

views on politics. He believes in the principle of securing the greatest good to the greatest number, but the greatest number in his case is No. 1.—(Applause and laughter.) Now that same paper applies to me offensive, contemptuous, insulting expressions, and I have no doubt if Mr Larnach explained to you what was the potent argument which brought it to see in him a great statesman where a month ago it only saw a selfish politician, you will be able to know the value of all criticism coming from that quarter. I admit all he said about Chinese being God's creatures. I respect them in China, but I say let them stay there. Don't bring to New Zealand and make permanent settlers of them. Don't bring them here to lower the civilisation of the Colony and to compete with the working classes. Those are the grounds on which I object to them. He attempts to make a point against me by saying that his interests are in accord with the interests of the community. They were not a weak ago or eighteen months ago, but when he is to appear before you and wants your votes, he wants to modify his platform so as to suit the interests of this community.—(Applause.) Then he refers to me as being an advocate—no doubt his observation was directed towards me, if not I apologise—of theoretical legislation in preference to practical. In view of the fact that I stood steadfastly to every political principle I have enunciated, and that none of his supporters can make me budge from them, I say my theories must not only be theoretical, but practical. I think very little of practical theories which under the criticism of the electors have to be abandoned altogether. I will conclude with this one remark: I appeal to the intelligence of this constituency; and I am quite convinced of this, and it will be the greatest consolation for me on Monday next that, whatever the result of the poll may be, whether I be returned or not, I shall know that those who have voted for me are the free and independent electors of the constituency.—(Applause.) I shall know that they have voted for me uninfluenced by financial pressure, and uninfluenced by any other pressure to which it is unnecessary I should refer.—(Applause.) The candidate then answered a number of questions which related to subjects on which he had previously expressed an opinion.

The Rev. Dr MORAN (who was received with loud applause) said: If you will be kind enough to give me a patient hearing for a few minutes, I promise not to trespass unduly on your time. I have not very much to say, because two or three evenings ago I expressed fully here my sentiments and my principles. It strikes me from the manner in which you received my address, and the manner in which it has been spoken of by the public Press, that my political principles are in unison with those of a vast majority of the citizens of this electoral district. However, be that as it may, it is unnecessary for me to repeat anything I said upon those political subjects. You know them, and will know how to treat them, and how to treat me as their representative and mouth-piece. It appears to me there is only one subject upon which it will interest you—certainly interest me, to address a few words to you. I stand here, as I told you before, clearly and distinctly, above and before all other things, as an advocate for justice for 70,000 of my fellow citizens and of your fellow citizens. No matter what may be said by the Press or by orators, a grievous injustice is done to those 70,000 people by the present law, and the system of education prevailing over this Colony. That is the position I have taken up for years; it is the position from which I shall not ever recede. It is a fact that no man can deny, that we are shut out from participating in the expenditure of the moneys which we contribute for the purpose of education. I know, gentlemen, that I am announcing now that with which many of you do not agree; but nevertheless I fear not to do it, and I fear not to speak out in this meeting, where I know the sympathies of the majority of the people are in opposition to my sentiments upon many subjects. I have that confidence in the justice and the generosity and in the manliness of the electors of this district, that I hesitate not to stand before you and to announce what may be exceedingly unpopular, because I am convinced that although you may not agree with me, you are men enough to give me a fair hearing, and generous enough to say that, be my principles what they are, I am an honest man.—(Applause.) Now, gentlemen, what do I ask from you? To send me to Parliament in order that before and above all other things I may, if I can, secure justice for 70,000 of your fellow citizens. There is no use in having recourse to sophisms or in having recourse to misstatements. The broad facts are there before you. Are we not 70,000 people—the Roman Catholics of this country? Are we not shut out—I do not say, at the present moment,

