

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY, DUNEDIN BRANCH, No. 73.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the above Branch was held in the South Australian Hall on Monday evening; the President occupied the chair. A circular from the Christchurch Branch, suggesting the formation of one district for the Middle Island, was read and received. A letter was read from the Secretary of the Akaroa Branch (Bro. John Cullen), which expressed the willingness of that Branch to be included in the proposed Otago and Canterbury District. At the previous meeting letters were received from the Oamaru and Lawrence Branches agreeing to the resolutions passed by the Dunedin Branch re Districts. The C.S., on behalf of the Executive Directory, also expressed a hope that a district would be formed in Otago without delay, and giving permission to make bye-laws for the better management of the district. Bro. J. J. Connor drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that no specific time had been decided upon for the first meeting of delegates; he thought this a matter that required immediate consideration. After some discussion, it was agreed to let the matter stand over for a month or two, the Secretary remarking that the first Monday in January, 1877, would be the most suitable time for holding the first meeting. Bro. Cantwell moved—1. That, taking into consideration the geographical position of the West Coast and Nelson Branches, it is the opinion of this Branch that it is not to the interest of the Branches in Otago and Canterbury to amalgamate with the aforesaid West Coast and Nelson Branches for the purpose of forming one district for the Middle Island. 2. That this Branch adheres to its former resolutions re districts. The resolutions were seconded by P.P. Bro. Brennan, and carried unanimously without discussion. The amount of cash received during the evening was £7 12s.

NEWS BY THE SAN FRANCISCO MAIL.

[FROM OUR EXCHANGES.]

The 'Freeman's Journal' of August 21st, says:—"The announcement which it is our most painful duty to make to-day of the death of the Very Rev. Monsignor Dean O'Connell will be read with deep, universal, and unaffected sorrow throughout the length and breadth of Ireland. He expired yesterday at his residence, Wellington-road, after a comparatively brief illness, having attained to the patriarchal age of eighty-four years. For some time past the venerable Dean had been showing the evidences of bodily decay, but his large circle of friends, hoping almost against hope, were trustful that the sad end might be distant still, and that the good and genial old priest might be spared amongst them for a long while yet to come. But it has pleased God that it should be otherwise, and by the mournful event which we chronicle to-day a void has been made in many a circle which it will not be easy to fill up. Few names were better or more widely known than his, and even in the ranks of the devoted and cherished hierarchy of the Irish Church there was not one who was regarded with a more affectionate reverence, or held a more honored place in the popular heart. He is nearly the last of a great old race of ecclesiastics who, whilst they lived, connected the Irish Church of our happier time with the Irish Church of persecution and of sorrow, and by whom the peace and prosperity it now enjoys were all the more appreciated because of their own memories and the traditions of the somewhat gloomy if glorious past.

We gladly note that at the matriculation examination at the London University, several of our Irish Catholic colleges have been particularly successful. The examinations were held simultaneously by identical printed papers at London, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Ushaw, Stoneyhurst, and the Jesuit College of St. Stanislaus near Tullamore. At the last-mentioned place, out of fourteen candidates who presented themselves from St. Stanislaus' itself, from Clongowes, from Carlow College, and from the Diocesan College of Limerick, nine passed with high honors; the success denoted by which fact becomes all the more marked when we add that of the total number examined in England—690—only 302 came up to the required standard. What, then, is that we hear about a Catholic system of education being calculated to "cramp the human mind?"

At the Belfast Police Court, August 18, highly satisfactory evidence was accorded as to the exemplary conduct of the Catholics during the disgraceful riots while subjected to the greatest provocation. It appears that there was a riot in Institution-place, and that the Catholics when called upon to desist from stone-throwing, which they had resorted to in defending themselves from the Orange party, at once complied, while the opposite party not only stoned but fired on the police.

Dr. Butcher, Protestant Bishop of Meath, died under very melancholy circumstances. He had been suffering for some time past from a very serious illness, and had just passed a restless night when a rush of blood to the head supervened, and caused a temporary loss of reason. During the continuance of the mania, he seized the opportunity afforded by the absence of his attendants to cut his throat with a razor. The loss of blood immediately restored his senses, and he gave an explanation of the deed he had done by writing on a piece of paper the single word, "Mad;" but he was too seriously wounded to recover, and he died in half an hour. He was a man of considerable abilities, was popular in his own Church, and recently distinguished himself by an able reply to Professor Tyndall's Belfast address.

It is our melancholy duty to record the death of Michael Dunne, Esq., J.P., Ballymanus House, Queen's County, which sad event took place on August 18. The deceased gentleman was ever the kindly host, the cheerful companion. As a magistrate his decisions were always just. As a landlord he was kind and indulgent; and as a sporting gentleman he took a prominent part

in all the racing events of the province. In 1852 the voters made a mighty effort, and the powerful Fitzpatrick of Ossory was obliged to relinquish his position as member of Parliament, and honest Michael Dunne, of Ballymanus, was elected in his place. From that time until 1865 Mr. Dunne held his position as M.P. for the Queen's County, and although in 1857 another severe contest took place, he defeated both the Ossoronian lord and the premier baronet, Sir Charles Henry Coote. From the very foundation of the Queen's County Independent Club he was ever one of its warmest and most ardent supporters.

