

letter to a member of the Fourth Estate in South America, on a recent occasion, he remarked that the light of Catholic truth often penetrated, through the medium of the newspaper Press, into places which the voice of a Catholic priest could not reach. The remark is applicable to New Zealand as well as to South America. Even a Protestant editorial sanctum may be one of the dark places the Pope refers to. If few of the Protestant public generally ever read your paper, perhaps many Protestant editors glance at its contents. They are "leaders" of the people in everything, sacred or profane, and, as a rule, they are honest and sincere, as well as highly educated and able men. The wonder is that men of their various knowledge and inquisitive minds can resist the force of Catholic truth so obstinately and so long. But the force of early prejudice, supported by worldly interests of a legitimate kind, who can measure it? Alas! poor humanity; how frail thou art. Yet man has been created but little lower than the angels—noble in reason and infinite in faculties, with an apprehension like a God, as Shakespeare has it. It appears that at least one of the learned Professors of the Otago University reads the TABLET.—Professor Hutton. It will do him good, if he have the large soul of a real Professor.

OBSERVER.

H.A.C.B. SOCIETY.

GREYMOUTH BRANCH (No. 17), WEST COAST.

THOUGH this branch has been several years in existence, and has always numbered a fair per-centage of the population of the town and district within its ranks, it never lost a member by death till quite recently. Bro. George O'Flynn, a faithful Christian and much-esteemed member, was called away a few days since, after an illness of about fifteen months, which he bore with exemplary fortitude. The deceased was well known among Irishmen in New Zealand, in which he has sojourned for some time. At the funeral of Mr O'Flynn, the branch mustered in force from all parts of the district. It is well to bear in mind that the population of the district is very scattered, and that the means of travelling over the rough roads are far from good. Notwithstanding that the burial took place on a working day—and most of the members of the branch are working men—about fifty of the brethren followed the remains of Bro. O'Flynn to the last resting-place, the Greymouth Cemetery. The day was as bright and lovely as ever Spring day was, and the emerald green of the society's colors was more than rivalled by the verdure of the garment in which Nature had decked the waysides through which the sad procession wound its mournful passage to the graveyard. At two o'clock the funeral cortege arrived at Greymouth from the residence of the deceased, about two miles distant. A considerable body of friends here joined in, and the number in the procession was now very considerable. The bell of St. Patrick's Church tolled mournfully as the hearse, containing the remains, approached. Shortly after leaving Greymouth the procession was joined by Father Ecuyer, the parish priest. Arrived in the Cemetery, the coffin was lowered into the grave, and, after the impressive burial service of the Church had been read by Father Ecuyer, the clay was heaped in, the brethren and friends of the departed gazing sadly on. Brother O'Flynn left a widow and four children in indigent circumstances, for he had been ill fifteen months, and had sought medical aid at a distance. It is intended to raise a public subscription for the widow and orphans.

CHRISTCHURCH.

To the Editor of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

SIR,—Thinking that it would be interesting to some of the readers of your valuable journal to hear how Catholicism is progressing in Canterbury, but especially in the capital (Christchurch), I have placed a few items on record which you may think worth while to place before them.

CHURCHES.

In Canterbury, there are in all nine churches or chapels—one in Christchurch, one in Lyttelton, one in Akaroa, one in Timaru, one in Temuka, one in Lincoln, one in Leeston, one in Leithfield, and one in Rangiora. That in Christchurch is the largest, its length being about seventy-five feet, with a breadth of forty feet, and has been built with some regard to architectural beauty. Its shape, when complete, will be that of a cross. It is entirely too small for the congregation which flocks there every Sunday, many being obliged to stand outside while the Holy Sacrifice is being offered. I understand there is a good sum of money in the hands of the parish priest, to be expended on church buildings; but he is advised by some not to interfere with the present church, but build one on the other side of the city. I suppose things will remain as they are till the arrival of the Bishop from Europe. The present P.P. is Rev. F. Billard, formerly of Greymouth. He is a younger man than his predecessor, Rev. F. Ecuyer, and seems likely to make himself beloved by his people. The churches in Lyttelton and Akaroa are attended to by the Rev. Father Francis del Monte, who resides at Lyttelton. A large bell has been temporarily erected at the latter church a few days ago. It cost about £70, all of which has been subscribed by the Catholics of Lyttelton and neighborhood. A bazaar will take place about December, for the purpose of raising funds towards the erection of a convent. The Rev. Father Chervier, who lives at Shand's Track, has by far the largest district to attend to. He has four very neat churches in his parish—not counting temporary ones here and there—which extends from the Ashburton south to the Hurunui north. He has also a school, where many of his children receive a Catholic education. It is surprising how this good priest has worked for the good of his people. He is most indefatigable, and dearly loved by all his parishioners. Rev. Father Chataigner has charge of South Canterbury, and attends to the church ches in Timaru and Temuka. Those I have never seen, but from what I know of the pastor, I believe they are what they should be. A more painstaking priest there is not in Canterbury.

