

OUR OBJECTS AND PRINCIPLES.

In making their bow to the public, the proprietors of this newspaper wish to state their objects and principles. They have in view to supply good reading matter to the Catholics of this colony; and to defend Catholic principles and Catholic interests generally. All Catholics, at least, will acknowledge this to be not only desirable but necessary.

Good books are at once a great blessing, and of urgent necessity. It is difficult, however, for all in this remote corner of the world to procure such books, and it has, consequently, struck the proprietors that a good Catholic newspaper might, to a very considerable extent at all events, meet this difficulty. It is intended that the New Zealand TABLET shall contain a large amount of interesting information useful to Catholics.

Unfortunately, in the present age the public Press, speaking generally, is in its tone hostile to the Catholic Church, and calumnious in its statements in reference to the Church and her pastors. It is incumbent on Catholics to provide an antidote to both.

The tone of the New Zealand TABLET will be eminently loyal and respectful to the grand old Church, and its highest honor and ambition to proclaim and defend her principles, and to refute calumnies directed against her, her Head, and her ministers.

But whilst putting Religion and her interests in the first place—which is her proper place—the New Zealand TABLET will not neglect or overlook the interests of merely civil society. Here, however, the great object will be to ascertain what is true and good, and to defend these and the sacred cause of justice.

The New Zealand TABLET will not ally itself with any party, and although it will freely discuss political principles and measures, it will always consider them on their merits, and not from the point of view of party. Nothing personal will be permitted to appear in its columns; and the greatest care will be taken to exclude everything calculated to offend good taste and propriety.

These objects and principles deserve success; but shall the New Zealand TABLET succeed? This will depend on itself in the first instance, and in the second on the amount of support accorded by the Catholic body of the colony. But Catholics will do well to bear in mind that a generous and confiding support at the beginning, will very largely contribute to make this newspaper everything it wishes and proposes to be itself, and everything they could wish it to be.

The proprietors flatter themselves that the New Zealand TABLET will meet with a hearty welcome from their brethren of the Press. The TABLET does not propose to compete with any existing newspaper; there is a sphere for itself, and it has its own special work to do. Then, it can not be for the interests of colonists that one large section of the community should continue without a representative in the Fourth Estate; neither can it be pleasant for public writers, nor conducive to their efficiency, to be ignorant of the views of their Catholic fellow-colonists. These and the TABLET will, no doubt, be opponents on very many questions; but the opposition, it may be hoped, will be open, manly, straightforward, and based, not on prejudice, but on reason and argument.

As an advertising medium this paper will enjoy especial advantages. Its circulation will not be confined to any city or province, but as the organ and representative of Catholicity, will have numerous subscribers in all the provinces.

USEFUL INFORMATION.

Regulations, of which the following is an abridgment, for the conduct of immigration to New Zealand, on the nomination of immigrants by persons resident in the Colony, have been published by the Minister of Immigration, Mr G. M. O'Rorke.

"The Immigration Regulations and Forms of Application may be obtained at any Post Office; but applications and payments for passages are only to be made to Money Order Post Offices or to the Immigration Officer at the capital town of each Province or County.

"Any persons desirous of nominating relatives or friends in Europe for passages to New Zealand, may do so by paying at any Money Order Post Office or to the Immigration Officers the sum of £4 for each adult (except single women) between 50 and 12 years of age, and £2 for each child under 12 years of age. Infants under one year, free. In certain cases, bills will be taken in lieu of cash payments, and passages will be provided for persons over fifty years of age.

"Widows with families are, as a rule, not eligible."

"Free passages will be granted to girls of 12 years of age and upwards accompanying their parents, and to single women between the ages of 16 and 35, provided they are able to produce proof of good

character to the satisfaction of the Agent-General in London; and a gratuity of 10s. will be paid by the Agent-General to heads of families emigrating under these regulations for every such single woman, not being a member of the family, brought out under their protection.

"Every adult emigrant will be required, before embarkation, to pay to the Agent-General 20s. (and children in proportion), for bedding, blankets, and mess utensils.

"In the event of any emigrant applied for declining to emigrate, whatever money or bills may have been deposited with the Government, will be returned to the applicant so soon as the Agent-General shall have apprised the Government thereof; but in the event of a passage in a particular ship, and then, by failing to present himself for embarkation at the time and port appointed, be left behind, the passage money will be forfeited.

