

to carry out the arrangement they have entered into with the Corporation as to an exchange of areas, so as to provide playgrounds for the Normal and Albany-street Schools." "That the Engineer be instructed to bring up a report at next meeting on the most favourable means of deepening the outer and inner bars at Otago Heads, either by harrowing, dredging, or otherwise." "That on the completion of the repairs of the dredge New Era, she shall be despatched to Port Chalmers, there to proceed with the deepening of the channel from the stream to the Railway Jetty and from the Jetty to the Graving Dock, in order that vessels frequenting the jetty and the dock may get there without touching the ground."

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

SIR,—In my last, which appeared in yours of July 28, I stated I would give some information that may be useful to the members if I saw they took an interest in the management of their own affairs. I am glad to see that some at least are doing so. I am surprised that Wellington, Auckland, Grahamstown, and many other Branches in this island are not saying a word, or making the slightest move in defence of their rights; if they do not make a speedy move they will be left out in the cold at the next A.M., as they were at the last. All honor is due to the Dunedin Branch, and their worthy Secretary, Brother Cantwell, for the leading part they are taking in the matter; and I am sure the members generally feel thankful to you for your able leader on the subject a few weeks ago. I also admire the style of some of your correspondents, for instance that of "Treaty Stone," in the TABLET of August 4th. A few like him would give me some hope that my humble services in defence of New Zealand while I had the honor of representing its Branches and members were not entirely lost. He asks what has become of Brothers Howard, Templeton, and many others who have taken an active part in the business of the Society. I will answer without going into particulars, as time and space will not permit of it, that they have been quietly shelved for honestly doing their duty, and for which they have received nothing but the greatest ingratitude from the members of the Melbourne district. And if the men of New Zealand wish to show their gratitude for services rendered by those men, they will prepare to put them in their proper positions at the next A.M.; if not, they deserve to be treated as they were at the last A.M. I have just received a report of a meeting of the E.D., held on May 19th, and as I know it has been circulated in every Branch of New Zealand, as I attended that meeting I cannot let it pass unnoticed. I must say it is one of the most spiteful and untruthful reports I have seen, and is another proof of the reckless manner of how those men spend the funds at their disposal in printing such rubbish. Page 10, clause 4 of that report, where it refers to Brother Templeton, was not brought forward at the meeting, not a single line of it as reported, as I was there all the time sitting close to Brother Templeton, it could only have originated in the mind of the present C. S. for some reason best known to himself. But what the men of New Zealand have to consider is whether their money is to be squandered in disputes between the C. S. and C. P. I say they deserve no better treatment if they send it there to be so spent. I have shown in my last how it can be kept at home, and the sooner the better. The expenses attending that meeting would not be less than £40 or £50. I mentioned in my last that members were entitled to a twelve months drawback of threepence per member, in order to get that no time must be lost in making the demand for it. I would suggest that P. P. Howard or Templeton, or both, be appointed agent to receive this drawback on behalf of all the New Zealand Branches to be forwarded to them, or put to their credit as they may desire. If all Branches pass resolutions to this effect, and send them to Brother T. W. Howard, Miller-street, Hotham, Melbourne, it will be attended to. My reason for this is that to have this business done properly they must have an agent at headquarters who will take an active part in demanding their rights. From my knowledge of Brothers Howard and Templeton, I know they would consider it no trouble, but an honor to act in any way to forward the interests of the New Zealand Branches. I could write for a week on this subject and still have something fresh, but I have already trespassed too far on your valuable space, so with your permission I will close No. 2, and will get up something for No. 3.—I am &c.,
P. G.
Napier, August 12, 1876.

The following resolutions were passed and approved of at a Branch Meeting, at Napier, on July 26, 1876—

1. That this committee strongly protests against the ruling of the C.P. at last A.M., disqualifying delegates of this colony from voting, this Branch having been requested by letter dated 19th November, 1875, and bearing E.D. seal to appoint one.
2. That funeral money be at present retained by this Branch.
3. That this committee approves of districts being established in New Zealand.
4. That this committee is of opinion that the best means for facilitating the business of Societies in this Colony is to appoint two District Boards—one for the North and one for the Middle Island.
5. That this committee, after taking into consideration the foregoing resolutions, propose that this Branch communicate with all the other Branches established in this Island, requesting their co-operation in forming a District Board for this Island; also with the Branches established in the Middle Island, requesting them to move in a similar direction for that Island.
6. That fifty copies of the above resolutions be printed and forwarded to all the Branches of this Colony.

FORMATION OF DISTRICTS.

(To the Editor of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.)

