

This is what comes of endeavouring to do without God and his Church. Secularists prefer the absurd and ridiculous, to justice to Catholics: lest we should have our own money to help us really to educate our children, these gentlemen are willing to take the soul out of education, and to give in its stead an inanimate carcase, mere instruction without God, without religion, without CHRIST, without the Church, and without history. It is marvellous; verily it is a solemn farce. Secularists propose to enlighten and beatify mankind by withdrawing from the rising generation all knowledge of the past and of the future. Man is to be made supremely happy merely by the cultivation of physical science, and attention to the wants of this life. Secularism makes provision for nothing more, and throws every obstacle in the way of anything more. It squanders all the available resources of a nation in pursuit of its Utopia, and effectually renders genuine education penal.

MISERABLE DICTU!

We recollect that in the beginning of the famous Crimean war, when the Russians had unexpectedly inflicted chastisement on the Turks at Sinope, an illustration appeared in 'Punch,' in which was represented a rustic politician sitting upon a stile with a newspaper in his hand, while he commented lucidly upon the intelligence received, in rural phrase which we shall not attempt to reproduce, and found himself puzzled to the very extremity of head-scratching at discovering that it was the wrong party that had gained the victory, that had, in fact, carried the fight into the enemy's country, instead of quietly abiding at home to be thrashed by the allied forces as it was expected. Now the phenomena of the human mind, as exhibited in one individual, are frequently similar to those shown under like circumstances by another; hence, in observing the consternation—albeit expressed in more erudite terms—of certain worthies who have come under our observation, we have been reminded of 'Punch's' cartoon.

Divers ministers of the Presbyterian persuasion have lately met in Edinburgh, to hold a wringing of hands and a gnashing of teeth, over the encroachments of "Popery." Who'd have thought it? One would have expected that ere this the affair would have been altogether stamped out; but *c'est autre chose*, for while the gentle inhabitants of the evangelical dove-cot have been cooing in applause of every carrion-loving vulture that hovered minatory over Europe for the last half-century, while they have been approbatory of MAZZINI, and gushing to foam over GARIBALDI, lo and behold! their own precious vineyard has been sown with tares, and a full crop is springing under their very noses. Hech, sirs, its just awfu! But we know what kind of chieftains facts are, and there is no use in trying to trifle with them.

What has become of the "Protestant tradition?" Was it not laid down as an axiom, that all required to wean the popular mind from "Popery," in any given country, was that the stomach should be well lined with comfortable food, the back well covered with warm garments, and that certain passages, clipped here and there from Holy Writ, should become stereotyped on the brain. For this, the overthrow of governments has been hailed with acclamation, the right hand of fellowship extended to pirate and assassin, and a halo of sanctity thrown over households in which the "cutty-stool" would be an article of furniture as fitting as in the cell of EFFIE DEANS itself, or even more so. But while heaven and earth have been compassed to make one proselyte in Italy or Ireland, and the worldly advancement of the people tampered with has been the means adopted, here it is discovered that persons possessed of all temporal advantages, and highly educated in the bargain, have been going over in numbers to the enemy.

Already their mark is made upon the country. Hear what has offended Dr. BEGG, and caused that just man hardly less vexation than the righteous soul of the patriarch of old derived from the conversation of the wicked of his day. In the south of Scotland there is a "new Romish chapel, built chiefly by three perverts from Protestantism," and—oh, horror of horrors!—an edifice that was formerly a "Free Church consecrated a Romish chapel;" then there is that "portentous event," the establishment of a large monastery in the north, and the "perversion of some of the most powerful aristocracy." Shade of JOHN KNOX! thou sturdy demagogue and truculent enforcer of heresy, has, then, the "pented bredd" and the things it symbolised had a more real life than the system thy blasphemous tongue supported? This looks

like it, for after three centuries the dead and worthless do not return, nor does the immortal fade towards perishing.

