

## SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

## DUNEDIN.

THE Dunedin Catholic schools were examined last week, and a number of handsome prizes were given to the pupils.

## INVERCARGILL.

The 'Southland Times' says:—"The viva voce examination of the children attending St Mary's school was conducted by the Most Reverend Dr Moran during his recent visit, assisted by the Rev. J. Carden; and the written examination by the Rev. J. Carden, assisted by the teachers (Mr Wood and Miss Carden). The pupils were subjected to a rigid examination in the various branches, and acquitted themselves in a manner highly creditable to the teachers and pupils. The knowledge shown by the first class children in English history, grammar, geography, spelling, mental arithmetic, music and singing was remarkably good, and received warm commendation and a promise of premiums from the most reverend examiner. The paper work showed considerable proficiency in Latin, Euclid, algebra, higher arithmetic, Roman, Grecian, and scripture history, &c. We understand there are 130 pupils at the school, this being an increase of more than 100 per cent. during the past nine months, children of all denominations being admitted; also, that two premiums of the value of £20, to be called 'The Invercargill Scholarships,' will be open for competition in July next for all children who have attended the school for six months previously. Mr Wood announced that the school duties would be resumed on January 19th, after which three hearty cheers were given for the Bishop, the Rev. J. Carden, the school teachers, and the visitors." The same paper states that a number of prizes awarded at the examination, and consisting of valuable and handsomely bound books, were on a subsequent day presented to the pupils.

We understand that his Lordship the Bishop has since the examination become patron of the school, and that it will be re-opened under new regulations, due announcement of which will be made.

## AUCKLAND.

From the report in the 'Southern Cross' of the distribution of prizes at St. Mary's Convent Schools, we take the following:—"There were present—The Right Rev. Dr Croke, Bishop of Auckland; the Very Rev. Dr McDonald, the Rev. Fathers Walter McDonald, Golden, Byrnes, Paul, and Simpson; Messrs D. Cruickshank, Waterhouse, J. Sheehan, M.H.R., Stalke, C. O'Neill, M.H.R., Brigham, P. Darby, M. Corcoran, J. Casey, Drs Grey and Wood, and many other influential citizens. In the forenoon, the Orphan School distribution of prizes was held, and two prizes presented by the Mayores were given to the two best scholars. Afterwards a general distribution of prizes took place to the others. This was called by the children an auction, and vastly delighted they were at the prizes awarded them. At the Select School the drama of "Mary, Queen of Scots," was performed, the parts being all sustained by young lady scholars. Between the acts several young ladies performed selections on the piano and harmonium with great taste. His Lordship Bishop Croke then presented the prizes to the 1st and 2nd classes, with a few appropriate remarks to each recipient. His Lordship at the conclusion addressed the spectators, and expressed his thanks for such a large attendance. There were some beautiful drawings, &c., hung round the walls of the school-room, which were well deserving the praise lavished on them by the visitors.

## TUAPEKA.

THE annual feast, given to the children attending the Roman Catholic School before breaking up for their Christmas holidays, took place on Monday at noon. When we looked into the school, a very pleasant sight presented itself to us, of upwards of one hundred tidy and well-dressed children, evidently enjoying an abundant spread of sandwiches and all kinds of sweet cake. The table was neatly spread, and had on it numerous bouquets of flowers. The Rev. Father Larkin seemed thoroughly in his element in attending to the wants of the children. He busied himself, and made certain that none of them were overlooked. The usual examination was not held on this occasion, as the children had so recently undergone a thorough examination by Bishop Moran and Father Coleman. We may state that all the provisions used were the gifts of friends of the church.—Tuapeka Times.

LOUIS NAPOLEON AND THE PRESS.—The method of influencing and controlling the press was regulated under the Empire by a special department, under General Fleury, the hero of the *Coup d'Etat*. That a number of editors came daily for their instructions is easily intelligible—*cela va sans dire*. But there was a section for reading and examining journals, French and foreign, and a special note was made of any profession of faith by public men, and a record kept of it. There was a section for publicity, under which a number of writers prepared, daily, outlines of articles, letters, suggestions and directions, &c., which were inserted or made use of in upwards of a hundred journals. Editors and contributors were also found for journals, and sent from Paris to the country; and assistance was given either in direct grants of money, or by paying the writer, or by purchasing a given number of each issue, which was sent direct from the office to a list of persons whom it was thought desirable to enlighten or influence. Journals, originally of slight importance, were often reorganised and made serviceable instruments by these methods. But a more subtle and ingenious development of the system was the correspondence establishment with opposition papers. Persons were selected to write in a moderate and apparently candid style, answers to attacks in those journals. And the great agencies for circulating telegrams were in habitual communication with the department, and colored their news discreetly under its direction. An arrangement was also made with journals in England, Germany, and Belgium, twenty in all, to publish documents and correspondence supplied to them. Paris papers like 'Le Petit Journal,' which was professedly non-political, and had an immense circulation, were made serviceable by containing memoirs of ministers and their leading supporters, stories of the First Empire, statistics of French progress, &c. The prefects of departments furnished lists of persons to whom papers might be usefully sent.

## THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF ENGLAND.

(Dublin 'Freeman,' Sept. 16.)

