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NOTICE.

SHOULD this meet the eye of James Hogan late of Ballykenacurra, Corrofin, County Clare, Ireland, and fifth son of Thady Hogan, Esq.; by communicating with M. Houlahan, TABLET Office, he will hear of something to his advantage.

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✠ P. MORAN.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO TABLET FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 11, 1880.

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The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1880.

A WARNING.



PEOPLE in England, as will be seen from the following extract from the *European Mail* of the 10th September, are beginning to realise the true import of School Boards and godless education. Under the heading "The Cost of the School Board," the *Mail* says—

The British public do not seem yet to have grasped the full force of the proposition that the increase of the school board system means everywhere increase of taxation. Some localities suffering from the bitterness of recent experience are becoming restless under the infliction; but those still free from an education rate scarcely realise the burden they have escaped from. According to the latest return, there was, on August 31, 1879, a grand total of 3,710,000 children on the school register. Of these children, 953,000 are educated in Board Schools at an average annual cost of £2 2s. 3d.; and no less than 2,757,000 are educated in voluntary schools at a cost of no less than £1 14s. 6d. per head. Board School education is in itself consequently far more expensive, and without being, as the inspectors' reports have shown again and again, any more efficient than that given in voluntary schools. Moreover, the contributions to, and endowments of, voluntary schools reach a sum of not less than £884,000 per annum, thus saving the British taxpayer to that extent, or in other words, supplying gratuitously the sole education of as many as 512,000 children. Voluntary schools are thus shown to be a great national benefit, and they who maintain them are great benefactors to the public.

But even this does not put the real facts of the case in all their strength. For it must be borne in mind that whereas the School Boards levy rates in addition to the Government subsidy, the only aid given from public funds to voluntary schools amounts to merely 15s. 11½d. per head. Consequently, whilst Board Schools cost the public more than two pounds sterling per head, in addition to the enormous expense of palatial buildings, the schools that educate 2,757,000 children cost the public only 15s. 11½d. per head.

Here in New Zealand the folly and injustice of our godless and free system is more striking and alarming to the taxpayer. In England voluntary effort is encouraged, and has consequently saved the public the large sum of two millions and a half last year. Here voluntary effort is discouraged, made penal, and actually loathed by our public authorities. And the inevitable consequence is, great additional and crushing taxation. To please the godless, there are godless schools in England, and strange to say, the public is made to almost entirely support them, whilst the schools of the people are only poorly aided. This is, indeed, an extraordinary state of things; but what is it compared with our outrageous legislation on the school question? In England, well-to-do people pay for the education of their own children, and contribute handsomely besides to the erection and maintenance of voluntary schools; but in New Zealand all this is reversed. Rich and well-to-do people placidly button their breeches pockets and calmly look on, whilst the poor and those who have no children, and the Catholics, pay the greater portion of the expense of the education of these children. It is quite evident that the portion of the old English stock which has been transplanted to New Zealand has deteriorated a good deal. The manliness and sense of justice and fair play so characteristic of the race seem to be disappearing under these new skies.

Every qualm of conscience, however, has not yet utterly vanished. That the patrons of exclusively godless education are uneasy under the charge of injustice so frequently hurled against them, is proved from the persistent efforts they make to persuade the public that no injustice is done, for example,