THE PROVINCIAL ECCLESIASTICAL SEMINARY OF NEW ZEALAND.

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The Seminary is under the Patronage and Direction of the Archbishop and Bishops of New Zesland, and under the immediate personal supervision of the Eight Rev. Bishop of Dunedin.

For further Particulars apply to the Rector, Holy Cxoss College, Mosgiel.

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LEO XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1903,

A RAMPANT EVIL



the average man, the humor of 'Punch' is generally of the leaden-heeled order. But 'the London Charivari,' none the less, often holds the mirror ap to nature, even where it does not alight upon a streak of the merry fancy that tickles the groundlings. Some time ago it pictured two little maidens fresh from school. They were in earnest conversation. 'I don't want to

were in earnest conversation. I don't want to be married,' said one little demoiselle, 'and I don't want to be an old ma.d.' 'Then,' quoth the other, 'get married and be divorced.' That is just it. The prevalent social ideals of the hour are sure to leaven the budding mind and to find quaint, and sometimes unconsciously wise or witty, expression upon the babbling lips of childhood. It is bad enough, in all reason, to have the principles of moral decay at work in the grown tree. With us, the dry-rot begins its work in the lack of noble Christian ideals with which the human saplings in our State-school nurseries are permitted to grow up. From Monday morning till Friday afternoon we ding-dong into the youthful brain, directly or indirectly, the idea that 'the siller' is everything, that the be-all and the end-all of life is to 'get on'—to 'make a pile' it may be, in the not too distant by-and-by.

Our material national progress is gratifying to a degree. But we have had many a time and oft to point out the absurdity of supposing that the possession of a well-lined fob is everything. Beneath the roseate surface of the wealth of most of the foremost nations there lie evils that are preying upon the very vitals of society. They are, in vary-