

the creation of a state of things worse than the present. At the same time, however, we do not see how the retention of the leadership by Mr. PARNELL would either prevent the establishment of a better arrangement, or the prevention of the evils feared. He is, no doubt, an able and far-seeing and determined politician, but it cannot be admitted that there is only one such man in all Ireland. The Irish cannot afford to offend or oppose Mr GLADSTONE, and should not think of doing so, unless driven to such a course by an absolute necessity. Unless the measure proposed by the leader of the Liberal party in Great Britain should be little else than a sham, it would be very unwise to run counter to his views as to the leadership of Mr. PARNELL. As we have said more than once before, it is extremely to be regretted that the occasion should have arisen of discussing this painful question. But the facts relating to it are notorious, and force themselves on the attention of all Irishmen, and many others. We heartily wish Mr. PARNELL would of his own accord relinquish a position which appears to us, under the circumstances, utterly untenable. We join with all who affirm that his services to the cause of Ireland have been very great, and that all Irishmen owe him a deep debt of gratitude; but this would not justify them in imperiling the question of Home Rule, and we hesitate not so say that Mr. PARNELL if he thought the cause in danger, would himself be amongst the very first to desire his relinquishment of the leadership of the party. This he evidently does not yet see, and it is this that is so greatly to be regretted. We can only hope he may soon come to see it.

GODLESS EDUCATION.

THERE are still to be found some persons who refuse to admit that our present system of public education is a godless system, or anti-Christian. To us this seems wonderful. The law, by virtue of which it exists, expressly forbids the teaching of religion, and this is enough for all common-sense people and all without an axe to grind. This system, if it is not godless, is godly—there is no middle term. But in what sense can it be said to be godly or Christian, since nothing is permitted to be taught concerning God or CHRIST. Why even the name of CHRIST and His religion is absolutely ignored under this system. What more needs to be said to prove that it is a godless system? It is purely secular, and if in any school under it there exist religious teaching this is contrary to the law, a breach of contract, and, consequently, cannot change or modify the system itself. That it is anti-Christian is evident. To see this it is only necessary to call to mind what CHRIST himself says—viz., He that is not with Me is against Me. The system, therefore, which does not recognise and uphold the Christian religion is necessarily anti-Christian. It is in vain, consequently, for the patrons and advocates of this system to deprecate its being called anti-Christian, for this it is in an intense degree, in as much as it excludes all recognition of CHRIST and His religion, and by this exclusion teaches children to esteem mere secularism above Christianity as a matter of more importance to society and of more value to the individual than the teaching of CHRIST. Great stress is laid on the teaching of good manners and orderly habits under this system, and great importance is attached to the development it gives to the intellect. We do not undervalue these things, but all these can exist and have existed under pure paganism, and to affirm that the obtaining of these results purges the system from the charge of godlessness is to talk and write altogether beside the question. No; the present system of public education is utterly godless and anti-Christian, and no amount of special pleading and by-play can excuse it or wipe away the charge of godlessness. It is for the members of a professedly Christian community to seriously consider whether or not they are neglecting their most imperative and solemn duty in any longer tolerating such a system amongst them.

THE Rev. Father Donnelly's parishioners have presented him with a handsome buggy, harness, lamps and rugs, as a token of the esteem in which he is justly held by them. The rev. gentleman in accepting the gift said, he could not receive it as a personal gift, but for the use of the mission, which however, was all the same. He said it was highly gratifying to him to know that he had won their esteem and approbation while discharging his duty amongst them. "I thank you one and all for your goodness," he added, "and in return you will be daily remembered at the altar, which is the best remembrance of all."

THE Very Rev. Dr. O'Brien, Rector of St. John's College Sydney, and Mr. Alderman W. Hughes, also of that city, arrived in Dunedin on Tuesday and were entertained by the Most Rev. Dr. Moran, who accompanied them in a drive around the vicinity. The distinguished visitors left for Queenstown on Wednesday morning, with the intention of, afterwards, catching the steamer for the Sounds at Invercargill.—We understand that his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne and the Most Rev. Dr. Higgins, Coadjutor Bishop of Sydney, will visit Dunedin early next month.

