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' To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

LEO XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1901.

THE H. A. C. B. S.



HE Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand District of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society opened in Dunedin on yesterday. We bid the Officers and Delegates a hearty welcome to our southern city. It would be difficult to overstate the benefits which such a Society is calculated to produce in any country, and especially in one of mixed religion,

such as is New Zyaland. We trust that the inaugural deliberations of the twentieth century now taking place in our midst may be the means of greatly strengthening the position and extending the influence of that admirable Society which so fully realises the three conditions of association laid down in the Encyclical Letter of Pope Leo XIII. on the Condition of Labor, since (1) it is grounded on religion; (2) its aim is mutual concord; and (3) its result is the well-being of the poor.

THE EDUCATION DIFFICULTY.

Last week the ever-recurrent education difficulty woke up and whimpered like a sick child in the Anglican Synod. Then it got its dose of soothing syrup and was wrapped tenderly in cotton wadding and put to sleep again for another twelve months. Our Anglican friends are conscious many of them keenly conscious—of the unhealthness of the rank secularism of 'our glorious system.' But they man fest no marked inclination to follow the Catholic body in the adoption of a course of action which, if taken up by one other leading denomination in the country, would speedily result in the application of a permanent remedy for a state of things which, if permitted to continue, must produce the gravest moral evils. There is, happily, no note of hesitancy about the two pronouncements made upon the subject in Christchurch and Dunedin during the past week,