

# WEEKLY MERCURY

## AND Hawke's Bay Advertiser,

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### Government Notifications.

### SHEEP INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Sheep Inspector's Office, Napier,  
29th March, 1877.

Sir,—I have the honor to forward my annual report for the current year, and in accordance with the 5th section of the "Hawke's Bay Sheep Act, 1874" enclose for publication statement of sheep returns of 1st May, 1876, which exceed those of the previous year by 133,911. The enclosed returns comprise 671,416 ewes, 588,546 wethers and 13,706 rams, or a total of 1,273,668 sheep over six months old in the Province on 1st May, 1876, as against 602,812 ewes, 524,405 wethers, and 12,540 rams, or a total of 1,139,757 on 1st May, 1875. While the net increase thus shown is nearly the largest I have yet had to record, and gives unmistakable evidence of the increased carrying capability of the country year by year, our exports have in no wise diminished but rather increased, and as there are still large tracts of unstocked country in Poverty Bay and the East Coast district which will draw their supplies from Hawke's Bay, there will for some years to come be an outlet presented for our surplus stock. As the surface sowing of permanent artificial grasses and subdivision of runs by fencing is becoming more general, we may expect the improvement here indicated to be steadily progressive. No sheep have been introduced overland to Hawke's Bay since the date of my last report, and with the exception of a cargo of merino ewes, the imports have been limited to sheep for stud purposes, and comprise 390 long-wooled rams, 96 long-wooled ewes, 381 merino rams and 128 merino ewes; or a total of 996 sheep during the past twelve months. The exports during the same period eastward and overland to the neighboring provincial districts amount to about 86,000, and about 130,000 have been absorbed by provincial consumption and boiling down. The lambing of last year was a fairly good one, and averaged about 75 per cent, and the clip a heavy and sound one.

I have again much pleasure in reporting all the flocks still free from scab, and that the double line of protective fences at the southern boundary are in a thoroughly efficient state, and receive unremitting attention from Mr Munro, the boundary keeper. The very considerable extension of the boundaries of this district so as to include the Patua country, more than ever necessitates an active assistant being appointed to this department with as little delay as possible. Sheep lice proved very annoying to some of the long-wool flocks last winter, but many of the stations are having dips erected, which will be the means of keeping in check these little pests. An autumn dressing of M'Dougall's sheep dipping composition, at the rate of 1lb to 10 gallons of water is recognised as a safe and effectual dressing for sheep lice and ticks. A few deaths from lung-worm were again reported in a few flocks last winter. I am glad to report a satisfactory diminution in the number of lame sheep from foot-rot, and that all the flocks are in excellent condition, and have enjoyed an almost total immunity from staggers this autumn.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your most Obedient Servant,  
G. PEACOCK,  
Inspector of Sheep.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands, Napier.

### RETURN OF SHEEP ABOVE SIX MONTHS OLD IN THE PROVINCE OF HAWKE'S BAY ON 1st MAY, 1876:—

NAME OF SHEEP OWNER OR PERSON IN CHARGE.	STATION OR LOCALITY.	NUMBER OF SHEEP.	AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENT.
Avison, J.	Waipawa	2,431	£ 8. d.
Atchinson, J.	Hampden	516	1 5 3
Bridge, H. H.	Fairfield	18,108	0 5 4
Bell, M. S.	Fairfield	9 8 7	9 8 7
Bee, F. and G.	Tautane	11,000	5 14 7
Bullock, J.	Mohaka	7,600	3 19 2
Boyle, J.	Meanece and Petane	5,200	2 14 2
Buchanan, J.	Havelock	1,012	0 10 6
Bennett, J.	Elsthorpe	5,760	3 0 0
Boyd, J.	Omaranui	1,535	0 15 11
Bowden, A.	Wairoa	2,320	1 4 2
Bruce and Brandon	Kaikora	1,616	0 16 10
Bird, J.	Waikari	5,360	2 15 10
Burgess, T.	Wallingford	706	0 7 4
Cox, E.	Hampden	195	0 2 0
Collins, J.	Titiokura	5,060	2 12 8
Collison, E. D.	Patangata	2,880	1 10 0
Collins, E.	Pukahu	904	0 9 5
Campbell & Meinertzhagen	Abbotsford	4,892	2 10 11
Campbell H.	Waimarama	16,357	8 10 4
Carr and Richardson	Wairoa	13,500	7 0 7
Chanabers, J.	Poukawa	5,000	2 12 1
Canning, J. D.	Wairoa	20,629	10 14 10
Condie, G. and D.	Te Mata	10,000	5 4 2
Couper, W.	Oakbourne	1,200	0 12 6
Carr and Ellison	Redcliffe	16,000	8 6 8
Carswell, W.	Kauranaki, &c.	6,700	3 9 9
Cannon, W.	Petane	10,090	5 5 1
Crail, R.	Mount Alexander	220	0 2 3
Chrystal, T.	Clive	402	0 2 3
Crosse, T. E.	Porangahau	604	0 4 2
	Porangahau	6,210	3 4 8

NAME OF SHEEP OWNER OR PERSON IN CHARGE.	STATION OR LOCALITY.	NUMBER OF SHEEP.	AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENT.
Campbell, N.	Kaikora	1,775	0 18 5
Cable and Drummond	Wakamahi	15,349	7 19 10
Douglas, W.	Wakatara	16,697	8 13 11
Duff, H. A.	Kereru	304	0 3 2
Duff, H. and A.	Wairoa	5,660	2 18 11
Davis, E.	Meanece, &c.	2,780	1 8 5
Dolbel, P. and R.	Springfield, &c.	6,000	3 2 6
Dillon, A.	Patangata	3,183	1 13 12
Evans, R.	Kaikora	1,359	0 14 12
Farmer and Watt	Longlands	12,150	6 6 6
Fleming, D. S.	Boar Hills	3,266	1 14 0
Franklin, S.	Waimui	240	0 2 6
Fletcher, S.	Ruataniwha	295	0 3 0
Glenny, W.	Kopuwhara	1,658	0 17 3
Gollan, D.	Mangatarata	19,169	9 19 8
Gollan, K.	Tamamu	3,012	1 11 4
Grant, A.	Burnside, &c.	12,074	6 5 9
Glenny, T. S.	Onga Onga	424	0 4 5
Gollan and Drower	Eparaima	562	0 5 10
Gaisford, H.	Oringi	5,200	2 14 2
Groom, M. E.	Karamu	724	0 7 6
Gammel, J.	Maungaharuru	3,130	1 12 7
Harding, J. and B.	Mount Vernon	18,076	9 8 3
Hamilton, G. D.	Mangatoro	6,044	3 2 11
Howard, T. and J.	Hampden	3,024	1 11 6
Holden, J.	Hampden	4,027	2 1 11
Hill, K.	Clifton	15,946	8 6 1
Hill and Gordon	Karamu	6,600	3 8 9
Hunter, D. and W.	Papakihana	38,538	20 1 5
Heslop, J.	Puketapu	3,000	1 11 3
Heslop, J. W. and G.	Chesterhope, &c.	10,000	5 4 2
Herrick, J. L.	Forest Gate	7,169	3 14 8
Hutchinson, M.	Springvale	3,013	1 11 4
Herbert, J.	Wainui	845	0 8 9
Herbert, J. and C.	Wainui	2,617	1 7 3
Healey, J.	Porangahau	300	0 3 1
Hirtzell, C.	Porangahau	181	0 1 10
Hassell, J.	Waihua	4,530	2 7 4
Harwood, N.	Ruataniwha	428	0 4 5
Hawes, E.	Hakowai	1,009	0 10 6
Hague, W.	Clive	200	0 2 1
Johnston, S.	Oruawhara, &c.	42,550	22 3 2
Joshua, J.	Keruru, &c.	23,323	12 2 11
Knight, J.	Kaikora	2,200	1 2 11
Kinross, J. G.	Mangaware, &c.	37,535	19 10 11
Kelly, J. J.	Paki Paki	751	0 7 9
Knapp, J. E.	Ruataniwha	692	0 7 2
Lambert, C.	Lambertford	5,300	2 15 2
Laurence, J.	Homewood	5,558	2 17 10
Lambert, A.	Porangahau	750	0 7 9
Leopold, C.	Heavitree	472	0 4 11
Lyon, J.	Poporangi, &c.	16,663	8 13 6
Lowry, T.	Okawa	20,180	10 10 2
Limpus, C.	Patangata	1,003	0 10 5
Logan, A.	Tamamu	805	0 8 4
M'Donald, D.	Pukahu	3,302	0 3 1
Mason, J.	Te Tahkeke	7,446	3 17 6
Mackersey, J.	The Lake	7,877	4 2 0
M'Hardy and Coleman	Blackhead, &c.	18,875	9 16 7
Merritt, G.	Farnlon	592	0 6 2
M'Kenzie, H.	Havelock	658	0 6 10
M'Kenzie, J.	Tamamu	1,105	0 11 6
Mancey, R. D.	Omahu, &c.	17,390	9 1 1
M'Lean, A.	Tuki Tuki	9,518	4 19 1
M'Lean, P.	Pukahu	423	0 4 4
M'Lean, D.	Maraekakaho	32,040	16 13 9
M'Kinnon, J.	Arapawanui	4,300	2 4 9
M'Leilan and Chandler	Pohui	6,002	3 2 6
Milne, A. D.	Moeangeange	1,909	0 19 10
M'Kay, A.	Waipawa	700	0 7 3
M'Kay, M.	Hampden	606	0 6 3
M'Ananama, J.	Wairoa	71	0 0 8
Mullinder, G.	Patangata	503	0 5 2
Morrison, D.	Ruataniwha	402	0 4 2
M'Lennan, M.	Ruataniwha	413	0 4 3
M'Masters, D.	Tahoraite	3,226	1 13 7
M'Donald, D.	Tamamu	140	0 1 5
M'Lean, H.	Gwawas	18,490	9 12 7
Nairn, J. and H.	Pourerere	28,082	14 12 6
Nairn, H.	Te Apati	6,580	3 8 6
Nelson, F. and W.	Mangateretere	4,620	2 8 1
Newman, A.	Arlington	12,800	6 13 4
Newbold, S.	Papakura	403	0 4 2
Nicholson, J.	Kaikora	1,2 8	0 12 8
Ormond, J. D.	Wallingford, &c.	29,710	15 9 5
Orr, W.	Clive	1,359	0 14 1
Orr, J.	Papakura	500	0 5 2
Peacock, J.	Brooklands	3,300	1 14 4
Parsons, G.	Papakura	829	0 8 7
Powdrell, H.	Meanece	256	0 2 8
Powdrell, J.	Wairoa	750	0 7 9
Parsons, W. and T.	Willow Brook	2,091	1 1 9
Peter, W.	Whakaki	6,900	3 11 10

NAME OF SHEEP OWNER OR PERSON IN CHARGE.	STATION OR LOCALITY.	NUMBER OF SHEEP.	AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENT.
Paukana, R.	Karamu	500	0 5 2½
Peddle, W.	Pakiaka	706	0 7 4½
Pope, E.	Motuotaraia	75	0 0 6½
Richardson & Troutbeck	Petane	10,130	5 5 6½
Robihans	Tutaekuri	1,130	0 11 9½
Russell, T. P.	Woburn	20,186	10 10 3½
Russell, W. and A.	Flaxmere, &c.	22,594	11 15 4½
Russell, H. R.	Mount Herbert, &c.	22,539	11 14 9½
Rich and Shrimpton	Matapiro	12,800	6 13 4
Rathbone, W.	Waipawa	3,030	1 11 6½
Reigners, E.	Meane	1,508	0 15 8½
Rhodes, J. R.	Edenham	11,104	5 15 8
Rhodes, R. H.	Spinghill	4,550	2 7 4½
Rhodes and Co.	Rissington	30,541	15 18 1½
Ryan, D.	Porangahau	866	0 9 0½
Saxby, G. H.	Te Kopanga	13,751	7 3 2½
Stokes Brothers	Milbourne	26,315	13 14 1½
Spence, G.	Wharepanga	4,025	2 1 11½
Smith, H. W. P.	Hawkeville	19,230	10 0 3½
Sutherland, J.	Mohaka	4,637	2 8 3½
St. Hill, A.	Wangaeu	16,460	8 11 5½
Speedy, W.	Wainui	2,000	1 0 10
Speedy, J.	Wainui	2,320	1 4 2
Speedy, G.	Wainui	1,887	0 19 7½
Sims, D.	Wallingford	810	0 8 5½
Sladen, H.	Grassmere	1,770	0 18 5½
Soley, J.	Kaikora	200	0 2 1
Stewart, T.	Porangahau	510	0 5 3½
Sim, J.	Mohaka	2,800	1 9 2
Sebley, J. L.	Waipawa	244	0 2 6½
Stevens and Clark	Kaikora	1,258	0 13 1½
Small, W. H.	Patangata	1,800	0 18 9
Shield, A.	Waikonini	10,020	5 4 4½
Steven, J.	Petane	300	0 3 1½
Sutton, F.	Mangateretere	1,512	0 15 9
Tiffen, L. A.	Greenmeadows	5,880	3 1 3
Takamoana, K.	Pakowhai	1,986	1 0 8½
Tiffen, F. J.	Elmahill	7,664	3 19 10
Tanner, T.	Riverslea, &c.	33,142	17 5 2½
Taylor, J.	Moerangi	5,904	3 1 6
Twigg, H. J.	Petane	3,000	1 11 3
Towgood, E.	Tangoio	14,000	7 5 10
Tucker, E.	Sherwood	428	0 4 5½
Turner and Galbraith	Clive	440	0 4 7
Tod, J.	Kaikora	2,002	1 0 10½
Tod, R.	Kaikora	1,212	0 12 7½
Tait and M'Ivor	Waikare	3,700	1 18 6½
Tuxford, A.	Petane	157	0 1 7½
Takamoana, H.	Karamu	240	0 2 6
Villers, W.	Petane	851	0 8 10½
W. T. and Walker	Mahia	18,178	9 9 4½
Walker and Richardson	Waikokopu	5,500	2 17 3½
Watts, E.	Kaikora	1,610	0 16 9½
Williams, R. P.	Mangateretere	3,620	1 17 8½
Wellwood, R.	Karamu	3,122	1 12 6½
Williams, J. N.	Frimley, &c.	48,780	25 8 1½
Williams, S.	Te Aute	14,595	7 13 0½
Whitmore, G. S.	Clive Grange	10,000	5 4 2
Witherow, J.	Patangata	1,050	0 10 11½
Waldrum, B.	Waipawa	312	0 3 3
Ward, A.	Porangahau	432	0 4 6
White, J.	Porangahau	2,975	1 10 11½
White, R.	Porangahau	232	0 2 5
Walker, J.	Poukawa	4,883	2 10 10½
Warren, W. A.	Mangapoka	1,749	0 18 2½
White, T.	Glengarry	3,447	1 15 10½
White, J. F.	Poukawa	1,686	0 11 3½
White, W.	Kaikora	2,200	1 2 11
Wilkes, J.	Waipawa	142	0 1 5½
Ingis, J.	Hampden	258	0 2 8½
		1,273,668	£663 7 4½

large body of Bosnia insurgents resulted in great losses on both sides, the Turks retiring.

Active preparations are being made by Turkey to fortify Kars and other positions on the Asiatic frontier. One hundred and twenty thousand troops were sent there. The Russian forces on the Asiatic frontier are estimated at a hundred thousand.

The number of famine-stricken men employed on the Madras Works have decreased to eighteen hundred. Those on the Bombay Works have decreased to thirty-seven thousand.

Violent scenes have taken place in the Transvaal Republic, in opposition to President Burgers. A proposal is raised for annexation to Great Britain. The life of the British envoy is threatened.

The commander of the Spanish forces in Cuba reports a successful campaign.

The Pope has been very ill, and his life is despaired of.

children. He requested the marshal to deliver his body to his wife Rachel, and also requested that he might be shot at a short range, and that they would aim at his heart. He knelt down on his coffin, and was requested to sit there while a photographer who was present took a picture. Lee called the artist to him, and requested that each of his wives should be forwarded a copy. He fell back upon his coffin and died without a struggle. Speaking of his confession and autobiography, Lee says:—"My autobiography, if published, will open the eyes of the world to the monstrous deeds of the leaders of the Mormon people, and will also place in the hands of the attorney for the Government particulars of some of the most blood-curdling crimes that have been committed in Utah, which if properly followed up will bring many down from their high places in the Church to face the offended justice upon the gallows."

Brigham Young has telegraphed to the New York Herald as follows:—"If Lee made the statement in his confession implicating me, as contained in your telegram of the 21st instant, it is utterly false. My course of life is too well-known by thousands of honorable men for them to believe for one moment such an accusation:—Brigham Young."

A South African despatch from Capetown reports violent scenes in the Transvaal Republic over the question of annexation of Volksrad, and which insisted upon the maintenance of the freedom of the Republic, and refused to accept the reform programme of President Burgers, who favors a union with Great Britain. It is rumored that the extreme party have threatened the life of Mr. Shepstone, the British envoy, who is endeavoring to arrange such a union.

An Earthquake visited the West Indies on March the 19th, and caused great alarm, but no damage.

Advices from Bermuda state that the ships Gluratum, from San-Francisco for London, put into Pernambuco on February 19th, with the crew of the Deux Eulie. The two vessels had collided, and the latter sank.

A China-man and woman have been publicly beheaded for adultery.

A telegraph line is to be erected in Formosa.

**Additional Mail News.**

**AUCKLAND.**

April 20.

Captain Howgate's plan for attempting to reach the North Pole by means of a permanent colony in Robeson's Channel is likely to receive the attention of the American Congress.

It is understood that the Pacific Mail Company have concluded a contract with the Government of Salvador to give that State a direct monthly communication with Frisco.

The Russian fleet has left Fort Monroe for New York.

At Washington a delegation of Germans congratulated Minister Washburne on his services to their countrymen during the Franco-German war.

The London correspondent of the Edinburgh Scotsman reports that Eugene Schuler, the United States Consul-General at Constantinople, has been overhauled by the Washington Government for his published communications about Turkish outrages.

Disturbances are feared in Hayti.

In San Sebastian County, Arkansas, last Sunday night, four men entered the house of a widow woman and remained all night, all violating her by force. She did next day, leaving four children.

Negotiations have been commenced for a Consular Convention between England and the United States.

At Stafford-ville a dam burst causing damage to the amount of 35,000 dollars. Two lives were lost.

In New York, Alfred Pickard, in a fit of jealousy, bound his wife to a chair in which she was sleeping, and then cruelly disfigured her face by the free application of vitriol.

General Martiney Campos, commander of the Spanish forces in Cuba, is advancing towards the Eastern part of the island, in order to clear it from roving bands of insurgents. The losses of the enemy have been 705 dead, and at least 200 wounded. 489 prisoners were made on the field of battle, besides these 1,581 insurgents and 3,234 women from the insurgent camps have surrendered themselves, or been captured by the troops on their march. The Spanish loss during this period consists of 184 dead, 472 wounded, 20 bruised, and 6 missing or prisoners.

Miss Neilson was playing Rosalind in "As You Like It" at the California theatre.

Charles Wheatleigh is playing in "Tour of the World in 80 days" at the Grand Opera House.

Mdlle. De Murska has opened at the Grand Opera House.

Baldwin's Academy is temporarily closed. John McCullough is manager.

Signor Suisini could do nothing here, and has gone to New York.

Madame Camilla Urso, the celebrated violinist, will visit the colonies.

The following are the particulars of the execution and confession of Lee the Mormon perpetrator of the Mountain Meadow massacre:—"Shortly before eleven o'clock a squad of United States soldiers were stationed in an open field, and John D. Lee, the condemned criminal, was placed before them. The troops numbered six, and, as a last request, he was placed near them. He asked them to aim at his heart. He then addressed those present in a short speech full of bitterness. He seemed to be collected, and to have no fear. At precisely 11 o'clock, the order was given, and Lee fell expiring without a struggle. He made a short speech in which he expressed his confidence in the Mormon religion as revealed by Joseph Smith. He denounced Brigham Young in severe terms. He gave directions as to the disposal of his property to District Attorney Howard, dividing it substantially equally between three of his wives and their

**SYDNEY.**

The prisoner Newman has been sentenced to death for the violation and murder of the girl Macgregor. He confessed.

A farewell soiree was given to the Rev. James Niven, on his leaving for Otago.

The Mutual Provident Society's report shows the net premiums to be £61,342; accumulated funds, £1,961,000. The annual revenue is £466,000.

John Yeo Alderman, of Bathurst, has committed suicide by means of strychnine.

**AUSTRALIAN.**

**MELBOURNE.**

By an extensive fire great trade embarrassment was caused at Clunes.

The City Council has received a communication from hundreds of men unemployed in the United States, principally good mechanics of all trades. It is proposed that the ironfounders of Melbourne should send one vessel to bring out the men conditionally on their paying their passages after arrival. The Council cannot take further action.

The publicans are petitioning for Sunday hours.

The iron ship City of Foochoo, which stranded at Flinder's Island, was sold for £500.

The Customs authorities have sold Stevenson's goods, which were seized twelve months ago. Stevenson protested, but the sale went on.

Wheat, 4s 6d; flour, £14 10s to £14 15s.

There is good inquiry for currants.

An advance of one pound has been got for yellow grain.

**ADELAIDE.**

The Cricketing Association has authorized Lillywhite to secure a trainer for the Adelaide cricketers.

Wheat-statistics:—Acre reaped, 872,057 acres, being 211,892 less than were sown. The total yield is 5,857,000 bushels, being five bushels twenty-five lbs. to the acre sown, or six bushels forty-three pounds per acre to the area reaped. The sale of fifteen thousands bushels at 6s 6d, was made for export to New Zealand.

Cricket match.—In the first innings the English team made 75 as follows:—Ulyett, 17; Jupp, 10; Greenwood, 0; Charlwood, 9; Hill, 6; Shaw, 2; Emmet 14; Lillywhite, 4; Southerton, 2; Armitage, 8. The Adelaide twenty-two in their first innings scored 71, the highest scores being J. E. Goodin, 28; King, 9;

**CABLEGRAM.**

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

**LONDON.**

April 19.

Active warlike preparations continue. The Russian Embassy is leaving Stamboul, and the expulsion of Russians is anticipated.

A circular issued by Prince Gortschakoff justifies war.

**ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL VIA SAN FRANCISCO.**

General Summary of European and American telegrams to March 28.

Lee, the author of the Mountain Meadow Massacre has been executed. He made a confession implicating Brigham Young. He said he only did as he was ordered, and was promised celestial rewards. The confession has caused great sensation at Salt Lake.

The Bashi Bazouks have plundered and burned two Herzegovinian villages, and murdered a number of inhabitants.

A resolution in favor of a union of New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island was carried by the Nova Scotia Legislature.

The Amsterdam bankers have offered Russia a loan of 25,000,000 roubles at 8 per cent, but insisted on disarmament and no further loan for five years. The offer was declined. The Times cites this as a proof of the bad state of Russian credit.

It is said that recent Socialist trials reveal unexpected ramifications of the movement among the higher classes.

The army Russia has sent to Montenegro has twelve months' provisions.

Small pox is still raging in London.

There is great public excitement in Jamaica over the prosecution of the press for sedition. Committees are collecting subscriptions for the defence.

Trade depression in Germany has assumed serious proportions. Labour riots have occurred, and famine is feared in Silesia. Newspapers coupled their loyal greetings with a wish that the Emperor may see a speedy recovery of the nation from a financial crisis.

In Pennsylvania four hundred colliers and sixty thousand men are idle.

A British war steamer has destroyed seven villages on the Congo River, West Africa, killing three natives as punishment for plundering an American schooner.

Chinese troops captured the city Manas, and slaughtered a large number of Dungan insurgents. This is expected virtually to end the outbreak.

Outrages have been committed by the citizens of Chico, California, on the Chinese.

Earl Derby defended Sir Henry Elliott, and challenged his opponents to bring a motion raising the question before Parliament. He said the war would create greater horrors than those of Bulgaria.

A new revolution is expected in Mexico. President Diaz's friends are forsaking him.

Fortifications are being carried out in Austria, in consequence of the rumored alliance between Italy and Austria involving a seizure of part of the Tyrol.

Outrages equalling those of Bulgaria are reported in connection with a new rising in Bosnia. The Bashi Bazouks are burning villages and massacring refugees. Six hours of fighting between a

Jervis, 8; Regand, 5; Whilridge, 3. Nine made duck's eggs, four singles, three twos. The Englishmen, in the second inning, had nine wickets down for 138 runs, made as under:—Jupp, 18; Greenwood, 7; Ulyett, 58; Selby, 7; Greenwood, 0; Emmet, 25; Hill, 2; Lillywhite, 8; Shaw, 9; Southerton (not out), 0.

## BRISBANE.

The Government has notified that no application for Kanaka labour will be hereafter granted except for employment on tropical agriculture.

The Chinese on the Palmer number 11,000.

## INTERPROVINCIAL.

## AUCKLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

April 20.

A lunatic named Edward Moore, an American, about 36 years old, was brought up from Wairoa (Kaipara), possessed with the idea that the people were going about intending to murder him. He said he intended to see the Governor, and warn him against the wicked intentions of his pursuers. He is very harmless, but undoubtedly insane.

An unfortunate gum digger, named James McCarthy was brought up from the Wade for the purpose of being submitted to medical examination as a person of unsound mind. McCarthy had been found lying among trees by a settler who took him to his house. He was in a miserably weak state, and complained of severe pains in the head. He was rambling and incoherent in his talk. Drs Goldsbro and Ellis examined him yesterday morning, and came to the decision that he was a subject for hospital treatment rather than an asylum.

