

MR. MURRAY, M.H.R., AT TOKOMAIRIRO.

MR. MURRAY, who was well received by a well-attended meeting, said that he took the first opportunity of meeting the electors at the closing of the session. He then proceeded to refer to the work of the sessions of 1871, 1872, 1873, and 1874, at which latter the question of abolition was first brought forward. He stated it was not intended then that abolition should embrace both islands. He took credit to the opposition for having left the abolition question to the electors to decide. He trusted that the people were alive to the enormous expenditure of the Government at the present time, and had looked at what was closest to them—the Provincial institutions—instead of looking at the one great source of corruption and expenditure—viz., the General Government. He deprecated the manner in which Sir George Grey had been abused, and alluded to the Press who supported abolition as literary vagrants, who knew nothing of the question they were dealing with. After reviewing the various proposals as to the future mode of Government, he went on to say that one proposal was to have two Provinces—one in the North Island and one in the Middle Island, and there was a great deal to be said in favor of this, so far as the Middle Island was concerned. The boundary of Otago might go from the Ragitata River to Jackson's Bay, and the difficulty of communication between the West Coast and Otago could then be much more easily done away with. There was a practicable route for a railway that could be made for £4,000 per mile, from the West Coast, passing near Lawrence, through which all the traffic would come. This would make Otago the emporium for all the traffic on the West Coast, and relieve the West Coast from being what he called a mere suburb of Melbourne. After dealing with the financial position of the colony at great length, the speaker said that in a very short time the liabilities of the colony would be over £20,000,000 sterling. This would be the debt with the expense in connection with the last four-million loan, and the enormous expenditure of the Native and Defence Departments, while nothing had really been done for the defence of our harbours. There was nothing to prevent a privateer levying contributions on Dunedin, Oamaru, Lyttelton, Wellington. The Government might try to get possession of the land funds of the Provinces to meet the deficiencies in the public account.

GERMANY.

Warendorf.—On 19th August, 200 citizens, having at their head Herr L. Bernhard, the President of the Municipality, visited the Franciscan Convent to take leave of the good friars, who are obliged to quit their place. The President addressed them, reminding them that for centuries the people of Warendorf have been indebted for great spiritual blessings to the care of the sons of St. Francis. After a very affecting speech from the Guardian a musical society chanted a hymn—*Via crucis, via lucis*—and they separated.

Rhineland.—A large number of priests, members of religious orders, chiefly Franciscans and Capuchins, passed through this district en route for Rotterdam, to take ship for America. At the railway station at Cleve a crowd of people were gathered, bewailing their loss.

Baden.—During the current week a general congress of the Catholics of Germany has been held at Freiburg in Baden. Particulars of how it has been conducted have not, of course, come to hand at the time of writing. But the local committee charged with organizing it had issued an address, in which their duties of hospitality are very cordially declared and cheerfully accepted. The preliminary meetings were to be held in the house of the Catholic Union of Freiburg, but all the general meetings, whether public or private, were to be held in the *Kunsthalle*. The chief subject of deliberation was to be how best to continue the struggle against the elimination of religion out of the State, society, the schools, and the family, and to bring back into public recognition the old salutary motto, "Fear God, honor the King."

Berlin.—The 'Germania' of Monday, 23rd August, was confiscated by the police at the request of the Attorney-General's department for Posen, the only explanation of the proceeding being that the paper had published some notices concerning the anti-ecclesiastical proceeding at Grätz in that province.

Bishop of Münster.—On the 23rd August some of the staff of the 'Westfälischer Merkur' were examined on oath before the Commissary Müller, charged with the preliminary proceedings against Dr. Brinkmann, with a view to his deposition. The object of the examination was to ascertain the connection between the Bishop and the newspaper, and whether he had himself sent it for publication various pastorals, &c.

Posen.—The Catholic journals (and, indeed, also the Protestant) announce the usual list of prosecutions against clergymen, with the ordinary accompaniment of fines and imprisonment. Some of the prosecutions are experiments to discover the persons who have declared the sentences of excommunication against sundry ecclesiastical intruders.

Treves.—In the country districts of this diocese the people have taken upon themselves to supply the wants of the clergy, so as to neutralize as far as possible the law abolishing the ecclesiastical incomes. Thus one man supplies meal, another bread, another meat, &c., and the bills are regularly sent in receipted.

Prince Charles of Bavaria.—The will of this prince has been made public. He has made provision for maintaining all the poor and other charitable objects as during his life, devoting for this purpose a sum of between 80,000 and 90,000 gulden.

Religious Orders.—The reports continue of the closing of the religious establishments in Prussia, and of the moving scenes with which they are accompanied, by reason of the sympathy of the population. In some places, where private gentlemen have the reversionary interest in the fabrics, &c., difficulties have arisen

between them and the Government. This has been the case in Münster, with respect to the Capuchin Convent, the buildings of which were taken possession of by the agent of Count von Galen, and with respect to the Franciscan Convent, which, upon the departure of the Religious, was taken possession of by Herr Albers. It is scarcely necessary to observe that in all those cases the reversioner is in no way hostile to the former religious proprietors. It would appear that the law of suppression will be put in force against all establishments without distinction. Thus even the Trappists, at Mariawald, must quit their retreat; although it is hard to see in what way those solitaries can be regarded as hostile to the Empire (*Reichsfeindliche*).

