

ON Wednesday next, Ash Wednesday, the usual Lenten devotions will commence in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin. The Rosary of the Blessed Virgin will be continued, as at present, every evening, with instruction on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament on Thursday, and the Stations of the Cross on Friday.

AMONG the list of candidates who have successfully passed the matriculation examination of the University we find those of the following students of St. Patrick's College, Wellington:—W. E. Butler, J. Ward, G. H. Harper, M. Hanning, F. McLean, B. Skerrett, J. Hickson, and S. J. Ryan.

THE Misses A. Truman and E. O'Leary, who have passed the University matriculation examination, are pupils of St. Mary's Convent High School, Wellington. Miss Kate O'Dea, of St. Mary's Catholic school, Port Chalmers, has also passed the examination.

SIR CHARLES RUSSELL, speaking at Braintree, Essex, on Friday, December 3, said Mr. Parnell, in his manifesto, was at once bold and ingenious, but hollow and deceptive. He had based his claims for the continued leadership of the Irish party on the appeal to race-hatred, which had been almost exorcised out of public life.

THE Irish Parliamentary party have issued an address to the Irish people, in which they declare that Mr. Parnell alone is responsible for the present deplorable situation. He pledged himself again and again to repel the charges against him, but the pledges were broken. They deposed him from the leadership because they became aware that if his leadership continued the Parliamentary struggle for Irish freedom might as well be given up at once. The question they had to ask themselves was whether their duty bound them to Mr. Parnell or to Ireland.

AS regards the police control (says *Truth*), every Radical must be of opinion that the Irish ought to have the control. There is, indeed, no reason why there should be an armed military force called a Constabulary. Ireland, like England, ought only to have a municipal police. With respect to the land, I do not understand why it should be exempted from the control of the Irish Parliament, for what can be more essentially a local matter than laws regulating the land of a locality? Were it not, indeed, for the existence of the land there would be no locality. The sole ground for the exemption is that never-ending illusion that landlords, whether in England or in Ireland, are Brahmins, and that occupiers and cultivators are Pariahs. I can understand an objection to Home Rule in its entirety; but to say that an Irish Parliament is to have control over all classes except landlords, is playing into the hands of those who consider that landlords are to enjoy an immunity that is enjoyed by no other class of the community.

A STRANGE scene was that enacted on the morning of December 11 at the office of *United Ireland*, which was seized by Parnell and his allies the preceding day and held until night, when a strong party of anti-Parnellites stormed the place, captured it, and left a garrison in charge. To-day Parnell and John O'Connor marched up to the bolted and barricaded door, each carrying a crowbar. Behind them was a multitude of their adherents, ready to assist in the siege. The two crowbars were vigorously applied, and in a minute or two the door was smashed in. Then the Parnellites, with a cheer, surged into the building and overwhelmed the garrison. The affair was witnessed by a number of policemen, who, however, made no pretence of interfering. After the office was taken, Parnell appeared at one of the windows of the office, shouting that he would fight the battle to the last, that he would only allow the country to decide the issue, and that he would submit to the dictation of no man. He appeared to be fiercely excited and to have lost his usual self-control. To guard against further attempts of Parnell's opponents to recapture the office, the doors and windows were bolted and barred, and when the office was secured against intruders all conversation with outsiders was carried on through the keyhole.

WE (Liverpool *Catholic Times*, December 12) venture to say that no more discreditable utterance ever escaped the lips of a responsible minister of the Crown than the speech which Lord Salisbury delivered last week at the opening of a Conservative club at Rossendale. The First Lord positively revelled in the filthy details of the recent divorce case; he seemed to rejoice that he had such a topic to discuss, and then, with the instincts of a "welsker" on the racecourse, declared that he had no doubts some of his friends had bets for or against Mr. Parnell. We do not remember that this rigid moralist ever expressed his disapproval of the immorality of his follower, Colonel Hughes-Hallett, or of other members of his Parliament whom we could name, and from whom he is thankful to receive support. Not a bit of it. He reserves his superior indignation for the Irish and their representatives, the "base pack," as he elegantly designates them, whom he would incontinently have thrust out of his way. With equally good

taste he attacks the illustrious leaders of the Liberal party, and the transition from this to a justification of coercion in Ireland is an easy task to so practised and so unscrupulous a rhetorician. Throughout the entire speech Lord Salisbury but exhibited himself once more in his true colours.

THE *Pall Mall Budget* gives a likeness of Mrs. O'Shea, the first, it says, published. The picture is that of a stout, middle-sized, large-featured, lady, in a very elaborate gown, and with an arrangement of her hair to be understood by an artist, or admired by a connoisseur, alone. So far as we are capable of judging, there is nothing in the picture to entitle its original to a place in the book of beauty. It is, however, not difficult to perceive the appropriateness of the current witicism, based on Mr. Rider Haggard, and which describes the lady thus photographed as "O'Shea who must be obeyed."

