

Victoria is the out-come of political spite, religious rancour, and infuriated haste. The latter was adopted to spite one-fourth of the population, for base political purposes; the former has been established by gentlemen, scholars, statesmen, and serious, earnest, Christian legislators, looking not to the triumph of a soft-goods shopkeeper, but to the lasting prosperity of a great nation.

And what is the principle of the law on education in England—what its chief characteristic? Why that education must be Christian and denominational. The Government helps all denominations, encourages them to raise up efficient schools of their own, and subsidises all without exception. True, there are School Boards and secular schools in England, but then these are the exception not the rule; and where there are a sufficient number of the denominational schools, these School Boards cannot exist. In Victoria, however, the very opposite is the case. Not content with withdrawing all aid from denominational schools, the Government universally has built its own godless school hard-by the Catholic school, with the avowed purpose of destroying the latter. And this is the system of folly, spite, and injustice, as we are told by their friends, the present Government of New Zealand is prepared to recommend to the Legislature next session. We are sorry to say we think it is very probable that it will be so. The present Government has given evidence of so little statesmanship, of such narrow partizanship, that we shall not be surprised at any folly and blunder it may perpetrate.

THE OTAGO POLICE FORCE.

THE high-handed manner in which the Abolition movement was carried out seems about to be extended. The Otago Police Force is now about to vanish from the scene, and under circumstances that will entail peculiar hardships on a most deserving body of men. Amalgamation is the order of the day, and the Armed Constabulary and the other Police are to become one; but as yet there are no symptoms manifest of steps being inaugurated for preventing the members of the Force in Otago from losing seriously by the change. The only alternative proposed to the men by which they may avoid reduction from a senior to a junior force is that they may, should they so desire it, retire by the 13th of June next, which day has been chosen for swearing them in. But, as by doing so, they would lose their title to compensation, to expect that they should regard such a permission as anything more than a vain pretence and mockery is ridiculous in the extreme.

It is to be hoped that the matter may receive some further consideration, so that it may be made clear to the parties concerned, that their interests will not suffer under the altered regulations. Justice strictly requires that such should be done; for Governments have no more right than individuals recklessly to violate agreements, and they cannot do so without suffering consequences that will affect the well-being of the community in general. The Police Force, upon whose efficiency so much depends, especially is not to be trifled with, nor subjected to a just grievance without expectation of the worst results, for it is unreasonable to suppose that thoroughly good work may be hoped for from men who find themselves unexpectedly placed in a worse position, both as regards prospects of promotion and compensation, than that which they have hitherto occupied; and in which, far from having done anything to forfeit consideration, they have given the best proofs of their merit. We trust, therefore, that no wrong-headedness on the part of the Government, nor blundering of Colonel MOULE's inexperience, will effect the dispersion or demoralization of a body which is rather deserving of advancement than hindrance, and amongst whom it is most inexpedient that rational discontent should be voluntarily introduced.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE Ghouls are still champing their resurrect carrion. Where has the latest Antonelli scandal originated; in Melbourne, along the P and O route, or with some London pander? Most probably the latter, for crediting colonials with a depraved appetite, and a ravening after filth seems to be part of the contempt entertained for these latitudes by many persons in the old country; and undoubtedly the avidity with which the Press in the colonies seizes upon anything suggestive of obscenity is calculated to confirm Home correspondents or telegraph officials in such a belief. However as all the previous falsehoods were in due time branded in three letters with their proper name, that to which we allude, we have no doubt, will also, in due season, have its written across its face. It appears, however, according to the Suez mail news that illegitimacy is recognised by law in the kingdom of Italy, a most

natural consequence of the kingship of Victor Emanuel, and the par-excellence heroism of Garibaldi. We congratulate the 'Evening Star' on the tid-bits it has so lovingly culled out. We had heard before of its predilection for maggoty meat. No wonder our contemporary should "wax fat and kick." The bareability to hint at the obscene has long been as marrow to its bones.

We have received from private sources most painful accounts of the famine in Southern India. One correspondent writing from Madras describes the ceremonies of the Empress proclamation as being held in the midst of famine and pestilence, and seeming more suitable to the burial of the old empire than to the birth of the new. Another tells us of celebration of the same event having been made at Salem by the feeding of 70,000 people, who at the sight and smell of the food became wild, and "acted like hounds." Cholera and small-pox are raging, and the unfortunate natives are so bewildered by their misery that they have grown quite lawless, and the Courts of Justice are provided with double work.

