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# The New Zealand Tablet


FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1891.

## 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.

### ARE WE, ON THE ROAD TO DAHOMEY?

 are not quite certain. It may be so, and some think we are. Already every swiper in the country is on a footing of perfect equality, so far as the franchise is concerned, with the best, the most highly educated, most learned, and most experienced in the land. Men of high parts, distinguished probity, and abounding learning have no more power or influence in the ballot box than any degraded wretch who is ready to sell his vote, or has actually sold it, for a glass of whisky. So people say. This, too, may be so; the public know best. And now it is proposed to place the *damus du parè* on a footing of equality with the best ladies in the country in the use of the franchise. Do the ladies in this country desire to have the franchise? There are some, no doubt, who do so; but how many are there? The giving of the franchise to the ladies implies the imposing on them of all political and civil and military duties. Logically they cannot if they once exercise the franchise be prevented from becoming Members of Parliament, Prime Ministers, soldiers and sailors, members of the police force, etc., etc. Once let the ladies mingle in the strife of parties, and share with men the privileges of the franchise, logically we must expect regiments of women, ships manned by women; in a word, women must be prepared to undertake all the offices and duties of men. If the women of this country are prepared for all this, we greatly doubt. As we said above, there

are, we dare say, some advanced females who would feel rather delighted at the prospect. Already, we understand, there are some females in Auckland who are practising football with the view of travelling to display their prowess at this manly and not over refined game; and are not athletics amongst the best preparations for the military and naval professions? We should not be surprised to behold as the outcome of this and the ladies' ballot box the formation of regiments of women, in which the rivalry element may be expected to predominate. It would be an interesting sight to see a thousand young New Zealand women armed with dirk, and sword, and rifle, as the Amazons of Dahomey are armed, and drilled in preparation of actual warfare, and, no doubt, this would be regarded as very liberal, advanced, and becoming the exigencies of the day. Probably this may be regarded as a fitting preface to the appointment of an elected governor, who must, of course, have a bodyguard to protect him from incensed Conservatives. In view of the coming millenium, when some of our gallant knights may be elected governors of New Zealand, all this is a suitable preparation. What better example can we have than that highly civilised cannibal, an ex-pupil of a godless school in France, the King of Dahomey. His Majesty's bodyguard is a regiment of women, than whom none are braver or more fierce, and none better calculated to warn off all assailants. Would it not be a beautiful sight, and a very advanced one, to see Sir This or Sir That surrounded and protected from all assault by a regiment of New Zealand women, armed to the teeth, and displaying the fiercest determination to settle once for all the opponents of our Liberal elected governors? Some say this state of things looms in the not very distant future. We, ourselves, think this is a calumny and little better than a caricature, but then our powers are limited, and we acknowledge our inability to foretell the great consequences that are to be evolved out of the policy of the hour. All that appears clear to us is that common sense ideas of prudence and justice, experience and principle, real knowledge and virtue are all to be cast prostrate under the feet of mere numbers and subjected to the contemptuous treatment of the last and most unworthy of the population unless many politicians be stopped in their mad downward career. Already God and CHRIST are banished from the schools, and now an effort is being made to banish good and wise and disinterested men from the political platform and all interference in the politics of the day.

A VERY fine programme has been drawn up for the concert in aid of the building fund of the Dominican Convent Schools. All tastes have been well consulted for and classical music, as well as music to please the million, has been judiciously selected. Mesdames W. Murphy and Angus, who have recently given such good proofs in their operatic success, of their cleverness in dealing with music requiring archness and a spirit of fun to render it properly, have each been assigned a humorous song. Herr Winckelman gives a mazurka on the 'cello, in which we may expect a display of the delicacy and brilliancy that characterise his playing. Mr. Barth gives a solo on the piano, Miss Busck one on the viola, Mr. Corrigan one on the clarinet, and Mr. Schacht, who also conducts, plays a Polonaise on the violin. Our popular amateurs, Messrs Jones and Mans on give each a pretty song or two. There are besides several other items, as may be seen, every one of which is in itself worth going to hear. Indeed the care and good taste shown in selecting the programme is a sufficient guarantee of success. We need not allude to the excellence of the object to be promoted, which admits of no kind of doubt. Friends therefore, to whom the sale of tickets has been entrusted have every motive for exertion.

ON Sunday, the Feast of St. Aloysius, at 3 p.m., the children of the Catholic schools were assembled in their full force almost crowding the church, in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, where special devotions in honour of the Saint took place. The Christian Brothers' boys, of whom 113 had received Holy Communion in the morning, were invested by the Bishop with the brown scapular and also received into the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart. A reception of the girls of the Dominican nuns' schools into this Confraternity was also held. Afterwards both boys and girls united in making the act of consecration. The ceremonies terminated with Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament.

THE children of St. Joseph's school, Dunedin, are busy preparing for their winter holidays. On Monday some twenty-five of the younger pupils received in the schoolroom the badge of the Holy Childhood, a good proof of their having profited by the instructions given them during the half-year. The distribution of prizes will