But, after all, Dr. BEGG almost hit the right nail on the head. He attributed the principal reason of the change to growing infidelity. And it is so, in part, as he might have known long since had he been in the habit of studying Catholic authors, for, from the first, it was by them foretold that the so-called "Reformation" would end in unbelief, pure and simple, and that the day would come when the Church would stand on one side and Atheism on the other, without a medium. That day is advancing rapidly, and if the rev. doctor lives but a little longer, he is destined to see a further development of the fact—let Exeter Hall and the Presbytery howl never so keenly.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE uproar attendant on the fact that the late Cardinal Antonelli died worth a large fortune, has terminated, as commonly occurs in such cases, after the "nine days' wonder," productive of nothing. It has been shown beyond controversy that his Eminence's wealth had been inherited in the first instance, and subsequently increased by judicious investment. Certain of our contemporaries would do well to remember the adage *de mortuis nil nisi bonum*, at least so far as its observance may prevent them from being convicted of a display of pitiful spite.

We perceive that the policy of eviction still continues in Ireland. Rack-rents continue to be demanded as a cloak for a determination to exterminate the tenant-farmers. Sheep and cattle are found by the land-lords much more payable than cultivators of the soil, and there is no scruple observed to prevent industrious farmers from being converted into paupers or emigrants. It is evidently acknowledged preferable to pamper a vicious class rather than to secure the welfare of a nation. It is not to be wondered at if the banished people leave as an inheritance to their children a detestation of the Government that has acted towards them the cruel part of the *injuncta noverca*.

In another column we publish an appeal issued by the Lady Superior of the Dominican Convent, Dunedin, and addressed to all those persons who are considered likely to help in a good cause. The object of the address is to obtain aid towards the erection of the Conventual buildings now in process of construction, and which, when finished, will ensure to the people of Otago, and the Colony generally unsurpassed means for the education of their children, and the other advantages that accrue from the establishment of a convent. That the benefits resulting from the foundation and support of such institutions in any given locality are considerable is very evident, but were all other proofs wanting, we should find ample testimony to the fact in this alone that we frequently read in the Irish newspapers descriptions of the warm self-congratulations manifested in some neighborhood where a monastic community has been established, and if, in a country where such colonies are already "thick as leaves in Vallombrosa," their increase should be hailed with joy as an unquestioned acquisition and benediction of Heaven, unexceptionable witness is borne to their utility. How much more then ought a land where they are indeed "few and far between" to rejoice at their foundation, and struggle in their behalf. Means of aiding so praise-worthy an object are now offered in endeavoring to further the interests of the forthcoming art-union an effort which, moreover, persons less spiritually minded may be induced to undertake in hope of obtaining one of the many beautiful and valuable prizes to be drawn for.

THE weather in New South Wales has been unusually hot. From all parts of the Colony complaints of the almost unendurable state of the atmosphere have been received.

THE 'Illustrated N. Z. Herald' for March contains some fine views of Northern Queensland, Scenes of a voyage from Melbourne to Port Chalmers, a sketch of the town of Oamaru, and various other illustrations. The periodical is, if anything, of more than ordinary merit.

A DISCOVERY of gold has been made in the neighborhood of Warwick, a town situated to the south of the Darling Downs in Queensland. It had been for some years the impression that auriferous country existed in the district, but until the present no find of any importance seems to have been made there. Warwick is a prosperous town, and is generally accredited with an English appearance. It is situated on the banks of the River Condamine, which, however, in the matter of volume has not here much to boast of at ordinary times, although it is the occasion now and then of considerable floods. The locality enjoys a good climate, standing at an elevation which secures it from the great heat of the latitude. It is much affected by the painful Australian ophthalmia, known as sandy-blight, which is the principal drawback to a beautiful and otherwise healthful country.

DR. JOYCE, an Irish-American, not unknown already to fame as a poet, has written an epic entitled, "Deirdré," the subject being the story of the Sons of Uisne, which also gave rise to Moore's spirited lines "Avenging and Bright." The poem is said to be the work of the age, and able critics have even gone so far as to assign it a place not altogether unworthy of comparison with that occupied by the Iliad.

As a consequence of the Falk Laws combined with those designed to supply Prussian dissecting rooms with subjects, it is not at all impossible that at some time the dead body of a Catholic bishop may be handed over to the disposal of the medical students. The Catholic mind must, however, so far as we can see, lay itself out to the contemplation of horrors and indignities, for even steps have been taken with respect to the interference of the employés