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To insure publication in any particular issue of the paper communications must reach this office not later than Tuesday morning.

DEATH.

HICKSON.—On the 7th February, 1889, at Clyde, Francis Gerald Joseph Hickson, son of James Hickson, Inspector of Police, Clyde; aged 13 years.—R.I.P.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"**CYNIC.**"—Unless some particular reason calls for it we do not, as a rule, enter into explanations as to rejected correspondence, or contributions of any kind. If not published within a week or two it may be taken for granted that the matter forwarded is not suitable to our columns.

"**A CORRESPONDENT.**"—The case described would find a more fitting sphere of publicity in a court of law. If it cannot be taken there, we should subject ourselves to an action for libel in publishing its details.

"**STOP MY PAPER.**"—Our partiality is, on the contrary, shown towards those who would make fools of themselves publicly if we permitted them. You were stabbily treated, no doubt, but it is a case for private punishment. By publishing such details, we should make both you and ourselves ridiculous—while we made too much of the people who have offended you.

The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1889.

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.

DEVELOPMENTS.

R. PARNELL'S action in the Scotch Courts has come to an end, on a technicality. This is a suggestive commentary on the proceedings of the *Times*. For many months the *Times* was engaged challenging Mr. PARNELL to prosecute it either in England, Ireland, or Scotland, but the moment this challenge was taken up the *Times* moved heaven and earth to stop proceed-

ings, and employed every engine of ingenuity, and availed itself of every technicality to prevent the action from being tried. This shows that the *Times* has no faith in the justice of its cause, and that it is convinced it is unable to sustain its position in a court of law before a jury. It is a confession of guilt, and in this light it will be considered by all dispassionate men. It appears that Mr. PARNELL failed in Scotland on a technicality and has now commenced an action against his base calumniator in Dublin. Some time ago the *Times* was virtuously indignant with Mr. PARNELL for not taking an action against it in Dublin. We shall now see how much honesty and sincerity was in this indignation. Had the *Times* been sincere in its taunts as regards Scotland, it would have waived every technical objection and consented to the trial of the action on its merits. But it is now clear that the *Times* was only playing a part, and that neither an honest nor a creditable part of a comedy intended to throw dust in people's eyes, so far, at all events, as Scotland was concerned. We shall soon see what credit is to be given to its words as regards Dublin. Will it have recourse to technicalities there in order to stop the action? Will it employ every trick of lawyers to prevent Mr. PARNELL from having his action tried before a jury? Will it invoke the aid of the Government should the action come on, to provide a partisan judge and a packed jury? All know how these things can be done in Ireland, and how ubiquitous are the influence and action of the Executive. Then we shall see, and, when we do so, we shall be in a position to judge of the tactics and motives of the *Times*. Judging from what has recently taken place in Scotland, we can entertain no doubt that the *Times* is in mortal terror of a fair judge and jury in any part of the world, and we shall not be rash, therefore, in saying that the *Times* will have recourse to every trick and subterfuge, and employ every device known to the most cunning lawyers, to prevent the trying of the action in Dublin. For, although juries can be easily packed there, as has often been the case before, and jury lists lost in some mysterious way, still this will not be so easy now as it used to be; and the *Times* will, therefore, be obliged to run the risk of having its conduct put before an honest jury. But a terrible fight may be first expected. In the estimation of the *Times* it will be safer to prevent the trial of the action altogether than to face a jury. It is not very unlikely, consequently, that the species of opposition had recourse to in Scotland with success will be availed of by it in Dublin.

A certain Major **LECARON** has appeared before the Parnell Commission in the rôle of an informer. With the best will in the world to do the dirty work of the Government and the "Forger," he has miserably failed to implicate the Irish Members in the schemes of the Invincibles and dynamitards, but has succeeded to perfection in proving himself to be an unmitigated ruffian. According to his own testimony given on oath—if such an oath is of any value,—he has been for the last twenty years a member of revolutionary societies, has organised a rebellion in Manitoba, has been cognisant of criminal proceedings against the British Government, etc., etc., and during all this time has been the agent of said British Government, in its pay, and acting as its informer, betraying the unfortunate people whom he instigated to crime. It is hard to say whether this story is more discreditable to the Government or to the Major himself. It amounts to a terrible indictment of both, and shows that the Government and its base tools are immeasurably more guilty of the crimes and which it has punished unfortunate and wretched men than for the men themselves. It teaches another lesson, which the Irishmen ought to take to heart, and that is the folly and criminality of becoming members of secret societies. The moment a man becomes a member of a secret society he loses all freedom, and entirely places himself in the power of the basest slave, and is driven to the commission of the crime and sold like cattle to a Government which employs the concoctors of crime and the betrayers of their companions and dupes.

This makes up another chapter to be added to the large volume which contains the awful history of conspiracies, treasons, betrayals, and hangings, for which the British Government is almost entirely responsible in Ireland. Let the agitation for the redress of grievances be open, above board, manly, straightforward, and intelligent; let Irishmen be on their guard against men who suggest to them secrecy, oaths, and underground plotting. For the most part these are criminals only intent on making others criminals, in order