

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO TABLET.

THE following SUMS have been received since our last issue as Subscriptions to the TABLET:—

	£	s.	d.
Mrs Meade	1	0	0
„ Lewis	0	12	6
„ Cosgrave	1	5	0
Rev. Father Goutenoire	1	5	0
Mr. Burke	0	12	6
„ Brohan	0	12	6
„ Toomey	0	12	6
„ Murphy	1	5	0
„ Mulvey	1	5	0
„ McKeever	0	12	6
„ Daly	1	0	0
„ O'Shea	1	5	0
„ O'Brien	0	12	0

DEATH.

BUNNY.—On the 25th instant, at Nelson, Mr. Edward William Bunny, aged fifty-four years.

New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1875.

PRIVILEGED CLASSES.

In a recent article on Public Libraries, one of our daily contemporaries says, the aid given to them by the Provincial Government of Otago will no doubt appear very shocking to the opponents of Government Education. This will depend, however, on the nature of the system of education maintained by the State. It is quite conceivable that the State might be just, and that consequently no shock would be given to any one. But our contemporary means of course, that the opponents of the Otago system will receive a shock on learning that the Government, supported by all, during the last Session contributed beyond £500 out of the common funds of the province to circulate books; in very many of which the vilest falsehoods are stated in reference to the religion, clergy, and policy of one portion of the community. And the sense of injustice thus provoked, will be enhanced by the reflection that all aid is refused to the members of this community, out of the moneys contributed by themselves.

Such being the case, our surprise has been great indeed to find a little further on, in the article from which we have quoted, the following words—“The State is a co-operate association, whose main object is to render more efficient the efforts of its members to obtain for themselves the greatest possible amount of happiness that can be obtained under the circumstances in which they are placed. If this definition were given of any other ‘State,’ than those of the British Colonies, or of the United States of America, it would, perhaps, not be a strictly correct one. In any attempt, for instance, to define the ‘State’ of England, account would have to be taken of the fact that one of its main functions is to protect certain hereditary privileged classes in the possession of their peculiar advantages.” There are none so blind as those that will not see. The writer of the above is clearly of opinion that here, in New Zealand, the Governments render more efficient the efforts of colonists to obtain for themselves the greatest possible amount of happiness; and that one of their main functions is not to protect certain privileged classes in the possession of their peculiar advantages. What are the facts? In the matter of education, for example, nothing could contribute more to the greatest happiness of Denominationalists than the appropriation to their own schools of an equitable share of the moneys they are compelled to pay for the purposes of education. This would be also in accordance with the primary principles of natural justice.

The Governments of Otago, Canterbury, and Auckland, however, persistently refuse to do this, and devote the entire of the taxes levied for schools in support of the education of one section of the community, to the exclusion of the other. The ‘Otago Daily Times’ of course, will tell us there is no school rate in Otago; but it can not deny that the Government, out of the common State fund, supports a system of education which one portion of the people does not and can not accept. As to Canterbury and Auckland, however, the miserable subterfuge of the ‘Times’ cannot be applied. Again, is it true that Governments here do not protect certain privileged classes in the possession of their peculiar advantages? Let us see. Here, in Otago, the Roman Catholics have, in many places,

schools to which the Government refuses all aid from the public revenues. The adherents of the Church of England have also denominational schools which are equally ignored by Government. But the Presbyterians have no schools. Why? because the Government schools, maintained by funds belonging to the community at large, are in reality Presbyterian. In Canterbury and Auckland the system of education is practically Anglican, but then the Presbyterians are satisfied, inasmuch as Catholics are excluded, and at the same time compelled to pay for their exclusion. So far, then, from the State here being what our contemporary says it is, the contrary is the fact. In the three provinces of Otago, Canterbury, and Auckland, one of the main functions of Government is to protect certain privileged classes in the possession of their peculiar advantages. It will be necessary, therefore, for the ‘Otago Guardian’ to amend its definition of the State.

The newspapers of the colony are for the most part great advocates of education, provided however, the Government, whilst excluding Catholic schools from all share in the school rates, will maintain a system approved of by one party only. According to these worthies, all must pay for Government schools, but a considerable portion of the people who pay for them must be excluded, unless they apostatise from their principles, and discard their conscientious convictions.

Nor is this all. These would-be guides of public opinion, even in the presence of notorious facts, advocate a system of education which has already led to the demoralisation of the people amongst whom it has been established. This is the teaching of experience, and it does not surprise us, for what can godless education lead to but to godlessness.

THE NEW EXECUTIVE.

THE whirligig of time brings about strange changes, and a glance at the State coach would perceive an odd lot seated upon the box. Ever since the late Treasurer remodded his former Ministry, to the exclusion of Mr BASTINGS, a NEMESIS has been on his track, until the ungenerous treatment has been repaid, and the despised one now takes his place at the helm. We have no doubt the tactics employed to gracefully shelve the obnoxious colleague, will be fresh in the minds of our readers. The Executive of which Mr TURNBULL was the head, and Mr BASTINGS a member, resigned on the plea that the Provincial Secretary was unable to devote sufficient time to the affairs of office, through the pressure of private business. Were this really the case, and did his subsequent conduct bear out the step, neither Mr BASTINGS nor the public would have been at liberty to cavil at the decision; for although there are certain duties which every citizen owes to the State, none are expected to assume public offices to the neglect of private interests. No sooner, however, was the object attained by the resignation, than a reconstruction was effected, which was notable for the retention of one member who, it was asserted, had been so anxious to retire, and the rejection of another who was just as anxious to remain. Such being the fact, then, it was quite apparent to more than Mr BASTINGS that the step taken had been but a ruse to dispense with his services, and as human nature is weak, and men seldom form the same estimate of their qualifications and abilities as that held by their neighbours, it was but natural to suppose that the ungracious treatment by his colleagues was neither forgotten nor forgiven. That such is the case, the peculiar phraseology in which the want of confidence motion was framed, will testify; and it would appear as if the conspirator had carefully preserved the dagger of his opponent with which to strike the death-blow. The cause of complaint set forth is supremely vague, but the concluding portion unmistakably furnishes the key to the motive by which it is prompted. The terms of impeachment are as follows:—“That in the opinion of this Council, the financial proposals brought down by the Government are not satisfactory, and that the present distribution of Executive offices has not been found to be conducive to the proper administration of the affairs of the Province. The Council therefore requests the Government to reconsider their present position, with a view to better financial and administrative arrangements being arrived at.” It will be thus seen that the blow was aimed at individual members, rather than against the Executive as a body, and taking previous circumstances into consideration it is not