

recognise that the Catholic Church is here to stay; and that his part is no longer, as of old, to devise penal laws or fines or trickily-devised hindrances 'to prevent the further growth of Popery.' New Zealand calls for a Protestant statesman, of intelligence above that fed upon Protestant Alliance literature, who can see in the Catholic Church a most potent agency for the preservation and promotion of good order, religion, and civilisation. New Zealand calls for a Protestant statesman possessed of sufficient generosity and nobility of soul to scorn to take the public funds, contributed by all classes, to carry on, in the public schools, a system of religious teaching satisfactory to himself, whilst offering to his dissident fellow-citizens the dry chips of a worthless conscience clause. Miserable humbug of the sort would not find entrance into the courageous and generous soul of a statesman of the Kuyper kind. The times, and the logic of circumstances and events, demand a New Zealand Kuyper. Let us hope that our country will produce him.

Notes

The Two Petitions

In connection with the petitions now in circulation we draw the attention of all concerned—and particularly of those who are charged with the duty of attending to the signatures—to the fact that there are two petitions, printed on different colored paper, one to the House of Representatives and one to the Legislative Council. Canvassers and others responsible for signatures will, of course, see that each person signs both petitions.

Auckland Baptists' Attitude

In his presidential address to the annual Assembly of the Auckland Province Baptist Auxiliary, as reported in the *Auckland Star*, Mr. H. M. Smeeton made an emphatic protest against the Bible in State Schools League's proposals. 'As we protest against the money of the people being given to support denominational systems,' said the president, 'so we must stand firm against any force brought to bear upon our school system that may directly or indirectly endanger the true religious liberty of the teacher or the child. We accept no tests for teachers except the tests of character and intelligence, and we claim freedom for the child from having imposed upon him other religious influences than those which his parents love and desire.'

More About the League Canvassers

A writer in the *Lyttelton Times*, who signs himself 'As We Are,' gives some further evidence of the get-a-signature-at-any-price methods adopted by canvassers for the Bible in State Schools League. 'A lady canvasser of the Bible-in-Schools League,' he writes, 'called at my house yesterday with the object of obtaining signatures for a referendum on the question. She was assured by my wife that we were absolutely against the admission of the Bible into secular schools. To this statement the canvasser replied, "Oh! it does not matter whether you favor the introduction or not; this card is merely a request for a referendum on the question, and if you will fill it in I will call for it later." Now, my object in drawing your readers' attention to this matter is to impress upon those who are satisfied with the present system that a referendum is not necessary, and it is because it is not necessary that the agents of the League have to fall back on direct misrepresentation. Hundreds of people will, without troubling to make themselves acquainted with the text of the card, sign it, and never trouble to go to the poll if a referendum is granted, and it would be by these non-voters that the question would be decided in the League's favor. It cannot be too firmly impressed upon the satisfied portion of the people that

a referendum is not necessary to keep the law in its present state. By signing it they only take upon themselves the responsibility of going to the poll afterwards, if they would be thought consistent.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The collection on behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which was made recently at St. Joseph's Cathedral and the North-east Valley and Kaikorai churches, amounted to £51, contributed as follows:—St. Joseph's Cathedral, £36 18s 9d; North-east Valley, £11 5s; Kaikorai, £2 16s 3d.

Considering the inclemency of the weather, the quarterly meeting of the Dunedin branch of the Hibernian Society was well attended. Bro. John Dougherty presided. A feature of the business was the small amount of sick pay, which has been gradually decreasing for the past two months. In the nomination of officers there was no opposition, except for the office of auditors, four nominations being received. It was resolved to hold a euchre party in aid of the orphan family of a deceased brother, and this being a most deserving case, a strong committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. One candidate was initiated and four proposed. The delegates to the triennial movable meeting at Napier reported on the business transacted at that meeting, which evoked very little discussion.

On Saturday, the Feast of St. Aloysius, eighty children received their First Communion at a special Mass celebrated in St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin. For several months previous, the little ones received special preparatory instructions from Rev. Father Delany and the Sisters of Mercy, and, as an immediate preparation for the great act, made a Triduum, assembling each afternoon in the Convent Chapel for devotions. During Mass hymns suitable to the occasion were sung by the children, and after the Communion, the celebrant (Rev. Father Delany) addressed some very appropriate words to them on the great Sacrament they had received, exhorted them to approach the Holy Table as frequently as possible, to cherish through life their precious gift of Faith, and to abstain from any act that might tarnish its lustre. After Mass and Thanksgiving, the First Communicants were entertained to breakfast by the ladies of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (South Dunedin branch).

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' CONCERT.

A very enjoyable concert, in aid of the furnishing of some of the stalls at the forthcoming bazaar, was given in the Garrison Hall on Monday evening before a large and very appreciative audience. It was an excellent entertainment from every point of view, and Rev. Brother Moore, who had been instrumental in securing the services of the performers, is to be congratulated on the success which had attended his efforts. The programme was a good one, and sufficiently varied to suit the tastes of all. Miss Violet Fraser gave a finished rendering of 'Parted,' to which a violin obligato was played by Miss Dora Emery. A well deserved and emphatic recall followed, to which the singer kindly responded. Miss Mabel Esquilant received an enthusiastic reception. Her singing of 'O flower of all the world' was a remarkably fine contribution to the evening's programme, and for which she was warmly encored. The musical monologue, 'A bunch of roses,' by Miss Churchill was much appreciated, as was also the encore number which followed. Miss Daisy Hall met with an enthusiastic reception, and her singing of 'Killarney' was honored by a double encore. A very fine contribution to the programme was the violin solo, 'Rhapsodie Hongroise' (Hansen), by Miss Dora Emery, who was accompanied on the piano by her sister, Miss Mildred Emery. Miss Gladys Stoneham contributed a piano solo, Chopin's 'Polonaise in A flat,' for which she was honored with a well-merited recall. Mr. A. Pacey was heard to

J. T. COOPER DENTAL SURGEON,

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