SCHOOLS.

CATHOLIC BOYS' SCHOOL.—This is a very fine building, 70 ft. x 30 ft., and has been erected entirely at the expense of the congregation. At one end there is a permanent stage, with a neat proscenium, used occasionally when entertainments are given for some good work. About 150 boys attend the school, many of whom are Protestants. Mr Restell, Government Inspector, has examined the schools lately, at the request of the School Committee, who were anxious to show that, notwithstanding the Government grant formerly given has been withdrawn, the same care and attention now as then are being bestowed on the children. On the day of the Inspector's visit there were present about 250 children in both schools. He expressed himself well pleased with what he saw, and said that the efficiency of the children compared very favorably with that of the leading District Schools. Our schools are managed by a committee, who, up to the present time, have worked with a will, especially the chairman, Mr I. B. Sheath. Should they continue to do so, I am satisfied the Government will have a greater difficulty than they imagine in shutting up the Cathedral schools, the only thing they are working for. They (Government) have now opened a new school, right opposite the Catholic Boys', for no purpose but to attract the children from the latter place; but, as yet, no decrease has taken place—in fact, it is the other way. Of course, you are aware that the Catholics have to pay rates towards those Godless schools. Only a few pay without going to court, where they have to pay additional costs. The late P.P. (the Rev. Father Ecuyer) refused paying, but was visited by a bailiff, who threatened to sell the poor gentleman out if he didn't "dub-up." Rather than have this done, the bailiff received his unjust demand. Would that every Catholic might do this, and not pay even should a portion of their furniture be sold.

H.A.C.B. SOCIETY.

The Christchurch branch (No. 32) of this society has just completed its first year. It opened on September 8th, 1873, with thirty-eight members, and numbers at the present time one hundred financial members. No society formed here as yet has done so much good as this. Most of its members are now monthly communicants, and it is the intention for the future to admit no one except he is known previously to be a practical Catholic. Fifty sashes have been ordered, and expected to arrive from Melbourne in a few days. The first anniversary has been commemorated by a concert, which realised £25. This sum was handed to the Catholic School Committee, it being very well known by the members that they were short of funds. I might say a good deal more about this truly good association, but I fear I have already trespassed too much on your patience; but on another occasion, should you permit, I shall be happy to acquaint you with its doings.

CATHOLIC.

IRISH MEMBERS AND BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS.

"IRISH ON THE BRAIN."

(To the Editor of the New Zealand Tablet.)

SIR,—It is a passing misfortune for the readers of the 'Star' when its editor has been "buzzed." He falls in with a select circle of right good friends who have a hobby, and they buzz him into such a state that he actually persuades himself they are the public, and that the Colony in general is dying to hear all about the Irish members of the British Parliament.

The 'Star' is going through a severe spasm of attack just now. In the leading pages of the 'Star' of Saturday evening last, in sensational "captions" as the Americans say with capital letters, we have "Irish Home Rulers." Empires have fallen, dynasties have been overthrown, in our times, without such sensational announcement. In fact, this drivelling of stuff and nonsense about "Home Rulers" has become a sort of nuisance—at all events, it is a tomfoolery which will soon be made a matter of reproach against us. It is impossible that Irishmen should witness this inconsistent, unjust, and invidious conduct without resentment. It is impossible, on the other hand, that the habitually unfair tone of the 'Star' towards Ireland and Irishmen should fail to create a strong prejudice against both in the minds of English and Scotch readers. Thus a double evil is created, but the 'Star' editor is as reckless as he is unjust. National antagonism may be inflamed, dissension intensified, hostility increased; but if the immediate object of the moment be served, as it generally is, by reviling the Irish people, the journalist of the period is satisfied, and his moral accountability costs him not a thought. The leading organ of the present Ministry, the London 'Standard,' gives the following well deserved rebuke to certain correspondents who write from London of Irish Member's speeches in the House of Commons:—

A new vein has been struck by certain newspaper correspondents in London, who are occasionally hard enough up for something to lighten the dulness of their heavy communications. This is to lampoon Irish members of parliament, and as far as possible turn them into derision by representing them as blunderers who cannot speak in the House of Commons without unconsciously making everyone laugh. This happy idea was first hit upon by the correspondent of a Scotch journal, but the gentleman was not long permitted the exclusive right of this discovery. Those original writers who send second-hand London letters to certain Irish papers were not slow to trench upon the Scot's preserves, and even improve upon his dulness. The result is that "cheers" and "loud laughter" and other kindred phrases go now to form in a great measure the most prominent features in their accounts of those parliamentary doings in which Irish members bear a part. One day it is Dr. O'Leary who comes in for their attention, another it is Mr O'Gorman, then Mr Morris, and so on—the funny rogues rivaling each other in raising the laugh against Ireland. Of course while Irish journals can be found mean and contemptible enough to print such nonsensical verbiage, there will be found comic contributors to supply it, but its adoption by those individuals will