

MARRIAGE

CROWLEY—PRIMMER.—At the Catholic Church, Kaponga, on August 13, 1913, by Rev. T. Cahill, Cornelius Patrick Crowley, of Kaponga, to Alice May, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Primmer, of Berridale, Cooma, N.S.W.

DEATHS

HAY.—On November 11, 1913, Wolseley, Canada, Sister Marie Gonzaga (Hay), second daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Hay, Chatham Islands; aged 35 years.—R.I.P.

NEYLON.—On August 2, 1913, at Wanganui, Francis Neylon, beloved husband of Ellen Neylon; in his 60th year.—R.I.P.

IN MEMORIAM

KEPPEL.—In loving memory of John Patrick Keppel, who died at his parents' residence, Manaia, on September 17, 1910.

Sweet Heart of Jesus have mercy on his soul.

—Inserted by his loving father, mother, brothers, and sisters.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

We are in receipt of remittances, unaccompanied by the names and addresses of the senders, from Oamaru, and Waimate. Kindly communicate at once.

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CATHOLIC FEDERATION

Applications are invited from Members of Catholic Federation for the Position of **SECRETARY**. Salary, £200 (two hundred pounds) per annum and travelling expenses. Successful applicant must be prepared to take up his residence in Wellington. He must be a capable organiser.

All Applications, accompanied by Testimonials, must be in my hands by Wednesday, September 24.

P. D. HOSKINS,

Provisional Secretary,

Box 958, G.P.O., Wellington.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1913.

THE PREMIER AND THE REFERENDUM

ACCORDING to a telegram received from the Rev. Dr. Gibb and read by Dean Fitchett at Mr. Caughley's meeting last week, the Premier, in the interview which took place with a Bible-in-schools deputation on September 1, 'practically promised the referendum for next session.' If this statement is true it will come as something of a staggerer to those of the community who have hitherto placed implicit reliance on Mr. Massey's reputation for personal straightforwardness and candid outspokenness and honesty of speech. For up to the time of this deputation all the Premier's utterances on the subject—and they have been fairly numerous—were so framed as unmistakably to convey the impression that the Government were not prepared to grant a referendum on the Bible-in-schools question, that he (the Premier) had been a life-long supporter of the present free, secular, and compulsory system of education, and that the Cabinet could be relied upon to do nothing which would be inconsistent with these three features of the existing system.

*

It will be interesting at the present time, and possibly useful for the future, to gather together the various utterances made by the Premier on the referendum question since the commencement of the present Parliamentary session. The first is recorded in *Hansard* of this year, No. 1, page 33, under the heading, 'Free, Secular, and Compulsory Education.' We quote from the official record: 'Mr. Witty (Riccanton) asked the Prime Minister, whether the Government are in favor of retaining the present national system of free, secular, and compulsory education? The Hon. Mr. Massey (Prime Minister) replied, Yes.' The Premier's second declaration is recorded in the same number of *Hansard*, same page, under the heading 'Bible-reading in Schools.' We quote: 'Mr. Wilford (Hutt) asked the Prime Minister, whether he intends introducing any legislation this session enabling a referendum to be taken on Bible-reading or Bible lessons in State Schools; and,

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