

The retreat of the Bishop and priests concludes to-day at the Sacred Heart College.

Mr. Devlin is of opinion that Auckland and its surroundings compare most favorably with anything he has ever seen. From a man of such varied travel this is high praise indeed.

A mural tablet of red marble, tinged with green, is about to be placed in position in St. Patrick's Cathedral in memory of the late lamented Michael Davitt. Advantage will be taken of Mr. Joseph Devlin's presence to unveil it. The cost was borne by one shilling subscriptions.

His Lordship Bishop O'Connor of Maitland, and his Lordship Bishop Dunne of Bathurst, accompanied by Rev. Fathers Dunne, Marshall, O'Reilly, Shanahan, and O'Donohue, arrived last Saturday evening from San Francisco in the 'Sonoma.' The two Australian Prelates stayed with our Bishop. Dr. O'Connor preached at St. Patrick's on Sunday evening. On Monday, accompanied by Mr. Joseph Devlin, they made a round of visits to our institutions, and in the afternoon went south in the 'Takapuna.'

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.]

A SUGGESTED FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THE EDUCATION QUESTION

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have read with much interest the correspondence in the 'Tablet' on 'A Suggested Forward Movement on the Education Question.' It has surprised me that, in view of recent events in the Old World, every letter but one should have expressed approval. One naturally feels diffident about joining such a small minority, but as 'Tuba' says in your issue of December 20, we are, under the present system, independent. Should we succeed in our agitation for our rights—and it certainly is only justice we seek—we at once open the doors of our schools to State interference; and as the State is secular, we are simply causing trouble. The trials through which French Catholics are passing should make us pause before we consent to take State aid. Even in England, has not State aid left open a path for the Nonconformist and secular parties to inflict an injustice on denominational schools? Are they not trying to make thousands of pounds worth of property practically confiscate to the people, part of the property undoubtedly raised with Government money, but a great deal of it with voluntary subscriptions from private individuals. I believe the time is coming for us—as it has come for France and is coming for England and Spain—when secularism will rise against Catholicism, and if we have received State aid for our schools, they will then be treated as Government schools and we shall but follow in the footsteps of French Catholics. Freethought requires but little excuse to perpetrate injustice against religion, and the fact of our schools being assisted by the Government will be for freethinkers sufficient justification for saying the Catholic religion is State-aided, and then, if not we, a future generation may see not only our schools, but our cathedrals, churches, charitable institutions, etc., taken away and nothing left us but to begin the weary struggle all over again.

This may seem a pessimistic view to take. But we know that there are many who are absolutely intolerant of Catholicism and all that savors of it. Others are perhaps too easy-going and too careless to actively harass the Church; but they are also too lazy to fight for the rights of a religion they don't believe in; and certainly they would not put themselves about to help it, and so they would be swept along with those they felt they belonged to.

Furthermore, it is well known that we cherish most that for which we sacrifice most. And in building and maintaining our schools, we, being a poor community, must make many sacrifices. The injustice we suffer is kept ever before us, and we are naturally proud of the noble work we have performed under adverse conditions. 'Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty'; and by making a sacrifice we certainly cultivate that quality which is so necessary in the struggle for independence.

I know, of course, that a great part of the worry and trouble of our education system falls upon the clergy and nuns and Brothers. What their views as a whole are upon the question I don't know. They are composed of self-sacrificing men and women; they are always willing to spend themselves in the service of their fellow-men; and it is hard to think of them

worrying about school finances, and perhaps suffering privations, when our due portion of the taxes might smooth things a good deal and enable them to equip their schools better to compete on more even terms with the State-endowed institutions. But I believe that if they were convinced that by suffering under a smaller injustice they were keeping the doors closed to a greater one later on, they would cheerfully go on in the path they at present follow, assured that the people, by making sacrifices also, would be kept more alive to the importance of a religious education, and so would keep a more vigilant watch upon the defences they have raised against the inroads of secularism.

Of course, the whole discussion turns upon the question: Will anti-Catholicism become so rampant as to wage war upon Catholicism? I believe it will; and that is my reason for writing this letter. I may be mistaken; I could certainly hope that I am. But it is not promised that the path of the Catholic Church will be rose-strewn, and we must be always on the alert against the attacks of Satan and his tools.

Like Mr. Scott, I have discussed this matter with no one. I voice only my own opinion, and I leave it to the consideration of earnest men and women, believing that they will follow what seems to them the wisest course. I firmly believe that if our people apprehended any future danger from anti-Catholicism, they would not allow present expediency to influence them in making a decision.—I am, etc.,

B. A. BUCKLEY, JUN.

Waimate, January 23.

The First Diving Boat

In 1849 there was a war between Germany and Denmark over the possession of Schleswig-Holstein, and the Germans were seeking ways to fight the Danish fleet. A non-commissioned officer of the Bavarian troops, Wilhelm Bauer, thought he could solve the problem. He built a boat for which he took his ideas from the seal. It was supposed to be a vessel which could dive under the water, approach the enemies ships unseen, and blow them up. Out of the scanty means collected among the troops and from private people whom he interested, the man built his boat and tried it in the harbor of Kiel on the Baltic Sea. It was on February 1, 1851, that Bauer, with two sailors named Witt and Thomsen, made a third trial with 'The Devil of the Sea,' as the sailors called it. This time it was sent lower than it had been before and the frail-built boat, being unable to withstand the increasing pressure of the water, sprang a leak somewhere and sank to the bottom. The boat was sunk by letting water into the ballast room and thus making it heavier, and to rise again by pumping out water.

After reaching the bottom the sailors went to work at the pumps but to their terror they found that the water pressure had made them useless too.

But the inventor kept cool, his eye was on the hatchway. At present it was impossible for a human hand to open it. But the water which was slowly leaking in should be their saviour as it had been their destruction. The higher it rose the more the air in the boat would be compressed and at last the counter-pressure would become so great that the hatchway would be opened and give them a chance to get out into the water and up to the surface. This was the only hope. The two sailors standing in the icy water and watching it rise around them could not understand this explanation, and in their despair they went to work again at the useless pumps.

In the meantime there was a new danger, of which Bauer had not thought. The watchers on the surface had grown anxious, and were looking for the sunken boat. Each time an anchor scraped the roof or struck its sides he was in agony lest it should strike a window, let in the water and let out the compressed air, thus destroying their only chance. Then a chain was thrown and its loop caught the hatchway, closing it. Bauer was in despair, though he said nothing. But fortunately the chain broke. The water was up to the necks of the men now, and the air was suffocating. It was time to go. The force of the compressed air behind them shot them up to the surface. Here they were picked up by the rescue boats.

But Bauer was sad, for his boat, the first submarine boat, was at the bottom of the sea, and the unhappy man guessed that it would not be raised again in his lifetime. He died after many hardships, and with him the secret of his boat, without having been able to benefit himself or others by his wonderful invention.