

It is not difficult for them to throw the golden hues of their imagination around some character or some event, and looking at it thus embellished to see in it beauties which in no way belong to it; thus it frequently happens that we find poets and men remarkable for their powers of mind deifying the unworthy, and esteeming as heroic that which is mean and worthless. But it appears to us not at all so easy to account for the deposition on their part of that which is indeed beautiful and excellent.

The idea of universal peace and of brotherly love extending itself on all sides is no doubt a fine one, but to entertain it sincerely in sight of the present aspect of things, there would indeed be need of a glowing imagination. This in fact Mr. HUGO possesses, and therefore perhaps he in good faith is of the belief that a reign of brotherhood is about to commence, and expand throughout the world. We cannot, then, censure him for holding so much of his creed; what we find fault with is that he should confer upon his vain imaginings a beauty superior to that which truly exists in Christianity. It is to us, in common certainly with all Catholics, a mystery how any man capable of studying the religion of CHRIST can fail to recognise its exceeding excellence. Yet so it is: the "popular Easter" is preferred before the "Christian Easter." An impossible resurrection of the nations shuts out from sight the true resurrection of CHRIST, in which all hope dwells. The dry bones of the prophetic vision are declared to be about to arise, but the word of God, wherein life consists, is forbidden to be breathed amongst them.

Yet VICTOR HUGO does not stand alone in his folly; there are many who join with him, each in his own particular way. There are many who would gladly persuade us that up to this we have all been in darkness, that the great deeds of the olden times all went for nothing, that the great men, and heroes, and saints, who then were revered, lived and died in vain, not having beheld the glare of the present day. Some would even have us believe that the glorious voice of the Church of God has been an empty sound, but that the hour draws nigh when the "scrannel pipe" of some petty preacher will make itself heard with fruit where this, they say, has failed.

All these have their part in the "popular Easter." Not only those who are actively engaged in warring against revealed religion, but they also, who believe themselves its warmest advocates, while they applaud anything that tends to weaken the influence of the Church. They are in truth, whatever they may suppose, and wonderful is their blindness in not seeing that they are, but doing their best to pave the way for the advance of the opinions of which VICTOR HUGO is an apostle, and of that "popular Easter" when the nations shall arise, not to peace and brotherly-love, but to anarchy and license.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THREE members of a family residing at Mangere, Auckland, have been carried off by diphtheria.

WE have been requested to intimate to our Dunedin readers that Messrs. Gourley and Lewis are now undertakers to the General and Provincial Governments. Their advertisement appears in our 18th page.

A MEMORIAL is being signed in the Dunstan district with the object of having one County formed, under the Abolition Act. of the said district and that of Wakatipu.

A MR. WILLIAM CASTLE lays claim to the Piako Swamp, which he asserts to belong of right to his wife, who is a Maori. It would appear, however, that some years ago the mother of the lady in question received compensation in lieu of the said land.

WE understand that the Rev. Father Cummins, to the great regret of his congregation, is about to leave Reefton. It is proposed to present him, prior to his departure, with a testimonial of the respect and affection with which he is widely regarded.

A MOST satisfactory examination of the children attending the schools of the Sisters of Mercy, at Parnell, has recently been held. The excellence of these schools is acknowledged to be remarkable, and is such as meets with commendation, not only from Catholics, but from the members of other denominations also.

THE Rev. Father Francis Del Monte, on being about to leave for America, was presented by the Catholics of Lyttelton, with a purse of sovereigns and an address. The latter contained warm expression of the good will entertained towards the Rev. Father, and was answered by him in a manner replete with feeling.

THE nomination of candidates for the office of Mayor for the ensuing year took place last Saturday, on the Terrace of the Provincial Government Buildings. His Worship the Mayor presided, and the candidates nominated were:—Messrs. W. Woodland, C. S. Reeves, and H. J. Walter.

At the farewell dinner given at Clyde to James Hazlett, Esq., M.P.C., an attempt was made in proposing her Majesty's health to introduce into the wording of the toast the new title of "Empress of India," but the disapprobation of the company being made evident, the addition was at once relinquished.

A MAN named John Moran committed suicide by hanging himself at Port Moeraki, on the 14th instant. The act is supposed to have been the consequence of intemperance, the deceased having been drinking heavily for some time previously. The unfortunate man has left a wife and children in a state of destitution.

THE Theatres continue to present most attractive entertainments. At the Princess, in addition to Mr. Hoskins, Miss Colville, and their talented company, the famous Lingards are acting to enthusiastic houses, and gaining for themselves in Dunedin a reputation fully equal at least to that which they have elsewhere acquired. At the Queen's Mr. Talbot is delighting large audiences by his admirable representations, in which he is well supported by Mrs. W. Hill, and the other members of the Dramatic Corps.

