

fellow creature under the belief that he did so justifiably and in self defence, or to defend others from unjust aggression. He may take and keep property wrongfully, believing it to be his own. In like manner a man such as the 'Guardian' may set himself without malice or corrupt motive to oppress and rob and calumniate us and all clergy, both Catholic and Protestant, and to "put them down;" to place them in bonds and allow them to speak and act only as the Civil Government or a popular majority may permit, and all the time he may innocently fancy he is doing a service to God and liberty and real justice by this line of conduct. The only way to deal with such men is to reason kindly with them, and to pray for them. They are under the power of the evil one no doubt. An "Ultramontane" I take to be a staunch, honest, consistent, "practical" Catholic, and, therefore, a man hateful to the devil and other enemies of the Church, such as the 'Guardian' and 'Bruce Herald.'

LAIC.

THE NEW ARMAGH AND PROJECTED AUCKLAND CATHEDRALS.—ST. PATRICK'S VISION.

THE Catholics of Auckland are about to begin a work which the Catholics of Armagh have just completed—the building of a National Cathedral. It may interest your readers, whether Catholic or Protestant, to know something about the new Armagh Cathedral, which in August last was with all the pomp and circumstance of the Catholic Ritual prescribed for such occasions, dedicated to St. Patrick, the Patron and Apostle of Ireland—as the new Auckland Cathedral in due time will be dedicated. The ceremony must have been grand and imposing in the extreme, and a source of joy not only to the Catholics but to all the Irish people, without distinction of sect or party, for the papers tell that even the bells of the old—once Catholic but now Protestant Cathedral of Armagh—actually rang out a joyful peal on the occasion. The whole town was one scene of harmonious rejoicing, not one indication of ill-feeling in any quarter marred the pleasure of the crowds which the ceremony attracted. The Cathedral was designed and in part built so long ago as 1841. Then for a period of seven years the works were suspended. On their resumption the style of architecture was changed. These changes we are told have added to the boldness of the outline, as well as to the grandeur and picturesque quality of the Cathedral. So our Auckland friends need not be disappointed if their Cathedral too should occupy some years in the building. Let us hope that when completed they will have something "bold, picturesque and grand" to shew, in the way of architecture; something which shall be worthy of their creed, and of the capital of their Province. To judge from what they have already done in providing the necessary funds during the past eighteen months, there does not seem to be much reason to fear anything on the score of finances for the future. At the dedication of the Armagh Cathedral, no less than fifteen Archbishops and Bishops officiated, in presence of a Prince of the Church, Cardinal Cullen, attended by nearly five hundred priests. The unavoidable absence of Archbishop Manning was deeply regretted. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a collection was made, amounting to the extraordinary total of £7000. The collectors were two noblemen and several members of Parliament. The building of this Cathedral is considered "a great event in the history of Ireland, and full of hope for its future." May we ere long have to say that the building of the new Auckland Cathedral is a great event in the history of this province, and full of hope for the future of New Zealand. The Rev. Isaac Moore, a Jesuit, preached an eloquent sermon at the dedication. He ran rapidly over the history of Ireland, shewing the long and terrible sufferings which the Irish Catholic people had undergone at the hands of Protestant England for their faith. That state of things had passed away. No recognised Catholic organ of public opinion in Ireland now urges the people to sectarian hatred on account of these past wrongs. Were they to do so, that would belie the teachings of the religion for which they had suffered so much. The highest office of trust which the Sovereign can bestow on a subject is at present exercised by an Ulster Catholic. Still, in parts of the country where the Catholics are twenty to one, civil and corporate dignities are given even now in thiries their full proportion to Protestants. The Catholics of Ireland have only as yet got an instalment, and but a small instalment of the rights which belong to them.

In connection with this subject, a London Catholic journal quotes the following legend regarding St. Patrick. Protestants must be reminded that the belief of such a legend is not of faith, and like any other historical fact or alleged fact, it must go for what it is worth. It is told that once on a time St. Patrick had a vision. First he saw Ireland bathed in a flood of light. This is supposed to represent her state when first she embodied the faith. Then he saw thick darkness settle upon the whole island, amid which only a few small shining spots of light were to be seen. This is supposed to betoken her condition—afterwards and during the Protestants' ascendancy, when the profession of the Catholic faith was held to be a crime—against the State. Again he beheld the sun arise and break through this thick gloom, dispersing the darkness by his cheering rays; and which is held to indicate the present happy revival of the Catholic Church in Ireland after her emancipation from the hand of her oppressors, one striking sign of which is witnessed in the opening of this new Armagh Cathedral. Mr Gladstone, in his great oration on the disestablishment of the Irish Church, mentioned that, so far from its converting the Irish Catholics to the Protestant creed, the population of Catholics had increased and was increasing in Ireland every year. St. Patrick's vision is fulfilled.

THE OPENING OF ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, GOULBURN, NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Sydney 'Freeman'.)