THE Rev. Father Kelly, S.J., preached in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday evening. The rev. preacher spoke highly of the delight and astonishment with which he had seen the works performed by the Catholics of this city, and predicted still greater things to come in the near future. He exhorted the congregation to avail themselves to the full of the institutions erected by them. The rev. gentleman is an impressive and earnest speaker. We regret to find him showing unmistakable marks of extreme delicacy, but we trust he may benefit by the fine climate of New Zealand and the restorative properties of the hot springs, which it is his intention to visit.

AT a meeting of the Wellington Branch of the Irish National League, held last night, (says the *Evening Post* of the 8th inst.) it was decided that no action should be taken in connection with Irish affairs. The members considered the matter was in very good hands, and that the re-establishment of their cause upon a proper footing is only a matter of time.

MR. SYDNEY HOBEN, the young New Zealander pianist who has met with such distinguished success in his studies and performances at the Leipzig Conservatoire, (says the *Wellington Post* of the 10th inst.) is at present making a tour of the colony, and arrived in town by last night's Manawatu train, accompanied by his brother Mr. E. D. Hoben, who acts as his business manager. Mr. Sydney Hoben entered the Conservatoire about three years ago to study the pianoforte, and showed such marked proficiency at once that within three months he was called upon to play at one of the concerts of the institution, despite the unwritten rule which prevents students from appearing publicly until they have been twelve months within the walls. Hard work last year told seriously upon his health, and after various methods of treatment had been tried his medical advisers ordered him to take a trip to the colony. Upon this he is now engaged, and at its conclusion will return to the famous German musical college. Mr. Hoben goes on to Christchurch and Dunedin to-morrow, and will perform in Wellington about the end of the present month. His letters to various New Zealand journals, describing life in and about the "Con," will have already created a personal interest in him, and his appearance in public should be looked forward to by amateur players upon the much-hackneyed but seldom properly-used piano.

THAT worthy contemporary of ours the Napier *Daily Telegraph* is certainly fruitful in comical remarks. "Barnardo," says he "is harassed because his work of benevolence recognises no religion." But here is what Barnardo, in his latest begging pamphlet, has to say for himself. "Roman Catholic Aggression. Texts for a sermon upon this topic might be found by the hundred in modern life, and apparently in ever-increasing number. Not content with the claim for toleration and religious equality which is now universally conceded, the Roman Catholicism of to day proves itself true to its traditions by pushing forward its pretensions upon every pretext and at every opportunity which it can twist into its service. In the recent history of our own Homes the dictatorial and impertinent aggressiveness of the Romanists has been exhibited to a marked degree. Both in their overt action, and through those numerous organs of the press which they either control or influence, this tendency has often manifested itself; and doubtless public opinion has been in no slight degree affected by the quiet, persistent, and in general underground action of this ancient enemy of the Protestant faith, in pushing forward, in season and out of season, its arrogant claims."

ONCE more (says the *Liverpool Catholic Times*) the veteran kidnapper of Catholic children, Dr. Barnardo, has suffered defeat in a court of law. His appeal in the case of the boy Jones has been dismissed with costs. The judges, however, endeavoured to salve his wounded feelings by commending his benevolence. We are quite as much in sympathy with benevolent work as their lordships, and Dr. Barnardo would have had nothing but words of praise from us had he confined to Protestants his efforts for the reformation and improvement of destitute children. If the Master of the Rolls has not come across any case of a Catholic institution having rescued a child and Protestant people trying to get it away, it is not because Catholics are less alive to the interests of the young, but because they honourably restrict their zeal to the promotion of the welfare of the little ones of their own faith. The course which they pursue Dr. Barnardo should also follow if he desires to avoid litigation.

CONCERNING the recent cable advice that Mr. Clutsam was to play before her Majesty the Queen, the *Auckland Star* says.—"Mr.