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**ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.**

"VINDICATOR."—There are special reasons that oblige us to decline our correspondent's request. We have already done as much in the matter generally as it is prudent for us to undertake.

**The New Zealand Tablet.**

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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.

**AN INTELLIGENT MINORITY.**

THE strong and intelligent minority who, in Ireland, are opposing Home Rule, and whose opposition is quoted in all parts of the world where the cause is condemned, as of such weight as to counterbalance the claims of the vast majority of the country, are now giving a clear proof of the spirit that is in them.

The pretence is that these are liberal, large-minded men actuated, not even so much by a desire for the good of Ireland and their own especial interests, as by considerations of Imperial extent. Harm to the Imperial standing of the United Kingdom is what they are believed, above all things, to dread, and, to prevent anything of the kind, it is assumed, all their energy is directed. To confound this gallant and enlightened minority with a clique of narrow bigots, determined to perpetuate all the invidious dis-

tinctions of the past, and having no other ends in view than the ascendancy of their own sects, would be to offend the susceptibilities of the more honest but less well-informed supporters of the minority in question, and to fall under their warm condemnation or supreme contempt.

Certain tokens, nevertheless, of the real state of things that are now made evident should serve to disabuse the honest people of whom we speak. It was, for example, reported here by cable a few days ago that the Tory Government were taking steps for a favourable consideration, or an early concession, of the demand long made, and made in vain, by the Catholics of Ireland, and again authoritatively repeated a month or two ago by the assembled Irish hierarchy, for a Catholic university. There is nothing unfair or extravagant in the demand. Its justice is apparent, and while it remains unfulfilled—in a country where a distinctively Protestant university has been established for ages—all pretence of an equality of religious conditions is vainly made. Notwithstanding this, however, the Orangemen, the principal body of that disinterested and enlightened minority which is represented as outweighing the whole united bulk of the nation outside their own narrow limits—are loud in protest against the concession spoken of. Their allegiance to the Tory Government is not sufficient to bear such a strain, and the interests of the Empire are superseded in their minds.

We, for our part, have never for a moment entertained a doubt as to the true disposition of the loyal minority, as they are called, in Ireland. They are made up of landlords having their own interests—destructive of the public good—in view, and of religious partisans, for whom the emancipation of their Catholic fellow-countrymen forms a constant subject of regret, and who, were their power equal to their will, would re-enact to-morrow all the penal laws of the past. Their bigotry is their first and almost their only motive, and when it comes into unaccommodating contact with their loyalty this quality speedily goes to the wall. Where was the loyalty of the Orangemen, for example, when, believing they would have in the Duke of Cumberland, a late uncle of her Majesty the Queen, a monarch more in harmony with their virulent anti-Catholic feelings, they sought to bar her Majesty's accession to the throne? Where was their loyalty, at a later date, when the disestablishment of the Church of England took place in Ireland, and they spoke so fiercely, but acted so mildly, about kicking her Majesty's crown into the Boyne? The loyalty of the Orangemen, on occasion, is a very unknown quantity indeed. The Tory Government must not now reckon upon it in their proposal, at length, to grant the just Catholic claims in this matter of the university.

But if the truth is made known beyond all chance of misrepresentation; if it be proved to the outside world generally that the resistance to the concession of Home Rule made by the so-called loyal minority in Ireland arises, not from any fears of general results to follow, or of harm to the Empire, but from a venomous religious bigotry—determined still to set the hand of Protestant against Catholic, and of Catholic against Protestant—some good must ensue. Honest and right-feeling people will not give their sympathies to any such undertaking, and will be aided in coming to a right understanding of the case. It is well, therefore, that the strong and intelligent minority should make themselves fully known.

A MEETING of the Most Rev. Dr. Moran's reception committee was held in Dunedin on Monday evening, when steps were taken to hasten on the preparations, as his Lordship's arrival may be expected at an early date. Favourable reports were received as to the progress being made by the testimonial fund.—We have, by the way, learned from Neethorn that some friends of the movement there are bestirring themselves in its interests, and that the result is likely to prove creditable to the new goldfield—which will thus make a good beginning.

THE great strike in the London docks still continues. The strikers are very generally supported by the public. No violence has as yet taken place, but, as there are rumours of an intention to remove certain men employed in place of the strikers, doubts may be entertained as to what is to come.

REPORTS concerning the Cronin murder, which continue to be published, are published for a purpose, and, therefore, must be received with distrust. Such reports e.g. are those as to the attempted assassination by Irishmen of a witness against Burke, and the difficulty of finding a jury to try the case. There was no difficulty, however, in obtaining a sufficiently anti-Irish coroner's jury. Nor did the