

and nourishing diet for the latter. The argument arising from considerations of the good of the community, the only one alleged, or that can possibly be brought forward in favor of free, secular, and compulsory education, is as conclusive, to say the very least, in the one case as in the other.

But if Government had the good sense and justice to confine itself to helping the needy, and taking care of the neglected, as is its duty and its right, it would, whilst giving general satisfaction, have the means to do what is clearly its duty, and what it is now grievously neglecting; and that is, as Mr. DE LAOUR suggests, providing efficient technical schools in the chief centres of population, where children could be taught reading, writing, and arithmetic much better, or, at least, as well as they are now, and, at the same time, some trade, profession, or business which would fit them to use their physical powers usefully and earn their bread. The bit of education picked up at present in the Government schools is, as a rule, practically useless for the purposes of life or society.

But we fear Government will not confine itself to its legitimate sphere. The men who influence our Legislature are too earnestly bent on a raid on Catholic consciences, too much afraid of the influence of religion, and too determined to raise up State puppets, to do so. What the State could and ought to do in the way of providing technical education is utterly neglected, whilst all its energies are strained to the utmost, in an effort to prevent the legitimate influence of religion and the Church being felt in the schoolroom; whilst bearded men are busily engaged in waging an unnatural war against the duties and rights of parents and poor little children, refusing all aid to schools where the commandments of God are taught and His love inculcated, simply because these are taught by the grand old universal Church of Christendom, the resources of the minds of the people, in reference to land, trade, commerce, arts, sciences, are left in their undeveloped state by these men, whose first duty, after providing for the security of life and property, is the development of the physical resources of the community. The fact is, that although our various systems of education have been established ostensibly to provide a modicum of education for the children of poor and of neglectful parents, these are the very children whom they do not reach, whilst they afford a cheap education to the children of well-to-do parents. This is also the case in Victoria as well as in other countries. Those who were neglected before are neglected still, but such as enjoyed educational advantages then, enjoy more now.

What possible objection can there be to a system of payments by results in secular subjects. Such a system would create emulation, raise the standard of teaching, develop all the generosity and zeal for education existing in the community, lessen, by at least one-half, the Government expenditure on common schools, and thus enable our rulers to establish technical schools, without which we shall not be able to hold a respectable place in the community of peoples. But no; the rabid bigoted, and tyrannical secularist does not value even a high standard of reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and geography, if, whilst learning these things, the pupils have been taught to regard themselves as responsible to their Creator, to say their prayers, to love the Christian's faith, and to do their duty to all. Can there be greater folly?

THE ASPECT OF HOME RULE.

WE are happy to learn from the news received by the San Francisco mail that the Home Rule movement in Ireland continues to prosper. English statesmen no longer act as if it were true, according to the declaration of Lord DERBY, that there was no more probability of Irishmen obtaining the measure they so much desired, than of a whimsical child who cried for the moon gaining the object of his perverse requirements. The old tactics have once more been tried, but this time they have resulted only in making manifest the alarm of the Government. It has been sought to bribe the leaders of the popular party, so that they might desert the cause they have so far conducted triumphantly; but the attempt has failed. Self-interest has yielded to sincerity, and the renewed confidence of the nation in them is more than a sufficient reward in the estimation of those whose steadfastness and probity have deserved it.

Mr. BUTT especially has given evidence of the genuineness of his claim to the reverence of the people, and if, as he declares with hopeful pride, his name is destined to shine upon

the page of history, as that of the champion of a successful cause, it will also be surrounded there by rays emanating from well-proved devotion and the sacrifice of self.

That the people are thoroughly in earnest now in fighting their peaceable and praiseworthy battle for the possession of their own country, and the right to make their own laws, is very evident. The results of the Waterford election afford a proof of their determination to triumph over everything. All the engines that power could bring forward or ingenuity devise were there pitted against them. The influence of great names, the potent bullying of the landlords, threatening eviction with all its desolating consequences to the dearest interests of their tenants. Everything was done that a dominant party, abounding in wealth and power could do; and their success seemed assured, for there appeared no possibility that the measures so warmly adopted and relentlessly pursued, in order to secure the continued ascendancy of a class in opposition to the general welfare of a nation, could succumb. It was even confidently boasted that, although there would be a close contest, the affair was certain—the advocate of oppression and bungling was sure to be returned and the popular candidate rejected. But the result was a miserable failure. The choice of the Government and hope of the landlords was even ludicrously defeated! Out of 2,500 votes in all, he gained 600, yielding to his opponent a majority of 1,300.

Such is the spirit with which Home Rule is being pushed forward at present. Determination exists amongst the masses, and the leaders are united and trustworthy. It may, then, well be credited that the chiefs of the English Liberals are beginning to manifest a disposition to examine into the matter, and even to contemplate the possibility of an union with the Irish members. In fact, all things seem conducive to the fulfilment of Mr. BUTT's prediction that—"Even before the centenary of 1782 returns we will see, at least on the anniversary of that great occasion, her Majesty opening the Parliament of Irish members in College Green—the Parliament, as it will then, indeed, be, of the 'Queen, Lords, and Commons of Ireland.'"

THE FEVER HOSPITAL.

THE meeting held at the Temperance Hall on Tuesday evening last, for the purpose of discussing the Fever Hospital, was unanimous in advocating the continuance of such an institution in Dunedin; the sole point of difference being as to the fitting site.

For our own part, we have never seen the force of the objection against the building occupying that portion of the Town Belt where it now stands. The situation is all that can possibly be desired, and the locality is out of the way, and, even prior to the erection of the hospital, was but little frequented by persons in search of recreation.

There can be no doubt but that in every civilised community, provision should be made for the isolation of, and proper attendance upon infectious diseases. Extreme measures, however, or any appearance of such should be avoided. It was, for instance, extremely impudent to allow a belief to spread abroad that children attacked by fever would be forcibly removed from their parents' houses, and we have no doubt whatever, that much evil has been the consequence of such a report. Apart from all questions of attendance during illness, there are people who would prefer to see their children dead, rather than know that, in all probability, they were running about unwatched during convalescence, in company with a band of unkempt larrikins; and such folk would submit to anything, and run any danger, before they would call in a doctor to pass the sentence they so much dreaded. Many other considerations also militated against the matter, for, notwithstanding all arguments and plausible paragraphs and windy locutions, the fathers and mothers of the present day are not Spartans, nor is it desirable that they should become so.

An hospital for infectious diseases, of which persons who desire it may avail themselves, is an absolute necessity. Let us have such an institution then, but such an institution properly managed; for, let doctors differ as they will, the idea of leaving a number of sick children untended during the night is simply barbarous; and, however medical opinion may decide as to its safety, those who have had practical experience in attending to the needs of the class of sufferers alluded to, know very well that to carry them here and there in the height of their illness, however expedient it may otherwise be, is the extreme of cruelty.