

well the nature of the Christianity inculcated by them; and inculcated with success, so that, we doubt not, at the present day, the like holy creed is professed, and acted upon by numbers of the descendants of those same Indians; though probably many, as it is elsewhere, yielding to the depravity of their human nature, are false to the teaching of the Church of God, and give occasion frequently to her enemies to blaspheme.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A NUMBER of photographic copies of the plans designed by Mr. Petre for the conventual buildings about to be erected in Dunedin are being prepared, in order to be forwarded to the country districts that lie along the route followed by Mr. O. Cummins in his journeys to Queenstown. Mr. Cummins has kindly undertaken to receive subscriptions in aid of the building fund, and we would again remind our readers, that the efforts which the Dominican Sisters are now making to increase the sphere of their usefulness, are not intended for the benefit of Dunedin only, but that the interests of the whole province of Otago are involved in having high class schools established in the capital, where they will be within easy reach of all.

IN the course of an article, entitled "Our Juries," in last week's issue of our contemporary, the 'Saturday Advertiser,' the following remarks occur:—"Then the Grand Jury deprived the public from having, in the 'Evening Star' case, the law of libel properly laid down. There is little doubt among impartial observers, that the ecclesiastical element had some weight with them, and that they usurped the functions both of judge and petty jury. We take leave to say that this is not the way to make for peace, or maintain a healthy state of opinion in a community of mixed religious persuasions. It is a practical illustration of the conclusion at which many have arrived, that it is more than time that the Grand Jury system should be abolished."

THE 'Charleston Herald' says: "They have a curiosity in Otago, which had Barnum only known of would have now been at Philadelphia astonishing the Yankees. It is a Water Race that talks—at least, so saith the 'Otago Witness' of a recent date. 'For sale: a water race that will speak for itself * * * on the west bank of the Molyneux * * * a good home for two men.' A rather damp home I should think for two men."

MANY of our readers will be pleased, but not surprised, to hear that Mr. J. J. Woods, of Lawrence, has gained a fresh distinction. Some months ago a prize was offered for the composition of a melody, to which the fine words of the New Zealand Anthem, written by Mr. Thomas Bracken, might be sung, and on the appointed day twelve manuscripts were sent in and immediately forwarded to Melbourne, to be submitted to the judgment of certain professional gentlemen of eminence. Each of the judges—Messrs. Zeplin, Zelman, and Siede—was furnished with a separate copy of the various compositions which he criticized apart from his conferees, and it is particularly worthy of remark that the superior excellence of the melody composed by Mr. Woods was recognised by all three critics simultaneously and without consultation; thus it is seen to be *facile princeps*.

A PLAN is at present under consideration which has for its object the supplying of the city of Sydney with water from the Upper Nepean River. The undertaking would be a gigantic one, as it would necessitate the construction of an aqueduct sixty-three miles in length and at a cost of £1,146,000.

CONSIDERABLE alarm prevails in Dunedin arising from the frequent and daring burglaries that continue to be reported. We have no doubt but that the police are fully capable of dealing with the matter and that the measures taken by them for the detection of the offending parties will result in success; but meanwhile it is the duty of all householders to be prepared for the unwelcome nocturnal visitors, so that they may at least be accorded a warm reception on putting in an appearance, if it be found impossible then and there to apprehend them. We do not at all believe in being "stuck up" in the heart of a civilised town.

A VERY strong reason why drinking direct from water-taps should not be practised may be found in the fact (says the 'Balarat Evening Post') that a water-snake ran through a tap on Friday, which would have been a most objectionable thing to swallow. This interesting reptile—which was about a foot long, and about the thickness of a stout piece of cord—was discovered by a man working at the St. George claim, Sebastopol, which was running off water from a 2in. pipe into a gold-saving machine. This snake is described as being so tough and wiry as to take the strength of a spade to chop it into bits.

THE 'Southland Times,' in an amusing article wherein it roundly censures the Otago 'Guardian,' lays claim to superior excellence on the plea that it is quoted by the Melbourne 'Argus' more frequently than almost any other New Zealand newspaper. It further states that it is supported by an overwhelming majority of the people of education, intelligence and property—though last not least—in its province, and finally it winds up as follows—"We can afford to laugh at the rowdy ignoramus at Dunedin who has come down southward for wool, and judging by all we hear, has only got shorn." 'This is language that is hardly "parliamentary" in a journal of such pretensions. It is, however, a pity that the Otago 'Guardian' is not a Catholic paper as in that case "rowdy ignoramus" would in all probability be honored by a place in the ennobling columns of the big brother at Melbourne to which our vituperative contemporary alludes with such pride.

We have received from the Government Printer several numbers of 'Hansard,' ending with that dated October 20.

THE PRINCESS THEATRE.

