

## AN HONEST CANDIDATE.

(From the *Dunedin Evening Star*.)

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—As I am told there is an impression in some quarters that Mr. Donnelly has been badly treated, I write, as one of that gentleman's earliest and most ardent advocates, to explain why my own mind became changed towards him. Had Mr. Donnelly, then, only declared that he would support no measure for the alteration of the secular Education Act for the ensuing two years, I should have felt that such a declaration was inconsistent with the sentiments I had frequently heard him express. It was common, for example, for Mr. Donnelly to come into this office and speak "like a book" on the education question, professing a conviction that a bold, unhesitating, rational statement, such as he felt himself capable of making, would at once convert the popular mind, and render it favorable to the Catholic claims. In fact, I have felt more than once necessary to warn him, in connection with his contest of last year, not to make the subject too prominent, for although I had no doubt as to Mr. Donnelly's ability, I did not quite share in his confidence in the fairness of the public. My consternation, therefore, was extreme when I found, on the gentleman's own acknowledgment, that all the time he had been speaking so edifyingly, and all the time I had been exerting myself in every way possible to me in his cause, he was quietly resolved to take the first opportunity that offered itself to him of making a practical condemnation of the Catholic claims—for all this was involved in his declaration that he would not have supported Mr. Pyke's amendment—a declaration which, moreover, he went out of his way to make, with at least the strong appearance of a desire to add insult to injury. How, then, the people who have been so treated by Mr. Donnelly can be accused, with any degree of reason, of dealing harshly with him in marking their sense of his perfidy towards their cause, and his insolence towards them personally, I cannot conceive. —I am, etc.,

JOHN F. PERRIN.

N.Z. TABLET Office, January 12.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. John F. Perrin, of the N.Z. TABLET office, I can only say that his imagination and inventive faculties do him much more credit than his sense of honor or his veracity. The glowing conversational phantasms which he so dramatically depicts are due entirely to his fervid imagination. However, I readily pardon him for his questionable tactics, knowing the pressure under which his veracious effusion was written; and the public, knowing whence it came, will, under existing circumstances, have no difficulty in appraising it at its proper value. —I am, etc.,

M. DONNELLY.

Dunedin, January 13.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—We have read Mr. Perrin's letter in Friday's *Star*. The statements made in it concerning Mr. Donnelly's professions were true. Mr. Donnelly has spoken, as described, in our presence more than once. We have also read Mr. Donnelly's denial in Saturday's *Star*. It is a shameless, though confused, denial of the truth.—We are, etc.,

JOHN MURRAY.

JOHN J. CONNOR.

Dunedin, January 15.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—My contradiction of Mr. Perrin's statements would necessarily include any emanating from the fag end of the TABLET employees. It is scarcely necessary, therefore, to honour Messrs. Murray and Connor's "official" manifesto with a special refutation; but as silence might not have a good moral effect on their honour and veracity in future, I must answer them as I did Mr. Perrin, by giving once for all an unqualified denial to their statements.—I am, etc.,

Dunedin, January 16.

M. DONNELLY.

[Neither Mr. John Murray nor Mr. John J. Connor is an employé of "the TABLET," at any of its ends or commencements.—ED. N. Z. TABLET.]

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I have just read Mr. Donnelly's reply to Mr. Perrin's letter which appeared in your issue of Friday evening, and in which Mr. Perrin sets forth his reasons for withdrawing his support from Mr. Donnelly.

I must say that I was surprised to find Mr. Donnelly endeavouring to make the public believe that he has not in the past been a zealous advocate of the Catholic claims on the education question. I have known Mr. Donnelly for a long time, and have always held a very high opinion of him. I have had frequent opportunities of speaking with him on the education question; and I always thought I had reason to admire his manly view of how this and other questions should be canvassed by Catholics.

I have often quoted Mr. Donnelly to our friends as an example of bold, manly, and uncompromising honesty. In fact, the purpose of his conversations would seem to be to get Catholics to throw off all reserve, and demand in a bold and above-board style what they were so manifestly entitled to—viz., some participation in the educational expenditure of the colony.

Now, sir, although I was sorry to see that Mr. Donnelly's anxiety to get into Parliament had induced him to forswear his lifelong convictions on a question affecting the domestic and financial interests of 79,000 of his co-religionists, still I was not prepared to find that he would have the hardihood to also forswear His "professions of faith" on this great question, made in the TABLET office from time to time.

I desire to bear testimony to the correctness and truth of Mr. Perrin's statements in his letter in Friday evening's paper.—I am, etc.,

JOHN J. CONNOR.

Dunedin, January 16.

## Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co., Limited) reports for the week ending 17th January as follows:—

**Fat Cattle.**—246 head yarded for to-day's market. Being much in excess of requirements, a reduction of fully 2s 6d per 100lb was the result. Bulls fetched from £7 to £10 17s 6d, and cows from £6 17s 6d to £8. We sold a draft on account of Mr. A. Thomson at quotations. We quote beef at 22s 6d to 25s.

