

they might give in their adherence to some system adapted to this age of enlightenment and further advanced than Christianity, and consequently it is now elate. Great things seem on the eve of being accomplished.

No doubt many of our readers will remember in their juvenile hours having set a crib to catch birds during the winter season of the old country. They will recollect going into a hiding place at a little distance from this crib, and watching breathlessly while unsuspecting finches and sparrows hopped about amongst the straw that tempted them to destruction, but at the critical moment some interruption frequently occurred, the birds were frightened away, and the hopes of their would be captor dashed to the ground.

The government of Victoria has set its crib and is now in waiting. Certain imprudent persons, however, it appears rashly desired to spoil the sport, and did their utmost to drive away the hoped for prey from the very verge of the trap. An attempt was recently made to obtain permission for ministers of religion to give instruction in the State schools during some part of the day, but the attempt failed, and one of the reasons assigned for opposing it was that Catholics, who had for some time held aloof from the schools in question, were now beginning to look favorably on them, to send their children to them, and to have themselves elected on the Boards of Advice; but that if religious teaching were to be introduced into the schools, such Catholics would take alarm and retire pell-mell from the situation. The paternal government thus convinced the meddlers of their rashness, and the matter fell through.

Now this was really giving way far too much to nervousness and vain imaginations. The folk called Catholics, who show a disposition to fall in with the government system of education in Victoria, if such there be, are not at all likely to be easily frightened. We should say, that not only would no visit of the ministers of any Christian sect deter them from their course of action, but that Heathen, Turk, Jew, Infidel, or Mormon might openly disseminate their doctrines amongst the children without calling forth a remonstrance on the part of these people, for no man bearing the name of Catholic could by any possibility send his child to a government school, as regulated at present, without forfeiting his right to the title, and proving himself totally destitute of principle.

It is a common failing of mankind to keep on declaring that the accomplishment of a devoutly desired event is at hand, and thus there is a continual clatter maintained respecting the immediate disaffection of large bodies of Catholics, but the fact is that they who are properly so called are thoroughly steadfast. In the old countries violent persecution has not shaken them; in the new scheming will not avail to make them traitors to their faith. And hereafter, when the history of these colonies comes to be written, bigotry, should it then prevail, will again have an opportunity of learning the vanity of all attempts, such as that made by the government of Victoria, to rob Catholics of their religion. But bigotry is, and ever will be, unteachable.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

It is proposed to hold an art union some time during the course of next year in aid of the new conventual buildings in Dunedin. The undertaking will be on a large scale, and the prizes to be drawn for beautiful and valuable. Several gentlemen resident in Europe have been communicated with and commissioned to purchase works of art, some of which are to be obtained in Rome, and this alone is ample proof that they will be no ordinary productions. In addition, the efforts of local artists will be called into requisition, so that the local scenery of New Zealand will be duly represented, and many views will be taken of the picturesque neighborhood of Dunedin. Already a number of charming landscapes from the able pencil of Mr. J. C. Hoyte have been secured. These are exquisite paintings in water-colors of Lake Wakatipu, Otira Gorge, and other places in this island. They are now at the Convent in Dowling street, where they may be seen and they are well worthy of a visit.

We have to acknowledge the receipt from the Government printer of the Statistics of the Colony of New Zealand for 1875, several numbers of 'Hansard,' and other Parliamentary papers.

The correspondent of the 'Brisbane Telegraph,' writing from the Hodgkinson River, describes an attack by natives as follows:—A party of five prospectors were visited while in camp a few days since by some blacks who notified their approach by a shower of spears. The whites scattered and made for trees. One of them, while snapping a revolver which would not explode, was speared through the right leg and fell. A blackfellow ran up to him, and as he stood over the prostrate white, nulla uplifted, was shot by one of the man's mates, and fell dead alongside of his intended victim. Four more went over to the majority before they beat a retreat. After the conclusion of the affray it was found necessary to cut off a portion of the spear before withdrawing it, on account

of the barbs at the point. On the following morning four whites left camp on a mission of vengeance, armed with a gun, a rifle, and a half axe. After following the tracks of the blacks for several miles, they came upon them busily occupied in putting barbs on spears, apparently preparing for a fresh attack. The owner of the revolver made a circuit, and, getting to the other side of the blacks, commenced the attack. In their surprise they fled in the direction of his mates, who received them warmly, and events occurred in the conflict which proved that a half-axe in the hands of a determined man is a very useful weapon in an emergency.

