

has been misnamed. It should have been called a Bill to abolish the popular element in Provincial Institutions, and to substitute the Autocratic. We are to have Superintendents still, but instead of being elected by the people, and responsible to the people, they are to be appointed by the Governor, responsible to him only, and entirely at his beck. His Excellency may appoint some friend of his own, or more correctly, of some one of the Ministers, for the time being, to a Superintendency. He may be a gentleman from Auckland, or recently arrived from England, that would perhaps be placed over us here in Otago. This certainly does not appear to be an improvement. Then this Bill is tricky, inasmuch as it manifestly holds out a temptation to the present Superintendents to desert their Provinces, and support the Abolition measures of the Government. For who should have a better claim for the office of Superintendents, than the gentlemen who already hold it, who would lose it by the change, and whose experience, of course, not to speak of recent services, would so well fit them to retain it.

VILLAINOUS CONDUCT.

Two newspapers in Dunedin, *The Evening Star*, and the *Otago Daily Times*, have published a libel on the Rev. Father DALTON. Through the instrumentality of these newspapers, the public in Otago have been taught to believe that this Revd. gentleman is a liar, and guilty of other disgraceful and unjust conduct.

Father DALTON, before this libel was published by our contemporaries, denied the false and calumnious charges against him, and gave such explanations as must have satisfied all right-minded men.

Our contemporaries, however, who were ready enough to give currency to the libel, have neglected to do an act of justice, and publish the refutation. Anything derogatory to a Catholic, particularly a priest, be it true or false, easily finds admission into these Otago journals, but a defence, or a denial, on their part, is studiously ignored by them. Yet they pretend to liberality, truth and justice. Of a truth, fair play are words not to be found in their vocabularies, except as a mere ornament, to be viewed, but not to be used.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

HEADS are being counted both in and out of the House, and the prevailing opinion is that the struggle Provincialism versus Centralism can be no longer staved off. On Saturday last some four dozen members met, at the invitation of the Premier, for the purpose of ascertaining the actual voting strength on the Abolition of the Provinces Bill. Mr. Reader Wood put in an appearance, but shortly afterwards withdrew, stating that he could not support the measure, as it confirmed the Middle Island in the possession of its land revenue. Although a resolution was carried unanimously approving of the desirability of at once bringing forward the Bill, it is believed that when it comes to the point the following gentlemen will secede:—Messrs J. Brown, Pyke, O'Connor, Creighton, and Bradshaw.

His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Moran celebrated Pontifical High Mass in St. Joseph's Church on last Sunday, (the services being in commemoration of the memory of O'Connell), assisted by the following clergymen:—Rev. E. Royer, deacon; Father Crowley, sub-deacon; and the Vicar-General, as Master of Ceremonies. It had been his Lordship's intention to have delivered an oration, but it is notified that he will do so on Sunday next, on which occasion there will be a grand "Te Deum" in honor of the Liberator.

THE O'Connell celebration took place last evening at Watson's Hotel, and proved to be a most unqualified success, close upon 150 sitting down to dinner. The chair was taken by T. Graham, Esq., on his right and left being the guests of the evening. We are unable to more than mention the fact of its success, but will give a detailed account in our next issue. We have, however, inserted in our Poet's Corner an original address, written for and read on the occasion by Mr. Bracken, which was most warmly applauded.

ANOTHER addition to the newspaper literature of the Province is likely soon to be made, the locality of the new venture being Queenstown. The enterprise, says the 'Argus,' will be undertaken by a joint-stock company, and it is said the principal men in the Wakatipu district have taken the matter in hand, and intend to carry it out thoroughly. We are informed that at a preliminary meeting held last week, over £1000 was subscribed, which goes to show that the projectors mean business. The Wakatipu district has more than once been threatened from without with opposition in the newspaper and printing trade, but this is the first time the local residents have taken action, and consequently it is more likely to come to something.

THE following items of intelligence are furnished by the Press Agency:—A meeting of the Opposition took place on Monday. Sir George Grey was unanimously nominated leader, and authorised to be the exponent of their views. The Opposition are determined

to use all Parliamentary forms to stop the passage of the Abolition Bill this season. They will speak against time if necessary, about which Mr. Fitzherbert gave young members some useful lessons. They will ask the House not to consider the Abolition and Local Government Bills until the Representation Bill and the Estimates are before the House. It is believed by the Opposition that the great struggle will be on the Estimates. Both Government and Opposition appear confident of success.