The Secretary of the Dunedin Branch H.A.C.B.S., informs us that at the last ordinary meeting of the Branch, the delegates who attended the late district meeting, gave a lengthy account of the proceedings transacted thereat, and the part they took in forwarding the interests of the Branch. Afterwards the delegates were honored with a unanimous vote of thanks and confidence. At the quarterly meeting held on the 5th instant, there was a large attendance of members. One candidate was initiated, and one joined by clearance. The election of Secretary, vice Bro. Cantwell resigned, took place, and resulted in the return of Bro. John Gallagher. It was resolved that the anniversary of Ireland's Patron Saint be celebrated by the members going in a body, in regalia, to Holy Communion on Sunday, 18th instant. Cash received, £35.

We learn with regret of an accident, attended by serious consequences, and which occurred on Sunday evening last, to a son of Mr. Gawn of the Oriental Hotel, Dunedin. The lad was playing in the neighborhood of the Dowling-street steps, and by some mischance fell over the bank, and received severe injuries, having his head cut and several of his ribs broken.

THE corvette Sapphire, belonging to Her Majesty's navy, arrived at Port Chalmers on Tuesday afternoon last, returning from a cruise amongst the Chatham, Campbell, and Auckland Islands.

At about twenty minutes past two o'clock on Wednesday morning last, a fire, supposed to have been extinguished on the morning of the day preceding, again broke out at the Waverly Boarding-house in Moray-place, and was attended with the most disastrous results. The building being old and constructed of wood, the flames spread rapidly, so that those of the inmates who were apprised of their danger were barely afforded time to escape, which, however, they were fortunate enough to accomplish; although certain of them sustained injury by being obliged to leap from the windows of the upper storey. It was at first hoped that no life had been lost, but later on the remains of a male boarder were discovered amongst the ruins, he having perished probably without having made even an effort to extricate himself from his peril. The building was insured for £200, but the proprietor, whose name is McClusky, has suffered a heavy loss.

The drawing in connection with the Art Union, undertaken to aid in clearing off the debt upon the Catholic Church, Christchurch, will be held in that city on the 9th April. A large number of useful and valuable prizes have been provided, and we trust that the result will go far towards accomplishing the object in view.

It is needless to remind our readers that the feast of the great patron Saint of the Irish nation will occur to-morrow. While the world is distracted by conflicting doctrines, and many men cut adrift from all faith are struggling to calm the disturbance of their minds in strange and far-fetched systems of belief, it is consoling to think that the people instructed by St. Patrick have continued firm in their adherence to his teaching, and that yearly the festival of this holy Apostle of the West beholds the fruits of his labors spread more widely, borne by his spiritual children into the recesses of new countries, and there made evident in the erection of churches and the opening of schools. All true sons of Erin will, however, endeavor to honor their patron, by affording an example on his festival of the salutary effects of the creed taught by him, and to this end will spend the day religiously and well. The members of the H.A.C.B. Society, belonging to Dunedin, have signified their intention of acting thus, by appointing the Sunday morning following for their reception of the Most Holy Communion, and it is to be hoped that they will have many imitators or companions in their praise-worthy deed.

THE Caledonian Society's athletic games will be held in the grounds of the Society on Easter Monday. These sports are now a well established feature in the amusements of the year, and we have no doubt that the gala day approaching will minister to the pleasure of many. The wrestlers' contest, in particular, is expected to be unusually spirited and interesting.

MR J. MARKHAM, so well-known in connection with the firm of Markham & Dooley, has now opened the Queen's Hotel, Thames-street, Oamaru, and is prepared to carry on the business of that establishment with his accustomed ability and liberality.

THE usual weekly meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Young Men's Society took place in St. Joseph's Schoolroom, on Wednesday evening last. There was a large attendance of members present. The Rev. Father Crowley, Vice-President, occupied the chair. The event of the evening was a lecture on the early history of New South Wales, by Mr. P. Daniel, who handled his subject in a very able manner, and which called forth several hearty rounds of applause. The evening was wound up by readings and recitations in which Messrs. Griffin, Cunningham, Dunne, Harris, and Deehan took part.

A military band at Cork lately, declined to play during "The Shaughraun," on account of treasonable sentiments expressed in the play. This did not hurt "The Shaughraun" much in the eyes of the people of Cork.