

AGGRESSIVE AND ASSUMPTIVE.

A good cry, particularly if it can be condensed into one or two telling words, has been found to be a most efficacious weapon for assailing an opponent. It does not matter much whether or not there is even a particle of truth in the cry; if it be striking and repeated sufficiently often, it never fails to produce an effect more or less injurious to the person whom it assails. For example: to call anyone aggressive and assumptive for a considerable period is sufficient to produce a conviction in the minds of many that the person thus assailed is both aggressive and assumptive, though in reality he may be neither the one nor the other. This is very unjust, and the only remedy appears to be to pursue the slander and expose it.

These thoughts have been suggested by some observations made by the Wellington correspondent of the 'New Zealand Herald,' which appeared in the issue of that paper under date November 30. This writer, speaking of Bishop REDWOOD, says:—"He is apparently free from that aggressive and assumptive spirit which so distinguishes Bishop MORAN." Those who know Bishop MORAN, when they read these words, will be certainly amazed. Aggressive and assumptive spirit! What proof has Bishop MORAN given of such a spirit? Few men confine themselves so exclusively to the discharge of the duties peculiar to their office as does this prelate. He is hardly, if ever, seen at public places or meetings; and it is notorious that he is fond of retirement, and indifferent as to recognition.

It is very probable that the 'Herald's' Wellington correspondent has no personal knowledge whatever of Bishop MORAN; and that he has considered himself justified in calling him aggressive and assumptive because he found the Otago newspapers designating him by these terms. But we beg to assure this our brother of the Press that the Otago newspapers are not infallible, and that, on the contrary, they are very liable to mistakes, particularly on all questions affecting Catholics, and above all, ecclesiastics. The Wellington correspondent of the 'Herald' had better be very much on his guard as to giving implicit credit to newspaper reports from this quarter, if he be desirous to avoid making people laugh at his expense.

Bishop MORAN has never injured or attacked any man in person, property, or character; he has never claimed anything for himself to which he had not a strict right; and he has never unnecessarily assailed even an abuse. But there have been things which the duties of his office have compelled him to do, which, as was to be expected, did not please everybody. There have been times, too, when he was called upon to defend the interests committed to his charge, from the assaults of enemies. And all this he has done openly, above-board, and without flinching. These are the acts, which certain writers in the Press, in a loose and incorrect phraseology not unusual with them, have called evidences of an aggressive and assumptive spirit. In any one else, Bishop MORAN's mode of proceeding would have been regarded as only natural and becoming; but the idea down here in these almost perfectly educated provinces, is that it is highly aggressive and assumptive in a Catholic Bishop to warn his people against societies founded for the express purpose of destroying their faith, and uprooting their Church; to repel calumnious assaults on his own and their religion and its ministers; to guard the faith and morals of the rising generation amongst Catholics from the inherent dangers of secular, mixed and godless schools; and to protest against their being plundered for the maintenance of institutions established with the thinly veiled object of destroying Catholicity. This is the new definition of aggression and assumption! Bishop MORAN, and the Church and religion which he is bound to defend, have been attacked in the Press; the faith of the children committed to his charge has been assailed in school-books, by a system of education at once sectarian and godless, and in many other ways. And because he dared to have the courage to defend himself and them, he is called aggressive and assumptive!

The truth is, the aggression and assumption have been on the opposite side. Bishop MORAN has assumed nothing, and has studiously abstained from doing more than was absolutely necessary for legitimate defence. When, or where, has he assailed any man's religion? When, or where, has he attempted to deprive any man of a right? When, or where, has he intruded himself on any man or body of men? And might he have not assumed a great

deal, without incurring just censure for aggression and assumption? But it is almost in vain to argue, to disprove, or to protest. VOLTAIRE bequeathed to the enemies of the Church a principle, calling on them to lie against her, and all that belongs to her; to lie intrepidly, to lie without ceasing; and well have they followed his injunction.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

We would draw the attention of our readers to the excellent programme of sports published in another column by the St. Joseph's Pic-nic Committee. It will be observed that in addition to money prizes to the amount of £16, there are many other valuable ones in the shape of a suit of clothes to order, a chest of tea, a mat of sugar, &c., &c. As the treat was specially devised for the amusement of the day and Sunday school children of St. Joseph's, it will be seen that their enjoyment has not been overlooked, and for the small sum of sixpence they will be conveyed to and from the ground, and in addition receive a ticket entitling them to refreshments to the amount of one shilling. We have been asked to return the thanks of the committee to the various gentlemen throughout the city who so generously aided the movement by their contribution of prizes.

