

is that nothing illegal shall be done or attempted. If resistance by legal means be possible, then we say, by all means, let there be resistance. If legal resistance be hopeless, then when people are able to bear the loss of passive resistance let them resist passively.

But the great work before Catholics is to register, and at the polling-booths, when they can do nothing else, always to vote against the men who have refused them justice in the Councils and Legislatures, no matter who may be their opponents.

GERMAN PERSECUTION—WHY?

MOST people were lost in amazement at finding at the end of the Franco-German war that one of the first acts of the new German empire was to inaugurate a fierce persecution of the Catholic Church. During the war none had fought more bravely against the French than the Catholics of every part of Germany; and amongst the best and bravest, and most enthusiastic for German unity were to be seen the leading Catholics. Not, indeed, that there were wanting many amongst them who had sore misgivings as to the ultimate result; but a sense of duty and the old Catholic principle of loyalty carried even these over the dead point, and sent them forth to do what they conceived to be a present duty, under the strong faith that Providence would provide for the future. On the battle-field, too, priests and nuns freely exposed themselves to all the dangers of such a place in the performance of the duties of humanity and Christian charity. And amongst these none were more devoted than the heroic sons of Ignatius of Loyola.

But no sooner was the war at an end, and the victorious regiments recalled, than the Government of the new empire forgot all the great services of her Catholic subjects, and began to treat them as enemies. And yet in the meantime the Catholics had done nothing to merit such ingratitude and injustice. It was said, indeed, as common decency demanded some sort of excuse, that Catholics, after having fought so well for their country, had, on the morrow of her triumph, suddenly become dissatisfied and disloyal. The statement is intrinsically improbable, and in support of it there is not a tittle of external evidence. Catholics in Germany challenged the Government to prosecute the disloyal and such as were guilty of treasonable projects. But the challenge was not taken up. Can any stronger proof be given of the utter groundlessness of the charges brought against Catholics and their Church? That Catholics had in nothing violated the laws of their country is evident from the fact that the laws existing at the time when peace was made by France and Germany did not authorise or enable the Government to banish Catholics from their native country, or impede the ordinary action of the government of the Catholic Church. In order to a legal persecution, it was necessary to enact a new code, to create and define new crimes, to arm the Executive with new powers.

Up to this moment the Catholics had not given even passive resistance to any law whatever of the State. They were generally satisfied with their position under the constitution, and were living in harmony with their fellow-citizens of other denominations under the protection of the constitution of the country, and equal laws, to which they could submit without any violation of their duty to God and His church. We do not say they had nothing to complain of, but they had not much to complain of, which they could not comply with consistently with the obligations of their conscience.

Suddenly, however, a mighty change takes place. Prince Bismarck finds it necessary, he says, for the good of the new empire, to banish the Jesuits and kindred orders, to turn all the Christian brothers and nuns out of Catholic schools, to withdraw these from the control of the Church, to punish bishops for censuring heretical and immoral ecclesiastics, and to prevent the authorities of the Church from exercising the functions of their spiritual office. New law followed new law in this direction till the state has in reality decreed that the Catholic Church shall no longer exist on German soil. Legally, the Church has at this moment no existence in Germany. The faithful are reduced very nearly to the state to which our forefathers were reduced by the tyrannical Elizabeth, of England, and canting Cromwell of infamous memory. To arrive at this state of things, it was necessary to violate the constitution, and, as has been comically said, amend it. The constitution under which the people lived—the pact by virtue of which citizens had agreed to constitute a nation—had to be violated in order to enact these iniquitous

measures. And what renders the injustice and tyranny more striking is, that this pact was broken in spite of and in defiance of the protest and determined and unanimous resistance of one of the contracting parties. It is a case of "might versus right."

