

tion would have been given to Bishop MORAN had he been courteous enough to communicate with us." What explanation, high and mighty 'Star'! The 'Star' then assumes to have the right to libel Catholic priests its next door neighbours, to neglect to retract its falsehoods when made aware of them, and to persevere in this course because Bishop MORAN did not go down on his knees and beg of it to be so good as to say, that what it could easily have known, from the beginning, to be a lie, was not true. This false report was so injurious, and, moreover, so improbable that it was absolutely inexcusable in the 'Star' to publish it even as an extract from another paper without inquiry. When the summons, containing Bishop MORAN's affidavit that the report was untrue and injurious, was served, why did not the 'Star' contradict its statement, as it was bound in justice and honor to do? When the 'Tuapeka Times' retracted and declared the report to be false and rashly inserted, why was not the 'Evening Star,' Dunedin, as prompt to take over to its columns these passages as it was to give a prominent place to a libel on Catholic priests? No, it is no excuse—no justification for the conduct of the 'Star' to say that had Bishop MORAN asked for explanation it would have been given to him. Why should Bishop MORAN have asked for an explanation; it was his right and his duty to demand that justice should be done. And it was the duty of the conductors of the 'Evening Star,' as men, as fellow citizens, and as Christians—if they are Christians—to have anticipated all action on his part, and made an unreserved retraction and a manly apology. Had they done this, they would have discharged an imperative duty and acted creditably.

Our contemporary the 'Guardian,' in its issue of Tuesday says, "There is no one in this city that knows Mr. BELL, who would believe him capable of wilfully maligning or hurting the feelings of members of the Roman Catholic Church." All we can say in reference to this is, that it would give us great pleasure to be able to believe as does our contemporary. Mr. BELL we do not know, but this we know, that the 'Evening Star' has been for years an habitual maligner of Catholics and their Church; and that henceforward it may, on the strength of the decision of a Dunedin Grand Jury, feel safer than ever in the indulgence of this amiable propensity!

"EX UNO DISCE OMNES."

In our last issue we inserted a letter given by the late Very Rev. Father PETIT-JEAN to two members of the Order of Sisters of Mercy, who left Wellington a short time since for the purpose of proceeding to Europe, there to labour for the advancement of their mission in New Zealand. This letter was not originally intended for publication. It was given to the Sisters in order to serve them as an introduction to the Superiors of Convents in the old country; and no one else would, probably, ever have heard of it had not accident invested it with extended interest, and led to its being published in our columns.

It is, therefore, a most clear and valuable indication of the motives by which one well qualified to judge believed that the members of a religious order would be guided, for it is impossible that any suspicion can be attached to it of having been written for the purpose of exciting public sympathy, and phrased accordingly. We must take it as an undeniable testimony to the spirit that actuates, at least, one religious order; and there will be few found amongst us who will refuse by this one order to judge of all the rest, whether founded by St. DOMINIC, St. FRANCIS, or any other saint.

Now, what are the inducements held out to Sisters of Mercy in Europe, which are supposed strong enough to persuade them to leave their native land and come to the other end of the world; and so supposed by an aged priest, himself member of an order, and who had, during a long life, had the most ample opportunities of gaining experience of the inclinations and motives of others, who, like him, were professed religious? The times are critical, he says, and there is urgent need of help. There is not a word spoken by him with regard to temporal advantages to be reaped by emigration in this instance; nothing of successful gold-digging or fertile land, or a high scale of wages. He simply says that those who are already working hard out here have need of help, which means that there is here a field for labor, that in this world can yield to the laborer no reward, but which will require an incessant round of duties, in themselves distasteful at best, and in many cases capable of being justly qualified by a much stronger adjective than that.

Do we not thus gain an insight into a life, that those

given up to worldly pursuits are incapable of realising, but which all must acknowledge to be beautiful and holy—a life devoted to the good of others, and that seeks alone an opportunity of practising this devotion in the highest degree.

