

Government of England not only permits all to come to its aid in the matter of the education of the masses, but holds out a premium to the various denominations to maintain and establish denominational schools. And it is only when these denominations are unable to meet the wants of the rising generation that it permits—nay, reluctantly permits—the existence of School Boards and secular schools. Denominationalism, then, is the leading feature, indeed, the very principle, of the law of England in reference to popular education, and Secularism is the exception—a deplorable exception—which nothing but the gravest necessity can excuse or tolerate.

All wise statesmen, as well as all true Christians, will applaud the determination of the English Government to uphold the principle of denominational education. It is the only principle that can secure the moral and intellectual training of the masses, and the peace and well being of society. It is to be hoped that in the new Education Bill, which will be sooner or later proposed for this colony, the principle of denominationalism will be a leading characteristic. The various denominations of the colony should be encouraged and aided by the Government to establish schools, and purely secular schools should not be tolerated, except when there is no other provision made for primary education: and denominational schools should be the rule, secular schools the rare exception.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

WHEN, some thirty years ago, the people of Ireland began to emigrate to America in considerable numbers, and it was found that, according as they went out and got settled in their new homes, they sent back to those whom they had left behind means of following them, so that yearly the stream flowed wider and faster, it might well have seemed that, soon, not alone would the Irish race become extinct in their own land, but that also, by adopting strange customs in a foreign country and forming there new ties and new associations, they would totally lose their nationality and become American citizens, and American citizens only.

But experience has amply shown how false would have been any such expectations. It is quite true that the Irish immigrant has cast in his lot with the great nation that befriended him in the hour of his adversity, and identified his hopes and prospects with those that lie open before it; but still he retains, in all its freshness, his affection for the land of his birth, and has so impressed the hearts and minds of his children with love for this, that America appears to present the strange spectacle of a country containing within her a people possessed of a double nationality; and Ireland, instead of being stripped of her children and left desolate, finds herself the mother, not only of those born upon her soil, but likewise of a newly-arisen nation that grows mightier every day. On all sides the signs of this are evident. The details of Irish life are reported at the other side of the Atlantic even more fully than they are in the country where they occur; the history of the venerable land is there repeated over and over again, and her natural features are minutely described, so that even the very wild flowers that carpet her hills and dales find a tongue to sound their praises. And it is well that it is so, for these recollections appeal to the highest natures of the men who cherish them.

Although, perhaps, it may be slightly at variance with the spirit of the age, we cannot but think that it is of no little advantage for individuals or societies to have noble antecedents on which to look back, and for nations in like manner to retain memories of times gone by of which they may justly be proud. It seems to us that such recollections must in some sort avail as safeguards against temptation and as further incentives to worthy courses; and, where there are so many attractions of an opposite tendency as there are to be encountered daily, surely all such, be they never so trifling, are still of some value. We hail it, then, as a feature of much importance in the character of the Irish-American that he looks back with love and reverence upon the country of his fathers, for, in doing so, the purest feelings of his nature find healthy exercise in embracing a worthy object, and thus become strengthened and intensified. Nor does this in any way interfere with his loyalty to the great nation of which he is a member actually, his interest in its welfare is not lessened, nor are his actions towards its advancement hampered; on the contrary, he is the better qualified to work for its good, inasmuch as he is a better man than he otherwise would have been.

We should, therefore, gladly see like sentiments of veneration towards their far-off home fostered in the hearts of their children by all Irishmen in these Colonies. In this they may well imitate their brethren in America, assured that they are doing a good work, and one that will alike be profitable to those immediately concerned and to the community in general. Moreover they would thus aid in forming a tie of brotherhood, of whose universality some vainly dream and bombastically declaim, but which would become widespread in hereafter uniting together at least large sections of nations otherwise distinct.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

