

caution; and it now only remains for Catholics to follow up the resolution of this meeting by energetic action. What that action is, it is unnecessary to specify here. All have made up their minds in reference to it.

We may here call attention to the tone of moderation, and yet of firmness, which pervaded the meeting, and to the excellent order preserved throughout. Not a hitch occurred, and whilst the meeting, both speakers and audience, gave undoubted proofs of a determination not to surrender the rights and claims of conscience, and leave nothing undone to obtain justice, they strictly abstained from everything calculated to give offence to their opponents. In this respect the meeting was a model one. The speeches, too, as speeches, were above the average, and we think no one can find fault with the wording of the petition however much some may differ from Catholics with regard to its principles and prayer. Catholics then, have good reason to congratulate themselves on the success of their first aggregate meeting.

As to the effect it is likely to produce on the enemies of Catholic claims it is impossible for us to venture a prediction. But we feel assured that it ought to produce a profound conviction of the folly and danger of ignoring these claims. It ought by this time to be clear to all that it is useless to expect that Catholics ever will accept a godless or sectarian system of education, or permit their children to be subjected to the influence of un-Catholic or anti-Catholic schools. The sacrifices they have made in the past, which is a guarantee of their future conduct, and the spirit evinced at this aggregate meeting, ought to convince all of this.

Political parties ought to look about them; the Catholic vote can not safely be despised. It is in our power to disconcert and embarrass party combinations, and make a decisive movement one way or the other in a crisis, and when least expected. Henceforward, and until justice is done to us in the question of education, no party will be able to calculate on the way in which Catholics will give their votes. To us mere politics, or political parties, are nothing in comparison with the education question. With us the only question will be, who is or who is not most likely to help us to obtain justice for our schools.

THE DUNEDIN ELECTION.

So far as is known, there are only two candidates for the vacant Dunedin seat,—Mr. D. STEWART and Mr. C. S. REEVES. They are both secularists. The latter is a secularist pure and simple, the former a secularist with a dash of sectarianism. Mr. D. STEWART thinks the London School Board, which has the Bible read in its schools, works admirably. Mr. STEWART is easily pleased, or perhaps he has not read the correspondence which lately passed between the London School Board and Lord G. HAMILTON, the Vice-President of the Committee of Council. Had he read this he would have learned that in one of the London Board-Schools the cost per head of its pupils amounted to the enormous sum of £44. We hardly think even Mr. STEWART would consider this satisfactory. But he might, who knows? We have queer politicians in these days.

Mr. D. STEWART also seems to forget, or not to know, that in London there are more denominational schools aided by Government than there are Board Schools, and in that city no less than 25,000 Catholic children are attending Catholic schools which are aided by Government, and that in the other denominational schools there are hundreds of thousands of children. If Mr. D. STEWART will gain for us the establishment of a similar system here, *minus* the enormous expense of secular schools, we shall be contented. So much for Mr. D. STEWART and his political information and wisdom.

As to Mr. REEVES we have not much to say. Personally he deserves to be respected. But he now seeks a public and representative position, and as such and only such we must regard him in reference to this election. He is secularist pure and simple. His policy is only little less unjust and odious than that of Mr. D. STEWART. The latter will make us pay for sectarian schools and compel Catholic teachers to teach Protestantism in the public schools. Mr. REEVES does not go quite so far.

Mr. SKENE reports for the week ending July 9, 1879:—Things have at last taken a turn. The demand is now for ploughmen and station and farm couples are more in favour; still a good many men are unavoidably out of work at this winter season. The employment offered on the railway formation has not proved a success. Shepherds, masons, bricklayers, &c., are still quiet. Female servants are still scarce for hotels, private families, and farms. Cooks, waiters, boots, station smiths and carpenters are frequently needed. Wages: Day labour, 7s to 8s; ploughmen, £52 to £53; milkers, 15s to 25s; boys, 8s to 12s; girls, 10s to 15s; upper do., 15s to 25s; couples, £65 to £120; bushmen, 8s; station smiths and carpenters, 35s to 50s and found.

Occasional Notes.

