

the truth "that there may be one fold and one shepherd." (John x. v 16.)

Pray also for our Holy Father, and the liberty and independence of the Church; and that a merciful Providence may send us a sufficient number of good priests, and enable us to provide a Christian education for our children.

"The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." (Thess., last verse.)

† P. MORAN.

Given at Dunedin,  
Feast of St. Agnes, 1874.

The following are the regulations for Lent, which we make in virtue of special faculties received from the Holy See:—

1st. We grant permission for the use of Flesh Meat at dinner only on all Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and also on all Saturdays, except one, that is the second Saturday, during Lent.

2nd. Lard and dripping may be used after the manner of butter, at dinner, on all days of fast and abstinence during Lent, and also throughout the year, with the exception of the first and last Wednesdays of Lent, and Good Friday.

3rd. White Meats—such as butter, milk, cheese and eggs, are allowed on all days at dinner, with the exception of Ash Wednesday and the Wednesday and Friday of Holy Week, on which three days the ancient discipline of the Church is to be observed in all its rigor.

4th. Fish and Flesh are not allowed at the same meal during Lent.

There is neither fast nor abstinence on Sundays in Lent.

All who have completed their 21st year are bound to fast and abstain—unless excused by the state of their health or the nature of their employments—according to the regulations stated above; and all who have arrived at the use of reason, though not bound to fast before the completion of their 21st year, are nevertheless bound to abstain from the use of flesh meat on the days appointed—unless exempted for a legitimate cause, of which the respective Pastors are to be the judges.

Subject to the above regulations, every day, except Sunday in Lent, is a day of fast and abstinence.

All who have arrived at the years of discretion are bound to go to communion within Easter time, which in these Dioceses commences on the first Sunday in Lent and ends on the Octave of the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.

The clergy are requested to read this Pastoral from the several altars as soon as possible, and to cause a copy of it to be placed, during Lent, in a conspicuous place in their respective churches and chapels.

† P. M.

### GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY.

A TELEGRAM from Arrowtown last week says:—"The Government School was opened on Monday by order of the committee, there were present 2 on Tuesday, and 5 on Wednesday; the school was closed by order of the Teacher, the committee not being consulted.

At the Catholic school the attendance was 28 on both days.

### THE HITCH AT WELLINGTON.

ON the 11th inst., the House of Representatives met at 5 o'clock. The Clerk said that in consequence of the absence of the Speaker and Chairman of Committee, it would be necessary, according to the rules of the House, to adjourn till the following day.—Mr Vogel then made the following statement:—"The meeting of members of both Houses yesterday arose through the non-appearance of an expected proclamation of prorogation. Some weeks ago it was intended to further prorogue Parliament. His Excellency was advised to that effect, and signified his willingness to comply with the advice. It is probable a proclamation of prorogation has been signed, but if so, it has miscarried. As a few members of Parliament attended yesterday, some members of the Government also attended the meeting which took place. Since then the Attorney-General's opinion has been taken, and I attach it for your information. It is clear the present meetings do not constitute a session, and as soon as the prorogation can be proclaimed it will be. In the meanwhile, if members in Wellington meet daily, such meetings will not constitute a session, and members will probably, after to-day, not meet, at least so the Government will advise them. To-day, they will probably meet, as yesterday they agreed to do so. There seems no reason why you should put yourselves to the trouble of coming to Wellington at present."

A telegraphic circular of the above was sent by the Government to each member of Parliament not in Wellington. The Attorney-General's opinion says:—"I think that as His Excellency the Governor has not met and addressed the two other elements of the General Assembly, neither of those elements can proceed to any business, but adjourn till met by the Governor and addressed by him. Consequently neither house can sit. Each may meet, but cannot sit and proceed to business. It is held that a complete Act must be passed, otherwise there is no session. To constitute an Act, there must be a Bill passed by each House, and assented to by the Governor. Therefore there will be no session within the meaning of the section of the Constitution Act, and the Governor may safely and properly prorogue to a later date. The time elapsed between the date to which the Assembly was prorogued by the last instrument of prorogation, namely, 10th Feb, and the date of the next instrument of prorogation, will not have been a session, all ought members of each House of Assembly may have met and adjourned.

The 'Post' contends that the two Houses of Assembly are now in session, and says:—"This extraordinary session might be regarded as a good joke, were it not that very serious consequences to the members of the House of Representatives are involved. The Constitution Act provides that any member of that House who absents himself for a whole session without leave shall forfeit his seat. This provision is one which the Colonial Legislature cannot alter without the Act so altering it being reserved for her Majesty's pleasure. Thus, if the Governor now issued a proclamation proroguing Parliament, the seat of every member of the House of Representatives, except the half-dozen who were present yesterday, would be *ipso facto* vacant, and it would be the duty of the Clerk of Writs to immediately issue new writs. This is a difficulty which no legislation can surmount. Unless a quorum can be got together to grant leave to the absentees, what is equivalent to a general election throughout the colony must ensue immediately on Parliament being prorogued. Probably the Government, if it comes to that, will advise the Governor to dissolve Parliament, so that a real general election may take place this year, instead of the year after next, when the term of the present Parliament expires."

