

JAMES HAYES, who received a sentence of two years' hard labour for conspiracy to defraud, at Hokitika, is the same storekeeper who, some twelve months since, asserted that he had been stuck up and robbed of a quantity of gold purchased for the Bank of New South Wales. The bank instituted proceedings, but afterwards abandoned them.

THE Licensing Bench at Timaru, seem to be carrying out the Ordinance with some stringency. In the case of an applicant who was unmarried, the application has been adjourned for a fortnight, to give him an opportunity or remedying that disability.

THE process of taking the census of the Haast would not be a very tedious one. We learn from a Hokitika paper that its population consists of twelve persons; whilst in the vicinity of the Police Camp, the total muster is four persons—two members of the force, their washerwoman, and a man—who, we presume, is unable to leave—invalided with rheumatism.

THE death is reported in the Wanganui district, of a Maori woman named Jenkins, at the ripe old age of 110. She remembered the visit of Captain Cook in 1796, and stated that the natives imagined his ship to be a huge bird, the sails being the wings.

LETTERS from Fiji state most of the cargo of the Macgregor had to be sacrificed before she could be got off the reef, and even now it will take £16,000 to £15,000 to repair her damages.

CONSIDERABLE excitement prevailed at Lyttelton by the finding of a man with his throat cut. Inquiries, however, being instituted, it appeared the wound had been caused by his having driven his head through a large square of glass.

THERE is resident at Auckland, an old Peninsular veteran, named Hild, who has attained the good old age of 94. He has been with Moore at Corunna, and Wellington, at Waterloo. When his term of service was ended, he received a pension, which he exchanged for a grant of land in New South Wales. This he unfortunately lost, through the dishonesty of parties with whom he dealt.

THE 'Cromwell Argus' announces another fatal case from the fever so prevalent in that town. Mr John Mills, a nephew of Mr Hallenstein, of Wukati, in whose employ he was, is the last victim of the terrible epidemic.

A RATHER novel mode of giving a "broad hint" to forgetful debtors, has been adopted by a Mr McCusker. He has published the names and amounts of about a dozen in the 'Taranaki Herald,' and adds as a foot-note:—"This is only a sample; about fifty more will go in this day week." A somewhat similar mode is at present in force in Melbourne. A negro has undertaken the collection of doubtful accounts, which he does dressed with a monster hat, around which appears the printed placard: "Bad debts collected." He very seldom has to call twice at the same house.

CONCERT BY ST. JOSEPH'S CHOIR.

THE Choir of St. Joseph's, assisted by several ladies and gentlemen, gave a most pleasing entertainment in the school-room attached to the church, on the evening of Friday, 24th ult. The programme was a well selected and most varied one, embracing ballads, songs, glees, and recitations. Mr Sykes, organist of St. Joseph's, presided at the piano, and was ably assisted by Mr O'Connell, on the violin, who kindly volunteered his services on the occasion. The programme was not carried out in its integrity, several substitutions being made to supply the places of absentees, an arrangement, however, by which the audience lost nothing. After an overture by Messrs Sykes and O'Connell, the pathetic ballad of "The Irish Emigrant," was given by Mr Ennis, and though rendered with feeling, the effect was greatly marred by nervousness. The principal burden of the evening fell upon Miss Hesford, who, besides taking part in several glees, favoured the audience with "Come back to Erin," "The dear little Shamrock," and "Jessie's Dream." The selection from the opera of 'Victorina,' and effect, and the spirited song of "The Horn of Chace," by the "I never Can Forget," by Mr. Lennon, was given with both feeling and skill, and was received with applause. Mr Loughnan secured an encore for his rendering of the comic aria "Le Nozze de Figaro," and had he infused a little more animation it would have been the happiest effort of the evening, the rather difficult music being singularly correct. Mr Bunny came in for a fair share of approbation for his recitation of Campbell's "Downfall of Poland." The palm must, however, be given to the concerted pieces. Weber's quartette, "Benedictus," and Curschmann's magnificent trio "Ti Progo," being decidedly the gems of the evening. Mr O'Connell caused considerable amusement by his excellent imitation on the violin of the Scotch pipes, and on being enthusiastically recalled, set not a few feet putting with an Irish jig. Moore's charming ballad of the "Last Rose of Summer," had been set down among the vocal part of the entertainment, but the lady on whom it devolved being absent, Mr Sykes played it with variations on the piano, as also a deserv'd piece in which the pealing of joy-bells, varied by the rolling of thunder, was imitated with great accuracy. The attendance was a numerous and—judging from the applause bestowed—a most appreciative one. We have no doubt the entertainment was a thorough success in a pecuniary point of view, as it decidedly was otherwise; and as the Choir purpose giving another concert shortly, the proceeds of which will be towards the expenses lately incurred in connection with St Joseph's School-room, we trust to see an equally large attendance.

A Catholic lost in a Protestant Pulpit.—On Sunday evening, Nov. 30, Rev. E. H. Welch, S.J., of the Immaculate Conception Church, Boston, United States, by special invitation of Rev. James Freeman Clarke, pastor of the Unitarian "Church of the Disciples," lectured in the latter place on the "Catholic Doctrine of the Universal Church." The audience, which filled the church to overflowing, was composed of members of various denominations, chiefly of the Unitarian congregation who attend there.