The Bishop of Breslau.—A letter from the Bishop of Breslau to the Franciscans who were compelled to leave their church at Annaberg has just been published. It is as follows:—"My beloved children in Christ,—Your letter of departure of 27th July has just reached me, and I have read it with sorrowful, nay with the most painful feelings. So even the last four (Friars) will also be taken away from me, they will no longer be the faithful guardians of the church of St. Anne on the mountain: they will no longer receive the pious pilgrims journeying to the holy mount and refresh them with holy food. You are going away, bearing to a far-off land the blessing which you scattered broadcast over my diocese, and my faithful children gaze after you with yearning, streaming eyes, I must, however, thank you for having so faithfully corresponded to the confidence with which I invited you, for having so well fulfilled your duties in the spirit of your founder, for having so faithfully cultivated God's vineyard within my diocese. You go; but your memory goes not. Annaberg belongs to you; it will again receive you when the season of trial is past. And we also shall see each other again; perhaps not here, but assuredly there, where they who sow in sorrow reap in joy. Farewell, then, my blessings and my prayers accompany you. Pray you also for my diocese and for myself. I remain in affection and thankfulness your troubled but God-trusting Bishop, † HEINRICH."

The Bavarian Bishops.—With respect to the meeting of the Bavarian Bishops at Eichstätt, a fortnight ago, it is worth remarking that there was nothing unusual in the meeting. Every other year those episcopal meetings are held, and strictly speaking they ought to be held, at each Bishop's See in turn; but by reason of the quiet which Eichstätt enjoys it has been now for some years selected as the place of Conference.

EUROPEAN POLITICS.

GENERAL de Cissey's official exertions have been quickened by the disturbances in the Herzegovina, which cannot fail to suggest apprehensions of a serious nature. Up to the present moment the immediately exciting causes of the insurrection are utterly unknown to the public, while not a few diplomatists attribute it to Russian intrigues. Prussia would like to occupy Austria and Russia with Turkish affairs, and would even encourage them to add to their dominions, and then when the annexations had been effected the German Empire would claim its turn. It would say: You have partitioned Turkey; now allow me to proceed to the conquest of two or three more provinces of France. Such are the designs one constantly hears attributed to "M. de Bismarck." Most persons here consider that the war will go on with various turns of fortune until next spring, and then about April, 1876, war will be declared against France. While Prussia is preparing for a fresh campaign against us the mischievous activity of Radicalism increases daily. The Catholic Congresses that have just taken place at Poitiers and at Rheims supply the Revolutionary press with a pretext for a fierce onslaught on the Church. The Government is bitterly reproached for allowing Catholics the liberty of forming associations and of holding meetings. The complaint is indeed founded in fact, for there are at the present time three important societies carrying on their operations in every important town in France. These three societies are called, 1. "L'Union des Œuvres," or "Central Bureau," of which Mgr. de Segur is the director; 2. "Les Comités Catholiques," under the presidency of M. Chesnelong, member of the Assembly, and M. Lallemand, the editor of the 'Monde'; and 3. "Les Cercles Catholiques d'Œuvres," the presidents of which are Captain Comte de Mur, and Commandant Count de la Tour du Pin Chamblay. The Radicals accuse these societies and their directors of breaking the law by the establishment of their committees in the great towns. M. Buffet, as Minister of the Interior takes no notice of these complaints; and so long as he is in power we are safe, but should there come a change of Ministry it is but too probable that the Catholic societies would be suppressed. The Radical papers are most furious against us; they heap calumnies upon us. One of their assertions is that our charitable and benevolent societies are merely a cloak for political combinations. This charge is certainly devoid of pretext, especially as regards the Central Bureau, which has no object in view save that of improving the condition of the working classes. The Cercles Catholiques have never even attempted to exercise any influence over working-men in regard to elections; and as to the Comités Catholiques it only concerns itself about politics during election time. Is that any crime? Everybody is thinking and talking about the new Catholic Universities. It is now almost a certainty that in the one now being established at Paris the lectures will commence in October. The *habitat* of the university will be the old Carmelite Convent (Les Carmes) in the Rue de Vaugirard, where such a multitude of priests and monks were massacred on the 2nd September, 1873. We shall have universities at Avignon, at Toulouse, at Angers, and at Lille. In some of them there will at first perhaps be a scarcity of professors, but the students will be numerous and zealous. The Positives are hoping to found a university at Paris by the assistance of some of their rich friends in England, but such a university will not be set up in a hurry. Sufficient funds will not, I expect, be forthcoming, and M. Buffet will not be disposed to tolerate its establishment.