

Colonial Secretary, and Dr. Grabham inspected the Hospital.

Nearly two whole sides of the *Lyttelton Times* of Tuesday were filled with a report of the proceedings of the Canterbury College Board of Governors in Mr Miller's case. That august body spent a very considerable time in determining, first, whether Mr. Miller's request to be allowed to address them should be granted; and next, what limits of speech should be given him; and after the first knotty point had been at last decided in the affirmative, the conditions on which Mr. Miller might be allowed to open his mouth were so stringent that one of the governors said he "would like to know what Mr. Miller would be able to talk about." Ultimately it was resolved that he should be at liberty to "elucidate" or to "rebut" anything, but that he should not "make an attack on members of the Board." The edifying spectacle then resulted of a number of gentlemen (!) (with a few honourable exceptions), attacking a defenceless man in the most unmeasured and injurious terms (they themselves being perfectly secured from any contra attack); much on the principle that a troop of cowardly school-boys use in the case of a bullied small victim,—“Hit him hard, he's got no friends.” The *Lyttelton Times* followed its proprietor, Mr. Reeves' suit, next morning, in what I have heard called a "Billingsgate" leader, but your readers have had some experience of the *Times*' idea of justice on certain points, and will, therefore, be chary of according it absolute credence. That Mr. Miller is almost the exact opposite of the "imaginative, irascible, inaccurate, and very insolent gentleman" depicted by that journal appears to be generally admitted. His real offences seem to be that he expected to be accorded the same position and consideration that are given to a master of his standing at Home, that he was not sufficiently subservient to, or, in other words, could not bring himself to toady the Board of Governors, and that he would not put up with a petty, but not the less irritating, system of interference and tyranny. He has, of course, absolutely withdrawn his resignation of the post of headmaster of the Boys' High School. Perhaps the most interesting point in the whole case to Catholics is the incidental revelation of Mr. Montgomery, the Chairman, that when this school was established, the Board applied to Government for a grant, and received one of £9000. In 1878 they asked for and obtained an endowment to secure the maintenance of that school, but as to the amount Mr. Montgomery is, perhaps judiciously, silent.

Councillors Hulbert and Ayers are candidates for the office of Mayor for the ensuing year, and their answers to their respective requisitionists are amusingly different in matter and style. Mr. Hulbert, while promising his best efforts to promote the best interests of the city, and the comfort and convenience of the ratepayers, is yet modestly diffident as to his own ability to fulfil the duties of the office so satisfactorily as previous occupants. Mr. Ayers, on the contrary, is delighted at "such a manifestation of public confidence and esteem; which shows him more than ever that when public services are faithfully rendered they are not lost sight of," his "devotion to the public interests has had weight with all," and his "impartiality, diligence, and care" may be relied on. I wonder whether the excellent electors will appraise this candidate at his own valuation, or whether they will remember the time-honoured saw, "Brag may be a good dog, but Hold-fast is better."

At the Industrial Association's meeting on Thursday, samples were shown of the work turned out by three machines invented by Messrs. Taylor and Oakey, for the purpose of saving labour, and expediting work in the tin-plate working trade. The tins, pannikins, billies, etc., manufactured, are superior in appearance, more quickly made, and promise to be more durable than those made by hand. The Exhibition Committee resolved to call for tenders for the Exhibition buildings in accordance with the accepted plans. There is to be a 12ft. avenue with 6ft. bays on one side, and 12ft. bays on the other. No exhibits are to be allowed to be sold for immediate removal, excepting articles made in the building, and for these a special permit must be obtained. Mr. J. Anderson has offered to supply an engine and boiler for driving the machinery on the ground, and Mr. W. Wilson coal for same, for, say, 18 days. It is probable that the New Zealand Electric Light Co. will separately, or together with other companies, arrange to light the building and grounds. There is likely to be a large exhibit of wines made from New Zealand grapes, applications for space having been received from Auckland, Wanganui, and Hokitika; and considerable competition is expected both in wool and leather work. A very interesting invention of Messrs. Bird and Gegan, in the shape of a "Secondary Battery Cell, for the storing and conserving of electricity," will probably be exhibited. Many "extra attractions" are being arranged in the way of concerts, bands, dramatic performances, etc., and besides a flower show, there is every prospect of a capital dog show being got up by the Canterbury and Papanni Coursing Clubs conjointly. The total amount of space now applied for is no less than 9641 square feet.

Seven boys, runners of the different papers, were charged with stealing 77 copies of *Society*, which they were dividing when found by Constable Allen. The Resident Magistrate said that the cause of the trouble was the allowing very young lads to knock about the streets so late at nights. Two of the culprits, who had been before the Court on other occasions, were sent to Burnham; the others were severely cautioned and discharged, and their parents also warned.

Harry Jackson, who is undergoing a term of imprisonment for shooting Mr. Deans, of Riccarton, has been sentenced to seven days' bread and water for disobedience, abusive language, and threatening to murder one of the warders at Lyttelton gaol. The head-warder described the prisoner as behaving more like a wild beast than a human being. Chief-Warder Ferguson and Warder Woolley of that gaol are about to leave for Wellington Gaol, where they will hold similar appointments; and in the police force, Sergeant Mason, who has been in charge of the Christchurch district for the last two years, will take Sergeant Morice's place at Lyttelton, the latter returning here.

