

Of this there is abundant evidence that satisfied our minds, but owing to a variety of circumstances it is difficult to bring forward such evidence as will satisfy the Board as to a violation of the law. When, however, it has been proved that the law has been broken, and the religion of Catholic children interfered with, the matter is made little of, and some shuffling excuse is thought ample satisfaction for us.

Only a few of the candidates have expressed the least desire to see justice done in this matter—or evinced a determination even so much as to look into our charges and grievances. With few exceptions they have utterly and absolutely ignored us, and are therefore undeserving of the least support from Catholics.

Since writing the above, we have read the speech delivered by Mr Leary in Caversham; and we feel bound to say that he appears to entertain reasonable views on the education question. He is disposed to do justice to denominations in large communities, such as Dunedin. Well, if this is not all we seek, it is a step in the right direction. The denominations are aware they cannot expect, for some time at least, all they desire; and it is not improbable they may come to the conclusion that half a loaf is better than no bread. Certainly, the Catholic community is not opposed to any compromise that is consistent with their principles. None are more anxious to work harmoniously and energetically with the Government and their fellow-citizens than Roman Catholics. Let them not be called upon to sacrifice their principles and consciences; let justice be done them; and it will be soon seen that they can be dealt with both easily and satisfactorily. The Government would soon find in them energetic auxiliaries in the great work of educating the masses. We can assure our fellow citizens that it is their greatest happiness to be permitted to bear their share of all the burdens inseparable from such an undertaking.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE TOWN BELT.

MR COUNCILLOR WALTER proposes to expend £5,000 on the Town Belt, in order to render it a fitting place of recreation. The worthy Councillor deserves the thanks of the citizens, and it is to be hoped the City Council will adopt his wise proposition.

There is one matter having more or less connection with this subject, which we take the liberty of suggesting to Mr Walter as an improvement on his idea. There are two cemeteries, the one to the north the other to the south of this city, and so close to it, as to be a menace to the health of the inhabitants; in fact they may be said to be within the city. This should not be, and it has always appeared to us an extraordinary thing that the North Cemetery should have been ever opened.

These cemeteries should be closed and beautifully planted with shrubs and flowers, and one general cemetery opened either in the Peninsula between Anderson's Bay and the sea, or somewhere in the neighbourhood of Green Island. The latter place, as being near a railway station, would be very suitable; arrangements could be made, as in London, for a funeral train once each day.

Perhaps Mr. Walter, who is both a humane and practical gentleman, would think this suggestion worthy of serious consideration, and embody it in his project for the improvement of the recreation ground belonging to the City. Any improvement that can be made will be very incomplete indeed, so long as these two cemeteries remain as they are.

WEEKLY EPITOME.

It is well our friends should know the following facts:—Mr G. E. Barton was asked to present the petition of the Catholics of Dunedin in reference to education to the Provincial Council; and after endeavoring to persuade the Bishop to ask another member to do so, at last reluctantly consented to present it. The Bishop sent down the petition and a note to Mr Barton, and these were laid on his desk in the Council Hall. For three days they were kicked about the House, and ultimately the Bishop was compelled to take steps to induce some other member to present the petition. The first asked, positively refused. We abstain from mentioning his name, solely because we have not personal knowledge of the fact, although we entertain no doubt of it. At length Mr Cutten presented the petition. But the point we wish to impress on the Catholic public is, that Mr Barton is not our friend.

Last week this paper published a copy of a document stating that a Roman Catholic had been refused an assisted passage in an immigrant ship to Otago, because he was a Catholic. Mr Macandrew, in his hustings speech, declared his belief that this charge would be found to be a mare's nest. We sincerely hope it may be found to be such. But the original document, signed in presence of witnesses, is in our possession, and Mr Macandrew can see it at any moment he pleases.

THE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—A letter written by the Rev J. O'Connor to Bishop Moran, has been sent to us for publication, but too late for this week's issue; we shall publish it next week. From this letter it appears that, so far as Catholic children are concerned, the Benevolent Institution is becoming a "bird's nest,"—that is an institution for proselytism.

HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP MORAN was lately, on the occasion of his birthday, presented by the children of St. Joseph's Girls School with a complimentary address. The children also placed in his hands their own collection of £4 for the Pope, for which his Lordship, on behalf of himself and of the Pope, thanked them.

The concert in aid of the H.A.C.B. was, in point of attendance and as an entertainment, a great success.

