

TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisements intended for insertion in The TABLET, should reach the Publishing Office, MILLS, DICK, and Co.'s, Stafford street, Dunedin, not later than 10 a.m., of each Friday.

Subscription to The TABLET:—Single copies, 6d.; Half-yearly, by post, 12s. 6d., in advance.

Mr Macedo, Bookseller, Princes street south, has been appointed an Advertising Agent for Dunedin to the TABLET.

Mr T. Bracken is authorised to sell Shares, collect Subscriptions and obtain Advertisements throughout the Province of Otago for the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Persons wishing to Subscribe to The TABLET should cut out the following Advertisement, and fill it up, enclosed in an envelope with amount of subscription and address as follows:—

THE SECRETARY,
TABLET Office, Dunedin.

FORM.

Please forward to (Name).....

Address

I enclose Post Office Order for £ s. d.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.—MAY.

Sunday 18th—5 p.p. S. Venantius, M.
Monday, 19th—St. Peter Celestine, B.C. Rogation Day.
Tuesday, 20th—St. Bernardino.
Wednesday, 21st—St. Celestine, Vid. Sup.
Thursday, 22nd—Ascension. Holiday.
Friday, 23rd—St. Celsus, B.C.
Saturday, 24th—Auxilium Christianorum.

New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1873.

A PARTY FIGHT.

What was it all about? Last week there was a fight—rather, indeed, a scuffle—in the Provincial Council, Dunedin. Why? One party wanted to get into office, and the other did not want to go out. That appears to have been the reason of the scene. The interests of the Province do not appear to have been involved in the question, whether the Reid party or the Tolmie party should govern. The Reidites did very well when in power, so did the Tolmieites; and no doubt the former will do very well now that they have wrung the supremacy once more from the former.

But how does this scrimmage concern the Province? So far and no farther than the loss of time and the waste of some hundreds of pounds are concerned. The late Executive was a good one; the present is also a good one. The affairs of the Province would be equally safe in the hands of either. What, then, has all this row and bad blood been about? The whole affair passes the comprehension of ordinary men; only Provincial Councillors can master such matters. Few will be disposed to blame Mr Reid very severely—a position at once of power and honor; and the gratification of the noble ambition of serving one's country for a handsome consideration are things to which few men could be expected to be indifferent. But what is to be said of the members? Surely they ought not to waste public money and time in effecting a change of equally capable administrators? The constituencies ought to look to this.

But there was a constitutional principle at stake? Indeed! A constitutional question in a Provincial Council which has no independent legislative powers? Such a question in the Imperial Parliament, or even in the Colonial Legislature, is intelligible; but what this constitutional question has to do with the making of roads, building bridges, superintending gaols, &c., is what men of merely common sense fail to see. And it is to be hoped that the majority of tax-payers will look upon the turning out of one set of undoubtedly capable administrators for the purpose of replacing them by another set not more capable, and the wasting thereby of nearly a fortnight and some hundreds of public money, is something very absurd and sufficiently criminal to earn for its perpetrators relegation from the Council Chamber on the first opportunity.

The appointment of ministers in the Stafford Government and the dismissal of one of them from the provincial office

by the Superintendent, was, it appears, the *fons et origo* of this affair. The Superintendent of Otago dismissed the Provincial Secretary, who did not want to be dismissed, and who, knowing his power in the present Council, determined to humiliate his chief. The Superintendent, however, did quite right; and he acted better still when, on the defeat of the Stafford Ministry, he offered to reinstate the dismissed secretary. This gentleman was certainly not bound *in rigore* to accept the offer, but the question nevertheless arises, as he is and was evidently desirous of serving his Province as secretary: Why did he not accept the post when offered to him, instead of waiting till he should have an opportunity of wasting both time and money in wresting it from Mr Tolmie, as if it were something to which he and no one else had a strict right. Perhaps he was cheap at the expense; and, indeed, it would appear as if the majority of the Council were of opinion he is the only possible Secretary in all Otago. The public, however, entertain quite different views, and, as far as we can ascertain, view with displeasure the proceedings of their representatives. The people desire to see the business of the Province done as quickly and as economically as possible; and are unwilling that members of Council should consume their own time and energies, and the money of their constituents, in discussing constitutional questions which, though important in themselves in their proper place, become simply ludicrous in the Provincial Council Chamber of Otago.

SPAIN.

Were people to believe telegrams, the Carlists in Spain must have been defeated long ago. At one time the public were assured that they had been defeated in every action of importance; at another, that vast numbers had been slain and taken prisoners by the Royal troops—more recently by the republicans. Had these reports been true, the Carlists must long since have ceased to trouble their enemies. Such, however, is not the case; and the last advices go to show that even in Madrid itself a rising in opposition to the republicans was apprehended.

For years enormous lying has been going on in reference to Spanish affairs. The friends of the usurper Amadeus tried hard to make the world believe that Spain had welcomed him to the throne, and received him enthusiastically. His abdication after a short tenure of kingly power is a luminous comment on telegrams and the reports of newspaper correspondents from Spain.

The truth appears to be that an audacious minority, aided by the secret societies, succeeded in seizing on power, and, having done so, determined at any cost to retain it. The army was in their interest, or at all events it was so managed as to become their partisan and instrument. By this means the revolutionary party first made the unfortunate Isabella their tool. Tiring of her, they set up a dictator; and then, in deference to the monarchical instincts of the nation, they determined to set up a king. This king, however, must be the expression and embodiment of the revolution. Wherefore they must needs seek in foreign parts their new king—one to their mind could not be found in the governing families of chivalrous Spain. Well, a king was found in the person of Amadeus, one of the sons of the revolutionary King of Italy. Thus the revolution became enthroned in Spain as well as in Italy. This last insult, however, to everything dearest to Spaniards, raised the country, and Amadeus, after a short and gallant struggle, was compelled to abdicate by the attitude of an outraged people. The revolution, now stripped of the prestige of royalty, stands face to face with the reaction. The result no man can foretell; but it may be hoped that loyalty and religion may triumph in the land so long the home of both.

EDUCATION.

The question of education gives a great deal of trouble to statesmen everywhere. Why should this be? In reality, the principle of the question is a simple one; and the chief difficulty is in finding the pecuniary means of maintaining a sufficient number of schools. Yet, strange to say, the trouble of rulers arises not so much from the real difficulty as from the simple principle. If the state would confine itself to its own duties, and loyally recognise the duties and rights of parents and the church, justice would soon secure the peace of society and the progress of civilisation.

The education of their children belongs to parents as.