And not less edifying are the obstacles that Father PETIT-JEAN thought it incumbent on him to remove from before the view of some who, but for these, would probably be disposed to emigrate. "Let none be deterred," he wrote, "from proceeding to New Zealand, for fear of being deprived of facilities for observing rules, and prosecuting the work of perfection. I have the opportunity of observing that, in the very convent of Wellington in particular, the discipline of the order is perfectly observed, and the means of sanctification are the same as at home." The only thing judged likely to prevent religious from changing the scene of their labors is a fear, lest under the altered circumstances they should be hindered from persevering in their course of self-denial and devotion.

We see, then, clearly, that these people do not live for themselves. Their lives are totally given up to God, and to their neighbor for the love of God. Wherever they are settled, there is to be found a body of men or women, as the case may be, engaged in busily working for the good of the general community of that place. Those who aid in their establishment are, therefore, helping to forward the interests, not of private individuals—for monks and nuns, as we see, have no worldly interests—but of society, of themselves, of their children, and of all around them; and we can think of no undertaking more meritorious in a spiritual, or wiser in a temporal point of view, than that of co-operating with those who are endeavoring to found, maintain, or extend conventual settlements in any country whatever.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE Most Rev. the Lord Bishop of Dunedin will be present at Tokomairiro on Sunday next.

A REHEARSAL of the music to be performed at the opening of the new organ gallery in St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin, was held on Sunday last. There was a very full attendance, as, besides the ordinary choir attached to the church, many vocalists belonging to other denominations have kindly given their services. Mr. Charles Sykes presided at the organ, and was most painstaking in exercising the singers in the different parts of the vocal scores. From the manner in which the various items were gone through with, it is augured that the performance will be a brilliant success, and, as many years will probably elapse before anything of the kind is again attempted here, no lover of music should miss the opportunity to be thus afforded him. The next rehearsal will take place at the residence of Mr. Sykes, on Sunday next.

As the organ at St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin, will not be available for use on Sunday next, the choir purpose to visit Port Chalmers, where a Missa Cantata will be celebrated. The vocalists, who will be under the direction of their talented conductor, Mr. Chas. Sykes, will be reinforced by the presence of some extra members of their company. Weber's Mass in G will be performed.

CLIFFORD'S Mirror of the World, at the Temperance Hall, affords an opportunity of passing a pleasant and instructive evening. The views exhibited are both curious and beautiful, and well worthy of a visit.

EXTENSIVE improvements have been completed in Krull's Family Hotel, George-street. Excellent accommodation may now be found here, and as the situation is central the establishment will be found in every respect agreeable and convenient.

We beg to draw the attention of our subscribers to the advertisement of P. K. McCaughan, Esq., of Wantwood Station, Southland, which will be found in another column.

We recommend to the particular attention of our readers the letter of our Wellington correspondent, which contains a full account of the death of the late Very Rev. Father Petit-Jean, together with a report of the oration delivered at his funeral by the Most Rev. the Lord Bishop of Wellington. It will be seen from this letter that our announcement, last week, of the venerable Missionary's decease was slightly inexact, in consequence of our information having been derived from telegrams, as we had not then had time to receive written particulars regarding the melancholy event.

MR. O. CUMMINS has kindly undertaken to receive subscriptions, in the districts visited by him, towards the erection of the Conventual Buildings about to be commenced in Dunedin. It is intended to make these buildings a permanent construction, and such as will serve thoroughly to carry out the object for which they are taken in hand. For the completion of the first wing, all that it is contemplated at present to undertake, a sum of £4,000 will be necessary, and measures have already been inaugurated for the purpose of raising the amount required. It is, however, hoped that the province of Otago will generally help in the good work, for it must be remembered that the Dominican Convent at Dunedin has been established—not alone for the benefit of the city in which it is located—but for the advantage as well of the whole diocese.

THE Kumara rush continues to grow in strength and hopefulness. From all parts of New Zealand people are making their way to the new El Dorado, and the Australian ports are, it is said, thronged with men awaiting the means of transit, in order to proceed there. Although the discovery of the gold-field in question must cause a temporary depression in many localities, we cannot but hope it may turn out all