

**COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.**  
**Messrs DRIVER, STEWART and Co.** report as follows, for the week ending April 22nd:—

**Fat Cattle.**—A moderate supply of 50 head was yarded at the usual weekly sale, but the quality being for the most part only ordinary to middling, we cannot quote any advance upon our late quotations. Really prime quality, which is evidently becoming more scarce, would always find ready sale. We quote best quality at about from 22s to 23s per 100 lbs; medium, 17s to 18s. We sold at the yards 25 head, and have placed 40 head privately.

**Fat Sheep.**—About 900 were penned—mostly merino wethers and ewes—which we sold at the following prices—say, for ewes, 5s 6d to 6s 6d; wethers 7s 6d to 8s. None of the above were of really good quality. Prime cross-breds are saleable at 2d, do merinos 2d. We have placed 400 for forward delivery.

**Fat Lambs.**—50 were penned to-day, a portion of which were sold at 9s each.

**Store Cattle.**—There is a fair demand for quiet grown steers and spayed cows at from £3 10s to £4 10s for the former, and £2 15s to £3 3s for the latter. We have sold 120 head during the week, at quotations.

**Store Sheep.**—A few old ewes are still changing hands at 3s to 4s, for the purpose of breeding cross-breds. At the season, however, is so far advanced, but few station lots are offering, which if good would realise 4s 6d for immediate delivery. We have a good demand for young merino ewes deliverable in lamb at 7s to 8s; and also good conditioned merino wethers, if within easy driving distance, at from 5s 6d to 6s 6d. Four and six tooth cross-breds are much wanted for paddocks, but almost impossible to get. We have sold 2000 very superior two-tooth cross bred ewes at 10s, and of other sorts 2500 at quotations.

**Wool.**—Since the date of our last no further advices from the home market have reached us. In our local market but little business has been done, and there is very little wool now left for offer. At our usual weekly sale of produce to-day, we offered about 50 bales, most of which was disposed of at satisfactory prices, as follows:—Greasy stained fleece, M McL, 5 bales 7½d; do fleece, L over O, 8 do, 9½d; do do, W L, 2 do, 10 do, 16½d; do locks, Shepherd's Crook, 1 do, 1½d; do fleece, S O, 2 do 9½d; washed do, M, 2 do, 13d; reoured—1 cross-bred, 1 lambs—K, 2 do, 18½d; do O, 1 do, 12½.

**Sheepskins.** Our sale to-day was well attended, but only a few skins were forward for offer. Bidding, however, was spirited, and full prices were obtained. Full-woolled skins fetched up to 5s each; medium dry skins, 1s 7d to 2s 9d. Butchers' merino skins, 1s 8d to 1s 10d.

**Hides** are in fair request, and sound wet-salted command ready sale and full prices. The bulk of those offering at the present time, however, are not in shipping condition. We sold several lots to-day, at from 10s 6d to 14s for dry hides, and 15s 9d to 18s 3d for salted.

**Tallow** is in very weak demand. We catalogued 35 casks to-day, but in the absence of buyers withdrew it. Returns lately received from the home markets for shipments made last season are of an unsatisfactory character, and hence shippers are disinclined to operate except at very safe figures, thereby virtually restricting the demand to local consumers.

**Grain.**—Wheat is in fair request at 4s 9d to 4s 10d, for well-conditioned bright samples. Oats are not so actively required for as lately, but prices continue firm at last quotations, viz, 4s to 4s 2d for new crop; 4s 4d to 4s 6d for old.

## New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSSTITIA.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1874.

### OURSELVES.

THIS number completes the first year of our existence. The NEW ZEALAND TABLET was started under very great difficulties, for the purpose of supplying an admitted want. Contrary to the expectations of many, including some of its own supporters, this journal has survived all the discouragements of the past, and gives promise of a prosperous future. The difficulties under which it was first published, have attended it throughout its career. But the energy of its Directors, aided by the loyal and generous support of its friends, have hitherto enabled it to surmount these. It is to be hoped that the Catholic public of this Colony will not only continue to aid it as in the past, but will accord to it a still larger amount of support.

