

A great struggle is impending between Centralists and Provincialists; but, for us, it possesses very little interest indeed. It is, after all, merely a question of detail. The principle has been long since settled. Our form of government means a central, paramount, legislative, and executive authority, and local self-government, or administration. Whether this local self-government shall be in the present form or in another, is a comparatively unimportant detail. A question might, indeed, be raised, whether it would not be wiser to have two Colonies than one in New Zealand, and this would be worth discussing; but if the contest shall confine itself to Centralists *versus* Provincialists, as those words are understood at present, it is not one that is either very interesting or important.

"THE REFORMATION AND ARCHBISHOP CRANMER."

(To the Editor of the 'New Zealand Herald')

SIR,—In the common, or Government school, Cambridge, the following set of questions has been written on the black-board, and copied therefrom by a portion of the pupils. The heading of the paper of leading questions is the same as that I have given above:—1. What was it?—The reformation of the Church of England and Rome from its abuses and corruptions. 2. What brought it about?—It was brought about by Pope Leo X., by sending monks to sell pieces of parchment to pardon souls. 3. What were the Indulgences?—Pieces of paper or parchment sent sent round by monks to sell them, for men to forgive their sins. 4. Who was the leading spirit of the Reformation?—Martin Luther. 5. How did he commence it? 6. Write all you know about him and his doctrines. 7. How was it brought into England? 8. How did Cranmer rise to power? 9. What translations of the Bible were made in the reign of Henry VIII.?—It was translated into Latin, and then into English. By whom?—It was translated into Latin by Wycliffe, and into English by Coverdale. 10. What system of worship was practised in the churches before the Reformation, and by what was it replaced? 11. Write an account of the persecution and martyrdom of Protestants in the reign of Mary. It was a terrible persecution—which has given to the first Queen in England the name of Bloody Mary. 12. Write an account of Cranmer's life and death.—He lived longer than any of the other bishops; in 1556 he was burnt. 13. Explain the meaning and origin of Fidei Defensor, Protestant, Puritan.—Fidei Defensor means defender of the faith, and it is seen on all our coins. Here terminate both questions and answers, of which I have given a faithful copy. The manuscript in which I find them has been handed to me by one of the inhabitants of Cambridge, and his boy's name is written in full at the foot of the paper of questions. The same boy, a pupil of the school, asserts that the answers to Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 were dictated by the teacher. The answers appended to some of the other questions down along he himself made out in "Collier's History of the British Empire," which, by the way, is taught in the school. Now, allow me to ask—1. Does the purely secular system of education, as by law established in this province, admit of questions so so directly bearing on religion? 2. Is it a grievance for Catholic parents to have such questions put to their children? 3. If this be a grievance, is there any redress? I refrain from note or comment on these questions and answers. Would I were spared the trouble of placing the bare facts before the public. Duty, however, is imperative? and the call of duty, be it ever so disagreeable, must be obeyed. Controversy I by no means want, having neither time nor inclination for the same. The historic truthfulness or falsehood, as the case may be, of Collier's statements anent the Reformation, or of the answers I find in this paper of questions, it does not just now suit my purpose to question. Who have time and convenience, and taste for polemical disputations, let those argue such questions. But touching the case under consideration, I may, in all justice, lay claim to redress on behalf of my people if the facts I submit constitute a grievance. I ask no favour. Fair play for Catholic children is all I ask for. I trust the Board of Education will consider the questions and answers I furnish, and that they will take the necessary steps to prevent the Education Act from being in future violated, to the prejudice of a portion of the community.—I am, &c.,

J. GOLDEN.

Hamilton, June 5, 1875.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

We are pleased to learn that the Catholics of Christchurch have established a branch of "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul" in that city. As its name indicates the object of the Association is the performance of works of charity, the care of the needy and the distressed being the especial province of its members. The society held its first meeting on June 22, at which the officers of the brotherhood were elected, the following being the office-bearers:—President, Rev. Father Belliard; Vice-President, Mr. William Shanley; Treasurer and Librarian, Mr. Dennis O'Connell; Wardrobe keeper, Mr. R. Houlihan, senr.; Secretary, F. R. Houlihan, jun. Although the Society has been in existence but a few weeks, it has not only commenced its good work, but has already made a great headway, and will undoubtedly prove a credit to the Catholics of Christchurch and a blessing to the poor, be they Catholic, Protestant, or Jew. It is already in possession of an excellent library, which will be available to its members at a mere nominal charge. The praiseworthy object which its members have in view, and the unsectarian nature of the distribution of its charitable aid, must commend it to all classes of the community, and we trust in time to be able to chronicle the extension of branches to every Province of the Colony.