The improvements at St. Joseph's Church are progressing rapidly. The effects of the elevation and proper hanging of the bell are very apparent; the sound is much clearer and in every way better than it was. We understand that preliminary steps are being taken with a view to getting up an entertainment to aid in paying off some of the expenses which have already been incurred, as well as those which must necessarily attend on the very requisite enlargement of the church.

We beg to inform our subscribers that we take the utmost care in sending out each issue of the TABLET from this office. It is scarcely possible for a paper to miscarry because of any negligence on our part, for we are more than ordinarily watchful. We can only explain the complaints that reach us from time to time, by want of due attention on the part of some of the officials connected with the various post-offices through which our newspapers pass, and we beg to assure our readers that, being the party principally interested, we feel considerably aggrieved by the accidents alluded to, if accidents they be. It is much to be desired, that some means should be devised to render the miscarriage of newspapers as uncommon as that of letters, and we really cannot see that there should be any difficulty in the matter. We do not, however, deprecate complaints of irregularity in the reception of the TABLET on the part of our subscribers, on the contrary, we prefer to hear of this when it occurs, in order that we may do all that in us lies to remedy it, even if our effort be no more than a hopeless letter to the master of a post-office.

One of the principal advantages derived from such exhibitions as that held last week by the Otago Poultry and Canary Association, is the spur they give to local enterprise. They excite a healthy spirit of emulation, and the result is seen in the improvement of various articles of general use. We observe that at the show in question in the homely but excellent matter of hams and bacon a progressive movement was remarked, and that the first prize in this department was awarded to Mr. Edward Sheedy, whose exhibits met with the highest commendation.

The invention of machinery is one of the marks of the progress of the present age, and it is a decided token of the onward march of the city of Dunedin, that a hair-brushing machine has been introduced by Messrs. Coverlid and Mantell into their establishment in Princes-street. This machine is worked by water-power, and is quite a curiosity in its way, besides enabling the hair to be dressed with a comfort and perfection that are unequalled.

MR P. J. SMYTH, the member for West Meath, on the 30th of June last, made a speech in the British House of Commons, which has been highly lauded. It is even said to have been deserving of being ranked with the happiest efforts of the great orators of Ireland, and the finest thing of the kind heard since the days of Burke. We consider this a matter for congratulation, so far as it affords an additional proof that Irish genius is still fresh and vigorous, needing only a fair field of training and a free arena for its exercise to be once more the admiration of the world; but we regret that the speech in question was made against the cause of Home Rule, on which we believe the future of Ireland, in a great degree, depends. Nor does it yield us any encouragement that Mr. Smith advocates repeal, since, even if he be sincere, he endeavours to divide the strength of the patriotic party, which united is still too weak to effect its object, and can by no means afford any disagreement amongst its members.

MANY of our readers will doubtless find it a matter of deep interest, that the process is at present being carried on at Rome for the beatification of the venerable servant of God, Father Louis Maria Chaneel, of the congregation of Marists. Father Chaneel was one of those holy missionaries who left France in the year 1836, for the purpose of accompanying to the scene of his labors Monsignor Pompallier, appointed Vicar-Apostolic of Western Oceania, including New Zealand, by Pope Gregory XVI. The Marist Fathers were the pioneer priests of this colony, and their self-sacrificing devotion must command the admiration and gratitude of all New Zealand Catholics, to whom also it is a subject for especial rejoicing that one personally concerned in the spiritual welfare of these islands bids fair to be raised to the honors of the altar, for although Father Chaneel never visited New Zealand, he having remained behind in an Archipelago of the South Seas, where he exercised the office of pro-Vicar Apostolic, and where, after a short course of heroic labors, he gained the crown of martyrdom, still he was associated with our early missionaries and formed one of their company. We hope, at a future date, to furnish our readers with further details of this matter, for it is our intention to publish in the columns of the TABLET a brief history of the establishment of the Church in New Zealand, and in this, no doubt, a place will be found for a more comprehensive account of the life and death of the venerable servant of God, Father Louis Maria Chaneel.

The election of Sir Charles Gavan Duffy as representative of a district in Victoria, has filled several of our contemporaries with spleen, and caused them to explode in a variety of entertaining fashions. Amongst the many accusations brought against Sir Charles, is the threadbare one of being led by the "priests." From the way in which the latter word is used, we rather suspect that sundry editors regard it in a somewhat hazy light, and that the poetry fossilized therein for them is derived from the terror with which, in their infancy, they were accustomed to look upon the knife-gashing performed in honor of Baal, and likewise from what