

tion in public schools; and it is quite a proper thing to compel christians to pay taxes for the purpose of making their children infidels. The secularist sect does not believe in Christianity, and therefore no one must teach it in schools! We are not speaking of individuals; for there are many men very much better than their principles, but of the sect as such;—and its principles logically amount to this. For both reason and experience prove, that if children are not educated religiously in our schools, the mass of them will inevitably grow up infidels. What a prospect for society!

But observe the honesty and consistency of this sect. In the Province of Canterbury it is, for the present, in the ascendant, and what is its last escapade. A new education bill was passed in Council; it is called a "Secular Education Measure," and enacts that in all State schools, history, ancient and modern, must be taught. We wonder how the teaching of history will be merely secular, how the great religious controversies of all times will be treated, and how no violence will be done to the principles and convictions of any sect or denomination of Christians. Is the attempt honestly meant? Well, we can only say that the man who undertakes to teach ancient and modern history without coming in collision with any body's religious principles must be very stupid or very knavish, unless, indeed, he confine himself to a barren recital of mere names and dates. But the teachers of the Canterbury Government schools will hardly be permitted to do this. Then, again, what is to be the character of the text books of history? 'Collier's History' is used at present; is that most objectionable book to be continued? Who knows but Fox's 'Book of Martyrs' may be introduced, or Robertson, or Macaulay, or Lord's 'Modern Europe'? Where are the books to be found to teach secular history without reference to religion. We have never yet seen such works, and we are thoroughly convinced we never shall, nor shall any body else. For us, therefore, the conclusion is—we must pay our money to have our children taught that Henry VIII was a glorious reformer, Queen Bess a beneficent sovereign, though she sent our fathers to the gallows because they went to Mass; that Oliver Cromwell was a model ruler, and a humane and godly man; William of Orange the founder of constitutional government. Perhaps an epitome of Froude will be placed in the hands of Catholics, to teach them that their ancestry were cowards, and the penal laws justifiable and natural under the circumstances. Ancient and modern history in a secular school! What a mockery! Then we are told these schools are not denominational. How can this be? are they not secular at least in name, and are not secularists a denomination?

#### MR LEARY SHUFFLES.

MR LEARY, a candidate for Caversham, has been reported as saying—"In regard to the Educational question, he did not wish a better system than the present one. There was one matter with which some of them might not quite agree with him. In populous places like Dunedin, for example, where more school accommodation was required, if it could be shown one section of the community had conscientious objections to either the books or the system, he would provide schools and teachers in accordance with their views—(Applause)."

This report, which we republished in our issue of last week, went uncontradicted; but now Mr Leary finds, on mature consideration, that he has been "misconstrued."

A correspondent, who signs himself "Honest Speech," sends us a circular issued by Mr Leary, and which he describes as an address by Mr Leary "on after thoughts." Our correspondent writes: "Permit me to say that it is due to yourself and the Catholic electors that you should notice this recantation of Mr Leary."

The following is portion of Mr Leary's circular. The italics are our correspondent's:—"Education.—It is upon this subject more particularly that my ideas have been misconstrued. A report has got abroad that I favour the denominational system, a system to which I beg most distinctly to state I am thoroughly opposed. Under the denominational system, the religious doctrines of the majority are taught in the schools, the effect of which is that in a country district where one school only is required, the children of various denominations representing the minority, must go without instruction unless their parents are content they should receive it strongly flavoured with doctrines to which they are opposed.

"In stating my views upon this question, I was under the impression that the course of instruction pursued in our common Schools, seriously reflected upon, if it did not ridicule, the religion of the Roman Catholics; and I stated that if it

could be shown to me that such was the case, that the school accommodation in the City of Dunedin was insufficient, and that the religious denomination I referred to had the required number of children to constitute a main school, under such circumstances, I should meet the difficulty by granting them the necessary school accommodation, and the customary assistance to the teachers, on condition that the school should be under the supervision of the Government Inspector, and that the requirements of the Ordinance were complied with. Such a case, however, is not likely to arise, as I find that the course of instruction which obtains at present in our common schools is such that no good grounds can be urged why all denominations should not avail themselves of the present system; and I shall therefore strongly oppose any alteration in it."

Our correspondent proceeds—"Evidently Mr Leary, to catch a few Catholic votes, expressed an opinion which the fear of losing perhaps a few Presbyterian votes has induced him to recant. This expression of his after-thoughts speaks for itself. Doubtless you will appreciate the motive which could urge a candidate to change his views so speedily."

