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MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptorum 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

The King in Ireland

This was the proudest boast of 'Everard the Bearded, Wurtemberg's beloved lord':

'I my head can safely pillow
On my poorest subject's breast.'

King Edward VII. evidently feels that he can trust his royal person with equal safety to his subjects in the Green Isle, and the dismissal of his Scotland-yard escort converted every Irishman into a member of his bodyguard. King Edward VII. is the first British sovereign that has shown a friendly feeling to, and sympathetic interest in, the nation that, despite galling political disabilities, has rendered such constant and precious service to the Empire both in the council-chamber and on the battle-field. His friendly attitude on the Home Rule and land questions is well known, and the moving scenes of welcome that everywhere met him and his august Consort are what one naturally expects from the warm-hearted Celtic temperament of a people to whom the present occupant of the British throne has greatly endeared himself.

Ireland is now the last spot of British earth inhabited by white people that is governed in accordance with the discarded and discredited policy which in the old colonial days lost America to the Empire. Edward VII. is the Constitutional Sovereign of Great Britain, Canada, the Australian Commonwealth, and New Zealand, but not of Ireland. 'A Constitutional Sovereign,' says Mr. Swift MacNeill, M.P., in a recent issue of the London 'Daily Chronicle,' 'is generally regarded as a Sovereign who acts on the advice of Ministers responsible to the representatives of the people, and through these representatives to the people at large. The King, who is in England an eminently Constitutional Sovereign, and whose kindly feelings towards Ireland are well known and heartily appreciated, will not be a Constitutional Sovereign of that country till he acts on the advice of an Irish Cabinet responsible to an Irish Parliament, and through that Parliament to the Irish people.' The King is credited, and, we believe, rightly credited, with urging the settlement of the great agrarian difficulty in Ireland. With his well known views on this and other Irish and Anglo-Irish questions, it may not unreasonably be hoped that his visits to the warm-hearted people of the most crimeless portion of all his broad dominions may result in the speedy application of

of the one remedy—self-government—which will make him the Constitutional King of Ireland and permanently remove the many rampant evils of the system of 'Castle rule' that are eating like a cancer into the vitals of the nation.

'Candidates' for the Papacy

The Conclave for the election of a successor to Leo XIII. of happy memory has set the tongue of journalistic speculation a-clacking with more volubility than good sense. Speculation is in the air and Rumor is as busy as a family of bell-ringers. Samuel Butler aptly describes her as 'a tall, long-sided dame'

'That, like a thin camelion, boards
Herself on air, and eats her words;
Upon her shoulders wings she wears,
Like hanging sleeves lin'd thro' with ears
And eyes and tongues, as poets list,
Made good by deep mythologist;
With these she through the welkin flies,
And sometimes carries truth, oft lies.'

A message that does not come from her slender budget of truth reports that twenty Cardinals are 'candidates for the Chair of St. Peter.' Among the empurpled list of 'candidates' for the triple crown, several New Zealand dailies set up, as strong favorites, two Cardinals

'Whose bones are dust
Whose souls are with the Saints, we trust.'

And, generally speaking, the information as to the papal election is about on a level with what one might expect to find in the columns of the 'World of Sport.' All the statements, for instance, regarding 'candidates' for the papal office are misleading to a degree. A candidate is defined in the 'Encyclopaedic Dictionary' as 'one who proposes himself for, or solicits, an office or appointment.' In this sense there are no 'candidates for the Chair of St. Peter.' There is no nomination for the office of Pope. No Cardinal can (in the ordinary political sense of the term) 'propose' either himself or any other person. And the soliciting of votes for himself by a Prince of the Church would be such an unheard-of thing, such an outrage on ecclesiastical decorum, such an evidence of overweening ambition that it would over-vault itself and deprive him of the support and respect even of his personal friends. The merits, demerits, and chances of various Cardinals form, naturally, a subject of some conversation and speculation among the members of the Sacred College within the guarded enclosure of the Conclave. But—apart from the extremely rare and unlikely event of a selection by acclamation or compro-

Hancock's "BISMARK" LAGER BEER.

NEW ZEALAND'S
NEW INDUSTRY