

THE NEW ZEALAND TABLET

THIRTY-FIRST YEAR OF PUBLICATION.

VOL. XXXI.—No. 19.

DUNEDIN: THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1903.

PRICE 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.
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

Current Topics

Seeking a Remedy

'So when a raging fever burns,
We twist from side to side by turns;
And 'tis a poor relief we gain,
To change the place but keep the pain.'

In our leading columns of last week we referred to the manner in which the religious leaders and guides of our non-Catholic fellow-colonists have been, year after year, shifting from position to position in their efforts to find a remedy for the nagging evils of our present godless system of public instruction. After our remarks had been dressed up in type, a clerical writer in the 'Otago Daily Times' gave a brief resume of a few of those variations. They began with the open adoption of the Protestant principle of 'Bible-reading without note or comment.' They gradually swung round a big segment of the circle of possible positions on the subject, and, at last week's Bible-in-schools Conference in Wellington, they paused, for the time being, at a programme of Bible-reading with comment, which includes elementary dogmatic and other religious instruction. But the remedy for the godlessness of our public schools is not to be found in the diluted form of Evangelicalism proposed by the Wellington Conference. By the latest proposal to which they have shifted, our Protestant friends merely 'change the place, but keep the pain.' The real remedy lies deeper. It has many a time and oft been pointed out in our columns. It is in active operation in Canada, England, and Germany. And it is sectarian, rather than political, considerations that stand in the way of its adoption in Australia and New Zealand. The new platform of the Bible-in-schools people will probably be submitted to a referendum of the electors of New Zealand during the year. But there are more problems involved in the scheme that can be finally settled by a count of heads.

They were 'Dismayed'

The French writer Chamfort was the author of many sharp and pungent sayings that scorched and bit like vitriol. A lady once remarked that a conversation with the hard-faced cynic left her in a state of melancholy till bed-time. And yet it was Chamfort who coined the saying that 'the most wasted of all days is that on which one has not laughed.' Now there is somewhere in England a body of more or less pious people that has recently saved the English-speaking public, or a goodly portion of them, from letting a day go to waste. We refer to the Church Association. We know nothing whatever of the Church Association beyond the fact that it has added to the gaiety of the nations by cabling to King Edward last week expressing 'dismay' at his proposed visit to the

Pope! In his book, 'If Christ came to Chicago,' Mr. Stead flailed American Orangeism for dressing up 'Popery,' as their Ulster brethren do, 'with its familiar hoof and horns and tail,' and 'scaring the old women of both sexes with the bogey of impending massacre.' The 'Church Association' in England is probably, like the 'Protestant Defence Association' in New South Wales, merely a branch of the Orange tree. And to every Orangeman it is, of course, an article of divine faith that the Pope is the Man of Sin and 'Rome' the Beast of the Book of Revelations. Possibly the collective 'dismay' of the Church Association may have arisen from the awful thought that King Edward might be devoured alive by the seven mouths, or impaled upon the ten horns, of the Beast. The Pope has been charged with greater impossibilities than playing the Dragon of Wantley to a live King.

This is by no means the first time that King Edward and the royal family have been howled at and spat upon by 'dismayed' fanatics for having manifested a friendly feeling towards Catholic persons or institutions. In 1893, when the present King was Prince of Wales, he was denounced in frothy speech at an Orange assembly in Victoria for the esteem in which he held the late Cardinal Manning. Queen Alexandra and the present Prince of Wales were likewise flailed in angry style by 'the accredited organ of the Orange institution' in Melbourne for having dared to visit 'the head of the Popish Church in Rome.' We could compile a curious anthology of the rough abuse and fierce threats directed against the late Queen Victoria by the Irish members of the fraternity at various periods of her long reign, but especially in 1868-9, when, at the great Orange gatherings at Newbliss and elsewhere, the raucous watchword rang out among the brethren that their allegiance to her would cease and they would 'kick her crown into the Boyne,' if she dared to give her royal assent to the Bill for the Disestablishment of the then dominant Church in Ireland. The Church Association seems to have caught some of the infection that is endemic here and there north of the Boyne. The cackling of 'dismayed' geese is said to have once saved Rome from the Gauls. Last week's cable message was, perhaps, an effort to repeat the experiment on behalf of a British King.

Margaret Shepherd

Death has a thousand doors. And not one of them, we woen, is pleasant to pass through. But whether it comes as 'a short, sharp shock on a big black block,' or as a long-drawn agony on a feather bed, matters very little in the end. The essential thing is to die well. Thackeray, in his 'Vanity Fair,' paints a dark picture of the death-bed of the angry, sleepless, suffering Miss Crawley. 'Picture to yourself, O fair young reader,' says he, 'a worldly, selfish, graceless, thankless, religionless old woman, writhing in pain and fear, and without her wig. Picture her to yourself, and ere you be