William Cross, the husband of deceased, died:—He had been married twenty years. Her age was 48, and they had no family. He was working about the house in the usual way yesterday morning. He went into the kitchen. She felt very low-spirited, and said she would go and lie down. She was subject to bilious attacks. He returned to the shop, occupying about 20 minutes. He went up stairs and saw her lying on the floor with her head on a pillow, and she was vomiting into the chamber. He asked her what was the matter; she replied, "I am dying." Her face had a livid appearance. He carried her into the next room, and laid her on the bed. She was breathing feebly, and there was a slight noise in her throat. Dr Ellis took possession of the utensil and tumbler containing a small quantity of a clear liquid without any crystals at the bottom. He tasted it, and believed it was oxalic acid. She had oxalic acid in the house; she got it six months ago from Mrs Gilbert, who used it for cleaning bonnets. We lived happily together, except on one occasion two years ago when there was a matter of unpleasantness with a person named Brown. Cannot account for her lowness of spirits. He had no misunderstanding with her on the morning of her death. He had a few words with her on Monday, but nothing to speak of. He never lifted his hand to her.

To Mr Hesketh: His wife several times persisted that she was pregnant. About two years ago she engaged a doctor, but nothing came of it. She had a strong desire for children.

Emma Spencer, deposed: She had occasion to go to the shop of Cross. Cross asked her to go up stairs and see Mrs. Cross. She saw her on the bed in the front room. She spoke to her, but she made no answer. She was cold and clammy, and she should think she was at the point of death.

William Cliffe deposed: He was employed by Mr. Cross in his shop. Saw her at ten o'clock. She was washing at the back. A bottle of brandy was fetched on Monday, because Mrs Cross said she was not well. He believed they lived happily together, excepting at the time of Brown's case.

Jane Anger knew Mrs. Cross, and had been living next door to them for three years. She had known them nearly ten years. On the night of Monday last, she heard a disturbance in Mrs. Cross's house. Cross was abusing deceased, and calling her names. She said, "you can call me what you like." She heard quarrels occasionally between them, and heard things thrown about the house on several occasions. Mrs. Cross always spoke kindly of her husband, but the bad language and violence were always on the side of the husband.

Caleb Wood deposed: I reside next door, and knew deceased. He heard a slight disturbance in Cross's house on Monday night. Cross was using very hard words to his wife, but his wife did not return them. He frequently heard

disturbances, and has remonstrated as a friend with Cross. He had a very high opinion of deceased, and felt there was no just cause for the husband's conduct.

Mary Ann Hale deposed: She knew deceased, and had frequently conversations with her. Once she said she had troubles enough to make her do away with herself. The trouble was between her and her husband, but cannot remember what she said. She was a woman of good character. She believed Cross's treatment of his wife totally uncalled for.

Minnie Gilbert remembered some six months ago going to Cross's to get some oxalic acid weighed. Mrs. Cross took about a spoonful, and said she wanted to clean scales.

Dr. Edward Ellis deposed that the features were quite placid, and there were no indications of ill-usage on the body; the lips were very white. Dr. Ellis described the presence of oxalic acid in the basin and glass. Dr. Ellis made a *post mortem* examination of the body. He found a large quantity of oxalic acid, which was undoubtedly the cause of her death.

The jury returned a verdict:—"That the deceased, Jane Cross, came to her death by oxalic acid poison, but by whom administered there is no evidence to show."

On being questioned by the Coroner as to the propriety of attaching a rider respecting the deceased or her husband, the jury intimated, through the foreman, that they were not desirous of doing so.

## WAIROA.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

April 20.

The Mania will probably get out on Sunday. The bar is still blocked, and a heavy sea.

April 22.

The steamer Mania is not yet able to get out, there being only three feet of water on the bar.

A County Council meeting is called for the 26th instant.

Considerable curiosity is manifested as to when the Free Press will make its first appearance.

## DUNEDIN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

April 20.

Two of the Insurance Companies interested offer a reward of £250 for such evidence as will lead to the conviction of the person who set fire to McDonald's store at Kaitangata.

At Oamaru on Thursday a boy named Collins was drowned. In company with two others he was paddling on the beach, and ventured too far out; he was caught by the heavy breakers, thrown on his back, and carried out by the under current. When last seen by his companions his arms were only visible. A diligent search was made, but as yet the body has not been recovered.

The concluding paragraphs of the unemployed petition, which Mr McLaren declares he will present to the Governor, reads:—"As your Excellency is doubtless aware, the Hospital Benevolent Asylum, and Industrial School are crowded, and the authorities are compelled to turn a deaf ear to the cry of suffering. Homeless children have been turned out in the streets for want of an asylum. The Fever Hospital has been closed against our families, and we and our little ones have been treated worse than the beasts of the field. Unlike the birds of the air we cannot fly away to other colonies, where work would be found, and owing to the distance of Wellington are unable to present our wants and wrongs before the seat of Government, we humbly beseech your Excellency to take our hard case into consideration and if necessary advise the Government to employ their Agent-General to contract another loan for the purpose of chartering steamers to convey us away from the colony in which we and our families have only the prospect of future starvation.

The Times is severe on the movement, and says that few of the signatures are genuine, and urges that McLaren should be kept in the backyard till after the Governor is gone.

April 23.

The Governor was conveyed to town by a special train, reaching Rattray-street station a few minutes before noon. He was received with the customary honors, His Excellency making a short unwritten reply to the Corporation address. There were fully 1,000 people about the station.

McLaren, with a few sympathisers, and headed by a dirty piece of calico, on which a single word "Unemployed" was daubed, took up a position along the side of the platform from which the address was presented. When the Governor

was about to enter the carriage, he shouted, "Your Excellency, an address," flourishing the document he held in his hand, but the police closed on him, and the carriage drove away amid cheers from the crowd, and to his chagrin he followed the procession to Fernhill.

The City Council will entertain the Governor at a banquet on Thursday.

Mr Laren was shown to the right about at Fernhill.

It is reported that Mr. Shrimski will resign his seat for Oamaru.

April 24.

Under the heading "Why the Governor was hissed," Mr. Stout supplies a column and a-half letter to the Guardian, in which he reiterates the charges *re* the despatches and Abolition Bill, and the bias as shown in his recommendation of Messrs. Hunter, M.H.R., and Montgomery as consul. He says in conclusion, if this be so, if the Governor has manifested a party feeling, are the colonists so craven-hearted that they are afraid to condemn him for his action; if it is to be said of New Zealand colonists that their worship of aristocrats is so intense that all shortcomings of a Governor are to be overlooked, that it is useless to talk of being in a free country, or amongst an enlightened people. Nor is this question for provincialists alone. Once it is recognised that it is a correct thing for a Governor to have a party leaning, we can afford to dispense with the Imperial Government appointing him. Why should the Colonists not be able to elect their own Governor. No doubt those who assume to "appear" upper crust here have the same class bias as in other countries, and to one in authority they are ever ready to bend, but I trust the citizens of Otago will manifest an independent feeling, which will show that they are ready to condemn any man who acts wrongly. The Star says that Under-Secretary Willis, not receiving sufficient support, has abandoned the idea of contesting the seat for Auckland City West, but he will take the earliest opportunity of trying to enter Parliament.

The Rev. Stanford preaching at All Saints Church on Sunday night, strongly denounced the practice of Banks keeping clerks working late at nights, which as much as anything else produced mischief.

At St. Paul's the Archdeacon had to lament the abstraction of a pound note from the collection bag.

As the Governor leaves for Invercargill on Thursday, the projected civil banquet falls through. He will be entertained by a ball on Wednesday.

## CHRISTCHURCH.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

April 21.

A quarrel took place between H. Redwood and the Hon. Mr Robinson over some sporting question, during which Redwood struck Robinson with a stick. The case was brought before the Court to-day, when a police-constable gave evidence to the effect that he saw Redwood strike Robinson with a stick. The latter fell to the ground. The policeman asked Redwood what it all meant, and Redwood replied that Robinson had used a very offensive expression to him, and he immediately went for him. Redwood was fined 20s.

April 23.

The following correspondence appears in the morning papers: "Sir,—I wish to express to you my most profound regret and sorrow for the gross assault I committed on you on Tuesday night. In tendering you my humble and public apology for this assault, I wish it further to be known that not the slightest provocation of any sort was given to me by you at the time, nor was a word said by you which could in any way justify my conduct, and that the blow given by me with a stick was totally unexpected by you.—I am, yours obediently, H. REDWOOD.—Hon Wm. Robinson, Christchurch."

"Sir,—In reply to your letter of today conveying your apology for the assault you committed on me, I have to state that out of regard for the many members of your family whom I have known for many years, and for whom I have much respect, I do not intend to press the case in the Police Court against you, and therefore for these reasons, but for no other, accept your apology.—Your obedient servant, WM. ROBINSON.—H. Redwood, Esq."

## WAIKAWA.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

April 21.

The decision in the election case is to be given next Saturday. Sydney Johnston will most likely be unseated.

Mr Sheehan made a good speech, and proved that the Ruatahika roll was

illegal, and that great irregularities had occurred in taking the votes. The court was largely attended, and great interest was shown in the proceedings.

(PRESS AGENCY)

## CHRISTCHURCH.

April 20.

Mr Rolleston, M.H.R. for the Avon District, addressed his constituents on Wednesday night. After briefly reviewing the past session, he proceeded to refer to the Ministry, and said that one of the greatest evils of late years had been that Ministers wandered about the colony, and the Ministry had thus been made responsible for the acts of any one of its members, which led to serious trouble and difficulties. The Ministry unhappily constituted the members of the House elected to oppose the Ministry, who had joined it, and now it represented every kind of principle. The colony had been badly treated by public men changing their opinions after election. The run question had been unfairly made a political matter; it was purely local, and his opinion was that the tenure of pastoral tenants was merely one for grazing, and the State was bound to get the utmost value, but not to do that at the expense of shutting the country up in any way. If we go in for an extreme rental, we are bound to give extreme privileges of tenure. With regard to the Government proposal of deferred payments for land, he thought it would not be advisable to adopt it generally, but he believed the Government would do wisely in connection with the immigration system, to set aside a block of land for the purpose of settlement on the system of deferred payments. It would be well to adopt the village system similar to what formerly was proposed by Mr Stafford. With reference to the land fund, he did not believe in the argument regarding the compact of 1856 as anything like so strong as that of the old Wakefield system.

Five thoroughbred mares were imported in the ship Opawa for the Middle Park Stud Company.

The following entries were received last night for the Champagne Stakes, 1878:—Delamaine's b c by Traducer, Mountain Nymph; Delamaine's b c by Traducer, Atlanta; Delamaine's b f by Traducer, Miss Flat; Delamaine's ch f by Traducer, Belle of the Isles; Pritchard's ch c by Traducer, Galle; Archer's b c by Barbarian; L. Walker's b c Piccadilly by Albany, Red Rose; Mallock's ch c York by Traducer, Moss Rose; Webb's b f by Knottling, Tantrums; Webb's b f by Knottling, Kasparas; Webb's ch c by Albany, Waitoa; Nosworthy's b c Nemo by Albany, No Name; Nosworthy's b c Fiction by Traducer, Deception; Nosworthy's ch f Naiad by Traducer, Mermaid; Ward's ch c Natator by Traducer, Waterwitch; Frayer's b c Merlin by Blue Boy, Malice; Redwood's ch c Kama Kama by Tatton, Waimea; Redwood's b f by Tatton, Waimea; Redwood's b f by Towton, Kaupo.

At the sale of Griffiths' stud of thoroughbred horses yesterday, thirty-seven animals realised 4943 guineas. The principal sales were:—Sires: Traducer, 800 guineas, to the Middle Park Stud Company; Albany, 500 guineas, to S. Nosworthy; Blue Boy, 150 guineas, to Delamaine; Mares: Hammock, 325 guineas; Idalia, 525 guineas; Maria Theresa, 550 guineas (all to the Middle Park Stud Company); Amifer, 275 guineas, Nosworthy; bay filly out of Maria Theresa, 300 guineas, H. P. Lance; Tell Tale, 300 guineas, Nosworthy. Three colts brought over 100 guineas each, and two colonial bred mares respectively 160 and 110 guineas.

April 24.

The Hon. E. Richardson, M.H.R. for Christchurch, is expected to address his constituents shortly.

Settling on the autumn meeting took place on Saturday. The following stakes were paid:—Redwood, £735 as follows: St Leger, £142; Great Autumn Handicap, £437; Flying Stakes, £156. Webb: Champagne Stakes, £288. Delamaine: Easter Handicap, £168. R. Ray, Steeplechase, £137. Mallock: Selling Race, £85. A. W. Money, Consolation, £40. Total, £1463.

## TAURANGA.

April 20.

Mr Peters, the mail contractor between Tauranga and Napier, has notified the postal authorities that unless the Oropi bush road is kept repaired he will be unable to drive. All the Constabulary are off this road. The County Council having hung up the Act, its repair devolves on the Government. It passes for eighteen miles through native unrateable land, and its state is disgraceful to the Government.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

There were two errors in our Waikaurau telegram as published last week. The settlers of the Woodville district, through the Chairman of the Board, asked the Waipawa County Council to impose a special acreage rate of 2s, so as to bring up their local taxation to the amount determined by the Road Board, but which had been reduced one half by the Assessment Court. Mr Levy, the Chairman of the Board, and the representative of Woodville in the County Council, in drawing attention to the application, said he did not think it was competent for the Council to grant what was asked for, at the same time the settlers of Woodville were anxious to pay heavy rates in order to get roads. Our telegram would have made it appear that the reverse was the case. The other error was that "12th clause" was printed instead of 78th clause.

The following is the judgment of the Native Lands Court in the application made by Henry Matua for a re-hearing of the claim for a subdivision of the Mangorapa Block. "The first feature in the case is the omission of the name of Wi Matua from the grant. It is admitted by the Judge who heard the case that the name was omitted through inadvertence. Evidence taken by the Court shows that the grantees in the present grant agree that his name should be in that grant. The first step to be taken is to remedy this error lest worse should come of it. The Court will therefore recommend that a new grant be issued including the name of Matua and of the same date. The land being inalienable, this delay will not be of so much consequence as it otherwise might be, and will give time to the owners to come to some agreement as to subdivision at a future Court. Application for subdivision is therefore dismissed." The judgment appears to have given much satisfaction to all Maoris concerned in the case.

The early train on Thursday morning conveyed sixteen first-class passengers to Waikaurau, no less than six of whom were "dead-heads." There were two Legislative Councillors, two County Councillors, and two newspaper men, all travelling with free passes.

We understand that all the tenders for making the alterations and additions to the Oddfellows' Hall are considerably above the amount fixed by the Committee as the limit. It is therefore not improbable that fresh tenders will be called for.

It would appear that there is very little chance of a township being formed at the Takapanu railway station, the proprietor of the soil, the Hon J. Johnston, having resolved to dispose of no land on more favorable terms than twenty one years leases. The natives own a large block of country in the immediate neighbourhood of the station and they are willing to sell, but arrangements are not yet completed.

The friends of Mr N. Carrington will be glad to learn that that gentleman was slightly improved in health on his arrival at Wellington, and it is thought that he will be well able to bear the journey to his home at Taranaki.

Sir William Jervoise, who is a passenger to Australia by the Torres Straits mail boat, has come by the invitation of several Australian Governments, to report on the defences of the Colonies. Sir William is one of the ablest engineers in Her Majesty's Service, and at the War Office holds the appointment of Director of Fortifications. He was created a Commander of the Order of Sts. Michael and George in 1874, and was appointed Governor of the Straits Settlements in 1875. His detention at Cooktown, through the mail steamer being quarantined is to be regretted.

The Masterton News Letter states that the Picton hangman, who arrived in the Waikaurau some time ago, finds the district a failure. He obtained work in the Forty Mile Bush, but being identified, he had to seek fresh fields and pastures new.

The Wellington Argus had to apologise to advertisers and readers generally for the appearance of its front page on Monday. Just as the forms were going to press that afternoon a stupid boy managed to thrust his foot through the front page, thereby converting the contents into a hopeless mass of "pye."

The Post of Monday says:—"We have made the fullest inquiry into the alleged ill-treatment of a young man who was a passenger by the Northampton, and who, during a portion of the voyage, had, owing to his state of health, to be placed under partial restraint. As the result of those inquiries, we have discovered that the statements made by the Nelson Colonist are a tissue of misrepresentations and exaggerations, that the person in question was as kindly treated as the circumstances would admit of, and that no blame whatever attaches to the conduct of Dr. Leighton Keaven, the Surgeon-Superintendent of the vessel, whose action throughout was alike humane and considerate. The persons most interested have stated that they are quite satisfied of this."

Mr. Tully, late marker at the Criterion billiard-room has rented the room at the Empire Hotel, and, we have no doubt, will receive a very fair amount of patronage.

A sensational accident occurred recently near the Post Office Hotel, Wellington—one man accidentally shooting another in the street. The circumstances are thus given in a local paper: Mr James Halkett, blacksmith, and Mr Robert Taylor, express driver, were talking about some minute and beautifully finished Derringer revolvers belonging to the former, who, assuming that they were not loaded, was handling them pretty freely whilst showing the workmanship, when one suddenly went off, and passed through the calf of Mr Taylor's right leg. He was placed in a cab and taken to Dr Diver, who dressed the wound, and gave the sufferer the comforting assurance that no bones were broken. Most persons will consider, no doubt, under the circumstances, that Mr Taylor should consider himself fortunate to have escaped more serious injury. The occurrence, we should imagine, was purely accidental, but it was necessary that the police should take cognizance of it, and, therefore, during the day James Halkett was brought up at the Resident Magistrate's Court, and charged with unlawfully wounding Taylor with a revolver. Taylor having been removed to the hospital, could not appear, and on the application of the police, defendant was remanded for a week, bail being allowed in his own recognisance of £50 and one surety of £50.

A very painful accident occurred at the Christchurch railway station on Saturday. According to the Press, a pointsman named Pearney was shifting a set of points to allow an engine drawing a number of empty trucks to come in on an inner line, when his foot became jammed between the rails. The flange of the engine caught him and threw him down, and in trying to extricate himself his arm lay across the rail, several of the trucks going over it before the engine could be stopped. The arm was broken at the elbow and wrist, and the toe of the right foot badly bruised.

An accident to a little boy named Charles Hopinson, aged about fourteen years, which occurred at Palmerton on Thursday last, exemplifies the danger of trusting firearms in the hands of young boys. It appears (says the Herald) that the boy was out shooting on the day in question near Matakana, and that when in the act of running home a charge of shot from the gun accidentally went off, blowing three fingers and the thumb from the right hand, and thus maiming him for life.

There has been a very heavy sea rolling into the roadstead all Thursday night and Friday, stopping the progress of the works, and throwing up hundreds of tons of shingle at the back of the eastern breastwork. Beyond this not much damage has been done, though the western mole has sustained some considerable injury. The quantity of shingle at the rear of the breastwork which has been thrown up is something astonishing, it is piled up about four feet above the level of the breastwork, and has completely smothered the tramway along it. The strength of the works has been severely tested, and they have come out of the ordeal in a manner that must prove highly satisfactory to the Board.

Mr. E. L. Smith was the successful Contractor for the Galleries to be erected in the Wesleyan Church. His tender was a little over £140.

The Fire Brigade held an excellent practice on Thursday. Owing to a better quality of coal being used steam was got up in less than seven minutes. The members of the Brigade appear anxious to make themselves acquainted with their several duties, and ere long it is expected they will attain a proficiency equal to the best of the Brigades in the Colony.

We are in receipt of a letter in which the writer mentions that the swamp reclamation works are not proceeding with the energy desired, and further he complains of the few hands now employed on those works. As several of the statements of our correspondent would likely lead to a libel action on the part of the swamp contractors, and not being desirous of figuring before Mr Justice Richmond in July next as defendants, we decline to publish the letter in full. We understand that several of the matters complained of in the letter had previously been noticed by the Municipal Engineer, and that he has communicated with the contractors on the subject.

John Purcell, an old cabman, died on Friday. It appears that he has been for some time laboring from illness. On arriving at his home in Emerson-street on Thursday, instead of going as usual to his bed, he slept for some time in the open air, where he was found by his friends, who, perceiving his state, at once sent for medical assistance, but too late to be of any avail.

There can be no doubt that the harbour improvement scheme is most unpopular at Port Ahuriri, and this was shown unmistakably on Friday evening, when the Sir Donald steam launch was stuck on the bar. The Sir Donald was bringing the passengers of the Wanaka ashore, amongst whom were the Minister of Public Works and the Chief Engineer, Mr Carruthers. When the steamer struck the ground wave after wave swept over the little vessel, and with each drenching the passengers received, hearty cheers were given by those on shore, who expressed the hope that Mr Carruthers would be made to realise the value of his scheme for the deepening of the bar.

A deputation consisting of Messrs R. Stuart (Mayor), Smith, Anderson, Newton, and Miller, waited upon the Minister of Public Works on Saturday, for the purpose of ascertaining the powers of the Hospital Board. The Hon J. D. Ormond received the deputation with the utmost courtesy, but informed the members of it that nothing could be definitely settled with regard to the powers of Hospital Boards until after the meeting of Parliament. Mr Ormond, however, suggested that the management of the present hospital should be placed in the hands of the new Board, and stated that the General Government would supply the necessary funds for the maintenance of the institution until something definite was done by the General Assembly.

We are glad to report that our appeal to the public on behalf of the Fire-engine fund was not made in vain. The hon. sec. to the Committee begs to acknowledge the receipt of further subscriptions, and desires us to state that those received have not come from business men, but from persons who have no commercial stake in the town.

The Davenport, Fay and Davies troupe gave one of their performances on Friday before one of the largest audiences that has ever assembled in Waipawa. Several parties were present, who were extremely anxious to learn from Mr. Davenport whether he was assisted by the "taipo." Notwithstanding assurances to the contrary, the natives expressed their desire to clear away with as little delay as possible.

Persons having business in connection with the Hawke's Bay County Council will learn with extreme satisfaction that in future all accounts due by the County Council must be rendered by the 2nd of every month, and payment will be made on the 15th. This is as it should be.

We hear that about sixty persons have affixed their signatures to the petition being got up with the object of merging the Meanee Road Board into the County Council. There are several ratepayers who, however, object to sign on the grounds that the matter should first have been debated at a public meeting, and they are not fully sure in taking the proposed course they will not be "jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire."

The Wananga learns on good authority that the promise made by the Attorney-General, Mr. Whitaker, to the House of Representatives that he would draft a new Native Lands Bill during the recess has been fulfilled. A new Bill sweeping away all existing Acts has been drafted by Mr. Whitaker with the assistance of Chief Justice Fenton. We hope that the Government will secure the confidence of the Natives in this important matter by circulating the Bill amongst them in the Maori language at least a month before Parliament meets.

The quarterly returns of Customs Revenue for the quarter ending March 31 are now published, and show a total decrease in comparison with last year of £19,705. Napier Customs show a small increase. Major Atkinson, when the House meets next session, will have to account for the deficiency in his estimates—as laid last year before Parliament. Economy must become the order of the day, and it is not at all improbable that the subsidies to Counties and Road Boards will have to be reduced considerably in order to meet the necessities of the Government.

The principal telegraph offices throughout the colony are in future to be open up till half-past nine every evening, with the exceptions of Saturdays and Sundays. Owing to the difference of time between Sydney and New Zealand, viz., two hours, it was impossible to forward telegrams placed in the Sydney office after six o'clock to New Zealand as they would not reach until eight o'clock—the official closing time. The uncertainty of affairs in Europe at the present time renders it more than ever necessary that colonists should be kept well and quickly informed of passing events.

The following appointments and exchanges of stations will take effect in the Hawke's Bay police force from the 1st May:—Second sergeant James Robinson, from mounted sergeant at Waipawa to be first-class sergeant at Napier, vice Moffat resigned. Mounted constable David M'Guire, from Wairoa, to be second sergeant at Waipawa. Mounted constable John Madigan, from Havelock to Wairoa, vice M'Guire promoted.

The partnership of Messrs Watt Brothers has been dissolved. Mr Archibald Watt retiring from the firm. The business in future will be carried on by Mr James Watt alone.

Between the two local candidates for Totara the only political difference is said to be that Mr. M. Gaffin is in favor of secular education, while Mr. Grimmond advocates a denominational system. Both seem inclined to vote against the present Ministry. At his first meeting Mr. Grimmond said:—"If you elect me, looking at the way in which the General Government has disregarded its pledges to the colony in general, and this district in particular, I am inclined to join the Opposition. When I look at the broken pledges and promises of the present Government, I cannot come to any other conclusion."

The original Georgia Minstrels have at last arrived in the Colonies. We believe however that they will appear in Australia previous to "doing" New Zealand. They are spoken of in "Frisco" papers as the most talented company who have yet made their appearance in the Christy line.

The Wanganui Herald of Saturday last, says:—"The profits of sheep farming appear so certain, and the labor attendant thereon so limited, that the native mind on this coast has at last risen equal to the occasion. We learn that Mete Kingi has recently returned from a visit to Renata, the Napier rangatira, and has not returned empty handed. His host, with a generosity that cannot be too much extolled, presented and obtained for Mete 3000 sheep which he was instructed to distribute at the different clearings on the Wanganui river. This has now been done, and at six of the important settlements, peaceful profitable sheep are located, enjoying excellent pasturage, and filling the Maori heart with joy. The natives are showing too by their action that they are fully alive to the value and importance of the gift. On all sides they are busily engaged clearing the bush, and collecting grass seed, so as to extend their operations. The doom of those wretched curs that are usually found in abundance at native pahs has been pronounced, and their ranks are fast being decimated. With ordinary good fortune Maori grown wool ought to be sold in Wanganui next season."

Mr. Buckland quotes fat cattle at 24s. to 27s.; sheep 2d. to 2½d.

The following paragraph, headed "Law Books from a New Quarter," is extracted from the Davenport Democrat, Iowa, U.S.:—"Our neighbour, Judge Grant, has received from New Zealand two volumes and a part of a third of the reports of the Supreme Court, and the New Zealand Justice of the Peace. These books are a present from their author, Judge Alexander J. Johnston, of the New Zealand Supreme Court, to his relative, James Grant of this city. The paper, printing, and binding of these books are equal to the best specimen in Judge Grant's library, and are quite superior, we must admit, to our State Court reports. Of the legal learning in these books we are not competent to speak, but we have no doubt Judge Dillon and the Scott County Bar will find a new and increased satisfaction in visiting the library of our neighbour, which the Bar of the County regard as public in all but the expense of purchasing it."

