

on the ruins of London Bridge, mourning over the fall of the great English nation, whenever that came to pass it would probably be found that that New Zealander was an Irishman. (Great laughter.) Mr Hughes concluded by saying that the spectacle witnessed that day, should impress upon all Irishmen this moral—that the great advantages they had in this new sphere brought with them corresponding obligations. There was a deep lesson to be learned by peaceful, benevolent, social organisations like that of the Hibernian Society. They should prove their love of the old country by being good citizens of the new, by upholding their character for peace, religion, and industry, by joining heart and hand with all good men of whatever creed or country for all good objects, and especially for the development of the unbounded wealth of New Zealand.

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN CHARLESTON.

A VERY beautiful and edifying sight was witnessed here on Sunday last, in the Catholic Church. The members of the Charleston Branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, in considerable numbers, attended the nine o'clock Mass, wearing their bright green and gold scarfs, and other insignia peculiar to the society, and approached the Holy Communion in a body. It was the first time since its establishment that the Branch carried out in so public and conspicuous a manner that important rule of the Society which obliges all its members to comply with the Pascal duty of Easter Communion. Their devout demeanor and fervid example appear to have had a salutary and good effect upon the congregation—which was large and respectable,—and it is to be hoped will prove a powerful means of inducing many more earnest men in the district to join a society which confers so many spiritual blessings as well as temporal advantages upon its members. The Rev. Father Walsh, the Chaplain, took occasion to compliment the Society, expressing himself very much gratified with the amount of good it had already accomplished, remarking that such a society when properly conducted and its rules strictly adhered to deserved and received the strongest approbation and encouragement of the Church; and concluding with the timely admonition that Catholics, instead of joining condemned and disapproved organisations, should be found co-operating with, and sustaining in our midst so excellent an institution as the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society. The Rev. Gentleman made a deep impression on the minds of his hearers.

On Tuesday following—St. Patrick's Day—the Hibernian Society turned out in splendid style. The Charleston and Brighton Branches together, assembled at an early hour in the day, at the St. Patrick's School, formed themselves into order of procession under the leadership of their respective marshals, headed by the Charleston Brass Band, which played some favorite national airs, and discoursed some equally inspiring martial music, processed the different streets, producing quite an electric effect on the hearts of those who, though exiles from their native land, still cherished the memory of him, to whose priestly sanctity, fervent devotion and indefatigable labors, the day has, from time immemorial, been celebrated.

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, a crowded congregation attended Mass, which was celebrated by the Rev. Father Walsh, who delivered the Panegyric of St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland, in a very feeling and impressive manner, and was listened to throughout with marked attention. The rev. gentleman also blessed the magnificent new banner which was received recently by the Hibernian Society from Melbourne, and used in procession for the first time that day.

In the evening the processionists employed themselves at their hall for a few hours in an agreeable and happy manner—cake and wines being supplied in abundance. Mr Richard Delany, the President, occupied the Chair. He opened the proceedings with an able and spirited address, which was well received by the large and appreciative audience. Several toasts, interspersed with good old Irish songs, were afterwards proposed and duly responded to by Bros. Nestor and Kirkpatrick, of the Charleston Branch; and Bros. Murphy and Maloney, of the Brighton Branch. Altogether the occasion was one of hilarity and friendly greeting; and the unimpeachable attachment and unswerving devotion to that faith brought from Rome of the Pope, by St. Patrick, to Ireland, was fully attested by the patriotic sentiments which emanated from those who were allowed the privilege of participating in the evening's festivities. And it is scarcely necessary to inform your readers that the Emerald Isle was not forgotten. In responding to the toast to the chair, Mr Delany wound up with a few felicitous and soul-stirring sentences, which touched a sympathetic chord, and drew forth expressive plaudits, especially when he introduced the words of the immortal poet and national bard, expressing the hope that he should soon see his beloved Ireland—

"Great, glorious and free—  
First flower of the earth, and first gem of the sea."

Thus ended the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, 1874, in Charleston; and from the orderly manner in which it has been carried out, the fervor and patriotism of its promoters, that undying love for faith and fatherland which manifested itself in the day's proceedings, deserves for it a place in the ranks of similar, though larger demonstrations, conducted simultaneously in other countries. Nothing tended to mar the celebration of the anniversary of the Patron Saint of Ireland; there was none to molest Irishmen in their joyous festivities; the Shamrock was displayed on every hat.

### MR D. M. CAMERON'S SUGGESTION.

WITH reference to that, would it not be a better plan to petition Government to allow us to do what I believe the Canadian Catholics are allowed to do, that is—assess ourselves for the support of our own schools—these to be placed under Government secular inspection? I have not much faith in voluntary subscriptions for that purpose. Many would shirk paying unless it could be enforced by law; the most would pay if the clergy went in for the plan with zeal. Besides it would only do for populous places. Our Protestant friends "profess" to be advocates of fair play. It is not professions but deeds we want.—L.A.C.

