

# WEEKLY MERCURY

AND

## Hawke's Bay Advertiser,

A Journal of Commerce, Agriculture, Sports, Politics, and Literature

VOL. III.—No. 107.

NAPIER, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1877.

PRICE SIXPENCE

### WAIPAWA ATHLETIC SPORTS.

THE above will be held at Waipawa, on 26th December (BOXING DAY), in a paddock adjoining the Railway Station, kindly granted by E. Collins, Esq.

#### PROGRAMME:

No.	Event.	1st prize	2nd prize	Entrance Fee
1.	Throwing Heavy Hammer (22lbs)	3 0	1 10	3 6
2.	Putting Heavy Stone (22lbs)	3 0	1 10	3 6
3.	Best Bagpipe Player	4 0	1 10	3 6
4.	Maiden Race (300 yards)	2 10	1 0	3 6
5.	Throwing Light Hammer (16lbs)	2 10	1 0	3 6
6.	Putting Light Stone (16lbs)	2 0	1 0	2 0
7.	Men's Foot Race (400 yards)	3 10	1 10	3 6
8.	Hop, Step, and Leap	2 10	1 0	0 0
9.	Boy's (under 14 years) Foot Race (300 yards)	2 0	1 0	1 0
10.	Dancing Highland Fling	3 0	1 0	3 6
11.	Running High Leap	3 0	1 0	3 6
12.	Men's Foot Race (600 yards)	7 0	3 0	7 6
13.	Vaulting	3 10	1 10	3 6

#### INTERVAL OF MINUTES.

14.	Men's Hurdle Race (500 yards)	4 0	1 10	3 0
15.	Boy's (under 14 yrs.) Hurdle Race (300 yards)	2 0	1 0	1 0
16.	Running Long Leap	2 10	1 0	3 6
17.	Dancing Liverpool Hornpipe	3 0	1 0	3 6
18.	Four-legged Hurdle Race (200yds)	2 0	1 0	3 6
19.	Walking Match (900 yards)	4 0	1 10	3 6
20.	Dancing Irish Jig	3 0	1 0	3 6
21.	Standing High Leap	3 0	1 0	3 6
22.	Three-legged Race (150 yards)	2 0	1 0	3 6
23.	Boy's (under 10 years) Foot Race (200 yards)	1 0	0 10	0 6
24.	Sack Race (over hurdles) 100 yds	2 0	1 0	1 0
25.	Men's (over 40 years) Race (300 yards)	3 10	1 0	3 6

The Sports will commence at 11 o'clock a.m. sharp. Admission to the grounds, One Shilling; children under 10 years with parents, Free.

No horses or dogs allowed on the grounds. A Ball will be held in the evening in the Odd-fellows' Hall in connection with the above.

WALTER ADAIR, Secretary.

### THE TOWN & COUNTRY ALMANAC FOR 1878

IS IN COURSE OF PREPARATION.

As a medium of Advertising the Publication is unequalled.

ADVERTISEMENTS Will be received up till the end of October.

COLLEDGE & CRAIG, PUBLISHERS.

THE NEW IRISH LINEN NOTE PAPER AND ENVELOPES

AT COLLEDGE AND CRAIG'S.

INK PENCILS

AT COLLEDGE & CRAIG'S

THE MIRACULOUS PEN

WRITES WITHOUT INK, BLACK, BLUE, OR RED.

Sixpence each.

AT COLLEDGE AND CRAIG'S.

SQUEEZER CARDS

VARIOUS PATTERNS, AT COLLEDGE AND CRAIG'S.

COTSWOLD RAMS.

THE Oakbourne Sale Sheep have been shorn and are open for selection they will be sold privately.

Apply, stating number required, and further particulars to the undersigned.

JOHN DAVIS CANNING, Oakbourne.

16th October, 1877.

### PRIVATE SALE OF COTSWOLD SHEEP.

THE Undersigned has for Sale from 200 to 300 RAMS, selected from 14th to 15-16th bred; also, full-mouthed pure pedigree RAMS, with 2,000 EWES, from 1 bred to 14th, mostly 2-tooth, and Hogs in lots to suit purchasers.

None but private sales will be effected, and purchasers may rely on getting fair value for their money.

Apply by letter to the undersigned, stating number required.

JOHN DAVIS CANNING, Oakbourne, Wallingford.

16th October, 1877.

