

## THE REV. R. SCRIMGEOUR IN SAN FRANCISCO.

THE Rev Mr Scrimgeour will no doubt be well remembered in Otago as a minister of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dunedin. This gentleman, we learn from the 'Alta California' of the 11th August, preached at Westminster Church last evening. Although the lecture announced was the sixth of a course on capital punishment, the attendance was quite small, not more than thirty being present. Speaking of the Jesuits he said:—"We know they would cut our throats tomorrow if they got the chance—that they would do to-morrow what they did before, we believe and are certain of. . . . We should beware of these people in this free country. We cannot be too watchful. We see the country now smiling on the Man of Sin who would close this Bible (striking the Bible with great force to emphasise the expression), burn this church, and burn you yourselves within it." The 'Alta' remarks "Mr Scrimgeour was exceedingly bitter in his denunciation of those who differed from him in religious belief; too bitter to impress an impartial listener with respect for his argument. Facts go farther than impassioned assertions; and in this case Mr Scrimgeour's mind seemed to be wandering among the reminiscences of what he thought to be facts."

That this style of preaching does not take in San Francisco, in which as in other parts of America lectures are more largely attended than here, may be inferred from the fact that Mr Scrimgeour's audience was "not more than thirty."

## THE 'WELLINGTON INDEPENDENT' ON MR. VOGEL.

THE following extract from an article in the 'Independent' on the recent change of offices in the cabinet shows that the 'Independent' appears to be determined to act up to its name, and be a slave of Mr Vogel's party no longer. It also explains the proposed establishment of a new paper in Wellington, on the directory of which Mr Vogel's name is prominent, and the company about to start which propose to buy the 'Independent.' It may also be mentioned that the 'Post' has lately been the medium of semi-official announcements. The extract is as follows:—"We appear to be gradually drifting away from the principles and practice of our Constitution. We have a Ministry nominally responsible to Parliament, but which is practically only responsible to its head, Mr Vogel. He is aiming too high, and in the intoxication of power he is inclined to forget the system of government which has placed him where he is. He has evinced a disposition which has for some time become more apparent to usurp to himself all real power. It is recognised that, practically, he is the Government, and this is a position which, although it may be held for a time, cannot endure nor be endured, however able any man in his position may be. It was patent all through the session that, with the exception of Mr McLean, and possibly also Mr Richardson, the Ministry had no mind except that of the Premier. As for the rest, Mr Vogel might just as well have placed three marionettes at his elbow. And this state of things appears now to be the foundation of the administration of the important affairs of this colony at a critical period of its existence. We have all the show and pretence of representative and responsible government, whilst the least lift of the curtain will expose the fact that the government of the colony is almost absolutely in the hands of one master mind. Under such circumstances we might as well suspend the Constitution altogether, and appoint Mr Vogel as Dictator. He is practically so now. We know no man in whom the colony would put greater faith than Mr Vogel, and it would be far more creditable that his authority were formally recognised than that the people should believe that they are living under a free Constitution, when, in fact, they are governed by one man alone. But if we are to preserve the spirit of the Constitution, it is impossible that the people will rest contented with personal Government in any shape. Mr Vogel has just now his own way without let or hindrance, but we warn him that his present position is fraught with danger. The events of last session have weakened his position more than, probably, he can realise just now, but outsiders often see the most of the game, and we say deliberately that the Ministry could not possibly have put themselves into a worse position than that which they now occupy."

## THE THAMES CATHOLICS AND THE AUCKLAND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

We read the following in a Thames exchange:—

"We understand that the Catholics of the Thames yesterday showed their disapproval of the new Education Act and its working in a most practical manner. A meeting of the Church, convened by the Bishop, was held in the afternoon to discuss the matter, and the result was a subscription amounting to £331 in aid of establishing an independent school for the children of Catholic parents, to be under the sole control of their own Church. We believe it is intended that some of the Sisters from St. Mary's Convent, Auckland, shall assist in the school. A preliminary meeting on the subject of establishing such a school was held on Tuesday evening last, which was largely attended. The Right Rev. Dr Croke presided, and the question was freely ventilated by those present. It is pretty well known that the present provincial secular system of education is not taken advantage of by the members of the Roman Catholic faith, except as a matter of necessity, and in places where Catholic schools cannot be established. We are further given to understand that the building will be commenced forthwith, and that it is expected to be finished about the end of the present year. What effect this will have on the working of the Common Schools Act in this district of course remains to be seen; this much, however, we are free to admit, that it seems to be a hardship to tax the Roman Catholic people for the maintenance of a system of education of which they cannot conscientiously avail themselves."

The members of the Catholic unions of the United States on the 4th July went to communion in large numbers.

The Papal Bull authorising the consecration of the Very Rev Father Reynolds as Bishop of Adelaide, has arrived at Sydney.

