

HOGG AND HUTTON'S ADVERTISEMENT.

PORT WINE, 1834 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. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL QUEENSTOWN, a Certificated Male Teacher. For further particulars, apply to

J. F. TULLY, SECRETARY,
St. Joseph's School Committee,
QUEENSTOWN.

CATHOLIC TEACHER.

A GENTLEMAN of Experience desires an ENGAGEMENT.—English, Mathematics, Classics, French, and Italian. Unexceptionable References. Address O. C., TABLET OFFICE.

TO SOLICITORS.

WANTED by a respectably connected and highly educated young gentleman a situation as ARTICLED CLERK or LAW CLERK in a Solicitor's Office, in town or country. A fair premium given if he be taken as an Articled Clerk, which would be preferred. Address A. B., NEW ZEALAND TABLET Office, Dunedin

TEN POUND TEN FOR A DOUBLE-FURROW PLOUGH.

THE Estate of the late G. F. REID having to be wound up, we have secured from the EXECUTORS a few of PIRIE'S Celebrated DOUBLE-FURROW PLOUGHS, which we are prepared to sell at the above price.

NIMMO AND BLAIR, DUNEDIN.

NOTICE.

AS we are about to prepare for striking our Yearly Balance Sheet, subscribers to the NEW ZEALAND TABLET are requested to pay up all arrears without delay. Agents will also kindly attend to this notice.

JOHN F. PERRIN, MANAGER.

AN APPEAL.

FOR the last six years the "Daughters of St. Dominick" have been struggling to promote, in Dunedin, that good which it is the end of their Order to effect throughout the world,—namely,—the Education of Female Youth, in the path of science and virtue.

The question of the advancement of true civilization, of genuine progress in the only real sense of the word—of the happiness of society, as of individuals, of the temporal and eternal interests of the rising generation, is eminently involved in the development and training of the young mind.

While the subverters of order and authority in Italy, Germany, and other countries, spare neither wealth nor energy in their efforts to mislead the young and innocent, shall we be dismayed by our poverty? Shall we make no sacrifices to save them? Shall we not rather call unto us the little ones of Christ,—shelter them from the baneful influence of corrupt principles and bad example—teach them that life has not been bestowed on them to be squandered in self-indulgence, vanity, or the gratification of their passions?—but that, on the contrary, it is to be devoted to the self-denying task of acquiring that solid, useful, and religious knowledge, without which they can never be good members of society here, or attain their noble destiny hereafter. To impart that all-important knowledge, the Dominican Nuns have devoted their existence. Hitherto their efforts in New Zealand have been much impeded by the numerous difficulties in which they have been placed. The want of suitable conventual and scholastic buildings has been a sore trial, and numberless have been the inconveniences arising therefrom. Plans for a Convent, suited to the requirements of the Dominican Rule, and affording facilities to the Sisters for conducting their Schools, according to the style of their European Houses, have been drawn out;—the means alone are wanting for the accomplishment of the design. The Nuns, therefore, earnestly solicit donations towards a work which will involve an outlay of at least fourteen or fifteen thousand pounds.

The smallest contribution will entitle the donor to a place on the list of Benefactors, for whom prayers are daily offered.

DOMINICAN CONVENT, DUNEDIN

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LADY.

THE following SUMS have been received as Subscriptions to the TABLET for the week ending March 29, 1877:—

	£	s	d
Mr. Collins, Waikaia, to February 16, 1878	...	1	5 0
" Clancy, Naseby, to January 24, 1877	...	0	19 0
" Roche, Westport, to January 27, 1877	...	1	5 0
" Conolly, Temuka, to April 10, 1877	...	1	5 0
" Moreton, Queenstown, to October 24, 1877	...	1	5 0
" O'Donohue, Thames, to June 28, 1877	...	0	6 6
" M'Ardle, Greymouth, to January 10, 1877	...	1	5 0
" J. Kerrin, Cardrona, to November 7, 1876	...	1	5 0
" M'Grath, " 15, 1876	...	1	5 0
" Mulhall, Ross, " 1, 1876	...	0	12 6
" O'Neil, Bannockburn, " 29, 1876	...	1	5 0

New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1877.

FREE THOUGHT.

WHAT is free-thought? Until last Monday evening, knowing that thought is essentially free, and that no earthly power can enslave it, we were always puzzled as to the meaning attached to the words—free-thought—by the gentlemen who so ostentatiously give themselves out as *Free Thinkers*. But our difficulty has been removed. The 'Evening Star' of that evening, a paper to which we have been so often indebted for information (reliable and unreliable), contains a report of a lecture on "Free-Thought and Moral Responsibility," in which the following definition of a free-thinker is given. A free-thinker, according to the lecturer, is one who is at liberty to investigate any subject that might be interesting to him, undeterred either by anathema or satire. Very well, we shall, of course, accept the definition of a free-thinker given by himself; though we may remark in passing, that it would be both more logical and more in accordance with the radical meaning of words, to designate such a person a free-investigator. For the future, however, we shall understand a free-thinker to be one who is free, not in thought or in thinking, but one who is free to investigate, without let or hindrance from anathema or satire, every subject that interests him. Somehow or another we always had a shrewd suspicion that it was so; that few men were less free in thought, and more the slaves of certain writers whom they foolishly think great, than those who boast themselves to be free-thinkers.

In fact, we have never seen any evidence of free-thought, or even of free investigation, about them. On the contrary, it is quite plain to every well-read man, that these self-complaisant free-thinkers have never really investigated any subject whatever. They have, to be sure, read the works of great blasphemers, and rabid enemies of Christianity and the Catholic Church, but nowhere do they afford the slightest proof of the least acquaintance with the works of genuine Christians and Catholics. Their tirades are a weakly flavored hash of the least telling, but most highly flavored assertions of ruthless enemies of Christianity, and of untruths a thousand times denied and a thousand times refuted. What sort of free investigation is that which attends exclusively to one side and one view of a question, and resolutely turns away from every other view. But this is precisely what is done at the present day by boastful free-thinkers. They claim a right to investigate everything; a claim, by the way, which no one denies, though they are for ever puling as if some serious opposition were offered to their investigating anything and everything, and yet they really investigate nothing.

In our experience, the lectures and other productions of these boastful free-thinkers are made up of incoherent scraps of blasphemy and unsupported assertion, culled from the works of the enemies of Christianity of every age, thus illustrating the saying of the wise man, "There is nothing new under the sun." Here is a specimen of free investigation, taken from the above-mentioned report of the 'Evening Star.' "The Pope anathematized all those who professed to think for themselves." Where has the Pope done so, or when? This palpable and wilful falsehood is not the result of free investigation, because free investigation would have taught the literary free-thinker who spoke these words, that the Pope never did such a thing; but it is the result of one-sided reading, which is the enemy of all genuine investigation, and of shallow scholarship, of profound and unreasoning prejudice and bitter hate.

Neither has free investigation discovered that "Jesus attacked alike the law-books, the Sabbath and holy days, the