

A LENIENT GOVERNMENT.

In a late number of the 'Catholic Review' we called attention to the transfer of the cowardly instigator of murder, Luciani, to a more comfortable prison and one where the chances of escape were numerous. Of course his pardon will soon follow. Italy is beginning to ask what punishment there is for murderers when they chance to belong to secret societies. The recent pardon of De Mata, who, in 1861, brutally murdered Mele, a commissioner of police in Naples, has made the entire people cry out in indignation against an administration that so openly proclaims its sympathies with murderers and criminals of every kind. The murder of Mele caused, at the time of its occurrence, considerable excitement. A young advocate of good family, he had entered the police of Naples with a firm determination to reform its administration and relieve his native city of the disgrace attaching to it from the impunity with which crime was committed in its streets. It was the time when the Camorra, having hatched out their plot, were about to put it into execution. Under the guise of legitimists and with the avowed object of restoring Francis II. to the throne from which the Republicans had torn him, only to see it occupied by another monarchical dynasty, several Republican leaders had organised a powerful society into which they vainly sought to initiate the faithful Neapolitans, it was their intention to rise in arms, overpower the Piedmontese garrisons, go through the farce of proclaiming Francis II. king, which they fondly hoped would cause the peasantry to flock to their standard. With power once in their hands they could do as they pleased, and what they pleased would be to proclaim the Republic. Mele had not been long in office when he was approached by emissaries of the Camorra to induce him to join them, but he not only steadily refused, but set himself energetically to work to break up the conspiracy. He procured evidence of the complicity in the plot of the most prominent leaders and took measures to arrest them. This sealed his doom. He was judged by the secret tribunal of the Camorra and sentenced to death, De Mata volunteering to execute the sentence. The next evening, with his foot on the doorstep, advancing to meet his young wife, who, with her boy by her side and a baby in her arms stood in the door to welcome him, he was set upon by De Mata who pierced him through twelve times with a poniard. The murderer was arrested, and after a sham trial was sentenced to the galleys for life. Now, in 1876, fifteen years later, his sentence is commuted to twenty years imprisonment. The boy who then witnessed the murder of his father is a rising young officer of artillery. The wife who thus witnessed her husband's butchery has since been a helpless invalid. On hearing of the intention of the government to commute the sentence of De Mata, the latter petitioned the King that he be forbidden permission to re-visit Naples, and this gentleman King so far recollected his duty as a human being as to grant her request.

CARDINAL FRANCHI AND THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.

(Freemans Journal, Sept. 18.)

AFTER the ceremonies in the Cathedral, Marlborough-street, yesterday, his Eminence Cardinal Franchi, accompanied by his Eminence Cardinal Cullen, paid a visit to the Christian Brothers' Schools, north Richmond-street. The occasion was one of very great interest, and will for ever be regarded as a memorable event in the history of a noble institution which has worked such unspeakable good for the cause of Catholic education in our city. The North Richmond-street School, which forms the great central establishment of the brotherhood, has, since its foundation in 1828 by O'Connell, increased its operations year by year; the character of the instruction given within its walls, the lives of self-sacrificing devotion led by the teachers, their spirit of enthusiasm, the perfection of their discipline, and their disinterested labors, are matters which have won even from hostile lips and pens expressions of wonder and admiration. There is no system of education which more completely harmonises with the instructions of the Catholic Church than that pursued by the Christian Brothers; for, whilst they make it their paramount aim and duty to direct the mind of the pupil to the contemplation of religion, to elevate it to the higher level of religious thought, they at the same time spare no pains to inculcate such secular instructions as are requisite to prepare him for the battle with the world, and to procure his honorable advancement in lawful avocations. Considering the fact that the Christian Brothers are entirely self-supporting, and that the classes to which they give instruction are not of the wealthier section of the community, it may seem marvellous how they progressed, how their houses have multiplied, how their scholars have grown each year more numerous, and how completely and uniformly successful has been the system under which their teaching is conducted. There are at present in Ireland over 27,000 pupils on the rolls, and the number of schools in actual operation is about 225. There are about four hundred brothers engaged in teaching, and although they receive no aid whatever from Government they have spent no less than £154,000 on buildings within a comparatively brief period. When the brothers commenced their labors in Ireland, more than seventy years ago, the penal laws, which then imposed fetters upon Catholic education, left them little or no field for their labors as a public body, but when the infamous code was relaxed, and the freedom of teaching was allowed, the Christian Brothers labored at those honorable and self-imposed tasks which have been so blessed by Providence, and which have won the admiration and love of our people. To the Superior of the Dublin Brotherhood, the Rev. Brother Grace, all praise and honor are due for what, under his management, has been done in promoting Christian knowledge in the Dublin schools. Under his able direction the Christian Brothers' Schools are models

of what such establishments should be, and it must have been gratifying to him to witness the great pleasure which the visit yesterday afforded his Eminence Cardinal Franchi, and to hear the words of encouragement and satisfaction with which that eminent prelate conveyed to the teachers, his unqualified approval of everything he had seen in the Richmond-street Schools.

