

the Provincial Council meets in April. The present Superintendent is a wise and just man, and looks at the education question both from a religious and secular point of view. He commands the confidence of all parties, and most probably his educational policy will be a model, from which other provinces will copy. He knows the Catholics to a man are his friends; but he knows also that he has other and many influential friends who are not Catholics, and he may do justice to them all. In the meantime let all the Catholics in the Colony immediately combine politically, not for the purpose of attacking others, but of defending themselves. Let us concert measures of common defence; have lists of every man qualified to vote and see that they are all on the register, and know how to act in concert with their co-religionists. We ought to have one general or "Colonial Register," that we may know our strength thoroughly, and where it lies. Let us in fact have a "Defence Association," and God will provide a leader in due time, Protestant or Catholic. Without a good and honest leader we shall, however numerous or zealous, be helpless or worse—run in each others way and mar success. A Protestant leader might be more efficient than a Catholic one, for we should want him to do nothing politically than an honest man of any creed could not consistently do. The Canterbury Catholics deserve well of their co-religionists throughout the colony for the spirited way in which they are acting in self-defence. It is to be hoped they will find imitators in other provinces, now that they have led the way. Our opponents would then discover that we are not so tame and spiritless as they fancy we are from our long apathy. I am persuaded that the strength of the papacy—its legitimate power and influence—lies more in the British dominions at the present time than in any other part of Christendom, even in France. The Catholic spirit has never ceased to animate the Irish people. If that spirit during the past three centuries has been in a state of suspended animation in England and Scotland, it has not been dead, and the hour of its resurrection there is visibly drawing near. The Catholic subjects of the British Crown have now a great and momentous part to play, and we in New Zealand constitute an integral part, and no unimportant part of Her Majesty's Catholic subjects throughout the British empire. England is still the mistress of the ocean, and, saving Bismarck's presence, is still first among the mighty powers of the world. She owes this proud supremacy in part, and in no small part, to the loyalty and courage of the Catholic people of Ireland, and who assist to man her fleets and armies. If the Pope now recover his rights indirectly through the power of England, it would not be the first time he has done so in the last century. Wellington and Nelson, names which for all time will be associated with the supremacy of England by land and sea, were the friends of the papacy—for political reasons—however hostile they were to the Catholic religion. The venerable chief of a Protestant party in France, M. Guizot, has also shown his sympathy with the Papal cause by writing in the Pope's defence. He regards it as quite of as much importance to Protestants as to Catholics, and states that the Pope should be protected from his enemies and maintained in the possession of what he is right held and received from his predecessors. Destroy or even weaken, or paralyse the Pope's authority, and you undermine, M. Guizot maintains, all constituted authority in every country, Catholic or Protestant, and pave the way for the reign of a general anarchy and brute force. He wrote this 15 years ago, and recent events have confirmed and are still confirming his words. Besides this, is it not clear that where the influence of the Pope or the Catholic Church is weak or destroyed, many are given up to a spirit of the most selfish greed; their conscience is seared, and they stick at no means to fill their own purse—no matter who may suffer. Is not this the cause of those "strikes" among our workmen, in which both master and men strive to over-reach or get the better of each other, both parties being guided solely by what has been called the peculiarity of our age, "a well regulated selfishness?" We have seen the beginning, not the end, of these strikes. Working men know their power now, and are convinced that in unity is strength—in unity and organization. Pity Catholics don't know the same.

LAIC,

GENERAL NEWS.

(Compiled from our exchanges.)

IRELAND.

THE "melancholy task of ruling Ireland":—The 'Times' is not usually regarded as a propagator of sedition or treason in Ireland among Irishmen, and yet it sometimes, without knowing it, gives aid, hope, and counsel to Irish nationalists, or "irreconcilables," as it prefers to call them. Reviewing a portion of the Wellington Despatches, [which appeared some time ago in our columns], relating to Catholic Emancipation, it points out, without meaning to do so, to Irish nationalists what to do and what to avoid. It shows that the success of the leaders of the Catholic Association, in procuring the emancipation of their co-religionists, was owing to the fact that their organisation was so perfect as to compel the ministry of the day to grant all their demands from very fear of it, and it in effect tells the chiefs of the Home Rule organisation of the present day that until they can do the same they can never hope to achieve their end. The teaching of the 'Times' is literally that England will never give to Ireland anything that she is not compelled to give, or fears to withhold.

We sincerely regret to chronicle the decease of Lord Annaly, who died at the ripe age of eighty-four years. Judged by his own times—the Ireland of forty or fifty years ago—he was a man worthy of honor, respect, and acclaim, as one who, in the public life of his era, bore a courageous, an upright, and an honorable part. His name will be forever associated with the gigantic struggle for Catholic Emancipation, to the parliamentary contests in which he freely devoted a princely fortune.

The Home Rule movement is now making rapid strides. The clergy are joining it in great numbers. Those in the deanery of Ballinrobe, in conference assembled, have unanimously resolved to enrol their names as members of the association, and the clergy of the deanery of Mill Street, Kerry, have followed their example.