The 'Post' has a mock speech by the Governor, in the course of which it makes him say:—"Since Parliament was prorogued I have visited most of the centres of population in both islands. The people seem prosperous, but are dreadfully given to demonstrations of loyalty, in the shape of banquets and processions. They no doubt mean well, and I am fully satisfied of their attachment to the Crown. At the same time, I felt it my duty on several occasions to impress on them that her Majesty's Representative must not be bored, and I am glad to say that no weak consideration for their feelings deterred me from practically enforcing this great moral lesson. The number of Mayors in Otago is a serious evil, demanding the immediate and grave consideration of the Legislature. . . . It will, no doubt, be highly gratifying to you to learn that the Minister of Justice, entertaining a high opinion of the abilities of the Hon. Mr Bathgate, has appointed that gentleman to an important and most lucrative judicial office. I had much pleasure in confirming the nomination, as it delivered me of Mr Bathgate as one of my advisers. Papers on this subject will be laid before you."

A 'Gazette' extraordinary issued on the 18th inst. has released members from attendance at Parliament until 30th April next.

### ARRIVAL OF THE MONGOL.

THE s.s. Mongol arrived at Port Chalmers, from Plymouth, after splendid passage of 51 days 18 hours, on Thursday the 12th inst. On arrival there was made known the unwelcome intelligence of sickness on board in the form of scarlet fever, measles, and bronchitis. This, of course, left but one course to be pursued, viz., to quarantine the steamer. The Board of Health met in the afternoon and decided:—"That the ship Mongol remain in quarantine in the meantime, and that she be thoroughly fumigated. That the fourteen emigrants for Otago be placed on Quarantine Island, and all usual and necessary steps be taken to fumigate and cleanse their baggage, bedding, and personal effects. That the cargo for the port be placed in lighters, and fumigated prior to being landed. That in the event of the Colonial Government so desiring it, the whole of the passengers on board the Mongol be landed on Quarantine Island, and their effects be thoroughly cleansed and fumigated." It appears that the emigrants were shipped at Plymouth, and were taken from the Depot there, and that they were unhealthy at the time, scarlet fever and measles having previously appeared amongst them. Two of the families had been removed from the Depot in consequence, and several of the intending emigrants had to be left behind. On the morning of the day that the steamer sailed from Plymouth a family was sent on shore because its members had only lately recovered from scarlet fever, and were in a very weak state therefrom. Moreover, as Dr Davidson remarked, the infection of fever must have been about them. Professor McGregor who interrogated the doctor, asked Dr Davidson whether he considered it prudent to undertake the voyage with emigrants in such a very unsatisfactory condition? To which the doctor replied that he certainly did not, and expressed surprise that the Emigration authorities at home had not detained her. He furthermore remarked that if one case of fever had been apparent on the day she sailed, he would have taken the responsibility of detaining the steamer. The emigrants, however, were, to all appearance, well on the day she sailed, but on the following day fever and measles appeared amongst them, and remained throughout the passage. According to the Doctor's report, 67 cases of measles, 21 cases of scarlet fever, and eight cases of bronchitis had been treated during the passage, and out of that number 12 resulted fatally, viz., 4 cases of measles, 5 of scarlet fever, 3 of bronchitis. Besides these there was 1 fatal case of diarrhoea, 1 of ulcer, 1 of death from inanition, and a death from sunstroke. The deaths were confined to children of ten years of age and under; excepting in one case. With regard to the present condition of the immigrants, there are under treatment 4 cases of scarlet fever, 2 of abscess, 1 of diarrhoea, 1 of bronchitis. The precaution was taken to destroy all the clothes and bedding used by infected persons during the voyage, whilst the infected persons were carefully isolated. When the Mongol left Plymouth, she had 245 statute adult immigrants on board, besides a number of paying passengers, and her crew of 54 men and boys. The immigrants came out through the New Zealand Shipping Company, and are for distribution through the colony as follows:—10½ statute adults for Otago, 71 for Canterbury, 91 for Wellington, 72½ for Auckland. The Mongol is one of the steamers engaged to run in the new Australian and American Mail Line, and has demonstrated her ability to undertake the running of the mail service by making the quickest direct passage from England to New Zealand on record. Her time from land to land was 50 days 8 hours, and 51 days 18 hours from Plymouth to Port Chalmers. She is a handsome boat of 2265 tons register and 1463 tons carrying capacity. Her length is 300 feet, beam 35 feet, and depth of hold 31 feet 6 inches. She is fitted with a compound engine of 400 horse-power nominal, and 1600 horse power indicated. Her accommodation is good; there is a magnificent saloon, with ladies' cabin and retiring room, bath-rooms, ice-house, &c. She is built with three decks. The owners of the