

familiar, at a time, too, when the priest, as well as the digger, had to "rough" it, will regret that now, when the hardships and exposure to all sorts of weather in years gone by is beginning to tell on a constitution which must have been like iron, a sense of duty to his Divine Master compels him to undertake the responsibilities of a teacher, when a little rest would be more conducive to his health. But Father Royer remembers the commandment given to the church 1800 years ago, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations," and is determined that until a person can be got to take charge of the school, the Catholic children of Hyde shall not want a teacher.

RANDOM NOTES.

"A chiel's amang ye takin' notes,
An' faith he'll prent 'em."

FUDGE is furious, and when Fudge is furious Fudge is funny—for which, however, he must be held blameless. To those who read Fudge this may appear strange, fun not being his *forte*, and therefore, in the possession of a quality so foreign to, and unusual with Fudge natural, the change requires a note of explanation. Fudge is ambitious and aspires to rival Milton or Muldoon in poetry, and Thackeray or Timon in satire. While unhesitatingly conceding the former, I heretically hazarded a doubt about the latter, and forthwith the vials of Fudgistic wrath have been uncorked, and I have been told "the time o' day" with a vengeance. Had Fudge been allowed to pursue the even tenor of his way, his weekly production would be still conspicuous for its massive dullness, and the solitary spark which last week threw its feeble ray over his otherwise sombre column, would never have had existence. Floriculturists tell of flowers which emit no perfume until they are crushed beneath the heel; now Fudge is not a flower, and yet—but why pursue the simile further? After exhausting an abundant stock of "spicy wit, keen sarcasm, polished satire, and scathing irony," Fudge cries *peccavi*, and with a candor which, like charity covers a multitude of sins, admits that his column was never intended for aught but fudge, or else he should "not have wasted so much valuable space on such a subject as the 'Bankruptcy of Liberalism.' True, thou man of noble aspirations, and I heartily agree that it was the "concentrated, &c., &c., &c.," to hold forth upon a subject of which you had as much knowledge as a cat has of conic sections. Nevertheless, for daring to hint at what he has since innocently admitted, Fudge became indignant, and Hudibras and a host of minor missiles were hurled at my devoted head. Although obstinately refusing to accept the kindly advice tendered, I notice that Fudge is determined in future to make his productions intelligible, and by poetic extracts attached to each item, furnish the key to the mysterious, and solve what, without them, would be as great a problem as the identity of Junius. But still, it must be confessed, were Fudge to give his readers more of Hudibras and Co., and less of Fudge, a deal of speculation would be saved.

ANOTHER turn of the political kaleidoscope, and what do we behold! Otago's most rising politician astride the State locomotive. At least, so he is in the estimate of the 'Guardian,' and of course it is always correct. If the subject of its recent leading article and extravagant laudations possesses but a tithe of the virtues with which he has been accredited, the Province has indeed secured a treasure, and the sooner the steam—metaphorical and actual—has been got up, the better. 'Tis true the slight drawback of a superfluity of loquaciousness has been admitted. I am afraid, however, there was a hidden irony in admitting this weakness, and in the same breath dubbing the orator a "rising" one; but certainly if used in that sense, those who know the gentleman in question will readily admit that in the facility with which he gets upon his legs he is indeed a rising politician. If he has been as a private member as near perfection as possible, and the only defect has been a desire to rival his wonderful namesake, we are promised that, as the Minister with the weighty cares of State upon his shoulders, his reticence will in future equal the famous parrot, which could not speak, but was a perfect wonder to think. I am somewhat doubtful of the efficacy of the change of position, but if Mr. Fish is to remain a public man, and such a transformation can be effected, then by all means chose the lesser evil, and purchase his silence, even at the price of a seat on the Treasury Benches.

PRINCESS' THEATRE.

THE engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins terminated on Tuesday evening, on which occasion Mr. Hoskins took his benefit, in the character of Chryso in the classical play of "Pygmalion and Galatea." Since their first appearance, some three weeks since, the public have had no reason to complain of the class of entertainment which has been provided, and for which the management of Mr. Hoskins is always a sufficient guarantee. The public of Dunedin are always found to bestow a liberal patronage upon artistes of ability, and it is a matter of no wonder then, that, during the season just concluded, there should have been crowded houses. On Wednesday evening the Press Dramatic Club had possession of the boards, making their bow to the audience in the somewhat difficult French drama of "Plot and Passion." The Club since the formation have appeared repeatedly in aid of various local funds, but on Wednesday evening the appeal was on their own behalf, the proceeds being appropriated to the purchase of a wardrobe. Whether on account of the reputation of the performers, a desire to assist the object for which the entertainment was given, or the pleasure of criticising the critics, we are unable to say, but be the reason what it may, the attendance was a most cheering one. The advent of the "Fourth Estate" was preceded by the sparkling little comedietta, "A Happy Pair." Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins appearing as Mr. and Mrs. Honeyton. Of this part of the programme it is unnecessary to speak, but we may here mention that both Mr. Hoskins and Miss Colville generously gave their services during the evening. The principal characters introduced in "Plot and

