

**NOTICE.**—We subjoin, for the convenience of Shareholders, a form of Proxy suited to the forthcoming General Meeting of Shareholders of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET COMPANY:—

**FORM OF PROXY.**

I, the undersigned, a Shareholder of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET COMPANY, hereby appoint..... another Shareholder, to act as my Proxy, at the General Meeting of the Company to be holden on the.....1878, and at every adjournment thereof.

As witness my hand, this.....day of.....1878  
 Witness..... Signature.....

The above Form duly filled up, signed, and witnessed, must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company not less than forty-eight hours before the time of holding the meeting.

**NOTICE.**

WE desire to remind our Subscribers that the most effectual aid they can afford us, in our endeavour to promote the interests of the Catholic cause, is to forward their subscriptions punctually. All persons in arrears are respectfully requested to communicate with us at their earliest convenience. Post-office orders or cheques may be made payable to Mr. JOHN F. PERRIN, Secretary of the N. Z. TABLET Company.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS TO TABLET FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 11, 1878.**

	£	s.	d.
Mr Flood, Southbridge, to September 8th, 1878 ... ..	1	5	0
.. Ryan, Riccarton, to August 17th, 1878 ... ..	1	5	0
.. McQuilkin, Lyttelton, to March 15th, 1878 ... ..	1	5	0
.. E. J. Walsh, Kumara, to May 16th, 1878 ... ..	0	12	0
.. Flynn, Kumara, to November 23rd, " ... ..	1	5	0
.. Sullivan, Timaru, to August 3rd, 1878 " ... ..	1	5	0
.. M. Maloney, Kumara, to May 23rd 1878 ... ..	0	12	6
.. P. Melican, " ... ..	0	12	6
.. J. Melican, " April 5th, 1878 ... ..	0	9	6
.. H. Moran, Addisons, to December 31st 1877 ... ..	1	5	0
.. P. Levy, Nelson, to May 23rd, 1878 ... ..	0	12	6
Mrs. Parker, Christchurch, to June 14th, 1878 ... ..	0	12	6
.. Burchell, Greymouth, to March 1st, 1878, ... ..	0	6	6
Miss Holmes, Christchurch, to March 14th, 1878... ..	0	6	6
.. Richardson, Hokitika, to April 18th, 1878 ... ..	0	9	0
Dr Wood, Auckland, to July 24, 1879. ... ..	1	5	0

# The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1878.

**ABSURDITIES.**

**T**HREE hundred and twenty children have been refused admission into the Government schools of Dunedin, because there is no accommodation for them. And yet at its last meeting the Dunedin School Committee expressed its determination to enforce the compulsory clauses of the new Education Act. That is, the citizens are to be compelled to send their children to school, notwithstanding the fact that there is no school for them to go to. Have the members of the Dunedin School Committee lost their reason? Certainly the sooner there is an enquiry as to their state of mind the better for the public placed by law at their mercy.

In addition to these three hundred and twenty children who are asking the Committee, in vain, to provide schooling for them, there are six hundred children who attend the Catholic schools in this city. What if the Roman Catholics closed their schools? There would be then close on one thousand children in Dunedin for whose education neither the Government nor the Dunedin School Committee has made any provision whatever. And yet the sapient Dunedin School Committee contemplates subjecting the parents of these children to heavy and repeated fines for not sending them to Government schools which only exist in moonshine, and have no more reality than a dream. This is absurdity No. 2.

The Catholic schools of this city are crowded, and an increase of numbers in them is so probable, that it has been found necessary to erect two large additional school halls, one for the boys, the other for the girls, and to increase their teaching staff. And at this moment these new halls are in course of erection. All this costs money, not a little, and yet the Government refuses to aid us; who are so liberally and effica-

ciously aiding it, and at great personal sacrifices doing that for the public which Government itself is not doing and seems incapable of doing. This is absurdity No. 3.

Government schools are built, repaired, and entirely supported at the joint expense of the people, without distinction, and are free from taxation of every kind. Catholic schools are built, repaired, and entirely supported at the expense of Catholics exclusively, and are heavily taxed in every way. The Government has no consideration for those who, at their sole cost, supply its shortcomings, and relieve it of the expense of educating thousands of children, for whom it is actually unable at this moment to provide any education whatever. And in addition to this, we here in Dunedin, for example, shall have for the reward of our renewed exertions in the cause of education greatly increased taxation. The Government therefore, which in point of fact does not, and at present cannot, provide the means of education for about one thousand children in Dunedin, inflicts a heavy punishment on us for daring to place the means of education within the reach of these one thousand children. This is absurdity No. 4.

There is an election contest going on at Port Chalmers, and it will be decided at the polling booths to-day. The two candidates are in favour of secular education, and certainly, as Mr. GREEN points out, not in favour of denominational. Catholics have been invited to vote for one or other of these candidates, or for both. That is, these men, or their friends, ask Catholics to vote for men who have pledged themselves to take Catholic money for the exclusive use of godless and demoralising schools, to do everything they can legally and morally to discountenance Catholic schools even for Catholic children, and express their determination to uphold the system of education which, whilst pocketing the entire education vote, throws the heavy obstacle of unfair and one-sided taxation in the way of the success of Catholic schools. This is absurdity No. 5, and it is an absurdity which not only injures Catholics but insults them by saying to them in effect: We spurn and condemn you, yet call on you to help to return us to Parliament, that we may have still greater opportunities and power of spurning, condemning, and injuring you.

But it is very unlikely that Catholics will lend a hand to help to their own degradation. The two candidates for Port Chalmers are equally bad, and equally good, neither has the least claim on a Catholic vote, and it will be seen, we dare to say, that Catholics will take no part whatever in the present contest. These candidates and their own friends will fight it out amongst themselves. No Catholic will take part in the struggle, and incur the serious responsibility of helping by his vote the return to Parliament of a man bent on maintaining a system of education, whose only result can be the demoralisation of the youth of the country.

**THE CASE OF ALICE M. M. CLARK.**

JUDGING from an article in the *Daily Times*, the case of the girl ALICE CLARK, which was recently before the Supreme Court, is not unlikely to lead to a good deal of misconception on the part of those who like their opinion at second-hand, or who are led away by the sensational aspect of the circumstances disclosed, and the spice of religious intolerance indignantly attempted to be introduced. We shall not be surprised to hear soon that this is another "MORTARA" affair, and that the child has been kidnapped with a view to her forcible conversion to the Catholic faith. The facts disclosed in the affidavits are, however, of a very different character, and show conclusively that, if there has been any attempt at proselytism it has been on the part of the Protestant half-brother, who, knowing that his sister had been baptised and brought up in the Church of Rome, acknowledges that he kept her away while under his charge from its ministers and services. The circumstances which led to the proceedings in Court are really very simple. It would appear that, although the will of the mother Mrs. CLARK was proved, a codicil, whether valid or riot in law is outside the question, was never exhibited, nor did the executors make any application to the Judge for direction as to the personal guardianship of the children, a course which was clearly necessary under the peculiar terms of the testament, even without taking into consideration the definite wishes of the executrix expressed in the codicil. With the full consent of the executors, it appears that Father LARKIN took charge of the children upon their mother's death, and distributed them among certain relatives and friends, consigning ALICE MAUD to the care of Mr. CLARK, at Clyde, upon the distinct understanding, the Father swears, that she was to be brought up in the Catholic faith. Mr. CLARK contra-