

their nationality." The first seed of discord sown in the great 'Times,' and which called forth the animadversions of all liberal minds, was couched thus:—"Wanted a servant; no Irish need apply." This being laughed to scorn, persons with a mean, paltry spirit, having the same object in view, yet shrinking to bear the obloquy attached to it, hit upon the expedient of modifying it by inserting: "A servant wanted; English or Scotch preferred." Our local Esculapius, however, was not satisfied with this, and informed intending applicants for the honour of serving him that they should be "English or Scotch;" and though, as our logician truly asserts, the word Irish was totally ignored, not even his sophistry can disprove that their nationality was a bar sinister, for the very fact of the two nationalities required being stated, plainly indicated that those belonging to the objectionable one were not wanted. Dr. Bakewell, however, unfortunately for himself, gives as a reason for the peculiar wording of the advertisement, that he was afraid if the situation was open to all comers, and a Hibernian help selected, she must of necessity be a Catholic. Now, the doctor, with all his prejudice, does the Irish servant the credit of possessing a wish to carry out in this land the teachings of the old; and as Irish Catholics require one short hour of the 168 for devotion to their Creator, the concession was not to be granted, and their services were dispensed with. He says: "We found it so very inconvenient to have a servant who was obliged to go to Mass, that Mrs Bakewell determined to have a Protestant in future;" and this Christian lady prefers the Protestant—who, we presume, from the preference, to be possessed of neither conscience or scruple—to those of her own fold, because of the wish to carry out its teachings. The whole document from beginning to end is a series of contradictions, admissions, and counter-contradictions, for the writer, after striving vainly to dispute the partizanship, cries *peccavi*, and admits that of "two equally good domestics, he would prefer his own countrywoman." Then in a fit of remorseful generosity, he declares "that he would rather have good Irish or Scotch servants, than bad English ones." *Mirabile dictu!* What sublime magnanimity! To stigmatize the doctor as guilty of narrow-mindedness, while holding such cosmopolitan views, is simply shameful. I am afraid your correspondent has opened a wound, which, with all his professional skill, he will find it difficult to heal, and I regret the fact, inasmuch as I am led to believe, from another portion of the letter, that the doctor's gravest error was in his defence. No man pleads well as his own lawyer, and it were a pity that Dr. Bakewell had no kind friend at his elbow when he indited his epistle. In a new country like this, where people of different nationalities, and different religious beliefs, are occupied in the formation of a new commonwealth, it is the duty of each of us to allay ancient animosities and sectarian differences, rather than to quicken into malevolence the dangerous practices of the Old World, by invidious reflections on any particular race or creed. Even the most liberal minds are not altogether free from those characteristics which are incidental to their birth, and the meanest and most debased will occasionally rise in arms at any taunt or slur levelled at the old home, or the Church of which they may be but unworthy members; for it is well known that on two points are the feelings of mankind so easily stirred as those affecting either creed or country. That the doctor may not sincerely hold the opinions with regard to Irishmen and matters which he asserts in concluding his communication I will not attempt to question, and can respect him for their liberality; that the insertion of the obnoxious advertisement left room for a doubt of such he must admit; but that the publication of his pseudo-explanation was a plain and unequivocal confirmation of what had been alleged against him is patent to all who have read it—a result for which he alone is to blame.

A VIOLATED PLEDGE.

WELLINGTON EDUCATION BOARD.

In the 'Independent' of the 3rd inst., we find the following paragraph:—"In the report of the meeting of the Education Board, which appears elsewhere, will be found a long and interesting letter from Dr Grace, respecting aid to Roman Catholic schools and other matters. We are unable to publish the discussion which took place on the letter, as the meetings of the Board are not open to the press."

The following is the portion of the report referred to in the paragraph quoted:—

AID TO ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

The following letter was received from Dr Grace:—

"Wellington, January 26, 1874.

"SIR,—I acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst., and in justice to the community which I have the honor to represent, I take this opportunity of drawing the attention of your Board to the whole position which obtains, and to the confusion and injustice which have resulted from the declaration of the Board that they shall decline aid to schools, the mistresses of which wear a particular dress.

"I may be permitted to remind your Board, that it is scarcely a logical proceeding to refuse aid to girls' schools on the pretext of the dress of their mistresses, at the very time that the Board is exercising its functions under the provisions of a clause of the Act admittedly interpreted by the Board as empowering it to extend the benefits of the Act to denominational schools. And this leads me naturally to your former communication of the 13th May, covering "Terms of Agreement between the Catholic community of Wellington and the Education Board," and affords occasion for my reminding you that the chairman of your Board, in the presence of its members, officially assembled, assured me in the hearing of the deputation of our clergy and laity that our school mistresses would be paid by the Board. After I had fully explained to him that our girls' schools were and would be taught by nuns, and it was on the strength of this declaration alone that the terms of agreement dated 13th May were acceded to by us, and in order that no possible misunderstanding might arise, your Board was clearly informed that this portion of the understanding was the more important to us, as our boys' schools were self-supporting, but our girls' schools at Te Aro might not be so. In violation of this understanding I find that all pecuniary aid was withdrawn from our girls' schools and no notice whatever of this intention, or of the execu-

tion of this design was communicated to me by your Board. Therefore, on behalf of the community I represent, and whose representative capacity you have admitted in your letter of the 13th May, I have to request a strict observance by the Board of the terms of the agreement, and have the honor to await such contribution by the Board in payment of schoolmistresses' salaries, as will enable me to see justice done to the parents of children, and the moneys which they have paid towards the temporary maintenance of school mistresses refunded.

