

## DEATHS.

**HOULAHAN.**—Of your great charity pray for the soul of Catherine Houlahan, the dearly beloved wife of Michael Houlahan, of Leith Valley, Dunedin, who departed this life April the 9th, 1895, in her forty-fourth year. Wellington and West Coast papers please copy.—*R.I.P.*

**CURTIN.**—The prayers of the faithful are solicited for Mary, the wife of Daniel Curtin, who died suddenly of heart disease, on Monday evening, April 8th, 1895, at her late residence Harmon street, Addington; aged 49 years. Deeply regretted.—*R.I.P.*

**MCKENNA.**—On April 4th, 1895, at the presbytery, Masterton, Michael, uncle of the Rev Fathers John and Thomas McKenna; aged 65 years.—*R.I.P.*

# The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1895.

## 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.

### THE PETITION.

**NEXT Sunday**—the first Sunday after Easter—was fixed upon by the conference of the New Zealand hierarchy as a suitable day on which to make a beginning in the matter of preparing and signing petitions from the Catholic body to the House of the Legislature. It is of greatest importance that every Catholic, male and female, of an age to sign this petition, should immediately do so. When signed, the petitions will be forwarded by the clergyman of the district to the ordinary of the diocese. The Archbishop of Wellington, to whom they will ultimately be sent, will arrange for their presentation in Parliament. The text of the petition has been already published in our columns and in most of the secular journals. It is familiar to our readers. It prays Parliament to so legislate that Education Boards will be bound, by the clear terms of the Act, to immediately grant the request on application being made for public inspection of private schools. Though many hold that the Boards are now legally bound to grant the desired inspection when asked by the authorities of private schools, there are those who hold that the matter is optional with Education Boards. The easiest way to settle the question is to ask Parliament to make the Act so clear that there shall be no mistake about its meaning. The *Timaru Herald*, in a recent editorial, thus refers to the subject:—

"The construction put by the Conference on the provisions of the Education Act, relating to the inspection of schools other than those established and maintained by the State, appears to us to be a reasonable one. The words of the Act are:—'Where the teacher or managers of any private school desire to have their school inspected by an inspector [appointed under the Act] such teacher or manager may apply to the Board to authorise such inspection, and the same, when authorised, shall be conducted in like manner as the inspection of public schools.' It is clearly optional whether such application shall be made or not, but it is not equally clear that it is optional, or intended to be optional, with a Board of Education to authorise the inspection or refuse it. The words used are 'not 'if authorised,' but 'when authorised,' and it may be contended that the legislature meant the authorisation to follow as a matter of course, and to imply merely the issuing of the necessary instructions to the inspector, who is the servant of the Board and could not extend the ordinary sphere of his duties without receiving instructions from his employers to do so. This question of whether private schools shall or shall not be inspected by the officers of the Boards of Education is not one which can properly be left to be answered by local authority. If the managers of private schools can obtain such inspection in one part of the Colony, it ought to be obtainable everywhere, and it should not be in the power of the Education Board to stand in the way. However, as the Act is not very clear on the point, and the Catholics have been unable to secure the inspection of their schools in all districts, they have adopted the proper course in addressing the legislature."

The petition, now ready for signature, does not merely contain a request for public inspection of private schools. It asks Parliament to take the whole question of Catholic education into consideration.

"We beg to renew," say the Bishops, "our oft-repeated request that our schools receive from the taxes which we pay, substantial aid on account of the undoubted excellent secular instruction imparted in our schools. Our aim in asking for this aid is neither to destroy the present public system of education nor to impair its efficiency, but is simply a request on our part for justice to our own schools, and for a fair participation in the expenditure of the moneys contributed by ourselves."

The annual inspection of Catholic schools by Board Inspectors will certainly place our children on a footing of equality, as far as school certificates are concerned, with other children in the Colony. Public inspection will not, however, mean public recognition of the justice of our claims. We do not think it will very appreciably help on the great cause for which we labour and which sooner or later is bound to triumph. Our schools are already recognised nurseries of learning and good citizenship. Our fellow-citizens must be made to see and feel that our claim for monetary aid is just and in the interests of society itself. With our brethren in other lands we must with zeal and earnestness continue to fight the good fight. Carelessness in so sacred a cause is next to criminal.

HERE is a cablegram under date London, April 16, which we may take with some reservation. Canadian Catholics have given ample proof that they require no such extreme measures. The laity there, as elsewhere, are quite as ardent in the support of Catholic education as are the clergy:—"Archbishop Langevin, of Canada," says the questionable message, "has declared the excommunication of Catholics who do not support the hierarchy with regard to the Manitoba schools."

WE are just now being treated in Dunedin to a newspaper correspondence in which the Pharisee once more gives thanks to God that he is not as other men are. Other men also, however, and with much better cause, may give thanks to God for that same. It is an ill-wind, they say, that blows nobody good. There really is some advantage in learning that there are worse conditions than that of the miserable sinner.

MR GULLY, of whom no one seems to know much and whose election was opposed by the Conservatives on that pretext, has been elected Speaker of the House of Commons.

THE oils for use in the diocese of Dunedin were consecrated at Christchurch on Holy Thursday by his Lordship the Bishop,—the Rev Father O'Donnell, of Palmerston South, being in charge of them.

THE Right Rev Dr O'Reilly, Archbishop-elect of Adelaide, has declined, with the kindest expressions of gratitude and appreciation, to receive an address and presentation from the people of Port Augusta, on his departure from them. A reception of a similar kind intended for the Archbishop at Adelaide has been abandoned for the same cause.

CARDINAL MORAN (says a Sydney cablegram), referring to the Easter encampment, said he would like to see all young Australians trained to arms. He fully recognised that there were no greater scourges than the standing armies of Europe; but it would be well if all our citizens were always ready to defend Australia and to repel any enemy. It was possible to obtain this measure of safety without risking the incubus of a standing army.

THE Puera correspondent of the *Balclutha Free Press* expresses regret at the defeat of Mr Ramsey by such men as McKerrow and Clarke. "No doubt," he goes on to say, "his defeat was largely due to the 'low-down' tactics of his colleagues, and it was an open secret that 'oor Tam' would have liked to jump on his chest if he had dared at the board meetings, and when he found that he had caught a Tartar he took heaps of stock in the kick-him-out business, and he can now chuckle at his success. But 'when Greek meets Greek then comes the tug of war.' There is a time in the near future when Thomas will require more than sophistry to tide him over, and he must not complain if his low-down tricks be used to relegate him to the blissful obscurity from whence he started. The hand-writing on the wall, 'Weighed in the balance and found wanting,' has been seen for some time. He has drawn upwards of £2000 of public money, and what has he done in return for it? Absolutely nothing but advertise himself until people are sick of egotisms."

THE usual fortnightly meeting of the League of the Cross was held at Westport on Wednesday the 3rd inst. There was a large