MR. JOHN CORR, of Westport (says the 'Argus'), is at present in Wellington arranging for the sale of a half-interest in Mulholland's coal mine. He had an interview with the Minister of Public Works this morning, to arrange certain details connected with the lease, and was to meet several gentlemen this afternoon to arrange the terms of purchase. Captain Williams inspected the mine during his visit to Westport, and was so favorably impressed with its prospects, that he and a few other gentlemen are, it is said, about to invest several thousand pounds in the mine. Mr. Corr is one of the original prospectors of Mulholland's lease, and it is known to be the best of the Westport mines.

A WELLINGTON contemporary gives the following, from which also we learn that New Zealand is not wanting in individuals of that class to which Carlyle asserts that the people of Great Britain "mostly" belong:—"In the passage just outside the Colonial Secretary's Office, hang files of all the New Zealand papers. This passage is a favorite promenade for persons waiting to see a Minister or Under-Secretary. The other day a visitor, walking up and down somewhat impatiently, was observed to make a pause each time he arrived at a certain point, and to glare somewhat wildly at the file of papers which hung there. At last he addressed a gentleman who was passing, and said pointing to the file, 'How comes that there?' Glancing at the place, the other replied, 'Oh! the TABLET, it comes like all other papers.' In a hurried manner the stranger drew a bundle of papers from his breast, and in an eager whisper said, 'I should like to put a 'Protestant Standard' beside it. Do you think they would let me, I should so like to?' He was about to hang his 'Standard' on the castle wall, when the other remarked that such a proceeding would be objected to, as only New Zealand papers were hung there, while the 'Protestant Standard' was published in Australia. Very reluctantly the TABLET was left without the counteracting influence of the 'Standard' beside it."

THE attention of the members of the Hibernian Society in Dunedin is directed to an advertisement, which appears in another column of our present issue.

THE following are the results of the Bazaar and Art Union in aid of the Christian Brothers' School Fund:—Received by sale of tickets for grand and special Art Union, £282 7s 6d; received by Bazaar and Subscription Lists, £749 14s 11½d; total, £1032 2s 5½d; expenses paid, £214 6s 4d; balance, £817 16s 1½d; value of Prizes given (including Bishop's Portrait), £250.

It was proposed and unanimously carried at a meeting held at Forbury on Wednesday evening last, that Mr. Moloney is the proper person to hold the office of Mayor for the forthcoming year.

MESSRS. SCANLAN BROTHERS AND CO., being obliged by the widening of Princes-street to remove from their present premises, are selling off at a much reduced price their large and superior stock of goods. Parties who are engaged in furnishing, building, or renovating houses will now have an opportunity of obtaining many articles indispensable to this object on terms quite unprecedented. Further particulars may be learned on reference to our advertising columns.

THE success of Baker's Hibernicon is quite equal to that enjoyed by it on its former visit to Dunedin. Several new features have been introduced into the entertainment, which continues to be extremely enjoyable. Those who have already visited it will find additional pleasure in repeating their visits, and those who have not as yet seen it should by no means lose the opportunity of doing so.

WELLINGTON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE Christian Brothers, on Monday, July 3, entered into possession of the schools, hitherto attached to the Roman Catholic Cathedral. There are now in daily attendance a large number of pupils, and as it is intended to conduct the school in a manner that will not interfere with religious opinions entertained by the pupils or their parents, it is expected that before long it will become the leading seminary of the city. This belief is given strength to by the fact, that in the nun's school, conducted on the same principle, there are to be found pupils of all religious denominations. Whether this is the principle upon which Catholic schools should be conducted, I am not going to enter into further than to say that, at any rate, it gives no opportunity for accusing the Catholic religion of being a proselytising creed, but a creed based upon principles of true liberty; a creed which needs not the employment of the distribution of slanderous tracts and tales for its advancement. As an instance of the assiduity with which tracts and slanderous missives are distributed by the Church Missionaries, the following will suffice. An acquaintance with whom I was in the habit of holding occasional debates on religious subjects, gave me to read a little book which had been in existence since 1844. In giving it he praised it highly, and said the whole truth was to be found in it summed up in a few words. Curiosity led me to examine it. It commenced somewhat like this:—"John Bull is a curious animal. When he sleeps he seems unconscious of the world, but when he wakes he gives such a roar that it makes all the other animals of the earth tremble." I am not sure that these are the exact words