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PRIME 6D

## MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET

*Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiæ causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.*

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—*Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.*  
April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.

## Current Topics

### 'A Faithful Saying and True'

An old saw runneth thus: 'Take home one of Satan's relations, and the whole family will follow' Our young men might paste this inside the crown of their hats.

### A Motto

The Bible-in-schools party seem to be getting farther and farther away from any agreement as to a definite plan for turning the public schools into institutions for the propaganda of some brand of 'Reformed' sectarianism. Josh Billings's descriptive phrase is a skin-fit for the present plight of the League: 'A house so divided against itself that it don't know which way to fall.' We notice that the League has been, thus far, without a motto. We therefore take the liberty of suggesting to Dr. Gibb and his co-leaders, as the motto of their organisation, the title of Arthur Roberts's song (which is 'wrote sarkastic'): 'We Are a Happy Family, We Are, We Are, We Are'

### Two More Mottoes

It is, we think, Livingstone who put on record the following mottoes of some tribes of blacks in the heart of the Dark Continent. 'Put off till to-morrow what you do not care about doing to-day', and 'Constant labor kills a man, but strengthens a woman.' The first of these two mottoes, and the first part of the second, might be blazoned, underneath Arthur Roberts's song-title, upon the banner of the 'Bible-in-schools 'Referendum' League. The reverend black-coats in whose interest the organisation is being worked, put off till to-morrow the unwelcome duty of the religious instruction of youth which that chronic 'tired feeling' disinclines them to do to-day. And (like the unrepentant Lope de Vega) 'when the morrow comes, they answer still, To-morrow.' They volley words like a battery of machine-guns to show what other people should do for the souls of the little budding men and maids at school. But the reverend politicians seem satisfied that any attempt to do their own proper work themselves would be as deadly to their constitutions as a hosing of Paris green would be to the potato-blight in Auckland or Taranaki.

### The Mikasa

Last week Admiral Togo lost his battleship and Japan the best-known unit in its conquering fleet.

'It was not in the battle;  
No tempest gave the shock;  
She sprang no fatal leak;  
She ran upon no rock.'

She went to the bottom in still waters and in the piping times of peace. Her disappearance leaves Nippon the poorer by some three hundred trained veterans, and (unless she is raised) by a fighting machine worth about a million and a half sterling. This is the third Japanese battleship that has gone to the floor of the sea since the war began. The sudden calamity that came upon the 'Mikasa' recalls the disaster to the British fleet when the 'Royal George' sank in the harbor at Spithead on August 29, 1782. She was the hardest-hitting and the most famous ship at that time in the King's navy. Some small repairs were needed near her keel. A number of her 108 guns were accordingly shifted in order to make her 'heel over' sufficiently for the purpose. But the work was overdone. The famous old battleship 'heeled' more than her crew had bargained for; the water poured in cataraacts through the open port holes, filled her with shifting ballast,

'And she was overset;  
Down went the "Royal George,"  
With all her crew complete.'

And with them went into the water some three hundred women and children who were on board as sightseers. Of the eleven hundred that were on board when the ship heeled over, nearly nine hundred were carried with her to the bottom, including the great fighting sea-dog of the day, Rear-Admiral Kempenfeldt, in whose veins ran the blood of the old sea-rovers of the North. Cowper's well known monody has surrounded the loss of the 'Royal George' with a setting in naval fame that has been denied to the 'Vanguard' and Admiral Tryon's great flagship, the 'Camperdown,' which was rammed by the 'Victoria,' sank in ten minutes, and took three hundred and twenty men to the bottom of the sea. The 'Royal George' furnishes one of the instances in which the poet engraves in bronze what the historian writes upon sand.

### Good Advice

By an easy association of ideas, the fate of the 'Mikasa' reminds us of the old Spanish proverb which, being interpreted, runneth thus: 'Bacchus has drowned more than Neptune.' (Be it known to those who own not an acquaintance with Lempriere, that Bacchus is the god of wine, and Neptune the god of the sea). The Executive of the Nelson Licensed Victuallers' Association deserve commendation for the stand that they have