The great musical festival at Bayreuth was opened on the 13th August. The subject, Wagner's "Nibelungen-ring," is, in fact, an opera on the great national poem of Germany. No opera of modern times has been placed on the boards with greater "pomp and circumstance." Kaiser William, King Ludwig of Bavaria (Wagner's patron), the flower of the German nobility, with Dom Pedro and a multitude of foreigners from all countries were assembled at Bayreuth. When we reflect that the Rhein-gold or prologue occupied two and a half hours, we can form some idea of the gigantic conception of the artist who undertook to exhibit in linked music the whole historical plot of the "Nibelungen-lied." The Germans are a thorough people—wonderful in their scientific, philological and musical attainments, and the metaphysical air which everywhere invests their literature; but "Vaterland" is at the bottom of all. Their great poem owed its revival to the reaction against French supremacy in Germany during the first decades of the present century. It did good service then, and it is politic, because soothing to the national vanity of Deutschland, to reproduce it with all the attractions of a gorgeous dramatic dress and appropriate music. No wonder the Germans are wild with excitement.

Twelve Sisters of Charity whom the iniquitous ecclesiastical laws of Germany have driven from their native country, arrived in New York last week by the steamer Calland. After a days' stay for necessary repose they left for Manitowac, Wisconsin, where they are to take charge of St. Francis' Hospital. Thus is America gaining at the expense of Germany.

It is consoling to find that not only Catholic but Protestant papers see and write of things in Italy as they really are. 'Evangelical Christendom, for July says:—"The works of Strauss and Renan have done their work only too well in Italy. One and another free thinking society arose, the members of which bury their dead without the intervention of priest or pastor. Blatant irreligion, in hybrid forms, covers the land. Men in exalted positions are not slow to utter forth their impieties. Doubtless there are members of the English legislatures who have no faith in the Unseen, but the tone of surrounding society prevents its expression. It is otherwise in the Italian Parliament, there are men who are not ashamed to rise in their place and scout the very thought of the existence of a living and personal God."

Great affliction (says the 'Weekly Register') is felt at the Vatican, as, indeed in all Catholic Rome, at the application of the new law in regard to oaths; in obedience to which, from the date of the 20th July, the book of the Holy Gospels has disappeared from the courts of law as a superfluity!

That so-called and much-prated "public utility" legitimizes many an injustice now-a-days, and many a glaring sacrilege—legitimizes before the world, but not before God. It takes more than public utility to justify in His sight the destruction of His temples, and that more the Vandals in Rome cannot show for the demolition of the churches of St. Theresa, Santa Maria Maddalena de Pazzi and St. Cajus, situated along the Via Venti Settembre. The ecclesiastical authorities had taken the precaution to remove the altar stones and the relics. But the question is, what is to be done with the bones of the nuns under the Church of St. Theresa? Many of those nuns died in the odor of sanctity. The sacrilege becomes more horrible when those sacred ashes are disturbed by hands so unholy.

The Jewish race still preserves its remarkable vitality. In Austrian Galicia, where there are now 500,000 Israelites, the increase during the semi-century from 1821 to 1870, according to the tables of Joseph Hain, has been 150 per cent; while the ordinary population has only increased 25 per cent.

Vice-Consul Dupuis, in his report this year on the trade of the port of Suse, Tunis, makes remarks on the subject of the project for submerging the region of Djerid by constructing a canal at Gabes, and so creating an inland sea. He considers that the recent surveys compute the idea of there having been formerly a connection with the Mediterranean, and of the choking up of the passage for the water, an idea, perhaps, based upon the inferiority of level to that of the sea, but in his opinion the observations made seem to endorse the fact of all the region having been under water. The desert has been gradually extended in the district between Tripoli and Egypt, covering parts once fertile, and has in like manner encroached on the Tunisian southern frontier between it and Tripoli. It is presumed that the disappearance of the water is due to the encroachment of the deserts, caused by the action of the winds during the long succession of centuries, aided by absorption and by evaporation occasioned by the presence of the vast scorching desert in the south Tunis being a lake country, and recent discoveries having brought to light vast sheets of water in Africa, the vice-consul suggests that the idea of an inland sea having existed need not seem startling to us.

A Protestant lady, who has been the principal of a public graded school, and who also knows something by experience of public schools in the country districts, writes to the 'Catholic Columbian' that while she considers "that public schools are certainly better, very much better than no schools at all," she does not think them "the best schools for boys or girls." Her attention, she says, has been lately drawn to the subject of convent schools by a conversation which took place between herself and the "highly educated" wife of a Methodist minister, who, in regretting the