

GRAND INTERCOLONIAL ART-UNION
 (Promoted by the Victorian Central Committee of the Irish National Land League), in Aid of the Funds of the **IRISH NATIONAL LAND LEAGUE**, and the **IRISH LADIES' LAND LEAGUE**, To be drawn for on the **CENTENARY of the DECLARATION of IRELAND'S INDEPENDENCE, MONDAY, 17TH APRIL, 1882.**

"We want the Land that bore us,
 We'll make that cry our chorus;
 We'll have it yet—though hard to get—
 By the Heavens bending o'er us."

PRIZES VALUED AT £200.

Special Gift prizes from Miss Anna Parnell and the Ladies' Land League, and from Mr. Davitt, Mr. Egan, Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P., Mr. T. M. Healy, M.P., and Mr. J. W. Walshe

TICKETS, ONE SHILLING EACH.

Persons desirous of assisting by selling books will be supplied by applying to D. J. Denehy, *Advocate* Office, Melbourne.

CONVENT OF SACRED HEART, WANGANUI.

The Sisters of St. Joseph will have Accommodation for a few more Boarders early in January, when the two new wings just being added to the Convent will be finished.

Terms: Plain Education, Board and Washing, £28 per year. Music, Drawing, Flower-making, &c., are extra.

For further particulars, Address

REV. SUPERIORESS,
 Convent of the Sacred Heart, Wanganui.

WANTED—For St. Patrick's School, Greymouth, Head Teacher, with salary £200 a year. None but of steady habits and first-class attainments need apply.

Applications, with testimonials, to be sent in before 1st January 1882, addressed to **FATHER M'GUINNESS.**

WANTED, Certificated Female Teacher for St. Patrick's School, Arrow, to open 16th January. For particulars, apply to **REV. JOHN MACKAY.**

NOTICE.

MR. TIMOTHY MURPHY has been appointed Canvasser and Collector of the N. Z. TABLET Company for the country. Mr. Murphy will visit Invercargill and Southland next week, where we bespeak for him the kindly countenance of our friends and supporters.

CATHEDRAL FUND.

I BEG to acknowledge, on behalf of the Most Rev. Dr. Moran, the following subscriptions towards the Cathedral Fund:—

Mr. Francis Meenan	...	...	£5	5	0
Children Convent Schools	...	...	3	0	0
J. Lennon	...	...	1	5	0
Waikari	...	...	2	12	6

WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Per Rev. N. Fitzgerald	£	s.	d.	Per Mr. J. Dillon	£	s.	d.
" " W. Burke	4	0	0	" " R. A. Dunne	1	0	0
" W. J. Hall	2	3	0	" " J. Griffin	1	13	6
" N. Smith	1	16	0	" " P. Fitzpatrick	0	16	6
" J. Daly	1	15	0	" " T. B. Conway	1	0	0
" McGirr	1	10	0	" " W. Cunningham	1	0	0
" J. T. Harris	0	8	0	" " J. Brennan	0	18	0

M. WALSH.

The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1882.

THE COST OF SECULARISM.



HILE we are opposed intensely to secularism, and have no sympathy whatever with secularists, as such, we desire to do them justice and allow them credit for all that they have a rightful claim to. With such a desire, then, we are obliged to admit that they give proofs, in certain instances, of considerable sincerity, and display a good will to submit to some self-sacrifice, in order to carry out their intentions, and abolish religious teaching. For it is evident that the heavier cost to

the country of secular education must in some degree affect those who support it willingly, as well as those who are forced to do so whether they will or not, and whom it's cost affects oppressively. And that it does cost very much more than the voluntary system is undeniable.

To be willing, however, and even anxious, to pay more for a system of schools whose sole advantage is the negative one, that it does not teach religion, may be accepted as a questionable mark of wisdom.

But of the difference in cost between the secular system and the voluntary we obtain the following particulars from a letter written to the *London Times* on the proposed changes in the educational system of England, by the Anglican Rector of North Waltham:—

I take (he says) the complete returns for 1879-80, and find, roughly speaking, that three out of every four of our children are educated in voluntary schools, and quite as well educated as in Board Schools. . . . For three-fourths of our children ratepayers contribute nothing now; but, in the altered case, *four* times the present school rate would have to be levied; and as voluntary schools, though demonstrably equally efficient, cost far less than Board Schools, the £750,000 now freely given for their support, would not only be lost, but the present voluntary schools, if made into Board Schools (apart from the enormous prime cost of the structures), would require the present high rate of Board expenditure. In a word, 7s. 8½d. a head on nearly 2,000,000 of children now voluntarily given would be thrown away, and the rates be charged with no less than 18s. 9½d. a head for that enormous and growing number. To be exact, this would raise (and the worst of it is, would unnecessarily raise) the education rate now levied of £636,792 to no less than £2,447,732!

It is evident, then, that secularists themselves, in common with those upon whom they force their system, though at a lower rate owing to their supporting no separate schools, must pay for the advantage of a want of religious instruction, and they, at least, show the sincerity of their dislike to this by their willingness to be additionally taxed, in order to keep it out of the schools. Let us do them all the justice they deserve; they willingly "pay for their whistle."

WE hardly care to blow our own horn very loudly, but we believe our readers will admit it to be due to us to acknowledge that we have done something towards advocating and defending the Irish cause all through the present agitation, and for our own part we promise that we shall continue to do so to the end without faltering or hesitation. But in order that we should be in a position to do this with good effect, as well as to fulfil the other ends for which the TABLET was called into existence, it is very necessary that the moral support accorded us in our readers' approval, and which we so highly value, should be backed up by the aid that the prompt settlement of accounts is capable of affording us. It is one of the conditions of human life that however much engaged the mind may be about exalted topics, the body needs to be maintained in a vigorous condition; in newspaper life also we find that while our columns are devoted to patriotic, religious, political and other topics, all our machinery must be kept in good working order and for this it is absolutely necessary that, in plain terms, we should have sufficient money always in hand. We, therefore, appeal to our subscribers to remember our claims upon them, and be diligent and generous in acquitting themselves of them. In any particular case the amount due to us may seem inconsiderable and such as we can afford to wait for, but when taken altogether a large sum remains in the hands of our subscribers, which it is, nevertheless, most desirable that we should receive without delay. We, therefore earnestly request of each subscriber to forward us the amount owing by him as soon as possible.

A NAPIER newspaper reports that the minahs acclimatised there make continual war upon the pigeons, which are quite unable to hold their own against them.

DR. BULLER speaking the other day at Karori, gave it as an instance of Maori selfishness that, on one occasion when he was dispensing flour and sugar at Foxton a Native who represented himself as starving, made application for aid, but when he had been given a bag of each of the commodities in question inquired. "Well, but who's to pay me for taking them home?"

THE Inangahua *Times* reports the Reefton mining prospects for the new year to have opened well. He says the samples of stone obtained upon several recently granted leases by prospectors promise important finds.

In the case of the Hon. Charles Johnston Pharazyn tried the other day at the Wellington supreme court for personation, there appears to have been from the beginning to the end a series of bewilderment and blundering that it is infectious to read of. The defendant was bewildered and blundered when he went into the wrong booth and recorded his vote as he did not intend to record it. The judge was bewildered and blundered either when he first told the jury that the very fact of the defendant's having voted twice constituted the offence, or