

to the last end, and therefore it belongs to the Church to judge whether they have this tendency or the contrary. To the Church then belongs the interpretation of the Divine and Natural Law, and the promulgation of their principles to the world; and to her also belongs the making of the application of these principles, according to time and circumstances.

This is the doctrine which Cardinal ANTONELLI lays down in his reply to the Memorandum. "The Church," writes His Eminence, "has received from God the sublime mission of leading men, whether considered individually or united in society, to a supernatural end; she has, then, from the very nature of the case, the power and the duty to judge of the morality of all their acts, both interior and exterior, in their relations with the Divine and Natural Law. But as no action, whether it be ordained by the supreme power, or emanate from the liberty of the individual, can be exempt from the character of morality; thus it happens that the judgment of the Church, whilst it falls directly on the morality of acts, extends itself indirectly to all those things with which this morality is joined. But this is not to interfere directly in political affairs." If laws, emanating from the Civil Authority, as not infrequently happens in our day, should be in flagrant contradiction to the Natural or the Divine Law, not only has the Holy See the right to remonstrate, but in the cases where governments remain deaf to such remonstrances, it becomes a duty for the Holy Father to declare that such iniquitous laws can not only not bind the children of the Church in conscience, but that it would be a crime on their part to obey them. As His Eminence says further on, "To obey such laws would not give to CÆSAR what belongs to CÆSAR, but would rob God of what belongs to God."

We go farther even than this, and maintain that it is not alone in consequence of the morality of acts that the Civil Power is subordinate to the Church. We contend that from its very nature and end the Civil Power is put in dependence and subordination to the Church. As, however, this article has already extended, we fear, to a length beyond which the space at our disposal at present does not permit us to go, we shall reserve the development of this argument till next week.

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

WE are rejoiced to learn by a telegram kindly forwarded to us from Wellington, that steps are being taken for the establishment of a branch of the H.A.C.B.S. in that city. A requisition has been forwarded to the Charleston Lodge—in conformity with the rules of the Society—bearing twenty-two signatures, and as soon as the necessary authority has been received from the Executive Directory, the formation of the branch will be proceeded with. At a meeting held for the furtherance of the object, Dr Forest occupied the chair, and strongly urged the necessity of, and the benefits to be derived from, the Society.

By telegraphic intelligence from Greymouth on Tuesday, we learn that the Rev. Father Belliard left on that day for Christchurch, the scene of his future labors. Before his departure the rev. gentleman was presented with an elegant gold watch and an illuminated address by the residents, in token of the esteem and respect in which he has been held.

A MEETING of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Association was held in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Monday night, at which a large number of the members were present. Two new members were initiated, and a numerous signed requisition received from Invercargill making application for the establishment of a Branch in that town. In conformity with the rules of the Society, the application made to St. Joseph's Branch, which having been favorably received, was forwarded to the Executive Directory in Melbourne.

WE wish to remind our readers that on next Friday evening the Concert in aid of St. Joseph's School Fund will be given in the Masonic Hall, and apart from the very attractive programme prepared for the occasion, the object for which the entertainment is given is one that should recommend it to patronage. It must be apparent to every one that the fund available for educational purposes must be but a slender one, and it is with a view to relieve a small portion of the burden which has fallen so heavily on the shoulders of his Lordship the Bishop, that the present effort is being made. We trust, therefore, that the entertainment will prove as great a success in a pecuniary point of view, as it is certain to be otherwise, from the ability of those ladies and gentlemen who have kindly volunteered their services.

WE omitted to mention in our report of the presentation to Mr Loughnan, in last week's issue, that the illuminated address was the work of Mr George, of Mills, Dick and Co., at whose establishment the volume was also bound.

FROM the local journal we learn that since the arrival of the Rev. Father Cummins in Reefton a new spirit of energy has taken possession of the Roman Catholic residents, and numerous works are in contemplation to raise the parish to a proper footing. A residence has already been purchased for the reverend gentleman, and it is besides intended to start the erection at an early date of a new church

building fully adequate to the strength of the congregation. A children's school has also been established, which is to be placed under the charge of efficient teacher from the Ahaura school.

A CONCERT was given on the 30th ult., by the young lady pupils of St. Mary's Boarding School, Auckland, attached to St. Mary's Convent, and presided over by the Sisters of Mercy, the proceeds of which were devoted to the improvement of the school. There was a numerous and appreciative audience present who seemed thoroughly to enjoy the performance. The programme was a large and varied one comprising, songs, duets, choruses, and instrumental music. The manner in which the young ladies rendered some of the most difficult compositions, adds additional testimony to the success which the Sisters of Mercy have already obtained. The recitations also call for remark, owing to the distinctness of enunciation with which they were given. The entertainment concluded with God Save the Queen.