Wellington must be a nice place for the father of a large family to take up his residence in. In addition to his little attentions throughout the night to the ubiquitous "baby," sundry ex-babies, according to the following alarming notice in the Argus, will claim his parental offices:—"The audacity of rats is unbounded. Last night a gentleman residing in Mulgrave-street was awakened by hearing his infant, a few months old, suddenly screaming out. The child lay in a cradle by the bed-side, and there was a light in the room. Springing up, the father heard a rattle and looking at the child found the blood spouting from four wounds, evidently made by a rat's teeth, in the infant's cheek. An hour or so later a similar scream was heard from the adjoining room, where another child, a boy about three years' old, was sleeping. On going to him it was found that the rat had bitten him also, the same tooth-marks appearing on the eyebrows, and bleeding profusely. The rat has not yet been caught."

A curious story is told of the Wanganui race meeting. There were three horses to run for a certain race, but the owner of one, thinking his animal had no chance, would not start. Another owner, who felt sure his nag would win, prevailed, after a time, on the other to let his horse run if he paid the money, so that the race might not fall through. The race came off; the horse that had no show won, and the owner who thought he had the race safe in hand had the satisfaction of knowing that he paid to enter a horse that carried away the prize from him.

We learn from a Taranaki paper the good news respecting the harbor has produced a favorable change in business, in New Plymouth. Close-fisted money-lenders are relaxing their iron grasp of the needful, and tradesmen are beginning to wear a cheerful countenance, the News hears that one tradesman who contemplated selling some property in the centre of the town can now get three times more for it than he asked a week ago.

The Wanganui Herald says:—"On Mr. Booth's return from the interior it is possible we may hear some news respecting Tahau. Accompanied by Kemp, Mr Booth is on his way thither in order to pay some £1700, balance of land purchase money. The native mind, ever prone to suspicion, had been aroused by prospecting parties penetrating into the country against their will, and it will be remembered that Mr Woon was turned back because he had taken some friends with him. Mr Booth however, under the escort of Mamako, the most influential chief on the river, aided also by Kemp, and carrying money for payment, will have no difficulty in getting through."

J. T. Thomson, Esq., Surveyor-General of New Zealand, arrived at Ohinemutu on Thursday, from Napier and Wellington, after visiting the Rotomahana terraces.

During the next session of the General Assembly the Government proposes introducing a Bill to amend the present Friendly Societies Act, and with the object of obtaining information, the Under-Secretary has forwarded circulars to the Secretaries of the Societies throughout the colony, asking them to fill in certain returns, which are similar to those now required by the Imperial Government under the Act now in operation in the old country. There being a great difference in the manner in which the Societies are conducted in the colonies to those in Great Britain, there is of course a large amount of information asked for which is unobtainable, and not required. The returns are asked to be sent in to the Under-Secretary before the 1st of April last, but strange to say the forms received here were not posted at Wellington until sixteen days after the date fixed, on which they were returnable at Wellington!! This is meddling and muddling with a vengeance.

The Meance ratepayers' petition praying their Road Board district may be abolished in accordance with clause 37 of the Counties Act, now bears the signatures of about 80 settlers, who represent more than half the value of the district, and more than one-third of the total number of the ratepayers.

The General Government has once again given a rebuff to the Volunteers of the Colony, with the object, we presume, of discouraging as much as possible the volunteering spirit existing amongst the colonists. A circular memorandum has been issued from the Native and Defence Department, addressed to officers commanding districts, informing them that for the future no free passes on the railways will be allowed to any person connected with the Militia or Volunteer forces. In cases of absolute necessity members of the Permanent Staff, or of the Volunteer Corps, may obtain a free pass on application to the Department, if the nature of the service to be undertaken by travelling is stated. Had this order been in force last month the Napier Artillery could only have gone into the country for their annual shot and shell practice at their own expense.

The reading-rooms for the Fire Brigade are now completed and furnished, and when periodicals and newspapers are placed on the table will doubtless be an evening become a favorite place of resort for the members. We shall ourselves have much pleasure in giving to the person in charge of this, the neighboring colonies, and England for the perusal of those who visit the reading-rooms.

At the sale of the stock-in-trade and furniture of the Criterion Hotel, held by Messrs Routledge Kennedy and Co. on Tuesday, after the bill of sale and condition had been read out the whole was put up in one lot, and knocked down to the mortgagee, Mr. James Watt, for £3,800.

Mr. Charles Butler, of Taradale, has taken possession of the Commercial Hotel, Port Ahuriri. Mr. Butler is new to hotel life, but possessing a large amount of energy will doubtless make a good trade.

A meeting of the creditors of Mr H. Ford was held on Monday afternoon in Mr Sheehan's offices, Hastings-street. A. Kennedy, Esq., was voted to the chair. An approximate statement of accounts was laid before the meeting, which showed a large deficiency. After considerable discussion the following motion was carried:—"That Mr Ford should execute an assignment of all his property for the benefit of his creditors." Messrs. A. Kennedy and J. Higgins were appointed Trustees.

What is the fact? is a question that may well be asked by the readers of the Herald in connection with the state of the bar at Port Ahuriri. Regarding the grounding of the Sir Donald on Friday evening, the Herald said the accident was "solely due to the shallowness of the bar." On Monday we read that to prevent a false impression getting abroad with reference to the state of the bar, it is worth while to mention that the Jane Douglas drawing twice as much water as the Sir Donald came in at extreme low water on Saturday morning, and that the Rangitira, drawing between 8 and 9 feet came in that same day, two hours before high tide. In this same issue, in the shipping column, we learn that the Sir Donald on Saturday morning again struck on the bar. It appears to us that either the Sir Donald is very badly steered, or else that there is not water enough on the bar to float her over.

To the Editor: Sir,—Seeing a local in one of your late issues, relative to a letter in connection with the Swamp Contracts, and the same being attributed to me, I shall esteem it as a great favor if you permit me to deny through your columns any knowledge of or participation in the letter. By doing this, you will oblige.—Yours, &c., EDW. THOMAS, Napier, April 23, 1877.

Mr. Carruthers inspected the Napier Takapau railway on Saturday, proceeding up the line by special train. He returned to town in the evening, and left for Auckland by the Wanaka. Mr. Carruthers, we understand, expressed himself well satisfied with the condition of the line, and he also gave instructions for the protection of the Ngauroro banks at those points that are threatened in the neighborhood of Clive.

A telegraph station was opened on Monday at Waiuku, Manakau County, in the Auckland provincial district.

The stupid blunder of the Vogel Government in importing rubbishy timber from America for railway sleepers, is now bearing the fruit it was predicted it would. The Oregon pine sleepers that have not been in situ four years are, many of them, as rotten as pears, and are being taken up between the Napier and Spit station.

The services of a qualified engineer are advertised for by the Waipawa Council, to inspect, and furnish a report on all the roads in the County. Applications must be sent in by Monday, 30th inst., to the offices of the County, Waipukurau.

The cricket match between an eleven of the Star Cricket Club and an eleven of the Herald office, which was played at Taradale on Saturday afternoon, resulted in a drawn game. The Press had made 86 runs, and their opponents 65, with two wickets to go down.

The agricultural statistics for the Auckland district are completed. The number of holdings (freehold) are 3450; rented 546; part freehold and part rented, 195. Total, 4191. The total number of acres under crops, including some grasses, are given as 369,670.

In the Resident Magistrate's Court on Monday, a native who was charged with drunkenness, but let out on bail, omitted to make his appearance, and his bail money of £1 was ordered to be forfeited. Two other individuals, who on Saturday night were, for stumbling along the road, locked up, were brought up on Monday, but as His Worship thought they had a possibility on Sunday of solitarily ruminating over their errors, they were both discharged with a caution.

We learn that Mr. F. E. Hamlin, for some years Resident Magistrate of Maketu, has resigned his appointment, and comes to Napier, at an early date, to assume the duties of clerk and Interpreter to the Resident Magistrate's Court here, in the room of his brother Mr. Martin Hamlin, lately deceased.

A small whale, measuring about 16 feet long, was found stranded at Onepoto on Sunday morning by Thomas Boyd. A dispute arose regarding the ownership of the fish between the chief Tareha and the man Boyd, but this was quickly decided by Inspector Scully, who happened to be upon the spot at the time, who gave his opinion that Boyd, having killed this monster of the deep, was entitled to keep it in his possession. The whale was afterwards bought by Mr. Stuart. It was tried out this morning, and produced we believe about ten gallons of oil.

It may not be generally known that, under the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1876, Clause 38, every person of the full age of twenty-one years, whose name appears on the burgess roll of a borough, shall be a burgess of such borough so long as such roll is in force. The names of all owners, or occupiers of tenements within the borough, have to be entered in the valuation roll from which the burgess list is compiled. Therefore, women are entitled to vote whose names are on the burgess list, and on that for the borough of Napier there are now to be seen the names of fifty-eight females.

Tuesday was the day on which the auctioneers had to take out their licenses. As some misapprehension appeared to exist as to the state of the law with regard to the destination of the fees, and to the limit of an auctioneer's license, we may say that the laws relating to the scale of fee, and to the limit of a license, are unchanged, that is, the fee remains the same, viz., £40, and the limit extends to the boundaries of the provincial district; the destination of the fee is alone changed. Instead of the money being paid into the provincial treasury, it is now paid to the funds of county or borough for which the license was taken out.

A case requiring the attention of benevolent persons is now before the public. A painter of the name of Holland, residing in Emerson Street, opposite the Provincial Hotel, is now lying ill, and it is feared dying of consumption. He has been out of work, owing to illness, for months, and his wife, who is a seamstress, has been unable, owing to having to wait on her sick husband, to obtain pecuniary help to support herself and him. We call attention to the case in the hope that those charitably inclined will render some assistance.

Every servant girl brought out by the ship Northampton that arrived in Wellington last week was engaged the first day after landing.

Writing on bank holidays the Guardian observes:—"Another absurdity, and more inconvenience to business men. The banks close on Monday, because it is St. George's Day. St. George was an ancient party who is said to have killed a dragon with a pitchfork; ergo, bank clerks should rejoice, and the public should be inconvenienced. The logic of this may not be good, but it is at least equal to the reason for closing the banks on St. George's Day. Saturday will be the Most Noble George Augustus Constantine Phipps' day. Why not a bank holiday on that occasion?"

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of 10s from "C.G.B.," forwarded to us for the relief of Mrs. Holland. We shall be happy to receive the further contributions of the charitable.

The Christchurch Press says: We have lately received from Press Agency and private correspondents programmes of race meetings intended to be held at different places, and for the telegraphic transmission of the same we have had to pay. Agents and correspondents who thus favor us are evidently under a misapprehension as to the distinction between news and advertisements. We may add "them's our sentiments," and further, we protest against jockey clubs making use of the Press Agency and our columns to inform those interested the date upon which nominations and acceptances are due. The information can be just as well given through our advertising columns, and with a great deal more satisfaction to us. The Press Agency might with reason accept this hint.

There were no criminal or civil cases on the Resident Magistrate's Court List on Wednesday. The Court bailiff will soon be entitled to the pair of gloves usually presented to Court officials when they day after day present to the justices blank criminal returns.

The Agricultural Statistics for the Provincial District of Hawke's Bay will be found in our advertising columns. These, compared with those of last year, show an increase under every heading. The number of holdings has increased by 30, and the total acreage in grass and in crops has risen from 267,850 1/2 acres to 325,515 1/2 acres. The number of holdings is only 631.

Captain Newman, of Arlington, Waipukurau, we are glad to report, purposes cutting up his back run of 10,000 acres, into sections of a suitable acreage to the lay and character of the country, and to lay off village sections at Motuotaraia. There is an increasing demand for land throughout the colony, and we have not the slightest doubt that Captain Newman's valuable estate at Motuotaraia will command a ready sale.

At a special meeting of the Presbytery of Hawke's Bay, held on Wednesday in St. Paul's Church, Mr. Patrick Riddle, who has for some time past filled the position of an Evangelist in this district was ordained for missionary work. The Rev. gentleman, we understand, has been appointed to labor in the Marlborough district. Mr. John Stewart who has recently arrived in Napier will succeed Mr. Riddle in his missionary work in Napier.

At a meeting of the shareholders of the Napier Swimming Bath and Skating Rink Company held on Wednesday, Mr. G. E. Lee in the chair, it was resolved to wind up the Company, and after paying expenses, to divide the residue among the shareholders.

The carpenter Michael Leahy who, eleven days ago was conveyed to the Hospital for treatment for injuries received through falling from the tower of Mr. James Watt's house, in course of erection, is now recovered, and left the Hospital on Thursday. He speaks most gratefully of the kindness and attention shown him during his stay at that institution.

It appears that after all the Prince of Wales will not visit Australia or New Zealand this year. "Atlas," writes in the World as follows:—"I am able to say, in contradiction to some statements which have appeared, that the Prince of Wales will not depart on his intended visit to the Antipodes this year, the reason being that, were he to do so, it would be impossible for him to see all that he wishes to see of our Australian colonies, and be back in time for the opening of the Paris Exhibition on 1st May, 1878. His Royal Highness, who is President of the British Commission, is bestowing much time and attention on the work of furthering the success of the British section, going even more into the details of the preparations, which already are well advanced, than he did in connection with the Vienna Exhibition of 1873, to the success of the English department of which his exertions so much contributed. I need not say that the programmes of the Prince's tour which have appeared since last week I announced that it had been decided on, are wholly spurious. No details respecting the journey, its character, or its cost, have as yet been gone into."

We have this day inspected a valuable draught entire Honest Tom, the property of Mr. B. Glass, of Te Kapu, Wai-oa. He is just about to start overland. He was purchased from Messrs. Nairn Brothers, of Pueruere, where he has left some very valuable first-class stock. Honest Tom was bred by J. D. Canning, Esq., of Oakbourne, and is by Conqueror, dam Jolly, an imported mare from Victoria. He is a very even horse, and has left much valuable stock at Pueruere now working. He is a very creditable horse to the province, and we wish his purchaser every success.

The Christchurch Weekly Press came out in a fresh garb last issue, and some of its new arrangements are rather curious. A Kaiapoi Parish Meeting is placed under the heading of "Sporting," and a meeting of that ponderous, awe-striking and solemn body the Board of Education is chronicled under that of "Cricket." There is however probably no libel in either case.

Mr. Nelson Carrington arrived safely from Napier at New Plymouth last Friday. He was conveyed through the town on a stretcher to his father's house. The Herald says the invalid sustained the trying passage better than could have been expected.

G. E. G. Richardson, Esq., has been appointed by his Excellency the Governor, to be auditor for the Counties of Hawke's Bay, Cook, Wairoa, and Waipawa.

Constable Patrick Coghlan has been appointed a Ranger under the Protection of Animals Act, 1873, for the Provincial district of Hawke's Bay.

The fee payable for a license to kill game during the shooting season, 1877, within the Provincial district of Hawke's Bay has been fixed at fifty shillings.

The following cablegrams from Sydney appear in the Southern journals:—Hanks and Co.'s large grocery establishment was destroyed by fire to-day. Adjoining premises also damaged. The Victorian Parliament dissolves on Wednesday. The dry weather has broken up, and it is now cold and wet. The rainfall up to Saturday night was over an inch.

The Melbourne Argus has much pleasure in chronicling the unprecedented success of The Vagabond Papers. Eight thousand copies of the first and second series are in circulation, and fresh editions are in the press. A third series will shortly be published, and as it will contain an authentic portrait of the author, a still larger sale is expected.

This is the way the Post puts it:—"Now really this is too bad. Here is another newspaper editor been in a flatic encounter and got the worst of it. The Nelson Evening Mail of the 16th April says:—"A fracas occurred in Hardy-street on Saturday night between Mr. F. K. Rives and Mr. H. Moor, the editor of the Nelson Daily Times, the latter receiving severe punishment during the encounter. The cause of the row was certain remarks which occurred in a letter signed "Autolycus" in the Times of that day, wherein pointed reference was made to other individuals than the principal object of the attack." The moral of all this is that newspaper men should be fair and just, however severe in what they write, and above all that they should become proficient in "the manly art of self-defence." When a blustering bully comes hectoring about a newspaper office and refuses to listen to reason, it is always well to be able to appeal to the *lex talionis*."

Mr G. Darroll left New Zealand for Sydney in the Wakitipu.

Mr Rolleston, the late Superintendent of Canterbury in addressing his constituents remarked:—"The County system, as already worked out, is a failure. It was agreed there should be somebody intervening between the Road Boards and the Government but Counties should be much larger and include boroughs, as County Councils would then represent the interests of all. One, or at most two, Counties in Canterbury, would be sufficient and very much better than the number already existing. This would have been agreed to by the Canterbury members last session but for the interference of the Government. It was a mistake to create Counties having powers concurrent with Road Boards. This probably was done with the idea that Counties would absorb the Road Boards, but he did not think that ever likely to be the case."

The Inspector of Police requires three good and intelligent men as constables. The pay offered is good, and the billets we imagine, will not long remain open.

At the sale of Mr Witty's furniture on Wednesday, conducted by Routledge, Kennedy, & Co., there was a large attendance of buyers. The bidding for the various lots was spirited, and the prices realised were satisfactory. We are sorry to report that there was no offer made for the house and ground. The two latter were withdrawn at the reserved price of £4,000. They are however, under offer at present, privately.

The Municipality of Arrowtown, Otago, is the first to establish "fairs" in New Zealand. At a recent meeting of the Borough Council it was decided that fairs should be held on the second Wednesday in April and the second Friday in October in each year, and that the first be held on Wednesday, 9th April next. The local papers say that there is every probability of a large amount of business being transacted on these occasions.

Mr. Gisborne's chance to obtain the late Mr. Tribe's seat for Totara is said to be marred by his being too late in the field, as many are pledged to the local men.

From a Wellington contemporary we learn that the new police arrangements will render it necessary for the Visiting Superintendent, Mr. Shearman, to reside at headquarters in Wellington. He will consequently have to resign charge of the Canterbury Police Force, and will be succeeded there by Inspector Broham, now of Auckland. Inspector Thompson will succeed Mr. Broham as head of the Auckland branch of the force.

At the last meeting of the Grand Lodge of N.Z. South, I.O.G.T., a new department was created in their official work, and rules to regulate it were adopted. There being a difficulty in carrying out the scheme of the Order regarding political movements, it was decided to appoint an officer whose special duty would be to superintend that particular work, and Mr. J. M. Morris, of Nelson, was chosen Grand Political Councilor. It is now intended to organise a thorough system of procedure respecting all political matters.

Mr. Thomas Scully, the well-known and esteemed Inspector of Police, has been gazetted Inspector, First Class, in the Armed Constabulary. This appointment gives Mr. Scully the rank and title of Major, as well as entitling him to take his seat on the bench as a Justice of the Peace.

The Timaru Harbor Board has got £100,000 it does not know what to do with. At a late meeting it was stated that the money would not be wanted for two or three years, and ultimately it was resolved to offer £20,000 to each of the four Timaru banks, on twelve months deposit, subject to withdrawal on six months' notice. A committee was appointed to report on the best means of investing the remaining £20,000. We (Argus) should have thought the Government would have been glad to have borrowed this £100,000 on short dated debentures.

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in San Francisco with great ceremony. National salutes were fired by batteries of artillery, the houses were decked with flags, and bands of music paraded the city. A procession marched through the city, composed of Cavalry, Infantry, State officers, St. Patrick's Cadets, sons of the Emerald Isle Benevolent Association, Irish American Benevolent Society, Labourers Protective Benevolent Association. In a car were 32 ladies representing the Counties of Ireland, followed by the Hibernian Society, troops, &c. An ode to the Emerald Isle was read. The evening was wound up with numerous festivities.

Every now and then the Times prints letters signed "Hobart Pasha," containing defences of the conduct of the Turkish Government. Some readers, who only know the bare fact of the writer of these letters being an Englishman, may like to know a little more about him. The Hon. Augustus Charles Hobart is the English name and designation of this officer. He is the third son (and one of 12 children) of the Earl of Buckinghamshire, who is a Church of England clergyman as well as a peer. Hobart Pasha was born in 1823, and entered the Royal Navy in 1836. He distinguished himself in endeavours to suppress the Brazilian slave trade, and subsequently was more than once mentioned in despatches during the Crimean war, where he first became known to the Turkish Government. During the American war he commanded a blockade-runner, in which capacity he acted with his usual daring and with great success. In 1868 he accepted a high command in the Turkish Navy, and the following year he was appropriately deputed to put a stop to the system of blockade-running to Crete, which the Greeks had succeeded in establishing. He put an end to it, and was rewarded by being advanced to the rank of Admiral with the title of Pasha. He is now in chief command of the fleet of his adopted country, though in receipt of half-pay as a post-captain upon the retired list of the British navy.

Since the departure of the Davenporters there have been no amusements in Napier. Mr. E. Ashton, the lessee of the Oddfellows' Hall, returned to Napier on Wednesday from a pleasure trip to the South, and from him we learn that Messrs. B. Ker and Farron, who are now performing at Wellington, will open here on the 8th of next month. Mr. John Hall with a burlesque company will follow, and it is not impossible Mrs. Scott-Siddons will pry Napier a visit before her departure from the colony. The Press of Wellington speak in eulogistic terms of the performances of Messrs. B. Ker and Farron. We quote from the N.Z. Times of Monday:—"The attractions presented by the performances now being presented at the Theatre Royal, are such that every night the house is filled, the best guarantee of success. On Saturday evening the stalls and pit were crowded, whilst the dress circle was fairly attended, an occurrence not common, fashionable attendances being peculiar to other evenings of the week. "Conrad and Lizette" was played for the last time, and as usual was received with great satisfaction by the audience, the acting of Mr. Farron being so excellently funny in the second act, where he gives his excessively comic representation of the Irishman, Tim Flaherty, that the audience was kept in a state of convulsive laughter the whole time. By this time the patrons of the Theatre should be tolerably well acquainted with the extraordinary ability as a comedian displayed by Mr. Farron in this performance, and it is not necessary, therefore, to dwell on the fact. Further, it may be said that his Tim Flaherty can only be properly appreciated by those who have seen it. In other respects the representation of "Conrad and Lizette" was successful as usual."

—A wit says that London Punch is not as good now as when they put Lemon in it.

—A retired prize-fighter of London has turned ale brewer. He "bruises" good article, too, they say.

—Florida has a young lady named Neuralgia Dimple. Her mother found it on a medicine bottle, and was captivated with it.

—A little boy after his customary evening prayer, a night or two ago, continued, "and bless mamma, and Jenny, and Uncle Benny," adding, after a moment's pause, the explanatory remark, "his name is Hopkins."

## LATEST TELEGRAMS.

### CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

#### Earl Derby on the Political Situation.

#### Colonial Securities Suffering.

#### War in Earnest!

#### Russian Embassy left Constantinople.

#### Czar of Russia Reviews his Troops.

#### He Urges Bravery and a Speedy Return!

#### Emperor of Russia's Declaration of War.

LONDON.

April 20.

During a debate in the House of Lords, Earl Derby intimated that the Government had no hope of averting war. England was not desirous of interfering, but the Government reserved the right to protect English interests.

The discount market is dull. Bank reserve improved. Stocks have partially recovered. Colonial securities are weaker. The tallow market is active. Australian has advanced eightpence per cwt. The Russian Embassy has left Stamboul.

The Czar has reviewed his army, and urged them to exert bravery, and expressed a hope for their speedy and glorious return.

April 24.

The Emperor of Russia's manifesto recalls the interest he has felt on behalf of the Christian subjects of the Porte, and desire that amelioration of their condition should be guaranteed. His entire reign has testified his solicitude for peace, but two years' negotiations with other Powers have failed through the stubborn refusal of the Porte. There had been a refusal of every effectual guarantee—the refusal of the protocol, which expressed the unanimous view of the European States—peace efforts having become exhausted through the proud obstinacy of the Porte, obliges war. He was profoundly convinced of the justice of it, and placed confidence in God. This was foreseen at the time he made the Moscow speech, and now the time had arrived for the independent action of Russia. Invoking the blessing of God, he would order the troops to cross the Turkish frontier.

The circular of Gortschekoff, states by seeking forcibly what Europe vainly tried to secure peaceably, was to the further interest of Europe.

SYDNEY.

April 25.

Arrived—Australia.

## AUSTRALIAN.

MELBOURNE.

George Lewis, aged 78 years, threw himself from Murray bridge at Loroona. The body has been recovered.

A disastrous fire occurred in George-street, between Hunter-street and the Post Office, in Newcastle, the hatters, the inmates barely escaping with their lives, and one woman being severely injured, Mrs. Merritt, from New Zealand, who was in the house. The fire broke out in a room over the shop, and the flames spread with great rapidity, extending to the bedrooms before the inmates were aroused. When alarmed they rushed out in their nightdresses, and Mrs. Merritt, being hard pressed by the fire, threw herself out of the top back window, 40 feet from the gate. She was severely burnt, and it was feared that she had sustained fatal injuries. The others escaped with great difficulty. Two men were removed to the Infirmary. The stock and interior woodwork were consumed. The further spread of the fire was saved by the brigades. At the date of the last advices, Mrs. Merritt was recovering.

The Warden of the Maytown Gold field telegraphs urging the Government to take immediate steps to check the increasing immigration of Chinese. A spell of dry weather would throw hundreds out of employment.

The Galley Lorne brings 150 Chinese.

ADELAIDE.

A man named Cook has stabbed his wife, seriously injuring her.

The Italian Opera Coy is drawing well.

LAUNCESTON.

At the enquiry re the loss of the Foo-choow, the cause was attributed to a strong current, of which no mention was made in the directories.

## INTERPROVINCIAL.

WELLINGTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

April 25.

