

things; but then, if so, he should not have undertaken to enlighten the erudite and equitable 'Otago Daily Times,' and through its columns the bucolic mind of Otago.

But if his squatting occupations in and about Tapanui might be pleaded in extenuation of "An Old Otago Settler's" ignorance of Mexican and American affairs generally, these can be hardly adduced as an excuse for saying that the Catholic Church has had the education of the people entirely in her hands in Ireland for ages, and that as in other Catholic nations the masses in Ireland are "debased, turbulent, unruly, given to lying and assassination, rebelling both against Church and State." Why, so far from the Catholic Church having had absolute control of the education of the people in Ireland for ages, the fact is, she has had no control, except such as she obtained in spite of laws imposed upon her by England and Scotland, which made the education of her people a crime of *High Treason* against the state. In the second place the mass of the Irish people are not and never were as degraded as the mass of the English people, nor are they given to lying and assassination to nearly the same extent as the English masses, notwithstanding the efforts made through ages by a vile civil government to render them both liars and assassins.

Then as to the loyalty of the Irish to both Church and State, who but a besotted bigot would deny it. This brave and chivalrous people have proved their devoted loyalty to the Church, by suffering the loss of everything the world values rather than be disloyal to her—wealth, liberty, harder still education, and hardest of all even life itself. Only think of the outrageous folly of the man who charges the masses of Ireland with rebelling against the Church. And what shall we say of the charge of disloyalty of the Irish masses against the state? Against what legitimate government have they ever rebelled? Have the Irish people ever dethroned and put their king to death, like the English? Have they ever been guilty of the unutterable sordid baseness of selling their king into the hands of those Englishmen who thirsted for his blood for the paltry consideration of a few hundred thousand pounds, like the Scotch? No never, but on the contrary, as became loyal and true men, they sacrificed their all and fought to the death for their legitimate sovereigns, even though these had persecuted them, and refused them liberty of conscience.

This is strong writing, but it is true, and the conduct of the 'Daily Times' in publishing these most untrue, unjust and calumnious charges against the Catholic Church has made it necessary. If anti-Catholic writers and periodicals choose to continue to calumniate the Catholic Church, they must not be surprised, nor can they justly complain, if Catholic writers give back some hard knocks, and in legitimate self-defence avail themselves of the facts of genuine history, which are not creditable or pleasing to their opponents.

A REMARKABLE CHANGE.

MANY rulers, ancient and modern, are regarded by Catholics with an interest quite separate from that arising from the general history of their lives, and which is secured to them by the line of conduct that they have observed with respect to the Church or certain of her members. Amongst these, one of the most remarkable in our own times was the Emperor NICHOLAS of Russia. This Prince had certainly been endowed by nature with many excellent qualities, but, as it might justly have been expected, the peculiar position in which he was placed preyed upon his disposition, so that they who had known him at the beginning of his reign and who saw him towards its close, deplored the evil change that despotic power had worked in him. But, in whatever other regard he might have deteriorated, it is much to his credit, and is to us a convincing proof of the existence of the good qualities which he was said to possess, that the latter part of his reign was less distinguished by ill-treatment of his Catholic subjects than its commencement had been.

The favorable change was brought about by the Czar's interview with the Sovereign Pontiff GREGORY XVI. NICHOLAS went to Rome bearing the reputation of having been a persecutor of the Catholics of his empire, as indeed one so famed for his fanatical attachment to the heresy of which he was acknowledged head could hardly fail to be, and there he was admitted to an interview with the POPE. Of what took place during this interview there is no record; but that something deeply impressive was spoken by the POPE there can be no doubt, for, if by nothing else, this

