

manity. The men who established and carried to the highest perfection, the schools, universities, orphanages, asylums, who have been the sole teachers of the nations, the advocates of liberty, the framers of the glorious constitutions of the civilised world, the architects, printers, philosophers, statesmen, warriors, navigators, for fifteen hundred years and more, have, according to our modern instructor, been the bane, the curse of humanity, from whom free-thought is slowly, only slowly, but surely liberating it. Such is the new Christianity, morality, and education, introduced into Dunedin by free-thought. But we need proceed no further. Mr. GRAHAM has taken up the defence of the Bible and Christianity against the assaults of Mr. BRIGHT, and they are foemen worthy of each other's steel.

### A GOOD CAUSE.

Who is there that has not heard of the Nun of Kenmare?—a lady who, in a manner suited to the requirements of the day, has revived the labors of the cloisters of the middle ages, and is conferring upon the literary world works of eminent merit, which are all the more valuable that they bear the impress of truth, and are calculated to serve as antidotes for the poison that is universally disseminated by means of the anti-Catholic press. For such poison is universal, and prevails to a degree that would be simply ludicrous were it not also wicked, and in contemplating which we feel affected somewhat as we are when viewing the antics of a drunkard, and are divided between a propensity to ridicule his absurdity and a sense that we should, to act properly, be filled only with disgust at his vice.

It is indeed hardly possible to open a book by a Protestant writer, much less a newspaper under non-Catholic conduct, without being in something or other offended. Writers seem in this respect to claim for themselves complete immunity, and to assume a permission to make statements, or to introduce into their compositions illustrations, that uttered concerning any secular matter would cover them with confusion as egregious dunces, or secure for them a well-merited castigation due to unblushing calumniators.

We would gladly, as in fact it has been suggested to us, adopt the belief that the persons who act in the method we allude to, were actuated only by ignorance or excusable prejudice, and in many instances it may be so. Nay more, in the case of ordinary *literati* quoting from the past, we should say that such very generally is the truth, for we cannot suppose that it is common for men, even were they sufficiently learned for the purpose, to act so base a part as that, for example, acted with regard to the writings of St. ELIGIUS by the historian, MOSHEM, when by garbling the teaching of the saint, taking out a sentence here and a phrase there, and joining the remainder together *ad libitum*, he completely distorted the meaning of the passage operated upon and, while he cast a temporary and partial shadow over the memory of the author of the work mutilated, covered his own reputation with infamy in the eyes of all honest men. But we cannot acquit those who would endeavor to make it appear, as it often happens, that contemporary Catholic clergymen have transgressed the precepts of charity or counselled a breach of the peace, that the Holy Father has issued a decree *de hæretico comburendo*, that members of the Church have, as such, been guilty of all manner of enormities, or some such affair. These scribes, we should say, act in pure malevolence, and in the falsehoods with which they decorate their emanations present to their readers matter that is entirely original, unbiassed quite by the conclusions of prejudiced historians, or the flimsy shallow theologians; and to them we would in all sincerity suggest as their just motto a line more fitted to their use than to that of the writer to whom it is jestingly applied by Father PROV, in whose 'Reliques' we find it—

'Nostra damus cum falsa damus nam fallere nostrum est.'

But whether in ignorance, or whether in malice, anti-Catholic utterances are rife, so that it has become a matter of the highest importance to supply a class of literature wherein truth and justice will be attended to, and which the young and those who are not fully instructed may read without danger to their faith. The task is a Herculean one, for the influence of that which it seeks to undermine has been growing for three centuries, and amongst those who have contributed to its growth are to be found many names indicative of the highest powers of intellect. But, nevertheless, the valiant sisters of St. CLARE in their convent at Kenmare do not shrink from the sight of the difficulty. Emboldened by what has already been done by one of their sisterhood,

and who has been widely recognised as an authoress endowed with talents not inferior to those which rank first at the present day, and anxious to carry on further the worthy enterprise which has gained for them the applause of the whole Catholic world and the approbation of its great head, the Holy Pontiff, Pius IX., they are desirous of extending their labors, and have for that end made preparations which it only needs a fund amounting to about £1,000 to perfect. For this object they have issued an appeal which has been forwarded far and wide and which we trust will meet with such a response as will enable the spirited community to accomplish the good work that they have taken in hand.

"Providence seems to have given in our day a great mission to the Catholic press," says the Holy Father. "It is for it to preserve the principles of order and faith, where they prevail, and to propagate them where impiety and cold indifference have caused them to be forgotten."

Such is the authority which those who are engaged in promoting Catholic literature act upon, and it is one which undoubtedly ought to secure for them the hearty co-operation of all who profess the faith. No utterance that falls from the lips of the Sovereign Pontiff is feeble or of trifling import, and that which he has pointed out as the engine by which the principles of faith and order are to be preserved and propagated is surely deserving of the support of those who acknowledge him to be their father. But too often we find them act as if the contrary were the case, too often we find them helping to maintain organs that, in return for the aid they receive, do not cease to overwhelm with insolence and contempt all that their Catholic supporters hold as most sacred, whilst those that study to uphold the dearest interests of morality and religion are neglected; so that the former are encouraged, by the very people they openly despise, to continue vigorously in their evil course, and the latter are relegated to a subordinate position, in which it is impossible for them to accomplish the good they are capable of performing, and would perform were they duly supported.

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

ON Saturday last the employes of the firm of Messrs Mills, Dick, and Co., Dunedin, by which the NEW ZEALAND TABLET is printed and published, were entertained at a luncheon given by the directors of the TABLET Company on the occasion of the change made in the form of their journal, and in recognition of the satisfactory manner in which the typography under the direction of Mr. Woodfield, and the printing in connection with the paper have always been performed. Mr. J. J. Connor, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, presided.

THE news received by telegram, via San Francisco, seems anything rather than specifically peaceable. As matters stand at present, it would be quite impossible to predict what turn events may take, but for our own part we cannot see how a war between Russia and Turkey could occur without involving other powers, at least towards its close.

THE ship Calypso, which in our last issue we announced as about to sail for London on the 24th ult., was detained at Port Chalmers until Tuesday last.

THE Wellington 'Times' makes merry at the expense of certain gentlemen who, it is reported, design to exchange Otago for Mexico, and who, instead of staying to render obedience to the gentle behests that issue from the Empire City, are, according to the satirizing journal, anxious to embrace dictatorship and revolutionary life. It does not, however, require any very far sighted seer to foretell that ere long the Government of Washington will have extended its authority as far as the Isthmus of Panama, and that consequently our emigrated fellow-colonists would find themselves at no distant period citizens of the Great Republic.

THE collection made at the dedication of St. Columbkille's Church, Riverton, on Sunday, the 18th ult., amounted only to £67 instead of £100 as stated in the report of our correspondent.

WE have to request that all agents, subscribers, and other parties who are indebted to the N. Z. TABLET Company, will kindly settle their accounts with the Manager of the Company at their earliest convenience, as preparations are about to be made for striking the yearly balance sheet.

MR. PEARSON has brought an action against the Corporation of Dunedin in their capacity of local Board of Health. The case will be heard in the Resident Magistrate's Court on the 7th instant.

THE Winton correspondent of the 'Weekly Times' says:—I understand that our Roman Catholic fellow-townsmen have purchased an eligible site upon which they intend at once to erect a church. The ministrations of the Rev. Father Higgins are very acceptable here, not only to the actual members of his communion, but to many others, and it will be well for all when a suitable place of worship is provided.

THE Cricket Match with the English Eleven commences in Dunedin to-day. We understand that at the request of his Worship the Mayor, the event will be celebrated by the observation of a half holiday in town.