

sons of a gun. Whether native or acclimatised all is game that comes within shot of these young prowlers, and there is reason to believe that they do mischief."

A NEW church has been opened at Ashburton in Canterbury. The Rev. Father Chervier, assisted by the Rev. Father Claffey, officiated on the occasion.

We have received from Mr. J. A. Macedo, of Princes street, a card on which the name of God is printed in forty-eight languages. The letters are appropriately and tastefully gilded, and the card is extremely well designed and finished. Of the study which it presents it is needless to say that it is of deep interest.

It will be seen by reference to our advertising columns that Mr. G. Eve is prepared to furnish gentlemen with clothing of superior make, and good material at moderate prices. Mr. Eve declares himself fully satisfied of the necessity of combining the useful with the agreeable, and while he pays particular attention to the cut of the various garments made in his establishment, he further takes care that they shall be thoroughly serviceable.

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY, DUNEDIN BRANCH, No. 73.

A SUMMONED meeting of the above Branch was held on Monday evening last, to take into consideration the advisability of forming a District for the Otago and (if possible) Canterbury Branches. The attendance was not large, only about thirty members being present. Possibly the inclemency of the weather prevented many from attending. The usual routine business having been disposed of, Bro. J. Cantwell moved—(1.) That in the opinion of this Branch, steps should be at once taken towards forming a Board of Management for the Otago Branches. (2.) That a committee of seven members be appointed from this meeting to revise the present District Board Laws, with a view to framing suitable laws for the guidance of a Board of Management. (3.) That the Committee have power to communicate with the several Canterbury Branches, inviting their co-operation, and also to respectfully request them to be included in the proposed Otago District. Bro. J. J. Connor seconded the resolution, which was strongly supported by Bro. Bourke and the President, at the same time expressing the opinion that nothing should be done towards severing connection with the Executive Directory. On the resolution being put, the President declared it carried unanimously. The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to carry out the object set forth in the resolution, Bros. J. J. Connor, J. Cantwell, Gallagher, Murray, Brennan, Bourke, and Connellan—five to form a quorum. The committee will hold their first meeting this evening at 8 p.m., when it is hoped every member will be present.

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the TABLET.

SIR,—Now that the most important of the half-yearly business of the above Society has drawn to a close, there are still some very important matters the members of the New Zealand Branches must not lose sight of, viz., representation at the Annual Meeting next February, and the keeping of their funeral funds in the colony, then the formation of Boards of Management, as also many other important matters connected with the management of the Society. Having had the honor of representing New Zealand in Melbourne, as a member of the Directory, I may from time to time, with your kind permission, give some useful information, if I see that the members take an active part in their own interests. I am glad to see the Dunedin Branch is taking an active part in bringing the subjects above alluded to prominently before the members of their Branch. I must confess, without wishing to give offence to other Branches, that they have always taken a leading part in the business of the Society. Bro. Cantwell, their Secretary, takes every opportunity to forward the interest of the Society in New Zealand. In reference to the first subject, that of representation, I may at once inform the members of branches under the E.F., as all the New Zealand branches are, that they have no standing at the Annual Meeting; they have been represented up to the last meeting by custom or courtesy. There is no rule that gives them power to be represented as Branches of the E.D. The second is more important, that of keeping the funeral fund in the colony. I have it on the best authority that, by the New Zealand Friendly Societies' Act, it must be kept in the colony, and the trustees are responsible for every shilling that leaves it; there is not a rule in the laws that I can find that obliges them to forward it to Melbourne. I will try and suggest a remedy for this the greatest of all grievances; I would recommend that two Boards of Management be formed in New Zealand (not District Boards as they do not work well, as I can prove, but time or space will not permit it here), with three Trustees and a paid Secretary to each. If this be carried out, it will entitle New Zealand to representation at the Annual Meeting within the meaning of the rules; it will entitle them to the interest arising from their own funeral fund by keeping it at home; it will entitle them to a reduction in the quarterage, from 4d. to 1d. per member to the E.D. I may state that all the Branches in New Zealand are entitled to a drawback of threepence per man for quarterage for the last 12 months. (See last Annual Meeting Report.) I could say a great deal more on this subject, but will not trespass on your valuable space at present, I will wait to see what action, if any, may be taken. As I have taken an active part in the business of the Society both here and in Victoria for the last seven years, as I had the honor of representing New Zealand in the E.D. at four Annual Meetings, I hope it will not be considered presumptuous on my part to offer a few suggestions on the manage-

ment of the Society. If some action be not taken at once (and I must say it cannot be taken too soon, as things are in a critical state in Melbourne), I will quietly retire from a profitless occupation, namely, taking an active part in the business of the H.A.C.B.S. Many thanks for allowing me to trespass so much on your valuable space.—I remain, &c.,

Napier, July 12, 1876.