THE opening of St. Patrick's College which has just recently been completed, took place last Sunday (February 1), and the success which attended the inauguration was most gratifying. It was eminently a success in regard to the number and character of the attendance, as the distinguished personages of the hierarchy of this colony were present, with the clergy of the whole of the southern district, and the most influential residents of Goulburn, Yass, Burrowa, and

other towns, as well as of the metropolis. In the light of a ceremony, it was a perfect treat, as the arrangements were very satisfactory, and the oration delivered by Father Kelly, a masterpiece of eloquent reasoning on the subject of education, and a magnificent defence of the policy of the Church in regard thereto. Financially it was also successful, as much as £700 having been subscribed for liquidating the debt remaining on the college. After mass, at which the Rev. William Kelly, of the Society of Jesus, Melbourne, preached, luncheon was served up in excellent style in a spacious marquee at the western side of the college. About 400 ladies and gentlemen sat down at the tables. Among the addresses was one from the co-adjutor Archbishop, Dr Vaughan.

CATHOLIC INTERESTS IN AMERICA—ENTHUSIASM.

AMERICA is a great and a wonderful country in many respects. It promises, for one thing, to outstrip all other parts of the world in the enthusiasm with which the Catholic religion is being received—not only the European races, but the Indian tribes are showing their enthusiasm. Happy would it be for this Colony if Europeans and Maoris both possessed that zeal for the true faith which God has put into the hearts of so many of the various European and Aboriginal races in America. Will the Catholics of New Zealand allow themselves to be outdone in enthusiasm by their co-religionists, both the white skins and the brown in America? Surely not. Enthusiasm is infectious. Let such examples as those exhibited in the annual American extracts stimulate the zeal both of the clergy and laity among us. Remember we are already eight millions strong in America, and that our number is daily increasing by conversions and otherwise in that country. Catholic hearts, as Cardinal Wiseman once said, are linked together by a golden chain of divine charity, which encircles the whole world. To our zealous brethren in America we owe our best acknowledgments for the noble example they are placing before us, and by which it may be hoped they will draw us on to imitate them. Well may the learned Jesuit be an object of terror and hatred to all the enemies of the Catholic Church, visible and invisible. If the Catholic religion continues to advance at the rate it is now doing in America, the United States will be a Catholic country ere long, and leave England behind. Protestantism, as we have been reminded by Lord Macaulay, only advanced for about fifty years, and then rotted, or rather began to recede. But the Catholic religion progresses not for fifty years only, but for ages; or till the consummation of the world.

MARSHAL MACMAHON AND THE IRISH PEOPLE.

THE following has appeared in the 'Freeman':—

Dr M'Devitt, the Bishop of Raphoe, in a letter from Paris to a friend in this city, received a few days since, gives a most interesting account of an interview which his lordship and the Bishop of Armagh (Dr Conroy) had with Marshal MacMahon. The President of the French Republic showed that he felt proud of his connection with Ireland, and in the course of the interview warmly returned thanks, in the name of France, to the Irish people for the sympathy and assistance extended to her in her recent calamities. Knowing how gratifying this will be to Irishmen, we gladly avail ourselves of the permission to give the following extract from Dr M'Devitt's letter:—

"We made our way direct to Versailles," writes the bishop, "and had an audience of Marshal MacMahon, the President of the French Republic. He was alone, and received us at the door of his room, and, the moment we were well in, he burst forth into such a torrent of words as I had never heard before, all thanking the Irish people, in the name of France, for their sympathy and assistance, &c. It was a most interesting interview. I shall never forget it. He spoke with extraordinary energy. There was a warm kindness in his manner, and he asked more than once were we staying long in France, &c."

THE IRISH PROVINCIAL PRESS ON HOME RULE.

THE 'Westmeath Independent,' in the course of an article on Home Rule, says:—"In our issue of Saturday we asserted that the remedy for the ruin which has fallen on our country is the restoration to her of self-government. A reference to the condition of the country before the era of the Volunteers, during the eighteen years of her independent parliament, and since the Union, completely proves that assertion. The source of all these evils is, therefore, the destruction of Irish self-government. 'Unhappy the nation whose books a stranger keeps.' The only means of restoring peace, prosperity, and happiness to the land is the attainment of the right to manage our own affairs. The attainment of that end is certain if Irishmen will unite. Nothing revolutionary is proposed. The supporters of Home Rule seek not the disruption of the British Empire, but rather its consolidation in the union, prosperity, and contentment of all its subjects. The spirit of nationality, the love of native land, nothing can destroy in the hearts of Irishmen. While her inalienable right is denied her, Ireland can never be content; she were contemptible if she could. Grant her the independence of a nation, and England can then count on that manly, true, and generous loyalty which justice alone can secure."

MARSHAL MACMAHON.

THE impartial and dignified attitude preserved by Marshal MacMahon in the late position of affairs in France was a subject of admiration. An issue of the 'London Tablet' says:—

M. Tirard, deputy for the Seine, has been trying to draw Marshal MacMahon, but has signally failed. To his letter asking the President's opinion on the political situation, the Secretary to the Presidency replies that he is directed to acquaint him with the Marshal-President's resolution "simply to acknowledge the receipt of the numerous political letters which he daily receives, for the most part from personages of considerable mark, and unfortunately expressing the most opposite views." In the situation in which the Assembly has placed him he considers it his duty not to write letters which would be generally published, and would not fail to give rise to dangerous discussions in the press.