A COMMITTEE meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Association was held on Monday evening last. Mr. J. J. Connor occupied the chair. The members of the Committee reported that they had disposed of a great number of tickets for the Rev. Father O'Malley's lecture, which takes place on Tuesday evening next. The Hon. Sec. stated that since the beginning of the month some of the half-yearly subscriptions had been paid. He regretted, however, to say that a great many still remained unpaid. The Committeemen expressed the hope that those who had not yet paid would see the necessity of doing so immediately, as unless the subscriptions were paid when due the Association could not be supplied with those necessaries which it requires to make it a beneficial institution.

We desire to return our sincere thanks to the rev. clergy, our subscribers and friends generally on the West Coast for the courtesy and kindness shown by them to our canvasser, Mr. John Murray, on his late tour in their district. We would request of all subscribers who do not see subscriptions paid by them to one of our agents forwarded to us otherwise, acknowledged in the TABLET within, at furthest, a month from the date of payment, to communicate with our office, as in such cases it is more than probable some error has been made.

We desire again to remind our readers that on Tuesday evening next, the Rev. Father O'Malley, S.J., will deliver a lecture entitled, "The Wonders of Nature and Art" at the Temperance Hall, Dunedin. The lecture will be in aid of the funds of the Catholic Association, and as such alone is worthy of support. The fame of the rev. lecturer moreover, of which it is not necessary for us to speak, must avail of itself to draw a large audience.

MEETING AT WINTON.

At a meeting of Catholics held at Winton on the 5th inst., it was unanimously resolved—1st. "That this meeting request Mr. J. F. Perrin to represent them at the forthcoming meeting to be held in Dunedin." 2nd. "That this meeting has confidence in, and are willing to acquiesce in, any resolutions carried at the meeting of Catholics to be held in Dunedin."

MEETING AT WELLINGTON.

June 30th.

A VERY largely attended meeting of the leading Catholics of Wellington and the neighbouring districts was held this evening at the house of his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese, in which the following resolutions were carried:—

Proposed by the Hon. Dr. Grace, M.L.C., and seconded by Mr. Charles O'Neil, C.B.,—"That the Catholics of Wellington are perfectly in accord with the object of the great Catholic meeting, which is to be held on the 8th prox., at Dunedin—viz., to protest against the great injustice done to all the Catholics in New Zealand by the present legislation in reference to education—legislation whereby they are deprived of their share of the public lands allocated to educational purposes, of their share of loans appropriated to school buildings, and of their share of the annual taxation appropriated to the payment of schoolmasters, and to the training of schoolmasters."

Proposed by the Hon. Dr. Grace, and seconded by Mr. R. P. Collins—"That (a gentleman to be chosen by the Bishop of Dunedin) be appointed to represent the Catholics of Wellington at the Aggregate Meeting of Catholics to be held in Dunedin on Tuesday, July 8th, 1879."

MEETING AT WAIPORI.

At a meeting of Catholics held at Waipori it was agreed that Mr. Reynolds be appointed to represent them at the Catholic meeting to be held in Dunedin on July 8th, to object to the secular system of education imposed on Catholics in New Zealand. In conjunction with their fellow-Catholics they feel themselves aggrieved by the education law of this country, which compels them to send their children to the State schools against the dictates of their consciences, or to incur the great expense of supporting their own schools after contributing to the revenue of the State. They likewise consider it unfair to be compelled to pay for schools that they cannot conscientiously send their children to. They think the Government should consider their cause, and meet their wishes, not only in giving them aid in accordance with their numbers, but in erecting schools likewise, because Catholics think their children require Catholic education in Catholic schools for their spiritual and temporal welfare, since if they are not taught to obey the laws of God, they will not be likely to obey those of man.

Messrs. A. and T. MURCH report for the week ending July 9th:—Retail prices only.—Fresh butter, in ½ and 1lb prints, best and favourite brands, 1s 9d to 1s 10d per lb; good ordinary butter, 1s 8d to 1s 9d per lb. Fresh butter is still getting very scarce, and there is not enough to supply the market at times. Salt butter is selling well at present at 1s 3d per lb; cheese, best quality, 10d to 11d per lb; side and rolled bacon, 10d to 11d per lb; Colonial hams, 1s per lb. Eggs are very scarce, and retailing at 2s per doz.