P. G.

PROTESTANTISM IN GERMANY.

COMMENTING on the Culturkampf, a contemporary says: If the Church were a human institution she must necessarily disappear under the influence of such an ordeal. But the circumstances show that she is only being purified, rendered more united and steadily strengthened, by the same influence, under but a further application of which Protestantism is fast disappearing. Her trials are producing numerous conversions of hitherto luke-warm Catholics, and are winning others from the ranks of heresy, whilst Protestantism is rapidly fading out of existence. The statistics of baptisms and marriages accompanied by the religious ceremony in the city of Berlin for the second quarter of 1875, compared with those of the same quarter of 1874, will bear out this latter statement. The Protestant baptisms of last year included only 3,232 boys 3,290 girls, against 5,087 boys and 4,955 girls in 1874, showing a total decrease of 3,520, though the entire number of births was greater during the second quarter of last year than that in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The decrease in marriages accompanied by the religious ceremony was 2,157, these being last year only 1,162, while the receivers of the Lord's Supper have fallen from 29,541 to 10,195. It is not wonderful that German Protestants like Gaurin should awaken to the truth that this war against the Catholic Church is a war against Christianity.

As we have said, the enemy has once more outwitted himself in his warfare against God and his Church. Bismarck has, unintentionally, of course, lent a hand to the Pope in extirpating liberal Catholicism and in recalling honest Protestants to the faith, and he has helped to carry into effect even the teachings of the Syllabus and of the Vatican Council. Our enemies are slow in taking the advice of the sage Gamaliel: "Refrain from those men and let them alone; for if their design or work be of men, it will fall to nothing; but if it be of God, you are not able to destroy it, lest, perhaps, you be found to oppose God." That it is of God is manifest from its having withstood the hostile attacks of the world, and that it will withstand them we have the assurance of Christ himself: "And the rain fell and the floods came, and they beat upon that house; and it fell not, for it was founded on a rock."

THE NEW CONTINENT.

In the 'Popular Science Monthly' for April is an article by Prof. C. C. Merriman, entitled, "The Polar Glaciers," which narrates some facts but recently discovered, and records some remarkable conclusions. A condensed summary of these facts and conclusions will prove of interest to all.

The centre of gravity of the earth is the centre of the sphere formed by the surface of the oceans—making slight allowances for polar flattening, it is a point equally distant from the level of the sea on all sides. In each hemisphere the sea level in the same latitude would be at the same distance from the centre, and whatever excess of visible land there is in one-half must be balanced by some corresponding weight in the other half. And it is evident that this counterpoising weight must, in fact, be land, supposing, as is almost certainly the case, that the hemispheres are equally heavy according to bulk. It therefore follows to a mathematical demonstration that there is exactly the same weight of land projected above the water in both hemispheres.

But the map of the world, as geographers have outlined it, shows that there is apparently a vast preponderance of land north of the equator. Humboldt estimated that Asia stands at the average height of 1,150 feet above the sea; South America, 1,130; North America, 750; Europe, 670. The average height of the whole—omitting Africa and Australia, which are about as much south as north of the equator—is 920 feet. There are in the northern hemisphere 44,000,000 square miles known to geographers; in the southern, about 16,000,000—little more than a third as much—leaving a difference of 28,000,000 square miles averaging 920 feet high.

But as there is the same visible excess of water on the southern side that there is of land on the northern, and as the depth of the sea is about the same, it follows that the weight of the excess of submerged land in the northern hemisphere must be added to the 28,000,000 square miles, doubling the height of it, and making it at least 1,840 feet above the average level of the southern continents and oceans' depths. What is there south of the equator to balance this? We must have something, or the earth would not maintain its poise. There must be something on the southern side to balance the orb and make the water level possible.

This balancing weight is estimated by Professor Merriman to lie on that vast unexplored and inaccessible region, as large as North America, that cups and surrounds the southern pole. But supposing this 8,000,000 miles within the antarctic circle to be land, it would still require over it all an average thickness of two and a half miles of solid ice to make the southern hemisphere equal the northern in weight. This vast iceberg Professor Merriman believes to exist.

The voyages of explorers thereaway seem to confirm this hypothesis. They have not been able to penetrate the high and formidable ice barrier which masks this desolate region. No sign of animal life or vegetation is there, while within the arctic circle at the north there are numerous settlements and whole races of men. In the north sledges have penetrated within 600 miles of the pole; in the