WE publish in another place the leader that appeared in *United Ireland* the week before Mr. Parnell made his spirited attack upon the office of that paper.—*Fiat justitia*. We have little sympathy with Mr. Parnell in the course of proceedings he has followed. In fact, the feelings of grief and pity with which we at first regarded him run a risk of changing into those of anger and disgust. But we must admit that his indignation against *United Ireland* appears not to have been without some grounds. Notwithstanding the exposure made of his conduct, that paper had clung to him; and it was only when it found the cause must suffer owing to the attitude of the English Liberals, that it threw him over, and then, as we see, it acted without mercy. For our own part, we honestly confess that had we not, on the first conviction formed by us of Mr. Parnell's guilt, perceived the whole enormity of his case, and resolved that he was unworthy of confidence, we should not so easily have renounced our allegiance to him. Who but he, by his able leadership, gained the support of the English Liberals?—and what he had once done he might do again. Had Mr. Parnell been true and trust-worthy, he would have been worth sacrificing some hopes of immediate success for; and it seems to have been alone for the sake of insuring such success that *United Ireland* turned on him. If the editors, therefore, were thrown by their deposed leader into the street, and the papers into the Liffy—as we understand was also the case—whether it was excusable or not, the matter is quite comprehensible.

THE *Pall Mall Budget* of December 11 divides the Irish Parliamentary party into Patriots and Parnellites. The Patriots number 50, and are as follows:—Justin McCarthy, W. Abraham, J. Barry, P. A. Chance, A. Commins, T. F. Condon, J. R. Cox, D. Crilly, J. Deasy, T. A. Dickson, Sir T. H. G. Esmonde, J. Finucane, J. C. Flynn, P. J. Foley, J. F. Fox, M. Healy, T. M. Healy, J. Jordan, M. Kenny, D. Kilbride, E. F. V. Knox, W. J. Lane, M. McCartan, J. H. McCarthy, P. McDonald, J. G. S. McNeill, B. C. Molloy, J. Morrough, W. M. Murphy, J. F. X. O'Brien, P. J. O'Brien, A. O'Connor, F. A. O'Keefe, J. Finkerton, P. J. Power, W. J. Reynolds, J. Roche, T. Sexton, J. D. Sheehan, D. Sheehy, J. Stack, D. Sullivan, C. B. Tanner, J. Tuite, A. Webb, J. Dillon, T. P. Gill, W. O'Brien, T. P. O'Connor, T. D. Sullivan. The following are the Parnellites, 29 in number:—A. Blaine, G. M. Byrne, H. Campbell, J. J. Clancy, M. Conway, W. J. Corbet, J. J. Dalton, J. B. Fitzgerald, E. Harrington, H. Harrison, L. P. Haydon, J. E. Kenny, E. Leamy, W. A. Macdonald, Sir J. McKenna, J. B. Maguire, P. Mahoney, Col. Nolan, J. Nolan, J. O'Connor, T. O'Hanlon, J. O'Kelly, C. S. Parnell, R. Power, T. Quinn, J. E. Redmond, W. H. K. Redmond, E. Sheil, T. Harrington. There are, besides, six undeclared absentees, namely, J. L. Carew, J. Gilhooly, R. Lalor, J. Leahy, P. O'Brien, O'Gorman McMahon. Sir J. Pope Hennessy, a "Patriot," had not yet been returned.

"A CONTEMPORARY says that in a household in Canterbury one of the servants asked her mistress for the loan of the newspaper for a short time, as the cook's brother had been elected to Parliament, and she wished to see the returns of the election. We (*Wellington Press*) certainly can cap that story. A domestic inquired of her mistress on the morning of December 6, if the master of the house was a "Hansard" man, and, receiving an affirmative reply, said: "That is nice. He'll report my uncle now." Was either of the mistresses alluded to a woman in whose house it was improper for a respectable girl to live? Both, at any rate, must have been silly women to tell such stories. Such anecdotes might be very racy if told under the old state of things in the Old Country. Here they are not only snobbish and ridiculous, but also injurious as tending to make our young colonials ashamed of honest work. The household, in fact, we say again, must be a low one in which a Member's relative could not honestly and honourably take a place.

WE publish in another place the prospectus of the schools of the Monastery of the Sacred Heart, Christchurch. Our readers will see from it the excellent course of instruction given by the good Sisters to their pupils. We need not add that the fame of the Sisters as teachers ranks extremely high.