

But, it may be asked, how many Protestants send their children to Catholic schools, or even to Godless schools taught by Catholics? Here, in Otago, as a rule, a teacher's catholicity is an insurmountable barrier to his appointment to any decent Government school. We had an instance, the other day, in a locality not a hundred miles from Dunedin. And, as to Canterbury, we venture to affirm that there is hardly a school committee in the entire province that would not reject the most highly qualified candidate for the office of teacher if he were a Catholic.

The 'Lyttelton Times' says the Canterbury system of education is unsectarian. We most emphatically deny the assertion, and affirm that it is not only sectarian, but insiduously sectarian. It is administered by Protestants, the teachers are, it may be said, Protestants to a man, the books used in the schools are Protestant. There is not a single Catholic engaged in its administration; the tone and atmosphere of the schools are Protestant. Catholics are made to feel that, under the system, their position is one of galling inferiority. The histories used either contain gross calumnies about Catholics and their church, or are disingenuously silent in reference to most important facts. And yet we are told this is an unsectarian system! The Protestants are in the majority; they have schools to their heart—everything they want in fact. And Catholics, whilst compelled to pay for the maintenance of this system, must consider themselves highly favoured to be permitted to accept this mutilated and mongrel teaching. This is the justice and liberality of the colony of New Zealand! They tell us, in fact, we the majority must have these schools, they are just what we require for our children; what you Catholics can get in them is good enough for you; and if you get nothing for your money, we don't much care. You can go and maintain schools for yourselves at your own expense, but you must pay the school tax for the education of our children all the same. You had no hand in framing the law, in fact, we received all your suggestions with scorn. You had no representatives in the Provincial Council when the Ordinance was enacted; and, even if you had, we would have paid no attention to their reasons or remonstrances. We didn't even pretend to consult for your principles or consciences, you are nothing to us. We want a good, sound secular education, well dashed with Protestantism for our children, and if you won't avail yourselves of that, you are traitors and—such in effect is the language of the Canterbury legislation on education.

WEEKLY EPITOME.

THREE candidates were nominated on the 13th inst., for the representation of Dunedin in the General Assembly—viz., Mr G. E. Barton, Mr N. Y. A. Wales, and Mr J. G. S. Grant. The show of hands was largely in favour of Mr Grant, and a poll was demanded on behalf of Mr Barton. The election excites very little interest.

It is proposed to invite Mr Vogel to a public dinner in Wellington.

MR STEWART, the representative of a colonizing band from the North of Ireland, has returned to Tauranga from Kati Kati and reports favorably of the land, soil, and the position. He complains that several sections of the best land have been given to the Natives by the Government, otherwise he would decide upon settling Kati Kati at once.

THE population of Wellington Province is about 30,000. The increase since 1871 is 25 per cent. on the last census return.

THE 'Thames Advertiser' gives the month's gold returns of the field, as 11,626oz., being an increase of 3285oz., over last month.

THERE have been heavy floods on the West Coast. At Reefton the Buller River rose 30 feet in 12 hours, but no damage was done of any importance. At Greymouth, the stone protection work stood some severe tests, and saved the town from utter destruction. It was the highest flood yet known in Greymouth.

A TELEGRAM has been received from the Agent-General, dated April 2 d, announcing as despatched for the Colony during March the following vessels, with immigrants:—The Buckingham, Hindostan, Caroline, and Carlruhe, for Otago, with 1500 souls; the Northampton, City of Dunedin, and Stonehouse, for Lyttelton, with 1320 souls; the Peeress (name of place not decipherable, but supposed to be Timaru), with 260 souls; the Wishart and Queen of Nations, for Auckland, with 630 souls; the Waikato, for Wellington, with 370 souls; and the Halcione, for Napier, with 340 souls.

It is stated that the General Government intend to lend £50,000 at 6 per cent., to the Thames Companies, to test the deep levels of that goldfield. £6000 is now available.

At the annual meeting of the South British Insurance Company held lately at Auckland, the accounts showed a disposable balance of £22,509, which was appropriated as follows:—£10,000 was added to the reserve fund; 2s 6d per share to capital, absorbing £4687; carried forward to next half-year, £7822.

The Morven Hills Station has again changed hands, Colonel Whitmore having sold it to Mr James Cogle, of Tasmania, for £130,000.

A movement has been going on for some time amongst the Good Templars of Wellington to get a number of public-houses closed. Several petitions were hawked round, and numerous signed. The

time for lodging them expired on the night of the 13th inst, and they were presented at the Magistrate's Court on the following morning, but refused as being too late.

The Conference between the Council of the New Zealand University and the deputations from the Otago University and Canterbury College has agreed that a new University Act should be drafted by the Council, embodying the terms and conditions upon which the affiliation of the Southern Colleges should be carried out.

THE Old Whau Company, Thames, have declared a dividend of £3 per share. 3000 shares are held by Thames residents.

