

who earnestly pray for the welfare of the Emperor and Empire, and at whose door the shadow of a crime cannot be laid, because they refuse to abandon their religion.

If the accounts of Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria are revolting and calculated to rouse indignation, the persecutions to which Polish Catholics are subjected by the Russian Government are only in degree less barbarous, savage, and shocking. And the fact is, strange though it may appear, that the Catholic Church meets with more justice, and experiences greater liberty in Turkey than in Russia, whilst the treatment of its political enemies by the Infidel Power is not very much worse, than that of rebels against its authority by the Russian.

Whilst, therefore, we rejoice at the prospect of the liberation of the Christians of Turkey from the thralldom to which they have been subjected for centuries, we regret, and feel ashamed, that the lead on this occasion should have been conceded to semi-barbarous, and persecuting Russia by either the apathy or jealousy of the really free nations of Europe.

### A GLANCE AT THE WORLD.

In looking upon the state of the world at the present day a thoughtful Catholic must see much to sadden him. There has hardly ever been a time when the persecuting spirit that has from of old actuated the enemies of the Church has been more active. In the capital of the Christian world—the city that it is sought to degrade from this proud position that it may become the metropolis of a mere third-rate power—the Vicar of CHRIST resides as a prisoner, while his estates are occupied and his revenues squandered by a profligate king, who, were he of less exalted rank, would be considered a fitting associate for the abandoned only. The property of the religious orders has been recklessly confiscated, and hundreds of innocent people of both sexes, many of them feeble through advanced age, have been ruthlessly cast upon the streets to swell the ranks of the starving, already swollen far beyond their usual limits by the fault of a careless and improvident Government. The members of secret societies and various conspirators continue their deadly plots, so that from day to day we cannot be sure of the Holy Father's safety, since his life may be sacrificed at any moment to an outburst of the fury that we know surrounds his palace, thirsting for his blood: and, in short, from having presented an appearance consistent with its great Christian reputation Rome is rapidly approaching the condition of a Pandemonium.

And as it fares with the head so is it elsewhere. Generally throughout Europe the Church suffers in a greater or lesser degree; whether we turn to Germany or Russia, to Switzerland, France, Belgium, or England, in every country we see the name of Catholic either made a cause for active persecution, or greeted by a strong party with opprobrium and derision, and everywhere it is considered allowable to employ against the Church weapons that it would otherwise be thought disgraceful to make use of.

In these new countries, where the boast is that a fair field lies open to the enterprise of all, and that men need not struggle upwards in life at the expense of their neighbours, it might reasonably be supposed that Catholics would be as free as other people to pursue the even tenor of their way without let or hindrance. But is it so? Far otherwise. A cunning plan has been devised to attack us in a most vulnerable and tender point; through the faith of our children, which it is sought to pervert by means of unjust and tyrannical educational regulations, so that, were we not on the alert and prepared to make grave sacrifices to avert the evil, we should be robbed of that which every man has a right to expect, and which nature itself teaches us to prize dearly, the love and respect of our offspring, who would be taught to regard and despise us as the besotted disciples of a false and superstitious creed: for such do her enemies, in their most deplorable ignorance and pitiable folly, consider the Church of the living God to be. And, further, we are molested on every side by the tongue of calumny, for to lie concerning anything Catholic is not considered libellous. Our characters are public property, and all may blacken them with impunity; nay, more—with the loudly-expressed applause of a bigoted majority to hound the slanderers on.

We are then justified in saying that in the world of the present day there is much to sadden every thoughtful Catholic. But yet there is nothing to drive him to despair. His faith teaches him that the Church cannot perish, and, if he cast his eyes back upon the page of history, he will see that

from each persecution the Bride of the Lamb has emerged triumphant, and that many times her enemies have themselves become her most devoted members. "The Church is ever militant," says Dr. NEWMAN, "sometimes she gains, sometimes she loses; and more often she is at once gaining and losing in different parts of her territory. What is ecclesiastical history but a record of the ever-doubtful fortune of the battle, though its issue is not doubtful? Scarcely are we singing *Te Deum*, when we have to turn to our *Misereres*;—scarcely are we in peace, when we are in persecution;—scarcely have we gained a triumph, when we are visited by a scandal. Nay, we make progress by means of reverses; our griefs are our consolations—we lose STEPHEN to gain PAUL, and MATTHIAS replaces the traitor JUDAS.

