

Mr Stafford, I notice, is also being suspected of courting the Catholic vote, because he has the courage to advocate the claims of Catholics to justice, and to support the cause of faith and freedom, like Mr Troupe, in all schools of whatever religious denomination. Mr Stafford has the ability to see, and the honesty to declare that a purely secular education is a myth; a thing which in practice does not and cannot exist. Every Government secular school like every other school, is, and must be, to a certain extent, "denominational." The "secularists" are a denomination; and one which many believe to be of a very unsafe—a very dangerous kind. Not only Catholics, but Protestants think so. The secularist system is founded on fraud and deception, inasmuch as it pretends to exclude all religious ideas and principles from the school,—while it does nothing of the kind. Religion of some kind is taught directly or indirectly in every Government secular school in this colony. Whatever that religion may be, it is not the Catholic religion,—perhaps often not even the Christian religion. In Otago it may be the Presbyterian creed. A system of Government education which is thus based on false pretences, can never issue in any good, in a moral or religious sense,—however profitable in a worldly sense it may be to many. We see plainly now that Catholics are not fighting for faith and freedom single handed. They have able Protestant allies, who are equally with themselves alive to the injustice and danger of that "purely secular" system of public education, so-called, such as the secularists wish to force on all without distinction.

Truly we live in a rapid age; but the progress is not always in the right direction. The infidel revolutionists or despots who now fill the Cabinets of Princes and the various parliaments of Northern Europe, would fain get possession of the school-room too, so that the mind of the next generation may be imbued with their "liberal" notions. This last is a calamity which Catholics and religious and consistent Protestants must do their utmost to avert. They will succeed, for God and His Church are with them. Many secularists may be honest and mistaken friends of Christianity; yet for all that, the secularising party in the State generally is the deadly enemy of revolted religion, and of religious and civil liberty. Its enmity is more especially directed against the Catholic religion and all who profess it. By a sort of instinct they know that the Catholic Church is the great bulwark of Christianity, and the most powerful enemy of all despots: the best defender of the weak against the strong.

The Auckland "Cross," while representing the Catholics as opposed to all "progress" is forced to admit that the Catholic school in Nelson is full of Protestant pupils, and Mr Stafford tells the world that next to the Nelson College, the best school in that province for secular education is St. Mary's Catholic school. Yet the Auckland "Cross," and the Protestant Press of this colony generally, have set their face against any Government aid being given to Catholics or other religious schools. What are we to think of such conduct on the part of the Protestant Press? Can we believe them either honest or consistent friends of Christianity? They are playing, as it seems to me, into the hands of those infidel philosophers and revolutionists, who, as Archbishop Manning lately remarked, are not now to be found in the streets, but in high places, and in professors' chairs, and editorial chairs too.

DEATH OF CARDINAL BARNABO.

FIFE is a long harpily with the Sacred College. Only the other day the new Cardinal Tarquini passed away. Cardinal Antonelli is in a precarious state of health, and yesterday the death is recorded of one of the most illustrious prelates of the age, Cardinal Barnabo. His Eminence was a member of a noble Italian family, and had attained at the time of his death the ripe age of seventy-three. In 1846 the Pope presented him with a Red Hat, and shortly afterwards he was appointed Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda. In this capacity the position of the Cardinal was one of the most onerous and most important in the Church. The great institution of the Congregation of the Propaganda, is, we need scarcely say, charged with the interests of Catholicism in "missionary countries," as distinguished from "Catholic countries," such as France, Spain, Austria, &c. The Congregation manages the affairs of tens of millions of Catholics in Northern Europe, in America, in Asia, and in Africa. Ireland is not a "missionary country," she has a "national Church," but for purposes of economy and convenience her affairs are managed through the Congregation of the Propaganda. We need scarcely say that the duty of presiding over an institution with functions of such overwhelming magnitude and importance is confided to one of the first men among the Princes of the Church. In past years the post has been held by the great Mezzanotte, and Cardinal Barnabo proved himself worthy of so illustrious a predecessor. His zeal, learned ability, and untiring industry have been long renowned, and he was equally conspicuous for piety and gentleness of demeanor. In his death the Church has sustained a heavy loss, and his luminous will be none more regretted than by the prelates of Ireland. One by one the Princes of the Church are falling, but still towers eminent the august form of him on whose dauntless heart and iron frame the snows of eighty-two winters, and the sorrows of a martyr pontificate appear to have had no effect.