Some time ago, the public being very dissatisfied with the high charges of the existing Gas Company, started a new company. Soon afterwards the prices were lowered, and a meeting of the new company was held last night to consider whether they should go on or not. After a lengthy discussion, it was resolved that the new company should be wound up, the shareholders paying sixpence per share to meet expenses.

A few months ago a man named Turner was killed, and subscriptions were started for the benefit of his wife and family. A large sum of money was raised, which was handed over to the Benevolent Society. Mrs. Turner now writes to the Evening Post asking why she cannot have the money, in order that she may go home to England. The Benevolent Society says she is better off here than she would be in England, and will not give her the money. A meeting of persons who subscribed the money has been held, and they have decided that she cannot have it. She has no prospects in England, and there is likely to be some trouble about the matter.

A week ago a man named Halkett was showing another man named Taylor a revolver, when the weapon exploded, and shot Taylor in the leg. The affair was purely accidental, but the police arrested Halkett, who was charged with unlawfully wounding Taylor, and remanded for a week. Yesterday morning he was brought up again, when the police declined to prosecute, and Taylor said he was sure Halkett did not intend to injure him. He was discharged without a stain on his character, and the action of the police in arresting him is strongly condemned.

GISBORNE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

April 25.

The Jane Douglas has arrived from Napier.

A large number of commercial travellers from Napier and Wellington are here trying to do business with our business firms. Trade is dull rather, and orders are cautiously given.

The Maoris have spent all their money lately distributed among them, and are loafing on the town, an art they are becoming quite proficient in.

The weather has been bad, but is now improved. Grass looks splendid, and food is abundant, in proportion to which meat becomes dearer, and all kinds of dairy produce are high priced.

We have the best behaved set of County Councillors in the colony. They never abuse one another. When they want to smoke they go into Committee, where they remain until the smoke is over. On the close of the business, the Press representatives are invited out to refresh. They never refuse. Our County revenue will exceed £3000.

DUNEDIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

April 25.

The Governor, in reply to the unemployed petition, said that the statements it contained surprised him, and that his Government will furnish employment on railway works at rates higher than obtainable in England.

At a Land Board meeting to-day, Mr. McGregor, C.E., applied to purchase the Taokitio and Kaitangata lakes to reclaim them.

WAIROA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

April 26.

The Council met to-day, and adjourned until Monday.

A resolution was carried, "That in the absence of any auditor being appointed by the Government, Mr. Shaw be appointed to audit the accounts for the last quarter."

Tenders are to be at once called for the following sections—Tongio to Mohaka; Mohaka to Turioa; Turioa to Wairoa. The Chief Engineer is to be asked to furnish a report on the cost of improving the entrance to the river.

(PRESS AGENCY.)

WELLINGTON.

April 20.

At the annual dinner of the Welling-

ton Rowing Club last night, in referring to the courses most eligible for rowing the Colonial Regatta, Griffiths, a conspicuous boating man, said he thought the Napier course would be a very good one over which to row the colonial match. The people there took great interest in the sport, and the water was always suitable for boating.

Mr O'Shea reports produce prices as follows:—Flour, £15 for best Oamaru brands; oats, 3s 3d; bran, 10½d to 1s; hams, scarce, 9d to 10½d; bacon, inferior, 4d; cheese, 7½d to 8d; potatoes, 7s to 80s; maize, 5s; pollard, 7s.

April 21.

The last Gazette contains tables which show that the Custom's revenue for the colony for the quarter ending March last was £298,039, as against £317,744 collected during the corresponding quarter of 1876; the decrease on quarter being £10,705. The revenue for Auckland last quarter was £49,19, showing a decrease on the corresponding quarter of £4,954; for Wellington, £44,886, showing an increase of £3,735; for Lyttelton, £49,578, showing an increase of £13,2; for Dunedin, £14,600, showing a decrease of £15,218.

For Napier, £10,035, showing an increase of £329; for Nelson, £8,802, showing a decrease of £3,155; for Grey-mouth, £9,263, showing an increase of £1241; for Hokitika, £8,158, showing an increase of £1,727.

TIMARU.

April 20.

The barque Isabella Ridley came ashore yesterday. She crushed her lower timbers on the rocks, and threatened to capsize at first, but now stands stiffly, and the seas are not doing her much harm. The crew were all safely landed. It was a beautiful calm day, but a tremendous sea has been running through the night.

The schooner Rose Anna has drifted into Caroline Bay, and is now in great danger.

The French barque Yvonne is laboring heavily.

The schooners Annie Bow, Young Dick, and Onward, and the brig Mary King, are riding well to anchor, though much strained.

LATTE.

Last night the mate and sailors of the Isabella Ridley tried to get off to the wreck to save their effects. One man was drowned, and several others were only saved by the police arresting them. The mate and one seaman were brought before Mr. E. Wakefield, J.P. this morning and discharged with a severe caution. The barque broke up during the night. The sea has now abated.

LYTTELTON.

April 21.

The Margaret Galbraith, from London, Captain Fergusson, arrived last night, having made the passage in 87 days from the Lizards, which were left on January 23. She brings 16 passengers, and a large cargo, part of which is for Nelson.

AUCKLAND.

April 20.

The Australia arrived this morning, two days under contract time, after the most rapid passage ever made—twenty-two days and nine hours—from Fisco, calling at Honolulu and Kavaau. Passengers for New Zealand:—Messrs. Janus, Lorrington, Thomas, Fa-ton, Dodd, and the original Georgia Minstrels.

April 23.

On the arrival of the Taupo from the South, Richard Walters, a passenger, was arrested on a telegram charged with sealing cheques to the value of £20 at Wellington.

A gun digger named John Nenis, lying drunk on the Kaipara railway, had his arm cut off by the train.

A lad named Campbell Kirkwood, in the employ of Clark on a commission agent at Onehunga, picked up a bottle containing brandy in a hedge near an old hut. He drank a portion of its contents, and died in agony from poison, supposed to be strychnine.

April 24.

Arrived—Wanaka from Napier, and Rotorua from Sydney.

Walker, the trance medium, is a passenger.

WANGANUI.

April 22.

A man named Moffat, who was suspected of manufacturing powder and selling it to the natives, was brought from Upper Wanganui by a number of natives. He was taken before the Resident Magistrate at Wanganui, and committed for trial. The evidence generally went to show that Moffat had been making large quantities of gunpowder, and in a book found on him there was an entry, in his

own handwriting to the effect that he had made 2864lbs. gunpowder for the Waikato. One witness, named Notta, who knew Moffatt for the last five years, said that in April last he saw him at Upper Wanganui making six tin dishes of powder. It was of good quality. By the next morning it was taken away; he did not know by whom, but thought by the Waikatos, who got it instead of the Wanganui. It is thought this is the reason the Wanganui split on Moffatt and apprehended him.

April 25.  
Supreme Court, Ringold, for forgery, was sentenced to four years penal servitude; Klein, for burglary, to two years imprisonment with hard labor; Parkes, for forgery, two years imprisonment with hard labor. Moffatt's case is now being tried.

Tamihana, the hero of Monto Island fight, is dead. The natives are arriving in large numbers to hold a tangi over him.

DUNEDIN.

April 23.  
The Dunedin Jockey Club on Saturday evening unanimously endorsed the action of the Oamaru Club re Fishhook and Drewitt.

April 24.  
The Governor holds an undress levee to-day.

April 25.  
An association for investigating the phenomena of spiritualism, and discovering the truth thereof, has been formed in Dunedin.

A four-roomed house at Apoho, insured for £140 in the National Office, was burnt down on Monday.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

April 20.  
The Taranaki has gone back to Manakau to fetch the English mail. She calls nowhere, but goes direct to Wellington.

A banquet is to be given to Messrs Atkinson about the 1st May.

BLUFF.

April 23.  
Arrived—Ship Fernglen from Napier.

ALEXANDRIA.

April 25.  
The meeting yesterday at Kopu was the largest held for some time past. Tawhiao, Rewi, Manuhiri, and all the principal chiefs were present. The object of the meeting was to welcome the Lower Waikatos. Seven large bullocks and potatoes in tons were presented them. Rewi gave them the choice of land from Panui to Waipa to settle on.

HOKITIKA.

April 25.  
The Harbor Board have resolved to call for competitive designs for the best plan for the conservation of the harbor. The bonus for the best design is £250.

GRAHAMSTOWN.

April 25.  
The Ohinemuri natives have been induced to raise the blockade of the river, and it is expected that a complete reconciliation will shortly be effected between them and the Aroha natives.

The latter are beginning to feel the want of articles only to be purchased from Europeans, and which they cannot procure in their isolation.

CHRISTCHURCH.

April 26.  
The magisterial work at Christchurch has become so heavy that Mr. Whiteford, R.M. at Kaiapoi, has been appointed assistant Resident Magistrate.

At a meeting of shareholders of the Permanent Investment Association, it transpired that the defalcations of Herdson, late chief clerk, amounted to nearly £6000, instead of £600 as previously stated. The defalcations extended over a period of five years, during part of which the Association held a guarantee policy for £1000 in the Australian Alliance Company, but as the claim under it had not been made as required within three months of the expiration of the policy, the Company's refusal to pay this was unfavorably commented on at the meeting. The question of sending a detective to arrest Herdson, who is living near San Francisco, was left to the decision of the directors.

—An exchange remarks: "This is the time to go out wolf-hunting. Nothing will give you higher per centage on your time and money than chasing the wolf from your poorer neighbour's door."

—A codfish is not a codfish unless it's boiled, and then it's always smelt.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE BAR.

SIR,—Allow me through your medium to contradict a statement written by "Shell Back" stating that our local favorite, the Jane Douglas, drawing twice as much water as the Sir Donald, came in at low water. Now, Mr Editor, the Douglas does not draw 12ft., but 6ft. 2in., namely, 2in. more than the Donald; and being on board at the time, allow me to inform "Shell Back" that she hung on the bar for over a minute, it being two hours after low water, the sea washing over her stern—only being 1ft. 6in. in the water. Now, Sir, in justice to the captain of the Donald who had not the good fortune to be washed over but further on, I hope you will find space for the above, and oblige  
THE MAN AT THE WHEEL.  
Port Ahuriri, April 24, 1877.

AD NAUSEAM.

SIR,—I am sick of the Counties Act; I am wearied of Colonel Whitmore's and Mr. Sutton's opinions; I wish there were no Councils, no Road, Harbor, Hospital, or Waste Lands, Boards. When shall we have something to read in the papers? It would be a positive relief to see leading articles on scabby sheep, enteric fever, small pox, or rotten ships. Anything would be welcomed after this counties epidemic which now threatens to become chronic. Why don't you initiate a change, and pitch into somebody, warm up Fannin, or make it hot for Weber? Let us have a laugh and a libel, to take our thoughts from counties and Waipukurau riding elections. Your readers will dance if you pay the piper.—I am, &c.,

A CONSTANT READER.

Napier, April 25.  
[If 'constant Reader were worth powder and shot, we should feel strongly inclined to make it "hot for him."—Ed. W.M.]

THE BAR AND THE SIR DONALD.

SIR,—The Herald has no doubt found it convenient to maintain a discreet silence on that subject which it raised concerning the state of the bar. To me, however, that subject is of such importance, and of such peculiar interest that I cannot allow it so easily to drop. If it be disagreeable to your contemporary to have the matter raked up, it is itself to thank. If it will make statements one day only to contradict them the next, it must take the consequence.

Now, Sir, the Herald very rightly said that the grounding of the Sir Donald, when that steamer was conveying the Minister of Public Works and Mr. Carruthers from the Wanaka, was solely due to the shallowness of the water on the bar. The Sir Donald was being piloted by the Harbor Master, and as all officials are looked upon by the editor of the Herald as bosom friends—from the dust contractor right away up to the throne of Fannin himself—it followed that the Herald should say that "no blame can be attributed to anyone for the accident." That statement, too, as it was, happened to be true, and was probably furnished by some minor official anxious to screen the Harbor Master from possible censure. The young man did not stop to think how such a statement would affect the digestions of the designer of the harbor scheme, and the little knot of worshipping engineers, who, for the life of them, dare not utter a word in derision of the so-called harbor improvements. Guess the horror of all these scientific men on reading, in the very presence of the Chief Engineer, that there was not water enough on the bar to float a boat of the size of the Sir Donald! Such an idea could not be allowed to go abroad. It was no longer a question of saving the Harbor Master from censure; it looked too much like having to save the Chief Engineer from ridicule. The Herald, accordingly, was instructed—or ordered most likely—to virtually contradict what it had said, and to give out that vessels drawing twelve feet of water could float over the bar easily, and that at extreme low tide there was plenty of water for the s.s. Jane Douglas to come in, and she was of much greater draught than the Sir Donald.

Well, Sir, as you yourself put it, what does it all mean? Is it all moonshine glimmering from a journal published to deceive at the dictation of any one in the receipt of Government pay, from Bobby to a Minister of the Crown? Was the bar condemned to save the Harbor-master, and the Harbor-master chucked over-board to spare the feelings of the Chief Engineer, and the Jane

Douglas cracked up to damn the Sir Donald? A sort of "this is the house that Jack built" business, for which the readers of the Herald pay twopence, and posters "have the advantage of the use, free of charge, of Dinwiddie, Morrison and Co's Advertising Board."—I am, &c.,  
MASTER MARINER.  
Port Ahuriri, April 24, 1877.

ROAD BOARDS.

SIR,—It has been generally understood that the roads in Meanece and Tara'ale, as well as the drains, are not in the best of order. Roads and drains require just now a considerable expenditure to keep them in a passable state through winter. In face of this a movement is on foot to deprive the district of all assistance from the Government—to dissolve the Road Board and get the County to do the work.

It is competent for the Council to dissolve any Road Board upon certain conditions being complied with, but what will be the result?

The County has power to levy general rates over the whole of the rateable property within the boundaries, but it has no power to levy a general rate upon any particular district. Clause 39 gives the County certain powers; but it appears clear that the clause refers only to the financial year during which the merging takes place.

The result I take it, will be that if the Meanece petition is granted, the district will have changed bread for a stone with a vengeance.

With no Road Board rates, no Government grant, with nothing but the small assistance the County can give, it will indeed be a wretched muddle.

There is no provision that I can find for the payment of any subsidy whatever, the dissolution of the Road Board even decreases the subsidy to the County.

Under any circumstances it would be found preferable to retain the Road Boards, as it has been clearly shown that they can do their work much cheaper than Counties, the reason being that whereas Counties require, apparently clerks, solicitors, overseers, valuers or outlying districts, &c., &c. to do their work, the Road Board wardens generally do it themselves.

I am afraid that the present movement has been urged on by persons who are interested in a different sense to the ratepayers.

I think the ratepayers should pause before they knock away the plank that has carried them, in a certain sense, in the past, lest they find that they are in a worse fix than ever. The Road Boards have not been able to provide sufficient funds for the district in the past, and I cannot think that those settlers who have agreed to their dissolution were aware for one moment that the effect would be the entire suspension of all works in the district, except a small share of such monies as the Council can allot out of its small income.—I am, &c.,

RATEPAYER.

Napier, April 24, 1877.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

FRIDAY, APRIL 20.

(Before R. Beetham, Esq., R.M.)

CIVIL CASES.

Gray v. Vaughan.—Claim £20. An adjourned case. Settled out of Court.  
Gibbie v. Goddard.—Claim £3 for carting. No appearance of defendant. Judgment by default for amount claimed and 9s costs.

Hooper v. Carter.—Claim of 15s. 6d for a merschaum pipe sold in December, 1874. Defendant did not appear. Judgment was given for the plaintiff for amount as claimed, and costs 9s.

Scarfe v. Sykes.—Claim £7 6s. 8d for groceries supplied. Defendant did not appear. Judgment (by default) for amount claimed, and costs 13s.

Lindsay v. Newman.—Claim £19 15s; Same v. Same.—Claim £87 11s 2d; and Newman v. Lindsay.—Claim £30. Cross actions, having reference to a building contract. After the evidence of a number of witnesses had been taken, the further hearing of this case was adjourned until Tuesday next.

JUDGMENT SUMMONS.

Ma-golouth and Banner plaintiffs v. J. Gibson defendant.—On a judgment of this Court, given on the 13th February last for £34 15s and further costs 20s, of which amounts, by distress and levy, the sum of £14 8s had been recovered only, leaving a balance unpaid of £20 7s. Evidence having been taken as to defendant's means and ability to pay, and defendant admitting that he has five shares in the Moanatairi worth about £10 per share, it was ordered that unless the sum of

£22 8s 6d, and the costs of the hearing, &c., be not paid by eleven o'clock on the 21st instant (to-morrow), the defendant be committed to prison in the Common Gaol at Napier for two months.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24.

DRUNKENNESS.

One F. McKenzie for the above offence was fined, and paid the minimum penalty of five shillings.

CIVIL CASES.

Lindsay v. Newman.—Same v. Same and Newman v. Lindsay.—Cross actions, adjourned from last Court-day after partial hearing, were again further adjourned, pending a possible settlement outside the Court, for a week, viz., until Tuesday, 1st May.

Lyndon v. R. Bell.—Claim of £15, for 6 months rent of eight sections at Hastings, and for recovery of possession of the said sections. Defendant did not appear. The evidence of plaintiff having been taken, it was ordered by the Court that the premises be delivered up forthwith, and that the defendant pay to the plaintiff the sum of £15 as claimed, and his costs, amounting to a further sum of £1 5s.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26.

ALLEGED WIFE BEATING.

An information laid by the police against one Frank Parker for unlawfully assaulting and beating Marion Parker, his wife, was to have come on for hearing this morning, but defendant neglected and refused to obey the summons. A warrant was ordered to issue for his arrest.

FURTHER EUROPEAN NEWS.

FEELING IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

London, March 20th.—"The Times" Vienna special says:—According to accounts from Constantinople, the despondency caused by Midhat Pasha's fall has been succeeded by exasperation, which seems ready for almost anything. Discontent grows daily. The police are kept constantly searching after the authors of placards which are posted by night even upon public buildings guarded by sentinels, and anonymous letters to ministers, full of invectives. The incapable Government, which takes all able-bodied Mahometans for soldiers, grinds down the people by war taxes, and yet makes a humiliating peace with Servia, and even talks of ceding territory to Montenegro. Robbers, Ulemans, and Sofias are transported to St. Jean d'Acre, and that does little good, as the same language that appears in the placards is current amongst the people, being openly spoken in every cafe, and even in Government offices and military schools. Arrests are made, houses searched, and conspiracies sought which do not exist; what is feared above all by all reflecting persons at Constantinople is the eventual disbanding of the army. The people have been called from their normal vocations throughout the empire to defend their country and religion, and now these thousands of Albanians, Circassians, Arabs, and Kurds are to go home again, probably unpaid, to find their lands untilled, and their homes destitute.

The penny postal card system is to be introduced in Germany.

The Roumanian Government will issue 32,000,000 franc paper, to be redeemable by the sale of State property.

Prince Bismarck declares that his health is giving way under exactions compelled to a great measure, by endless antagonism.

A Vienna telegram states that a body of Persians have devastated a part of the Province of Bagdad, and carried off 40,000 sheep.

Gladstone has published a pamphlet, in which he shows that the real conduct of the Porte towards the authors of the Bulgarian outrages is an encouragement to a repetition of the horrors; that the guilt of the Turkish Government is fully proved; that united Europe should, at least impose such restraints upon the Turkish administration as all Europe has declared indispensable.

Captain Audley Coote, writing from Sydney, under date February 6th, 1877, to the Hawaiian Government, states that it is proposed to lay a cable to connect Australia, Honolulu, and America. Captain C. C. Moreno is to consult with the Hawaiian Government on the subject.

A Newmarket (N.Y.) compositor, setting up Will Carleton's "Out of the Old House, Nancy," made it read, "Oats for that Old Horse, Nancy."

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT A HURIRI.

ARRIVALS.

April.

- 20—Wanaka, s.s., from the South. Passengers—Hon J. D. Ormond, Miss Bendall, Messrs Carruthers, Reaz, Clark, C. Thompson, J. C. Williams, and Jobberns.
- 20—Jane Douglas, s.s., from Awanui and Kawa Kawa. Passengers—Henare Tomoana, and 21 other natives.
- 21—Rangitira, s.s., from Poverty Bay. Passengers—Mrs Rathbone and child, and two in the steerage.
- 22—Columbia, schooner, from Kennedy's Bay.
- 25—Rangitira, s.s., from Wellington. Passengers—Mr and Mrs Ashton, Mr and Mrs Chapman and servant, Mrs Pirani and family, Messrs Roach, Irons, and Davies.
- 26—Kiwi, s.s., from Wellington. Passengers—Mrs Cross and child, and 4 in the steerage.
- 26—Rotorua, s.s., from Auckland. Passengers—Saloon: Messrs Beaver, Mr F. C. Smith, Kinross, Mann, Mrs Butler and 2 children, Miss Buckland, Miss Goudy, 6 for Wellington, 4 for Lyttelton, and 15 for Dunedin; Steerage: 7 for Wellington, 1 for Nelson, 5 for Hokitika, and 2 for Dunedin.

DEPARTURES.

April.

- 19—Rangitira, s.s., for Poverty Bay. Passengers—Rev. Father Rogner, Mrs. Nash and two children, Miss Collins, Messrs. Collins and McDougall II.
- 22—Wanaka, s.s., for Auckland, via Gisborne and Tauranga. Passengers—Mr and Mrs James Watt, servant and child, Mr and Mrs A. A. Watt, Mrs and Miss Carlyon (2), Mrs Macfarlane, Miss Williams (2), Miss Bourke, Mrs E. M. Williams, Miss Buchanan, Captain Symonds and Native Assessor, Messrs Stewart, Moon, Gibbons, Bradley, J. H. Williams, D. McLean, Upham, Wiremu Haupara, Master Williams, and 21 from the South.
- 22—Rangitira, s.s., for Wellington. Passengers—Messames Bendall, Davenport, Morton and 10 children; Messrs. Morton, Johnson, Fay, Gibson, Davenport (2), Wamsley, Burn, Fuller, Dowlen, Aldridge, Grant, and a few in the steerage.
- 22—Tauranga, schooner, for Oamarn.
- 22—Hinemoa, schooner, for Auckland.
- 22—Fannie, cutter, for Whangapoua.
- 22—Waiwera, schooner, for Auckland.
- 23—Jane Douglas, s.s., for Gisborne. Passengers—Mrs Barry, Mr and Mrs Speakman, Miss Lascelles, Messrs Gibbons and Dewes.
- 26—Rotorua, s.s., for Wellington and Southern ports. Passengers—Messrs Lesbury, Seale Williams, and Holder.

The s.s. Rangitira, Captain Evans, left on Thursday about 4.30 p.m., and arrived at Poverty Bay at 8 a.m. on Friday.

The "Frisco" mail boat arrived in Auckland on Friday, two days before her due date. She left for Sydney on Friday. Considering this steamer left "Frisco" one day behind her advertised time, and arrived two days before her due date, the present passage must be considered an excellent one.

The s.s. Sir Donald in coming in over the bar on Friday took the ground and remained for some time, the sea breaking repeatedly over her, as the tide made she floated off, and was eventually brought alongside the Breakwater. The position was not at all a pleasant one for the passengers, and although they were all more or less wet, we are glad to learn no accident happened. In going out on Saturday she struck on the bar again but not heavily, she had the Three Brothers in tow at the time, but was obliged to let go of her.

The s.s. Jane Douglas, Capt. Fraser, left here on Friday last at 6 p.m., called at Poverty Bay and landed passengers and mails, left at 7 a.m. on Saturday, and arrived at Kawa Kawa same night at 10 o'clock; remained in Hick's Bay till Wednesday, left there at 4 a.m. and called off Kawa Kawa and Awanui to embark some native passengers, leaving the latter place at noon, encountered strong southerly winds and took shelter in Tologa Bay, left there at 8 p.m. on Thursday, and arrived here at 4 p.m. on Friday, had light winds, but very heavy sea, especially on coming round Portland Island.

The s.s. Result towed out on Sunday four vessels, namely, the Tauranga, Hinemoa, Fannie, and Waiwera.

The s.s. Wanaka was tendered on Saturday last by the Bella, Sir Donald, and Three Brothers, and during her stay about 200 tons of cargo were lightered. The last lighter left at 1.30 a.m. on Sunday, and she steamed for Gisborne at 2 o'clock.

The s.s. Rangitira, Capt. Evans, left at 11.30 a.m. with about 35 passengers, and a full cargo of tallow, wool, and sheepskins, to the Government wharf. We notice amongst the cargo two cases of Maori curios to the order of A. A. Watt, Esq.

The Government steamer Hinemoa, on the last trip from Otago, made the passage in 28½ hours, although she had a fresh S.E. wind as far as Taranaki.

The s.s. Jane Douglas left on Monday at midnight for Gisborne. She has a tolerably large cargo, and a fair complement of passengers.

The barque Andrew Reid is now due from London. She has about 300 tons of waterworks material for the Municipal Corporation.

The ship Fernglan, hence for Invercargill, has had rather a protracted passage. She no doubt encountered the full force of the last southerly gales.

The Mania is still detained at the Wairoa, and the sea is so heavy on the beach that the Result is detained at this end, as were it possible she would take down several passengers and land them on the beach. The captain yesterday received a telegram from Wairoa, stating that there were a number of passengers there anxiously awaiting an opportunity of coming up.

The s.s. Rangitira, Captain Evans, left Wellington at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, and arrived at Napier at 6.40 p.m. on Wednesday evening, having experienced very rough weather as far as Cape Palliser, there being a strong southerly breeze and very heavy sea; from thence the weather moderated a little, the wind continuing from the same quarter till arrival as above. Whilst rounding the Cape a heavy sea broke over her and broke open one of the gangway ports, and washed overboard a quantity of deck gear, &c.

The s.s. Rotorua, James Macfarlane, master, cleared Sydney Heads on the 18th April, at 6 p.m.; arrived at Auckland at 6.30 a.m. on the 24th; sailed same day at 4.30 p.m. Strong south-east winds and high head sea throughout from Sydney; light winds and fine from Auckland to the East Cape, remainder of the passage strong head winds and heavy head sea. Left again for the South at noon on Thursday.

