

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.

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.

New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1877.

ABOLITION AND CENTRALISM.

THE people were solemnly assured by the advocates of Abolition and consequent Centralism, that these measures would ensure prompt administration, and cheap and good government. Provincialists disputed these assumptions. These had on their side the teachings of the history of the world, as well as theory; and they maintained that a sad experience would soon confirm the soundness of their arguments. The oppo-

nents of Abolition and Centralists contended that these measures, if carried, must necessarily result in misunderstandings, mismanagement, tardy administration, inefficiency, and a greatly increased expenditure. One year has not yet elapsed, since Abolition and Centralism became accomplished facts, and these predictions have been only too clearly accomplished. The County system, which has superseded Provincialism, already stinks in men's nostrils, owing to its extravagant expenditure, the petty self-seeking it has so disgustingly developed, and the intense local spirit it has engendered.

We are not in the least surprised. To us, from the very first announcement that such measures were in contemplation, it was clear that such must necessarily be the result of destroying genuine local self-government, and centralising everything in one town outside this island. We never wavered in our conviction that Centralism, as it has been effected, would, before long, have succeeded in setting every man residing beyond the immediate influence of Wellington, against that city, and making all utterly dissatisfied with the present distribution of political influence and power. The event has justified our views, and this, too, much sooner than we had anticipated. The present Government would do well to take note of the fact that, from one end to the other of the country, there is great dissatisfaction, which, if neglected or contemned, must before long bring about not only their own downfall, but also serious injury to the commonwealth.

It always struck us as very strange, something for which we could not reasonably account, that whilst others were either contending, ardently struggling for what we possessed, or busily engaged in securing similar advantages, the people of New Zealand, that is a majority of their representatives, were wantonly flinging from them those advantages of local self-government, which they possessed in such large measure. It was to have been expected that, instead of perpetrating such insanity, they would have been found fighting for not only the confirmation of their privileges, but also for enlarged powers of both Provincial administration and legislation. Such, certainly, would have been the natural course; and we did hope that, at least, each Island would have been constituted a province, with greatly enlarged local powers.

Whilst the majority of our Houses of Legislature were destroying a wise and liberal constitution, other peoples, notably the Spaniards, were engaged in securing their Provincial Legislatures and immunities from the interference of the Central Government and Parliament. According to the Constitution of 1869—Every commune in Spain has its own elected council, consisting of twenty-eight councillors, presided over by the Alcalde. The entire municipal government, with power of taxation and authority for preserving the public peace, is vested in these councils, which are elected every two years. From the municipal representation flows that of the provinces of Spain, each of which has its own Parliament. These Provincial Parliaments have large political powers, and are in many respects independent of the National Government and Legislature. They meet in annual session, and are permanently represented by a committee of from three to six members elected every year. Neither the Cortes nor the National Executive have the right to interfere with these Municipal and Provincial Governments, so long as these confine themselves within the bounds defined by the Constitution.

Now look on this picture and look on that. And a similar state of things obtains in the German Empire. Even Alsace and Lorraine, though conquered provinces, enjoy, even under their conquerors, Provincial Legislatures and Executives. Here in New Zealand, however, a majority of representatives has flung away what two of the provinces almost unanimously desired to retain, and what the people of other countries so zealously laboured to conserve, and what their masters with conquering swords in their hands thought it wise and even necessary to concede, viz., Provincial Legislatures and Executives. The wisdom of the New Zealand legislature and government does not appear to advantage in the contrast.

VAIN EVIDENCES.

ARE denial of self and devotion to the welfare of others, sufficient to convince the world that they who practise them are workers in a good cause? We believe not, and we are not wanting in reliable data on which to base our belief.

It is true that, in particular instances, the heroism of individuals will occasionally produce good effects. We have, for example, heard just conclusions drawn by a military