HOME RULE.

THE return to the Imperial Parliament of so many members pledged to Home Rule—numbering more than one-half the Irish representatives—has created an interest in the movement never before evinced. For the information of those who may not thoroughly understand the question, and who may not be aware of what the Irish Nationalists are agitating for, we may state that the Home Government Association simply ask:—That the internal affairs of Ireland be regulated by an Irish Parliament, consisting of the Queen of England, and the Lords and Commons of Ireland; all Imperial affairs, and all that relates to the colonies, foreign States, and the common interests of the Empire, continuing to be regulated by the Imperial Parliament, in which, however (but only in Imperial questions) Ireland would continue to be represented.

THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE following list which we have compiled from different sources, gives the names, religion and politics of the newly returned Irish members of the Imperial Parliament. Ireland formerly returned 105 representatives, but since the disfranchisement of Sligo and Cashes, the number is 103, of these there are 30 Conservatives, 15 Liberals, while the Home Rulers, outnumber both together, being 58. The elections generally were remarkable for the number of old members unseated, but the most notable was the contest for Louth, in which an ex-Cabinet Minister—Mr Chichester-Portescue—who had represented the borough for 27 years, was beaten by Mr Alexander Sullivan, the editor and proprietor of the Home Rule organ, the "Nation." Mr Portescue was an enemy to Home Rule and Tenant Right, and in his place in Parliament had proposed measures in regard to Ireland "more stringent than any that had been brought forward at any time within the memory of man." Under these circumstances, it is scarcely to be wondered at that the people of Louth should select in preference Mr Sullivan, whose pen and tongue have been for the last decade fighting the battles of Home Rule and Tenant Right. The following is a

COMPLETE LIST OF THE IRISH MEMBERS OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT:—

Antrim County—O'Neill, C; O'Neill, C. Armagh County—Vernan, C; Close, C. Armagh—Vance, C. Athlone—Sheil, H.R.
Bandon—Swanson, L. Belfast—Corry, C; Johnston, C;
Carlow County—Bruen, C; Kavanagh, C. Carlow Borough—Lewis, H.R. Cavan County—Fay, H.R.; Biggar, H.R. Carrickfergus—Dalway, L. Clare County—O'Loughlin, H.R.; Conygham, H.R. Clonmel—Moore, H.R. Coleraine—Taylor, L. Cork City—Roayne, H.R.; Murphy, H.R. Cork County—Downing, H.R.; Shaw, H.R.

Derry County—Smith, L; Law, L. Donegal—Marquis of Hamilton, C; Cenolly, C. Down—Hill Trevor, C; Crawford, L. Downpatrick—Mulholland, C. Drogheda—O'Leary, H.R. Dublin City—Guinness, C; Brooks, H.R. Dublin County—Taylor, C; Hamilton, C. Dublin University—Plunkett, C; Ball, C. Dundalk—Callan, H.R. Dungannon—Dickson, L. Dungarvan—O'Keefe, H.R. Ennis—Stackpoole, H.R. Enniskillen—Crichton, C.
Fermanagh—Archdall, C; Cole, C.
Galway—Morris, H.R.; St. Laurence, L. Galway County—Mitchell-Henry, H.R.; Nolan, H.R.

Kerry—Herbert, L; Blennerhasset, H.R. Kildare County—Meldon, H.R. Kilkenny City—Gray, H.R. Kilkenny County—Bryan, H.R.; Martin, H.R.; Cogan, L. King's County—O'Brien, H.R.; Sherlock, H.R. Kinsale—Collins, H.R.