The NEW ZEALAND TABLET has not been everything that its promoters and Directors wished it to be; but we can say with truth, that taking all things into account, it is deserving of praise for what it has done, rather than of censure for what it has left undone, or has done badly. To make the TABLET such as its Proprietary desire to make it, now depends almost entirely on the Catholic body itself. A large number of subscribers and advertisers will enable the Directors to increase its size, and render it in every way more deserving of being the organ and representative of the Catholics of New Zealand.

Education has been and is by far the most important question for our consideration, whether as regards Catholics

as Catholics, or as members of the body politic. As Catholics, our Faith is immeasurably more important to us than all other considerations, and consequently whatever tends to destroy or even weaken it, must necessarily excite our abhorrence, and arouse our most determined opposition. As citizens we have a deep interest in the temporal well-being and peace of society; and therefore, we are bound in self-defence to oppose everything calculated to disturb the peace of the community, and weaken the securities of the various relations of man to man, and of men to the society in which they live. Our Church, to which we look up with respect and docility, and which has been divinely appointed to guide us in all things appertaining to Faith and Morals, has declared godless and mixed systems of education to be intrinsically dangerous to both; and our own reading of the history of the past, as well as our own experience, leave no doubt whatever on our mind that these systems of education condemned by the Church, must inevitably lead to the destruction of society and to universal anarchy. For these reasons, we have never ceased, in this journal, to advocate a Christian and Catholic education for our own children, that we might discharge the duties which all Catholics owe to their Faith, and to their country.

For doing this, those who are opposed to our principles, have spoken hardly of us, and some have gone so far as to wish to make the public look upon us as disloyal and even traitorous. But so far from being either the one or the other, we have been as we are, most devotedly loyal to the community in which our lot is cast; and the vigour and perseverance with which we have opposed what we most firmly believe to be fatal not only to our children's faith, but even to the well being of civil society, prove our loyalty and our zeal for the public good.

In the not infrequent passages of arms that have taken place between ourselves and our Brethren of the Press—whilst hitting hard as we conceived ourselves bound to do in self-defence—we have always wished, and endeavoured, too, to avoid personalities and confine ourselves strictly within the limits of lawful literary warfare. Whether we have succeeded or not, others must judge, but our conscience does not reproach us on this head. Not so, however, in reference to extract matter. As to this, there have been two or three instances in which, we freely admit, we have done badly. But we can truthfully say, that the Editor of this journal, whilst accepting his responsibility, and gladly submitting to the censure which attaches to mismanagement, was not to blame for these extracts to which allusion has been made. The Editor did not see these extracts before their publication: had he seen them they should never have been published in the NEW ZEALAND TABLET. At the same time we freely confess that he ought to have seen and rejected them. For the future the utmost care will be taken to prevent a recurrence of anything of this kind.

As to parties, the NEW ZEALAND TABLET will continue to maintain its independence of all parties; but, at the same time, will discuss political questions, and give a verdict according to the merits of each, irrespective of individuals and parties.

### THE HEATHCOTE ELECTION.

THE electors of this suburb of Christchurch have recently earned for themselves a disgraceful notoriety. The majority of this redoubtable constituency have rejected a candidate, for a seat in the Provincial Council of Canterbury, who is a statesman, a scholar, a gentleman, and an able and eloquent speaker; and elected, instead, nobodies. Under the heading—nobodies—it is not our intention to include the gentleman who stood at the head of the poll, Mr MONTGOMERY. With one reservation, he is everything we could desire. But what we mean is, that this constituency of Heathcote has selected as its representatives in the—well, vestry of the Province, men whose celebrity has not travelled beyond the confines of Heathcote, in preference to a statesman who was, for nearly a decade of years, Premier of the Colony, and who possesses talents that would secure him a prominent position in any legislature.

But observe the reason of this preference. The Hon. Mr STAFFORD, of whom we are speaking, had the manliness, the justice, and the misfortune to declare himself in favor of fair-play and religious liberty as regards Catholics. This upright declaration of an honest man rendered this old public servant odious in the eyes of the Heathcote constituency. His advocacy of justice to his Catholic fellow colonists, caused his talents to be ignored, and all his previous services to be