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EDITOR'S NOTICES.

Send news WHILE IT IS FRESH. Stale reports will not be inserted.

Communications should reach this Office BY TUESDAY MORNING. Only the briefest paragraphs have a chance of insertion if received by Tuesday night's mails.

ADDRESS matter intended for publication 'Editor, TABLET, Dunedin,' and not by name to any member of the Staff.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS are thrown into the waste-paper basket.

Write legibly, ESPECIALLY NAMES of persons and places.

Reports of MARRIAGES and DEATHS are not selected or compiled at this Office. To secure insertion they must be verified by our local agent or correspondent, or by the clergyman of the district, or by some subscriber whose handwriting is well known at this office. Such reports must in every case be accompanied by the customary death or marriage announcement, for which a charge of 2s. 6d. is made.

DEATH

HARRON.—Of your charity pray for the repose of the soul of Thomas Harron, beloved husband of Dora Harron, and native of County Donegal, Ireland, who died at his residence, Devonport, Auckland, on March 24, fortified by the rites of Holy Church.—R.I.P.

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.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

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.



THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1908.

THE MANCHESTER ELECTION



OLITICAL prophecy has been described as one of the most gratuitous forms of human error. Such predictions 'gang aft agley'; but there is no inherent improbability in the prophecy made regarding Mr. Winston Churchill when he was a rather meteoric war correspondent during the Boer war: 'Lord Randolph Churchill will yet be remembered as the father of Mr. Winston Churchill'. At thirty, he has risen to Cabinet rank, and the future is full of roseate promise for him. But in the North-west Manchester election, a few days ago, he received a check in his career when, on a poll of eighty-nine per cent. of the possible voters, he was heavily defeated by Mr. Joynson-Hicks, the Conservative candidate. Excitement ran a 'banker', and the issue of the hard-fought contest seems to have been generally accepted as a defeat for Free-trade and a victory for tariff reform.

There was, however, one other great issue fought out in the North-west Manchester contest. This was the education question. It played a far more important part in determining the issue than last week's cable messages give it credit for. There exists throughout Lancashire a large and well-organised vote that is hostile to the education policy of the Government, and (says a contemporary), 'the recently published statistics of public education explains the special interest of Lancashire churchmen in the result of the election'. The voluntary (religious) schools in the county of Lancashire number 1915, with an average attendance of 461,073, as against the 410 council schools, with an average attendance of 230,246. Our contemporary adds:

'Thus the voluntary schools throughout Lancashire outnumber the council schools by nearly five to one, and even including the populous centres where large and expensive council schools have been erected, they still educate almost exactly double the number of children educated in the council schools. In the whole county there are only four educational areas in which the council schools outnumber the voluntary. On the other hand, there are no fewer than eight large boroughs entirely dependent on voluntary schools for elementary education. There are other large boroughs where the