WE are pleased to see that the report of the Inspector of Public Schools in Nelson so favourably mentions a number of Catholic schools. Of St. Mary's boys' school, Nelson, under the direction of Mr. Richards, it is said, "Good order was maintained, under obvious difficulties, and the boys throughout were well taught, the arithmetic being exceptionally good. Not one boy in the first-class failed to solve correctly every question in the highest paper of arithmetic set." Of the girls' school, taught by Sisters of Mercy, we are told "This school well deserves the high reputation it has attained for good organisation and sound teaching." Of St. Mary's, Ahaura, also under the Sisters of Mercy, we find "Great improvement has been made in this school during the past year. The number of good readers has been nearly doubled, the hand-writing is more shapely, and no scholar in the first class failed to pass in an arithmetic paper which required a knowledge of proportion and practice." And of St. Patrick's, Charleston, conducted by Mr. O'Donahue, we read, "The present master had been at work only a month at the time of my last inspection. He had contrived, nevertheless, in that brief space to reduce to perfect obedience the rather unruly scholars with whom he had to deal."

WE have received from the Government printer No. 8 of Hansard LABRIKINISM continues to exhibit varied phenomena. Last week the inhabitants of Addington were alarmed by a fire which was kindled "for fun" by certain youths infected with this disorder, and by which an out-house was burned. Fowl-stealing, it appears, is also a favorite frolic in the same neighborhood.

THE earthquake shocks which were felt last week, evidently affected the bottom of the sea to a considerable degree, as when the City of New York was making the run from Lyttelton to Port Chalmers, it was observed, in one part of her course, that the water was muddy.

THE arrival of the s.s. Taupo at the Rattray street wharf is a marked event in the annals of Otago Harbor. This vessel belongs to the Union Company, and is the largest that has ever been moored at the wharf in question. Her advent was hailed with much satisfaction by the citizens of Dunedin, many of whom visited her in her new position, and were highly pleased with her superior fitting up and accommodation for passengers.

THE pity accorded to people suffering from sea-sickness is generally regulated by the belief that their agonies are wholesome. We are, however, warned that the affection in question is sometimes dangerous, by a melancholy occurrence that lately took place at Wanganui, where a young lady, who had gone there from Canterbury for the purpose of being married, died soon after landing, in consequence of having burst a blood-vessel in her illness on the passage.

THE Rev. J. Golden has opened a new church at Ohaupo, Auckland. The building is handsome, and does much credit to the inhabitants of the district where it has been erected. It is said to stand on a site, from which a magnificent view of the surrounding country is commanded.

THOSE parties who were disposed to make capital out of the alleged touching of the s.s. City of San Francisco on a sand-bank at Port Chalmers, have no doubt been disappointed by the successful entry made by the City of New York. So timid had Captain Cavarly become, owing to the reports bruited about, and which are credibly affirmed to have no foundation whatever, as it is denied on competent authority that the City of San Francisco touched as asserted, that he prevailed upon the Chief Harbor Master to give him a written guarantee before he would allow his vessel to cross the bar, a most unnecessary precaution, since there was, in fact, not the least likelihood of any catastrophe occurring, as the sequel proved.

THE 'Melbourne Argus,' speaking of the rescued Fenian prisoners, says:—"The prisoners were actually taken away while wearing the convict garb by the master of an American ship, who despatched a boat ashore for the purpose. It is impossible to suppose that the man did not know very well what he was doing, and his proceedings are precisely as if a French boat were to run to the bill of Portland, and take away as many convicts from there as could crowd into her. The Imperial authorities are bound to take cognisance of the episode, and to demand substantial redress. We shall be told, no doubt, that the escaped convicts are political refugees, and attention may be drawn to the fact that Communist convicts frequently arrive in Australia without the permission of their gaolers. But the attempt at a parallel will deceive no one."

THE 'Westport Times' says:—"The English birds so numerous in and around Nelson have made their way across the ranges to the Coast, as evidenced by the number of green linnets observable in the paddocks at the Orawaiti, and even as near town as the gardens around the Rev. Father Walsh's residence. Between the Orawaiti and Waimangaroa Californian quail are becoming plentiful, and larks are heard on the Pahikis, although hawks make them their special prey, as at Waite's, Pahikis, and Addison's. While on the subject a reminder to the parents of lads in the district may not be out of place. Shanghai shooting is a favorite amusement among the youngsters, and the more tame the birds are the better shot they afford to these young