### KONINI HOTEL.

THE Undersigned begs to inform his friends and the public that he will open the above Hotel on MONDAY, the 1st October, which is situated on the direct road to Patea, and hopes by attention to the comfort of his visitors to merit their support. The Hotel has recently been built for the special accommodation of the travelling public, and no effort or expense will be spared to make the Hotel one of the most comfortable and attractive in the County.

None but the very best brands of Beers, Wines, and Spirits will be kept in stock.

Splendid Stables, Grass Paddocks, and every accommodation for persons travelling.

The Proprietor is also erecting a new Store, where goods of the very best quality will always be on sale.

J. W. O'BRIEN, Konini, Sept. 5th, 1877.

### ZEALAND RAILWAYS. NEW NAPIER—TAKAPAU.

#### TIME TABLE.

	DOWN.				SUN. DAYS.
	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	
Spit, depart	7.40	11.0	8.40		
Napier (arrive)	6.45	7.55	11.30	4.10	2.30
Farnford depart	7.10	8.20	11.55	4.35	2.55
				p.m.	
Hastings, depart	7.35	8.45	12.20	5.0	
Pak Paki (arrive)		9.5		5.18	
Napier (depart)	7.53	9.13		5.20	
Te Aute (arrive)	8.32			6.5	
Te Aute (depart)	8.35	9.55		6.45	
Kaikora, depart	9.15	10.35			
Waipawa, depart	9.35	10.55			
Waipuku (arrive)	9.55	11.15		7.25	
Spit (depart)	10.0	11.30			
Takapau, arrive	10.50	12.20			

\* On Monday and Thursday only.  
† On Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

	UP.				SUN. DAYS.
	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	
Takapau, depart				2.20	
Waipuku, dep.		7.10		2.15	
Waipawa, depart		7.30		3.35	
Kaikora, depart		7.50		3.55	
Te Aute (arrive)		8.31			
Te Aute (depart)		8.33		4.55	
Pak Paki (arrive)		9.10		5.15	
Hastings, depart		9.12		5.32	
Napier, depart		9.32	1.0	5.42	5.20
Farnford, depart		9.57	1.25	6.7	5.46
Napier (arrive)		10.22	1.50	6.32	6.10
Spit, arrive		7.20	10.25	8.0	
		7.30	10.35	8.10	

\* Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday only

Passengers are requested not to enter or leave the carriages while in motion.

Season Tickets issued to and from all Stations. Apply to the Manager.

To ensure despatch, Parcels should be booked fifteen minutes before the starting of the Train

W. J. MILLER, General Manager.

Napier, March 8, 1877.

### SPRING DRAPERY, MILLINERY &c., &c., &c.

NEWTON, IRVINE & Co. are now showing a large assortment of Spring Goods in all the latest styles, and invite inspection.

WANTED KNOWN—The price of "Wanted" Advertisements in the DAILY TELEGRAPH is at the rate of ONE SHILLING per insertion for 20 words.

### Government Notifications.

#### SALE OF WASTE LANDS.

Crown Lands Office, Napier, 15th October, 1877.

A SALE of Waste Lands will take place at this Office on MONDAY, the 10th day of December next, when will be offered:—

16 Town Sections, Mahia, varying from 38 perches to 2 roods in extent, at from £4 15s to £10 per Section.

13 Town Sections, Clive, from 35 perches to 1 rood 1 perch, at £5 per Section.

32 Town Sections, Clyde, Wairoa, each 1 rood, at £5 per Section.

Suburban Sections Nos. 845 and 846, Clyde, (Class I), each 3 acres, at £15 per Section.

Town Sections Nos. 4 and 158, Porangahau, each 1 rood, at £5 per Section.

Rural Sections Nos. 36, 52, and 57, Woodville, containing 39½, 18, and 49 acres respectively, at £2 10s per acre.

2 Blocks (Applications Nos. 49 and 50) Makaretu Reserve, containing 100 and 60 acres respectively, at 10s per acre.

For further particulars as to numbers, areas, and upset prices, see the Proclamation in the DAILY TELEGRAPH of the 5th instant.

J. T. TYLEE, Commissioner of Crown Lands.

### TENDERS FOR ADVERTISING PROVINCIAL DISTRICT NOTICES.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, Nov. 22, 1877.