SIR,—I am very much pleased to see that the correspondence started by me a few weeks since touching the interests and future of the above Society within the Colony, has commended itself to the attention of what may be termed the mouth-pieces of a goodly number of branches.

Among these appears our young and talented friend, Brother John Cantwell, whose attention to matters Hibernian gives him a deservedly high place in the estimation of his fellow members.

Then we have a communication from the able pen of a Lawrence member, whose letter is evidently the result of considerable and careful thought. Also a letter signed "Treaty Stone," which is deserving of respect, notwithstanding the strong and somewhat bitter tone that pervades parts of it.

We have another letter which cannot but be of interest, coming as it does from a past E.D. officer, now resident at Napier, and last, though not least, is a well digested letter from Brother Maher, of Invercargill. This Brother is evidently a thorough Hibernian and good Catholic, for his letter is full of courage and hope, and breathes a spirit of true Catholic toleration.

I hope the question of the future of our great Catholic Society will continue to command the attention of its members, and that they will not dismiss it from their consideration till its government in this Colony has been stamped with such a finality of character as will give the Catholics of this Colony every encouragement to join its ranks. The Society is rapidly spreading and gaining strength, and now is the time for every member to be up and doing.

Correspondents to newspapers, however, should be careful not to use strong language, lest they, unwittingly prejudice the Society in the mind of the public, and thus do it an injury, for as Brother Maher infers in his letter, our Superiors at Melbourne have not been guilty of anything which would cause us to suspect them of any mismanagement in the affairs of the Society. I for one have no such fears, although I thoroughly disagree with the manner in which the last A. M. was conducted, and consider that in taking the serious steps of deposing the Chief President for, to my mind, no lawful reason whatever, they committed a great act of injustice to that officer, and in doing so, inflicted an injury on the Society generally. However, I do not doubt their ability, neither do I for a moment question their honesty of purpose. At present the Society is but in its infancy, but a great change is about to take place in the formation of the district form of government, or local management and representation. This is the question that has to be combated and settled, and in dealing with the subject, I heartily agree with Brother Maher that we should cease to lean on our Brothers at Melbourne, but take the material within our reach, and form ourselves at once into districts.

Once established, we would soon rectify any of the district laws that required alteration (and there would not be a few). I may here remark, that the Dunedin Branch appointed a committee to deal with this question, and I fully believe that, in the event of a strong district being formed for Otago and Canterbury, the result of their labors would afford abundant, and carefully matured matter for consideration.

In conclusion, I may state that a circular embodying propositions and principal features of the proposed district is now in preparation, and will be sent to all branches interested almost immediately.—I am, &c.,
J. J. CONNOR.

DUNEDIN BRANCH, No. 73.

THE usual fortnightly meeting was held on Monday evening last at the South Australian Hall. Amongst the correspondence read was a letter from the corresponding Secretary, which was received. A circular was read from the Secretary of the Wellington Branch, enclosing resolutions passed by a committee of that Branch, advocating the formation of districts in this colony. The resolutions were left in the hands of the Secretary to be dealt with. Mr. T. Kearney was duly initiated a full benefit member, and Messrs. P. Barry, Francis M'Namara, and James Stapleton, were proposed for membership. Before the meeting adjourned the Secretary stated that the next meeting would be the quarterly one, and, as there was business of the utmost importance to the members to be brought forward, he proposed to attend at 7 o'clock for the purpose of receiving contributions, thereby facilitating the discharge of business, and allowing the members to return to their homes at a seasonable hour. The committee appointed by the Dunedin Branch to revise the District Laws, &c., held their fourth meeting on Friday evening last, the Vice-President (Mr. John Gallaher) occupying the chair. The Secretary explained to committee that, so far as revising the laws was concerned, little now remained to be done. A discussion ensued as to the most practicable manner of forming a district. Several of the committee being of opinion that it would be advisable for the Branches to form a district at once under the present laws, and after its formation to amend the laws to suit the convenience of the Branches. Ultimately, it was resolved that a sub-committee, consisting of the Secretary and Mr. J. J. Connor, be appointed to draw up a circular to be addressed to the Branches in the Provinces of Otago and Canterbury, urging their immediate co-operation in forming a district under the present District Board Laws. After a vote of thanks had been accorded the chairman the meeting adjourned for a fortnight. Through the liberality and forethought of Mr. James Toul the committee have been provided with a comfortable room to meet in free of cost.

We have been requested to state, for the information of members of the Juvenile Contingent, that the annual meeting will be held on Monday next at the South Australian Hall, at 7.30 p.m. sharp. The officers of the Branch will attend.