of the King's Coronation. Bishop Grimes was present on the platform, attended by the Rev. Father O'Connell, and in very appropriate terms addressed the assemblage.

At the local centre examinations in connection with the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music the returns give the following successes to the local convents: Olive Mary Bosworth, Mary Guiney, and Olive Wilson, pupils of Our Lady of Missions, Sacred Heart High School, Barbadoes street; Gertrude Schmidt and Alice Scott, Sisters of Mercy, Manchester street.

His Lordship Bishop Grimes was one of the selected speakers at the annual meeting of the Children's Aid Society held last week. He expressed himself as deeply interested in the annual report placed before the meeting, and like previous speakers felt the need of the society and realised the noble work it was carrying out. Such societies, he said, were a sad necessity, but they were doing admirable work and should be supported. It was deplorable to read in the annual report regarding children who were the victims of vice and misery. He would be exceedingly willing to do all in his power to assist the society.

At the ordinary weekly meeting of the Christchurch Catholic Club held on last Tuesday evening, Mr J. B. Hayward, vice-president, presided. After transacting the routine business the programme, a mock 'Trial by Jury,' was carried out and proved very entertaining, the following members taking part:—Mr R. O. Duncan (judge), Mr M. O'Reilly (the accused), Mr J. Shanley (crown prosecutor), Mr J. Quinlan (counsel for the defence), Messrs M. Finlay, G. J. Farna, and M. Reddington (witnesses for the Crown), Messrs H. McCarthy, J. McGee, and E. Turkington (witnesses for the defence). All the legal formula was duly carried out, including the empannelling of the jury, the wearing of wigs by 'his honor,' the learned counsel, etc.