TENDERS are required for the Publication—for a period of 12 months, in a newspaper in each Provincial District—of Public Notifications, such as were required to be published in the Provincial Government Gazette in a Province, and will be received at this Office until NOON on FRIDAY, Nov. 30th instant. Tenders must contain the information and be in accordance with the terms and conditions of the specifications subjoined.

Telegraphic Tenders will be received, provided that they are forwarded for transmission before Noon on the 30th instant, and that Written Tenders are posted simultaneously.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

G. S. COOPER, Under Secretary.

### SPECIFICATION FOR ADVERTISING OFFICIAL NOTICES UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

1. All Notices as far as practicable to appear in succession in one part of the newspaper (but not on the last page), or separately in a supplement if required. The words "Government Notifications" or "Royal Arms" to be placed over the first Notice; no Royal Arms to be otherwise used.

2. Notices to be set in either Brevier Minion or Nonpareil type, according to the size ordinarily used for advertisements in the newspaper whose tender may be accepted, provided that no size larger than the first-named type be used.

3. Notices are not to be leaded out, or extended beyond the space actually required to set them solid.

4. When notices are required to be inserted more than once the number of insertions will be specified on the face of the copy.

5. Tender to state charges per inch in depth for:—  
(a.) Plain matter first insertion  
do second or subsequent.  
(b.) Table matter single column, first insertion  
do do second or subsequent insertions.  
(c.) Table matter, double column, first insertion  
do do second or subsequent insertion

Second or subsequent insertion to appear either in consecutive issues or not, as may be required. Table matter under heading (b) shall consist of 4 or more columns with Headings and Rules; and under heading (c), of 8 or more columns with Headings or Rules.

6. All tenders submitted must contain the information specified under the following Heads:—  
(a.) Name of the newspaper.  
(b.) Days of publication.  
(c.) With of columns in Pica ems.  
(d.) Type in which advertisements are now set or proposed to be set.  
(e.) Average circulation of the paper.

7. Government Notifications when received by the Printer must be published in the issue next after the receipt, and must not be held over for a subsequent publication, unless with the consent of the party sending it.

### THE U.S.S. CO'S S.S. HAWEA.

Will run an EXCURSION TRIP to the SOUND during the CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The Hawea will start from Auckland on Thursday, 13th December, calling at Taumarua (14th), Poverty Bay (15), Napier (16th), Wellington (17th), Lyttelton (19th), and arrive at Port Chalmers on Thursday, 20th December; leave again on Saturday, 22nd, calling at Bluff on the following day. Thence she will proceed up Preservation and Chalky Inlets, Dusky, Breaksea, Doubtful, Thomson, Caswell, and George Sounds, and finally to MILFORD SOUND. At this magnificent Sound she will remain at least 48 hours, and then return direct to Bluff and Port Chalmers.

She is expected to arrive back at the latter port on Wednesday, 2nd January, and will sail again for Northern ports about 3rd January.

The Berthing List will be open on Monday, 10th December; intending passenger should therefore book before that date, as the best berths will be immediately allotted.

For further particulars apply to KINROSS AND CO.

### Kinross & Co.

JUST RECEIVED EX "MATAURA," FROM LONDON.

6 TONS McDUGALL'S SHEEP D.I.P. KINROSS & CO.

NOW LANDING EX "LOCHNAGAR," FROM LONDON.

25 TONS FENCING WIRE, No. 6, Johnson's B.B., annealed.

25 tons Fencing Wire, No. 8, do. do. annealed

150 kegs McDougall's Sheep Dip, 50lb each

5 kegs Ditto 100lbs each

12 cases 3-crown Corrugated Iron, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 feet

5 kegs Galvanised Screws

2 kegs Lead Washers

6 doz. Parkes' Socket Spades

4 bales Tarpaullis, assorted sizes

2 bales Flour Bags, 100lbs and 50lbs

1 case Baumann's Felt Hats

30 cases Currants

30 cases Eleme Raisins

40 cases Guinness' Stout, bottled by Burke, quarts

80 cases Guinness' Stout, bottled by Burke, pints

30 cases Ind Coope's Ale, quarts

50 cases Ditto Ditto pints

KINROSS & CO.

JUST RECEIVED EX "FAMENOTH," FROM LONDON, AT AUCKLAND.

6 TONS CORRUGATED GALVANISED IRON, 6 feet to 10 feet.

KINROSS & CO.

