

greater portion of his speech on *Ne Temere* appears elsewhere in this issue, and speaks for itself. These are specimens of the 'sweet reasonableness' and gentle courtesy displayed—even to his own brethren—by the man who talks about the 'insolence' of 'Rome.'

The debate on *Ne Temere* itself—to judge by the press reports—fell dead and flat as a damp squib. No other speeches were made on the subject except those of the two comrades-in-arms. The deliverance finally brought down had undergone many permutations and combinations; and the mover was careful not to repeat some of the wild statements he had made in Christchurch. Any moral effect which the debate might have had was completely destroyed by the cheerful genius who—speaking, a little later, on a different subject—roundly charged the Presbyterian Church itself with being permeated with 'Romanism.' There was much vamping and high-sounding heroics, but nothing solid behind it all. In due time the tempest will settle in the tea-cup, and this foolish, factious, and futile agitation will quietly fizzle out.

Notes

More Commendation

A veteran priest on the mission—beloved by all who know him—writing to a Dunedin confrère regarding a proposal to still further extend the circulation of the *N.Z. Tablet*, intimates that he has secured a number of fresh subscribers in his district, and remarks: 'The *Tablet* is well worth fighting for. Every number seems, if possible, an improvement on the preceding one.' As a practical pendant to this, we may mention that our traveller reports that, in the matter of obtaining new subscribers, his last trip was the most successful on record up to date.

The Timaru Election

Party feeling usually runs high at election time; and it was quite natural, and human, that the friends of Mr. R. Craigie, M.P., should have felt annoyed at seeing unpleasant things said regarding their candidate. They are entirely in the wrong, however, in supposing that there is anything at all out of the way in the publication, at election time, of such a letter as that which has aroused their joint and several indignation. Any Catholic elector in any constituency in the Dominion has a perfect right to write a letter to the paper regarding the merits or demerits of a political candidate, particularly in regard to his attitude towards Catholic questions; and, provided the criticism is not couched in abusive or objectionable terms, on no principle of justice or fair play could a Catholic paper close its columns to such a communication. As every reader knows—even without the express disclaimer which is always inserted at the head of letters to the editor—the paper itself is in no way identified either with the statements or with the sentiments of its correspondents. The correspondence columns of a paper—with the proviso already mentioned—are for the free expression of all shades of opinion; and had the letter of 'An Irishman' happened to be in praise of Mr. Craigie instead of Mr. Angland, it would have been inserted just as readily. The obviously proper course for the friends of a candidate who has been subjected to criticism to adopt, is—not to lament that criticism should have been published—but to promptly come forward with explanation and vindication; and in the present case the supporters of Mr. Craigie have done this with a vigor and completeness that ought to be eminently satisfactory to that gentleman. So far as the *Tablet* is concerned, our correspondents of this week will probably recognise that they have received a generous allowance of space in which to present their case; and Mr. Craigie ought to consider himself a lucky man to receive such an advertisement.

We did not—nor do we now—read into 'An Irishman's' letter that direct appeal to sectarian feeling

which our correspondents appear to have seen in it; and we think they have quite unduly magnified that feature of the communication. So far as such an element can be said to have been implicitly contained in it, we are entirely at one with them in deprecating and condemning it. Mr. Angland himself would, we believe, be the last to ask or expect that Catholics should vote for him merely because he is a Catholic, without the least regard to his views or merits. As we have said, we think our correspondents have, in this respect, taken a great deal more out of the letter in question than lies, at least, on its surface; but the fact that even the bare appearance of the sectarian spirit should have elicited such an emphatic expression of disapprobation is a splendid testimony to the complete absence of bigotry from the general body of Catholics, and to their perfect willingness to give candidates of every shade of religious opinion an absolutely square deal.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The mission which has been carried on so successfully at the Sacred Heart Church, N.E. Valley, by the Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., was brought to a close on Tuesday night.

The Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., who is engaged in giving a mission in Allanton, will next Sunday open a mission in Waihola, and will be in the Milton parish for the following two weeks.

The Rev. Father Murray, C.S.S.R., is giving a mission in Ranfurly parish this week; and the Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., will open a mission in Omakau at the end of the present week. He will be engaged in the Omakau parish for the following fortnight.

Commenting on the recent competitions at Wellington—which have evoked such general interest throughout the Dominion—the *Evening Post*, referring to Miss Lilian King, a Dunedin Catholic young lady, remarks: 'Miss King is one of the most promising of the ladies seen out in these competitions. . . . Her facial expressions are genuinely suggestive.'

His Lordship the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, when 231 candidates were confirmed, amongst whom were a large number of adults. The Cathedral was crowded on the occasion. His Lordship will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at Ranfurly on Sunday next (the 26th inst.), and at Omakau on the following Sunday (December 3).

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

November 20.

On Sunday, December 10, within the Octave of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the beautiful new church just completed at New Brighton is to be solemnly blessed and opened, and dedicated to Our Blessed Lady under the above title, by his Lordship the Bishop.

At St. Mary's Church, Christchurch North, on Sunday, the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., reminded the people of the presence of the *Tablet* business representative in the parish, and urged a generous support to so worthy an example of Catholic journalism.

The sixth standard pupils of the Marist Brothers' School were examined last week by Mr. Brock, inspector under the North Canterbury Board of Education. Of eleven presented, nine gained proficiency and one competency certificates. The inspector expressed himself as exceedingly pleased with the result, complimenting the teaching staff also on their efficient methods.

On the occasion of the approaching Christmas prize-giving the Marist Brothers intend to have an entertainment in which the whole programme will be filled by the various classes of their school. These will include vocal and dramatic items, physical exercises, and other popular numbers in which the boys excel. The event is fixed for Thursday, December 14, in the Choral Hall, and as tickets have been sold in considerable quantities a crowded audience is assured.

J. TAIT, Monumental Sculptor { Just over Bridge }
 52 CASHEL ST., CHRISTCHURCH. { and opposite }
 { Drill Shed. } Manufacturer and Importer of every description
 Headstones, Cross Monuments, Etc., in Granite,
 Marble, and other Stones.