

GARRISON HALL.
DUNEDIN IRISH RIFLES
 Will celebrate their
SECOND ANNUAL BALL
 On
ST. PATRICK'S DAY, MARCH 17, 1887.

Double Tickets, 10s 6d ; Single, 7s 6d (including refreshments).
 W. H. LENNON, Hon. Sec.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

SWEETS to the sweet, they say, but judging from the effects of the soft word or two lately spoken by us to our subscribers, something was wanting either on our part or theirs, and much of the sweetness that exists on either side has been wasted on the desert air. Our subscribers, in a word, have not come to the scratch in the hurry that we expected of them, and, therefore, we are obliged again to appeal to their better nature in whatever way we may best succeed in reaching it. There is nothing that shows the manly nature that is in a man more clearly than a free and off hand manner in discharging his obligations. Will not our subscribers overwhelm us with such proofs of their manliness by, in plain terms, paying up the subscriptions due by them without any further delay? It distresses us very much to be obliged to appeal so frequently to them; but, if their memories are short, that is no fault of ours, and the painful duty devolves upon us of keeping them in mind of our existence. We have to request then that they will one and all be punctual in attending to our accounts. We are quite punctual, as they will admit, in sending out our accounts, and a mutual punctuality is all that is needed to produce the most satisfactory state of things possible between us.

Mr. J. D. Pope, our canvasser and collector, is now visiting the towns on the West Coast. We hope our subscribers will make it a point to settle their accounts with him when he calls.

Subscribers removing from one part of the Colony to another, and wishing their paper continued, should state their former address when writing to this office, as it will prevent confusion of names.

MARRIAGE.

MC GUIRE—QUIRK.—On Tuesday, February 22, at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, by the Rev. Father Lynch, Thomas McGuire to Catherine Sarah Quirk; both of Dunedin.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"ASHBURTON."—We never dreamt of referring to any of our correspondents as a "little bird" or a bird of any kind.—Only a goose could suppose we did so.

"OMEGA."—A would-be reformer to be of any use should be sparing in his employment of the thunder-bolts of Olympian Jove.—We refrain from publishing our correspondent's letter also because our Editor has no desire to have his head most properly and deservedly punched.

CATHEDRAL FUND.

NORTH TOWER FUND.
 (FOR ROOF, FLOORS, AND LOUVER WINDOWS.)

	£	s.	d.
Mr. J. C. Cameron, per Miss Cameron	5	0	0
Per Miss Cameron	1	0	0
" Mrs. Bunbury	1	0	0
" Miss Staunton	1	0	0
" Mrs. Haydon	1	0	0

(To be continued.)

ASSISTANT TEACHER WANTED.—Wanted an Assistant Teacher for the Boys' Parish School, Christchurch. Immediate application to be made to the

REV. P. M. GINATY, S.M., M

Christchurch.

The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1887.

PROGRESS AND JUSTICE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

THE Catholics of New Zealand provide, at their own sole expense, an excellent education for their own children. Yet such is the sense of justice and policy in the New Zealand

Legislature that it compels these Catholics, after having manfully provided for their own children, to contribute largely towards the free and godless education of other people's children!!! This is tyranny, oppression, and plunder.

A G A I N.



LAST week we drew attention to Mr. ROLLESTON's speech on education, and commented on some points raised in it. This week we intend to further discuss this important question. Mr. ROLLESTON considers that the people of New Zealand will not permit the present system to be destroyed, or even seriously modified. We cannot say we entirely agree with him in this estimate of public opinion, but for the present we are prepared to say, *transeat*. But, supposing for the moment that such is really the case, and that the country is determined that the secular system shall continue, the question remains, How is this to be maintained? Shall Government continue to pay for it out of the Consolidated Fund, or shall fees be demanded, or a rate imposed? Mr. ROLLESTON, when he says the people of this country will not permit any serious interference with the secular system, does not mean that there shall be no change as to the mode of providing the funds necessary for its maintenance. At least we do not understand him to mean so; on the contrary, we think it is quite clear from his speech that he contemplates the necessity of a change in this respect. And we think that every man of information and common sense also contemplates the necessity of a change. The public revenue is falling, new taxation by the Government is hardly possible, and the demand for more money for public schools is increasing. Under these circumstances it will soon be impossible to find a statesman prepared to take the management of our finances on the condition that public schools shall be entirely supported out of the consolidated revenue. The reason is obvious, and is simply because the thing cannot be done. If, indeed, the Treasury were full of money, if the Treasurer could not spend the entire revenue on the other departments of Government, we should despair of any change in the mode of providing funds for education. But when the Treasurer, notwithstanding heroic efforts to retrench on the part of the Ministry, is unable to make ends meet, politicians and statesmen, in spite of public clamour, must do one of two things, either throw the maintenance of education to a great extent on fees from well-to-do people, and local rates, or throw up the work of Government as hopeless, indeed, impossible. It must come to this shortly, if, indeed, it has not already come to it. And why should it not? Does it not appear monstrous that the State should provide free education for the children of well-to-do people, for the children of people who are well able to pay for the schooling of their children. More than one half of the people of this country are compelled by law to pay for the free education of other people's children. On the face of it this appears to be unjust, and we feel quite certain it is impolitic. The Government may, we think, insist on the education of all children, and whilst doing so provide out of general revenue for the education of such as are unable themselves to pay for it, and it may also determine that well-to-do people shall pay fees for their children; but beyond this we do not think it is either just, wise, or politic to go. The present system of education, considering its principle of godless education and its mode of maintenance, is, in our judgment, indefensible. If children are educated Government should be satisfied, and if children be educated Government should not compel the parents of such children, after having discharged their duty to their own children, to pay in addition for the free education of the children of well-to-do people. We do not object to a tax for the free education of children whose parents are destitute of sufficient means to keep them at school, but we do vehemently object to the system that compels people who pay for the education of their own children to pay also for the education of the children of well-to-do people, and we greatly mistake public opinion if such an objection is not also entertained by a majority of the people of this Colony. It will be said, we know, that we object totally to a system of public education. This is not so; on the contrary, we are the advocates of public education—public education, however, correct in principle and just under all aspects. But so far as we can see, there is an idea prevalent in the minds of not a few that the present system is the only one possible here, and that if it be