## "PIOUS FRAUD"

In a letter in a recent number of the 'Wellington Independent,' it was stated that Bishop Williams (the Anglican Bishop of Waipau) had in a published work 'Christianity of New Zealanders,' stated that a Catholic priest carried with him in the old days of the colony a statue of the "Blessed Virgin," which he (the crafty priest) filled with water. He would then make his disciples go on their knees before the image and say, "Mary loves you, children, and presently tears of love and compassion will come from her eyes." A correspondent of the 'Independent,' "Scribe," wrote describing this "as one of the thousand tricks practiced from time immemorial." "A Catholic Missionary" wrote criticising "Scribe," and in his letter he stated as follows:—"The point at issue for him was—Whether Bishop Williams had not slandered the Catholic Priest of New Zealand about the tale of his Virgin shedding tears. Against the defence of Bishop Williams we have more than arguments and presumption. We have the very words of the above Bishop in the following letter:—

"Napier, January 30, 1866.

"I received a short time back a letter from yourself, under date December 9, 1861, in which you refer to a statement made in a book entitled 'Christianity among New Zealanders.' The passage is found in pages 339 and 340. [In those pages is described all the process of the cunning priest with his fraudulent image.] The account was given to me by Rawiri Tamairiao, who had at that time attached himself to you. I have just returned from Poverty Bay, where I saw Takataka, who was also one of your followers. I mentioned the case to him, and he at once said that it was not true. I have therefore no hesitation in receiving your own disclaimer, and acknowledge that I was misled by Rawiri's statement. At the same time I much regret that, while wishing to give a truthful account of what took place at the time, I should have stated anything which was without foundation. In the event of another edition being called for, I shall not fail to correct the error."

"Yours faithfully,

"WILLIAM WAIPU."

It was to prevent legal steps being taken against his Lordship that, after a warning, Bishop Williams sent this pale recantation. He says he has been deceived by a certain Rawiri. As for me, I cannot believe a Maori capable of an invention of that kind. The manufactory of those tales is elsewhere and among different people.

[The letter following the Bishop of Waipau was written in answer to a communication calling on him to retract the slander, under threat of a prosecution.—Ed. N. Z. T.]

## THE CATHOLIC CLERGY AND THE TOKOMAIRIRO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

ON Wednesday morning Mr J. P. Maitland, K. M., who has been appointed a commissioner to investigate into the charge made against the headmaster of the Grammar School, Tokomairiro, opened the examination at the Courthouse. On his taking his seat on the Bench, Mr Ross, the headmaster, said that he had one or two requests to make. First, that as the charge against himself had been made public, and been circulated over the length and breadth of the land, he was desirous that the proceedings at the inquiry should be conducted with open doors. Secondly, that all witnesses should leave the court. And, thirdly, that in the first instance the examination should be confined to the charge made; that being disposed of, he would then be quite willing to have the question of general management of the school inquired into, but he would object to the mixing up of the two questions together. Mr Maitland said in reply that in regard to the last request he would take care that the inquiry should be kept to the question of the charge, and evidence bearing upon it—such were the terms of his commission; and as to the second, it was his (Mr Ross's) prerogative to ask that witnesses should be out of court, so that that would be done. In regard to the first request, he had to state that the day previous he had a telegram from one of the newspaper representatives of Dunedin, asking if it would be an open court, and he had replied—"Inquiry into complaint against schoolmaster, Tokomairiro, will not be a public one." Under these circumstances he did not see very well how he could comply with Mr Ross's first request. He had no objection that members of the School Committee should be present. It was ultimately agreed that the public should not be present. Proceedings commenced at ten o'clock a.m., and continued till one o'clock; resumed at two o'clock, and continued till six o'clock; resumed again at seven o'clock, and closed at ten o'clock. The inquiry was again opened at nine a.m. yesterday morning, continued till two o'clock, resumed at three o'clock, and was finally concluded at six o'clock last night. The Government or Education Board will no doubt lose no time in giving full publicity to the report and evidence. During the proceedings there were present—Rev. Father Coleman, Mr Ross, Mr R. R. Jones, Secretary to the School Committee, who was appointed to watch the proceedings on behalf of the Committee; and Messrs Cunningham and J. L. Gillies, members of the School Committee.—'Bruce Herald.'

A Reuter's telegram states that the Pope, in his speech to the College of Cardinals, praised their zeal in supporting the rights of the Church, adding that their example found imitators in Italy and abroad, and these were the bright spots in the aspect of affairs which consoled him. At the same time he could not resist turning his eyes towards the spectacle of the thousand ills with which the Church was afflicted. "We reiterate our protests; we confirm the censures incurred by the usurpers of the Papal States and the property of the Church. We repeat them all the more because we see daily fresh attacks made upon religion." The Pope, in conclusion, urged the Cardinals to pray to God to keep far from them all idea of conciliation. His Holiness said:—"Let each one stand firm. They want me to go with them and I wish them to come towards me; I cannot go and will not."