

of the Colonial Press, indeed we might say the Press of the world. As to this speech, here in New Zealand, Bishops MORAN and CROKE who assisted at the Council of the Vatican, declared that no such speech as that attributed to the Hungarian Bishop had been delivered there, but the Colonial Press which published the calumny, refused or neglected to publish the refutation. Moreover, Bishop STROSSMAYER himself printed and published a letter stating that he had not made the speech universally attributed to him by the Press, but to little or no purpose. The Press took no notice of his letter: not even one of our Colonial papers, with the exception of the 'TABLET,' informed its readers that the speech was a forgery. It is idle, therefore, to quote newspapers as an authority, on any subject relating to Catholics or their Church. On these subjects the Press is duped and deceived—willing to be deceived, and unwilling to be undeceived.

Again, these newspapers, as happened to the 'Guardian' a few weeks ago, are even ignorant of the POPE's Christian name, and the reason assigned for the Palermo lodge taking action now, of itself affords proof, were such required in a case of such palpable fabrication, that the statement of the Masonic official paper of Cologne is a clumsy calumny. This paper, so at all events says the 'Guardian,' states, Pro Nono has now cursed his former brethren and excommunicated all members of the order of Freemasons, and that the charges were not pressed till he urged the bishops to act aggressively against the Freemasons." Why, the fact is that instead of having just now done all this the POPE has not done anything lately that he had not done from the very beginning of his reign. In the year 1846, the very first of his Pontificate, he published an Encyclical, *Qui pluribus*, in which he anathematised Freemasons, and renewed all the censures of his predecessor against them. These were contained in the constitution of CLEMENT XII, *In eminenti*, 1738; constitution of BENEDICT XIV, *providas*, 1751; constitution of PRUS VII, *Ecclesiam*, 1821; constitution of LEO XII, *Quo graviora*, 1825, and the Encyclical of GREGORY XVI, *Inter*. Why, our Holy Father since the first day of his Pontificate has never ceased to urge the bishops of the entire world to proceed against the Freemasons and members of other secret societies. These reasons, therefore, have been put forward by a clumsy calumniator in ignorance of some of the most striking and solemn facts of PRUS IX's reign.

As the 'Guardian' endorses the statement of the Masonic official paper of Cologne, we wish our contemporary would give us the name of this paper. We have a good reason for the wish? to the effect that a member of the Freemason society who abandons it, excommunicates its members, and urges bishops to proceed against it, is a perjurer. But what is perjury? Every Catholic knows that it is to break a lawful, or to take a false oath. Now the question is, is the Masonic oath a lawful one? An oath to be lawful must be administered by lawful authority, or taken under the sanction of lawful authority. But what lawful authority can a secret society have, a society unsanctioned by any legitimate authority, self-constituted, and at war with Christianity? The Freemason's oath is the most blasphemous form of words conceivable,—involving as it does the dethronement of the Almighty. To God, and to God alone, belongs the dominion of life and death; but every Freemason, on his entrance into that accursed society, assumes to himself this dominion exclusively belonging to God, and the right to bestow it under certain contingencies, to his fellow-members. Anything more blasphemous is not conceivable. Instead, therefore, of an ex-Freemason being guilty of perjury, all Freemasons are bound, strictly bound, to disobey their wicked society, to disregard their fearful oath, in taking which they sinned, and in keeping which they would continue to sin. No oath can be a *vinculum iniquitatis*—a bond of iniquity.

### WHO SHOT AT BISMARCK?

THE answer will be found in the following extract from the Dublin 'Nation':—

#### THE TRUTH ABOUT KULLMAN.

The Catholic Bishop of Salford, Dr. VAUGHAN (says the Dublin 'Nation'), has given the *coup de grace* to the vile attempt to make the Catholics of Germany responsible for the recent alleged shooting at BISMARCK. It will be remembered that as soon as KULLMAN was arrested, it was telegraphed all over Europe that he was a member of a

Catholic association in Salzwedel. It turns out that there is no such association at Salzwedel, and Dr. VAUGHAN, on Sunday, in Bolton, publicly asserted that KULLMAN belonged in reality to a Protestant association.

We shall wait with no small amount of curiosity to see how many of the New Zealand newspapers which so eagerly gave currency to the vile calumny against Catholics will publish the above. We doubt if even one will be found to take any notice of it. In this country the Press, taken generally, hastily and gladly inserts any and every calumny against Catholics, but studiously abstains from doing us justice by publishing a contradiction, or a disproof.