CATHOLICISM IN ITALY AND ENGLAND.

THE following is from Dr. Newman on the above topic:—

"Has Protestantism, that bitter enemy of the Holy See, harmed the Holy See? Why there never was a time since the first age of the Church, when there has been such a succession of Holy Popes, as since the Reformation. . . . I know well that when Catholics are good in Italy, they are very good. I would not deny that they attain there to a height and force of saintliness, of which we seem to have no specimens in England. But, looking at Italian and English Catholics externally, and in their length and breadth, I may leave any Protestant to decide in which of the two there is at this moment a more demonstrated faith, a more impressive religiousness, a more generous piety, a more steady adherence to the cause of the Holy Father. The English are multiplying religious houses, decorating churches, endowing monasteries, educating, preaching and converting, and carrying off in the current of their enthusiasm numbers of those who are external to the Church; while the Italian Statesmen, on the contrary, imprison and exile the Bishops and Clergy, leave the flocks without shepherds, confiscate the Church revenues, and expose religion herself, stript and bleeding in every limb—the Catholic religion—in her sacraments, in the person of her ministers and most devoted members, to be objects of profane and blasphemous ridicule. At the end of three centuries, Protestant England contains more Catholics who are loyal and energetic, in word and deed, than Catholic Italy. So harmless has been the violence of the Reformation, that professed to eliminate from the Church doctrinal corruptions! It has failed both as to what it has done, and as to what it has not done. It has bred infidels to its confusion; and to its dismay it has succeeded in strengthening and purifying Catholic communities."

It appears from this that England is at present the most Catholic because the most free country in Christendom; and that genuine liberty and Catholicism go hand in hand. Well may tyrants and unjust men everywhere dread the present advance of the Catholic Church. Purified and strengthened by past chastisements, she will now stand forth as the defender of justice in every land. Justice is the very essence of Catholicism. Injustice is the pillar and ground of heresy. Imperial Rome seems to have bequeathed the Sovereignty of the world to England, and it is fitting that she should stand forward as the first protector of the Catholic religion, which is to subdue and purify the hearts of all men, and turn them to justice. We see that at present violence, fraud, and selfishness rule the world; both the Christian and non-Christian portion of it. These can only be put down by Catholic powers—or other powers ruling in a genuine Catholic spirit. Among these England—practically the most Catholic of them all—must take the precedence at no distant day. But she will not engage in or encourage a religious war—the most odious of all wars. God forbid she should. To put it in another form—England has a mission—and a noble one. It is to rule the world in justice; not by herself, but in conjunction with the Catholic Church, and the Catholic Governments of Christendom. Non-interference is now being regarded as a mistake and an abandoning of the weak as a prey to the strong. It is a policy of selfishness and cowardice, unbecoming a great and Catholic power like England. It may seem ridiculous to call England a Catholic power, as yet at least. But she possesses more of a Catholic spirit than some countries professing to be Catholic, and with a majority of the people Catholics. Ireland has acted as her Catholic tutor, and under God is leading her into the Church. But Ireland is, and ever will be, an integral part of England. The two will triumph.—W.

ANOTHER SIGN OF GROWING POWER.

A daily Catholic journal, to be called "The Monitor," is about to make its appearance in London; at least so it is reported on what appears to be good authority. Should this prove to be the case, it will undoubtedly mark a memorable era in the modern history of England and the Catholic Church. Some short time ago, the 'Pall Mall Gazette' and 'London Times' were scandalised at the very free manner in which the Catholic journals in London were advancing the claims of Catholics to equal political rights. They hinted pretty broadly that Catholics had better keep quiet and draw in their horns a little, else it might happen that the penal laws might possibly be revived against them. But it is too late now to try to arrest the progress of Catholicity by any such means. The growing power of the Catholic periodical press, as evinced by the proposed establishment of a daily London Catholic journal, would be sufficient of itself to prevent any attempt to repress the progress of the Catholic Church in the United Kingdom by penal statutes of any kind, if even there were not other strong reasons against such attempts. The fate of "The Ecclesiastical Titles Bill" might be a warning even to Bismarck. But the very fact of such a thing being hinted at by the 'Pall Mall Gazette' and the 'London Times' shows how formidable they think the Catholic party in England is now becoming, and how hopeless are long will be any attempts to cope with it by ordinary means. If Catholics were what their enemies are so eager to make believe they are—tyrants who wish to monopolise all power and to lord it over their neighbours by any means, however iniquitous—then Protestants might reasonably be excused from attempting to give the public alarm on witnessing such striking proofs of Catholic progress in England and elsewhere, as are now seen. But the days are gone by when either Catholics or any other party can long retain power by unjust means. We claim no exclusive privileges. We merely wish, Catholic subjects and the Catholic Church to be free. It is because we are for ever being misrepresented, in our principles, in our conduct and designs, by the press, that we suffer so much wrong at the hands of our fellow-citizens—many, or rather most of them, are just men, and would not wrong us intentionally. The newspaper press in England, since the Reformation, has been labouring day by day—we may say hour by hour—to place every thing relating to the Catholic Church and her children in a false light. We need not tell how well they have succeeded in that base purpose. The public mind has been poisoned