

## DEATH.

BURK.—On the 26th March, at his residence, Roseneath, near Port Chalmers, John Burk, aged 56 years.—May his soul rest in peace.

## ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.

"ADDINGTON."—We cannot insert any notice or other communication unless we are furnished with the name of the person sending it.

# The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 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.

### A SIGNIFICANT FAILURE.



Learn from a correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times* that a shock has been given at Auckland to faith in the inherent excellence of human nature. It seems that a conviction prevailed in the city that the young mind, of its own intrinsic virtue, longed for knowledge, and that all that was needed was that foun-

tains should be tapped, to which it would of its own accord fly to draw in copious draughts. In other words, a public that appears to have been rather speculative, and but little experienced, took it into their heads that, if technical classes were opened in connection with the public schools, the youth of the city, now idle per force, would flock into them of their own accord, thus putting a voluntary end to larrikinism, and vastly increasing the sum of knowledge possessed by the human race in general.

Hopeful, and somewhat simple people at Auckland, however, it seems, have been disappointed. The fount of learning poured forth its streams in vain. Ingenuous youth avoided it as if it were the germs of some infectious disease it were giving out. The classes were opened, and proved a failure, and have been done away with. The correspondent from whom we quote—or borrow—plaintively complains that a glove fight proved a greater attraction, and the corners of the street a more delightful resort. Education, in a word, by fancy means has proved in Auckland, as it must prove elsewhere, a vain attempt, and the rising generation in Auckland have shown themselves to be what they are in all other places—prone to evil from their birth, and not rushing pell-mell and all unfluenced to avail themselves of every means of improvement placed within their reach. The technical classes at Auckland have but shared, for instance, the fate of the religious classes held in many places, of which at one time we heard a good deal, but of which we now hear no more.

Bring up a child in the way he should go, as authority directs, but do not expect him when, in a great degree, he has been engaged in bringing himself up to enter also of his own accord upon the right path. What is there, indeed, in the present system of education that should incline our boys and girls to give up the glove fight or the lounge at the street corner, or whatever equivalent may suit their tastes, for a course of self-improvement and a pursuit of something better? All the instruction they have obtained has been obtained by them in schools where an effectual moral training was an impossibility, and where no incentive to a higher state of things need be looked for.

We have just heard of what the goal is to which a life given up to secular studies alone must lead. In the person of a man who represents the highest product of such studies, and in whom we see their effects most favourably illustrated, we have a warning that should serve as a deterrent to all who

are not malevolently bent on the destruction of the race. Professor Huxley, to whose explanation in the *Nineteenth Century* of his state of mind we allude, may with comparative safety to himself and others inhabit, as he says he does, the depths of a wild and tangled forest; but what must be the results to the world when undisciplined masses, having no desire beyond the pleasures of the moment, find themselves in a situation equivalent, according to their kind? With the heavens of brass above them, and showing no hope beyond, what can we expect from those whose natural tastes lead them to the glove fight or the corner of the street?

The experiment made at Auckland was a foolish one, one that it might easily have been foreseen must end in failure. It had no grounds to stand upon, no material to work upon. No preparation had been made by which it could possibly prove successful. And all the nostrums we find proposed to make up for the shortcomings of secularism, all the fancy means devised to perfect what it has not so much as commenced, must in like manner prove futile at the best. It is said that there is no royal road to learning. Neither is there an easy short-cut to moral excellence. But the way must be short and broad and smooth that should lead the mind direct from the untrammelled pursuit of its own inclinations to a state of self-control, and the pursuit of a high ideal. The way, nevertheless, is narrow and difficult, and, as this failure in Auckland may serve in some degree to point out, secularism has no part in it.

By the death of the Right Hon. John Bright, announced here on Thursday, 28th March, one of the greatest Statesmen and most eminent men who have adorned the century has passed away. Whatever may have been the shadow that fell on Mr. Bright's mind in the past few years, his memory must ever be associated with every true and noble cause. Nor will Irishmen forget, through his failure at the close of his career, the kindly sympathy, the powerful advocacy, the great services, for which they are still his debtors. The goodness and grandeur of such a life may well atone for its faults. Men of all parties have united in bearing testimony to his merits—Lord Salisbury in the House of Lords, Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons, and there is no part of the world where magnificent talents, united to integrity and breadth of character, are appreciated, that will not respond to the panegyrics so deservedly pronounced. Mr. Bright was in his 78th year, having been born on November 16, 1811.

MR. M. MAHER, late goods clerk at the Wellington terminus, has been appointed station master at Eketabuna, on the Wairarapa line. Mr. Maher has thoroughly deserved his promotion by seventeen years of good and faithful service in the department. We heartily wish him success in his new sphere of labour.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR sends the following message to the Boston *Globe* under date February 26:—The feeling against the ill-treatment of Irish prisoners is still running strong, and is increased by a repetition of brutalities every day. For the first time since the beginning of the great struggle, the Tories openly confess that the tide is turning against them, even Balfour last night joining in the confession.

THE exposure made of Beach, *alias* Le Caron, in the United States has been complete. It has also been very serious, as it is impossible that it can avoid causing a very sore and angry feeling among all classes of the American people against England. Beach was not a major but a bugler and afterwards a second lieutenant of coloured troops in the Federal army, where he was also a British spy. In his capacity of a soldier he mutinied in face of the enemy; refused to go into battle, and was in consequence imprisoned. In spite of his denial, he has been proved by bank and post office officials to have constantly been in the receipt of large drafts from England. He is credibly accused of body-snatching, forgery, and swindling. His evidence has been flatly contradicted by Senator Jones, Mr. John Devoy, and Mr. Alexander Sullivan, and also by a Mrs. Lomasney whose deceased husband he accused of having been a dynamiter. Mr. Sexton at Dublin has also denounced his testimony as false. The gravest charge, however, made against him is brought by Mr. Powderly of the Knights of Labour, who proves his statement by a letter written to him by this man and which he has preserved. It is to the effect that at the time of the strike on the Missouri Pacific Railway three years ago, Le Caron, whom he did not know, and of whom he took no notice—though fortunately, he filed his letter—proposed to him to resort to force and cripple the company by the use of explosives, which he offered to place at his disposal. But this offer coming from a paid servant of the British Government, and involving danger to life and a wide and reckless destruction of property in the United States, must certainly produce a marked effect among the