

N O T I C E

MR. MURRAY, the Collector of THE TABLET, will visit the following places at the close of the present month, when it is trusted Subscribers indebted will be prepared to settle accounts:—

Invercargill,	Cromwell,
Riverton,	Oamaru,
Winton,	Timaru,
Kingston,	Waimate,
Queenstown,	Palmerston,
Arrowtown,	Hawkebury, &c., &c.
	J. DUNGAN,
	MANAGER.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

SUBSCRIBERS removing from one part of the Colony to another, will please notify the same by letter, and thereby save themselves and us unnecessary trouble and expence.

It is requested that any irregularity in the delivery of THE TABLET be notified to the Manager, so that means may be taken to rectify the mistake.

We must request those persons whose subscriptions are overdue, to remit Post Office Order for amount. All cheques and Post Office Orders to be made payable to JOHN DUNGAN, Manager, TABLET Office, Dunedin.

MARRIAGE.

WEBB—DUNNE.—At St. Bathans, on 16th August, Mr. Thomas Webb to Miss Margaret Dunne, both of St. Bathans.

New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1875.

THE CAVERSHAM ELECTION AND THE ABOLITION BILL.

LAST week Mr. STOUT was elected member for Caversham, in the House of Representatives, by a majority of twelve over his opponent. The issue decided by the electors was Provincial Government or immediate Abolition. Mr. LARNACH, the defeated candidate, declared in favour of the latter, and the result of the election proves that the majority of the constituency is opposed to immediate abolition. Had Mr. LARNACH advocated the propriety of postponing the decision of the question, and of consulting the constituencies on the Abolition Bill at the general election, which must be held before the next Session of Parliament, possibly the result of the Caversham contest might have been different, though we do not think it would. In all probability the majority of the successful candidate was made up of voters who are determined opponents of Centralism in Wellington. No doubt the three Dunedin Daily papers say that, in reality, Centralism has triumphed in this election. It may be so, but it certainly is not easy to see how this can be.

The contest, all things considered, seems to have afforded a very fair test of the mind of the constituency. There was nothing inflammatory, no undue influence, so far as we know. The attitude of the candidates towards each other and the electors was becoming, and there was no reticence or equivocation on the part of either. The issue was clearly put by both—the maintenance of Provincial Government, or its immediate abolition. This was the question decided. The provisions of the Abolition Bill now before the General Assembly, was hardly taken into account. But had the question been the acceptance or rejection of the Bill, the majority against the former would have been overwhelming. Nobody approves of its provisions, that is nobody who has read it and been able to master its meaning.

But the fact appears to be, that instead of the election being in reality a victory for Abolitionists, the contrary conclusion must be drawn by all who are aware of the circumstances of the contest. The successful candidate does not reside in the district, nor has he any property there; but his opponent, Mr. LARNACH, not only resides but possesses a large and valuable property there, where he is also, personally, very popular. Then it must be borne in mind that Caversham is a suburb of Dunedin, in which city this gentleman carries on an extensive business, and gives employment to hundreds, of whom very many are freeholders and householders in the Caversham district. Indeed, during his canvass, Mr. LARNACH stated that he employed five hundred people. In addition to this, it is notorious that several gentlemen of merit, as public men,

and of considerable influence, exerted themselves to the utmost in favour of Mr. LARNACH. For these reasons we had arrived at the conclusion that had not Mr. STOUT been opposed by Mr. LARNACH, his majority would have been very much larger, and the success of the cause he advocates, much more signal.

This Caversham election was a very fair stand up fight for a principle, and clearly demonstrates the fallacy of the argument so frequently made use of lately, viz., that the overwhelming majority of the people is in favor of the Provinces Abolition Bill. And it would be strange indeed if they were, for nothing can be more certain than that far the greater number labor under profound ignorance of its clauses. The Bill is not generally understood, and for this reason, if for no other—time should be given for its due consideration. It is monstrous to endeavor to force such a measure as this through Parliament without giving the people sufficient time to master all its detail. Such conduct on the part of its advocates argues a consciousness of weakness, except indeed so far as mere members in the General Assembly are concerned, and a dread that when the people fully understand what is proposed, the Bill will be ignominiously and universally scouted, as we have no doubt it deserves to be. A change—a reformation—in our mode of Government is no doubt necessary, but not such a change as this Bill contemplates.

The Centralists have been for some time endeavoring to throw odium on their adversaries, and weaken their position, by saying that these are for the most part Superintendents and members of Provinces Executives and Councils, and that consequently their opposition arises from pure selfishness. This is a strange way of arguing the question, which ought to be discussed on its merits. Besides, such as employ this argument ought to remember that they lay themselves open to a very cutting retort. For who are the leading advocates of Centralism? Are they not almost all either members of the Central Government, and hangers on of that Government, who may be called the rejected of the Provinces. There is great danger in arguing the question in this way,—people in glass houses should not throw stones.

Now that the Abolition Bill is beginning to be understood by the people, a reaction in public opinion in many quarters is perceptible; and there is reason for believing that before long this reaction will swell into a loud and well-defined expression of opposition, and of indignation at the trick by which the Southern Provinces would be deprived of the proceeds of their land sales. The representatives from Otago in the General Assembly may rest assured that if they help the Government to force this Bill through Parliament before the general elections, they may abandon, in most cases at least, all hope of being re-elected. The constituencies will not tolerate such high-handed and unconstitutional conduct.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

“STRAWS serve to show which way the wind blows.” Some little time since the ‘Otago Guardian’ set itself up as a theological authority with regard to Catholic dogmas, and its leading columns teemed with attacks on the Catholic body generally, and the TABLET in particular. As might have been expected, the dicta of the ‘Guardian’ was not accepted by us as gospel, and on receiving some severe handling, it retreated from the contest which its ridiculous assertions had evoked, with even more haste than it had displayed eagerness in commencing the attack. The castigation inflicted must have rankled deeply since then, for, though evidently learning wisdom from the past, it has not dared openly to show its teeth—it never allows an opportunity to pass of patting upon the back kindred journalists who are not blessed with an equal amount of discretion. Last week we pointed out an injustice which had been done us by a country paper, and we then asked the ‘Star’ and ‘Guardian’ to publish the refutation, as they had the attack made on us. We are pleased to say the ‘Star’ frankly made the *amende honorable*, but true to its instincts the ‘Guardian,’ while refusing to do so, publishes in its issue of Monday last an extract from another paper, containing as much truth as the one we had previously refuted. Did we resort to the tactics of the ‘Guardian,’ and copy into our columns the strictures which have appeared upon it in the ‘Bruce Herald’ and other journals, we should have to allot more room than we feel inclined to waste upon such a subject.

In another column will be found a most interesting account of the International Rifle Match between the American and Irish teams, victory again declaring in favour of the former. Although the match has been won by far greater odds than that gained last year at Creedmoor, it is satisfactory to learn that the disparity in the scores this year is owing to the improved shooting of the American, rather than to any material falling off in the Irish team. Last year their score was 931, which was 17 points better than that with which they won the Elcho Shield in 1873, defeating England, Wales, and Scotland. This year the Americans outstrip their last