THE remarks of the Premier with reference to the abolition of Provincialism seem to be heartily endorsed by the great mass of the people, and there can be but little doubt, now that the gauntlet has been thrown down, the energy and determination for which he is so characteristic, will carry the measure to a successful issue, and rid the country of this expensive, complicated, and unnecessary piece of machinery. The 'West Coast Times' congratulates the Premier on his courage in grappling with so formidable an opponent, and the great bulk of the press coincide with the views expressed, and advocate the abolition of the present system in both islands.

WHILE the members of the Select Committee were sitting in what was supposed to be solemn and secret conference with a view to discover the infringer of the inviolability of telegrams, consider the horror evinced when it was found that the questions and answers put to and from each witness were "wired" off to distant papers with a speed and punctuality hitherto unparalleled in the department. This was bearding the lion in his den with a vengeance. The delinquent on this occasion, however, happened to be Mr Luckie, who having tendered an apology, was allowed to escape with a caution. If Mr Luckie, could in future induce the operators of the department to continue the same commendable celerity in the transmission of public messages as was notable on the occasion referred to, he would confer a benefit on the community.

THE Premier seems determined on taking the initiative with regard to the abolition of Provincialism in the North Island. A telegram received in the early part of the week stated that Mr Vogel had given notice in the House of Representatives that on Thursday he would move:—(1) That, considering the altered circumstances of the colony, it is desirable that the provinces in the North Island should be abolished; (2) That Wellington should be made the seat of Government; (3) That the land revenue should be made a local revenue, according to what is known as the Compact of 1856, and that Government shall during the recess, consider how best to give effect to these resolutions.

ONE of the immigrants by the ship Carlsburn brought an action in the Resident Magistrate's Court for recovery of £100 damages for an aggravated assault committed during the passage. The case was a most lengthy one, during the hearing of which the most conflicting evidence was sworn to, and part of which, in giving his decision, Mr Mr Bathgate characterised as flat perjury. The plaintiff, who was an old Indian sergeant, possessing medals and pension for long and honorable service, was awarded £50 damages and costs.

THE 'New Zealand Gazette' of the 30th ult., notifies that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to disband the under-mentioned Volunteer Corps, at their own request:—The Hawke's Bay Yeomanry Cavalry, the Wanganui Cavalry, the Mānawatu Rifle Ranges, and the Wanganui Veteran Rifles. The discontinuance of the services of the following corps is also published:—The Howick troop, Royal Cavalry, the Nos. 1 and 2 companies, Victoria (Auckland) Rifle Volunteer Cadets, and the Auckland Naval Volunteer Cadets.

WE regret to state that an accident attended with fatal results occurred in the Bay on Tuesday evening. It appears two men, named Walker and O'Brien, hired a boat in Dunedin for the purpose of making a trip to the Peninsula. On arriving at Anderson's Bay they stopped for some time drinking at an hotel, and on returning to the beach discovered a box, which they carried to the boat with the determination of keeping. When some distance from shore, one of the men in attempting to throw a dog overboard, capsized the boat, and both men were precipitated into the water. Walker sank immediately, but O'Brien succeeded in reaching the shore, though in an exhausted condition. On Wednesday the police were engaged in dragging for the body and succeeded after some short time in recovering it. It was conveyed to the Hospital morgue where an inquest was held on Thursday, and a verdict in accordance with the facts returned.

IN answer to the notification of the acting-secretary of Public Works that the Government would provide temporary employment for the lately-arrived immigrants, about fifty men applied and were set to work on Tuesday last. Those taken on are to be divided into two classes, the better ones receiving 6s and the inferior 5s per day. In addition to this, as the work on which they will be employed is at Logan's Point, tents will be erected for the use of the single men, and the married men will be conveyed to and from their work by the Government, and accommodation for themselves and their families provided in the barrack. A deputation of the Mayor and City Councillors waited on Mr McKellar, on the same day, with the object of the Government and Council taking some combined steps to furnish employment, not only for those already in need of it, but also for a large number daily expected to arrive. After a long and serious consideration of the question, it was ultimately agreed that the Secretary of Works should furnish the Council with a list of those men whom he considered most suitable to be employed on the Corporation Works, and the Corporation would then use its best efforts to find a way of employing the men with advantage to the city.