

a Catholic newspaper is a necessity in every Catholic household. We say it is a necessity, because, now-a-days, there are but few households wherein a newspaper is not read, and wherein, consequently, failing the presence of a Catholic journal, there is not received a constant series of misrepresentations concerning the Catholic Church, her ministers, and all who belong to her. The non-Catholic press is so thoroughly saturated with prejudice against all things connected with the faith, that it seems hardly possible for those who write in it to pen a paragraph, which admits of a sneer at the Church, without introducing such a sneer at least.

Some Protestant journals are openly our enemies; some, whose policy it is to seem "all things to all men," make a feint of being friendly to us; but, whether by open expression in so many words, or by sly hints so as to escape the notice of the unwary, it is sought to bring the Catholic religion into contempt, and, if possible, even to turn the minds of Catholics themselves against it. One newspaper, writing in Protestant interests, and careless of the support of Catholics, inserts in its columns shameless and often refuted calumnies; another, not so well established, and touting for the patronage of all parties, shuns such plain speaking, but, nevertheless, betrays its spirit in a manner perhaps even more objectionable because insidious. The one will loudly condemn the priests of the Church as well as their doctrine; the other will praise the men, but imply that their teaching is mistaken; and of the two, if there be anything to choose, we prefer the first, for the second is contemptible merely. In any case, both will grievously misrepresent the Church and the transactions of all Catholics, whether they be individuals or bodies, kings or governments, peers or peasants, and they, who only learn the progress of the world from Protestant publications, will certainly be far from having true or just ideas on any one point connected with the affairs of Catholics at home or abroad.

Hence it is, very evidently, the duty and the interest of our co-religionists to support the Catholic press. It is their duty, for they are bound to do all that in them lies to promote the honor of the Church on earth, and this may best be done by making plain to all men the part that she has ever taken in advancing the welfare of mankind, and the effects that her teaching has had on all who have come within its influence. It is their interest, for if the Church and her members be maligned, they also are maligned, and in the Catholic press alone do they possess the means of repudiating the many accusations brought against them.

But, in treating of this subject, there is another consideration which arises, and which it may not be thought out of place to mention. In these colonies, most Catholics are either Irishmen or the children of Irish parents, and therefore the credit of the Irish name is, or ought to be, of importance to them. Now, to her honor be it said, Ireland is universally included in the prejudice that obtains against the Catholic cause, and consequently the anti-Catholic press is also the anti-Irish press. The journals that openly inveigh against the Church inveigh as openly against the Irish race; and the journals that more meanly hint objections against the Church, with like meanness contrive at least to ridicule the people of Ireland. The one gets hold of some crime committed in the Emerald Isle, as crimes will be committed all over the world while human nature is what it is, and overlooking guilt of far deeper dye elsewhere, holds this up to execration as if it were the most horrible of all crimes, and one to implicate the whole nation, by a single member of which it had been committed; the other, perhaps, tells some story in which Irish life is supposed to be delineated, but where vulgarity is introduced to atone for stupidity, and witty sayings are replaced by oaths, so that the Irish character is represented as distinguished chiefly by buffoonery, coarseness, and imbecility.

The Catholic press alone is the friend of the Irishman. In its columns only does he meet with justice and due appreciation, and here alone does he find his nation fitly estimated, its trials considered, and its interests advocated. There are then abundant reasons for the establishment and support of the Catholic press in these colonies, and it is with deep regret that we see the number of Catholic newspapers diminished.

The 'South Australian Tablet' has for the present failed, but we trust it may be for the present only, and that we shall, at no distant date, again welcome its appearance in the arena of journalism, which it was fully qualified to adorn.

THE toll bars on the Waikari and Anderson's Bay roads are about to be abolished, and those at Hill Side and Saddle Hill are to be replaced by one bar at the foot of Look Out Point.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

We understand that the establishment of an Altar Society in Dunedin is projected. The object of such a Society is too well known to call for any lengthened explanation on our part, and its usefulness is so generally acknowledged, that it needs no recommendation from us. It is found universally to be the best method of providing the lesser requisites for the service of the Church, so that the maintenance of decency in divine worship falls lightly and evenly on all; and, "though last not least," in addition to all this, there are various spiritual advantages attached to the Association in question.