for what reason, but I state the fact—are we not, as a matter of fact, shut out from the schools of the Colony? It may be our own fault; it may be yours; but can you deny the fact? Is it not a fact that in every part of the Colony where there is a sufficient number of Roman Catholics to erect a school, there they establish a school, even where there are not more than 20 or 25 children, and in places where there are not quite so many? The parents of all those children tax themselves, and it must be obvious to you they must tax themselves to an enormous extent in order to give their children such education as approves itself to their consciences and to their judgment. Now I put it before you as honest men: Do you think the members of the Catholic body are fools? do you think they are slaves? do you imagine for a moment that they are led by me? Why, you pay me an undue compliment to imagine that I have the power, influence, eloquence, or argument to lead 70,000 of my fellow citizens at my heels. I am strong, you will say; but I say the source of my strength is to be found in the sentiments and the principles and the determination of the Catholic body of this country.—(Applause.) There is the fact, and you cannot change it. If you were to keep your law unrepealed until doomsday, you cannot change it; and what will be the result? Why, that you will instil into the mind of the Roman Catholics of the country an unutterable detestation of your legislation. I ask is that politic? Is it calculated to promote the interests of the country? I ask why is it? Is it because of reason, is it because of argument, or does it not arise from an insane and groundless prejudice? And what do I ask you to do? I ask you to do nothing but what they do in England and Scotland, in Wales and in Ireland; and are the citizens of New Zealand so ignorant or so besotted in injustice that they refuse to give to me the rights I possessed when I lived in Ireland? I ask for nothing from any man. It is not right, nor true, nor just, to say that we ask for your money. We do not. We ask for our own money that is taken for the purpose of educating—be not offended with what I say—for the purpose of educating your children, the children of well-to-do people; to give them—not to pay the whole sum, but to pay a large sum towards giving them—free education, while at the same time we are doing our very utmost to do what every honest man ought to approve, and what ought to recommend us to the generous sentiments of other men—doing our very best to educate our own children according to our principles and our consciences. I say, gentlemen, you will pardon me, but I say it is in my judgment, though it may not be in yours, a disgrace and a scandal upon the people of the Colony that they tolerate that state of things for a single hour.—(Applause.) I ask you for not even as much as the Catholics receive in Canada. There every shilling paid by the Catholic people goes by law to support the Catholic schools; the whole of the special tax paid for educational purposes: handed over to them, and they receive in addition a fair share of the moneys voted by the Central Legislature. Give us that, and we will be contented; there is simple justice, even-handed justice; I ask for no more, and I tell you that more we would not accept. Gentlemen, I appeal to your sense of justice. You have no possible objection to me except on that one score. I do not think there is a constituent of this electoral division that has a quarrel with me on any other subject.—(“No.”) I do not think there is a man in the district that has a quarrel with me on personal grounds.—(Applause.) And now, gentlemen, I appeal to you again: Will you be less just, will you be less generous, than the members of both parties in the British Empire—Liberals and Conservatives? The Irish people have for centuries stood upon their claims for justice, and though educational advantages of an extraordinary kind were offered to them again and again—though the University of Dublin was opened to them—though the Queen's College has been opened to them—though the training-schools in various parts of the country have been opened to them, and they were invited and pressed—though bribes were held out to induce them to enter, they never would do so. Do you think that we, their children, inheriting their principles, proud of their courage, loving their memories, are going to be driven into your schools by anything that you can do?—(Applause.) And if that be so, are you going obstinately—because you are the more numerous, the more powerful in numbers—to put the heel of oppression on our necks and say, We will tyrannise over you and rob you?—(Applause.) What has been the result of this attitude of the people in Ireland? Why, the Government at last have conceded in a great measure their demands. They are invited now into Trinity College, but will not go; they are invited into the Queen's College, but will not go; and now they have established a system of intermediate

and university education to meet their views and principles; and the other day, at the opening of a university—called the Royal University—the Chancellor, who was in the chair, commenced a remarkable speech by saying, “I feel proud and happy that I have it now in my power to make amends in some measure to the injured Catholic youth of Ireland.” Will you not make amends to us for the injury your laws have inflicted these many years past? During the last four years you have spent £2,000,000 of money on education. We have not profited by it; you have had it all to yourselves; an injustice has been inflicted upon us; and now we come before you in my person to ask for justice. Gentlemen, many things have been said about me; that I am a nominee of this man and that man, and am under instructions. Gentlemen, I ask you am I the man to be under instructions from any man beyond my own principles?—(Applause.) It is said I am one of an hierarchy that have been tyrants everywhere. Is that true? Take the history of the British Empire, it will disprove that assertion. Every time the Catholics had power in their hands in Ireland they refrained with great praiseworthiness from inflicting injustice upon any man, and from doing injury to any man on the score of his religion. Maryland, one of the flourishing States of America, was founded by Catholics, and they established in it the principle of universal liberty; but when the other party gained the ascendancy they introduced the penal laws. And it was the men who introduced penal laws there and in England, and everywhere in the British Empire, that turn round on me and say, “You are an advocate of penal laws and of tyranny.” I am the victim of penal laws and of tyranny, and the race to which I belong, and my religion, have been victims of penal laws and of tyranny for centuries. Out upon the hypocrisy! The men who say it cannot but know they are speaking untruth, and are only charging falsely upon me the principles on which they are acting in this very election.—(Applause.) I have been told by a paper this morning that I have been sent by the Pope, under instructions.—(Laughter.) Gentlemen, I do not want to say anything disrespectful, but I would give you one piece of advice, and it is, that they should try and not let old women be editors of newspapers.—(Laughter and applause.) No, gentlemen, I am not under instructions from any man; I am obeying the orders of no man; I am here from my own convictions, standing alone, appealing to my fellow citizens; and it is for them to give the answer. If you think I will make a good representative, and one that will zealously advocate and seek to promote your interests, send me to Parliament; but if you do not think I am such a one do not send me—I have no business there. But I say to you, do not reject me because I am a Catholic.—(Hear, hear.) Do not reject me because I advocate justice to 70,000 of your fellow citizens, because if you do it will be a disgrace to you, and cannot result but in injury to you and to the community in the long-run.—(Applause.)

Mr NAUMANN: I wish to ask the candidate a question. Seeing that you claim justice for the Catholic body—I refer to a question that was asked you in this hall on Friday—would you be in favour of subsidising Freethinkers schools if denominational schools were introduced?

Dr MORAN: I was not asked such a question. I was asked if I would give a vote of money to propagate Freethought principles; I said “No,” and I say it again. If you ask me this question—If the Freethought people establish schools in the same way as I do, will you give a vote of money for them? I say “Yes.”—(Applause.)

Mr NAUMANN: I will put that question in my own way—If denominational schools are introduced into the colony, assisted by State aid, would you refuse the Freethinkers State aid for their school?

The Returning-officer called for a show of hands in favour of the candidates, which resulted as follows:—

Dr Moran ...	...	27
M. Donnelly ...	...	20
W. J. M. Larnach ...	...	18
John Wells ...	...	3

A poll having been demanded on behalf of Mr Larnach, Mr Ure announced that the polling would take place at the several polling-booths in the district on Monday next, the 22nd inst., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

A vote of thanks to the Returning-officer concluded the proceedings.