

# New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1874.

## THE ENCYCLICAL LETTER.

IN our issue of to-day we publish a translation, borrowed from the 'London Tablet,' of an Encyclical Letter addressed by the Holy Father to all Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops, Bishops, and other Ordinaries in the grace and communion of the Holy See, in reference to the persecutions of the Church in many countries, and also as to the new heresy of the sect called the OLD CATHOLICS.

This is a most important document, and it will be read by all Catholics with the deepest interest. It is hardly necessary for us to do more on this occasion than call attention to it. No analysis is required of us, for people will be sure to read and analyse it for themselves.

After having given expression to the anguish of his mind at the sight of the persecution to which his flock is subjected in many places, and made a passing allusion to the suppression of the Roman University, and of the Religious Orders in the Eternal City, His Holiness proceeds to speak on religious affairs in Switzerland and Germany with a clearness and precision which leave nothing to be desired.

The first few sentences of the Encyclical are most touching. "Although," he says, "many grievous and bitter sufferings, from the beginning of Our long Pontificate, have fallen to Our lot through various causes which We have unfolded in Our Encyclical letters from time to time, yet in these last years the number of our sorrows has so increased that, were We not upheld by the mercy of God, We should be almost overwhelmed by them. Of late, indeed, matters have reached such a pass, that death itself seems better than life amid such storms, and with eyes lifted up to heaven We are fain to cry, 'It is better for us to die than to see the evils of the saints.' Machab. iii. 59."

As to Switzerland, the Holy Father enumerates the various acts of violence committed by the Governments against the Church, in banishing ecclesiastics, enacting iniquitous laws subversive of the Church, and imposing an oath involving actual apostasy; and solemnly condemns and rejects these laws and this oath. His Holiness's words are—"We, therefore, as required by Our office, do, by Our Apostolic authority, solemnly reject and condemn them, declaring the required oath to be unlawful and sacrilegious, and that all those, who in the Canton of Geneva or elsewhere, having been elected according to the tenor of the same laws, or others like them, by the votes of the people, and confirmation of the civil power, shall venture to take upon them ecclesiastical functions, do *ipso facto* incur the greater excommunication, especially reserved to the Holy See, and other canonical penalties; and that they are to be avoided by the faithful according to the Divine command, as strangers and robbers, who 'come not but to steal and to kill and to destroy.' St. John x. 5, 10."

In reference to Germany, the Encyclical deals first with the Prussian Government, and in the second place, with the OLD CATHOLIC heresy, and its unhappy Bishop Reinkens. The following is the concluding passage concerning the German Emperor and the Prussian Government:—"We should indeed have gladly passed over in this place the letter of the Emperor, if it had not been made public by the official journal in Berlin altogether without our knowledge, and in a manner certainly unbecomingly, together with another letter written by Our hand, in which We appealed for the Catholic Church in Prussia to the justice of the Most Serene Emperor. The things which we have thus far recounted are before the eyes of all; wherefore, while religious and virgins dedicated to God are deprived of the common liberty of citizens, and are cradled with cruel harshness; while public schools, in which Catholic youth are day by day further with drawn from the wholesome teaching and vigilance of the Church; while societies founded for the nurturing of piety, and even the seminaries of the clergy are dissolved; while the liberty of preaching the gospel is hindered, while it is prohibited in certain parts of the kingdom to teach the elements of religious education in the mother tongue; while the priests are forcibly taken away from parishes over which they were set by the Bishops, and the Bishops themselves are deprived of their revenues, coerced by fines, and menaced by threats of imprisonment, while Catholics are disturbed by vexations of every kind, is it possible that we should receive into our

mind that which is laid before us, viz., that neither the religion of Jesus Christ nor the truth is called in question?"

After having spoken at considerable length and with great eloquence as to the OLD CATHOLICS and their pseudo-bishop Reinkens, His Holiness concludes thus: "We not only declare the election of the said Joseph Hubert Reinkens to be contrary to the Holy Canons, unlawful and altogether null and void, and denounce and condemn his consecration, as sacrilegious, but by the authority of Almighty God We declare the said Joseph Hubert, together with those who have taken part in his election and sacrilegious consecration, and whoever adhere to and follow the same, giving aid, favor, or consent—excommunicated, under anathema, separated from the communion of the Church, and to be reckoned among those whose fellowship has been forbidden to the faithful by the Apostle, so that they are not so much as to say to them God speed." St. John ii 10.

Towards the end of the Encyclical mention is made of the persecution of the Church in America, but not at any great length, and the Holy Father promises to return to this subject at a future time.

One would naturally ask why is this war against the Catholic Church carried on at this time and so generally throughout the world. The Holy Father is aware of this and gives an answer saying, "Some of you may, perhaps, be surprised, Venerable Brethren, that the war which is carried on at this time against the Catholic Church extends so far and wide. But whoever is acquainted with the character, the aims, and purposes of the sects—be they Freemasons, or by whatever name they are known—and compare them with the character and extent of the strife which throughout nearly the whole world is waged against the Church, cannot hesitate to assign the cause of our present calamities to the craft and conspiracy of the same sects. From them is made up the synagogue of Satan, which is marshalling its forces and preparing to engage hand to hand against the Church of Christ. These sinful associations having greatly increased the number of their adherents, fancy that they have now obtained their ends and all but reached the goal set before them. Succeeding in this object, after which they have so long hankered—the possession of the chief power in many places—they are now boldly using the strength and power they have acquired, that the Church of God may be reduced to the most grinding slavery, that it may be uprooted from its foundations and defaced in the divine marks with which it shines conspicuous; in a word, that shaken, shattered, and overthrown by many blows, it may, if possible, be utterly blotted out from the world."

There is, in conclusion, a beautiful and consoling passage quoted from St. John Chrysostom to which we direct the especial attention of our readers.

## SULLIVAN'S LIBERATION.

THE convict Sullivan who had been tried and condemned to death for a most atrocious murder has been pardoned on condition of his leaving the colony. We have not space this week to make many comments on this transaction; nor, indeed, have we any inclination to dwell on the career of this human or inhuman butcher. We fear the affair will not be regarded as creditable to our Government. Indeed, there is no use in concealing our opinion as to the action of the Government. We regard the liberation from prison of Sullivan as a scandalous transaction.

## WEEKLY EPITOME.

THE Wellington police have arrested George Maui a Deemona, the absconding manager of the Provincial and Suburban Bank, Richmond, Melbourne, aboard the *Mekeo*. He had sailed from Otago, and was en route for San Francisco.

It is said that the services of the Hon. R. D. Ireland, Q.C., of Melbourne, have been retained by the defendants in the now celebrated case of *White v. McKellar*, and that the annual certificate of the "Jolly C." (as the *Argus* styles Mr Ireland) has been taken out in the Supreme Court Office at Daredin in view of the future stages of the action.

THE hard times anticipated for some months in America have at last come on. A late cablegram brings information that working men are returning in shoals from America, in consequence of the distress there. With energetic emigration agents America's difficulty should be New Zealand's opportunity.

A YOUNG man named John Blair not long arrived from North Britain, who has been employed in the Supreme Court, Daredin, has been charged with having stolen a cheque for £39 15s 3d, the property of the Queen, and has been committed for trial.

OUR Auckland correspondent reports business done:—Colonial, £11; Golden Call, (new issue) £9 11s; Golden Call, double, £20.

MR C. HOLLOWAY, a prominent member of the Agricultural Laborers' League, and delegate and chairman of the Oxford district, is a passenger by the *Mongol*. Mr Holloway comes out in charge of