THE SUCCESSION TO THE PAPACY.

SINCE the accession of the Democratic party to power the Italian Revolution has been rapidly divesting itself of the affected moderation that suited the preceding Ministries. It was long well-known that the Masonic and anti-Christian associations only worked the political idea for the destruction of religion. But this was not to be avowed at once. Rome was to continue the respected seat of the Pontificate, and the Pope, relieved from the cares of temporal dominion, would attend with greater freedom to the spiritual interests of his office. Now the mask can be thrown off. The axe is laid to the root, and the Church is to be destroyed at a blow. The next Conclave is to be the occasion, and the method was described by Windhorst some time ago: "Annihilate the Papacy or produce a counterfeit." A canonical election is to be prevented, or if an instrument can be found to canonise Liberalism, he is to be enthroned on the Chair of Peter. Diplomacy and discussion began to pave the way. Under the eyes of the Pope in his captivity his garments were divided. The right of veto, of confirmation, exploded claims of the worst days of German Caesarism, were revived. Prussian journalism explained the canons, the Freethinkers of France, Italy, and Austria followed. But the attempt was a failure. Any interference of the infidel governments of to-day, it was seen, would go unheeded, and in the College of Cardinals it was in vain to hope that a Masonic Pope would find favor. The electoral body must be changed, and the forms that centuries have sanctioned must be set aside at the next election. The Catholic Association of Italy, for asserting the rights of the Christian people, and especially of the citizens of Rome," charges itself with the new arrangements. A manifesto announces their determination, now that they are risen to a new political life, and that the Ministry in office has none of the tenderness of their predecessors for the Vatican Curia, and that certain diplomatic exigencies have ceased to be felt, "to vindicate for Christian Rome its providential mission, and uproot from its soil the proud theocracy that from barbarous times has lasted into ours under the name of the Papacy." To this manifesto they seek signatures, and the chief duty of their adherents is in the meantime to instruct the Romans and prepare them for the exercise of "their incontestable right to elect the Bishop of Rome, successor of the Prince of the Apostles, and universal Pontiff." The programme, on its first appearance, seemed too wild to be serious, and the idea appeared too ridiculous to cause alarm. Since its issue in the month of April, events have happened that give it greater importance. Doubtless the vast majority of the names belong to persons who never darkened a church door. They have no thought for the Church except to hate it. But they may be powerful for much. In Faludano and St. Giovanni del Dosso it was not a majority of church-going Catholics that intruded the schismatic parish priests. The faithful could not countenance the principle by going to the poll even to give their votes to a canonically appointed pastor. The Government only wants a pretext for interference. It showed this in the case of the Mantuan parishes, and it would show it the day the so-called clergy and people of Rome elected an anti-Pope. Signor Mancini, Minister of Justice, only gave expression to the sentiment of the Democratic Cabinet when he wrote to the President of the Liberation Society of Naples that he, as a Minister, viewed with satisfaction the agitation for manhood suffrage in the elections of the pastors of the Church in every grade of the hierarchy. He confessed that it was premature to propose legislation in that direction, but he hoped that nothing would be left undone to prepare and educate public opinion, and engaged on his part to use every means, direct and indirect, to encourage the movement.

The programme of the Association has been denounced by the Cardinal Vicar, the Sacred Penitentiary has declared its members excommunicated, the Holy Father has bewailed it, as an endeavor to prepare days of sorrow and schism for Rome and Italy. We hope the danger is not imminent, but we cannot think it a chimera. His eighty-five years bear lightly on our venerated Pontiff, and the prayers of Christendom are offered up that he may be preserved to pilot the Church through this storm. But we must not be taken unawares, and if a great calamity were to befall us at a moment when the Sacred College could not assemble to observe the accustomed forms of the conclave, we know that the authority which sanctioned those forms is not extinct nor dormant, but vigilantly provided for every eventuality; and that the Bishop of Rome and legitimate successor of Peter will be he who is elevated to his Chair according to the constitution in vigor at the time of a vacancy.—'Tablet.'

MANY of our readers will be glad to learn that our respected fellow-colonist, Mr. A. H. Ross, who some little time ago went, with his family, for a visit to England, has returned to Dunedin. It is now Mr. Ross's intention to enter again upon business in this city, where he has secured large and commodious premises opening upon the Octagon, near the Athenaeum. In connection with the exercise of his profession as an optician, in which his skill has been so widely recognised, the gentleman to whom we refer, purposes to give his attention to certain other branches, more especially musical instruments; and in order to do so with satisfaction to all who may avail themselves of his services, he has occupied a portion of his time in the old country by selecting a large and valuable stock which, having been chosen by himself, is secure of possessing the highest excellence in its peculiar line to be found in the workshops of Europe.