But why is this? Such a line of proceeding cannot but weaken the empire. It is most dangerous to the peace and well-being of the country to alienate the affections of fourteen millions of men, and by injustice supply them with strong motives for desiring the defeat and humiliation of the Government of their native land, and bitterly regretting the triumphs of their country. So it is, however. German Catholics do sincerely regret the triumph of Prussia over France, and would now rejoice to see the order of events reversed. Prussian statesmen are well aware of this; and no man knows better than Prince Bismarck that his persecution of the Catholic Church is a source of weakness to Prussia. Why, then, it may be asked, does he persevere in this course of insanity? There is but one way of accounting for his madness: and it is that spoken of in the extracts which we publish elsewhere from the London 'Tablet's' German correspondent. The impression amongst German Catholics is, that Bismarck, in order to aggrandise his native Prussia, struck a bargain with the Freemasons of the Continent of Europe, and that this was the bargain: "Help me to break the power of Austria and France, and I will help you to destroy the Catholic Church." Prussia has succeeded so far in humbling both Austria and France, and now the Freemasons press for the fulfilment of the promise made to them in consideration of their support of Bismarck's policy. It is to please the Freemasons, therefore, as German Catholics believe, that Prussian statesmen are now persecuting the Catholic Church.

WEEKLY EPITOME.

CONFERENCE of the Diocese of Dunedin was held at the Bishop's residence, on Wednesday last. The clergymen present were: the Bishop, Very Rev. Wm. Coleman, Rers. E. Royer, Wm. Larkin, J. Donovan, J. Mackay, J. Lenihan, J. Crowley.

THE Melbourne correspondent of the 'Daily Times,' who is an humble imitator of the 'Argus' has been making much capital lately out of the Coadjutor Archbishop of Sydney. But he is about as truthful in regard to Catholics, as the journal whom it pleases his small mind to ape. Lately the 'Argus' gave four leading articles and a review on a work on education, which it alleged was written by the distinguished Sydney prelate. Subsequently a letter appeared, disclaiming on behalf of the reputed author, the authorship of the work on which the 'Argus' had worked itself up into a state of vigorous and virtuous indignation. After this exposure the Victorian Jupiter must have felt very small.

A London telegram of January 15th says:—"The Ultramontanes have gained thirty seats during the recent general election in Germany." This will appear old news when it is stated that the result of the elections is given in the English Catholic Weeklies of Nov. 22 last, at which time the strengthening of the Catholic ranks by 35 members more than at the previous Landtag, was regarded as a significant fact in the face of Prince Bismarck's policy. The sending of the telegram at this date would seem to indicate that the general public had awoke to the importance of the matter, and were now discussing it. Upon no other assumption can we account for the transmission of news eight or ten weeks old.

LONDON telegrams of latest dates say:—"The Nord Deutscher Zeitung says the relations between France and Germany depend on the attitude France assumes towards the Ultramontanes." Precisely so. As the remarkable article we republish to day indicates, the gentlemen to whom Bismarck sold himself, are clamouring for their wages.

A special session of the Provincial Council of Nelson was opened on the 27th inst. The Superintendent proposed to borrow £25,000 for certain specified public works, and also to apply for immigrants at the rate of 150 per month. He asked the Council to authorise a temporary advance in anticipation of a loan for the completion of the coach road from Nelson to Greymouth and Westport.

THE Provincial Council of Canterbury was prorogued on the 22nd inst. The total sum voted during the session exceeded £1,000,000.

THE action for libel brought by Captain Orkney, Deputy Harbor Master at Dunedin, against Mr George Bell, proprietor and editor of the 'Evening Star,' has been tried in Dunedin. The action was brought for the recovery of £1000 damages, on account of a letter published in the 'Star' in October last, containing some comments upon Captain Orkney's conduct as Deputy Harbor Master and calling him a "Bumble." The Jury—a special one—brought in a verdict of £50 damages.

THE 'Timara Herald' chronicles the arrival of men "from the non-agricultural parts of the Colony, probably attracted by the high rate of wages at present ruling in this locality."

THE detailed reports published by the 'Lyttelton Times' regarding harvest prospects in Canterbury show that caterpillars are very numerous in some of the districts. In one place it is stated that these pests "might have been taken up in bucketsful."

A DECISION of great importance to persons who intend to take up land under the Otago deferred payments system, has been come to at a meeting of the Waste Lands Board. Three applications made to take up land at Waipahae had been rejected by the salesman of the Land Office on the ground that they did not comply with the Act of 1872—the particular ground of rejection being that under section 49