

## COLONIAL CALUMNIES AGAINST CATHOLICS.

LETTER OF MR. CLIFFORD,

"To the Editor of the *Cook's Straits Guardian*, and *New Zealand Spectator*, of November 15, 1845.

"Wellington, November 12, 1845.

"Sir—In a despatch from our Governor, Fitzroy, to Lord Stanley, dated—Government House, 16th September, 1844, and printed in the *Sydney Herald*, and *Nelson Examiner*, there is the following paragraph, attacking the Ministers of religion to which I have the honour to belong, but whom I should not feel called upon to notice, had not Captain Fitzroy, a short time previous to the date of that despatch, assured me personally that he held a totally different opinion.

"I should be sorry, indeed, to find that any Roman Catholic missionaries have contributed to excite such a feeling. \* \* \* They have circulated small books in the native language, printed at their own expense, the contents of which are considered very objectionable, and though confined, it may be said, to religious questions, there are passages which, in my opinion, have a direct tendency to cause bad feelings towards the English generally."

"Now, Sir, such an assertion as the above, made in a public document, and printed throughout these colonies, may be calculated to create erroneous impressions if uncontradicted, I beg, through the medium of your widely-circulated journal, to give you an account of two interviews I had with Captain Fitzroy on the subject.

"During a private interview I had with the Governor on the 10th of June, 1844, while attending my duties at Auckland as a member of the Legislative Council, he took occasion to remark that he had been informed certain pamphlets had been published at the Catholic Missionary press containing sentiments of very dangerous tendency. I said I could not believe such to be the fact, but that I would endeavour to obtain the works in question, and lay them before his excellency in order that he might judge for himself.

"A few days afterwards I did obtain the works, both in the native and English languages, being all that had, or, up to this time, have been issued from the Catholic Press. At the same time I obtained, from a person with whom it had been left, a tract issued by a society of ladies, who, under the auspices of Mrs. Fitzroy, were in the habit of meeting weekly at Government House for the promotion of charitable objects, and, among others, that of superintending the distribution of tracts to the neighbourhood. The tract brought to me had the name of one of the ladies on the title-page, and contained the most absurd and virulent

abuse or the Catholics. I can only just now remember one of the various assertions it contained, but which will tend to show the tendency of the work. It was putting the readers on their guard against those horrible people called Papists, and informed them that they must not be lulled into a false security from the present quiet demeanour of that body, as they were only quiet for want of power to work mischief, but if they were once allowed to get a-head it would be no uncommon sight to see them hanging to the branches of trees by the roadside as thick as acorns on an oak.

"This interesting and peace-inspiring little book I laid before his Excellency at the same time as the works from the Catholic Press, requesting that, at his leisure, he would have the goodness to peruse them.

"On the 3d of July, 1844, having had occasion to call upon the Governor on matters of business, he informed me that he had carefully read over the Catholic works previously complained of, and that he was happy to say he found nothing in them that could be objected to. The Governor also informed me that he had given the other tract to Mrs. Fitzroy, who had laid it before the committee of ladies, and he had been requested to state that they had not been at all aware that it contained the passage I had pointed out, or they would never have issued it, which they had only done on the faith of the author's name, and, moreover, that they would take immediate measures for calling in any copies that may be still in circulation.

"I refrain, Mr. Editor, from making any comments on the above, as I leave it to your readers to decide which class of works is more likely to have a direct tendency to cause a bad feeling among the English generally, being proud to consider that, though a Catholic, I am still an Englishman, and I should be sorry to belong to any religion whose doctrine would allow its professors to endeavour to excite bad feelings amongst my countrymen, be they of what persuasion they may.—I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant;

"C. CLIFFORD."

## MEETING OF SUNDAY EVENING LAST.

As we anticipated, there was a numerous meeting of the friends of Education and Temperance, on Sunday evening, in the new Hall. Although the time of receiving subscriptions was very late, owing to the length of time the different speakers took in delivering their addresses, nearly Forty-Pounds were laid on the table. We can truly say those who did contribute did so cheerfully. There is no one who parts with his mibily for charitable purposes so freely as the humble Irish Catholic. It is a pleasure to be dealing with them, and the willing sacrifices which they make