

himself. What was there to coerce him, for example, to respect the liberties of other men, when that liberty interferes with the exercise of his own? The policeman; but the policeman was not always present. Therefore the essential guarantee—the idea of duty—was withdrawn by Liberalism from political and social liberty. Not only that, but it destroyed authority, which was really the only protection that liberty had. Anyone who had read the history of this doctrine would know this; for if there were anything more certain than another in Liberalism, it was the principle that authority and liberty were antagonistic. And the consequence was that, in the various constitutions established since the spread of Liberalism, in order to adjust the claims of both, Liberalism had, in fact, suppressed one of them—authority. Now, what was authority? It differed from mere force in this, that it acted upon the human will, and regulated the exercise of liberty in order to protect it. The old Christian principle is: that both authority and liberty came from God. It consecrated liberty in the subject, and authority in the superior. They had both the same origin—they had the same guidance—the Divine law; and they had the same sanction—eternal rewards and punishments. Liberalism taught diametrically the opposite of this, and maintained that they were antagonistic and mutually destructive; and the consequence was, that they saw Constitution after Constitution raised up to adjust their conflicting claims, and to establish some order in the world. Authority is the supremacy of the moral order; it falls, not on the person to coerce it, but on liberty to bind it to duty. Liberty could only exist in a society when its members recognised in those who held authority a true superiority to which they were bound to subordinate the exercise of their individual liberties. Otherwise society would be governed, not after the manner of freemen, but after that of beasts. And it is to the latter that Liberalism leads. Its fundamental dogma is, that society depends entirely on itself, is under no superior authority, consequently, those who exercise power in it, as receiving it only from those over whom it is exercised, are at the mercy of their caprices. Thus Liberalism makes inferiors, superiors, and superiors inferiors. For is it not clear that he who accepts the mandate to govern is subject to those who gave it, and can withdraw it at their pleasure. The only power, therefore, which governments have to cause law to be respected, is that of the sword. This was well exemplified in the various revolutions of the last three-quarters of a century. What was the result in France, which had been its home, and from which it had spread to the other civilised nations. First, they had the revolution, then the days of Robespierre; after that the Directory, then the Consulate, the Consulate for Life, the Empire, which went down before indignant Europe, then the Monarchy, the 100 days, and the other changes, down to the time of the Commune, when the sovereign people rose, and there being no authority to bind them, each did what he pleased, and the result was the conflagration of Paris. It might be said that in every form of Government, you must have force. True: they must have force everywhere, in order to cause authority to be respected; but if they had the Christian principle recognised by the people, very little force would be necessary. Liberalism promised a discontinuance of force; wars were to be at an end, nations were to come into accord, and liberty, equality, and fraternity, were to prevail everywhere. Now, after three-quarters of a century, what was Europe? One enormous camp; armies more numerous than ever; less security for any right; despotism established everywhere—for Liberalism, by disorganising society, by letting loose the passions, by rendering insecure every interest, led inevitably to the establishment of despotism, and consequently to the destruction of individual liberties. Again and again they had seen all this exemplified in France, and in other countries. It was unnecessary to argue the question; it was a patent fact. Instead of armies of 25,000 or 50,000 men—which were considered large a century ago—they now had armies of one and two millions of men, and more. Everyone arrived at man's estate, and who had not fallen into decrepitude by age, was a soldier. A nation was now a standing army, and the people were oppressed by taxation. And this was the great future that had come out of Liberalism. Let the Christian principle be established of a superior power—of a duty that we owe to an authority emanating not from man or reason, but from a higher power—let that principle be recognised by the nations and acted upon, and then they would see, in place of what they now deplored, something similar to what might be witnessed even at present in the Catholic cantons of Switzerland and the North of Spain. There, it is only necessary to raise a pole as an emblem of authority, and it is efficacious to keep the peace and protect life and property. But why? Because the people are imbued with the principle that they are responsible to a higher power, and that each of them is not a sovereign in himself. He thought he had now said sufficient to justify himself in entitling his lecture "The Bankruptcy of Liberalism." He had pointed out what it is; what it promised, and he had tried to show that it had failed in every one of its promises, and that it was in reality a bankrupt.

On the motion of Mr. J. Scanlan, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the right rev. lecturer.

IRISH OFFICERS IN THE FRENCH ARMY.—A correspondent of the 'Dublin Evening Post' writes from Paris.—"The army is organising steadily, and some promotions among the officers show that men of talent are obtaining the rank their merit alone won for them. Among the new colonels is one of the descendants of the soldiers of the Irish Brigade, a scion of a noble family that already gave France two marshals. Lieutenant-Colonel O'Brien has been promoted colonel of the 12th Chasseurs. A finer specimen of a soldier and a gentleman does not exist in the French army. Lieutenant-Colonels MacDermott, Sweeny, and O'Neil are among the officers whose services ensure them also preferment before long."