is certified to by the different appearance of NICHOLAS as he entered the Pontifical Palace, from that borne by him as he went out from the presence of Pope GREGORY, and of which Cardinal WISEMAN has given us a spirited description.—"He had entered" says the CARDINAL, "with his usual firm and royal aspect, grand as it was, with statue-like features, stately frame, and martial bearing; free and at his ease, with gracious looks, and condescending gestures of salutation. So he passed through the long suite of ante-rooms, the Imperial Eagle, glossy, fiery, 'with plumes unruffled, and with eye unquenched,' in all the glory of pinions which no flight had ever wearied, of beak and talon which no prey had yet resisted. He came forth again, with head uncovered, and hair, if it can be said of man, dishevelled; haggard and pale, looking as though in an hour he had passed through the condensation of a protracted fever; taking long strides, with stooping shoulders, unobservant, unsaluting: he waited not for his carriage to come to the foot of the stairs, but rushed out into the outer court, and hurried away from, apparently, the scene of a discomfiture. It was the eagle dragged from his eyrie among the clefts in the rocks, 'from his nest among the stars,' his feathers crumpled, and his eye quelled by a power till then despised."

After this interview the Czar's method of dealing with his Catholic subjects became much milder, and although we cannot remove his memory from its place in the grim ranks occupied by those of the persecutors of the Church who have passed to their account at the terrible tribunal of God, still we cannot help looking with a special interest on one so evidently open to just remonstrance, and capable of being benefitted by it notwithstanding his irresponsible position, and the habits of his life.

But with NICHOLAS, even the little grace thus granted seems to have passed away, for the government of his son has been from the beginning a scene of fierce persecution. It is hard to know what may be the true character of Sovereigns who are still living; we have heard it said of ALEXANDER that he is mild and peaceable, but certain events of his reign seem loudly to contradict such a reputation. Perhaps the mildness and peace of his disposition are reserved for those whom he fears; they have certainly not been shown towards the Poles, who have felt his rule to be indeed of iron. And if we are now to see him act the part of defender of the oppressed, we shall be compelled to attribute his doing so to anything rather than to genuine philanthropy.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

On Friday evening last a meeting was held in the Forbury school-house, for the purpose of considering "the present political crisis and the future of Otago." Mr. N. Moloney, Mayor of South Dunedin, occupied the chair. The following resolutions were proposed and carried unanimously—(1) "That this meeting expresses its approval of the motion tabled in the Assembly by Mr. Macandrew, as it affords to the Colonial Government a fair and constitutional means for ascertaining and giving effect to the will of the people of Otago as to the form and mode of Government by which they should be regulated." (2) "That any form of government forced upon the people against their will may be justifiably resisted; and that, while approving of the services of Mr. Seaton, the representative for the district in the General Assembly, this meeting is of opinion that, if the majority of the members representing this Province should decide to retire from the General Assembly, he be recommended to act promptly with such members in retiring from the House." (3) "That this meeting appoint a Committee of the following gentlemen: Messrs Halligan, M'Indoe, Barrowman, Moloney, Naumann, Carey, M'Intyre, Jones, and Eager, to insure prompt action with other districts should emergencies arise, provided such action be in conformity with the spirit of the resolutions just carried." The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding.

The 'Brisbane Telegraph,' of the 31st July, says of the New Zealand Insurance Co.:—"This enterprising company has just completed the purchase of a Queen street section, whereon it intends to erect some handsome buildings, part of which is to be used for the offices of the company. Since it came amongst us, the New Zealand Company has distinguished itself for its bold and business-like method of dealing with the public; and, in consequence, it has been highly successful in obtaining their support. As additional proof of the high value of land in Queen street, the transaction in question is noteworthy. The frontage is sixty feet by a depth of about 140 feet, and the price paid was £5,000—equal to nearly £83 per foot. This price, considering the situation of the land, may be considered satisfactory."

MR. JOHN O'SULLIVAN, an old and much respected resident of Picton, died in that town on August 12th last. Mr. O'Sullivan had for many years occupied a position of responsibility and importance under the Provincial Government of Marlborough, the duties of which he fulfilled with satisfaction to his employers and credit to himself. He was a warm-hearted Irishman, a fervent Catholic,