"Before passing from this part of the subject permit me to direct your attention to clause 2 of the written agreement "That all necessary repairs, additions and fences, be executed by the Board." I feel that I have only to remind you of this to secure the observance of its conditions, particularly as Mr Toomath, your late Inspector of Schools, for the information of the Board in my hearing declared that the present buildings were not in their present state fit for educational purposes.

"I now proceed to observe with more immediate reference to your letter of the 19th January, that when in conjunction with Mr Buckley, and at your invitation, we jointly urged before the Board the preceding and other reasons why the Board was bound in justice to continue support to our girls' schools, no matter what collateral misunderstanding might have arisen between the Board and school mistresses (which misunderstanding, by the way, Father Cummins offered to arrange), we took that opportunity of drawing the attention of the Board to the fact that in the Te Aro school we were educating seventy girls, and in the Thorndon day-school eighty girls without receiving any assistance from the Board, notwithstanding their direct pledge to contribute, and reminded the Board that this hardship was the more oppressive as the new regulations diminished the salaries of our masters, and we might be called upon, only for the increasing popularity of our schools, to supplement the masters' salaries in addition to providing for the entire support of our girls' schools, because we had not the accommodation if we had the will, to create joint schools, and because the Board refused aid to our single girls schools, on the strength of the latest educational difficulty of their own making—the dress of school mistresses.

"With this necessary introduction, I proceed to comment on the proposal of the Board to remove to Wanganui our popular and successful master, Mr Hurley, but must pause to remind you that the members in attendance at our schools were originally materially reduced by other schools being made free before ours were, and to suggest to the Board that the proposed removal would be most unfair to us, as certain still further to reduce the numbers in attendance at our schools. If the difficulty is only to provide a school mistress for Wanganui we shall be happy to select one for you. With reference to the urged advisability of amalgamating the two schools, I beg to point out to you that the attendance at both our schools is rapidly increasing, and indeed the master at the Te Aro school has been for a considerable time entitled to an assistant.

"In conclusion, I need not assure you that any action Mr Newlyn may have taken with reference to the Board and its regulations could only be approved of by us, when characterised by all that respect and consideration for the Board which its position and functions so fully entitle it to.—I am, &c.,

"MORGAN S. GRAHAM."

C. Graham, Esq., Secretary, Education Board.

The Secretary was instructed to forward copies of minutes of previous meetings of the Board, by which it appeared that owing to the strictly denominational character of St. Philomena's school the Board could not grant the assistance asked. With reference to the matter of dress, it had only been quoted as one of the many instances of the strictly denominational character of the school. With reference to Dr. Hurley's removal from the Boulcott street school, the Board desired to state that they had no wish to transfer Mr Hurley to Wanganui unless with the consent of the trustees of the school in Wellington, and that the suggestion had emanated from the Roman Catholic community at Wanganui, and not from the Board. That the Board had never aided a denominational school excepting where all trace of denominationalism had been withdrawn. With reference to the application to have Mrs Osborne appointed an assistant female teacher in the Wanganui school, it was decided that Mrs Osborne having declined to answer any preliminary examination by the inspector, the Board were unable to grant the application.

THE 'TABLET' AND THE PUBLIC.

Auckland.

SIR—The readers of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET and the Catholic people of New Zealand in general ought to congratulate you that a New Year has seen the New Zealand Catholic organ in so flourishing a condition, spite of the many and grave difficulties with which you must have had to contend. No one unacquainted with the mysteries of public journalism can well form an idea of the arduous task you have undertaken in an attempt to found a Catholic newspaper here. It was a bold thing to do, and whether you shall prosper or not, you at all events deserve the best thanks of the New Zealand Catholics. They will be unthankful indeed if they do not make a strong and united effort to support you in your labors to serve the glorious cause of the church, which they know well is the cause of justice, morality, patriotism, and education. Complaints are made that the TABLET reaches subscribers here very irregularly; and others grumble that too much of your space is occupied with advertisements, which prevents your giving a greater amount of Catholic general news. But a generous Catholic public should make allowances for the peculiar difficulties of your position. It remains with the Catholic people of New Zealand themselves, by liberal support with their purse and pen, to make their organ what it ought to be and what they would wish to see it. I hardly think that as yet they have exerted themselves as they might have done to support you. The public spirit and religious intuitions of yourself and the proprietary of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET, it is to be hoped, will be yet even better appreciated and rewarded than they have been. We are, comparatively speaking, but