It would appear that the watchful attention paid to Mr. Sullivan, of Nelson notoriety, by the Scotland Yard gentry, proved too much for his sensitive nature, and has resulted in his again favoring the Colonies with his presence, a report being current that when last seen he was patronising the amusements of Melbourne. If such be the fact, we may safely conclude that it will not be long until we have him returned to us, like a bad coin. The Criminal Influx Prevention Act which is in force in Victoria, empowers that Colony to re-ship a convict to the place where the pardon has been granted, unless four years have elapsed from the date of pardon to arrival on Victorian soil. It is more than possible, then, that all the efforts of our Government on his behalf will be of no further avail than in having given their protégé a pleasant trip to the old country and back.

We notice that another effort has been made for the establishment of a Working Men's Club in this city. At a meeting which was held at the Hibernian Hotel, on Monday evening, at which delegates from several of the Trade Societies were present, the following resolutions were unanimously carried:—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to establish a Working Men's Club in this city, and it strongly recommends it to the consideration of their fellow working-men." "That all trades and workmen be invited to send delegates to a meeting to be held in the Hibernian Hotel on Monday, the 21st instant, for the purpose of forming resolutions to put before a subsequent public meeting."

The quarterly meeting of St. Joseph's Branch of the Hibernian Society was held in the schoolroom attached to the church, on Monday evening last, the President, Bro. E. Carroll, presiding. After some routine business had been transacted, the Lodge proceeded to investigate several charges of neglect preferred against Dr. Cole, the medical attendant. After a minute investigation and lengthy discussion, the charges were held to be fully substantiated, and instructions were given to the Secretary to acquaint Dr. Cole that his services as medical attendant to the branch were dispensed with, at the same time forwarding the charges upon which such action had been taken. The following nominations were then received for the various offices, the elections to which will take place on Tuesday, the 29th inst:—For President, Bro. Burke; Vice-President, Bros. Moroney and Brennan; Secretary, Bro. Cantwell; Treasurer, Bro. Connellan; Warden, Bros. Gallagher and A. Toal; Guardian, Bros. A. Toal and Kirk. Bro. Connor was proposed to the office of President, and J. Toal to that of Secretary, but both members refused to stand.

It is most encouraging to see that the efforts of our clergymen for the education and spiritual welfare of their flocks command the respect and admiration of the impartial of all creeds and classes. The following is an extract from the Waikato correspondence of the 'Auckland Weekly Herald.' The writer says:—"It is invidious to draw comparisons, but I cannot help it. I am a Protestant; but if the clergy of our Church in the Waikato would take pattern by the Rev. Father Golden, the only Roman Catholic clergyman in the district, they would be more appreciated. I travel about very much, and there is scarcely a settlement in which I do not see Father Golden or hear of him. He is always on the move, and does not wait for a Sunday to celebrate the services of his Church; any day and any time most convenient to all does Father Golden labor. I feel very strong on this point; for where religious teaching is neglected, there will be found crime. I regret to liken the Church of England to the parable of 'The Rich Fool,' hoarding its revenue and neglecting that religious consolation to its members it is bound to give."

We are in receipt of the 'Illustrated New Zealand Herald' for December, and although none of the illustrations are of a local character the selections have been otherwise judicious, and are admirably executed. All the Australian colonies have been represented—Western Australia by the portrait of its gallant explorer, Mr. John Forrest; South Australia with the reception of that gentleman at Adelaide on his return; New South Wales is represented by the views of "Burrangorang Valley" and the "Grose River, Blue Mountains;" and to Victoria has been allotted a splendid full-page cut of "The Head-quarters Band at Fitzroy Gardens," "The National Agricultural Society's Show at Melbourne," and "Haricot, the winner of the Melbourne Cup." In addition to these there is a view of "the Farrallone Islands," on the coast of California, with other interesting scenery on the Pacific Coast.