THE Catholic Archbishops and Bishops of England have, we need scarcely inform our readers, been during recent weeks assembled in a Provincial Council. The prelates congratulate Catholic England on the fidelity and steadfastness of its faith. They point out that at the present hour the atmosphere is charged with hostility to God and his Church, to the doctrines of revelation, and even to the truths of the natural order. This hostility, they say, is not, as of old, confined to a higher class of over-cultivated minds, but reaches down to the lowest strata of society. In such a condition of things, Catholic education is all important; and the Bishops declare that in England it has wonderfully progressed, and that, to say the least, the Catholic schools of the country would not be found a whit behind any other in their secular instruction. Having impressed on all the faithful the great necessity for supporting Catholic poor schools, the prelates point out that there is another class of education which now needs attention. A few years ago, they say, there was no Catholic middle-class in England. The Catholics consisted almost entirely of ancient noble or landed families, on the one hand, and, on the other, of a multitude of the poorest in the land. A great Catholic middle-class is, however, now growing up, owing partly to conversions, partly also to the number of persons who have fought their way up from below. The Bishops fully recognise the responsibility which lies on them to provide a good middle class education, and also a higher education for youths between 18 and 22. As to the latter, they declare that as parents cannot send their children to the national universities without grave sin, the Bishops fully recognise the present necessity to labor that the studies at Catholic colleges shall be so raised and matured as to leave nothing for the imparting of a higher education and the future necessity of erecting a Catholic university. The duty of helping to erect seminaries for the education of priests is impressed on the people, and they are also urged to watch carefully that impure or irreligious literature is not admitted to their homes. Among other points touched on in the letter is that of "mixed marriages." Dispensations can only be granted for those on the mutual and united promise of the two parties that the Catholic shall have full liberty to practice the Catholic religion, that the children shall be brought up Catholics, and that the marriage shall be celebrated only in a Catholic church. The Bishops in conclusion declare that they have no fear for the future, that at no time within the last three centuries did the people of England regard Catholicism with a more friendly eye, and that if here and there violent and disappointed men were attempting to rekindle old fires, or imitate foreign despotism, it did not move them to fear.

## THE HOME RULE MOVEMENT IN ENGLAND.

THE Irish in England, who number at least five hundred thousand, are being organised to influence the elections in England favorably for Home Rule. The effect has lately been witnessed at the Greenwich and Dundee elections. At the last election in 1863 there was no talk at all of "the Irish vote" in either of these places; now it is "the Irish vote" which was specially courted by the various candidates, and which decided the contest in Dundee and defeated the ministerial Liberal in Greenwich. In Dundee, three candidates took the field: Mr Yeaman (ex-Provost), Mr Jenkins (author of "Ginx's Baby") and Mr Fitz James Stephen, Q.C. The last-named was, we believe, the first editor of that anti-Irish print, the 'Pall Mall Gazette,' and still is a contributor. He was the ministerial candidate, having been promised the English Solicitor-Generalship in case he won. The other two are independent Liberals and declared advocates of Home Rule; an until the Irish electors, marshalled into one compact host by the local Home Rule Association, decided which way they would vote, the two had an equal chance of success. They accordingly vied with each other in placating the Irish. Both of them emphatically declared in favor of Home Rule. But Mr Yeaman declared in addition for the liberation of the political prisoners and for denominational education, and did not chance to have lampooned in an English magazine the Irish priesthood, the Catholic religion and Irish nationality, as Mr Jenkins had done in 'St Paul's Magazine.' The 'Nation' and 'Weekly News' pointed this out and made extracts from a book of Mr Jenkins', entitled "Barney Georgeghan, M.P., and Home Rule at St Stephen's," which was one gross libel on all that Catholic Irishmen hold most dear. The Irish electors of Dundee thereupon declared for Mr Yeaman, and on the day of the polling that gentleman was found to have a majority over Mr Jenkins almost exactly equal to the strength of the Irish party of Dundee. So much for the Dundee election. In Greenwich, three Liberal candidates and one Conservative came forward. The Conservative won, but the second man was the Home Rule candidate, Dr Baxter Langley. He beat the ministerial Liberal by nearly two to one. These two events, show that the Home Rulers of Great Britain have been busy with the Parliamentary register; and it is quite evident that if they do as well in every borough as they did in Greenwich and Dundee, they will hold in their hands the balance of power.—An exchange.

## HOME RULE REASONS.

(The 'American Gael'.)

AN instructive lesson can be gathered from a consideration of the present condition of Austria as compared with what it was twenty-five years ago. Hungary was in arms, and it required the powerful aid of Russia to suppress the insurrection that threatened the disintegration of the Empire. The Hungarians, like the Irish, were denied the right of self government; a Viceroy ruled in Pesth, as a Lord-Lieutenant exercises authority in Dublin, and coercive laws were framed in Vienna to uphold "order" in the kingdom with the same facility and enforced with the like severity as the London parliament passed treason felony, disarming, curfew and suspension of habeas corpus acts for the purpose of maintaining English mis-rule in Ireland.

After the year 1867, when the battle of Endrwa drove Austria out of Germany, Francis Joseph, the Emperor of Austria, determined upon the bold scheme of reorganising his empire in accordance with