
CATHOLIC MEETING OF LAST SUNDAY.—Pursuant to a public notice, the Catholics of Ballarat held a public meeting in the Catholic Chapel, after mass, on last Sunday, when the following resolutions were duly proposed, seconded, and unanimously adopted.

Resolved:—

1. "That this meeting is of opinion that their respected pastor has been insulted by the disgraceful mistreatment endured by his servant at the hands of a government official."
2. "That this meeting, alive to their position, feel that an insult has been offered, as well to themselves as to the aggregate Catholic body of this colony, by the uncovert conduct of Mr. Commissioner Johnson, towards our reverend pastor."
3. "That this meeting is of opinion that the Magistrates of Ballarat have been premature in the decision to which they have arrived on the matter, and that we here and therefore call for a revision of the case, and if the evidence adduced demand a revision of the sentence, that such be promptly and publicly done."
4. "That the following respected members of our congregation be called upon and appointed to wait upon the Bench to express

our wishes and sentiments, as contained in the foregoing resolution."

(Here follow the names of the gentlemen who formed the deputation.)

5. "That this meeting do assemble again, at this place on next Wednesday in order to hear and deliberate upon the result of our deputation to the Bench."

In accordance with the fourth resolution, the deputation proceeded, at about 12 o'clock, to Ballarat, for the purpose of waiting upon the Bench. The Bench did not preside at the time, and so the deputation through their Chairman, sent a message by the Sergeant-Major to the gentlemen comprising the Bench to say that they wished for an interview. Mr. Commissioner Rede, after detaining the deputation for an unreasonable time, at length made his appearance, and, whether influenced by a sense of his own importance, or actuated with contempt for the deputation and its object, there appeared to be a certain haughtiness in his manner which offended the deputation. Sufficiently respectful, however, in his language, he informed them that he would meet them in the ante-chamber of the mess room, and thither they all adjourned. Previously to reading the short address prepared for the occasion, the chairman requested to know whether he might address Mr. Rede as the Resident Commissioner or as the representative of the Bench? when, after some desultory conversation relative to the point of etiquette, it was agreed that it would be more consonant with the business part of the proceedings that three magistrates should represent the bench on the occasion. Accordingly Mr. Sturt and Capt. McMahon were waited upon with a message sent by a constable; and these two gentlemen, with Mr. Rede, met the deputation in the anteroom already mentioned. The chairman then read the third and fourth resolutions to the bench, in a clear and dignified tone of voice, entirely, as we thought, in keeping with the importance both of the occasion and the subject. After the resolutions had been read, the chairman observed that it was not his wish to embarrass the government although in a position so to do; but first to hear any reasonable reply the Bench would make. The Bench first complimented the deputation in the most flattering manner, upon the orderly and gentlemanly way the question was brought before them. The Bench then replied "that they were not only willing but anxious that the circumstance should be sifted to the bottom. If injustice had been done, there would be ample amends made. The trooper who had so abused the priest's man, and so insulted the priest himself, was now under arrest. The Bench were not empowered to revise a former decision without authority from the Government; but if the deputation would communicate with the government on the subject, and empower the Bench to rehear the charge, they would willingly do so."

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The deputation then retired for the purpose of communicating with their constituents on the reply of the Bench.

On the part of the deputation we are authorised to state that nothing could be more urbane and polite than the courteous and gentlemanly bearing of both Mr Sturt and Capt. McMahon during the whole proceedings.

PUBLIC MEETING AT THE CATHOLIC CHAPEL.

As was announced at a public meeting, held on the previous Sunday at the Catholic Chapel, another meeting was held on the succeeding Wednesday (last.) in the same place. This was a meeting held to know what was the result of their deputation to the Ballarat Bench. As all particulars relative to that deputation, are seen in the above report of the same meeting, it is unnecessary to enter into particulars.

When all the usual formalities on such occasions were properly arranged, the following two resolutions were put to the meeting:—

First, proposed by Mr. Dawmy, and seconded by Mr. Hynes.—Carried unanimously,

“That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the decision of the Ballarat Bench, was wrong in the case of James Lord, trooper, v. Johannes M Gregory, for an alleged assault; and do call upon the Government to institute enquiry and a re-hearing of the case.”

Second, proposed by Mr. Thomas Kennedy, and seconded by Mr. A. Tough —Carried unanimously,

“That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the conduct of Mr. Commissioner Johnson, towards the Rev. Mr. Smith, has been calculated to awaken the highest feelings of indignation on the part of his devoted flock, and do call upon the Government to institute enquiry into his character, and do desire to have him at once removed from Ballarat.”

The several gentlemen, who addressed the meeting spoke well, and vehemently denounced the cowardly conduct of the trooper Lord, as well as the uncourteous manner of Commissioner Johnson, who appeared to have been the especial object of their indignation, as may be seen by the sentiments embodied in the resolutions. Pursuant to the spirit of the resolutions, an address was read to the meeting, calling upon the Government to

institute enquiry into these grievances, which address was proposed and seconded, and unanimously carried. The address is now being forwarded to the proper authorities. When the business of the meeting was over, it was proposed and unanimously adopted, that the Rev. Mr. Smith be requested to address them, when that reverend gentleman was accordingly sent for, and acceded to their wishes. His address was characterised by coolness and forbearance, yet commendatory of the constitutional manner in which his followers sought redress from the Government, for the insult offered them through his person, in the abuse of his servant, by the trooper Lord. On concluding his address, he was warmly cheered, when the reverend gentleman and his friends adjourned to the parsonage to partake of some refreshments.