The s.s. Kiwi, Captain Campbell, arrived in the Bay at 4 a.m. from Wellington. She experienced fine weather throughout the passage, and called at Castle Point on Wednesday, landing passengers and cargo.

We (Otago Daily Times) give a few of the more prominent disasters published in the agony column of "Mitchell's Register" of January 12th. On January 1st, the steamer Agnes Wylie was lost on Goodwin Sands. All hands lost, but one picked up in a boat, which contained the dead bodies of two others. The Athi, schooner, from Copenhagen, laden, bound to Mysterd, in the Baltic, became so covered with ice as to be unmanageable, and had to put into Oerska Island at the latter end of December. The steamer Alfred collided with the barque Hercules off Schulan, sank her, saved the crew, and then put back to Hamburg to repair damages. The barque Antelles, of Liverpool, struck a rock whilst entering Valparaiso Harbor on January 6th, and became a total wreck. The American brig Ada, W. Gould, water-logged, dismasted, abandoned, and with decks blown up fore and aft, was passed on December 28 in lat. 28° N., long. 36 west. The Swedish brig Balder and Norwegian barque Lyra were both totally lost at Hallsund in the early part of January. The brig Courier, beaten by heavy weather, foundered on December 6 in the North Atlantic—crew saved. The German barque Clara, from Philadelphia, bound to Hamburg, was abandoned in a sinking state on December 21, and her crew taken on to Amsterdam by a passing vessel. The steamer Colombo (Wilson's line), from Hull to New York, had not arrived at her destination, then 40 days out. She was passed in mid ocean, with her fore yard gone, and is feared to have foundered with all hands. The Swedish barque Congo went ashore at Dungeness on January 11—total wreck—all hands lost but one. During the December gales five schooners were totally wrecked near Port Hawksbury, Nova Scotia. During a storm at Aalborg Bay on January 6, the schooner Enighed and brig Fide collided and both sank; all hands saved but one. Twenty-five vessels were wrecked in the outer harbor of Graville, N.W. coast of France, during the hurricane of December 31st. The brig Idas, of Dublin, was wrecked near Lungness Point on January 2nd; all hands lost, including the captain's wife and two children. Fearful gales were encountered by the American barque Isaac Webb, from New York to Liverpool. She put into Fayal with loss of three men overboard and others injured, cargo shifted, and barque damaged. Three children and two men were drowned at the wreck of the schooner Maggie H. M'Lellao at Port Hood, Nova Scotia, latter end of December. The steamer Montgomery, from New York to Havana, collided with the Seminole, and sank; 13 souls drowned. A bottle, containing a letter dated December 21st, 1876, and on which was written the following, was picked up at Cheswick, 5th instant:—"Barque Rosella (? Borelia), Shields, 60 miles S.E. of Fern Lights, fearful sea; lost captain and my brother overboard an hour ago. A schooner sunk beside us; every sea expecting to be our last. Whoever picks us," &c. The barque Vernal capsize and sunk off the Surry Commercial Docks on January 6th. The master and two men were drowned. A bottle was found on the 8th, at Clyth, near Lybster, containing two dated "Princess of Wales, of Peterhead, Friday, December 22nd, 1876," and signed "C. S. Jackson," stating that the vessel was about 150 miles from England, with decks swept and looking badly. The letters were

addressed to persons in Liverpool, with a request that they might be forwarded by the finder, which has accordingly been done. A list of the vessel's crew, seven all told, was also enclosed in the bottle.

The following paragraph from the Times is an explanation and amplification of telegrams received in the Colony respecting the Albion Shipping Company and Shaw, Savill, and Co.:—"An arrangement has been made by the Albion Shipping Company of Glasgow to take over a portion of the fleet of Messrs Shaw, Savill, and Co.'s Passenger Line of New Zealand packets, and to work the service to the ports of the Middle Island of New Zealand from London, in addition to the service from Clyde to the various ports in that Colony. The capital of the Albion Shipping Company has been in consequence increased to £1,100,000. The service from London to the North Island of New Zealand will be continued by the Passenger Line as formerly. The combined fleet of the two lines number 60 ships, of an aggregate tonnage of 61,041 tons register. The Board of Directors of the Albion Shipping Company in Glasgow remains as at present constituted; Messrs James Galbraith, Walter Savill, James William Temple, and Edward Pembroke are to be managing directors in London; Messrs Shaw, Savill, and Co. being leading brokers there, and Messrs P. Henderson and Co. in Glasgow."

The brigantine Enterprise, Captain Mundle, from the East Coast, dropped anchor in port at noon yesterday. She has come home in a rather battered condition, and the rough handling she has received by the recent heavy weather is easily seen by her skeleton of a bulwarks and pairless hull. The brigantine is four months away from this port, during which time she has been employed in carrying timber from Kaipara to the East Coast. She made two trips from Kaipara, but was delayed a month there each time, and the landing of her cargo on the coast was greatly interfered with owing to a long spell of unfavorable weather. She has had sometimes to alight her anchor and put away to sea, perhaps with only a portion of the crew on board, and twice Captain Mundle had to run into Napier for shelter. Altogether her trip on the East Coast has been a hard one, and was attended with all the vexatious delays and dangers incident to working cargo on that rather stormy coast. When at Pouter, owing to the sudden change of wind to the eastward, the port anchor and cable—about forty fathoms—had to be slipped, and the vessel put to sea. Her foremast is also sprung. On Saturday night, the 7th inst., when the brigantine was off Flat Point, a gale from the W.S.W. came on, attended with very thick weather, and she had to be hove-to. There was a high sea running which frequently broke over the vessel, and on Sunday evening at 8 o'clock a regular green sea came on board. It struck her about the main rigging on the starboard side carrying with it one of the crew who says that he was washed over the side, but was washed back again. A considerably portion of the bulwark was carried away on either side. Another sea also came over the stern, and did further damage to the bulwarks. Her tiller was also carried away, and the vessel lay hove-to for three days, when it moderated, and she then worked down the coast with light S.E. wind, which continued till arrival.—New Zealand Times.

Some commotion was caused in port on Saturday amongst nautical circles when a rumor became current that a vessel was ashore in Palliser Bay. Captain M'Kay, of the schooner Herald, received a telegram from Greytown, stating that a paragraph in the Wairarapa Standard mentioned that portions of a vessel of about 100 tons had been picked up in Palliser Bay. This telegram was the cause of the rumor. The following is the paragraph referred to as taken from Saturday's Standard:—"Yesterday portions of a wreck were discovered in Palliser Bay, supposed to be that of a schooner of about 80 or 100 tons. The loss must have been of recent date, and have happened during the late gales, as the timbers are quite fresh, having no barnacles on them or slime of any kind. One part of the wreck consists of nine planks with chain-plates attached, and another part is composed of six planks of about 14 feet long. Mr. Merson, of the Lake Ferry Hotel has since picked up the gangway of the vessel, and also the companion hatch. The vessel had been painted black over green. We have received no further particulars." There is no vessel that we know of missing, at least none bound to or from this port, but the probability is that it is one of the large fleet of vessels which trade between Lyttelton, Napier, Kaipara, and other northern ports, and which, during the late heavy southerly weather got blown into the Bay—a position which every mariner dreads, and which in nine cases out of ten ends in the total destruction of the unfortunate craft, and not infrequently the loss of the whole crew, as with a southerly wind a frightful heavy sea rolls in, and the whole of the coast, with the exception of a few small patches of sand, is lined with shoals of rocks and innumerable reefs.—New Zealand Times.

A case of much importance to masters of vessels trading between the United Kingdom and the Colonies was heard at Liverpool on January 1st. A Board of Trade enquiry was being held into the loss of the barque Medusa, which was abandoned while on a voyage from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island to Lon-

don, the consignees being Sir James Malcolm and Co., of Liverpool. In the course of the enquiry, it came out that neither the master nor mates had certificates, and in vindication, it was alleged that certificates were not required by officers of Colonial vessels. The Stipendiary Magistrate said certificates were necessary to bring a vessel from the Colonies to this country, and Mr. Tyndall, the Board of Trade Solicitor, said that the agents were liable to a penalty for sending the vessel to sea under the charge of officers without certificates, and the officers themselves were also liable to a penalty for taking her to sea. Next day, however, Mr. Tyndall and the Magistrate were compelled to eat their words, and apologise for them, as they found, on consulting the Act of Parliament, that in the case of vessels sailing to or from British possessions and the mother country, it was not necessary for the masters to hold certificates. If this be so—and the Magistrate admitted its truth after the section of the Act was read aloud in Court—then the cancelling of the certificate of Captain Boyd, of the Hurunui, was after all a harmless punishment to him. Such a law stands in urgent need of amendment, for it is absurd that the master of a vessel trading between England and France should require a certificate, while the captain of another vessel, trading, it may be to New Zealand requires none.—Otago Daily Times.

Commercial.

MURRAY, COMMON AND CO.'S WOOL REPORT.

Napier, April 20, 1877.

WOOL.—From the commencement of the new year, the course of this staple has been steadily on the decline. It had been hoped, and to some extent expected, that the high rates which ruled towards the close of last November auctions would be tolerably well sustained in the first series of the new year. There certainly was some ground to believe that the decline, if any, would not be great, as it was well-known that consumers were but slightly stocked, and the Eastern Question seemed likely to be peacefully arranged. Prices have however gradually receded, until they now stand about on a par with the preceding August quotations, and the whole of the advance gained in November has been lost. The sorts which appear to have suffered most, are medium, and inferior greasy, and lousy and badly washed wools. Cross-breeds which were previously in good demand, are now also somewhat neglected. The uncertain state of European affairs prohibits the possibility of foretelling with any amount of exactness the condition of the market for the immediate future, but everything taken into consideration, prospects are by no means so gloomy as at first sight would appear. In the first place, the woollen industry generally is considered to be now in a pretty sound condition, and consumption has increased. Secondly manufacturers and dealers are but moderately stocked, and thirdly, supplies are not likely to be much augmented, as from Australia the increase is expected to be moderate. River Plate production only showing any great additional quantity. Taken on the whole there is so much favorable, that in the event of the disturbances at home soon being settled, there would appear a fair prospect of a steady market. The following statistics will we think prove interesting:—

PRODUCTION OF CLOTHING WOOL.

	1876	1875	1874	1870	1860
Australasian	782,950	734,620	661,739	550,007	187,039
Cape	183,888	189,511	181,733	150,283	90,127
River Plate	261,550	251,837	238,937	227,369	60,636
Total	1,228,388	1,165,968	1,102,469	927,699	327,802

The same, in Millions of Pounds, in the state as Clipped.

	1876	1875	1874	1870	1860
Australasian	264	244	222	180	60
Cape	48	49	49	43	26
River Plate	209	204	207	181	40
Total	521	497	478	405	127

The same, in Millions of Pounds, with Allowance for Shrinkage.

	1876	1875	1874	1870	1860
Australasian	148	136	124	104	35
Cape	33	35	34	29	14
River Plate	73	70	72	69	15
Total	255	242	231	202	65

As the season may now be considered over we take this opportunity of thanking the growers and settlers of Hawke's Bay most cordially for the kind support and co-operation we have experienced since our establishment here. Owing to our premises at the Spit not having been in readiness until the season was somewhat advanced, we have necessarily laboured to some extent under difficulties. We are glad to say however, that notwithstanding the many obstacles we have had to contend with, the result proves eminently satisfactory. We have had the pleasure of passing through our stores for despatch to the home market, some considerable portion of the wools grown in this province (to date about 6,000 bales), and, as our appliances are now pretty nearly complete, we look forward with some amount of confidence to next season, hoping it will bring us a still greater share of business, which we shall use our best efforts to conduct with the utmost possible attention and despatch. We may mention that all wools with which we trust to be favoured next season, we intend to ship from this Port direct.





## BIRTHS.

At Matawero, Poverty Bay, April 10th, the wife of Mr. S. Parsons, of a daughter.  
**CONNOR**—At Napier, on the 18th April, the wife of T. Connor, of a daughter.  
**STONE**—At Port Ahuriri, on the 20th April, the wife of Mr. S. Stone, of a son.  
**SCORGIE**—At Napier, on the 22nd April, the wife of Mr. Alfred Scorgie, of a daughter.

## DEATHS.

**PERCELL**—At Carlyle-street, Napier, on the 20th April, Mr. John Percell.  
**FLETCHER**—At Napier, on the 21st April, after a protracted illness, Anne, wife of Mr. William Fletcher, aged 68 years.

## The Weekly Mercury

AND

HAWKE'S BAY ADVERTISER.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1877.

It is evident from the tenor of our latest cablegram that Russia and Turkey mean fighting. Although war may not have been formally declared between these two powers, the withdrawal of the Russian embassy from Constantinople, and the haranguing of the troops by the Czar, may be accepted as such. In view of hostilities the following extracts from a communication to a northern contemporary made by a gentleman who has personally visited a large portion of the country which will be the theatre of war, will prove of interest.

The European journals give approximate estimates of the strength of the Russian army which will invade Turkey. The Russian military paper thinks that Russia cannot possibly bring more than 250,000 men wherewith to coerce the Turks in Europe, to which may be added the Roumanian army, numbering 60,000 men. 120,000 Russians are already on the march to the Pruth. The march to the Pruth means that they are transported by railway to Jassy, and from thence they will go to Bucharest occupying those fortified positions on the Danube which are touched by rail, viz. Galatz, Brailow, and Giurgevo. Again, from Bucharest they will pass through Galatz to Khalafat, the *tele de pont* of Widdin.

The Danube may be crossed at Oltenitz, or rather Turtokai, at an island very near Nilitria, again at Hirsova, but Saturnova and Tuldscha, situated in the delta, are the preferable points. At Tuldscha there is a bar across the river, with barely fourteen feet of water on it. To bring the 130,000 men assembled at Kicheny to the banks of the Danube will take at least eight days. What the plans of the Russians may be for passing the Danube it is impossible to know; but if they follow the plans of Colonels Berg and Rudiger, which were so successfully adopted by Marshall Wittgenstein in 1828, namely, to make the fall of Varna, Silistria, and Schumla necessary before the grand operation, then Ibrail (Brailow) with Saturnova, and Tuldscha will be the chosen spots. If the Western or Timok valley be taken, then Rachosa and Giurgevo will be the main points.

There are but six passes by which an army can pass the Balkans, and all the passes verge on the second line of defence, namely, Tirnovo, Schumla, Privada, and Varna. In 1828-29, the Russians had the command of the Black sea, disembarking some 6,000 or 10,000 men at Bugas, a small town south of the Balkan ranges, thereby taking the Turks in the rear, and facilitating the chosen route. The western route, *via* the valley of the Timok, will enable the Russians to strike the railroad at Sophia; but their further advance will be much impeded by the strong natural position at Philippopolis.

[Since the above was in type, we have received a later cablegram from which it will be seen that formal declaration of war has now been made.]

The advisability of merging the Road Boards into the Counties is now beginning to force itself upon the attention of settlers in the highway districts. Already the ratepayers of Taradale have come to the conclusion that the management of their roads, drains, and bridges, could be as well undertaken by the County Council as by their own Road Board, and the action of the Waipawa Council must have the effect of cutting the ground from under the Road Boards in that County. In the Wairoa County, there being no highway district in existence, the Council must devolve the duties that otherwise would have fallen on Road Boards. Of the three counties into which this provincial district has been divided, that of Waipawa seems the most favorably circumstanced for the co-existence of the Road Board and County Council administrations, but even there it is

difficult to perceive the necessity for it. But from the fact of all the roads in Waipawa County having been declared County roads, their maintenance is taken from the Road Boards, which now, having nothing left to do, will die a natural death. Their demise will cause some diminution of the revenue of the County owing to the loss of subsidies to the Road Boards, but this will probably be counterbalanced by the levying of a County rate which, falling on all districts alike, will make many pay that hitherto have contributed nothing. The chief obstacle to be overcome before the abolition of Road Boards can be viewed with unmixed satisfaction is the difficulty of making just valuations of landed properties. At present, industry and capital expended in the improvement of the soil are heavily taxed, while indolence, leaving the land in a state of nature, escapes almost free. Under this system, the useful and enterprising settler suffers, while his indolent neighbor, whose elimination from the soil would be a positive gain to the Colony, is a gainer.

In this issue, will be found the Sheep Inspector's annual report for the current year together with the sheep returns up to the 1st May, 1876. It will be seen from these that at that date the total number of sheep within the provincial district amounted to 1,273,668, being an increase of 133,911 over the total of the previous year. It has been Mr. Gavin Paoosk's good fortune, for a lengthened period, to be able year after year to make favorable reports of the flocks in Hawke's Bay and to speak hopefully of the future with regard to the carrying capacity of the runs. His present report is not the least satisfactory of the many he has made. With the annual increase of the flocks, so have improvements been effected that have enabled the country to carry the additional stock, while, at the same time there has always been a good outlet for any surplus, affording at once a good market, and a good opportunity for culling. The unstocked country on the east coast may be expected for some time to come to absorb all the surplus sheep that are not intended for the boiling-down pot, and the surface sowing of artificial grasses every season will continue to improve the natural pastures of the province.

There was a long discussion at the last sitting of the Waipawa County Council on the question of the proceedings necessary to be taken before a resolution of the Council could be revoked. At the previous meeting, Mr Lawrence had given notice of motion in the usual manner, that at the next meeting he would move that all future sittings of the Council should be held at Waipawa. This was in fact notice of motion to rescind a former resolution, and the 78th clause of the Counties Act furnishes the form of procedure, which is as follows: "Any resolution of a meeting of the Council may be revoked or altered at a subsequent meeting, either by a unanimous vote of all the Councillors, or subject to the condition that, seven days at least before such subsequent meeting, notice thereof and of the proposal to revoke or alter such resolution shall be given to each Councillor by a vote of the majority of the Council." From the wording of the above clause, it is evident that the intention of the Legislature was to prevent undue advantage being taken of the absence of certain members of a Council for a minority to revoke resolutions passed by an absolute majority, and further to prevent constant obstruction to business by one or two obstinate Councillors. The wording of the clause does not appear to admit of argument, it being clearly provided that no resolution can be rescinded except by a unanimous vote of the Council, or after leave has been granted by a majority for notice of motion.

A DEPUTATION, consisting of the following gentlemen—Messrs H. S. Tiffen, J. N. Wilson, Brandon, Bennett, Grant and Staden, waited upon the Hon. J. D. Ormond on Saturday, to ask, in terms of the resolution passed at a public meeting on Friday at Meanee, for the services of J. Carruthers, Esq., the Chief Engineer. The resolution referred to was as follows:—"That a deputation be appointed to wait on the Hon. J. D. Ormond, with a view to obtain the services of John Carruthers, Esq., or some other Government engineer, who should be instructed to prepare a plan for the protection of the districts affected by the floods." Mr Ormond replied that Mr Carruthers was at present too much engaged in business connected with the public works of the Colony to afford time to the object desired by the deputation, but Mr Knorpp, C.E., would be directed to accede to the request of the

settlers. In the meantime, the verification of the levels, previously taken by Mr Rochefort could be proceeded with by that gentleman. With reference to the embankment at Roy's Hill, which, in the opinion of the Meanee meeting, caused much of the damage and destruction to property in the Meanee and adjoining districts during the late flood, Mr Ormond said that he had nothing to do with its erection, but he would cause an enquiry to be made into the effect it had in diverting the Ngaruroro river, and in causing the damages complained of. The deputation then thanked the Minister for Public Works, and withdrew.

We understand that the supposed illegality in connection with the proceedings of the Clive ratepayers yesterday, was due to the impression of a legal member of the Board that the election of wardens, that took place at the meeting, should have been held under the provisions of "The Local Elections Act, 1876." It will be remembered that some months since the Clive Road Board proposed the introduction of that Act into their local elections, but in consequence, partly, of the opposition of Mr Lascelles, the proposal was not carried. With respect to the time at which the meeting for the election of wardens had been called, and which Col. Whitmore thought should be held in July, the Acts of last session are silent. But the time at which the financial year terminates is fixed at March 31. Therefore, Mr Sutton, we consider was quite in order in calling the meeting when he did. It would be manifestly unfair for a Board that had but three months to run to arrange the finances of the district for the ensuing year.

The editor of our contemporary has got into hot water with the Waste Lands Board for reporting conversation of the members during a sitting of the Board, and making their private remarks appear as official statements. For this exhibition of want of taste, the editor, who was acting as reporter, was censured by the Board, and a threat was held out that if such practices were further indulged in, reporters would be excluded at future meetings. We quite agree with the Board in its censure, but we do not think it would be fair to the public if the Board's proceedings were withheld from publication for an act committed by one journalist. The Board might very properly exclude the offending reporter, but should certainly not deal out punishment indiscriminately. Our contemporary, referring to this subject, hopes that its reporter's unjournalistic action will have the effect of making the members attend more closely to business, and to indulge less in private conversation. Such a remark comes well from a gentleman who, at the last sitting of the Waipawa Council, so far forgot himself while acting reporter, as to take a lively part in the proceedings, and to enter into conversation with as many members as would speak to him.

The return of the Customs Revenue at the several ports of New Zealand during the quarter ended 31st March, 1877, is now before us, published in the Gazette. The total revenue collected for that quarter was £298,039 as against £317,744 for the corresponding quarter for 1876, showing a falling off of £19,705. The falling off is chiefly on spirits, both imported and New Zealand distilled, wine, ale, and goods. In the duties paid on tea there is a decrease of £714, but on coffee and cocoa there is an increase of £294. There is also a slight increase of revenue from opium, tobacco and cigars. The total revenue collected at Napier was £10,035, of which no less than £3609 were paid on spirits.

No one for a moment could think that Colonel Whitmore had not expended an immense amount of time and trouble in the study of the various Acts of last session, bearing on local government, and in the passing of which in their present clear and perfect form he so materially assisted from his seat in the Legislative Council. Not only in their study does the honorable and gallant colonel employ his time, but also in their applicability to the districts in the welfare of which he is more directly concerned, and this is discernible in his writings and in his public speeches. It is, perhaps, true that, as his study of last year's legislation has proceeded, Colonel Whitmore has had occasion to alter or modify his opinions on the merits of the Counties Act, on the advisability of adopting it in part or in whole, and on the propriety of the merging or otherwise of the Road Boards into the County Council, but we have had the advantage

of tracing from his own lips, as it were, the tortuous paths through which his mind has been conducted before arriving at mature conclusions. We should be more correct, perhaps, if we said 'latest ideas,' rather than 'mature conclusions,' because our own impression is, that up to the present Colonel Whitmore has arrived at no conclusion on any of the most important clauses of the Counties Act, and that he finds it impossible to adhere to an opinion on the subject for any length of time. This state of mental seesaw which the above observation implies is certainly not, we should think, due to any incapacity to understand the Act in question, or to a desire to be "all things to all men," but to the hopeless for into which any man must flounder who, in defending the Act as a model piece of legislation, finds it from experience wretchedly inadequate to meet the wants of the country. It will be remembered how zealously Colonel Whitmore, at one time, defended the Act against its enemies, and how, at another period, he did his best to secure its "hanging up" in the Hawke's Bay county. Neither will it be forgotten that, only last week, he advocated either the merging of the road boards into the county, or the amendment of the Act in such a way as to effectually "hang it up" and leave the road boards the sole local taxing power in the country. The Colonel said in his letter to the Herald, of the 20th instant, "Whether by merging the road boards into the county, or by conducting public works entirely through road boards, the result, in one sense, would be the same. There would be but one taxing body in the same district, and for the same, or nearly the same purposes." The immediate reason for merging road districts seems to be the inequality of taxation between road and outlying districts." This is clear enough; in order to make the outlying districts contribute to the maintenance of the roads leading to them, a general rate over the whole County would have to be imposed. Thus a road district paying a local rate of 1s in the pound, in the event of the imposition of a shilling County rate, would be taxed to the extent of ten per cent, a ruinous burden and which could not fail to greatly depreciate the value of property. But, holding as he did a week ago this opinion, we do not understand how Colonel Whitmore can now point to the Clive districts as illustrative of the folly of doing away with road boards. If he was reported correctly he said at the Clive meeting on Monday that "it was known he was opposed to any such project." Then to what project can he be favorable? Will Colonel Whitmore retract his original opinion of the Counties Act, and, reversing the example of the prophet of old, curse that which he came out to altogether bless?

Mr. Sutton at the Clive meeting on Monday was either misreported, or else he made a mistake in saying that the Highways Act empowered the Superintendent to rate any district that omitted to rate itself. The Act permitted the Superintendent, whose powers are now vested in the Governor, to rate a proclaimed Road Board district that neglected to fulfil its functions, but the law did not allow any out-lying district to be interfered with. Mr. Sutton was speaking against the merging of Road Boards in the Counties, and he is reported to have said that the movement had arisen because there were so many out-lying districts in which the settlers paid rates at all. It was then he suggested that clauses 46 and 47 of the Provincial Highways Act, empowering the Superintendent to rate any district that failed to rate itself, should be made to apply. A glance at the clauses mentioned will show the Superintendent could only rate a district that, having applied to be brought under the Highways Act, had failed after proclamation, to rate itself.

We hear that writs of *quo warranto* have been taken out against Messrs. Hollis and Stoddart in order to test the validity of their election on Monday last to seats in the Clive Road Board. The 9th clause of the Provincial Highways Act, 1871, provides that on some day during the month of July in every year a meeting of persons qualified as ratepayers within a highway district shall be held for the purpose, if they think fit, of fixing the nature and amount of the rate for the then current year, and thereafter elect their District Board. The Highways Act has not been specially repealed, and it may be held that the Clive Board election on Monday was consequently illegal.

## WAIPIKURAU ROAD BOARD MEETING.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1877.

PRESENT:—H. R. Russell (Chairman), S. Johnston, W. C. Smith, W. L. Newman, and P. Gow.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

An application from Mr Lyons, overseer to Mr Gollan, was considered for a grant in aid for a bridge over the Tangitapu stream. The Board authorised the necessary expenditure for the amount asked for.