THE Cabinet has decided to call the Assembly together on July 15th.—The Post says that Otago and Auckland have too much influence in the Cabinet, to the prejudice of Wellington.—In the Canterbury Provincial Council a Committee has been appointed to enquire into the administration of the waste lands by the Waste Lands Board.—An Education Bill is to be introduced into the Wellington Council. It imposes household rates, varying from L1 to L5 according to the value of the house; also a tax of L1 on unmarried men not householders, in receipt of wages above a certain amount. It limits school fees to one shilling per week per child; not more than four children in any case to be paid for. Religious instruction to be "non-controversial," and at previously stated hours, so that children may be withdrawn.—When the Hero left Sydney £139,000 worth of the 4 per cent. New Zealand debentures had been taken up at £90 10s.—The land sold in Canterbury during April realised L61, 20s.—In the case of the Wellington Education Board against a ratepayer at Wanganui who refused to pay the Education rate, judgment was given for the plaintiff. The defendant gave notice of appeal. The chief point in the case is that the Education Act is *ultra vires*, as creating summarily recoverable debts of upwards of L20.—A large public meeting has been held at Poverty Bay for the purpose of forming a company to lease the land on which the oil springs are situated, and the area of which is 5344 acres, the leaseholders to receive 1000 shares, and 15 per cent. as a royalty. Experiments made in burning samples of the oil were successful, and 800 shares have been taken up.—The Waikatos anticipate fighting within a fortnight, unless the murderers are surrendered.—Mr Mackay reports that a warrant has been issued for the apprehension of Mr C. J. Davis, on a charge of inciting Ruru to take his (Mr Mackay's) life.—Shots have been heard between Mr O'Neil's farm and the boundary line. The Constabulary went out, but did not encounter any Natives. The settlers on the west side of the river have come in to Alexandra. It is said that Rewi advised the Ngatimanipoto at Kopua to dispose of their produce in case of war. Late news from Waikato represents all quiet. The settlers are recovering confidence. The Government are building redoubts, and constructing roads and bridges, and strengthening the outposts by reinforcements of well trained men. Mr McLean has received a letter from the Ngapuhia, of Hokianga, condemning severely the conduct of the Waikatos and the murder of Sullivan, and offering their services to assist the Government to obtain reparation.

THE Superintendent of Napier, in his opening address, said that this year there was much of a satisfactory character to be said. The Province had a credit balance at the bank of £43,000, nearly all of which was available to supplement the coming year's revenue. The survey of a railway from Pakipaki to Waipukurau was completed, and tenders would shortly be called for its construction. This line would develop the timber trade, for which £50,000 a year now left the Province. The want of labor was much felt, but he had received assurances from the General Government that 750 immigrants would arrive by the end of the year. It was desirable that the Council should make a recommendation to the Assembly on several subjects beyond its own power to deal with, the most important being the breakwater, a work infinitely easier than that at Oamaru, and not likely to cost above £100,000. The Colony might reasonably contribute to it, as the formation of a harbor of refuge on the East Coast was a matter of colonial concern. The Government had promised to send an engineer to report on the work. There was an unpleasant subject to refer to, viz, the agitation re the Native Lands Commission. Its appointment had encouraged the Natives in the belief that the lands could be got back by the repudiation of engagements and assignments, and in consequence there had been the attempting of repudiation of almost every transaction in the district, including the first purchase made by Government. From the published evidence, he felt sure the report of the Commission would show the imputations on the settlers to be wholly false. It was intended, amongst others, to bring in an Education Act, imposing household rating by valuation, the increase of the capital grant to schools, and to secure a superior class of teachers, on which really the whole success of the system depended. He did not approve of free education, as it tended to lower the standard. The Government would also introduce a Bill to enable him to advance funds for the reclamation of the Napier swamp, and a Sheep Bill to excise the clauses relating to foot-rot, as it was impossible to check it, the tendency of it being to increase as English grasses increased. The danger of the introduction of scab from Wellington required precautionary measures.

THE section of the railway line from Selwyn to the Rakai, 12 miles 50 chains in length, has been opened, together with the bridge over the Rakai. The bridge is 4,430 feet long, and its total cost is £34,350. The total distance from Christchurch, of 27 miles, was run in an hour and twelve minutes. At the *déjeuner*, the Hon. Mr Stafford, in replying to the toast of "The General Assembly," said that the credit of opening up the country by means of railways and bridges was due to Mr Moorhouse, who years ago pressed upon the Government the advisability of the construction of railways, but the proposition, owing to the crippled state of the finances, could not be entered into.—Thirty gentlemen have subscribed £598 towards establishing a free library at Christchurch. Mr George Gould heads the list with £100. The local Press advocates the Council voting a sum towards the necessary buildings.—Dr Monckton's lease of the Auckland