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NOTICE

OUR Subscribers in the Districts visited by Mr. O. CUMMINS, our Travelling Agent, are requested to settle their accounts on the Traveling Agent, are requested to scene then accounts on the first personal application made by him, as it may be seen, that it puts this gentlemen 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.

NOTICE.

Mr. Murray, our collector and canvasser, will visit Invercargill and its neighbourhood in about a fortnight.

DEATH.

HEALEY.—On the 25th July, at the Royal George Hotel, George-street, Maurice Healey, native of Tralee, Ireland, late clerk at Messrs. Keast and M'Carthy's; aged 54 years. (Home papers please copy.)

7	HE	following	SUMS	have	been	received	as	Subscriptions	to
1	. th	e Tablet	for the	week	ending	. July 26	h.	1876 :	

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Aew Zealand Tablet.

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1876.

THE NEW EDUCATION BILL FOR ENGLAND.

AT the present moment there is not much probability of securing attention to the subject of education. Not that the people feel little interest in it, but because other more stirring questions are just now engrossing the public mind. The day is not far distant when the education question will assert itself and become the leading topic; but certain financial questions affecting the entire colony, and the great questions of Abolition and Separation must be finally disposed of first,

Nevertheless it strikes us, if it were only for the purpose of putting the matter on record, it is now our duty to place before our readers and the public some account of the New Education Bill, introduced into the Imperial Parliament, and

of the principles on which it is founded.

The principle of National Education in England is denominational, and this principle the Government of the country is determined to maintain. It is true, indeed, there are school boards in some few places, and some purely secular schools. But these are exceptions sanctioned by the Legislature to meet exceptional cases; and the Government is determined the secular principle shall not be extended beyond the extreme cases to which it was originally intended to apply.

England encourages and aids denominational schools, and the present Government proposes to increase the aid already given to these schools in poor localities. But knowing that there is a mass of ignorance, which is beyond the reach of denominational exertion, the Imperial Parliament authorised the election of school boards and the imposition of rates to supplement denominational schools, and bring the means of primary education to the gutter children. The policy of this measure, however, is that school boards should not only not interfere with the schools of the denominations, but should not even become rivals to them.

Lord Sandon, the vice-Chairman of the Board of Education, or rather of the Committee of the Privy Council having charge of education in England, in introducing the new Bill declared that he would not accept the proposals of the Birmingham League as to the enforcement of compulsory attendance at schools, emphatically declaring that School Boards had been comparative failures. This is very important, and we commend it to the attentive consideration of colonial states-His Lordship went further, and stated the fact that School Boards have been an enormously expensive machinery, and that the results have not been commensurate with the

Consequently, in the face of such an experience, the Government could not recommend, could not even suggest, the establishment of School Boards universally throughout the country, for to do so, "would be," says Lord Sandon, "to sound the knell of every voluntary school in the kingdom, and would lead to that which, I think, the whole country abhors and detests,—a general system of secular education." Further on in his speech, he says, "Nothing would be done to strike a blow at religious teaching"; and, he added, "1 hope and believe that religion will remain one of the main features of the teaching of this country."

There is one other passage which we must not omit. "I wish," he says, "I could express more than a hope, but I trust that any proposals will be carefully watched, which may tend to undermine the provisions for religious teaching.

The policy of the new Education Bill is to discourage the establishment of new School Boards, to encourage denomina_ tional schools, to give great additional aid to these in poor localities, and to make regulations for securing a better a tendance of children at school. This is a wise policy.