The following letter from Colonel Lambert was then read and considered:—

"Napier, 17th April, 1877.

"To the Chairman, Waipukurau Road Board.—Dear Sir,—I beg to request you to be so good as to bring before your Road Board the desirability of the road being opened leading from the Takapanu Railway Station across Mr A. Grant's and the Lambert's land runs until it joins the North Road leading to Ashcut and Hampden via Colonel Herrick's and Onga Onga; also to the deferred payment land between Mungatawai, Tukipo, and Tuki Tuki Rivers. I would point out, for the information of the Board, that the late Superintendent made an arrangement, through Mr Weber, the engineer, that this road should be opened, closing the North Road above where the Takapanu Road strikes it. I have to add that about £300 has been expended on the road running through the Lambert's land and A. Grant's properties, and is available for traffic, only that Mr A. Grant refuses to open the boundary fence on his run that the road goes through near the Makaretu River. I will further add that it is believed ere long that the mail will be carried from Takapanu to Makaretu and Hampden, by the road alluded to, and that the necessity and convenience of this road to the inhabitants along the line of road will be great, and the value of this road as a feeder to the railway is obvious, as it will bring a great many within a few miles of the railway that now have to go a long round about way to Waipawa.—I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant, CHARLES LAMBERT."

After a long discussion, the Board being aware of the importance to the Makaretu settlers that the road should be opened, they having to go at present twenty-nine miles on a bad road to Waipawa, while the road if opened would enable them to come to Takapanu seven miles on a really good road, it was resolved on the motion of Mr Smith, "that the Chairman acknowledge the receipt of Colonel Lambert's letter, and enquire of him and Mr Grant if they are prepared to give a legal right of road through their properties; if so, on what conditions. Further, that the Chairman communicate with Mr Weber, the late Provincial Engineer, and ascertain the present position of the matter, and take any other steps that may be necessary to further the desired object."

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr Newman, "that this Board disapproves of the resolution passed by the Waipawa Council at their last meeting declaring all roads County roads, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Council through Mr. Monteith."

The meeting then proceeded to consider their duties under the Public Health Bill of 1876. The Board having been appointed a Local Board of Health under its provisions. As a preliminary step towards getting the necessary returns made out that are required to be sent to the Central Board at Wellington, Dr. J. N. Froud was a pointed medical officer to the Board, and requested to fill up the necessary forms.

The Nelson Evening Mail says that a daring attempt to get rid of the irksome duties of sea life, was made by a sailor belonging to the Northampton on Wednesday evening last. While the Mail reporter was on board the ship Northampton, he was accosted by a French seaman, who begged a passage to the shore, which was refused him. Nothing daunted, the matelot determined to get on shore somehow, and in the middle of the night he quietly slipped over the side, got on to a stage which was hanging there, lowered it into the water, and shaped a course for the shore. He must have landed somewhere near the rocks, for next morning part of the stage was picked up with the ropes which bound it together chafed through, as if they had been in contact with some hard substance. It was first thought that the occupant of the stage had been drowned, but on Thursday night a stranger was seen at the Port, who proved to be the missing sailor. The Captain of the Northampton, having a full complement of hands, did not trouble himself further about the man, but allowed him to go scot free.

## THE NOVELIST.

LADY TREVOR'S SECRET;  
OR, THE  
Mystery of Cecil Rosse.

BY MRS. HARRIET LEWIS.

## CHAPTER VII.

## LADY TREVOR'S RESOLVE.

Lord St. Leonards presented himself at the dining-table punctually at half-past seven, at which hour dinner was served. His distinguished appearance, his immense wealth, his lofty position in society, rendered him the lion of the occasion. His arrival at the Cliff was a source of great conjecture to Lady Trevor's guests. Her ladyship's long estrangement from her grandfather was well known in society, and his unlooked-for visit was generally interpreted as a sign of reconciliation between the pair. He made himself agreeable to his guests, was witty and brilliant, although often caustic in his speeches, but upon the return to the drawing-room pleaded fatigue and withdrew to his private apartments.

Lady Trevor was congratulated by her friends upon her apparent restoration to the marquis's favor, and she replied gayly as if the matter was quite settled. Scarcely a person present but envied her. Still young, handsome, immensely rich, a widow with many suitors, she seemed now to stand in the very flow of fortune's favors. With the marquis's untitled property added to that she already possessed, she would be the richest woman in England. She appeared to appreciate her good fortune, was unusually gay and full of laughter, but beneath that surface-brightness beat a heart as heavy as lead, a heart torn with conflicting and terrible emotions.

A sword more keen than that of Democles seemed suspended above her head. A deadly terror, a sickly apprehension, held her in thrall. All the good things of life, all that she held most dear and precious, were just within her grasp or held alluringly before her eyes, yet her possession of them was menaced; a great peril awaited before her; ruin, ignominy, and a felon's doom stared her in the face. She was at the mercy of a man who knew no pity; she could purchase her freedom and with it all dreams of love, pride, and ambition, by becoming the wife of a man whom now she loathed and hated.

Mr Pulford saw beneath her mask of gayety the conflict going on within her. He smiled grimly in the covert of his sandy beard, and his pale grey eyes gleamed with prospective triumph, and he thought in his heart:

"She will yield. What else can she do? She is in my power and will never dare defy me. She is a coward, and conscious guilt makes her weak. She will fume and fret, struggle a little, and then, with an ill grace most likely announce her submission. By Jove, I'm a lucky fellow! I shall step into the shoes of my late employer, shall marry Sir Albert's widow, and share in the possession of the great fortune of the late Lady Harry Cavendish. I shall become the grandson-in-law of one of the proudest peers of England. I shall be master of one of my lady's estates, and finally proprietor of Lord St. Leonards' ancestral domains! I shall become the friend and companion of peers. More I may become a peer myself. With all my money and influence, having married the marquis's granddaughter, why may I not aspire to a peerage? But for Lord Glenham, I might step into the St. Leonards' succession. All these things will arrange themselves after my marriage, which must be urged forward with all speed. I intend to enter upon the London season at my house in town with my bride, in the character of a man of society!"

He regarded Lady Trevor with a critical gaze, as if she were already in his possession. Her brunette face could not be termed beautiful, applying the word in its highest sense. It lacked the rare nobility, the exquisite radiance, the purity of expression that glorified the perfect features of Cecil Rosse. It was the face of a woman of the world, handsome, sensuous, with hard, black eyes and rosy lips and flushed cheeks, with the smile of a siren, and an air of well-bred reserve, and Mr Pulford's eyes looked approvingly upon it. He could be proud of her as his wife. Her appearance would reflect credit upon him and make him envied by the men whose companionship he intended to secure for himself in the new life opening before him.

"A brunette is my particular admiration," he said to himself. "I always thought Lady Trevor uncommonly

handsome. What control she has over herself! She's laughing now, yet I, and I alone, know that at heart she is in a mood to gnash her teeth and tear her hair. Well, fret it out, my lady. By to-morrow night I may find you sullen enough, but I'll warrant you'll be docile!"

Lady Trevor avoided her suitor throughout the evening. At eleven o'clock the party separated, the members proceeding to their various rooms. Mr Pulford departed with the rest, taking up his bedroom candle from the hall-table, and smilingly ascending the great stair. Lady Trevor was left alone in the grand and stately drawing-room, and she paced to and fro, her smiles all vanished, her eyes glittering, her mouth set in a hard and rigid line.

"What shall I do?" she asked, herself, in a wild despair. "What can I do?"

No light dawned upon her during the next half hour. She kept up her walk, a hunted look growing in her eyes, and a desperate resolve gathering strength within her heart.

The butler appeared, at length, fancying that her ladyship had retired, and he started back at the lurid light in the eyes she turned towards him, at the haggard look on her features.

"I beg pardon, my lady," he exclaimed, "but I fancied you gone, and I come to blow out the lights!"

"Very well," responded Lady Trevor. "I was just going to my room!"

She passed him with stately tread, crossed the hall, and ascended the stair to her own apartment.

A fire of pine knots and cones was blazing on the hearth of her sitting-room. A couple of wax-candles, in silver sconces, were lighted upon the mantelpiece. The curtains were drawn, and the oriel window hidden from view. Lady Trevor flung herself in an arm-chair and stretched out her hands to the blaze. The night was wet and chilly, and she shivered as if the cold were that of mid-winter.

Her maid, a sallow-skinned Frenchwoman with gliding movements and a somewhat secretive countenance, entered from the adjoining apartment. The woman had been in Lady Trevor's employ for some years, and although she knew nothing of her mistress's secrets, yet the two being not unlike in disposition, they were upon usually good terms with each other, considering the great difference in station between them.

Lady Trevor submitted to the ministrations of her attendant, exchanged her dinner-dress for a scarlet cashmere dressing-gown, trimmed with swan's down, permitted her long, black hair to be brushed and simply arranged for the night, and then said:

"That will do, Cerise. I shall want nothing more. You may go to bed."

"Madame looks ill," said the French woman. "Shall I not remain—"

"No, no," said Lady Trevor, impatiently. "I want nothing more to-night, You may go."

The maid obeyed, taking her departure.

Then the lady walked to her window, drew her curtains, and looked out into the wet and starless night. All was blackness, relieved only by the gleam of light from the lantern of the mast-head of the yacht in the harbor below. She turned from the contemplation of that outer darkness and sat down again by the fire.

"I am in the power of this man Pulford," she said to herself, her face growing harder, her eyes more desperate. "I cannot see my way out of this danger. I must try to buy him off, even if I have to pay him half I have. If he refuses money I must temporize. I must gain time. If he push me to the wall, I will turn upon him like a tigris, and rend him in pieces! One thing I swear—I will never marry him!"

She drew her breath hard, and her features glowed with a baleful light that indicated the warring evil passions within her.

"I must secure Lord Glenham during our stay in Scotland," she mused. "If I can but induce him to speak some words of interest and admiration if I can but obtain the faintest pretext, I'll spring a trap upon him by pretending to misunderstand him, and will force him into an engagement of marriage. He liked me—I know he did. He has tried to reconcile my grandfather to me. I think I might have won him but for this foreign entanglement. Who is this adventuress whom he desires to marry? I must hear the whole story, and it will go hard if my woman's wit and woman's wiles does not succeed in securing him to me! It's a great thing in my favor that both my grandfather and his mother desire him to marry me. I have a difficult

double task before me, to win a man who does not love me, but does love another woman, and to rid myself of Pulford, a dangerous and powerful enemy, whom I fear and loathe!"

She sat long in the ruddy light of the flaming fire, pondering upon those problems. The pine-knots burned to ashes and the heat became slowly dissipated, yielding to chill and damp, and still she sat there, dark and desperate, with gleaming eyes staring straight into the shadows of the far corners, and wicked thoughts deepening and strengthening into a wicked and horrible resolve.

The little clock on the mantelpiece chiming the hour of two aroused her at last from her reverie. She arose, pallid and shuddering, casting frowning glances over her shoulders.

"If I am forced to it," she whispered "I shall defend myself at all hazards. Horace Pulford little knows with whom he has to deal."

She undressed herself and crept into her bed in the adjoining chamber, but it was a long time before she could compose herself to sleep. Yet when Cerise entered the room at a late hour on the following morning, her mistress was slumbering as tranquilly as a little child, with no token of a guilty conscience on her placid face, or in her careless attitude.

At ten o'clock Lady Trevor arose and dressed for breakfast. She descended to the dining-room. The gentlemen had breakfasted early and gone out upon a shooting expedition, the day being fine. The ladies were lounging about the table, perfect freedom to rise early or late, and breakfast at any hour that might be preferred, being the law Lady Trevor had established at Castle Cliff during her reign over it.

Lord St. Leonards had breakfasted in his own room, and had not yet made his appearance, as Lady Trevor ascertained by inquiry. She took her place at the table, showing no trace of her cares that lay heavy upon her, and enacted the part of hostess with her usual ease and grace.

After breakfast two of the ladies went out upon the rocks, sketch-books in hand, others retired to the library, or set out for a "constitutional" in the woods or along the coast. Lady Trevor summoned her cook, a chef brought from her own house, to a private conference, and having arranged the menu for the dinner, considered her house-keeping duties quite fulfilled, and sauntered to the morning-room.

There was a fire here in the great chimney-place. The castle having been closed since the previous year, and the principal rooms unoccupied, it was deemed safe to have fires in all the rooms to dispel the lingering damp and chill, and this practice was found decidedly pleasant. Lord St. Leonards was the sole occupant of the room at the moment of Lady Trevor's entrance, and he was standing before the hearth, grave, stern and haughty, his steel-blue eyes glittering coldly under his frost-white brows, his attitude expressing something of desolation and stern self-repression. He looked as unapproachable as a Sphinx yet Lady Trevor, feigning affection for interest's sake, rushed towards him, full of animation, her hands out stretched, with an affectation of girlishness which she found frequently efficacious.

"Good morning, dear grandfather," she exclaimed. "I hope you rested well?"

"Very well, thanks," responded the marquis, coldly. "I always rest well. I shall ride over to Glenham Lodge this morning to say to you first. Did I tell you last evening that Lady Glenham is intending to visit her son at the lodge?"

"You did not mention it, grandfather."

"I thought not. She is expected to arrive there, accompanied by one or two other lady friends, this evening. It will be well for you to call upon her to-morrow. Her stay will be brief, not exceeding a week."

"I will call to-morrow, grandfather. Shall you speak to-day to the earl about this foreign adventuress with whom he has fallen in love?"

Certainly. The countess assures me that I have great influence over her son, and has begged me to exert it in the attempt to wean him from this foreign woman. I scarcely need her urging. I love Gordon almost as if he were my son, and I cannot bear that his life should be wrecked as my son's was wrecked. I shall reason with him, plead with him—yet where his mother has failed how can I hope to succeed?"

"Shall you speak to him about me?" asked Lady Trevor, looking down at the fire.

"I do not quite know. Lady Glenham desired me to suggest—Edith, Gordon is the noblest fellow alive. I

think you worthy of him—"

"You are complimentary, sir."  
"I am truthful," said the marquis, grimly, "You were a disobedient daughter, an unfaithful friend. I am haunted by doubts of you that I scarcely dare own to myself. I believe that but for my daughter-in-law's unfortunate will, your step-sister might have been alive to-day. Perhaps I wrong you. God grant it may be so. It does not seem credible that one of my blood can be a murderer."

Lady Trevor, with a livid pallor, drew angrily away from him.

"How can you speak so to me?" she demanded. "I am a defenceless woman and your grandchild, therefore at your mercy. But it does not seem to me manly to strike at one so helpless, to accuse me of awful crimes. My step-mother trusted me. I am not so base as to betray a trust. The child was my step-sister, a baby of two or three years, a little, winning creature who loved me. And you think I could kill her! Great heaven, how shall I defend myself from such a hideous charge?"

She twisted her hands together as in an agony of grief.

"Perhaps I have wronged you, Edith," said the marquis somewhat softened. "God grant it may be so. Yet it rangles in me that you should have kept the child from me so long after her mother's death—"

"The child was ill. I knew you worshipped her, and I could not take her to you puny and ailing."

"She was ill when you left Rome with her after her mother's death?"

Lady Trevor gave quick assent.

"But I have been to Rome lately, to the lodgings my son and his wife occupied," said the marquis, slowly. "I saw the old landlady with whom they lodged and she told me that the child was well and healthy."

Lady Trevor trembled and looked scared.

"It is so long since—nearly fifteen years—that she forgets," she muttered. "Surely you wouldn't take an Italian landlady's word against mine? Shall I swear that the child was ill when her mother died? Shall I swear that I never harmed one hair of her little head? You have said to me yourself that the physician declared her disease marasmus. He had no suspicions of foul play. The post mortem examination revealed no ground for these doubts and accusations of me."

"No, they did not. There was disease. The doctor assured me that she had not been poisoned," acknowledged the marquis. "But the little, wan, rickety body that was brought home to me seemed so unlike the bonny, beautiful child I loved, that I have always thought that she must have been fed on baleful drugs. Your husband, Sir Albert Trevor, might have done this without your knowledge. He was a scoundrel and a villain."

"He is dead and cannot defend himself, but with all his faults he could not have done what you surmise. He was a coward; he would not have dared commit a murder. Grandfather, you have wronged us both—"

"Perhaps so. Yet you were poor, and little Alba's death made you rich. I may be pardoned, knowing the stock you sprung from and knowing so well your husband's reputation, if I have feared the worst. I will try to believe your denials of guilt. I will try to believe you good and honorable, though still my mind misgives me. Yet how can a woman, and that woman the daughter of my noble son, be guilty of a horrible crime? We will say no more, Edith. I will endeavor to have faith in you."

"And you will not believe me unworthy of Lord Glenham?" asked Lady Trevor. "Grandfather, I will own to you that after my early infatuation for Sir Albert passed away, I grew indifferent to him. I never really loved him. Lord Glenham has been very kind to me, for your sake, of course, yet I fancied that he was growing to like me. And so I—I grew to like him!"

"I understand. If anything I can do, in a delicate way, can further your wishes, I will remember. And now, Edith, I must go. My horse and groom are waiting."

He made no offer to caress her. He exhibited no sign of affection, but coolly drew on his riding gloves while she watched him intently, and then, with a courtly bow, he took his departure.

Lady Trevor watched him from the window as he rode away from the castle, followed by his groom.

"How straight he sits his saddle!" she thought. "How much vigor and life he has, yet he is seventy-five years old. He does not look fifty-five. He is good for twenty years yet. But, of course, accidents may happen—he may die of fever—and his great estate be distributed

within a year. I begin to stand some chance of sharing his inheritance. He doubts me still, I see, yet imagines he wrongs me by the doubt. He will use his best influence in my behalf with Lord Glenham, and I am persuaded that the earl will hear to reason. But if I win him, how am I to dispose of Pulford? If I am pushed to the wall, and she set her lips in a hard, tense line, and her eyes gleamed, "I resolve anew, what I resolved last night, I shall defend myself at all hazards!"

#### CHAPTER VIII.

##### TREACHERY.

Glenham Lodge, situated about five miles distant from Castle Cliff, is a picturesque stone house of considerable dimensions, with peaked roofs and clustering chimneys, throned upon a mountain-top, looking perched in mid-air, and commanding a magnificent stretch of scenery, mountains, valleys and distant sea, in one wide stretch of vision.

It is a veritable eagle's eyrie, an actual "castle in the air," rudely carested by the fierce Highland winds, sweeping in from the sea, and is more often known as Breezy Lodge than by the name of its owner.

Upon the morning on which the old Marquis of St. Leonards set out to ride to Breezy Lodge, but at a far earlier hour, the young Earl of Glenham sat at the breakfast-table with his guests.

The entire party were in shooting costume with the exception of Maudred Craffton. They were all in good spirits, the weather being fine and anticipated a fine day's sport.

The Highland gillies, or servants, with dogs and guns were outside, in readiness for a start.

The young gentlemen hurried through their breakfast and disappeared from the room. The earl, their host, was about to follow them when Maudred Craffton detained him.

"Give me a few minutes, Glenham," he said, his swarthy face wearing a slightly embarrassed expression. "I have something particular to say to you."

"Well, what is it?" asked the earl, pleasantly. "You are not in shooting dress? Are you not going out?"

"I think not. The fact is, Glenham, my letter this morning contains news that necessitates my return to London. I shall be obliged to run up to town again for a few days."

The young lord settled back in his chair not concealing his surprise.

In the week that had passed since his departure from Zorlitz he had grown graver, and there was a care-worn expression at times in his eyes that indicated a heart not quite at rest.

He loved Cecil Rosse with all the ardor of a passionate soul. He had never loved before, and to this soul was given all the reserved strength of his great and powerful nature. He had hastened back to England and sought an interview with his mother; but she had heard his story with alarm, had reasoned and expostulated with him, and, in her pride and affection for her son, had denounced Cecil as an adventurer. The two who had been all in all to each other theretofore had parted in coldness, the earl declaring that nothing could shake his resolution to marry Miss Rosse, provided Miss Rosse would accept him. The son had then set out in a leisurely manner for the Scottish Highlands, and the countess had written in haste to Lord St. Leonards at Vichy, begging him to use his influence with her son to prevent his intended disastrous alliance.

Lord Glenham's grand blonde beauty contrasted singularly with the sinister countenance of his chosen friend. His keen blue eyes searched the swarthy features of Craffton, who moved uneasily, conscious of acting a part upon this occasion, and guiltily apprehensive of discovery.

"I am sorry to hear that you must go back when you have just arrived, old fellow," said the young lord. "Why don't you write, telegraph, or send a messenger, anything rather than go. The shooting will be fine, and to tell you the truth, Craffton, I am not in a jovial mood, and depend on you to help me entertain my guests."

"Do not urge me. My business concerns my country place," replied Craffton. "It's a business matter, you see, Glenham. I won't bore you with it; but the fact is, my return to town will make a difference of a hundred pounds a year to me. You are rich, and that sum is not worthy your consideration, but it is quite a matter of moment to me who have only six hundred a year!"

The earl's reply was prevented by the entrance of a servant with a telegram.

"From my mother," said the young lord, perusing it when they were once more alone. "It has been forwarded by

mounted messenger from Inverness. She is coming here with a couple of friends and will arrive to-night!"

"She repents her opposition to your wishes, Glenham," said Craffton, unable to conceal his bitterness, "and is coming to announce her readiness to set out for Germany post-haste."

"You don't know my mother," declared the earl, with a sigh. "She is coming to renew her arguments against my desired marriage with Miss Rosse. I cannot convince her that Cecil is not an adventurer, and she will not consent to go and see her. I am more sorry than before that you must go away just at this time, Craffton. You could help convince my mother of her mistake. She considers me blinded by passion. Now if you who cannot be suspected of being Miss Rosse's lover, were to assure my mother that Cecil is a lady, pure and lovely, and worthy my mother's love and respect, she might be induced to visit Germany to see her."

Craffton turned his head aside and made a grimace. He, who was also a lover of Cecil Rosse, found Lord Glenham's words particularly distasteful.

"I cannot hope to influence Lady Glenham's decision," he said. "What she will not do for the son whom she adores, she won't do for a man she dislikes. Don't protest, Glenham. You know that the countess is not fond of me and she is not likely to consider my opinion of any great value. But to return to Miss Rosse. Will your lady mother's opposition change your plans in regard to her? Shall you marry Miss Rosse if Lady Glenham continues her opposition?"

"I have not given up hope of obtaining my mother's consent. If Miss Rosse will honor me by becoming my wife I should wish that my mother should become her mother also, and give her the love she so richly merits," declared the young lord, gravely. "I reverence my dear mother, and would not willfully offend her. But I cannot forget that I am eight-and-twenty, old enough to choose for myself, and that my happiness for life is involved. I cannot consent to be guided in a matter of the most vital importance to me by a mere whim—a whim the more unreasonable because my mother does not wish to be convinced of her injustice."

"If you feel like that, why don't you rush back to Germany and marry the girl off-hand?"

"Because I gave to her guardian my word of honor that I would not seek to marry Miss Rosse under a year. And because, also, I do not like to quarrel with my mother. By waiting patiently a little I may be able to win my mother to consent to see Miss Rosse, and if she once sees her she will love her. Cecil is very young, Craffton, yet I am almost sure that she loves me. The year will soon pass, and I shall hasten to her and ask her to become my wife," and the earl's fair and splendid face was all alight. "I have given my word, and I must keep it, yet I intend to write to Herr Broeken and ask permission to come to Zorlitz at Christmas. He cannot refuse me."

Craffton's face darkened, and he moved his chair impatiently.

"Well," he said, trying to speak carelessly, "in the course of a year you'll be able to bring Lady Glenham around to your opinion. She will give in within six months, mark my words. She loves you too much to hold out against you."

"You don't know her pride," again affirmed the young lord. "She has made great plans for my future, and desires for me a brilliant marriage, in the worldly sense of the word. If she would only consent to see Cecil, I would have no fears, but she will not see her. So, you abandon me when I need you most, Craffton? When will you return?"

"Next week. I have ordered a horse from your stables to take me on my journey towards civilization. He'll be sent back from some point upon my route tomorrow. Don't let me detain you longer, Glenham. The fellows are growing impatient!"

They exchanged a few further words, shook hands, and parted, Craffton leisurely making his way to his own room in high good humor, and the earl, after giving orders to have certain rooms warmed and aired and put in readiness for the expected ladies, joining his guests and departing upon his day's expedition.

Craffton gazed out after them with exulting eyes.

"Glenham's an unsuspecting fellow," he muttered. "I wonder what he'd say if he knew all the truth—that I am also Miss Rosse's lover, and that I have sworn that she shall be mine? I wonder what he'd say if he knew that this 'business' upon which I'm going is not what I pretended, that I shan't stop in London, but that I will go on to Zorlitz and to the

bewitching beauty of the Black Forest? I came up here with him to make sure that he was safely disposed of for the month. Now I shall hasten to Germany, secure in his absence, and it will be strange if the lover who is present cannot cut out the absent one! A few pretty gifts, some pretty flatteries, and I shall win the prize!"

He packed a hand-bag rapidly with as few necessities as possible, and returned to the dining-room, where he waited until his horse was brought around.

Then he mounted and set out upon his journey through the wild and rugged Highland scenery.

A little after midday he halted at a solitary farm-house, procured a dinner and exchanged his horse, making arrangements for its return, as also for the return of the one he had brought from Breezy Lodge.

About the middle of the afternoon, he passed a heavy travelling-carriage drawn by four horses. There were three ladies within, reclining wearily among the cushions, and as he dashed past he caught a glimpse of a noble face framed in by gray hair, which face he recognized as that of the Countess of Glenham.

The ladies looked out of the coach-window, aroused by the unusual event of meeting a horseman, and Craffton was tempted to turn back and address them.

"I might find opportunity to say a word or two to Lady Glenham to strengthen her dislike of Miss Rosse," he thought, "but I can wait. It will be better to do that when there are no listeners. I wonder if she knew me?" He dashed over a level stretch of road of brief extent, new schemes of treachery filling his mind.

