

**J. H. G. ROWLEY, F.N.Z.A.A.,**  
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## ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, WELLINGTON.

### Result of the Scholarship Examination.

The Four Scholarships, of £25 a year each, tenable for four  
 years, have been gained by the following candidates:—

1. RICHARD MULGAN, Greymouth.
2. HENRY RASMUSSEN, Westport.
3. EDWARD KAVANAGH, Auckland.
4. THOMAS LYNCH, Timaru.

The College RE-OPENS on THURSDAY, 15th FEBRUARY.

For terms, &c., apply to

THE RECTOR.

### MARRIAGES

**BLATCH—O'GORMAN.**—On January 2, 1906, at St.  
 Canice's Church, Westport, by the Rev. Father Molloy,  
 Kate, fourth daughter of Mr. James O'Gorman to Wil-  
 liam Blatch, of Southland.

**PRITCHARD—McBRIDE.**—On January 16, 1906, at  
 the residence of the bride's parents, by Rev. Father  
 O'Donnell, Joseph Francis Pritchard, of Timaru, to  
 Catherine Adelaide, second daughter of H. McBride,  
 Bridesdale, Wakatipu.

### ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT

E. F.—The 'Tablet,' not being a merely local paper,  
 but the organ of the Catholic body in all New Zea-  
 land, could not possibly devote so much space to any  
 entertainment, no matter how important, taking place  
 in this Colony. The report of a concert in Australia  
 is not of the slightest interest to the vast body of our  
 readers, and in any case its extreme length would for-  
 bid its insertion.



*To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the  
 ways of Truth and Peace.*

LEO. XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1906

### A HISTORIC 'DIVORCE'

**I**N a recent issue we set forth some of the  
 penalties with which the Church visits those  
 rare and faithless few of our fold who,  
 after the legal formalities of a divorce, go  
 through the form of marriage with a fresh  
 partner during the lifetime of the other.  
 Our brief article has started one contro-  
 versy. It has revived the memory of an-  
 other. And from two widely-separated sources we are  
 asked to explain the position of the Church in regard  
 to what our correspondents call the divorce of the First  
 Napoleon from his wife Josephine. There are facts to  
 state. But there is nothing to explain. And the  
 facts, set forth in summary terms, are these: (1) The  
 Church did not pronounce any sentence of divorce be-  
 tween Napoleon and Josephine. (2) An incompetent and  
 unauthorised tribunal did declare, on vitiated and ex-  
 parte evidence, that the marriage between Napoleon  
 and Josephine was null and void from the beginning.  
 (2) No tribunal, whether competent or incompetent, ever  
 even pretended to issue a decree of divorce between  
 Napoleon and Josephine. (4) The Church has never  
 granted, and never will grant, a divorce in the case of  
 a valid and consummated Christian marriage. God gave  
 her no such power. And what He hath joined together,  
 let no man put asunder.

For fuller details of the mis-called 'divorce' of  
 Napoleon, the reader is referred to such works as Par-  
 sons' 'Studies in Church History,' Lyonnet's 'History  
 of Cardinal Fesch,' 'Napoleon and His Detractors,'  
 and the many monographs that have appeared upon this  
 distracted theme. Within the limits of a newspaper  
 article it is impossible to do more than set forth the  
 facts of the case in a summary way. And the facts  
 are briefly stated hereunder. Napoleon married Jose-  
 phine de Beauharnais on March 9, 1796. The most  
 frantic days of the Revolution had passed. But France  
 was still lit by the afterglow of the red Reign of  
 Terror of 1793-1794. Yet, says Parsons (vol. v., p. 57)  
 it would not have been difficult to find a priest to  
 bless the nuptials of Napoleon and Josephine. The  
 ceremony was, nevertheless, a purely civil function, 'in  
 accordance with the spirit and the law of the Revolu-  
 tion.' But this was not recognised by the Church in  
 France and in the other few countries in which the Tri-  
 dentine decree on matrimony had been promulgated. To  
 be valid, the ceremony had to be performed before wit-  
 nesses and in the presence of the pastor of one of the