

that Russia is arming. Everything, therefore, portends a coming storm, and one, too, that, in all human probability, cannot be long delayed. This is a melancholy picture; and it is sad to think that statesmen and politicians, whose special business it is to guard against war and revolution, should be themselves chiefly to blame for almost all the calamities of nations. These men have been for a long time jealous of the Church, and zealous in corrupting the nations by means of secular and godless education. They have sown the wind, and now by a just retribution they are reaping the whirlwind.

### THE HOME RULE DEBATE.

SINCE the Australian colonies have been linked with the mother-country by cable communication, much of the excitement and interest hitherto attached to the arrival of the European mails has been lessened. In these days of progress when science has annihilated distance, and the stirring events which are agitating the world's capitals are flashed to the uttermost ends of the earth within but a few hours of their occurrence, the news borne by the steamers having been invariably anticipated by wire, causes their arrival to be looked forward to in a manner very different to that of a few years since. In addition to this, the changes in the political kaleidoscope follow each other in such rapid succession, that unless affairs of more than usual weight arrest our attention, they become matters of the past, only to be recalled to our memory by each incoming mail. On the other hand, however, the news received by telegram is generally so meagre in detail, and subject to so many inaccuracies, that on questions of moment we are compelled to await the arrival of the Home files for elucidation. Although the result of the debate in the Commons on the Home Rule, which took place on the 30th June, became known to colonial readers in less time than it would have been known in the Irish capital at the commencement of the present century, yet it was not until two months later that the particulars of that great struggle for the national cause were placed before them. On that, as on every other question of a national character, the Irish members have been overwhelmed by a preponderance of the English voting power in the House. During the last Session of the Imperial Parliament, on five different questions affecting the internal welfare of the country, has the Irish vote; and the voice of the nation, been swamped by the intrusion of a hostile British majority. At the opening of the Session, the motion by the hon. member for Limerick with regard to the disaffection so prevalent in Ireland, and urging the Government to remove the admitted grievances under which she groaned, although carried by a majority of two to one of Irish members, was rejected by a majority of English and Scotch. When the Irish Municipal Franchise Bill came up for its second reading, although the Irish votes numbered 43 to 12, or almost 4 to 1, it met with the same fate as its predecessor. The majority on the question of Irish Railways was even more disproportionate, the division-list showing the result as 46 to 6, or 8 to 1; yet still in the face of this decided expression of approval, the measure was defeated by the English and Scotch vote; and a similar success attended the introduction of the Sunday Closing and Convention Acts, both of which secured considerable majorities of the national vote. With such recent experience of liberal legislation before them, there were not many who could have anticipated for a moment that on a question of such magnitude as Home Rule, the result would have been otherwise than it has been. Some idea may be formed of the importance attached to the debate, when it is stated that over 500 members of the House—a number very rarely gathered within the wall of St. Stephen's at one time—were in their seats, and all the present and most of the members of the late Ministry were amongst the earliest arrivals. The leader of the party, Mr ISAAC BUTT, undertook the task of moving the resolution of the evening, and in a speech of almost two hours' duration, in which the most telling and unanswerable arguments were brought forward, he kept the House in such a state of respectful silence as rarely occurs. The 'Times' of the following day spoke of it as the best speech ever delivered at Westminster, a judgment that was universally endorsed by every critic who had the good fortune to be present on the occasion. The leader was followed by a host of others, whose eloquence was listened to with wondering admiration, calling forth the remark that "it showed that true oratory was not dead in Ireland's sons, or in Parliament." But although the speakers were listened to with respectful