Limerick—O'Shaughnessy, H.R.; Butt, H.R. Limerick County—O'Sullivan, H.R.; Synan, H.R. Leitrim—Brady, H.R.; Gore, C. Lisburn—Wallace, H.R. Londonderry City—Lewis, C. Londonderry County—Smyth, L; Law, L. Longford—O'Rielly, H.R.; Errington, H.R. Louth County—Sullivan, H.R.; Callan, H.R.

Mallow—McCarthy, H.R. Mayo—Browne, H.R.; Tighe, H.R. Meath—Ennis, H.R.; Martin, H.R. Monaghan—Leale, C; Shirley, C. New Ross—Dunbar, H.R. Newry—Whitworth, L.
Portarlington—Damer, C.

Queen's County—Digby, H.R.; Tease, H.R. Roscommon—French, H.R.; O'Connor Don, H.R. Sligo County—Booth, C; O'Connor, H.R. Tipperary—White, H.R.; O'Callaghan, H.R. Tralee—O'Donoghue, L. Tyrone—McCartney, C; Corry, C.

Waterford—Power, H.R.; O'Gorman, H.R. Waterford County—Beresford, C; Esmonde, H.R. Westmeath—Smyth, H.R.; Montague, H.R. Wexford—Redmond, H.R. Wexford County—Bowler, H.R.; Kylesclery, H.R. Wicklow County—O'Sullivan, H.R.; Dick, C. Youghal—McKenney, H.R.

CATHOLIC IRISH MEMBERS.

The following is a correct list of the Catholic members returned to the new Parliament. The number is much larger than in the last, or any Parliament since 1829:—

Bowler, Sir John, Bart., Wexford County; Brady, John, M.D., Leitrim; Browne, George Esquin, Mayo; Bryan, George Leopold, Kilkenny County.

Callan, Philip, Louth and Dundalk; Cogan, Right Hon. William Henry Ford, Kildare; Collins, Eugene, Kinsale.

Dease, Edmund, Queen's County; Digby, Kenneth Thomas, Queen's County; Downing, McCarthy, Cork County; Dunbar, John, New Ross.

Ennis, John James Athlone; Ennis, Nicholas, Meath; Errington, George, Longford; Esmonde, Sir John, Bart., Waterford County.

French Hon. Charles, Roscommon.
Hay, Charles J., Cavan

Lewis, Henry Owen, Carlow Borough.

McCuthy, John George, Mallow; Martin, Patrick, Kilkenny County; McKenna, Sir Joseph Neale, Youghal; Meldon, Charles Henry, Kildare; Montague, Right Hon. Lord Robert, Westmeath; Moore Arthur, Clonmel; Morris, George, Galway City; Murphy, Nicholas James, Cork City.

Nolan, Captain John Philip, Galway County.

O'Brien, Sir Patrick, Bart., King's County; O'Byrne, William Robert, Wicklow; O'Clery Kays, Wexford County; O'Connor, Don, The, Roscommon; O'Connor, Denis, Maurice, Sligo County; O'Donoghue, The, Tralee; O'Gorman, Major Puredell, Waterford City; O'Keefe, John, Dungarvan; O'Leary, William, M.D., Drogheda; O'Loughlin, Right Hon. Sir Colman, Bart., Clure; O'Reilly, Major Myles, Longford; O'Shaughnessy, Richard, Limerick City; O'Sullivan, William Henry, Limerick County.

Power, Richard, Waterford City.
Redmond, William Archer, Wexford Borough; Roayne, Joseph Philip, Cork City.

Sheil, Edward, Athlone; Sherlock, David, Queen's Sergeant, King's County; Smyth, Patrick James, Westmeath; Sullivan, Alex. Martin, (Nation) Louth; Synan, Edmund John, Limerick County.
Tighe, Thomas, Sligo.