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 Commencing

SATURDAY, JULY 16th, 1876.

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THE WONDERFUL BABY ELEPHANT!

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£100 Cash will be positively given away during our stay in Dunedin.

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School performances every Saturday afternoon for Children. Every child receiving a present. Admission, One Shilling.

ERIN GO BRAGH.

WANTED, for St Thomas of Aquin Roman Catholic boys school, Thames, Catholic teacher holding first-class certificate. Applications stating terms, accompanied with testimonials, addressed Rev. S. Chastagnon, Thames.

WANTED—Qualified **TEACHER** for St. Mary's School, Invercargill. For particulars apply to Rev. S. Higgins, to whom applications, with references, &c., are to be forwarded.

WANTED, a situation by a Catholic Teacher. Address, School-mistress, **TABLET** Office.

NOTICE.

OUR Subscribers in the Districts visited by Mr. O. CUMMINS, our Travelling Agent, are requested to settle their accounts on the first personal application made by him, as it may be seen, that it puts this gentleman to much inconvenience and loss when he is a second or third time obliged to travel out of his way to collect money owed to us. **JOHN F. PERRIN, Manager.**

THE following SUMS have been received as Subscriptions to the **TABLET** for the week ending July 12th, 1876:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs Peyton and Scully, Skippers Point ...	2	0	0
Mr. J. Lawler, Dunedin ...	0	6	6
" J. Golden, Dunedin ...	0	6	6
" R. Davis, Wellington ...	0	12	6
" J. B. Sheath, Christchurch, ...	0	12	6
" Jas. Fitzgerald, Upper Hutt ...	1	3	0
" J. M. Hall, Riverton ...	1	3	0
" M. O'Keefe, Waikouaiti ...	0	12	6
" J. Dillon, Naseby ...	1	6	0

The subscribers, who forwarded Post Office Orders from Wellington and Lyttelton without any name attached, are requested to communicate with us.

New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1876.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

We have read the report of what has been called the Financial Statement. There is certainly something about finance in this elaborate production; but it is less a financial statement than a political manifesto. The Premier was, no doubt, free to depart in this instance from general usage, and mix up considerations that have generally been kept apart by Ministers. In the present case, however, there was a good excuse. The question of Abolition is, owing to the strange mode of legislation adopted last session, in an anomalous position. Under the circumstances it was hardly possible to confine the financial statement exclusively to finance.

There does not, for all that, appear to have been any necessity for introducing so many political considerations, and

loading the statement with so many details of intended political changes and creations. The multitude of topics introduced is calculated to confuse, blind, and mislead. The Minister, no doubt, sees very clearly what he is driving at; but others will require time and hard study to enable them to master his figures, and arrive at a knowledge of his real intentions. If mistakes are made, he will have only himself to blame.

The first thing that strikes us, after having read Sir JULIUS VOGEL's financial statement is, that the finances of the Colony are in a state of confusion; and that money is really wanted, and can not be easily or economically procured. On this account, we were astonished at the proposal to borrow £800,000, or thereabouts, for the purpose of consummating Abolition. Would it not be better to leave the Provinces alone than hypothecate Government securities, in order to destroy the Provinces, and centralize everything? Common sense says, under the circumstances, wait a little longer; allow the finances of the Colony to recover somewhat.

From time to time, since the Premier brought down his Abolition resolutions, Ministers have assured the public that the land fund should be strictly localised; and a clause to this effect was introduced into the Abolition Act of last session. Now, however, it appears from the financial statement, that the clause must be repealed. So it has come to this, which had been so clearly foreseen by many, and by ourselves too, that the professions as to the localisation of the land fund have not been able to stand the test of one year, and one session of Parliament.

Let it be designated as it may, the financial statement makes it manifest to all, not wilfully blind, that the land fund, if Abolition be consummated, is lost to the Provinces, and will forthwith be absorbed into the general revenue. That this would be the end—and, further, that this was the end intended, we never entertained a doubt. It was clear to us from the beginning that, without this absorption, there was no meaning, and, in fact, no use in Abolition. We were always of opinion that Ministers, unless they got the land fund into their possession for general purposes, did not want Abolition, did not care for it, and that it would be a nuisance to them rather than otherwise.

It strikes us very forcibly that it would be better policy on the part of the Ministers, boldly and honestly to say so at once, than to endeavour to keep up the delusion of localising the land fund, which no one now believes, and which, at least to our mind, their own acts prove they can hardly believe themselves. Abolition, and the absorption of the land fund into the general revenue may be both wise and necessary measures. In fact, it is quite possible they may be inevitable. This is a question that is fairly open to discussion, and it would certainly be for the interests of all that a party should be formed which would make these two questions their rallying cry. Were this done, the country would then see two well defined political platforms, and then their programme could be discussed on their merits, without the necessity of distraction caused by subterfuges, merely collateral considerations, or hypercritical political professions, never intended to be realised.

There is one other matter of which we entertain no doubt whatever, and it is this:—If the land fund of this island is to be saved for general purposes in this island, there must be separation between the two islands financially, and politically also, so far as is consistent with the existence of two distinct and independent Provinces under a federal form of Government.

This has been our opinion from the very first, and we think such an arrangement would conduce greatly to the harmony, peace, and well being of all New Zealand. But certainly, if this be not effected, the sooner the unreal idea of localising land fund under Abolition be abandoned the better for all parties. The localisation of land fund and Abolition are incompatible; they are, in reality, mutually destructive. It is astonishing how any can be found who do not see this; that is, it is astounding to us, so manifest is it to ourselves.

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

CERTAIN letters have lately appeared in our columns relative to the action of the Directory of the H.A.C.B.S. in Melbourne. It appears, if we understand aright, that the New Zealand branches of this Society were not represented by deputies at the late annual meeting held in the above-named city, and to