

WE HAD NO SCHOOL ;

but we obtained from the government a large piece of ground, then of no value : at present admirably situated for the establishment of our institutions. On the hill which overlooks the town, a great edifice, recently built, rises up and it rivals the greatest buildings in the capital. This is the Convent of the Holy Trinity. Its chapel is used provisionally for the parish church ; and the boarding-school, which is only open some months, is already a flourishing establishment. May we soon be able to endow the handsome capital of Free State with a church and a college for our young Catholic people !— You have heard the Diamond Fields spoken of. The country was part of the Free State up to the time the precious stone was discovered in it ; then the English discovered also that the country ought to belong to them. Whatever might be the doubtful claims of England, the affair has been settled quietly between that power and the Free State by means of pecuniary compensation, and the Diamond Fields are now English territory. It is towards that marvellous land we now set forward. We take two days to travel from Bloemfontein to Kimberley, the capital of the Diamond fields. We shall confine ourselves to notice a remarkable particularity, namely, the mirage, the fairy effects of which amuse and enchant us all along the way. The hills, detached from the horizon, seem everywhere to be surrounded by placid and limpid lakes, the waters of which reflect, with an accuracy capable of deceiving the most attentive eye, the reversed image of the rocks and trees. Sometimes, at a little distance before you, you perceive a sheet of water ; you come up to it, and the illusion disappears as if by enchantment. We are now within five miles of Kimberley ; one hundred and fifty horsemen have come out to meet their Bishop, and are ready to escort him into the town. We make our triumphal entry into the city of tents and houses of galvanized iron. A large crowd, composed of women, children, and those who could not procure horses to form part of the cavalcade, await us at the gate of the church. After the usual compliments