

HOGG AND HUTTON'S ADVERTISEMENT.

PORT WINE, 1334 Vintage, 42 years old; per dozen, 110s.

PORT WINE, 1844 Vintage, 32 years old. A bargain. Per dozen, 75s.

BROWN SHERRY, 10 years. Just received. Rare value Per dozen, 75s.

COLONIAL WINES, 30s. to 35s. per dozen.

LORNE WHISKEY (Genuine), 48s. per dozen.

HOGG AND HUTTON, Octagon.

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, a situation by a Catholic Teacher. Address, Schoolmistress, TABLET Office.

TEACHER WANTED for the CATHOLIC SCHOOL at Cromwell. Applications, accompanied with references, to be made to the Rev. FATHER KEHOE, from whom further particulars regarding Salary, &c., can be obtained.

FUNERAL NOTICE.

THE friends of the late THOMAS O'DONNELL are respectfully requested to attend his Funeral, which will leave the residence of Dr. Murphy, Stuart street, for the Southern Cemetery, this day (FRIDAY), at 3 p.m.

GOURLEY & LEWIS, Undertakers,
George and MacLaggan streets.

N O T I C E .

THE elegantly-executed photographs of the Bishop (by Messrs. Clifford and Morris) the copyright of which has been reserved, can be had on application at the Convent, where they will be sold for the benefit of the Christian Brothers' School Fund, for which object they were taken at the time of the Bazaar.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOL FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. John Golden (second subscription)	2	0	0
„ „ Macedo (monthly subscription)	0	10	0

THE following SUMS have been received as Subscriptions to the TABLET for the week ending September 14, 1876:

	£	s.	d.
Mr. A. O'Hara, Addison's Flat, to August 29, 1876 ...	1	5	0
„ P. Hurley „ to September 7, 1876 ...	1	10	0
„ James McCabe, Lincoln, to June 5, 1876 ...	1	5	0
„ John Flood, Southbridge, to September 8, 1877 ...	1	5	0
„ E. Clifford, Waipori, to October 24, 1876 ...	1	5	0
„ T. Buckley „ to November 29, 1876 ...	1	5	0
„ P. Hynes „ to November 29, 1876 ...	1	5	0
„ E. Tohill „ to December 11, 1876 ...	1	0	0
„ E. O'Donnell, Dunedin, to September 27, 1876 ...	1	5	0
„ J. O'Brien, Wellington, to April 24, 1877 ...	1	5	0
„ W. Bergin „ to September 27, 1876 ...	0	12	6
„ James Landers, Ross, to August 15, 1876 ...	1	5	0
„ T. Mulhall „ to May 1, 1876 ...	0	12	6
„ G. Johnston „ to November 29, 1876 ...	0	12	6
„ J. Crowley „ to October 17, 1876 ...	1	5	0
„ J. Ryan, Hampden, to September 17, 1876 ...	0	13	0

BIRTH.

WOODS—On the 12th inst., at Cumberland street, Mrs. D. W. Woods, of a son.

DEATH.

O'DONNELL.—On the 13th September, at the residence of Dr. Murphy, Stuart-street, Thomas O'Donnell, late of the Royal George Hotel; aged 33 years.

New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1876.

A PUBLIC SCANDAL.

CENTRALISTS are on their trial, and already has the country got a taste of the good things intended for it by Abolitionists! These gentlemen have outraged the public conscience, and scandalized all honest politicians. Our leading law-makers have been for several years also our leading law-breakers. And yet, so shameless and audacious has impunity rendered these gentlemen, that they blush not, the moment they are caught *in flagrante*, to ask the Legisla-

ture to pass a Bill of Indemnity to save them from the consequences of their illegal proceedings.

This is a monstrous state of things; and if ministers be permitted by the Legislature, by means of an Indemnity Bill, to defy the existing law, and continue to hold their high and responsible offices, a shock will be given to public confidence that cannot fail to have a most injurious effect on public morality, and the administration of the affairs of New Zealand. It is to be hoped, therefore, that Parliament will refuse to listen to the proposal of ministers; and that these gentlemen will see the propriety of resigning their seats and testing the opinion of their constituents.

Is this sort of thing never to cease? Is it possible that New Zealand does not possess a sufficient number of men qualified according to law, and intelligent and honest enough to govern the country; or, is it absolutely necessary, owing to a dearth of moderately able administrators, to select as ministers only such as cannot hold office till relieved from disabilities by an Indemnity Act? Surely it has not yet come to this, and yet it is difficult to say if this is not the opinion of a majority of our Parliament. This majority must either have a very low opinion of itself, or it must be in fear of a good many actions in the Supreme Court, if it consent to indemnify ministers.

Last Session an Indemnity Bill was passed—a proceeding which surprised and alarmed the people, and it was fully expected that the lesson then given would not have been forgotten. It was, it appears, a vain expectation; and this Session the Disqualification Act has been more outrageously violated than ever. It is not one member of Parliament or one minister that is now compromised, but the entire Cabinet and the party that supports it. This is a serious state of things. What security can there be for a pure and wise administration of the affairs of the country when our chief administrators themselves are the chief violators of the law? and when these highly-placed law-breakers are not ashamed to ask Parliament to pass a law in their favor, having a retrospective effect, and to save them personally from fines incurred by their breach of the laws, which they were more bound than all others to respect, enforce and obey? It has been said that ministers broke the law through ignorance and inadvertence, and this has been pleaded as a reason why an Indemnity Bill should be passed. But to our mind this is no excuse. Men should not assume or accept office who are either so ignorant or so careless as to violate a primary and important law in reference to their office. Inadvertence in such a matter is inexcusable, and ignorance argues a recklessness that is most criminal. The plea that ministers broke the law through ignorance or inadvertence is, under the circumstances, one of the strongest proofs of their criminality, and of their utter unfitness for Executive offices. And if Parliament condone this offence the people may justly fear that decay and corruption have already laid hold of the core of our political system.

ALL BUT CAUGHT.

AN effort lately made to introduce religious instruction in a modified form into the godless schools of Victoria has occasioned us no small amusement. The Colony of Victoria is a country where Catholics are encouraged. That is they are afforded every opportunity of laying aside the prejudices with which they may happen to be encumbered. A paternal government sets every inducement before them in order to prevail upon them to free themselves from the trammels wherein it conceives them to be bound. Violent measures it does not resort to, because they would be unconstitutional. Liberty of conscience must be attended to; a man may be a Catholic provided he will submit to be heavily taxed, overwhelmed with abuse and opprobrium, declared by every stump-orator and scurrilous scribbler to be beneath contempt in this world and anything but certain of Paradise in the next, and constantly exposed to hearing all that he holds most venerable and sacred loaded with falsehood and ribaldry. The tender government of Victoria leans to this progressive and refined interpretation of liberty of conscience, and, while it has cleverly managed to impose the heaviest tax it could constitutionally devise upon Catholicism, it holds out a helping hand in many ways to those who variously employ their tongues in blackening all who profess the hated creed. But this government acts thus in kindness; it doubtless wishes to dispel the illusions under which the benighted children of the Church are supposed to be laboring; it would gladly see them relinquish their fidelity to the Sovereign Pontiff in order that