THE 'Cromwell Argus,' which presumes to be an authority on the subject, has the following with regard to the proposed O'Connell celebration at Queenstown:—"Apropos of this subject, a correspondent points out that the Queenstown people are jubilant in view of a grand banquet and ball in honor of the occasion, to be held on the fifth of August, whereas the 'Liberator' was born on the ninth of that month, 1775." We have no doubt that the Queenstown folk are well aware that the birthday of the Liberator does not fall on the 5th, but on the 6th, but we question whether they are prepared to accept the correction of the 'Argus,' for assuredly we are not.

NEW ZEALAND colonists have a very exalted idea of the capacity or work of the late Premier, but Fiji is in possession of a gentleman before whom Sir Julius must bow his head. The Fiji 'Times' furnishes the following list of officials under the new Governor, Sir Arthur Gordon, amongst whom Mr. J. B. Thurston occupies a prominent position. Should that energetic and useful official follow the example of our late Premier, by tearing himself away from the cares of office for a time, the newly-formed colony would be in a bad state indeed. The following is the civil list:—Vice-President of Executive Council, Hon. John Bates Thurston, Esq.; Executive Council—Hon. John Bates Thurston, Esq.; Colonial Secretary, Hon. John Bates Thurston, Esq.; Colonial Treasurer, John Bates Thurston, Esq.; Minister for Native Affairs, Rau Joni Cursitoni; Chief Justice and Chancellor, his Honor Mr. Justice Thurston; the three Puisne Judges, their Honors John, Bates, and Thurston; Registrar, Sheriff, Judges' Associate, Tipstaff and Chief Constable, Mr. J. B. Thurston; Mayor, Municipal Council, Town Clerk, Lamplighter and scavenger, J. B. Thurston. The subordinate work of department will be conducted by that most efficient staff of clerks, Mr. J. B. Thurston.

ACCORDING to the Napier 'Telegraph' Mr. R. J. Creighton is reported to have in view as his future constituency the Wairarapa district, and it is said that he has been promised the Scandinavian vote which musters strongly in that electorate.

THE annual municipal elections for the vacancies in the various wards of the city took place on Monday last. For South Ward there had been originally seven candidates in the field, but the retirement of Messrs Cargill, Scanlan and Couzens, narrowed the contest down to four, which terminated in the election of Messrs Roberts and Mollison. The numbers polled for the candidates were:—Roberts, 242; Mollison, 201; Rosbotham, 80; and Gray, 29. The two first gentlemen were therefore declared duly elected. In High Ward three candidates went to the poll, and a determined struggle was maintained between Messrs Chapman and Brown for the honor of heading the list, which ended in the numbers polled being exactly the same, namely, 339. It was well known from the day of nomination that the third candidate, Mr. Hardy, had not the remotest chance, a supposition which was borne out by the fact that he was fully 200 behind his opponents. In Bell Ward there was no contest, Messrs Campbell and Leary being returned without opposition; but in Leith Ward a new man came to the front to dispute the honor of representation with the old members, Messrs Reeves and Gibson. The result, however, showed that the burgesses had not lost confidence in their former representatives; yet Mr. Charles Smith secured such a proportion of the votes of the ratepayers, as will fairly entitle him to make another effort for their suffrages on a future occasion. The offices of City Auditors are again to be filled by the gentlemen holding the position last year.

WE see our old friend, Mr. John Griffin, has returned to Dunedin, and again entered into business in Stafford-street. We had hoped that Mr. Griffin was in the enviable position that the struggle for the loaves and fishes was a matter of indifference to him. We regret to hear, however, that such is not the case, but feel sure his host of friends in the past will again rally round him in his fresh start in life.

DUNEDIN has been singularly unfortunate during the past week in the matter of fires. On Monday night the Princess Theatre was levelled to the ground, and the subsequent night another disastrous fire took place, resulting in the destruction of Coombes' Tannery. Much sympathy is felt for Messrs Steele and Keogh, the lessees of the Theatre, who have been considerable losers by the fire, and the members of the Company, from the highest to the lowest, are more or less sufferers by the calamity. Fortunately Messrs Steele and Keogh had also a lease of the Queen's Theatre, so that notwithstanding the destruction of most of their wardrobe and stage properties, they were enabled to migrate to Princess street, where they appeared on Tuesday night in the play of "Leah." Mr. Sibbald, to whom the Princess belonged, was insured for £600, and fortunately a large stock stored in the Shades escaped uninjured. We believe it is his intention to proceed at once with the erection of a new theatre, which he hopes to place at the disposal of the late lessees before Christmas. With regard to the fire of Tuesday night, we regret to learn that Mr. Coombes will be a heavy loser, for although insurances had been effected to the extent of £1,500, he estimates his loss at a little less than £10,000. In both cases the origin of the fire is unknown, but no doubt will come out at the official inquiries.

Over 3,000,000 frogs were sold for eating in Boston last year.