

MASONIC HALL.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21st, 1874.

VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT, IN AID OF ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL.

PROGRAMME :
Part I.

Overture	...	...	Orchestra
Glee	...	"Hail to the Chief"	Company
Song	...	"I'll Meet Thee at the Lane"	Mr Griffin
Recitation	...	"Bernado de Carpio"	Mr Desmond
Song	...	"Alas! Those Chimes"	Mrs Connor
Piano Solo	...	...	Mr Sykes
Song	...	...	Mr O. Cornish
Duet	...	"List to the Convent Bells"	Mrs Connor and Miss Hesford
Song	...	"Half Mast High"	Mr R. Carroll
Reading	...	"The Street of Bye-and-Bye"	Mr J. Perrin
Song	...	...	Mr Loughnan

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES.

Overture	...	...	Orchestra
Glee	...	"See Our Oars"	Company
Recitation	...	"Misadventures at Margate"	Master Scanlan
Ballad	...	...	Mr C. Cornish
Song	...	"Let us be Happy"	Miss Hesford
Song	...	"Bay of Biscay"	Mr Fraser
Reading	...	"Beautiful Snow"	Mr Bunny
Violin Solo	...	Fantasia on Favorite Airs	Mr J. O'Connell
Duet	...	"Wind and the Harp"	Mr and Mrs Connor
Song	...	"Happy Moments"	Mr Griffin
Flute Duet	...	"I Know a Bank"	Messrs. G. Wright and K. Hogg
Reading	...	"Virginia" (Macaulay)	Mr Donnelly
Song	...	"Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep"	Mr R. Carroll

FINALE—GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Doors open at 7.30. Concert commences at 8. Tickets: Reserved Seats 3s; Body of Hall 2s.

J. PERRIN, Hon. Sec.

New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1874

THE PREMIER'S RESOLUTIONS.

ON Monday last, the Hon. Mr. VOGEL gave notice, in the House of Representatives, that he would move the three following resolutions:—1. That, considering the altered circumstances of the Colony, it is desirable that the Provinces of the North Island should be abolished; 2. That Wellington should be made the seat of Government; 3. That the land revenue should be made a local revenue, according to what is known as the Compact of 1856; and that Government shall, during the recess, consider how best to give effect to these resolutions.

As to the first and third of these resolutions, there is, we believe, very little diversity of opinion throughout the colony. Provincial officials will, of course, raise objections, and give strenuous opposition; but apart from these, there will be very few indeed opposed to the abolition of the Provinces of the North Island: and in the middle Island, none to the disposal of the land revenue according to the Compact of 1856.

With regard to the second resolution, the case, however, is very different. As far as we have been able to ascertain, the Colony as a whole does not wish that Wellington should remain the seat of Government. The present arrangement is looked upon as merely provisional. With one exception, Wellington, it is said, has nothing to recommend it as the seat of Government. It is central, and that is all. At this stage of the question we do not care to give our own opinion. But we may testify to the existence of a public opinion unfavorable to the claims of Wellington.

Many think Wellington a most unsuitable site for a city at all, and that, were it not for its excellent harbor, it would never attain to more than the dimensions of a small port. There is very little level ground in the neighborhood, and the place is very liable to earthquakes. The present Parliament Houses, the Governor's residence, all the public offices, all the warehouses, &c., are built of wood. In fact, the place is a heap of sticks; no other kind of building materials can be used, and a fire on a windy day might lay the entire city in ruin and destroy all the records of the Colony.

But then it may be said, and with some show of probability, that earthquakes have not been lately as frequent or as

terrible as formerly; that it is not unlikely they may cease altogether, and that after a little, permanent structures of stone and brick may be erected. At all events, it is to be hoped it may be so.

We look forward to the debate on these resolutions with very great interest; but our opinion is that, for the present, the House ought to rest contented with merely discussing them, and should not come to any definite decision on them. The proposals of the Premier are very important; and the present Parliament, which was elected without any view as to the decision of them, ought not, we think, to undertake to pass even resolutions in reference to them. No doubt Parliament is competent to settle the questions now, but it would be hardly constitutional for it to do so.

Again, it appears to us that before coming to any decision on these resolutions, the Parliament ought to settle another question as a necessary preliminary. Colonists are not at present fairly represented in the House of Assembly, and a readjustment of Electoral Districts is required. Nothing is of greater importance when dealing with organic changes, such as these resolutions propose, than to bring real public opinion to bear upon them. In the House of Representatives, heads only are counted, and consequently the member who represents a hundred and fifty electors is worth as much in a division as one who represents two thousand. For example, Marlborough or Taranaki, with about six thousand people each, has twice as much voting power as Dunedin, with her 20,000 active, intelligent and energetic citizens, or as the important City of Christchurch.

It seems, therefore, only reasonable that until the representation of the entire Colony is readjusted, Parliament ought not to decide, even by way of resolutions such as the Premier has given notice of, such very important questions as those involved in them. Let the questions be fairly put before the people, and let the people be really represented. Under such circumstances the voice of the Colony could be really known; and the decision thus arrived at would be satisfactory and lasting, because it would be indeed the decision of the country,—not of cliques or cabals, or of people merely locally interested.

EMPLOYMENT IN OTAGO.

THE meeting held in the Athenæum last week by the unemployed to proclaim their grievances and protest against the conduct of the Government with regard to immigration, by calling on the authorities to take some action on their behalf, has already borne its fruit, and has been productive of good results. In the early part of this week a notification appeared in the daily papers announcing that employment for the newly arrived and unemployed immigrants would be found temporarily by the Provincial Government. The notice concluded by saying that application was to be made personally, when the names of those willing to accept employment on the *Government terms* would be taken. This is, of course, so far satisfactory, inasmuch as it provides the means of assisting those whose necessities are absolute, and whose conditions are such as to make work of any nature, or at any rate, most acceptable; but is it calculated to bear out the flattering pictures drawn of New Zealand in the old country? Desirable as the work may be, and acceptable, as no doubt it will be to many—no matter what may be the terms on which it is offered—it will be given only as a matter of necessity; and the very fact of the Government being compelled to take such a step is the very strongest condemnation of the system of immigration which has been carried on. Indeed, those persons who hold the opinion—and they are far from few—that the immigration policy which has been in operation was adopted with the view of flooding the labor market, so as to make the acceptance of the lowest wage a matter of absolute necessity, and to leave it in the power of employers of labor to dictate their own terms, have good grounds for the arguments they urge. The plea under which the Government has sought to shelter itself in stating that it has not hitherto provided employment through a delicacy in entering into competition with private employers of labor is untenable and unsound, and we hold that the Government had a perfect right to make use of the labor at its command for the carrying out of the public works of the Colony, independently altogether of the effect it might have on private rights or interests. We have before now alluded to a sum of money voted some time since for reclamation purposes, and which we suppose is at present available. We ask, therefore, now that