HOWEVER flattering may be the appreciation accorded to his various representations, Mr. Dampier can hardly give a more efficient proof of the high order of his talent than that evinced in his reading and personation of the difficult part of Grimaldi, taken by him in the play that bears this name. The character represented is that of an old French actor fallen into poverty, but who retains in adversity his kindness of nature, with the vivacity for which his race is distinguished, and the refinement of a high-bred gentleman. The difficulty of the part consists in the extreme ease with which it might be completely distorted, or rather, perhaps, the skill required to avoid exaggeration. Ample scope is afforded for flagrant ranting and violent action; but Mr. Dampier never displays the slightest tendency to one or the other of these faults; his voice is well modulated, and his manner throughout perfectly natural, never more agitated than the expression of the feeling by which he is supposed to be actuated demands, and never leaning towards the grotesque shoulder-shrugging and extension of the hands, which are ordinarily associated with the popular English idea of a Frenchman. He has, however, managed to catch the peculiar gesticulation that distinguishes the more refined members of the great Celtic nation, and, wonderful to say, without the least tinge of caricature. He exhibits the character portrayed as that of a man of deep and tender feeling, but who is still a thorough man of the world. This is especially noticeable in the scene wherein Grimaldi learns the flight of his adopted daughter, Violet, from the stage on which she was about to be crowned with a brilliant success. The old actor sinks under the blow, but yet accepts the inevitable with an admirable calmness, and one most difficult to express without displaying a want of feeling and a stiffness incompatible with the heart-break implied.

In the part referred to, Mr. Dampier was supported most efficiently by the other members of the *corps dramatique*, Mrs. Walter Hill, as Violet, acted with grace and spirit, and Miss Lily May sustained the rôle of Julia excellently. Messrs Hooper, Clinton, Saville, and Keogh also acquitted themselves capitally—especially the latter, who, as Wopshot, gained loud applause.

AUCKLAND.

ON Sunday, Oct. 1, the jubilee was opened in St. Patrick's Cathedral by the Vicar-General Father Fynes. The Holy Father's Encyclical letter, the history of the jubilee, its nature, and the conditions required to gain the indulgences attached to it, were fully explained and strongly enforced at vespers by the Vicar-General, who preached on the occasion a discourse which will be long remembered by not only the people of St. Patrick's, but even by those more accustomed to his voice, who had the good fortune of being present. Some who were unaware that the Vicar-General intended to preach, and sincerely rejoiced to see him look so well, were agreeably surprised to hear from him a discourse which for vigor and eloquence has not been surpassed by him at any time that I can remember during a seventeen years residence both at Panmure and in Auckland. The very rev. gentleman explained lucidly the objects of Christian jubilees generally, and at length came to this, which is to remain in force to the 31st day of December of the present year. He then passed on to the more particular duties of the congregation before him. He exhorted them that in order to save their immortal souls they should enter into the spirit of the ensuing jubilee. During the week discourses were delivered by Fathers O'Hara (Otahuhu), and O'Dwyer (St. Patrick's). The Vicar-General, Fathers Walter McDonald, O'Reilly (Coromandel), O'Hara, and O'Dwyer heard confession during the week, and large numbers availed themselves of their pious labors. The evening services were crowded; it must have been deeply gratifying to the zealous pastors to witness the zeal and punctuality with which their flock attended to their religious duties during the week.

I regret to state that one of our devoted and faithful priests, Father Paul, stationed at Onehunga, has a second time been martyred for resisting the iniquitous education tax of this Province. On last Thursday, the 12th inst., the *de la Croix* Brigade entered his residence and seized a chest of drawers, which was sold at auction for 50s. A short time back Dr. Wallis, the Presbyterian minister, was likewise subjected to the like treatment.

In conclusion, the Catholics of this city hail with thankfulness that this diocese is about to enjoy the advantages of the presence of the distinguished Bishop of Dunedin. We will receive his Lordship in the time-honored words of my native tongue with a *cead mille failtha*.

T. J. F.

We see in 'Forest and Stream' that during a recent exploration of Baxter River, New Guinea, a boa constrictor was shot. Its length was fifteen feet three inches, and a protuberance in its body fourteen and a half inches in diameter when cut open proved to be the body of a whole kangaroo, only partially digested.

At the recent matriculation examination of the London University, held at St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg, Tullamore, fourteen candidates presented themselves from various Irish colleges, and nine passed. St. Stanislaus' College was particularly successful, all its six candidates having passed—two in honors, three in the first class, and one in the second. Of the remaining eight, three passed—one from Clongowes College in honors; and one from Carlow College in the first class, and one from Limerick in the second. From a correspondence in the 'Times' it would appear that some of the papers set, especially the geometry papers, have been more than usually difficult, but this only makes all the more gratifying the marked success that one of our Irish colleges has achieved, at its first attempt too, in an examination of so high a standard as that of the London University.