It is difficult to understand what satisfaction can be derived by any class of journalists from the fact that a large number of Irishmen languish in English prisons for having participated in a political movement on behalf of their country. Yet such is the case, and those who take delight in the circumstance lose no opportunity of manifesting their feelings and assisting in rivetting more securely and firmly the fetters by which those unfortunate men, the political prisoners, are held in bondage.

Irish Lace for Russia.—One of the principal branches of Irish industry has again been favored with royal patronage, and it is gratifying to find that notwithstanding the unlimited resources possessed by Brussels and other Continental cities, we are able to produce in this country an article which rivals the finest of foreign productions—we refer to Irish point lace, now so well known. Messrs. James Forrest and Sons have had the honor of executing an order from His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh. Irish lace will now be seen in the Russian capital, and we hope that ladies of the Court of St. Petersburg will be induced to order their train trimmings from Ireland.

Like the Marchioness of Queensbury the Baroness Burdett Coutts has extended a helping hand to the poor people of Ireland. The first-named lady sent £20 towards the movement for obtaining Home Rule, the last-named lady has sent the sum of £200 for the fund for providing better boats and fishing gear for the distressed fishermen of the Baffin and Shark Islands, in county Galway; and also £50 towards the fund required to defray a portion of the expenses of building a boat-slip on Shark and a pier on Baffin Island.

On the occasion of the dedication of the Catholic Cathedral in Armagh, on the 24th of August, Mr P. M. Haverly, the New York publisher, was a collector. In the accounts of the ceremony published in some newspapers it was said that a gentleman hailing from America decamped with £160 of the collection. Holding that this could only refer to himself, Mr Haverly has taken actions against the 'Belfast News Letter' and other papers to recover damages for libel.

Longevity is not uncommon at Limerick, if we may judge from the fact that the four persons who died and were buried there in one week, divided among them 376 years of existence, being an average of 94 years a-piece. The eldest veteran had reached the age of 105, while the most juvenile was midway between 80 and 90.

In a late number of the new magazine, called "Catholic Ireland," there is a remarkable article, entitled "Some results of the Irish Exodus," in which the statistical and politico-economical consequences of the national education are broadly set forth. The writer says that, driving recently through Meath, with a landed proprietor of that county, that gentleman expressed himself in melancholy terms regarding the depopulation of that rich and fertile district of Ireland, which was, he declared, fast degenerating into a solitude, and becoming, in fact, a practical realisation of that time predicted by Lord Carlisle, when Ireland should be the "fruitful mother of flocks and herds." The writer's friend condemned the system of pasturage, which had almost superseded agriculture throughout the county, contending that the former pursuit encouraged idleness and drinking, inasmuch that those whose lands were all under grass had rarely any other employment for their time than hunting and attending fairs, the latter practice being "about as straight a road to intemperance as a man can take."

In the article cited in the foregoing paragraph, Edmund Spenser's dictum is quoted in support of the argument. The poet, writing in Elizabeth's time, in his "Views of the State of Ireland," earnestly recommends that the people be compelled to till the land. He, too, it seems recognised the tendency of grazing pursuits to beget idle habits, and with them all the evils of their train. "Cattle-keeping is a fit nursery for a thief," said the author of the "Fairy Queen," a dictum which would rather startle the respectable and by no means indolent stock-breeders and dealers of our day. The present writer's friend further argued that pasturage as compared with tillage returned much inferior profits. The profits of five agricultural counties in Ireland were found to be £6 10s per acre, as against £4 the acre calculated to be the return from five grazing counties. It is estimated, in this article, that the item of loss, per head by emigration, is correctly represented at £10, which would give a total of £800,000 on 80,000, the number of emigrants in 1872.

Last week we gave a description of the monster meeting in Dec. last, at Philborough, (Dublin) the last of the series of amnesty meetings began in December last. The following is a compact and forcible description of the first meeting of the series, that at Clontarf:—"It is difficult accurately to estimate the numbers who took part in this marvellous demonstration. In the field in which this meeting was actually held—a field of more than six acres crowded to excess—there were certainly, on a moderate calculation, not less than 60,000 persons. But the persons who stood at any one time in that field did not constitute one-third of those who really formed the mighty gathering of human beings who thronged not only that field and the avenues leading to it, but all the road from the Custom House to St. Anne's—a distance of more than three miles. When the chairman was voted to the chair, those on the platform could see the banners of the coming bodies and the long line of dense masses of men defiling more than a mile away from the shore. When the meeting was going on some of the latest arrivals were making their way into the field to replace the crowds whom the intense pressure was driving out. On the lowest computation no less than 200,000 persons made their pilgrimage to the spot where Brian Boru fell in glorious victory to testify their devotion to the sacred cause of freedom and fatherland in which the glorious old Monarch died.

"Weeding out Irishmen."—Mr Andrews, the Secretary of the Waterford and Limerick Railway, has been summoned before the Limerick magistrates, to shew cause why he should not be ordered to give a written character to an engine driver who has recently been dismissed from the employment of the company, in pursuance of a determination to reduce the staff. Mr Andrews did not attend, but his solicitor explained that the practice since he has had charge of the line has been not to give characters to servants leaving the employment but to permit a reference, and it was submitted that the magis-