That night he slept at a little hamlet. By the next noon he arrived at Inverness.

He took the first mail-train to the southward. On arriving in London the next day he made no stay, but pushed on for the Continent.

"Now for Zorlitz!" he said to himself, with sinister delight, "and for Miss Rosse! While Lord Glenham keeps his promise to the old pastor and tries to reconcile his lady-mother to his expected marriage, I will step in and win the game!"

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

#### A WEDDING INCIDENT.

A curious scene was witnessed at a West End Church the other day; when a wedding party was leaving the building. Before the commencement of the ceremony, two handsomely dressed ladies entered the church, their manner and appearance so much in keeping with the assembled guests that the pew-opener allowed them to pass in and up to the seats reserved for the wedding party. They remained as spectators; and when the bridal procession passed down, the well-dressed strangers followed in the crowd, which closed in as in the manner of the curious-minded on such occasions, desirous of seeing the carriages drive away. Suddenly a gentleman, having the appearance of a detective, stepped from a pew, laid a hand on one of the well-dressed strangers, and, addressing one of the wedding guests who had a lady on his arm, said aloud, "This is a pickpocket; she has taken that lady's purse." And the purse was gone, as was ascertained in a moment. The man whom for perspicacity we call the detective went for a policeman, and in his absence a hurried consultation took place within the building. The pickpocket restored the purse, and pleaded for mercy. The owner looked bewildered, and only half inclined to be stern. She had her purse in her hand once more, and it was not pleasant to be in the centre of a crowd, with a stylish pickpocket on her knees imploring to be forgiven. Of course, there was no policeman at hand, and before one could be found the verger had come up, and most improperly taken the pickpocket's part, preaching quite an extempore sermon on the duty of one woman extending forgiveness to another, and assuring the owner of the purse that a day would come when she, too, would plead for mercy, &c.; and opening a side door, not only allowed the prisoner to escape, but actually thrust her outside. The indignation of the detective may be imagined. He declared she and her accomplice had secured three purses during the ceremony, and he was there on purpose to arrest her. The owner of the purse seemed pleased to get away, taking refuge in her carriage, and looking, under the sanctimonious old verger's rebuke, more like the culprit, as he evidently considered any one must be who could hint that robberies were possible in a church under his charge.—London Correspondent.

## WAIROA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

April 21, 1877.

I would not have troubled you this week, but I wish to correct an error that has been repeated so many times in your columns, that I have been seriously thinking of taking writing lessons over again. I refer to the word Nuhaka, constantly printed by you as MOhaka, whether the fault be mine or the devil's—the devil may care—but I have invariably remarked that if I telegraphed to say a native meeting was being held at the former place about disputed ownership of land, it always appeared to be at the latter place; or if I wrote about the non-opening of the Nuhaka road, Mo-haka always appeared in print.

The meeting held at Nuhaka was to consider some such point as this. Ihaka Whanga, who died recently, during a long and eventful life, married three times, and had issue by each wife. The third wife is now living. Her father wishes to settle some land on those children of Ihaka's that are his grandchildren (a very laudable idea, and one you would fancy would have met with no opposition). He therefore wanted the block of land he is interested in surveyed and subdivided, so that his claim therein can be made over to the children of Ihaka's third wife. Ihaka's other children (not children exactly, great big men and women) they want a share as well, threaten to and do stop all surveys. One surveyor, Mr. Reay, got ordered off a short time back, and, in their mild way of putting it, these claimants threaten to make cold meat of any more surveyors unless they get what they want.

Next week a native church is to be opened at Whakaki. There is to be a great *hai-ho-hai* on that occasion, but it is to be select, no *uapiro* being allowed; so you see all natives are not so bad as Ihaka's eldest children. This conduct of their's will doubtless give Ihaka very much. He is in Heaven now; at least he has a monument erected to him, so he ought to be.

Tenders have been called for the erection of a native school building at Paul's pah, North Clyde. This building will, when finished, make the accommodation provided both for European scholars and teachers in other parts of the district by the same Government (paternal Government!) appear quite mean and contemptible.

That portion of the Mahia road between North Clyde and the Awatere Creek, over which quite a storm in a tea-cup has been recently raging, is at length proclaimed "open." That magic sesame will now do away with any more arbitrary locking up of unfortunate natives for trespass, in which the undignified spectacle was presented of an R.M. acting both as judge and prosecutor.

The p.s. Manaia, our favorite regular trader, has been weatherbound for the past four or five days, a strong southerly breeze having had the unwelcome effect of bringing up too heavy a sea to make headway against. Capt. Smith has been occupying his spare time in removing some of the numerous snags that disfigure and impede the navigation of our noble stream, and in order to lose as little time as possible out of his detention, the skipper crosscuts the snags up and takes them as firewood.

The seal of the Wairoa County Council has arrived. It is quite a work of art. A scroll containing "Wairoa County Council, N.Z." surrounds a medallion showing the historical cabbage tree, (it would hardly be pictorial New Zealand, unless that vegetable occupied a prominent position), a Maori, and a venerable-looking old boy handing a scroll to the said Maori. In the background a river, a steamer plying thereon, and a range of hills. Malicious people assert it is prophetic of Mr. Colenso handing to the *last* Maori the finished M.S.S. of his lexicon! Really, I don't think it is intended for that. More likely a Councilor handing notice of overdue rates to a native rangatira and demanding cash on the nail.

Mr. Light, the engineer of the Manaia, intends building a dwelling-house here and depot store for native produce, and I am credibly informed that a flour mill is also on the *tapis*, the natives having guaranteed to place a certain extent of country in wheat the next season. If such be really the case, the progress of the place is certain.

An old gentleman, wishing to be at his ease on horseback, took his horse to a riding master to be taught to amble. Two or three trials were made upon the animal with but partial success. "Come sir, do you call this an amble?" said the owner. "No, sir," replied the equestrian; "I call it a preamble."

## FARMERS' NOTES.

UPWARDS of 5,500,000 men are reported in the census of 1870 as engaged in agriculture in the United States—373,455 in the State of New York alone, 375,407 in Illinois, 396,267 in Ohio, and between 200,000 and 300,000 each among other Northern or Middle States.

An extensive and good farmer, who is about to have new buildings, writes to me—"Covered homesteads, must be the correct thing, or rather muck-bins, for it is of no use after feeding a large quantity of good stuff to cart the manure away before wanted for use, to be saturated with water; but I could not make Messrs. — or Lord — see it." I believe that this gentleman holds under the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. No one who has seen the good results of covered yard feeding can doubt its merits. I look upon it as the "key of the position" in beef making. — J. J. Mechi, Tiptree, January 15.

An American paper declares that 40,000,000 quarts of milk are annually sold in New York as milk, at the rate of 10 quarts a dollar. This is a refreshing way of putting its assertion that the annual consumption of that city, about 30,000,000 gallons, is one-third adulterated. The following is the paragraph, from Moore's Rural New Yorker for December 30, 1876:—"During the past week 30 dealers in milk have been on trial for watering the milk furnished to their customers. One pleaded guilty, and was fined 50 dollars, while the others combined and stood trial, in order to test the case, and see if adulterating milk with water is a misdemeanour before the law. Out of the 120,000,000 quarts of milk sold in this city and Brooklyn, at least 40,000,000 are water, and consumers thus pay 4,000,000 dols. annually for water."

For two cows, heifer, and young bull, of the true blue Duchess blood, Lord Skelmersdale lately refused £21,000, fully £5000 a head, from a well-known Shorthorn fancier. The four consists of 1st Duchess of Onida, her daughter, son and granddaughter. The matron cost his lordship 6000 guineas at the famous New York Mills sale in America rather more than three years ago, and besides the above, she had a bull calf two years ago, which brought 20000 guineas last year from Mr. Foster of Killbow, Cumberland, who has now this animal for stock bull. Lord Skelmersdale's plucky investment in "a cow" at New York Mills has so far turned out a grand one. Lord Bective's even more extensive purchases on the same occasion have also been exceedingly lucky; but alas! the others who dipped in the all but priceless blood on that memorable day have a mournful account to give.—North British Agriculturist.

We generally give our horses the warmest quarters, but cows and fattening cattle are nearly as sensitive as horses; sheep need some protection, especially against wet, and fowls are about the only domestic animals that ever freeze to death. Swine are exceedingly sensitive to the cold, and we doubt if any money is ever made on pork unless the pigsty is warm, for the very material consumed by the hog as fuel would make pork and lard. We see that it is a question of economy as well as humanity. No human man will see his domestic animals suffer when it is in his power to relieve them and no economical man would, knowingly, feed hay, grain, and roots to stock to supply the warmth that could be as well supplied by comfortable barns and stables. Our first aim with our stock, and also with ourselves, should be to retain within the body as much of the heat as possible, by comfortable barns and dwellings, and warm clothing and bedding, and our next should be to furnish an abundance of good economical food to supply fuel to the animal system.—Rural Home.

## AMERICAN WAGGON FOR FARM WORK OR GENERAL TRAFFIC.

A year or two ago, Mr. Robert Dodds, a Canadian, residing at Milton, Otago, had an American wagon made by the late Mr. James Wallace, which was a great improvement on the ordinary dray used by our farmers and carters. There are four pretty heavy wheels, which are held together in the simplest and strongest manner by gearing similar to that of the common American wagon used by carriers, only lighter, and there are holsters for the body to fit into. The latter can be lifted on and off, so that the vehicle will answer as an ox wagon, a timber truck, or a hay cart. The horses are most securely fastened in, the breeching being attached to the neck of the yoke and pole. Mr. Wallace made two of these and Messrs. Graham and Kennard, of Milton, have made four, one only of which was for a farmer. One

which they have lately turned out for a merchant in Milton, we saw in use, and the driver assured us that he preferred it to any wagon or cart he has ever used. With two light ponies which he had harnessed in, he said he could do far more work than with two heavy horses in an ordinary dray. In a moment it can be made to suit any kind of work.

## WANTED A TESTIMONIAL.

They had a quarrel on Sunday. He got mad and swore he'd leave. Then she got vexed and told him he could do as he pleased. He left. The next night he came round again. He asked to see her alone. She readily complied. She was all of a tremor. Her heart went out to him in a push of sympathetic love. She stood ready to throw both arms about his neck and cry out for joy. There was not much color in his face, and his voice was husky. He said, "I have been with you six months, Matilda, and I've tried in all that time to do what was right." He paused an instant to recover his voice which was faltering rapidly, while her trembling increased. "I know I have a considerable temper, and that I do not control it as I ought. But I have tried to be faithful to you, tried to do everything that I thought would tend to make you happy. And feeling this, I have called to-night to see if you would't be kind enough to give me a sort of testimonial to this effect, so that I could show it to any other young lady I might want to go with. It might help me." He looked at her anxiously. All the color left her face in a flash. She made a great effort to swallow something which threatened to suffocate. Then she spoke, "You get out of this house as quick as you can you miserable whelp, or my father shall kick you out." He didn't toy with time. He left without the testimonial.

## MUSSELMEN'S VENERATION FOR THE KORAN.

The veneration which Musselmenn entertain for the Koran has been forcibly dwelt on by Eastern travellers. A case which lately came before the Court of Petty Sessions at Glasgow illustrates this. We quote from the Glasgow Herald of Feb. 9th:—"On Wednesday we reported that in the action at the instance of some Turkish sailors against the owners of the *Silistria*, at present lying in Leith Docks, the men were sworn to tell the truth on the Koran. Suitable preparations were made in the way of providing water with which the witnesses might wash their hands before taking the oath, and the reason why the water was not used only transpired yesterday morning. It seems that Mohammedans will not take the oath with a printed copy of the Koran in their hands, and it was consequently necessary to have a manuscript copy. The manuscript copy of the sacred book was borrowed from the University Library in order to overcome that difficulty, and in reference to it it may be interesting to state that it formerly belonged to Tippoo Sahib, from whom it was taken in the early years of the present century, and subsequently presented by the East India Company to the University of Edinburgh. Having thus got rid of this difficulty about using a printed copy of the Koran, a fresh difficulty arose. The Koran had not only been handled by 'infidel Christians,' but had been placed on a seat lower than a man's breast, and thus, in the eyes of the Turks, been defiled; and for this reason they dispensed with the customary ceremony on such occasions of washing their hands."

## GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES.

THE Canterbury Press of the 13th instant contains an article on the injustice of the demand made upon the Municipal Corporations for contributions said to be due from them on account of charitable expenditure. Financially the plan of the Government (remarks our contemporary) is a mere make believe. The Government have recognised it as a duty on their part to make provision for charitable aid, and they have also undertaken to subsidise the local bodies. They find that they cannot afford both, and this plan is a device to enable them to keep up at least the appearance of doing so by using the same money twice over. It is first offered to the local bodies as part of the grant to which they are entitled out of the consolidated fund, and the Government thus gains the credit of having given them a liberal subsidy. But the amount is not actually paid over. It is withheld for the purpose of being applied in discharge of the votes of the General Assembly for charitable aid. All this is great nonsense. It would be a much simpler style of finance, more honest, and

more satisfactory to all parties concerned to look the thing fairly in the face. The Government have chosen to accept the responsibility of finding half the money required for charitable relief; and they regard it as a claim on the public revenue prior even to the payment of subsidies to the local bodies. If so, why should not the amount be directly charged upon and directly paid out of the consolidated fund? If it turns out that after providing for the charitable expenditure, there is not enough left to meet the subsidies, the Government have the alternative of either reducing the subsidies or increasing the revenue. If they adopt the former course, they will only do openly and avowedly what they are now doing indirectly. As things are, the local bodies are not receiving what has been promised them. They do not get their pound for pound. What they do get is a pound with some uncertain amount taken out of it. So far as they are concerned, then, the abolition of the present system would be a change for the better. Even if it involved a diminution of the subsidies, they would be the gainers by having their position defined. It would be much better for them to rely upon a smaller but assured amount than to be deluded with a sum nominally larger but burdened with an indefinite charge.

Dr. Jenner seems to have been counting notoriety by espousing the cause of Mr. Tooth. The Edinburgh correspondent of the Otago Times mentions that on the Ham-road about a mile and a half from Mr. Tooth's church, there is another Ritualistic church (St. Stephen's), whose incumbent is a Mr. Bristow. On Sunday, January 28th, there was a grand service in the church, in the course of which special sympathy with Mr. Tooth was expressed. The London Times says that the service began with a procession of the choir and clergy, headed by a cross bearer, and adds:—"The Rev. Mr. Bristow and two other priests who assisted him in the celebration all wore richly embroidered vestments, and the Bishop of Dunedin, New Zealand, in his full Bishop's robes brought up the rear, immediately preceded by an attendant bearing the crozier and pastoral staff."

Mr. J. E. Bull, late Assistant Engineer to the Provincial Government of Canterbury, writes a long letter to the Canterbury Press in which he complains of the treatment discharged Provincial servants have received from the General Government. After quoting the 13th clause of the Abolition Act, Sir Julius Vogel's speech at Wanganui, and the late Minister of Public Works's letter to Mr. Thornton the Provincial Engineer, Mr. Bull observes:—"In nearly every instance these claims have been disputed on some trivial grounds or other. Some are told that any claims they have can only be reckoned from the date of their stamped appointments; others, that they can only claim one month's salary on the grounds of their engagement being terminable with a month's notice on either side; and others, because they were not on the staff. Where the Government of a country suddenly makes up its mind to effect great and grave constitutional changes, some must suffer lightly. But why aggravate that suffering? Many men who have been turned out of office by the abolition of the provinces know not where to turn for fresh employment. Some have grown grey in the service, having devoted the best years of their life to their country, and worked honestly and faithfully in her interests, and now they are turned adrift like dogs to starve. Nearly every claim is cavilled at; the meaning of that portion of the Act which was framed for their protection distorted, and twisted to suit the ends of a Government that has neither the genius to design a good measure nor the ability to make the best of a bad one, but make use of an arbitrary abuse of power to cover its deficiencies. We are now placed in the painful position of defendants in the case, and are compelled, if we wish to get what we are fairly entitled to, to fight the Government the moment we have left their service or tamely to submit to an injustice unparalleled in the history of political duplicity."

Some boys were larking together at the edge of the line near the Hutt railway station, on Monday morning last, when the up-train was approaching. Just as the train came up one of them started to run across the line, and in an instant was struck by the engine; the blow, however, fortunately hurled him clear of the rails, otherwise he must have been cut to pieces by the wheels. He was taken up, and carried to Mr. W. A. Fitzherbert's house, which was the nearest to the scene of the accident, and Dr. Wilford was quickly in attendance. He found that one thigh was badly fractured and the scalp severely wounded, while the sufferer evidently had sustained some serious internal injury, for he was spitting blood continually. The lad who was injured, is stated to be about fourteen years of age, and to be in the employ of Sir William Fitzherbert.

The Lyttelton Times states that on Thursday morning, at 11 o'clock, a trading company in Christchurch, sent a cablegram to London, and on Saturday evening at 8 o'clock had a reply, the time occupied being 57 hours.

## THE WAIPUKURAU RIDING ELECTION.

WHATEVER may be the faults or demerits of the Waipawa Council, they can at least claim the credit of working the new institutions in such a manner as to afford an infinity of amusement and instruction to their constituents and to the general public. It is not long since that the election of a councillor for the Waipukurau Riding was set aside, magistrates, lawyers, court officials, witnesses, and crowded audiences having assembled to determine the validity of the election. The Returning Officer yielding to a pardonable instinct closed the poll for half-an hour, while the worn and weary scrutineers went to lunch, and the result was that the election was vitiated, and a new election ordered to be held. Mr. Henry Arrow was appointed as Returning Officer for the second election. This gentleman appears to be a singular compound of ingenuity and simplicity. He managed so to deal with the question in the first instance, as to render it necessary to refer to the Governor in Council before a poll could be taken, but he has also so managed the taking of the poll as to render it almost a certainty that the second election will prove as abortive as the first. The reference to the Governor in Council occasioned by the simplicity or the ingenuity of the Returning Officer led to the issue of special regulations extending the time for the election and directing it to be carried on in all its respects as a first election. At this point the ingenuity of the Returning Officer appears to have deserted him, and we see him afterwards, throughout the whole proceedings, in his simple aspect only. He began by notifying to chairmen of road boards that he required them to forward to him a list of all persons in their several districts entitled to vote at a first meeting of ratepayers. This demand was absolutely illegal. It appears to have been ignored by the persons to whom it was addressed, and to have been forgotten by the Returning Officer himself. Waipukurau sent in its existing rate roll. Ruataniwha possesses a veteran roll which has been doing duty for an abolished district known as Central Ruataniwha ever since 1873. This roll was again furnished up and sent to the Returning Officer. He had been present in the Court at the hearing of the petition against the first election, and if not devoid of hearing and common sense must have known that the roll was proved to be absolutely bad, and entirely useless for the purposes of the election. However he accepted it, and then set to work to compile from the Waipukurau and Central Ruataniwha Rolls, and from the Electoral Roll for Clive, the names of persons who in his opinion were entitled to vote. In fulfilling this illegal and self-imposed task he removed various names from the rolls sent to him, and decided what persons were deserving of a vote. The best part of the fun was reserved for the polling-day. Mr Arrow took his post at the poll at Waipawa, and sent as his deputy to Ashley-Clinton a youth of the name of Thomas Cowper. Mr Cowper had instructions to allow accumulative votes to the Ruataniwha settlers according to Col. Herrick's list. Mr Arrow meant to do the same with such of the Ruataniwha people as might come to vote at Waipukurau. But each candidate had appointed a scrutineer to watch the election and these gentlemen were at once taken by Mr. Arrow into his official bosom, and became to him throughout the poll what the counsel for the petitioner very appropriately described as his "Executive Council." The poll had scarcely been an hour open before doubts of a serious and varied character began to darken the mind of Mr. Arrow's executive as to the Ruataniwha Roll. As every honest Executive Council should do they described their doubts to their executive head. It was notorious that the Ruataniwha list was not the correct thing, there being no legal rate roll, and they advised that the settlers should be allowed only single votes as at a first meeting. Mr Arrow concurs and only single votes are taken at Waipukurau. Later on various other doubts and perplexities disturbed the conscience of the Executive, and a formal representation was made that as the roll sent in by Colonel Herrick was for the Central Ruataniwha district and there was no such district, therefore there was no roll at all. The severity of this logic was admitted by the conciliatory Returning Officer, and he then determined that for the remainder of the poll he would treat the Ruataniwha settlers as being in an outlying district, and allow them to vote only from the Assembly Electoral Roll. As time rolled on, and the shades of evening began to gather on

the picturesque village of Waipukurau, the Executive was again filled with portentous misgivings. Listening blandly to the cogitations of his trusty councillors, the Returning Officer became aware that Ruataniwha was not a road district, and was not an outlying district, and that the settlers of that part of the country ought not to have any votes at all. But, unfortunately, the poll had been closed. Again Mr. Arrow and his advisers went into solemn conclave to discover some means of escape from this difficulty. Let us leave them there for the present and see how matters have been going on at Ashley-Clinton. Mr. Cowper religiously adhered to his instructions. Nothing much occurred during the course of the poll to ruffle his temper or to interfere with the placid discharge of his duties. He stuck to his instructions with the fidelity of gum arabic. Every vote from Ruataniwha was allowed to vote accumulatively according to the scale in the Highways Act, whilst the same people polling at Waipukurau were cut down by his conscientious chief to one vote a piece. One little incident speaks much for his orthographical sense of propriety. A voter named Hobin was described on the Waipukurau roll as *Obin*. Mr. Cowper rejected his vote for irrefragable reasons, which, to give in his own words as spoken to the Court, "His name was spelt with a *ho*, whereas it ought to have been spelt with a *h*aitch." His scrutineers appear to have occupied a higher position than those at Waipukurau. Mr Arrow regarded his scrutineers as his constitutional advisers; Mr Cowper's scrutineers regarded him as their servant. He proposed, he tells us, to object to the votes of two persons on apparently good grounds, but as he tells us himself, with a frank candour which is perfectly charming, "Mr Russell's scrutineer pulled a piece of paper out of his waistcoat pocket with their names on, and said they must vote, and they did vote." Nothing further worthy of comment seems to have occurred at Ashley-Clinton. We will now return to Waipukurau. We left the Returning Officer and his scrutineers in a fog, but their capacious intellects soon suffice to dissipate it. It was resolved to adopt a suggestion of one of the scrutineers—namely, to wait for and waylay the Deputy-Returning Officer from Ashley-Clinton, and to take out from his ballot-box nineteen papers (supposed to be the number of Ruataniwha votes) and commit them to the flames. Their luck was, however, against them. Mr. Arrow waited at Waipukurau till all hours, but the Deputy had gone to sleep at Ashley-Clinton, and did not turn up till the next day. Mr. Arrow suggested such a course to Mr. Russell, the defeated candidate, on the following morning, but that gentleman very properly refused to agree to it. And so the matter now stands. The election is appealed against and will most probably be set aside. The public have the fun of reading of the stupid blunders which were made, but they have also to pay the piper. We have only to mention the fact that one gentleman travelled overland from Wellington to give seven votes in favor of his son, one of the candidates, and that his votes are now probably useless, to give our readers some idea of the public and private inconvenience which is occasioned by blunders such as those of which Mr Arrow now stands the admitted father. We hope the next Returning Officer will have a mind of his own, and at least as much common sense as will preserve him from making mistakes which would have been apparent to a twelve-year-old schoolboy.

## Rumored Gold Discovery.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Porangahau, states that the natives have given him information to the effect, that a European named Tierney or Kane, has found gold in the district. The gold is of a nuggety character, and has been seen by Henare Matua and Tipene Matua. Tierney refused to give the natives further information as to the whereabouts of the find, and the natives express anger thereat, as during his prospecting he used their utensils, and the land on which he prospected is native property. The land on which the gold is said to be found, is in a direct line from the Thames country. He informed the natives he had pegged off 100 feet x 100 feet of the land, and intended proceeding to Wellington to put in a claim for a reward. Whether Tierney has been hoaxing the natives or otherwise remains to be seen.

A lady said to a gentleman, who was suffering from influenza, "My dear sir, what do you take for your cold?" "Five pocket-handkerchiefs a day, madam."

## WEST CLIVE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

April 24, 1877.

The election for members of the Road Board is over and resulted in the return of Messrs Sutton, Caulton, Bennett, and Stoddart, throwing Messrs Orr and Lascelles out into the cold. The latter gentleman, I understand, looks upon yesterday's proceedings as illegal, consequently he took no part in the election. That the gentlemen who were elected are the right men in the right place there cannot be a doubt; and that they will watch over the interests of the people, and attend to the wants and improvements of the district, is equally certain. Therefore the ratepayers of Clive may, if the proceedings prove to be legal, congratulate themselves upon the election of yesterday.

Mr Toop and Mr Allanach are taking active steps towards getting up sports at Farndon, to take place on the Queen's Birthday. Should they be fortunate in obtaining the "sinews of war," there cannot be a question they will provide sports of such a character as will induce a number of the city people to patronise them, and keep their holiday on the banks of the Ngaruroro.

Mr. McGlashan, of the Waitangi brewery, has started a new industry in the manufacture of arrowroot. I have seen a sample of it, and it would be difficult indeed to detect any difference between it and the real article. In my next I purpose describing the apparatus and the material from which it is manufactured, and also to send you a sample of the arrowroot so that you may be able to judge of its farinae us properties.

Our Mechanics' Institute is in *statu quo*, and I fear likely to remain so. Several spasmodic efforts have at different times been made to start this institution, but all resulting in failure. Whether from the natural sluggishness of the people, or petty jealousy on the part of certain individuals, the fact remains the same that we have no Mechanics' Institute or reading rooms, nor are we likely to have for years to come. This is to be regretted, as at the present there is no place but the two hotels to spend the long winter evenings that are now hastening before us. I understand that Mr. W. Caulton is about to make another effort to start a public hall, and it is to be hoped he will be able to accomplish this much wished for desideratum.