**Fat Calves.**—21 were yarded, and sold at 10s to 22s.

**Fat Sheep.**—1460 were penned, 250 of these being merino. This number was by no means excessive, but yet the prices fetched was about 1s lower than last week's. Cross-breeds fetched from 6s to 10s; merinos, 3s 8d to 4s 3d. We sold on account of Messrs. J. and S. Wilson, (Papakao), Mr. George Cox, and Mr. John Duncan (Cherry Farm), at quotations. We quote mutton at 1½d per lb.

**Lambs.**—667 were penned and sold at 4s 9d to 8s 3d. We sold 56 at from 7s 6d to 8s.

**Pigs.**—56 were forward and sold at from 14s to 70s.

**Store Cattle.**—We have no transactions to report.

**Store Sheep.**—There is a demand for cross-bred and merino of both sexes, more especially for young stock, but the low rates ruling for fat have had a militating effect against the business that should have been done in this class of stock at this season.

**Wool.**—Local sales held since our last report have fairly maintained quotations previously established. Priced catalogues of London sales down to 29th November reached us by San Francisco mail last week, and show prices ruling during the eight days previous. We will hold our fourth sale on Tuesday, January 23.

**Sheepskins.**—Our sale on Monday was attended by the usual representatives of the trade, and biddings were spirited, showing a slight advance on last week's quotations. Station and dry cross-bred skins fetched from 2s to 4s 6d; merino, 1s 9d to 4s 6d; butchers' green cross-breeds, 4s 11d to 5s 9d; merino, 4s 6d to 5s; lambs, 5d to 1s 6d; pelts, 4d to 1s 6d.

**Rabbitskins.**—We offered 13 bales and 2 bags, but there being only a few buyers in the market, who do not care to give prices recently ruling, we only placed 2 bags suckers at 6d, and 1 bale mixed at 12½d and passed 12 bales.

**Hides.**—We disposed of a large catalogue at prices equal to last quoted—3d to 4d per lb for clean and good-conditioned hides; 2d for faulty.

**Tallow.**—We did not offer any this week.

**Grain.**—Wheat is moving off but slowly, and prices in favour of buyers. Choice milling, 4s to 4s 2d; medium, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; inferior and fowls' wheat, 2s to 3s 3d. Oats are also difficult to quit, and can only be done by a considerable concession on prices ruling a short while ago. We quote stout bright feed, 2s 10d to 2s 11d; medium, 2s 8d to 2s 9d; inferior and discoloured, 2s 4d to 2s 7d. Barley: Nothing to report.

## PRODUCE MARKET—JANUARY 12, 1883.

MR. F. MEENAN, Great King street, reports:—Wholesale prices. Oats, 2s 6d to 2s 10d per bushel; milling wheat, 4s 3d to 4s 9d per bushel; fowls' feed, 2s to 3s 9d; barley, malting, 4s to 4s 6d; milling, 3s 6d; feeding, 2s 6d to 3s 6d; hay, £7 per ton; chaff, mixed, £4 10s; hay chaff, £6; straw, £2 10s; bran, £4 10s; pollard, £5; potatoes, (old) £3, (new) 6s to 8s 6d; oatmeal, £15 10s; flour, £10 10s to £11; butter, medium to prime, 9d to 1s per lb.; salt, 9d per lb.; eggs, 1s 3d, per dozen; bacon, sides, 8d per lb.; rolls, 7½d; hams, 9½d; pork, 4½d; old cheese 8d to 9d, new 7d.

MESSRS. MERCER BROTHERS, Princes street, report:—Fresh butter (in ½-lb. and 1lb. prints), best quality, 1s per lb.; ordinary butter, 10d per lb.; eggs, 1s per dozen; roll bacon, 7½d per lb.; good salt butter, in kegs, 9d per lb.; cheese 6d per lb.

## LABOUR MARKET.—JANUARY 12, 1883.

P. M. GRANT and Co., Labour Agents, report for the week:—We are all bustle now in preparing for harvest work. This week will see general harvest in the northern district, and a few patches in the south will be in readiness for the reaper. There are a considerable number of men waiting engagements, but they seem reluctant to accept of the wages offering, and at present we find some difficulty in effecting engagements, men expecting extreme wages. We hear of high rates being offered for harvesters north, but these reports require confirmation, and in the absence of any guarantee as to the actual rate of wages ruling, we are unable to quote as our engagements of harvesters is confined to hands for a term of months. We have a great demand for ploughmen, especially those competent to work reapers and binders, and we are offering those 40s per week. Contractors are competing briskly with the farmers for labour. It seems a pity that large contracts are not to a considerable extent suspended during harvest months when all hands are required and wages high. This would afford farmers a great advantage and also equalise the labour for the men generally; after harvest is over a great number of men find some difficulty in securing steady employment at reasonable wages. Couples meeting with ready engagements; shepherds, we have engaged a considerable number for this season of the year; ploughmen, unable to meet demands, and holding out for an advance in wages; milkers, general hands, boys, scarce; tradesmen, busy at satisfactory wages; hotelmen, hard to procure, a number preferring to rough it on the harvest field rather than stay in town at small wages; dairymen, youths, boys, in demand; female servants still scarce and extremely hard to please; we shall be glad when a fresh supply comes to hand. Wages firm.