We are requested to state that several of the prizes won in the late Art Union are still unclaimed. The following are the numbers of the tickets referred to—390, 1201, 868, 1041, 1378, 1012, 279, 2884, 1936, 1300, 2887, 1907.

We have received from the Government Printer, several numbers of Hansard and other Parliamentary papers.

We learn from the Otago 'Daily Times,' that a substantially bound Douay Bible, the gift of Mr. J. Logan, has been added to the belongings of the Police Court. This act of liberality was prompted by its marked want of such a copy, when a Roman Catholic Bishop was lately giving testimony in the Court, though the attractive binding of the volume now prompts all and sundry invariably to use it. However much it was required, the Bible could not have been obtained except through some generous donor, unless the General Government was requested by the usual circumlocutionary process.

THE Darrells at the Queen's and the Lingards at the Princess still constitute the chief attractions at these theatres, and gain the applause of their audiences, which, however, are not so numerous as the high reputation of the talented artistes in question would imply.

We perceive that preliminary steps are being taken towards the erection of new conventual buildings in Dunedin. A number of men are at present busily engaged in levelling the site on which these are to stand, and if we are correctly informed, the foundations of the first wing of, the new buildings will be laid without delay. This wing is to form a convent for the Sisters of the Order of St. Dominic, who although they have been for some time resident in Dunedin, can hardly as yet be said to be established here, for to effect their complete and permanent settlement, as well as to enable them to carry out to perfection the discipline of their Order, and the ends which it is desirable they should accomplish with regard to the Catholic community in general, it is necessary for them to have monastic buildings of a suitable character. Without these their usefulness and power of doing good in the peculiar line allotted to them are seriously impeded. And it is quite evident that hitherto they have been to a great degree hampered by the unfitness of the old Presbytery in which they have been temporarily lodged; so much so indeed, that they have found themselves quite unable to carry on their schools to the extent, or in the style for which the members of their Order are so widely celebrated. We, therefore, fully recognise the importance of the undertaking that is now inaugurated; and, although we are conscious that many difficulties have to be surmounted, our confidence in the success of any task that a Catholic community vigorously determines to carry through is so great, that we have no doubt whatever, but that both convent and church will be seen completed before any very great space of time has passed away. We are confirmed in this belief by what we have witnessed elsewhere. We need not speak of Ireland, where it is well known that congregations noted for their poverty have yet distinguished themselves by the erection of magnificent churches, nor of America, where we are informed that the efforts of the humblest members of the community have covered the land with ecclesiastical buildings. It is more to our purpose to give as an example the Colony of Queensland, where at a time when general depression prevailed, trade being stagnant, and the gloomiest aspect of things prominent, the Catholic people set to work, and purchased a house and grounds to serve as a convent, at a cost of £8,000, and further, erected a cathedral that embellishes the city of Brisbane.

THE Catholic Church in Barbadoes-street, Christchurch, has recently been enlarged, and is now capable of accommodating a congregation of 800 adults. It has been handsomely fitted up, and does much credit to all who have assisted in the good work of improving it, and more especially to the energy of the Rev. Father Chareyre.

THE Catholic Schools about to be erected in Boulcott-street, Wellington, are to be built on a large and handsome scale, and when completed it is expected that they will add a feature of no little importance to the general appearance of the city.

THE regular meeting of the Harbour Board was held on the 17th inst., when the following resolutions were carried:—"That the Board being of opinion that it would be very desirable to have an Inspector constantly on the spot to supervise the building of the dredge, the Engineer be requested, if possible, to provide such an Inspector out of the staff at present under him, and to report at next meeting." "That Captain Thomson with Mr. McKinnon be requested to draw up a memorandum on the advantages of the gong" (at Otago Heads) this signal having met with the disapprobation of the Marine Department at Wellington. With respect to the resolution passed last month, consenting to exclude from the Board's endowment the triangular piece of ground reclaimed by Government, the Solicitor of the Board gave it as his opinion that this could not be done without sanction of an Act of Parliament. Captain Thomson wrote suggesting that lights should be placed at the end of Rattray-street Wharf, and the matter was referred to the Lighting Committee. The following notices of motion were given:—"That His Honour the Superintendent be asked to pass an Act through this session of Assembly, vesting in his name in trust that triangular piece of ground as described in attached memo. and tracing, with the view of enabling the Government