

V.



R.

PASTORAL RUN OPEN FOR APPLICATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Run No. 11, Mount Fortune (Class 1) Waitaki County, containing 7000 acres, will be open for application at this office as a Pastoral Run under Part VI, of "The Land Act, 1892," for a term of 11 years, at an annual rental of £200, on

WEDNESDAY, the 6th of JULY, 1898.

Possession will be given on 1st of March, 1899. Valuation for improvements payable before possession is given in terms of Section 207 of the above-mentioned Act.

Full particulars can be obtained at this Office.

J. P. MAITLAND.

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Crown Lands Office.

Dunedin, 13th June, 1898.

NOTICE.

All communications connected with the Commercial Department of the N.Z. TABLET Newspaper are to be addressed to John Murray, Secretary, to whom also Post Office Orders and Cheques are in all instances to be made payable.

All communications connected with the literary department, reports, correspondence, newspaper cuttings, etc., should be addressed to the Editor.

Correspondents are particularly requested to bear in mind that to insure publication in any particular issue of the paper communications must reach this Office not later than Tuesday morning.

Correspondents forwarding obituary and marriage notices are particularly requested to be as concise as possible.

Annual Subscription, 25s booked; 22s 6d if paid in advance; shorter periods at *pro* portionate rates.

DEATH.

QUINN.—On the 19th of May, at Auckland, Teresa Borzja, the dearly loved daughter of William and Mary Quinn, of Wellington—*Requiescat in Pace.*

The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1898.

DUNEDIN CATHOLICS AND THE EVENING STAR.



DUNEDIN had its serpent: Amhara its heart-weariness; the Utopias their very human side: the rose has its cankerworm; and Dunedin has the *Evening Star*. It has long been engaged in a work which bodes ill for future peace and harmony among religious bodies in this growing city. For many a long day it has been carrying on a crusade of calumny against the Catholic body.

For years past it has been steadily holding them up to public scorn. During the past few weeks it has been spotted over like a leper with squibs and sneers and charges against Catholics. For this purpose—as one of our non-Catholic New Zealand contemporaries has said—'all sorts of articles from obscure corners have been raked up.' It has for years flung at us set articles, mock book notices, clippings, no-Popery sermons, the hoarse cawings of crows that have been driven out of the Church, and muck-rakings from every foetid corner of anti-Catholic literature. Under the thin pretence of a 'review,' it devoted long columns for the past three weeks to malodorous abuse of the whole Catholic body—clergy and laity. With a pharisaical affectation of fair-

mindedness, it assured its readers that the Catholic practice of confession 'has a corrosive, corrupt influence that marks it out as an object of horror.' Whether the reader gives this abominable falsehood a general or a local application, he will readily understand how Catholics feel over it. This was followed by the outrageous calumny that there is 'a vast amount' of degrading immorality among the Catholic clergy, and that this is 'the only possible condition for them.'

These are but specimens from the *Evening Star's* sacred gospel of assafoetida. A lengthy collection of such extracts, which we are making, will enable the public to judge of the bitterness of the *Star's* unprovoked and long-continued crusade against the Catholic body. We could understand such articles being directed against the lowest and criminal classes. But it is for Catholics that the *Star* reserves the full-charged vials of its wrath. Its columns systematically misrepresent our faith, outrage our most cherished religious feelings, and fling at us monstrous charges. Were we half brutes, half human—monster Frankensteins—we could understand it. But there lies not even the pretext of provocation. The no-Popery crusade of the *Evening Star* is purely gratuitous. The head and front of our offending is—the profession of the Catholic Faith. That is the grand secret of the crusade—a crusade in which the Dunedin *Evening Star* stands alone, a blemish on the respectable journalism of New Zealand.

The *Evening Star's* campaign of vilification is not alone unprovoked. It is cowardly. It does not dare to say of any individual Catholic what—through the folly of the law of libel—it knows it can safely say of 250,000,000. Again: it knows full well that perpetual vilification cannot be met by perpetual controversy, which—like long-continued guerilla warfare—only serves to exasperate men's minds, and defeats the chief purpose of such discussion. Yet again: the *Evening Star* dares not assail, say the Presbyterian body as it does the Catholics. Did it fling at that respected body—as it did at Catholics—shocking charges of corruption and immorality, its shutters would soon go up. No, the *Evening Star* finds it safer to attack a minority of the population, and, deeming them spiritless and defenceless, flings at them every form of vilification and opprobrium. We are glad, however, to believe that its no-Popery columns represent the views of no considerable section of the people of Dunedin. Many Protestants of education and standing have, to our knowledge, reprobated the no-Popery policy of the *Evening Star*. We are convinced that these represent the views of the greater, the better, and the more enlightened portion of our non-Catholic fellow-citizens, and that their moral support will give an added strength to whatever further action Catholics may be compelled to take to protect their families against this cowardly crusade.

What is the object of this never-ending ding-dong of abuse? We do not profess to know. Is there money in it? What we have heard of the directors quite forbids the supposition that they would handleshekels won by such means. Is the paper an organ on which no-Popery declaimers, writers, or scissors-and-paste men are permitted, at their own sweet will, to grind out their suffocating tunes? We do not know. But this we do know: that the *Evening Star* is, in effect, setting creed against creed in a city where all have hitherto lived in mutual peace and goodwill: raising the demon of religious discord—a demon that it is very difficult to lay. We raised our voice last week in protest against this steady flow of calumny. We were answered by a string of the grossest charges against the Catholic priesthood. Others have since then entered a dignified protest, without result. We do not hope to alter the no-Popery current of the *Evening Star*—it has worn itself, apparently, too deep a bed. Nor can we, for the reasons stated above, enter into perpetual controversy in its columns. There is only one resource left to us. The *Evening Star* is, and has long been, unfit reading for any Catholic individual or Catholic home. And Catholics can and will protect themselves and their families from the scandal and exasperation of reading week after week foul and degrading insults against what they hold most dear and holy.