

COMMERCIAL.

Messrs DRIVER, STEWART AND Co., report as follows for the week ending February 4th:—

Fat Cattle—There was a full supply of 115 head yarded at the Raikoura to-day, a large proportion of which were of very ordinary quality, and realised only moderate prices; a few prime pens, however, brought fully our late quotations. We sold at the yards 60 head on account of Messrs G. M. Bell, James Reid, Paterson, Bryce, Ironside, and others, at prices ranging up to £8 for bullocks and £6 for cows. Other sales were 30 head, and we turned out 24 head unsold. We quote prime beef at 20s per 100 lbs; middling to ordinary from 17s to 18s. We have placed 25 head privately for forward delivery at quotations.

Fat Sheep.—640 of various descriptions were penned and sold at—say, for cross-breeds, 10s to 12s 3d; merino wethers, 6s 6d to 7s; do. ewes, 5s 6d. We sold 300 at the yards, and have placed for forward delivery 700 merino wethers and 500 cross-breeds. We quote prime cross-breeds at 24d; do merino at 2d, with full supply offering at these rates.

Fat Lambs.—Only about 60 were penned, which brought from 7s to 7s 6d. We sold 45 at the yards, and have placed 100 privately.

Store Cattle.—We have no large transactions to report in this description of stock. We have, however, placed a few small lots—in all, 120 head.

Store Sheep.—There is a very active demand for cross-breeds and young merino sheep, with, however, few of either description offering. There are also buyers for really good full-mouthed merino ewes and wethers at our quotations, and we have sold during the week, of various sorts, 9530 at the following prices, say—For cross-breeds, 2 tooth, 8s to 9s; do. 4 and 6-tooth, 9s 6 to 10s; do. lambs, 7s 6d to 8s; merino wethers, 2, 4 and 6-tooth, 6s to 6s 6d; do. full-mouthed, 5s to 5s 6d; young merino ewes, 6s 6d; do. full mouthed, 4s to 5s.

Real and Leasehold Property.—For some months past we have noted an increasing desire on the part of those who have benefited by the general prosperity of the Colony, to invest in real or good leasehold properties, and we find no difficulty in disposing of all offering at good values, whether town sections, agricultural or pastoral blocks, or squatting leases from the Crown. Since our last we have to report holding an important sale of real property at Invercargill, when we offered Shand's Winton Estate, consisting of about 8030 acres, of perhaps the finest selection in Southland. The attendance was very large, and bidding animated. Of this property we sold 4500 acres in various lots at from £3 10s to £9 5s per acre. At the same time we also sold a large number of properties, situated in the towns of Invercargill, Campbelltown, Riverton, and Winton, and suburbs—quarter-acre sections in the former town realising as high as £1000, and at Campbelltown £700; suburban lands realising £30 per acre. Altogether, this sale was the most successful ever held in that part of the Province—about £30,000 worth of property changing hands during the afternoon. At the same time we also sold about 1600 acres of growing crops on the Winton Estate, and all of Mr. Shand's farming plant, cart horses, &c., at satisfactory prices. We have also to report the sale of Mr. Alex. McNeill's Balderaan Estate—next the Waitara—2500 acres, for £5750, to Mr Robert Haworth. Also, the Fern Hill Station, Lake Wakatipu, to Messrs. Matheson Bros., for £6000. Also, about 100 sections in the townships of Forbury, South Dunedin, and Kew, at an average of £46 each.

Wool.—Since the date of our last report no advices have been received from the home market. In this market business has been somewhat more active, and a considerable quantity of wool has changed hands during the past week. Our sale on Friday last was well attended, and the competition throughout was marked by greater animation than at any of the previous sales this season. Washed clip, especially those of well-known brands, and choice light greasy wools, suitable for the American demand, commanded full prices, and the great bulk of these descriptions offered were disposed of.

Sheepskins.—At auction, on Friday, we disposed of 1000, chiefly dry skins, as follows:—Cross-breeds, 5s 9d to 5s 11d; merinos, 2s 2d to 4s 9d; pelts, 6d to 10d; lambskin, 10d to 16d.

Hides.—None offered at auction. There is a good demand both for local requirements and export at about 4½ per lb. for sound wet salted hides.

Tallow and Oil.—No tallow has been offered during the week. Bright samples in shipping order are in good demand. On Saturday last we offered and sold 60 tons pale seal oil, ex Sarah Pile, at £24 per ton, for 0.

