

Sugar was first made known to Europeans by the conquests of Alexander the Great. Nearchus, one of his admirals, descended the Indus, and afterwards describing sugar, said that it was a sort of honey growing in canes or reeds.

Statistical tables show that there are in the whole world about 164 cities with 100,000 inhabitants; 9 with over 1,000,000; 12 with from 1,000,000 down to 500,000; 20 with from 300,000 to 400,000; 33 with from 200,000 to 300,000; and 90 with from 100,000 to 200,000. The aggregate of the population of these large cities comprise 50,000,000 inhabitants—that is to say, the twenty-eighth part of the entire population of the globe.

THE DRAMA.

Mrs. DARRELL took her second benefit during the present engagement on Friday night last, the pieces chosen being "King John" and "The Rough Diamond." Although there was an excellent house downstairs, we regret to say the dress circle was not filled to anything like the extent the excellence of the performance or the merits of the *beneficiare* merited. The version of "King John" produced was played in three acts, but those were the particular parts, in which the grief-stricken Queen Constance and Philip Faulconbridge are kept prominently before the audience. Mrs. Darrell gave a most classic and highly finished interpretation of the character, and at the conclusion of the second act, in which she denounces the conduct of the French King with scornful reproach, she was greeted with the most unqualified applause. Indeed, we have rarely seen such an unanimous expression of feeling, the whole audience applauding as if but one person. As the daring yet somewhat philosophical Faulconbridge Mr. Darrell was very effective, the scene with his mother being carried through with a reckless *abandon* quite in keeping with Shakespeare's conception of the character. The part of King John was in the hands of Mr. Steele, and were he a little better prepared in the text would have been all that could be desired. On Saturday night that well-known and highly popular drama, "Rob Roy," was produced, and went capably through from the rising to the drop of the curtain. Mrs. Darrell, of course, undertook the character of the remorseless spouse of the outlaw, which, it is needless to say, was beyond criticism; Mr. Steele taking that of Rob Roy. We have seldom seen Mr. Steele infuse so much fire and vigor into his personations as on Saturday night, and it causes one to regret that he does not more often make the effort, when success lies so easily within his grasp. We had heard that Mr. Keogh had made a name for himself as Bailie Nicol Jarvie, and consequently were prepared for something beyond the common; but we must confess we were most agreeably surprised, his personation of the eccentric bailie exhibiting abilities far beyond what we have hitherto given him credit for. Mr. Darrell appeared as Francis Osbaldistone, a character for which he was admirably suited, both in appearance and otherwise. During the evening he sang the music incidental to the piece, as also the introduced song of "Nil Desperandum." For the latter he was vociferously and deservedly eulogized.

Dion Boucicault's emotional play of "Janet Pridie" was produced on Monday evening, Mrs. Darrell appearing in the double characters of Jane and Janet Pridie. In the pathetic scenes which occur in the prologue, the acting of Mrs. Darrell was distressingly real, the agony of the unhappy mother at being compelled to part with her dying infant in order to preserve its life, being portrayed with an earnest intensity which was perfectly thrilling in its effect. Mr. Darrell appeared in the character of Richard Pridie, and afterwards in the assumed one of Captain Grey, and is to be congratulated upon having achieved another success. Mr. Darrell possesses a vast fund of light comedy humor, and if we are not mistaken that is the line in which he will yet make a name; and although Triplet and Richard Pridie cannot be fairly ranked in that class, yet they are fully entitled to take first place amongst his personations. Mr. Keogh created considerable amusement by the eccentricities of his Dickey Trotter, and while we admit he took sad liberties with the text of the author, we are sure the audience readily pardoned the innovations in consideration of their laughter-provoking comicality. Although Mr. Darrell was a scoundrel and villain, his villainy was qualified, and of course the rôle of the orthodox ruffian of the piece was enacted by Mr. Clinton. Viewed from an artistic stand-point, the representation was most creditable; morally it was the reverse, and very properly he met with his deserts early in the evening. We must not omit to mention the acting of Mr. Musgrave as the honest old watchmaker, the character being sustained with care and truthfulness.

On Wednesday evening Shakespeare's sparkling comedy of "As You Like It" was re-produced, being the third time it has been presented during the engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell. We have noticed the piece at some length recently, but we cannot refrain from saying that each representation eclipsed its predecessor. Were there no other character of prominence in the piece than Rosalind, the splendid elocution and finished acting of Mrs. Darrell would be calculated to furnish a treat; but, in addition, there are such excellent opportunities in the characters of Jacques and Orlando. Mrs. Darrell has appeared in so many different characters, so widely diverse in their nature, and yet so close in their order of merit, that it were a matter of difficulty as to which became entitled to take first rank, but we think the palm may safely be bestowed upon her rendition of the volatile Rosalind. We have seen her years since as Beatrice, in "Much Ado About Nothing," and we are quite sure, were that piece produced, the management would be rewarded by full houses, and both Mr. and Mrs. Darrell be accorded equal applause. While on the subject we might mention a few plays which have not been played in Dunedin for years, and which we are sure would draw crowded houses. We allude to "The Wife, a Tale of Mantua," "The Wonder of Woman Keeps a Secret," and others of that class.