Passion" are Fouché, Duke of Otranto, and Napoleon's celebrated Minister of Police; Madame de Fontanges, the spy, and afterwards the destroyer of Fouché; Henri de Neuville, an impulsive young Bourbon, who has been conspiring against the Empire, but is saved from ruin by the devotion of Marie de Fontanges; Demarets, the subordinate of Fouché, and by whom he is ultimately betrayed; and the Marquis de Cevennes. The part of the Secret Minister, whose sway was so powerful under the Napoleonic regime, was undertaken by Mr. R. Henry, who, throughout the whole piece, gave a most correct rendering of the calculating and passionless chief, not only forming the proper conception of the character, but also carrying it through with an ease and self-possession not usually found in amateurs. As the unhappy Madame de Fontanges, who has been lured into the clutches of Fouché, Miss Colville was, as she always is, most effective, the scene with Henri, in which she passionately declares her innocence of complicity in the intrigue against his liberty, calling forth especial marks of approbation. The very trying character of Henri de Neuville was assumed by Mr. Le Grove, and when it is remembered that it is one which calls into play the tenderest emotions of love, and indignant bursts of scorn and passion, it must be said that he is entitled to the highest praise for the manner in which he acquitted himself. No doubt at times he was rather stilted, and inclined to disregard the necessity of proper punctuation, but while the defects were but few and trivial, the delineation of the character as a whole was highly creditable. Mr. Mitchell has been looked upon as one of the most promising members of the Club, and on former occasions has been spoken most highly of, but to our mind his representation of the cringing Demarets, the unscrupulous tool of the pitiless Fouché, far surpassed his efforts on other occasions, his enunciation being given with a distinctness, and his bye-play with an effect which might be copied with profit by others beside amateurs. The character of the Marquis de Cevennes was entrusted to Mr. Buchanan, and although it is the only character in the drama with the slightest vein of comedy, so well did he fulfill the task allotted to him, that the contagion of his humor served to relieve in a great measure the heaviness of the other characters. Jabot was undertaken by Mr. Capper, and Grisboulle by Mr. Wyburn, but neither gentlemen can be complimented on their success, the chief merit consisting in the slight strain which was made on the abilities by the respective characters. The performance, taken as a whole, was a most successful one, and although many opinions had been expressed regarding the capacity of the Club to undertake such a trying drama as "Plot and Passion," we think it must be fairly admitted that those doubts have been set at rest since Wednesday night.

HISTORICAL CLASS BOOKS.

(TO THE EDITOR OF 'NEW ZEALAND HERALD,' PER FAVOUR OF THE 'TABLET.')

SIR,—In your late leading article on Mr. Gladstone's now celebrated pamphlet you say of certain claims made by Archbishop Manning on behalf of the Pope that these are bold pretensions of his to be put forth in this the nineteenth century, "when school-boys read history, and know all about the acts of former Popes." Schoolboys read history. Yes, and it is of the last importance that the histories used in our schools should be truthful and impartial. Mr. Lusk, I notice, in his report on the last examination of the High School, remarks on the meagre and unsatisfactory kind of class book used by the pupils in that establishment, and suggests something more full and scholarly in future.

The historical epitome used, if I mistake not, in the High School is Collier's. On glancing over some portions of it I notice nothing erroneously stated, but much important matter suppressed which it is material even for "schoolboys" to know. The *suppressio veri*, every one knows, is at times even worse than the *assertio falsi*. One great objection Roman Catholics have to send their children to Government secular schools is founded on the fact that their mind is apt to contract a prejudice against their Church by reading histories so unfaithfully written. In Collier's History, and other popular historical epitomes used in secular or Protestant schools, while all or the worst evil deeds of Catholic celebrities may be given, sometimes no hint is given of some of the very worst acts of Protestant rulers. I write under correction of course. The reader is led erroneously to believe or infer that persecution is a tenet of the Catholic Church, and that no Catholic ever suffered for his religion. He is not told that the cruelties in Mary's reign were done in defiance of Catholic principles, and not in accordance with them; and that a Catholic priest, in open Court, reproached the Queen and the Government for attempting by such cruel means to bring men to forsake their error. He told them they were acting in opposition both to the spirit and the letter of the Gospel; that it was their duty to attempt to persuade the judgment, and not to take the lives of the unhappy persons they were persecuting. Circumstances such as these are suppressed in Collier's history, with what fairness you yourself shall judge. It is true he tells that Cardinal Pole, the Pope's legate, was opposed to such sanguinary measures as Mary's Government were adopting to suppress the Reformed creed. So far he is just. But this was not enough to place the transactions of that reign in their true light, and exonerate Catholics in general from the imputation of sympathising in acts of blood they abhor.

The above is a mere specimen of the wrong done to Catholics by the suppression of material historical facts in school histories and other more full histories written for the use of Protestants. Catholic statesmen, both lay and ecclesiastical, in past ages, committed many crimes under the impulse of bad passions. But it is unfair to conceal or pass over in silence the services so many eminent Popes and other Catholics have rendered to liberty and the cause of Christian civilization generally.