

SIR GEORGE GREY AND THE EDUCATION QUESTION.

It appears that Sir George Grey has now concluded his stumping tour and it is to be hoped that when next he returns to Wellington he will soberly settle down to mould his future actions accordingly.

With the multifarious promises he has made in his tour we have little to do, although we seriously fear that they are by far too many to be fulfilled. In his eloquent address to the citizens of Wellington, he mentioned one fact worthy of notice in your pages.

After describing his early acts he said that one of the reasons why he set out in search of a colony wherein to plant free, happy and prosperous communities was that, in his early days, he possessed what was then known as influence, by means of which, at an early date, he received the command of a regiment, which was stationed in the good old city of Limerick, of the violated treaty. Well the glorious work on which they were sent was to afford protection to a merciless band of robbers, known as tithe-proctors who were sent out to rob and harass the poor people in the name of the law, for the support of an alien church in which they did not believe. Deep and loud were the execrations that were poured on them, as they wended their way through hill and dale on their journey—even to this hour he could hear in fancy their curses, as they bent their way homewards, laden with spoil torn from the famishing poor, who, however, gave out of their poverty, their wretchedness, and misery, to support their own churches and schools. No wonder that the heart of the enthusiast sickened within him; however, not being of a rebellious mould he did not stoop or kneel down, like our own glorious Davis, and invoke the God of battles, nor yet did he say with him,

"God of justice, I sighed, send your spirit down,
And soften those lords so cruel and proud;
Or else, I cried aloud, vouchsafe thy strength to the peasant's hand
To drive them at length from out the land."

No, he looked around him for a new land on which to plant his suffering countrymen where they would grow up and nurture faith and freedom, secure from the spoiler's blighting hand.

Such noble sentiments deserve to be chronicled, but Sir George will pardon us if we look at the sequel. He eloquently condemned the system of robbing the Irish Catholics of their all to support an alien church, while they were compelled, nay cheerfully gave their pittances to support and maintain their own church and schools out of their poverty and wretchedness. Now, Sir George, let us enquire how the matter stands in this model colony of yours. We will dismiss the church question; thank God there is no State church, and as had once been eloquently said by Gavan Duffy, "There is now no Statute of Kilkenny, no Catholic confederacy, no Protestant ascendancy to keep us from entire nationhood, the golden vista of prosperity lies open before us, and we must enter it hand in hand or not at all." I quote from memory after many years. But how does it stand with schools? If we leave our proctors, tithes, and churches, the eloquent peroration of Sir George is as applicable in all its naked barbarity to New Zealand. We have here the State schools supported in magnificence, part of the money being drawn out of the pockets of the Catholics, who in their poverty contribute handsomely towards the maintenance of their own churches and schools.

If the system was tyrannical and unjust in Ireland it must necessarily be so in New Zealand. Injustice is injustice all the world over. No amount of illogical arguments can make us believe that any Government is possessed of honesty of principle and purpose that perpetuates a system so entirely repugnant to enlightenment and justice. Will Sir George Grey still sit on the Treasury benches and, in the face of his own words, still uphold this obnoxious system. This is a question only time can settle. In all his stump speeches he has dexterously avoided even mention of it. Many are therefore under the impression that he either lacks the courage of his convictions, or is afraid to bring it forward, but let us hope that he will yet be found true to the principles that set him trying for a colony. If he does he will earn the gratitude and benedictions of his Catholic fellow countrymen.

It is with deep regret I notice the determination of Mr. Stafford to resign his place in the Legislature. Catholics throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand will be sorry that the voice so often raised in their behalf in the House will not re-echo this session. Mr. Walter W. Johnston has also determined to resign, but not until after the session. Truly things look gloomy for us in the forthcoming session, unless Sir George Grey with his large party will espouse our cause.

From the "Catholic colonial born statesman," we can expect nothing except through fear; but I am glad to be able to tell you his seat at Rodney is very shaky, thanks to the prompt and generous conduct of two gentlemen, whom I shall not now name; but suffice it to say that they have done their duty well, and

"When comes the day all hearts to weigh
If staunch they be or wile."

the Catholic electors of Rodney will not be found wanting.

But if the worst should come, and even Sir George Grey and Co., should refuse to give us justice, we should bear in mind that one of the party, the self-styled John the Baptist, (though I should rather compare him to a still later Scriptural celebrity who shall be nameless in his gloom) publicly stated that they were, after all, only decent highwaymen. As far as we are concerned the self accusation is literally true, but *nihil desperandum* be still our motto. Another election must soon come on when we can pay them back "blow for blow." Even so did our brethren do with Gladstone.

