

and conciliation are required to win the unanimous Irish vote for the Conservative party. As things are at present, neither party in the British House of Commons can continue to hold office without the aid of the Irish vote.

On what conditions will this aid be given? This is the all-important question, and time only can solve it. The present probabilities are, that a Ministry opposed to Home Rule and Denominational Education can exist only on sufferance of adversaries who hate justice to Ireland more than political opponents.

Mr Gladstone's position is an unfortunate one. The majority that enabled him to carry those great measures that have made his name historical, was made up of English Radicals and Irish Liberals. But between these, there are at present misunderstandings of a serious character. The English Radicals are advocates of secular and mixed education, and of the legislative unity of the three Kingdoms. The Irish Liberals are advocates of denominational education, and of Home Rule. A Liberal Ministry is an impossibility in England, unless one of these parties give way to the other, or at least consent to keep its main principles in abeyance for a time. Mr Gladstone's prospects, then, are not bright.

But is there any likelihood that for the sake of keeping Mr Gladstone in power either of these parties will put their principles in abeyance? We have no idea of what the Radicals may be disposed to do, but the Irish Liberal members will not make any compromise as to Home Rule and denominational education. The determination of the people to have Home Rule in some shape, and the fidelity of the nation to religious principle, warrant us in making this statement. The new Parliament will meet in March, and until then nothing can be known for certain either as to the measures likely to be brought forward by whatever party may be in power, or as to the temper of parties, or sections of parties, in the House of Commons. All that can be seen for certain now is, that as to the future of the new Parliament, there is a great deal of uncertainty.

WEEKLY EPITOME.

THE NEW ZEALAND TABLET has been noticed in a very complimentary manner in India, England, and America—a circumstance which is an encouragement to us for the future, and a satisfaction and pleasure to us for our labors in the past.

THE Wellington Education Board refuses to grant assistance to the St. Philomena girls' school. An able letter from the Hon. Dr Grace to the Board, and the Board's resolution on the matter, will be found in another column.

"THE educational battle," we read, "rages in Queensland, where a strong effort is being made to secure an education which shall be free, secular, and compulsory. The two bills now before the country are violently opposed by the Episcopal and Roman Catholic clergy, who make common cause." There is in the secularist ranks a wholesome fear "that the denominationists will be able to turn the scale in favor of whichever side will concede the most to their demands. Religious instruction in schools is insisted on before any concessions will be made."

ON Monday last the Wellington 'Post' called attention to the fact that by a proclamation issued October 23th, Parliament was called together on the following day, Tuesday, 10th February. On Tuesday a number of members met in the Legislative Council, when the Hon. John Johnson was called to the chair. There were present Messrs Waterhouse, Pharazyn, Grace, and Hart. Mr Waterhouse spoke at some length on the importance of proceeding according to due form, in order that the subsequent proceedings should not be reviewed as invalid. Mr Hart quoted important cases in the reign of George III, bearing upon the point, and seconded the motion for adjournment for a fortnight, which was carried unanimously. In the House, the representatives present were Messrs Fitzherbert, McLean, Bunny, Reynolds, and Wakfield. Mr Fitzherbert was called to the chair. Mr McLean proposed, and Mr Bunny seconded the motion for adjournment till next day. The 'Otago Guardian' comments strongly on the negligence displayed in not making a further prorogation. The editor of the 'Post' evidently attends better to his duty than Ministers and highly paid officials do to theirs.

MR VOGEL has been duly dined in Nelson,—the event took place on Monday evening. The Superintendent who was in the chair, made the usual allusion to Mr Vogel's distinguished position, great talents, and indomitable force of character.

THE 'Times Advertiser' has the following remarks which are very appropos to utterances at recent banquets:—A famous and witty Protestant preacher has recorded his gratitude to the Pope, by saying that he was bread and butter to him for many years. No sermons "took" like those directed against the Man of Sin, while the points of view in which the preacher could consider him were infinite, and so the topic never could grow stale. Mr Vogel occupies a somewhat analogous position in reference to the journalists of New Zealand. Most of the "able editors," however, make a mistake in continually harping on the string of panegyric. It would be far better for Mr Vogel, if his friends would occasionally deal in a little mild censure. People weary of perpetual laudation, and nothing will so soon attract dislike to Mr Vogel as to hear him celebrated every day as perfection, both as a man and a statesman.

COMMENTING on the announcement that the "Commissioner of Customs has resolved to engage the services of well-educated youths as 'cadets,'" the 'New Zealand Herald' expresses itself with much sound sense, and with point, as follows:—"Parents will look upon these cadetships as being highly respectable, the appointment promising in the very distant future a miserable annual stipend upon which to maintain a spurious gentility. The salary of these cadets we are informed will range from £40 to £50 per annum. And it is by the use of such cadetships that the Colony is deprived of young blood to open up the interior, whilst our towns and cities become over-crowded by surplus respectability being encouraged to hang about the doors of Government offices, supplicating that kind of patronage which can only be obtained at the sacrifice of much independence and feeling."