The Vendôme Column, minus its statue, has been released from its scaffolding, and once more lifts itself to the admiring gaze of the Parisians.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

It is quite certain that none of the City Fathers reside in the higher portions of the town, or something would have been done ere this to remedy the withdrawal of the water during the past week. In Cammangate, Brown, and other streets in that locality, the taps have been dry since last Saturday. As but few houses into which water-pipes are laid are provided with tanks, the inconvenience resulting from the stoppage of water supply can scarcely be imagined. During the past week a stranger to that portion of the city would be somewhat puzzled to account for the number of jugs, kettles, and other vessels to be seen carried about, and it would appear as if the residents made it a point of never venturing out unless loaded with an utensil of some sort. The worst of it is, too, that those who fortunately possess tanks, not knowing how long the famine may last, are particularly chary in parting with so scarce a commodity. [Since writing the above we find that the effects of the scarcity of water have made themselves felt in the lower portions of the city, and, as a consequence, measures have been taken to meet the necessity. The Corporation has arranged that water-men visit the different portions of the city to supply the absolute necessities of the people; and although even that itself is a boon, some idea of the straits to which people have been put, may be formed when a bucket full per day is the allotted portion to each family, be it large or small. We hear of many of the industries about town, being compelled to stop operations for want of water power.]

We would draw the attention of our readers to an advertisement in another column with regard to the New Zealand Pottery Company. The works have been in operation for over a year, during which time they have done a most remunerative business. Capitalists seeking an investment will find what would appear from the prospectus to be a safe means of acquiring an interest upon their money, besides helping to develop one of the industries of the colony.

THE Grey Valley Road Board is virtually defunct. When the Returning Officer proceeded lately to fill three vacancies, he had the room and honor all to himself; no one was proposed, and, as was remarked, "he couldn't even rise a bystander." The 'Argus' says:—"The only *de facto* member now is Mr. Alcorn, for the electors of No Town refused to return members to succeed Messrs. Corbett and Maguire, and the seats they filled are also vacant. A good many are inquiring what next."

THE Most Rev. Dr. Redwood, Bishop of Wellington, being expected on a visit to Christchurch, a committee of the Catholic congregation has been appointed to give his Lordship a fitting reception. Dr. Redwood also purposes paying Dunedin a visit, on which occasion he has kindly promised to deliver a lecture in aid of the Port Chalmers Church.

THE treasury of the Province of Westland is in an impecunious state, and one of its representatives in the Council has hit upon a novel expedient for replenishing its exchequer. The financier is a Mr. Seddon, who has given notice that he will move—"That the Government be requested to bring in a Bill, having for its object the imposition of a tax on all horses and vehicles in the province." As the horses and vehicles are generally the property of a class who earn their living with those items as auxiliaries, perhaps the sapient legislator would simplify his motion, by substituting a bill for the taxing of those lucky individuals who are allowed to work for a living. If the measure, as proposed by Mr. Seddon, be carried, it will be an injustice to the section of the community who, placed by fortune beyond the necessity of toiling, will be debarred from contributing to the revenue of the province a sum proportionate to their stake in the country.

We have received the following letter, which we have been asked to publish, only wishing that there were more amongst us possessed of large-headedness, as the writer:—"Timaru, April 17th, 1875.—Sir,—In answer to your stirring appeal in the piece of poetry in your last, I enclose a £1 note as my subscription to the fund. I have very few acquaintances here, or I would try to collect something for it as well, as I have been reading the Irish papers. Lately, I know there never was a time when funds were so much in need of, as at present. Of late, several applications of those suffering on's have had to be referred by the committee on account of want of funds. The committee have, therefore, issued an address to their countrymen at home and abroad, to assist them in the good work, and I hope our countrymen will not be backward at the call, as there are far better wages here, and less calls, than at home. I think if a subscription were raised, it would be well supported. There is no doubt we are very backward in this part of the colonies. I noticed in the Irish papers these last few months, handsome subscriptions from Victoria, Sydney, and even Auckland, towards national purposes, but nothing from here. I would thank you, sir, to give this a corner in your valuable paper, to bring it to the notice of those who are better able than I am to carry it out. You will excuse me, sir, I am sure, for troubling you with this, and for asking you to say a few words on the subject in its favour.—Yours, &c., LABOURER."—We shall be most happy to receive any further sums forwarded for so generous and patriotic an object.

We have to acknowledge the receipt, from the publisher, Mr. Chapman, of Auckland, of the various addresses of Sir George Grey during his late contests. The pamphlet contains his address in the Choral Hall, Auckland; the speech on his nomination for the office of Superintendent; and his appeal to the electors of Auckland City West, on the nomination to the vacant seat in the General Assembly, all of which have been revised and corrected by Sir George.

We notice from our Christchurch exchange that Mr. Henry Eastwood has purchased the diorama of "Paradise Lost"—formerly the property of Mr. Bachelier—which is at present being exhibited in that city, with great success. Indeed, the exhibition of panoramas would appear to be on the increase, for in addition to the Hibernicon and "Paradise Lost," Mr. Skinner, lately connects