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE atrocities committed in Bulgaria by the Turks, as reported in the San Francisco mail telegrams, are of a nature too shocking to contemplate. It was for some time believed in England that they had been exaggerated, but it turns out that such was not the case, and the particulars now given are horrible in the extreme. There appears to be some contradiction between the news received by the mail and that to hand by cablegram, as to the part which Russia is destined to act, and, indeed, most probably this is still doubtful in Europe. Much as we dread the advance of Russian influences, we cannot but look with approbation on the prospect of a just measure of punishment being inflicted upon the perpetrators of such appalling cruelties. We could have desired that this might have been done by a power less suspicious than that of the Czar, and, indeed, it would seem but a sorry way of executing justice, to give an avenging sword into the hands of semi-barbarous hordes, themselves capable in turn of cruelty but little inferior to that they are elected to exact the penalties of. However, above all, it is fitting that an example should be made of men who have actually committed excesses, the bare outline of which it is impossible to read without revulsion.

THE Most Rev. the Lord Bishop of Dunedin, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at Tokomairiro on Sunday last. Nineteen persons were admitted to the Sacrament.

It has been thought advisable to postpone the musical festival at St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin, for some weeks, as the organ will not be available in time to admit of the performance taking place prior to the departure of His Lordship the Bishop of the diocese on his purposed visit to Auckland and New South Wales. A longer period for rehearsal will thus be gained, so that the music selected will be thoroughly practised by those who are to take part in it, and a genuine success will be the result.

A most successful examination was lately held at St. Mary's Catholic School, Invercargill, which is under the care of Mr. Sproule, assisted by Miss Thompson, and which has an average attendance of 75. The Rev. Father Higgins, who conducted the examination, professed himself much pleased at its results, congratulating the pupils on their improvement, and the teachers on the fruits of their efforts.

FROM MEANCE, Hawkes Bay, we hear of a presentation made to Mr. and Mrs. Huntly, the late master and mistress of St. Mary's School, on the occasion of their resigning their position in the establishment referred to, owing to the failure of Mrs. Huntly's health. It is pleasing to note the affectionate terms in which the pupils of the lady and gentleman in question take leave of them, as it speaks volumes, not only in favor of the teachers, but also of those in whose behalf their efforts have been expended.

THE critic of the 'Oamaru Evening Mail,' a high authority on matters theatrical and generally artistic, speaks as follows of the 'Californian Diamond':—"Little Nell" possesses a wonderful versatility, and her capability of sustaining personations of a widely-different character is really astonishing. Whether as the Irish Bridget or the Dutch Johanna, you see before you a perfect type of the nation and character represented. The great charm in 'The Diamond,' however, is that she appears so heartily to enter into and enjoy the eccentricities which she portrays, that her merriment becomes infectious, and her audiences are forced to laugh both with and at her. She possesses a powerful, yet sweet and pleasing voice, great facial play, and a most wonderful command over her right optic."

THE plans of the conventual buildings to be erected in Dunedin have been prepared at the office of Mr. Petre, architect, in Bond-street. The style chosen is the Anglo-Saxon, which combines simplicity with dignity, and is particularly suitable for monastic establishments. The buildings, when completed, will consist of a church occupying the centre with a wing on either side, and will not only be a credit to the Catholic community, but an ornament to the city generally. For the present, however, it is contemplated to take in hand one wing only, which will serve as a Convent for the Dominican Sisters, and will be so constructed as to enable them to carry out the ordinances of their rule in their integrity. The material of the buildings will be concrete, which is said to be as durable and much less expensive than stone, and of the good appearance of which a striking example may be seen in the extensive premises of Messrs Cargill, in Bond-street, erected, also, from the design and under the able direction of Mr. Petre. We trust that the Catholics of the province, will come forward liberally, so that we may ere long be enabled to reckon the Convent, now in prospect, amongst accomplished facts.

THE Rev. Father O'Leary has been appointed on the mission at Invercargill, where he will assist in the labors of the Rev. Father Higgins.