THE adjourned meeting of the O'Connell Centenary Committee was held on Thursday evening, the 8th instant, between fifty and sixty of the most influential men of the city, representing all creeds and countries, being present. Mr. J. P. Armstrong, M.P.C., was unanimously voted to the chair. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. John Dungan) placed before the meeting letters of apology received from Messrs. James Macassey, Robert Stout, Dr. O'Donoghue, and various other gentlemen who, though heartily supporting the movement, were unable to be present. It was unanimously agreed that the demonstration should assume the shape of a public dinner, and Thursday, the 5th prox., the day on which it should take place. A sub-committee, consisting of Captain Baldwin, Mr. Synnott, Mr. Bracken, and the Hon. Secretary was appointed to carry out the details. The unanimity with which every section of the community, independently of creed or country, have joined together to do honor to the memory of O'Connell, is the highest tribute which could be paid to his labors on behalf of civil and religious liberty. Messrs. Watson, of High-street, have been appointed the caterers, which in itself is sufficient guarantee that that portion of the celebration will be worthy of the occasion.

We understand that Mr. E. H. Leary, Councillor for Bell Ward has had a requisition presented to him asking him to contest the Mayoralty. While duly sensible of the honor, Councillor Leary respectfully, and we should say wisely, declined. There can be no doubt that Mr. Leary possesses many qualifications which would make him a most desirable Chief Magistrate, but to come forward at the present time would scarcely be politic on his part. Were his experience in the Council somewhat more extended, there is little question he would prove a formidable opponent, and should he so desire at a future date, there is very little doubt that he may aspire to the office of Mayor with every hope of success.

THE efforts of His Honor Mr. Justice Johnston to put the curb on some fractious members of the legal fraternity, and to regulate the code of courtly etiquette, have not found favour with the 'Wanganui Herald.' After dealing in a facetious spirit with his Honor's conduct since his translation to the Dunedin Supreme Court, it says:—"It might be interesting to enquire in what state His Honor left the Wellington circuit after many years—we will not call it browbeating or blustering—but many years' application of the judicial rod. The profession in Wellington is tame enough, goodness knows, and its meek-eyed and subdued subjectiveness is at once a compliment to the stringent measures which have been employed. Even juries are docile, and the general public were beginning to show less of that haughty temper which is recognised as the sign of independence of character in the free-born Briton. But will any one say that litigation has not thriven in Wellington—that lawyer's costs have not flourished like a green bay-tree—that petty matters have not been magnified into *causes célèbres*—or that there is a deep-seated respect for the administration of justice in the public mind?" While fully conceding that fitting dignity and decorum should be observed in the Temple of Justice, we agree with the 'Herald' that there is nothing more unbecoming than to see a judge stretching his censure and powers to the utmost limits by angrily or solemnly disputing over the paltriest point of etiquette.

THE following, clipped from the 'Boston Pilot,' the leading Catholic journal in America, pays a flattering tribute to the ability with which the Catholic organs in this hemisphere are conducted. It says:—"From the Antipodes we receive some of our best Catholic exchanges. The 'Advocate,' of Melbourne, Australia, and the 'Freeman's Journal,' of Sydney, are two admirable newspapers. The NEW ZEALAND TABLET is one of the best edited and most interesting journals we read; and now, from Western Australia we get the 'West Australian Catholic Record,' a remarkably handsome paper, which is printed and published at the Catholic Boys' Orphanage, Subiaco, near Perth. When the Australian mails arrive we are led to think that our co-religionists in the Southern hemisphere exceed us in the taste and intelligence which characterise their publications." As a rule we do not believe in self-laudation, but we may fairly publish the opinion of a journal which is admittedly the most ably conducted of the many excellent American papers, without being open to the charge of egotism.

WE would direct our readers to the addresses of Councillors Walters and Reeves, the two candidates for the mayoral chair, which appear in another column. Both addresses are remarkable for their brevity, Councillor Walters urging his past services in the Council, and the amount of patronage accorded him at the last contest for the mayoralty, as a plea for further support. The struggle no doubt will prove a keen one, each competitor having warm adherents, and public opinion being very evenly balanced as to the respective merits of the candidates.

THE very difficult feat lately accomplished by Edwards, the well-known pedestrian, has been completely thrown into the shade during the past week by the performance of a boy named Scott, thirteen years of age. Edwards had accomplished the task of walking 100 miles in twenty-three hours and fifty-five minutes, but so severely was he punished that he was heard to say that it should be a large sum of money that would tempt him to essay another attempt. Little Scott felt convinced that he could beat Edwards' time, which he did by two minutes, notwithstanding the fact that he was suffering very severely from dysentery. Beside, he had many disadvantages to contend with from which Edwards was free, and the difference of the two courses travelled by the pedestrians was at least equivalent to five miles against the boy. When these drawbacks are taken into account, it may be said with justice that one hundred miles were covered by Scott in one hour under the twenty-four, a feat rarely accomplished by trained pedestrians, and never equalled by one of his tender years. With judicious training, and the indomitable pluck of which he is possessed, there is but little doubt but young Scott would bid fair to