Wellington, May 10th, 1878.

C.E.T.

We learn that Mr. J. Barrett, formerly of the Family Hotel, Durham-street, Christchurch, has removed to the Borough Hotel, where his well known abilities will, as usual, insure a first-class position to his establishment.

MR. CARL BREMER, a political writer of remarkable sagacity and knowledge, says, in an article on "The Route to India," in the *Cambridge Tribune*:—"The Eastern question is far from settled; in fact, it has just begun to be unsettled; and its solution involves a fundamental change of territory, commerce, and international law in Europe."

MR. J. STORES SMITH ON EVOLUTION.

BUT the law of evolution, natural selection, survival of the fittest and all the rest of it, is laid down and offensively enforced when there is not one single fact that imperatively demands it, and when ninety-nine out of every hundred facts tell against it. Ever since man appeared on the globe, and was able to record what he saw about him on stone, in pictures, or by verbal description, there is not one scintilla of evidence that any living creature has tended to grow out of its genus. A sheep has always been a sheep, a horse a horse, a monkey a monkey, and a man a man. Great variations occur, and those far more frequently by man's interference than by natural selection, but nothing acquires any of the marked characteristics of the group above it, and all, if left alone, tend to breed back to the primal type. Nature seems to have as great an abhorrence of any departure from the original form, as it has of a vacuum. Nor can any instance be found in the geological record among the fossils; and many can be found against it. I have not read the anti-evolution side of the case. I have read the writings of Mr. Darwin and Professor Huxley and others, and had the advantage of personal talk with an eminent friend of theirs, who shares their views, and I have read without prejudice, but failed to find that they advanced one solid argument in support of their views. I am quite certain that if this controversy could be turned into a lawsuit, any judge on the bench would dismiss the case against the Evolutionists with costs, without calling for a reply. The eminent friend I allude to, himself one of the first living mathematicians, and an intimate associate of Tyndall, Huxley, Spencer, &c., and sharing their views, was candid enough to admit that the theory was beset with difficulties, that quite as many facts were against it as for it, that it hardly seemed susceptible of proof. And, when I asked why he held the theory under such a condition of the evidence, why on the assumption of this law, Dr. Tyndall chafed and derided prayer, and Professor Huxley gnashed his teeth at dogma, and chuckled over the base deceit of man, his reply was:—"We are bound to hold it, because it is the only theory yet propounded which can account for life, all we see of life, without the intervention of a God. Nature must be held to be capable of producing everything by herself, and within herself, with no interference *ab extra*, and this theory explains how she may have done it. Hence we feel bound to hold it and to teach it." Shade of Bacon! here is Science! This is the argument in a circle. There is no interference with nature on the part of God, or any other force or power *ab extra*. We prove this by the law of evolution. What proves the law of evolution? Why, nothing, except that its assumption is necessary to the former Law? This was the outcome of Science, whose boast was that it walked firmly from certitude to certitude, not dealing in fancies and beliefs and undemonstrable imaginings, like us poor illogical Believers.

WOODFIELD AND JOLLY,
GENERAL PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS,
OCTAGON, DUNEDIN.

W. and J. having recently imported a most extensive and varied printing plant, are now prepared to execute every description of Plain and Ornamental Printing in the newest and neatest styles, and with despatch

Printers of all kinds of Circulars, Cards, Receipt, Delivery, and Cheque Books, Ball and other Programmes, Chemists' Labels, Bill-heads, Handbills, Posters, Magazines, Pamphlets and Publications of any size or form.

ELECTION OF CITY AUDITORS.

GEORGE WATSON
Begs respectfully to announce that he is a
CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION
as one of the
CITY AUDITORS.

CITY AUDITORS.

MR. W. M. PARKER STREET
respectfully solicits
YOUR VOTE AND INTEREST
For Re-election.
Polling: Saturday, 1st June,
At Fire Brigade Station, Rattray-street.

CITY AUDITORS.

MR. SYDNEY JAMES
respectfully solicits
YOUR VOTE AND INTEREST
For Re-election.
Polling: Saturday, 1st June,
At Fire Brigade Station, Rattray-street.

WELLINGTON STEAM BISCUIT AND CONFECTIONERY WORKS,
FARISH STREET, WELLINGTON.

The Proprietor, possessing the most complete Plant of Machinery in his line in the Colony, is able to supply the trade with goods which in price, quality, and variety defy competition.

For Catalogue of Prices apply to the Factory.

S. S. GRIFFITHS, PROPRIETOR.