Flounders are very plentiful at the mouth of the river just now, and great quantities are taken daily by those who follow the avocation of fishermen. The fish taken realize very remunerative prices, and these engaged in this occupation, appear well satisfied with the results of their labor.

Mr. Baldwin's boiling-down at the Waitangi is in full operation, and giving employment to a number of men. He has some splendid tallow ready for shipment, and which doubtless will realize a handsome price in the English market.

## MEANEE ROAD BOARD.

A MEETING of the members of the Meanee Road Board was held on Monday at the Meanee Hotel.

After the minutes were read and confirmed, the Chairman read letters from Mr. H. Sladen with respect to the Meanee drain, shewing that the proposed alteration would be of great benefit to the inhabitants of the district, and also agreeing to allow the drain to be cut through his property free of cost to the ratepayers.

Mr. Barry, in a most sensible speech, moved, "That the drain be open and proclaimed."

This was seconded by Mr. Lord, and, after some discussion, carried.

Mr Hallett moved that the proposed deviation of the Meanee drain, for the purpose of carrying off the surface water of the township, as shown on Mr W. Hallett's plan, be adopted.

Mr Speedy seconded the resolution, which was carried.

A petition with reference to the present impounder was received, but as it appeared the signatures had been obtained from persons interested in an opposition pound, it was not entertained.

After the transaction of some other business, the Board adjourned until Monday, the 7th May.

A hasty spirit brought bitter woe upon a Montreal widow the other day. Her intended husband offered her his hand as they were about to take their places for the marriage ceremony, saying, "May I lead you?" A sharp glitter came into the woman's eyes as she answered, "Yes for the last time." "Good-bye," said the man, as he walked out of the front door.

## MEETING CLIVE RATEPAYERS.

THE annual meeting of the Clive district ratepayers was held on Monday afternoon at Mr W. Caulton's hotel, West Clive, for the election of wardens for the ensuing year. Mr F. Sutton, the Chairman of the Board occupied the chair. The following report was read:—

The Board of Wardens was elected on the 25th July, 1876. There was then standing to the credit of the Board at the Bank of New Zealand the sum of £62 2s 6d, but the indebtedness of the Board was £118 3s 11d, or £36 1s 5d more than the cash in hand. This was all paid off within three weeks after the board was elected.

The amount raised by rates for the past year has been £262 6s 7d, and the Board has received from the Provincial Government the sum of £200, and from the General Government the sum of £33 18s 6d. The receipts from all sources, including balance in hand, have been £594 8s 7d.

The Wardens have the pleasure to report that the roads throughout the district are in good repair, and it is their opinion that a smaller rate will suffice for the coming year.

It has been the endeavor of myself and those members of the Board who have assisted me that the district should receive substantial benefits from the moneys raised within it, and the incidental expenditure kept as low as possible. The expense of printing, advertising, and stationery has been £17 8s 1d. Collection of rates and other charges, including fees for solicitor to support the valuations, cost the board £13 4s 6d, so that for an expenditure of £30 12s 7d the work of the board has been conducted.

The accounts presented have been audited by Messrs Beck and Thornton, who kindly undertook that duty at the request of the board. There is a balance of £70 9s 6d now in the Bank, after providing for all accrued liabilities. There is also a sum of £65 11s 7d due to the board in respect of subsidy for March quarter, so that it may be estimated that the new board will have £135 to begin with, and no old debts to pay.

The only liability of the board is on a metalling contract, which has not yet been commenced, this will probably require about £18.

Valuations, 1877, £6636 15s.  
Valuations, 1876, £7290 8s 6d.

Mr Sutton, in moving the adoption of the report, pointed out that all the roads within the district were in excellent condition; that there were no outstanding rates to be collected, and that the Board had £135 to its credit with which to commence the year. During the past year the Board had spent £493, at an incidental expense of £30. Mr Sutton then compared the economy thus exhibited with the estimates of expenditure of the County Council of Hawke's Bay which with £1,500 to spend on useful works would incur an expense of £992. He trusted the report would be adopted, and that a vote of thanks would be passed to Messrs. Beck and Thornton, the auditors.

Col. Whitmore seconded the adoption of the report, and, in doing so, spoke in high terms of the administration of the Clive Road Board. He then referred to the heavy expenses to which County Councils were put in order to administer the Act, and stated it was for that reason he opposed its adoption. Before resuming his seat Col. Whitmore said that the proceedings of the meeting, he had been told, were held to be illegal, but he was not aware upon what ground the objection stood; if any had been made.

The report was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman explained in reference to the supposed illegality of the proceedings that he had deemed it his duty to call the meeting on that day, because the financial year was now made to terminate on March 31. He was of opinion that the Legislature never intended the old Board to levy a rate for the coming year.

Col. Whitmore thought, since the matter had been explained, that the proceedings were illegal, and he moved that the election of Wardens be postponed till July.

Mr. Orr seconded the motion, which was lost on a division.

Nine gentlemen were then proposed as Wardens, namely, Messrs. Knight, Sutton, J. P. Hollis, R. P. Williams, Stoddart, Bennett, Caulton, Orr, and Giblin. A ballot was taken when the result of the polling was as follows:—Sutton, 99; Bennett, 87; Hollis, 73; Caulton, 58; Stoddart, 53; Orr, 45; Williams, 40; Giblin, 28; Knight, 16. A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the ratepayers' meeting to a close.

The Wardens then held a meeting, and elected Mr Sutton Chairman of the Board.

Hang It!—Brown meeting Jones, his friend, and seeing him look very miserable, said "Hullo, old man, why you've a face just fit for a funeral!" "So I ought to have," replied Jones, "considering I've just had an execution in my house."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LAND FOR THE PEOPLE.

Sir,—A number of working men belonging to this neighborhood have for some time past endeavored to form Small Farm Associations, and so place themselves in something of an independent position, that when the time comes that they are no longer fit for regular daily labor they will derive ample sustenance from the provision made in a time of health and strength.

Now, Sir, as you are aware, the Government, by one of its kindest acts, has provided that land may be taken on deferred payments by associations of men who are willing to do so, and who shall be approved of as reliable persons. So far so good. We are sensible of the kind intentions of the Government, and anxious to avail ourselves of the opportunity so kindly offered; but, alas, we find that the machinery necessary to carry out the wishes of the Government, and the desire of many of the people is unfortunately standing still, and has been for nearly three months past—it cannot be got to move. Now, I think as you are reading this you will say, why don't they go to the Crown Lands Office and get information, and then they can select their land and commence clearing without further loss of time. That, sir, is just what we are all earnestly desirous to do, and what we have begun to do. We have been to the Crown Lands office, and were informed: Firstly—That the rules of the government of Small Farm Associations were in the hands of the Solicitor-General, and until they came back here nothing could be done. Secondly—That out of the thousands of acres of land lying idle in the province none had been proclaimed, and so was not available for the Small Farm Associations, and until it was proclaimed nothing could be done. Thirdly—Our having had to wait so long already was of no consequence, we were no worse off than others; as things were at present, the Waste Lands Board could not entertain any application of that sort, for nothing could be done.

A few of us consulting together thought that if the editor of the Daily Telegraph would kindly insert this account in one of his columns, that surely some one of your very numerous readers might be able, and would kindly give us working men a hint what sort of oil to use to set the machine going once more full speed right a-head.—I am, &c.,

Napier, April 21, 1877.

DOG REGISTRATION.

Sir,—I see there is a doubt as to whether local bodies can strike a rate for dog licenses—the Acts read either way. The Editor of the Herald thinks they cannot; I think they can, some have done so. For a case in point, I refer him to the General Government Gazette, No. 23, of 12th March, 1877, page 296, where you will find these words:—

"Notice.

"Provincial Chambers,

"Wellington, 8th March, 1877

"The following by-law has been passed by the Featherston Local Board, and confirmed this 8th day of March, 1877."

"HENRY BUNNY."

"By-Law.

"That all dogs over the age of six months shall be registered. That five shillings shall be the fee for such registration for one year: such year to commence on 5th April every year."

Some Councils in Otago have struck a 10s rate.—I am, &c.,

WAIROA.

April 19, 1877.

PAPER MANUFACTURE.

We have had the pleasure of inspecting two samples of packing paper, manufactured at Mr. W. S. Symes', Mataura Paper Mills, Otago. No. 1 sample was made from the fibre of the tussock grass, and is a thick, close-grained, tough brown paper, with a good face; it is in fact a good paper as could be bought, and is worth about £30 per ton. The fibre of which this paper is made is procured from the common tussock or snow grass of the province of Otago. The grass is cut and delivered at the mill at £1 per ton, and from three tons of grass, one ton of paper can be manufactured. It is worthy of note that it requires from six to seven tons of flax to make one of paper. No. 2 sample was also a strong useful packing paper, of somewhat softer texture than the other; this was made from waste paper chiefly procured from the Govern-

ment Offices. Mr. Symes' mills turn out about three tons of paper a week; the price being £30 per ton, we are informed a good margin for profit is left, and the industry thus established appears both of a permanent and profitable character. We believe that at present, the Mataura mills only turn out the coarser descriptions of paper, but the necessary plant has been ordered from England by which the finer kinds can be manufactured. We have referred to this subject to show how from small beginnings not only can a valuable industry be established, but in what manner the resources of the colony can be developed. Some years ago, before the country had been hurried into a headlong course of loan raising and extravagance, both the General and Provincial Governments could afford to offer handsome bonuses for the encouragement of all industries that would either develop the natural resources of the country, or establish the manufacture of an article for the purchase of which money had to leave the colony. There were bonuses offered for the discovery of gold, and of coal, for the manufacture of sugar from beet-root, of paper from native fibres, and so on. The bonuses, however, did not appear to stimulate enterprise to any great extent, for the reason that the colony was too young, and its population too small for it to be able to supply itself remuneratively with those articles that could at that time be imported at a cheaper rate than at which they could be manufactured here. The mills that were started all over the colony for the preparation of the flax fibre had to be abandoned in a great measure through the high price of labor, and beyond a few experiments in beet-root growing nothing was done towards the manufacture of sugar. The time seems now to have arrived when a more successful effort could be put forth for the establishment of local industries. We have referred to the Mataura paper mills; and from the excellence of the material turned out everyone has heard of the Mosgiel cloth factory near Dunedin. But there are more fibre growing plants than the tussock-grass in New Zealand, and that which can be manufactured in Dunedin can also be made here. If a knowledge of the business combined with the necessary capital could be found, a guarantee from agriculturists to supply the required beet-root should be sufficient to establish a sugar factory and keep out the imported article.

It is alleged (says the Grey River Argus) that the number for Port Chalmers, Mr. W. H. Reynolds, has intimated his intention of bringing in a resolution in the House of Representatives next session for the purpose of reducing the honorarium of members to £100 per session. What a panic there will be amongst the carpet-baggers.

The editor of the local paper having had a look at the Tuspeka County seal, considers there is only one slight mistake in it, and that is, the absence of a bandage over Miss Justice's eyes. He says she is represented holding the scales, but having her eyes uncovered, she has very naturally allowed the heaviest weight on the squatters' side of the seal. This is scarcely according to the motto, which is, "Be just and fear not." Now, had the poor girl been blind folded, she would not have been intimidated by the bullocks and sheep, and would have meted out equal measure for squatter and digger alike. The rolling ridges and the cabbage trees are most graphically depicted, and reflect great credit on the engraver.

The Intelligent Vagrant in the New Zealand Herald thus discourses:—"I see Wanganui is in the field for the honor of having the Colonial Regatta there next year. I have a suggestion to make. Supposing Wanganui to be successful in getting up the regatta, let the one after that be held at Lake Waihoia, near Dunedin, of the most easy access by rail, and presenting facilities for the four-oared champion race, I may safely say, unattainable elsewhere. It is quite possible that Dunedin and Port Chalmers may object on account of local considerations, each wanting the regatta on the water in front of them, though said water is patronised by weather as unreliable as that which in Wellington has prevented many a rowing race. But I cannot help that. The regatta should be purely a New Zealand affair, and the locality I have mentioned, if for no other reason than its fitness, should be selected for one year at least."

One of the sisters of the Sultan is dead. When ill she married her lover that he might become the heir to her £2,000,000 estate. He was willing. Who says there is no romance in Turkey?

In an address at Roehdale, John Bright, after recommending temperance and self-culture as a means of social and physical elevation, expatiated upon the improved condition of the working classes.

It is stated, in a Melbourne paper, that Mr. W. J. Clarke has become the purchaser of racehorses. His colours will be green and orange.



Government Notifications.

RETURN SHOWING THE LAND SOLD, AND RENTS AND ASSESSMENTS RECEIVED AT THE CROWN LANDS OFFICE, NAPIER, DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1877.

Date.	Mode of Sale.	NAME.	PARTICULARS.	AREA OF LAND SOLD.				CASH.				REMARKS.		
				Town.	Suburban.	Country.	Town.	Suburban.	Country.	Rent.	Assess.		metres.	
1877		John Taylor	Assessment on his runs for 1876											
March		Rhodes & Co.	One year's rent of Lot 4, Horewahi											
7		Gulbraith Evesen	Rural Sections 8 and 7, Pakitairi Reserve											
8	Application	Johannes Olsen	Land Makareta Reserve											
12		Rhodes & Co.	Rural land on their runs, Pukekohe District											
15		Stephens Franklin	Two sections 21 and 27, Porangahau											
16		William Lysons	Assessment on his runs for 1876											
21		Thorvald Bergesen	Land Makareta Reserve											
24		N. P. Jensen	" " " " " "											
24		Nicholas Lyle	" " " " " "											
26		James Hallist	Assessment on his runs for 1876											
26		H. A. Duff	One section of the Rangiora Township Block											
26		J. G. Kinnear	Assessment on his runs for 1876											
26		Duncan McDougall	" " " " " "											
26			TOTAL											

RECAPITULATION.

Available. £ s. d.  
109 0 0  
277 16 0  
4185 16 0

Land Sales  
Rents and Assessments

J. T. TYLLE,  
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Crown Lands Office,  
Napier, April 6th, 1877.

Not long ago, (writes a correspondent in the Otago Witness) a gentleman came out from home, and did it very fine. He gave champagne suppers, and was altogether a very fine fellow. People took him in hand, and lots of girls fell in love with him, as they generally do with any new arrival who is supposed to have money. He gave one of his friends, a very popular actor, who visited Dunedin some time ago, a splendid champagne supper, and afterwards borrowed from his friend the amount necessary to pay for the supper. Soon it began to be noticed somehow that he always did borrow from his friends, as his remittances about which he talked a good deal were rather irregular. This gay young man then went to Melbourne to arrange about his remittances—and has picked up the English cricketers and—borrowed largely from them all. By the last mail, it appears that he has taken a geological contract with the Victorian Government to last two years. To my knowledge, he is the sixth who has come here and gone the same racket, and yet there are fools here who continue to get taken in with such fellows.

Mr. T. L. Shepherd, recently stationed for a short period at Greytown as Government Insurance Agent, is now located in Wellington in a similar office.

A Melbourne paper says it is probable that the experiment of employing a number of young ladies in the Post-office Department will soon be commenced. A great number of applications have been received.

A new double-barrelled breech-loading pistol, Enfield pattern, is about to be issued to Lancer regiments.

At Sandhurst it is calculated that Bailey and Cooper's circus must have taken £3,000 on two nights, and at Maryborough they are said to have netted over £1,000 for one night.

Mr. Reed the editor of the Otago Guardian is now prosecuting the proprietor and editor of the Waitangi Tribune for having printed and published Mr. Sherrie's letter, containing the alleged libel on Mr. Reed. The case is to be heard on Thursday next. The Guardian in mentioning the subject, says:—"We observe that rumor has it that this particular case will be settled by apology. We have the best information for stating that it will be settled by nothing of the kind, but by the Supreme Court at Timaru."

The Edinburgh correspondent of the Otago Times mention that Dr Hochsteter's work on New Zealand forms only a small part of a much larger work, embracing the whole of the scientific results of the Novara's voyage. This great work was only completed last month, after seventeen years' labor, and at a cost of nearly £13,000. It consists of twenty-one volumes, and the series is sold at 391 florins, or nearly £40. The Emperor of Austria has ordered a number of copies to be given away to public institutions and libraries in his own empire, as well as foreign countries. The correspondent suggests that the Otago University should bestir themselves to obtain a copy of this valuable work for the library of that institution.

The Wanganui Herald of Monday last, is responsible for the following:—"We are informed that the actual murderer of Cahill, Squires, and Smith is at present stationed at the Waimate Plains side of the Waingongora river, and in receipt of Government pay to the extent of £60 per year. His ostensible duty is to prevent settlers' cattle crossing the river on to the confiscated land."

To the Editor: Sir,—Why does not the ss Wanaka come into the port, as the Jane Douglas came in, drawing twice as much water as the Sir Donald at low water," the Sir Donald's draught being 6 feet. By answering the same, you will oblige, SHELLBACK, Spit, April 23, 1877.

CANTERBURY RACES.

The conclusion of the second day's Canterbury Races was not forwarded by the Press Agency to the Napier papers. We are obliged therefore to take the following from the New Zealand Times of the 19th instant:—

Flying Stakes of 100 sovs. for two-year-olds and upwards, added to a sweepstake of 5 sovs each. Weight for age. Three-quarters of a mile.

Redwood's Bribery (Clifford) 1  
Delamaine's Punga (Rowlands) 2  
Betting—2 to 1 against Bribery, Punga and Jangler; 4 and 5 to 1 the rest.

A considerable time was consumed at the start in getting the lot off, Merelle going several gallops and remaining at the post. After four attempts they were dismissed to a fair start. Dead Heat getting a long way the worst of it, Tell Tale, Bribery Jangler and Punga formed the leading division in the order named, Merelle and Chancellor next, and Dead Heat last. In this order they ran to the turn, when Bribery began to come up, with Punga and Jangler in close attendance, the rest being in a cluster about half a length in the rear. Coming into the straight, Clifford let Bribery out, and he took the lead, Punga and Jangler being second and third. Nearing home Punga began to try to come away, but it was Redwood's colors again that came to the front, securing another win by a short length, Punga beating Jangler on the post for second place, the rest straggling. Time—1 min. 22 3/4 secs.

SELLING RACE.

Of 50 sovs. added to a sweepstake 5 sovs each; weight for age. Three-quarters of a mile.

Mallock's Foul Play (Clifford) ... 1  
Walters' Isaac Walton (Castell) ... 2  
Craddock's Grey Mouse (Wattie) ... 3  
Fraser's Equator (Clark) ... 4  
Malvina, Laddie, and Birdcatcher also ran.

Betting even on Isaac Walton, 2 to 1 against Foul Play.

Equator and Grey Mouse made the running at the start, and up to the turn held command of affairs. At the distance Isaac began to come, but could not stay, and Mallock's colt got the lead with Equator, and Isaac close up. In this order they ran to near home, when Foul Play went away with the lead of about a length, and won. Equator, Isaac Walton, and Grey Mouse being altogether on the post. Grey Mouse beat Equator by a head for third place. Time, 1 min. 33 secs.

EASTER HANDICAP.

100 sovs. added to a sweepstake of 7 sovs each. One mile.

Delamaine's Pungawerewere, 7st. 8lbs. ... 1  
Redwood's Bribery, 7st. 2lbs. ... 2  
Logan's Cloth of Gold, 6st. 8lbs. ... 3

After several false starts the flag fell to a good line. Bribery, Danebury, and Fallacy at once rushed to the front, and led to the turn for home, when Pungawerewere came up splendidly, collared Bribery, and passed her just inside the rails, and won by half a length, Bribery leading Cloth of Gold for second place by three lengths. Tattler and Mangle were outpaced from the start. Time, 1 min. 46 secs.

ON BREEDING WITHOUT FURTHER IMPORTATION OF NEW BLOOD.

The following paper was read at a recent meeting of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria, by Mr. E. M. Curr:—

"There seems to me to be a feeling amongst people who have not made the laws of breeding a study, that English cattle, and perhaps horses, are of a quality which not only has not been, but cannot be, produced out of Great Britain. On this subject I have to state that such can only be the fact if the conditions of nature are superior to those of other countries. Now I think it may be safely stated that such is not the case; that the conditions of nature in Great Britain are of themselves rather adverse than favourable, and that it is only through a constant struggle with nature that the great results of breeding in England have been realised; and that nature has done far more for Australia than England in this respect, and that superior cattle can be produced at far less cost here than in Great Britain. I also hold it to be an axiom, which I think those who have made the laws of breeding their study will bear me out in, that when a country, thoroughly suited to the production of any particular animal, is well supplied with the best strains of blood, in the hands of competent breeders, the time has arrived when further importation becomes not only unnecessary, but a positive evil, as such importation stands in

the way of stock thoroughly accommodating itself to the particular circumstances of nature amidst which it exists. As regards our flocks and herds, I believe that the stage at which importation becomes an evil, instead of a benefit, has been reached. Assuming, however, that it could be shown that certain benefits would be secured by the introduction of, say, English bulls and German rams, it remains to be considered whether the risk in their introduction does not outweigh the advantages expected. On this subject I would wish to point out that there will probably never be a time in which contagious and infectious diseases of one sort or other, will not find a place in every European country. Those who are in favour of importation urge that the risk of infection can effectually be set at nought by quarantine. With this view, however, I am unable to concur, when I find leading veterinaries like Fleming and Gangee making statements like the following, which occurs in a report on the Texan diseases made to the Government of the United States:— 'During the early part of our investigations we could not fail to be forcibly struck by the apparently healthy conditions of the vast Texan steers which had scattered a most deadly poison on the pastures of Illinois and Indiana, and even our dissections limited as they necessarily were, failed to elicit the truth.' This is what Gangee said on the subject, and I believe it to be a fact that disease of an infectious character occasionally exists in animals in such a state as to defy detection. As this Continent enjoys perhaps unrivalled capacities for rearing stock of the first quality, and as stock breeding must always be a great industry here, it seems to me that we have no greater public interest than to keep out disease, which once introduced, can never be eradicated, and that this can only be effected by the exclusion of foreign stock. In considering this subject, it seems most important to bear in mind that practically, the decision as to any animal imported being free from disease or otherwise may not only rest with a veterinary unworthy of trust, but that opinions on subjects of disease are often as numerous as those offering them, and consequently afford but a very insecure basis on which to act."

Fishmonger to thrifty housewife: "Fish is dear, mum. Hits gettin' very scarce in consequence o' these 'ere ageriums."

Benedict assures us—and we have no reason to doubt his word—that since his marriage, whenever he misses the last train he is sure to catch it.

"My dear," said a husband to his wife, on observing red-striped stockings on his only heir, "why have you made barber's poles of our child's legs?" "Because he's a little shaver," was the reply.

£900 TO LEND next month on good Freehold security. J. J. BUCHANAN, Hampden.

BEWARE OF VILE AMERICAN COUNTERFEITS.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT. I most respectfully take leave to call the attention of the inhabitants of Australasia to the fact that Messrs Henry, Curran and Co., Wholesale Druggists, of New York, have Agencies in various parts, and that their Travellers are going all over the country vending spurious imitations of my Pills and Ointment, which they make in New York, and which bear in some instances their trade mark thus. Whilst on other labels of this trash it is omitted, the letter to deceive you, but the words 'New York' are retained. Much of this fictitious stuff is sold in the Auction Rooms of Sydney and elsewhere, and readily finds its way into the back settlements. These are vile frauds, as I do not allow my Medicines even to be sold in any part of the United States; they are only made by me at 533, Oxford-street, London.

The same people are circulating a report that my business is about to be formed into a Company which is UTTERLY FALSE. I most earnestly appeal to that sense of British justice which I feel sure I may venture upon asking my kind countrymen and countrywomen in their distant homes, to assist me, as far as may lay in their power, in denouncing this shameful American Fraud, by cautioning their friends lest they be duped into buying villainous compounds styled "Holloway's Pills and Ointment" with any New York label thereon. Each Pot and Box of the Genuine Medicines bears the British Government Stamp, with the words "HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT, LONDON," engraved thereon. On the labels is the address, 533 Oxford-street, London, where alone they are manufactured.

Signed, THOMAS HOLLOWAY. London, Feb. 16, 1876.

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THE Thoroughbred Clydesdale Draught Stallion "YOUNG LORD GLASGOW." This Draught Stallion, stands about 16 1/2 hands high, and is perfectly staunch in harness. Young Lord Glasgow took the first prize at the Hawke's Bay Agricultural Show held in 1874; also a Draught Colt Foal, out of a mare the property of R. Wellwood, Esq., got by Young Lord Glasgow, obtained the second best prize at the H. B. Agricultural Society's Show of May, 1876.

Young Lord Glasgow is out of Mr Hore's prize mare Young Lilly, bred by Gibson Brothers, Tarama-la. Sire, the imported horse Lord Glasgow, bred by Weir of Camerhul, Lanarkshire, and imported to Melbourne by Mr. David Nesbit, and sold to Mr. William Morley (warehouseman) for 600 guineas. Young Lilly is out of Old Lilly. Sire, Bendley, who was imported for the purity of his blood. His Sire, Ben Lomond, was never beaten in Scotland, and is brother to the celebrated horses 'The Major, the Colonel, and the General, who were the greatest prize-takers for a number of years. Old Lilly is dam of Lilly Cromwell, and Bodeck Gles; Lily Cromwell, dam of Heather Jock, whose muscular powers, symmetry and endurance has never been surpassed.

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Persons suffering from weak or debilitated constitutions will discover that by the use of this wonderful medicine there is "Health for all." The blood is the fountain of life, and its purity can be maintained by the use of these Pills. SIR SAMUEL BAKER, in his work entitled "The Nile Tributaries in Abyssinia," says, "I ordered the dragoon Mahomet to inform the 'Fakay that I was a Doctor, and that I had the best 'medicines at the service of the sick, with advice gratis. 'In a short time I had many applicants, to whom I served out a quantity of Holloway's Pills. These are 'most useful to an explorer, as possessing unmistakable purgative properties they create an undeniable effect 'upon the patient, which satisfies him of their value."

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