The amount now collected towards the relief of the widow and family of the late Fireman Hillier has reached the goodly sum of

£550, a portion of which is to be devoted to the purchase of a cottage.

We fondly hoped that we were beginning at last to creep, surely if slowly, out of the six months' winter which has this year been our portion. And, lo! on Saturday another deluge, another sou'-westerly "buster," and severe cold, all of which had the effect of postponing the Military sports got up by the Christ's College Rifles, which were to have been held in Lancaster Park that afternoon, but will not come off till Wednesday, the 17th inst. The Midland Cricket Club were also prevented by the same cause from holding their opening meeting, doubtless much to the disappointment of the many new members who have joined this popular club. The only event that did come off according to advertisement was the Horse parade, and subsequent sale of some of the equine competitors at Tattersall's.

To say that Mr. O'Sullivan has been getting up an entertainment is just the same as saying that an entertainment has been an unqualified success, and that gentleman's exertions in behalf of the Canterbury Catholic Literary Society resulted in an immensely-crowded house at the Oddfellow's Hall on Thursday. The programme was most varied, including comic songs, stump speeches, recitations, sword dance, Highland fling, Irish jig, negro delineators, a serio-comic farce, and what was perhaps the most popular feature of the evening, an "eight-handed reel." Mr. Fleming's band played exceedingly well, and the audience were most liberal in their applause, and altogether it may be conjectured that the result was a handsome addition to the funds of the excellent association for whose benefit the entertainment was organised.

Messrs. Redmond and Walshe arrived at Lyttelton on Saturday week, per Waanaka, and were there warmly greeted by a few friends. They remained in our city until Tuesday, when they left in the coach for the West Coast, where Mr. Redmond will deliver lectures in all the principal towns. They are expected back here in the course of a few weeks.

The Rev. Father Devoy has, I understand, advanced as far as Ashburton on his collecting tour in aid of the new Marist College about to be erected in Wellington. Hard times and the reverse of pléthoric purses will not, however, I fancy, hinder the much-respected and beloved Father from receiving from his old Christchurch friends a warm welcome and a generous contribution towards an object so deserving of the support of all true sons of our Holy Mother, the Church of God.

## AN INCONSISTENT MINISTER.

THE following letter has been addressed by the Most Rev. Dr. Moran to the editors of the *Dunedin morning papers* :—

Sir,—A few days ago you considered it your duty to publish a correspondence between me and the Minister of Education in reference to the Milton school committee, and the High school, Dunedin. This induces me to think that you will not refuse to permit me to occupy a little space in your journal with a few words in further reference to this subject. It may seem to some that I was somewhat rash in exposing myself to the rebuff of the Minister, whose answer is somewhat curt and not very gracious. There was reason, however, for expecting a far different reply from the Minister of Education.

On the 1st October, 1878, Mr. John Hislop was directed by the Minister of education to write to the secretary of the Education Board, Christchurch, a letter in reference to a state of things similar to that to which I drew the Minister's attention, in which letter the following words occur :—I am to take the opportunity of pointing out that the master of the school, in his letter dated September 10, misinterprets section 84, regulation 2. The "four" hours are here mentioned as the minimum length of time during which a public school is to be kept open each day; but if a Board or School Committee officially direct that any school shall be kept open for a longer period each day than four hours, then the requirements of the Act as to the character of the teaching applies as much to the whole of this longer period, as it does to the minimum period of "four" hours. In other words, the requirements of the Act as to the character of the instruction to be given in a public school, applies to the whole of the time during which a public school is kept open, whether that time extend to the minimum "four hours" or to any longer period. Mr. Cumberworth's letter, above referred to, seems to show, on the face of it, that the practice followed in the Colombo road school is simply an evasion of the law of the Colony, as laid down in the Education Act, 1877."

What, I may be permitted to ask, does Mr. Hislop's letter, written to me by the direction of the Minister of Education, show.—I am, sir, yours etc.,

✱ P. MORAN.

Dunedin, October 1, 1883.

Messrs. Ross and McNeil, Princes street, Dunedin, have received a stock of first-class sheep-shearing requisites of every kind.

Mr. James Hislop, architect, has removed to Eidon Chambers, Princes street, Dunedin.

France has been eager to bring the heart of Africa to the light of civilization and the wealth of the same to the pockets of Frenchmen, and Colonel Flatters expended three years of toil and 100,000 dols. of treasure in the attempt to fulfil his ambitious prediction: "I will cross Africa with a railway." Since his slaughter by Arabs, the scheme to penetrate the heart of the "Dark Continent" Count de Lesseps, the great uniter of the earth's waters, has laid his stupendous project before his admiring countrymen, with sublime confidence in his ability to secure 15,000,000 dols. for the work by merely asking. The Count is now nearly eighty years of age, and in his long and romantic career he has accomplished prodigious achievements, but if he restores to the burning sands of Sahara the waves which in a remote age rolled over them, the creation of the ocean and the civilisation of a continent will be the climax of his career and the chief marvel of his fame.