deference—the principal antagonists being the Attorney-General for Ireland and the renegade Chief of the Glens—the measure met with the fate which advocate and opponent alike expected. Out of a House of 521, 63 members voted for Mr BUTT's motion, and 458 against it; out of the 193 members by which Ireland is supposed to be represented, 95 recorded their votes, and of these 59 were in favor, and 36 against Home Rule. It will be thus seen that by a clear majority of one-fourth of Ireland's representatives the claim has been unmistakably made for self-government; and although we have too much experience to imagine that this fact alone will move the Imperial Parliament to do justice to Ireland, yet it proclaims aloud that the voice of the nation demands home legislation. It also plainly proves that Irish representation, when the national wants run counter in the slightest degree to the wishes of English members, is a mockery and a farce; and that on all questions affecting its welfare, unless when it becomes politic to temporise, the Irish members might as beneficially sit in session at St. Petersburg. The tactics employed in a neighboring colony to compel justice being done to it, might be beneficially followed at home. In the earlier days of the colonies, and before Victoria had reaped the benefit of governing her own local affairs, the representatives of Port Phillip in the Sydney Legislature found that so persistently were their efforts for the benefit of their constituency frustrated by the overwhelming preponderance of the New South Wales vote, that they resigned their trust, and the district elected EARL DE GREY as its representative. The expedient was a clever and a happy one, and the proud eminence which she has since attained dates its commencement from the era of self-government.

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE Wellington 'Tribune' in contradicting the statement that Mr Kennaway, of Christchurch, had been appointed to the post of Secretary to the Agent-General, falls into a grave error in giving the antecedents of the gentleman who has been temporarily appointed to that office. It says:—"There is no truth in the statement that Mr Kennaway, of Christchurch, has been appointed Secretary to the Agent-General. The successor to Dr Walter Buller in this office is Mr Cashel Hoey, who is known in colonial circles, and went Home from Melbourne with the Agent-General of Victoria. He is perhaps better known, however (if we may use an Irishism in connection with an Irishman), as the husband of his wife, the celebrated novelist, Mrs Cashel Hoey." Perhaps the 'Tribune' will be somewhat surprised to learn that Mr John Cashel Hoey has never been in Victoria or any other Colony, and consequently its statement with regard to his going Home with the Agent-general of Victoria is altogether a mistake. Mr Hoey was associated with Sir Charles Duffy on the 'Nation,' holding a small interest in the paper, but on Sir Charles emigrating to Victoria, he became chief editor and part proprietor, in conjunction with Mr A. M. Sullivan, its present owner, and one of the members for Louth. Many years since Mr Hoey, having been admitted to the Bar, resigned his editorial position, and having married a widow lady, named Stewart, a constant contributor to the 'Nation,' and now the celebrated authoress, he migrated to London, of which city he has been a resident ever since.

FOR the second time, through the inclemency of the weather, the entertainment in aid of the Port Chalmers Church, had to be postponed. As a most attractive item in the programme is the Moonlight Excursion, and as having the trip without being illumined by the "moon's pale lamp" would be somewhat like playing 'Hamlet' with the purt of the melancholy Dane excised, it has been a matter of necessity that the further postponement shall be to such a date as to secure that most necessary accessory, and with a hope that the elements will be then more propitious. It may also be stated that the holders of tickets will not suffer any loss by the delay, as it has been decided that, taking advantage of the extension of time at command, the committee will furnish an improved programme. As it has been arranged that the entertainment should be postponed for a month, holders of tickets and others will receive through advertisement ample intimation of the date on which it will be carried out.

THE project of connecting Dunedin with the Peninsula and Ocean Beach by railway is not to be allowed to slumber. The prospectus of the company appears in our advertising columns, and from the long list of influential names on the Provisional Committee small doubt should exist of the matter being brought to a successful issue. It is proposed to commence near the crossing of the Clutha line at the Anderson's Bay road making use of the Dunedin portion of that line until the Company deem themselves in a position to construct a separate one for their own use. The Government recognising the benefits arising from the undertaking have made most liberal concessions in its favor, giving all public lands required for the construction of the line, including the land for a terminus at Dunedin, and also offering to work the line with its rolling stock on fair and reasonable terms. The Forbury Branch will pass the Racecourse and terminate near the Forbury road, and there can be little doubt that the receipts to be derived from the passenger traffic will pay a good percentage on the outlay.

THE tempestuous weather which has been experienced during the last week appears not to have been confined to Dunedin alone. From all parts of the colony reports have been received of destruction of property and the imminent danger of life. Every town throughout the