Grain.—The market for all descriptions has been quiet, pending reports as to harvest operations. For wheat quotations are unaltered. Oats have been in moderate request, at 3s 10d to 4s, according to quality.

OUR Agents and Subscribers are requested to bear in mind that the New Zealand Tablet Co. is regularly called upon to meet the liabilities of the paper, and that consequently it is necessary the amounts due to the company should be settled promptly and regularly. They will therefore confer a favor on the Directors if they will be good enough to forward to the Hon. Secretary the sums now due, with as little delay as possible.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTER of a constant reader has been received. The 'Tablet' is not the place in which to give an answer. Let constant reader apply to the authorities of the Church.

SERVICES in St. Joseph's, Dunedin, are on Sundays and Holidays at 8 and 11 a.m., Catechism at 3 p.m., vesper at 6 30 p.m.

BISHOP MORAN'S APPROVAL.

THE manner in which the NEW ZEALAND TABLET has been hitherto conducted is deserving of approval. I have no doubt the future management will be in accordance with the past, and that this journal will continue to be an excellent Catholic newspaper. Under these circumstances, I can have no hesitation in saying it deserves the generous support of all Catholics in this Colony. I beg to recommend it to them most earnestly.

GIVEN at Dunedin, 15th July, 1873.

† P. MORAN;
Bishop of Dunedin.

New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1874.

THE 'GUARDIAN' AND THE 'TABLET.'

Our heading is a simple one, and not very suggestive. This arises from the difficulty we experience in finding a few words capable of designating the drift of two leaders, lately published in the 'Guardian'—one in the issue of the 21st, the other in that of the 30th ult. Such headings as the following might have been selected—The 'Guardian' and Bible Reading—The 'Guardian' and Papal Infallibility—The 'Guardian' and the Old Catholics—The 'Guardian' and Shams—The 'Guardian' and the Perfect System—The 'Guardian' and the Hypocritical and Neglectful Clergy—The 'Guardian' Suggests the Prosecution of the TABLET. In these two articles the 'Guardian' discusses a multitude of topics, and in every instance in a tone anything but complimentary to the clergy. We are not the apologists of the clergy in general; nor do we undertake to defend even the Catholic clergy, unless when to do so is a duty. If even these are guilty of shortcomings, so far from defending them, none will be found more severe on them than ourselves. But in the argumentation of our contemporary, there is a *transitus a genere ad genus*. We discuss principles, laws, and policy, instead of answering us the 'Guardian' assails the conduct of the clergy in general. Thus, "We ask the TABLET and those who clamour for the right of the clergy to go into the public schools and impart religious instruction there, to make good their position on the score of necessity. Have the clergy exhausted all the means at their disposal for the religious instruction of the young under their spiritual care? Have they worked up to the standard of official duty which they tacitly recognise? Have they fully occupied the ground which they may cover? When they are in that position they may come forward with clean hands to the State, and press their claim to supervise the religious training of children attending State schools." The 'Guardian' then declares any demand of this sort to be the "very essence of a sham—the most despicable and offensive kind of all—a religious sham." The 'Guardian' continues, "Does any one mean to tell us that the clergy are in this position. Where are the proofs of it? Are these to be found in large and capacious churches closed the week through, except for a few hours of formal worship—the TABLET may be in a position to enlighten us, however. Until that has been done we shall hold by our previously expressed opinion, that the agitation, by the clergy, for the right of official interference with the course of instruction in public schools is a mere pretence, the real object being to identify the clergy in the popular mind, with the idea of religious instruction, and thus continue through popular superstition, the influence of a priestly caste. The struggle is for the supremacy of ecclesiasticism; that once asserted 'religious instruction' would be left to take care of itself."

The above is only a very small instalment of the numerous evidences of our contemporary's sense of justice in reference to the clergy, and of his respect for the entire body. In his estimation they have all grossly neglected their duty, are all shams, and will certainly continue to be what they have hitherto been. Highly complimentary, indeed! We shall leave to the clergy of all denominations the duty of repelling the charges brought against them by our highly religious contemporary—the 'Otago Guardian!'

Our contention throughout has been in reference to a principle; our objection has been to a system. In our mind reason and experience must certainly teach that a Godless system of education can only rear up a Godless generation of men and women, and that no amount of care, energy, and labour on the part of the clergy and parents,