237 nominations for immigrants were sent from Invercargill by the Suez Mail this month. Since the 20th of October last, when free nominations commenced, 2558 nominations have been sent from the Invercargill office.

THE Sydney 'Morning Herald' of the 28th March, writing respecting the escape of the French Communists from New Caledonia, remarks:—"The arrival of these prisoners will justify the apprehension which has already been expressed, that the Australian colonies have something to fear from the establishment of a large penal settlement in such close neighbourhood."

THE 'Wakatip Mail' says:—"The miners here, at least, do not seem to value the opportunity offered them of forwarding gold to the Melbourne mint, as none was forwarded per last escort."

THE 'Dunstan Times' complains of the little local assistance given to mining enterprise there, but says that so far as assisting co-operative labor the capitalists of Dunedin have been very liberal, and that there is no reason to complain of want of support from them.

THE Ship William Davis has arrived at the Bluff, all well: 85 days out from London. She brings 289 immigrants, and reports the deaths of nine infants on the voyage.

THE following is late news by telegram:—A deputation of the Irish members of Parliament waited upon the Premier, asking for the release of the Fenian prisoners. Mr Disraeli declined to grant the request.—The German Parliament has passed a new Press Law.—Thirty-two Austrian Bishops have denounced the Ecclesiastical laws as tyrannical.—The Archbishop of Cologne has been arrested.

THE escape of Rochefort and others has caused great surprise in France, and consternation in New Caledonia.

THOMAS MANNING, the owner of the Berdan Retorting Furnace, Grahamstown, has been fined £200, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment, for a breach of the Quartz Crushing Regulation and Inspection Act. The case was got up by the Police. A detective was employed as informer to carry stone to the defendant, who neglected to make the requisite entry in the register book, hence the prosecution. The magistrate commented severely on the action of the Police in entrapping a man into the commission of a crime.

"THE Life, Character, and Work of the Rev. John Wesley, M.A., founder of the Methodist Society," formed the subject of a lecture by the Rev. Mr Roseby of the Congregational Church, Dunedin, a few evenings ago.

MESSRS HALLENSTEIN & Co.'s New Zealand Clothing Factory was visited last week by the Right Rev. Dr Moran, and the representatives of the Dunedin Press. The party was shown round the premises by the managing partner, Mr Anderson, and the manager, Mr Fox. Before leaving the factory Dr Moran expressed to his cicerones his gratification at the respectable appearance of the operatives, and the evident order and regularity which pervaded all, and remarked on the great importance to the place of a flourishing industry which gave profitable employment to so many.

THE Catholics of Akaroa have to congratulate themselves on the monetary success of the bazaar held in the Akaroa Town Hall on the 6th and 7th instants; the purpose being the raising of sufficient funds for the proper completion of the Presbytery, now in course of erection adjoining the church in Pompallier street. The different stalls were presided over by the Misses De Malmarche, Mrs Rodriguez, the Misses Witely, Mrs Hahn, Miss Waacklerle, and others; and certainly the trade done was in the superlative degree of the class called "roaring." The gross receipts during the two days exceeded £150, a very large amount to be expended in so small a community as Akaroa.

THE following is the Auditors' Report of the H.A.C.B.S. Grahamstown Branch, No. 35, for the Quarter ending 2nd March, 1874. Amount to credit of Sick Fund, £407 15s 1d; Incidental Fund, £52 18s 6d; Funeral Fund, not remitted, £16 8s 0d; Total, £477 1s 7d. Increase during Quarter: Sick Fund, £20 9s 2d; Funeral Fund, £8 8s 2d; Total, £28 17s 4d. Number of Members: F financial, 110; Unfinancial, 38; Total, 148.

MR. STAFFORD ON EDUCATION.

MR STAFFORD in addressing the electors of Heathcote is reported as follows:—

Mr Stafford on coming forward was received with prolonged cheering. Now, with regard to the part of the article in the 'Lyttelton Times' which I have to complain of; it was this: the imputation that I had seen that there was some discontent on the part of the Catholics of the province, and that I had adapted my remarks to that discontent. I am not in the habit of changing my conscientious opinions on the spur of the moment, merely to catch votes or fall in with the views of any section of the community. For a direct refutation of that statement I refer you to a speech made some two years ago, long before I thought of coming to reside in this district, much less of asking you for a seat in the Provincial Council—a speech made in the House of Representatives on the second reading of the Education Bill, which was brought in by Mr Fox's Government. I made that speech after very careful consideration, given not only at the time, but over a series of years, during which my attention was drawn to the subject, a subject which was agitating all civilised communities—the question of State Education—and I have seen nothing to cause me to alter the views I then expressed. For that speech I refer you all to 'Hansard,' which you will find in your public libraries, and can read for yourselves. Therefore I think that the 'Lyttelton Times' owes me an apology for having stated that I had for the occasion, *pro hoc vice*, adopted views which would fall in with the opinions of some of the