

## Current Topics

### Earnshaw on the Rampage

According to the *Timaru Post* that cultured gentleman and scholar, Mr. Earnshaw, referred to the Archbishop of Melbourne, in the course of a P.P.A. kennel-chorus, as "the scoundrel Mannix." Nothing remains for us but to pass a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker who has so ably aided Howard Elliott in showing the decent people of this Dominion what the P.P.A. stands for and of what kidney are its protagonists. What the foul-mouthed bigot says or does not say in no way concerns us; we are concerned by the fact that this thing of light and sweetness is one of the members of our Upper House, chosen by what means and for what purpose only William Massey knows, to represent the highest interests of the people. If the other members continue to sit under the same roof as the man who has disgraced their House they have less sense of shame than we believe possible. What a Government! What a people to stand it! Massey, Premier, hand to nose; Earnshaw, M.L.C., a gargoyle—Oh, New Zealand!

### German Pianos and Other Things

We recently read in *Truth* a list of the German nobles supported by the British taxpayer. About the same time was brought under our notice a statement made by one of our educationalists to the effect that he would rather see indecent pictures on the walls of the schools than have a German piano in the rooms! The poor German piano is a thing that cannot hit back. Any weak-minded person can kick it with impunity. It was built to make music and it will neither bite nor scratch, nor will a horde of wild editors come to its rescue when it is put below indecent pictures. A German royalty, German nobles, German Jews that are made Cabinet Ministers in return for "services rendered" are a very different proposition. Instead of preferring to them indecent pictures we pay them money and hand over to them the government of the mere British. But a piano! a dreadful instrument that is capable of playing the *Lieder ohne Worte* as well as the discordant National Anthem at which we take off our hats to do reverence to German blood! Take it away from our schools and get some atheistic scroll or some smutty pictures to replace it in the name of what is called education in New Zealand. Why not hang up in its place a life-sized portrait of the honey-tongued Earnshaw? Poor German piano! Perhaps the Rothschilds, or Moritz Mond, or Lloyd George, or some of the Kaiser's cousins who live on the British taxpayer will accept it as a gift.

### The Christian Brothers' Jubilee

We were delighted to receive this week a beautiful volume which is a lasting souvenir of the Jubilee of the Christians Brothers in Australasia. On the artistic cover we notice the emblems of faith and fatherland are set forth in orange, green, and white. The letterpress and the format are creditable to the publishers. There are many interesting articles, contributed by admirers of the good Brothers, who have done so greatly for Australasia during the past fifty years. Looking over the pages and seeing the illustrations of the magnificent schools, spread over the southern world from Perth to Dunedin, one has a compendious view of the progress of religion during so short a period. The testimonies gladly borne to the part played by the Brothers in that progress are well worth preserving in so suitable a form as the present Jubilee volume. From the Archbishops of Sydney and Melbourne—both proud to recall that they were "Brothers' Boys" in other days in distant Ireland; from the other archbishops and bishops of Australasia there are gracious letters, expressing joy and admiration for what has been done in the past and for what hope the future holds. Here in Dunedin we cannot forget how much good we owe to the presence

of the Brothers. They came here at the invitation of Dr. Moran, the great bishop who gave Dunedin its Catholic boys' and girls' schools long ago, and founded the first Catholic paper in New Zealand. In March, 1876, Brother Bodkin and three companions arrived at Port Chalmers. There they were welcomed by the Bishop and a number of prominent laymen, who conducted them to Dunedin, where a residence had been secured for them. At first, two classrooms were all the space they had. Soon it became necessary to look for more as the number of pupils quickly increased. Under the patronage of Dr. Moran and of his saintly successor, Dr. Verdon, the Brothers did their work in Dunedin, quietly and silently, during all those years. To-day, instead of in the little school in which they began, they are teaching in one of the finest schools in the Dominion, erected, mainly through the zeal and energy of the present Administrator, at a cost of £10,000, every penny of which was paid off by the friends and the admirers of the Brothers on the day of the opening. The Brothers have, like the two great bishops who are gone, left their mark on the people of Dunedin, and no boy ever left their hands who did not receive a thorough grounding in the principles of that faith which is the one saving force in the world to-day. All the past pupils, whether they went to schools here or in Ireland, will join with us in congratulating the Christian Brothers and in wishing them in the future even a greater field and a fuller harvest. They want no other reward. They are not hirelings who work for pay. They are content to take up the arduous round of their duties without any anxiety or worry, knowing that the people to whom religious principles mean more than money will provide for them. Their lives are devoted to that grandest of tasks—preparing boys to become Christian gentlemen. And they go forward on the only lines which ensure success, knowing that the most important thing in a boy or a man is a character formed on the eternal principles of the Gospel of Christ. While so many disintegrating factors are at work our schools are a bulwark against the materialism which threatens to undermine social well-being and to destroy even the home and the family on which the whole fabric of the State is built. While Mr. Hanan and his tinkering amateurs talk, our teachers educate; while the former are wondering why their system is cursed by sterility, our teachers are showing them the only way to mould the men of the future into such citizens as the age needs sorely. While the Kingdom of God comes first with the Catholic teachers the secular studies are by no means neglected. Our boys in Dunedin can challenge comparison with those of any school in the Dominion. Witness the scholarship records for this year; witness the record of examinations year by year; witness the results of athletic competitions against all the other schools of the district. Honors won by brain and muscle testify to the fact that our schools are second to none; besides these honors remains the greater fact that the boys who go forth from them have learned the lessons of the Gospel which enable men to walk strong and pure and honest all the days of their lives and to keep their eyes in all things fixed on the light of the stars of heaven which beacon for them the promise of the life beyond the veil. No good Catholic parents will ever turn their backs on the brave Brothers; and those who support them will have the best reward—that of sons who will be a source of pride and consolation to them.

### Irish Affairs

The cables have reported that at the Supreme Court of Philadelphia Judge Cohan ruled that the Irish assembly or convention in Dublin had the right of self-determination. One does not look for superabundance of light in the cables sent here about Irish matters; but it is obvious that the Judge has asserted the principle that Ireland has the same right as other small nations to select her own form of government. Not long ago the Committee for Foreign Affairs in Congress passed a resolution calling on the President

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