#### WEEKLY EPITOME.

THE deposits in the Savings Bank, Dunedin, during the Quarter ending the 31st March, 1873, amount to £33,179 18s 10d; withdrawals, £22,023 15s; in Auckland, deposits, £16,527 12s 1d; withdrawals, £13,989; Wellington, deposits, £22,001 6s 10d; withdrawals, £15,478 7s 7d; Christchurch, deposits, £27,439 8s 2d; withdrawals, £19,507 8s 6d; Invercargill, deposits, £5,521 17s 1d; withdrawals, £3,803 16s 9d; Thames, deposits, £5503 15s 6d; withdrawals, £5,461 6s 8d; Westport, deposits, £2,313 2s 6d; withdrawals, £1,147 19s 4d; Hokitika, deposits, £3,909 2s 4d; withdrawals, £3,790 5s 6d; Greymouth, deposits, £5,671 19s 3d; withdrawals, £6,442 1s 0d; Total deposits for the Colony, £136,415 9s 1d; withdrawals, £101,069 8s 6d. The above show that prosperity can be hardly said to have prevailed on the Gold Fields during the Quarter ending 31st March.—Mr. J. T. Peacock, the late member for Lyttelton, has been called to the Legislative Council.—Sir David Monro has resigned his seat for Waikouaiti in the House of Representatives, on account of ill-health in his family.—The contractor with the New South Wales Government for a service to San Francisco is Mr H. H. Hall, of Sydney. His sureties are large American tobacco merchants in business in Sydney and America. The contract, as drawn, gives no security at all for a New Zealand service, and is most lax as to penalties. No vessels are named or indicated. The contract is so drawn as to enable the Sydney Government easily to avoid it, and the whole arrangement is such as to lead to the opinion that it is merely a concession for speculative purposes, to be sold at a profit if possible, or else thrown up.—At an enthusiastic meeting at Auckland it was resolved that "In the opinion of this meeting it is the imperative duty of the General Government to proceed as rapidly as possible with the construction of railways into the centre of the North Island, to secure the peace of the Colony, and thereby avoid wasteful expenditure of taxation of the Colony in war, and that there is no matter of more permanent importance to the welfare of the whole Colony."—A large meeting at Parnell, Auckland, adopted resolutions in favour of the extension of the Waikato railway to the confiscated boundary.—The surveyors started from Cambridge on the morning of the 9th, to cut a line right along the boundary of the confiscated land. After this is done, tenders will be called for clearing a road three chains wide, and cavalry will then patrol the country from redoubt to redoubt along the whole frontier. Thirty Constabulary are expected from New Plymouth.—The Taupo Natives condemn the murder of Sullivan, and will assist the Government in the event of hostilities.—Mr R. W. Woon has obtained the return of 250 stand of Government arms from the upper Wanganui Natives.—The judicial inquiry before Mr Searancke into the circumstances attending Sullivan's murder has commenced.—The Native meeting at the Thames lasted three days, and very divided opinions were expressed. A most important discussion ensued. Te Hira said, as their sentiments were divided, he would not come here again. He strongly urged that leasing and selling of land should cease. Moananui supported him, and said the making of roads would lead to trouble. Mohi said when the Crown grant had been issued nobody but those named in it had any right to interfere. Surely they could do as they liked with their own. The Government ought to use Piako and the Thames rivers to send soldiers to the Waikato if they liked. Reihana urged that the rules of the King should not be brought into this district. He would have his land surveyed if he liked. Moananui said the lands ought not to be surveyed unless the whole tribe agreed to it, no matter who the owners were. Rowi and Haora Tipa said Te Hira was wrong. The speech of Taipara caused Te Hira great pain; he said that the selling of land rested with the owners, and there ought only to be one law for all. Several Natives objected to surveys for railways, while others supported them. No decision was come to, and several Natives have already left. They are much divided amongst themselves.—What appears to be an incompleteness in Immigration arrangements is shown by the following letter in the Queenstown paper:—"Can you inform the public if there is an agent for receiving immigration applications in Queenstown? as the regulations state that application for immigrants' passages are only to be made to money-order post-offices, or to the Immigration Officer in the capital town in each Province. I have made an application to the Postmaster here and could only be furnished with a form and referred to the Immigration Officer in Dunedin, and also could not take the passage money; so that it is quite probable I may lose the outgoing mail by which I intended forwarding the order. I may also state that the Postmaster was very courteous, and furnished me with all the information he could impart.—"