DR. NEWMAN'S PAMPHLET.

SECOND NOTICE.

MANY must have been surprised at the energetic manner in which the Irish Roman Catholic Bishops spoke against the Papal Infallibility, as Mr. Gladstone shows, when asked about it in view of re-admitting Roman Catholics within the pale of the British Constitution in 1826. Dr. Newman quotes from a Pastoral of Dr. Troy, Archbishop of Dublin, in 1793, in which he says, "Until the Church decide on the question of Papal Infallibility, individual Catholics may adopt or reject the doctrine without any breach of Catholic communion or peace." Dr. Newman admits that the language of the Irish Catholic Bishops, in reply to the British Government about Papal Infallibility, was too energetic against the doctrine "to suit the atmosphere of Rome." But they were tinged, he says, like many other ecclesiastics of the time with "Gallican ideas," in fact, they were "Liberals" in a mild way. There were bishops even at the Vatican Council who believed that the "definition" could not be made, even although they themselves held the doctrine. Dr. Newman asks, if the British Government wished to know the certainty of the matter in 1826, why did they not interrogate the Pope himself by a regular official at his Court? Why go pottering about universities and asking inferior authorities? Why not go straight to head-quarters at once? The Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel must both have known that "the Popes," as Mr. Gladstone asserts, "have kept up with comparatively little intermission for nigh 1000 years their claim to dogmatic infallibility." Why then all this ado about the matter of 1826, as if it were something novel or uncertain, to be determined by questions addressed to this or that bishop in any country. The British Government would not sacrifice either its consistency and dignity, but rather preserve both by having a regularly appointed envoy at the Papal Court, through whom it might communicate with the Pope on matters affecting its Roman Catholic subjects in their religious interests. The English would fain ignore him, and try to do so by refusing to send a regular ambassador to the Papal Court. Yet they are or profess to be terrified at his power, and are looking about with prudent care lest he catch them unaware. Give Ireland "Home Rule," and there are men of mark in England who tell us that thereby you would deliver it over to the Pope; to be governed by his deputies the terrible "priests." Poor Pius IX. is used as a political Bogie, to terrify the Bulls out of their wits and prevent them doing "justice to Ireland." It is pitiful to see a great nation like England nursing its wrath for centuries against the Pope, the common Father of all Christians, and who loves England with a special affection. When the First Napoleon had Europe at his feet and wished to engage the Pope in a scheme to ruin England through her commerce, the Pope had the courage to refuse point blank and to defy the usurper to do his worst. He had a higher respect for the Sovereign of England than for the Corsican usurper, victorious though he was. The people of England were his spiritual children though disobedient, and injure them he never would.

L.A.T.C.

NASEBY.

To the Editor of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

THE following graceful tribute of respect and admiration was paid to the Rev. Father Royer by the children of the Roman Catholic School on Sunday, 22nd August, being the 15th anniversary of his ordination. The address was read and given to the Rev. Father in presence of the congregation by one of the boys, James Meehan, and is the sole composition of the boys themselves. The following is, as nearly as I can recollect, a copy of the address: "Rev. and Dear Father,—This day being the fifteenth anniversary of your ordination, we, the Catholic children of Naseby, consider it one which affords much pleasure to us, and we beg to congratulate you, dear Rev. Father, on your apparent good health, after the many toils and hardships you must have endured during the past fifteen years of your ministry in the colony. We have many reasons to welcome this day, and did we let it pass by unnoticed, we would be much wanting both in duty and respect to you, our dear Father, whom God by his wise providence has placed over us to minister to our spiritual wants (which of all requirements comes first), to provide for our education, both religious and secular, and this with so much success. We do not mean to flatter you, dear Father, when we say that we admire you for your wonderful perseverance, your untiring zeal, your scrupulous and painstaking attention, so faithfully evinced towards the securing of a sound Catholic education for us, which we hope will be as beneficially imparted to our successors in this school after we have gradually passed away to our several stations in life. And, Rev. dear Father, as we are unable to make any suitable offering other than our sincere prayers, that God, who has been pleased to call you to minister to him for our dear parents and us, may bless you in the discharge of the many duties imposed upon you by his Holy Church, that he may lengthen your days here for the further performance of many good works, and that you may enjoy that crown of happiness in store for you in heaven, is the wish and prayer of your most obedient humble children in Christ. (Signed) JAMES MEEHAN, MICHAEL BROOKES, PATRICK BLEACH." The Rev. Father was taken by surprise, and, after having suitably thanked the children in a very feeling manner, gave them his blessing, and told them to be good and dutiful children of God and his Holy Church. Father Royer held an examination of the children in the school on the next day, which passed off in a most satisfactory manner.

HIBERNIAN.

Naseby, August 20th.

Mr. Reynolds will, at the close of this session, have completed his twenty-first year in the New Zealand Parliament.

Some characters are like boots, the more they are blackened, the brighter they become.