"The cost of conveyance to the port of embarkation, and to the residence of their friends after arrival in the Colony, must be defrayed by the emigrants themselves.

"It is to be distinctly understood that notwithstanding applications may have been granted, the immigration officers are empowered to object to emigrants nominated being sent out, either from unsuitability of occupation or from any other cause [the italics are our own]; and the Agent-General in London will have power to refuse passages where the intending emigrants are in ill-health, or in any way unfitted, according to his judgment, to undertake the voyage."

We hope that intending emigrants will not be unfitted, in the judgment of the Agent-General, to undertake the voyage, by being Catholics or Irish, or, what is worse, both. Passages may be refused them really on this score, but by a stretching of liberal regulations nominally "from any other cause." Passages have been refused before and the reason has been openly stated to intending emigrants because their religious belief did not coincide with the beliefs of persons vested with brief authority, or because the granting of a passage to an Irish girl would upset "the balance of nationalities." Such contemptible displays of prejudices have, proof positive, occurred before; it is to be hoped they will not occur again.

A notification has been lately issued by Mr O'Rorke, stating that the Government has decided upon allowing bonuses to persons obtaining nominations of emigrants to this Colony. The bonus is fixed at five shillings for males, and ten shillings for females, per statute adult, payable upon the arrival of emigrants nominated. Persons obtaining nominations must accompany the applicants to, or lodge the application at, the nearest immigration office, where the application and arrangement for passage-money will be duly made.

This offer evinces a praiseworthy spirit of liberality to agents, but the operation of the immigration scheme might be enlarged, at least in regard to the introduction of single women and others getting free passages, if a bonus were given not only to the person who brought the nominator of the emigrant to the office, but also to the nominated himself. Many, we feel assured, would then discover that they had friends fit to emigrate.

The Canterbury Press says: It is satisfactory to note that nominated immigration is working well, and that the numbers nominated are increasing. We are informed that applications have been forwarded from this Province by the out-going mail for more than 100 statute adults. The cash and bills deposited on account of these passages amount to upwards of £300. This, we believe, is the largest number ever nominated in the Province during the same period—namely four weeks.

EGYPTIAN RECORD OF THE EXODUS.

The "Cologne Gazette" publishes the subjoined: Dr. Eisenlohr, and Professor of the University of Heidelberg, and a learned Egyptian scholar, went to England a few months since, to examine a papyrus found in a tomb by Mr Harris, editor of the 'Hieroglyphical Standard.' This is the finest, largest, best written, and best preserved of all that has hitherto been discovered in the country of the Pharaohs, forming a roll of 134 feet in length, and 16½ inches wide. It dates from the end of the reign of Rameses III. (the Romsinit of Herodotus), and is thus more than 3,000 years old. It contains most valuable information relative to the political and religious civilization of Egypt at that distant period, and written in hieratic characters that is to say, a mixture of hieroglyphics and signs for letters and syllables. The text is an allocution from Rameses III, "to his people and all the men on earth," on the great deeds of his reign and of those of his father, Setinecht, and grandfather, Manepthah II. Seti, acts which had brought to a term a period of religious evolution highly important for the study of Biblical writings. Rameses himself recounts how he re-established the ancient Egyptian worship, rebuilt the temples and endowed them with a munificence on the effects of which he dwells largely. At the end of his address, the king enumerates, his warlike exploits and all the services he had rendered to his people. The religious movement alluded to relates to the period of Moses, to the Monotheistic worship founded or restored by him, and comprises all the events which terminated in the ruin of Monotheism in Egypt, and the exodus of the Jews. The papyrus is consequently, of the highest interest for the study of the Mosaic religion and legislation, and is eminently useful to explain, co-ordinate and confirm a great variety of details. Dr. Eisenlohr recently gave a lecture on this subject at Heidelberg, at a meeting of the Historico-Philosophical Society, and read a complete translation, made by himself, of the historical address of Rameses to his people. A report of the sitting has just been published by Hinrichs of Leipsic.

The number of the clergy reaches a total of 1636, and of these priests 74 (43 secular and 32 regular) were ordained in the past year.