#### MARRIAGES

FITZSIMONS—JOYCE.—At the Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Hampden, on July 2, 1913, by the Rev. Father Lynch (Palmerston), Patrick Francis, eldest son of Mrs. Fitzsimons, Wairio, to Mary Ellen, only daughter of the late Patrick Joyce, Otautau.

TAYLOR-McERLEAN.—On Wednesday, June 4, 1913, at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, by the Rev. Father Barra, Ernest G. Taylor, of Brooklyn, to Sara V. McErlean, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. McErlean, Tasman street; both of Wellington.

### **DEATH**

O'GRADY .-- At Nurse Stronach's Private Hospital, Oamaru, on June 16, 1913, Thomas O'Grady (late Sergeant of Police), beloved husband of Frances O'Grady; native of County Clare, Ireland; aged 73 years.—R.I.P.

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MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET. Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitia causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900. LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostotic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.



THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1913.

# A DEFINITE PRONOUNCEMENT



PLAIN and straightforward statement was elicited from the Prime Minister at ques-tion time on Wednesday of last week on the burning question of 'Referendum or No Referendum.' The statement appeared in the dailies of July 3; and we give it as wired to the Christchurch Press by that paper's special correspondent at Welling-

ton. Wiring under date July 2, the correspondent of the Government paper says: 'A definite statement in regard to the Government's intentions on the subject of education was made by the Prime Minister this afternoon in answer to Messrs. G. Witty and T. M. Wilford, M.P.'s. Mr. Witty wanted to know if the Government were in favor of retaining the present national system of free, secular, and compulsory education. 'Yes,' replied Mr. Massey. To Mr. Wilford he said the Government did not intend to introduce any legislation this session enabling a referendum to be taken on the subject of Bible lessons in State schools.' The full question put by Mr. Wilford was in these terms: 'Mr. T. M. Wilford (Hutt) asked the Prime Minister whether he intended introducing any legislation of the second was a referendum to be taken on tion this session enabling a referendum to be taken on Bible-reading or Bible lessons in State schools; and, if so, what form of question or questions or issue, or issues did he intend to submit.' And to that the answer was, as above stated, in the negative.

The Prime Minister's statement is quite explicit; and would seem to settle the question, at least for this

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