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

ACCORDING to a correspondent of the 'London Times,' a rather effective method has been adopted in the French National Assembly for checking the disorderly propensities of hon. members,—for it appears that even that august assemblage is not above the weaknesses of our own councillors. When it is found necessary for the President to call a member to order, and to "name" him, which implies a record of the fact on the proceedings of the House, the offender is fined one-half his pay as a deputy, for fifteen days. As this is £1 per diem, it amounts to £7 10s. The 'Times' correspondent adds:—"If a deputy called to order is visited with censure some higher penalty is inflicted. He may be suspended from voting, and, for a very grave misconduct, a vote of the chamber might expel him." We commend the idea to the notice of colonial legislators, and feel convinced that a like practice would considerably reduce the vote for payment of members; we are afraid, however, that if rigidly enforced in our City Council it would result in his Worship being left in undisputed possession of the chair—and the chamber.

So great is the dearth of meat at Greymouth, that those butchers who have so far weathered the storm, and have not been obliged to put their shutters up, have published a manifesto of their prices. As an interest may be felt as to the tariff, we give the document *in extenso*:—For cash, at shop only: Roast beef, 10d; corned and boiling beef, 9d; leg, loin, and shoulder of mutton, 10d; fore-quarter do, 9d; chops, steaks, sausages, rump steak, 1s; tripe, 1s; suet, 10d; veal and pork, 1s. Private families: Beef and mutton, 10d; veal and pork, 1s; chops, steaks, and sausages, 1s. Hotels: Beef and mutton, 9d; veal and pork, 1s; chops, steaks, and sausages, 10d.

THE following is a list of persons who received out-door relief from the Otago Benevolent Institution during the month ending October 31, 1874:—51 families, numbering 323 souls, 2 male adults, 15 female adults, 7 children, at a cost of £23 per week. The inmates of the institution are—30 male adults, 4 female adults, 27 boys, 24 girls: total, 85.

AT St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Geelong, on the 4th October, an immense assemblage was present to witness the procession in honor of the change of the month of St. Mary's from May to October. The Orphan Children, and St. Patrick's and St. Mary's Abstinence Societies took part in the proceedings.

COLONEL MOULE has sent a telegram to Major Cooper, at the Thames, enquiring whether a suitable piece of ground could be obtained there on which to hold the next Colonial prize firing. It appears that the present rifle range is not adapted for it, and unless a better one is found ere long, we understand that Taranaki will probably be selected.

THE ship Countess of Kintore, for London, is the bearer of the following parcels of precious metals:—Shipped by the Bank of New Zealand, 17 bars of silver weighing 18,965oz. 19dwt., and valued at £4,980; shipped by the National Bank of New Zealand, 2 boxes of gold weighing 2,292oz. 7dwt. 14gr., and valued at £8,125.

THE 'Tuspeka Times' says that a large number of cattle and sheep are already falling victims to the poisonous tutu, which is now growing rapidly. In ordinary seasons this plant causes the death of a large number of cattle, and owing to the scarcity of grass this spring, the animals devour this tutu eagerly, making the losses proportionately large.

MOST of the adult immigrants (says the 'Weekly Times') who were brought from Dunedin by the Wanganui on her last trip have found situations, many of them having been engaged before they landed. Only four or five married couples, with their families, remain in the barracks unemployed, but as the men are practical Scotch ploughmen, it is not likely that they will be long without situations. With regard to the old barracks in Esk street, the Carrick Castleites who made them famous for unsanitary associations were ejected some time ago, and the old place having been thoroughly purged and purified with scrubbing brushes, soap, and water, is now tenanted by the wives and children of several of the married men of the recent detachments received from Dunedin—all, we are informed, sober, respectable people.

THE monthly meeting of the Fire Brigade was held at the station on Monday evening, Captain Wain in the chair. Letters were read from the Secretary to the Friendly Societies' Fete and the Secretary of the Battalion Band. Captain Wain informed the members that the necessary arrangements were completed for holding a social gathering at the Masonic Hall, on Monday next, the 9th inst. It was also arranged that the Brigade should join the Friendly Societies' procession on Monday next. Messrs. Dermer and Beissel were elected honorary members, and Mr Jewett was re-elected one for the ensuing twelve months.