OUR solemn contemporary at Tokomairiro has actually been envenoming its columns by publishing the squibs of a contributor who signs himself "Let me be honest." As the latest English telegram Mr "Let me be honest" manufactures the appended:—"An English envoy has been presented to the Court of Ashantee. He has detected a remarkable resemblance between the manners of the King and those of Sir James Fergusson."

THE establishment of the English-Catholic University has caused an extreme sensation in an up-country town in Otago. The local journal in its news by the mail has no less than four paragraphs on the subject. When Archbishop Manning reads that paper he will feel himself honored.

THE stay of the Governor of Tasmania and Mrs Du Cane and the Earl of Donoughmore in New Zealand will extend over six weeks.

THE Cromwell paper explains that the Governor "did not even have the opportunity of snubbing the dignitaries of the place, as at Shotover Bridge, for none of the dignitaries took the trouble to go and meet him."

TOKOMAIRIRO feasted on the horrible the other day. The local sub-editor must have been hard up for exchanges, and got hold of a copy of the 'Illustrated Police News.' Upon no other supposition can we account for the fact that his Irish news by the mail consisted of a "Shocking murder in Limerick," a triple birth (these will yet be clever children), "Another Irish outrage," and a "Frightful tragedy in Tipperary."

MR M'GILLIVRAY, M.H.R., called his constituents together at Riverton the other day, but only two of the free enlightened electors of the district put in an appearance. So he dismissed the two, and sent to the local paper, for publication, his prepared address, which concludes thus:—"I am free to confess that I am tired of Colonial politics, and would not be sorry to take my leave of them altogether."

THE following is the number of immigrants which, by the latest arrivals, are on their way out to the Colony. The s.s. Mongol with 320 souls for Dunedin; Dilharee and City of Glasgow with 300 each for Lyttelton; the Woodlark with 320 for Wellington; and the Scimitar with 450 for Dunedin.

THE 'Southland Times' is of opinion that the captains of vessels who met at Port Chalmers to express sympathy with the late master of the Surat, would have shown a better appreciation of the responsibilities of their profession, and a greater sense of the qualifications which it requires, had they abstained from questioning the judgment of the Court of Inquiry.

EFFORTS have been made to get Mr C. C. Bowen, R.M., Christchurch, to contest the Canterbury Superintendency election, but he positively declines, consequently the present Superintendent is expected to have a walk over.

THE want of female immigration is stated by the 'Grey River Argus' to be felt with excessive severity on the West Coast. The 'Argus' demands "that at least four or five hundred single women should be sent out to the West Coast during the next twelve months."

THERE was a terrific circular gale from the north-east at Auckland on the night of the 6th inst., which did great damage to the shipping, the loss being estimated at something over £3000. Several vessels were smashed, and having broken loose ran into each other. The steamer Challenger is completely smashed up, and a cutter sunk on top of her. Many boats were sunk, and the fleet of small vessels in the harbor was much damaged. Two lives were lost.

WHILE the correspondence was proceeding between the General Government and the Provincial Government of Wellington upon the subject of bridges, roads, and other works of the Appropriation Ordinance, lately passed by the Provincial Council—an appropriation which was about £50,000 on account of an anticipated loan—it was discovered that the Provincial Auditor had signed a warrant for the whole amount appropriated. This act is likely to lead to his dismissal, and it is also probable the Ordinance will be disallowed. The General Government have formally suspended Mr J. Dossett as Provincial Auditor.

THE Provincial Council of Wellington have received a reminder that as it voted Dr Featherston £2500, it ought to do something for Mr Butler. The 'Wanganui Herald' speaks its mind thus plainly:—"Our own opinion is that votes like the Featherston grant are consumable in the highest degree, and that neither Dr Featherston nor Mr Butler is entitled to any grant from the public exchequer or public estate. Dr Featherston, like Mr Butler, is, and always has been, well paid for his services. If we commence the corrupt system of dividing the public estate among the civil servants, let us be impartial—let us divide it equally among them."

THE Maori monitor the 'Waka,' the newspaper published by the Government printer and edited under the supervision of the Native Office, receives great praise from the 'Wanganui Herald' for its appreciation of the spirit of paternal government, and for educating the natives to be able to appreciate the superlative wisdom and power of the Native Office. But the 'Herald,' while giving credit to the 'Waka Maori' for the manner in which it does the duty it has undertaken, objects to the policy of flour and sugar.

HIS Honor the Superintendent of Otago could hardly attend an excited meeting of the members of the Dunedin Athenaeum with advantage to his own dignity, so he got over the difficulty by sending the President a manifesto, which we have heard described as "the Epistle to the Athenians." In this epistle His Honor states he is op-