### IMMORALITY OF COMMON SCHOOLS.

WITH reference to the complaints of Mr Brown, of the Salvation Hotel, Rattray street, regarding the annoyance he sustains in consequence of filthy writings on the walls of his premises by pupils of the Middle District School, I noticed, some time ago, that the pupils in the State Schools of America are complained against as being guilty of the like immoral practices. They even write filthy words on the very school-house walls. This was mentioned in an official report on American State Schools, which also remarked on the great want of truthfulness of the pupils of these State Schools. It is for those, among other reasons, that the Common or State Schools in America are now falling into discredit in various parts of the Union, and respectable parents are beginning to prefer private or denominational schools. Many respectable American Protestants even send their children to Catholic schools. In these it is admitted the moral supervision of the pupils is more careful and satisfactory as a rule. Of course, some of the pupils in Catholic schools are by no means unexceptionable in their morals. It would be strange if they all were good, mixing at times, as many of them must do, with bad Protestant boys in the streets, pupils many of them of "Common Schools." I was told lately by a respectable Wesleyan he would not send his children to a Common or Government School, considering the rowdy lot who might be found there; and this is the prevailing feeling among the respectable middle classes of all confessions in the colony probably, if they only would speak their minds out. The Secularist journals won't hear of this. I was told also, on the best authority, what I cannot yet bring myself to believe—that some of the young ladies who are educated in some of the "flash" schools in New Zealand, kept by Protestant lady professors, have hardly heard the name of God, and have very vague ideas even of His very existence. I should hope there is some mistake or exaggeration in that story. Yet it came to me from a most respectable informant. If true, what are we coming to in this age of "refinement and progress?"

### THE AUCKLAND EVENING STAR ON ROMAN CATHOLIC CONSPIRACIES.

HEREWITH I send you copy of a letter in the 'Evening Star,' containing an insinuation and something more against the loyalty of the whole of the Queen's Roman Catholic subjects throughout the British Empire. They are there, you will see, charged with being engaged in a plot to "destroy the liberties and independence of England," and of course to subvert the authority of the Queen, and overturn the established Government of the country. It is difficult to suppose that the editor of the Auckland 'Star' believes in the truth or even probability of any such accusation, and it is still more difficult to believe that he gave currency to it in his paper in good faith and from any creditable or respectable motive. The accusation is of a most extravagant kind, and most mischievous in its tendency. It is calculated to insult the feelings of Roman Catholics, and to turn their Protestant fellow-subjects against them. The 'Star' possibly supposes that the Catholics, being a comparatively small body, may be insulted with impunity. But comparatively few though we be, surely this is not a time to set Catholics and Protestants by the ears. The present prime minister of England has just intimated that possibly are long the British Government may be forced to interfere in the affairs of the Continent. One-third of Her Majesty's army consists of Irish Roman Catholics, and when were they ever backward in meeting the enemies of England in the field?

The Duke of Wellington once said in the House of Lords that though he might have been able to maintain the military reputation of England with the Protestant portion of the army alone, he never could, without the aid of the Catholic portion of it, have gained those brilliant victories which had crowned him with the laurels he was so proud to wear. The Catholic portion of the British army is as loyal and brave now as it was under "The Duke," and the Catholic portion of the army is not more loyal than the great body of Her Majesty's Catholic subjects in all parts of the Empire are, whatever insinuations to the contrary may be thrown out against them by such mischief-makers as the 'Evening Star.' One of the editors or proprietors of that paper, a Mr Reid, is a member of the Auckland Executive Council. How can the two Catholic members of that Council reconcile it with their own sense of self respect, or the respect due to the Catholic body in general, to sit longer at the same Council board with this Mr Reid, who permits his paper to be made the medium of circulating such mischievous, insulting, and extravagant insinuations against them? Certain portions of the Catholic subjects of the British Government have in former times been goaded into illegal and violent acts by insults and injuries from their enemies; but they have learned wisdom from experience, and their loyalty is not likely to be again shaken by such causes, least of all by anything slanderous or insulting which may appear against them in the newspaper, and such a newspaper as the 'Evening Star.' I believe such newspapers as the 'Star' will not succeed in sowing distrust and ill-will between the Catholic and Protestant subjects of the Queen, try as they may, in the present age; but their attempts to do so are not on that account the less wicked. We live in troublesome times, and in what Mr Disraeli has just described as a "rapid age," but come what may, in the way of slow or rapid changes at home or abroad, I trust faithful Catholics will ever show that they have learnt from their religion "to fear God and honor the Queen." To us "liberty and independence" are not less dear than to our Protestant fellow-subjects.

If we strive to advance the interests of our holy religion in England and elsewhere, and to secure justice to ourselves—both of which we are now successfully doing, thank God—it is by open, legitimate, and constitutional means we do so and by no others. When Archbishop Manning talks of the Roman Catholic clergy "subverting the Imperial race" of England, his meaning is obvious. He means that they will do it by the sword of the spirit, by free education by a free press and a free pulpit—and not by carnal weapons. Has it now come to this, that the Protestant Irish and English of the period are afraid of freedom in the press, dread it in the schools and in the pulpit, at the