PER STEAMER "HANKOW," FROM LONDON, NOW AT MELBOURNE.

3000 Qr. SIZE WOOL PACKS. KINROSS & CO.

TO ARRIVE PER "C. A. LITTLEFIELD," FROM NEW YORK.

30 CASES TWIST TOBACCO, St. Andrew's

20 quarter Tierces Tobacco, do. do.

KINROSS & CO.

JUST RECEIVED PER "CITY OF SYDNEY," FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

6 CASES LAWN MOWERS, 16 to 20 inches.

6 Post Hole Borers

2 Windmill Pumps with Gear complete.

KINROSS & CO.

### Grateful—Comforting. EPPS'S COCOA. BREAKFAST.

"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—See article in the Civil Service Gazette.

Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in Packets and Tins, 1lb and 1lb, labelled:—

JAMES EPPS & CO., HOMEOPATHIC CHEMISTS, 48, THREADNEEDLE STREET, and 170, PICCADILLY WORKS, BUSTON ROAD and CAMDEN TOWN, LONDON.

CHRISTMAS EXCURSION TO THE WEST COAST SOUNDS.



## LATEST TELEGRAMS.

## AUCKLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

November 23.

The police yesterday created intense excitement amongst hotel keepers by the seizure of two hundred and thirty-one unstamped pint and half pint measures from seven hotels. When it became known that the police were making a tour the publicans were on the move. One publican made a frantic rush between the cab stand, only to find that the men in blue were already in possession of his measures.

Mrs Tavarez has presented a silver cup for a boat race.

Mr F. H. Troup writing to the Star, suggests, in the event of another loan, the employment of a group of local bankers to compete it, instead of making a monopoly by the employment of one institution or foreign bank, with no share register in the colony.

## DUNEDIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

November 27.

On the 16th instant it was telegraphed that Connell, our Inspector of Nuisances, had been charged with indecency. This arose through a misconception of a paragraph in the Star of that date. The prosecutrix first identified the Inspector of Nuisances, who was in the Court, but the real culprit, whose name happens to be the same, and who is a violinist, was subsequently identified by other witnesses, and sentenced to two months' hard labor.

Mr Levy had a most enthusiastic reception, getting a triple encore for some pieces.

Lobengrin drew a full house at the Opera.

Unknown and Oberon are most fancied for the St. Andrew's, and Parthenopoulos and Blue Peter, for the Spring Handicap.

(FROM THE PRESS AGENCY.)

## WELLINGTON.

November 23.

The Loan and Mercantile Agency report under date London, 7th November, that the wool market is firm. The next sales commence on the 13th inst. To date 116,000 bales have arrived. Tallow arrivals are heavy; the public sales of Australian have comprised 3000 casks; mutton, 40s; beef, 39s. The wheat market is flat, and foreign arrivals are heavy; Adelaide, 68s; New Zealand, 50s. Leather is in good demand for heavy sides, but lighter quality are neglected; extra heavy, 11½d.

The Schiehallion has cleared for London, with a cargo of colonial produce, chiefly wool, valued at £36,142.

November 26.

A detailed list of the subscriptions in aid of the Indian famine collected at Wellington and the Upper and Lower Hutt were published this morning, the total being £1777 3s 7d.

The captain of the schooner Pelican, from Oamaru, was fined this morning in the R. M. Court 20s and costs for overloading his vessel. Mr McKellar, the Collector of Customs, did not press for the full penalty, as the offence was the first one of the kind. It is said the authorities were apprised by telegraph of the vessel being overloaded, because immediately upon her arrival the Harbour Master went on board and inspected the vessel, and afterwards testified to her being overloaded.

## DUNEDIN.

November 23.

The effects of the failing water supply, and the continued absence of rain, are felt severely in the city and country.

The following handicaps for the Dunedin Jockey Club Autumn Meeting were declared last night:—

Dunedin Cup:—Ariel, 9st 7lb; Templeton, 9st 3lb; Bribery, 8st 10lb; Kakapo, 8st 8lb; Puriri, 8st 8lb; Danebury, 8st 7lb; Hippocampus, 8st 3lb; Maroro, 8st 1lb; Trump Card, 8st 1lb; Punga, 8st 11lb; Mata, 7st 11lb; Fallacy, 7st 9lb; Songster, 7st 9lb; Jangler, 7st 8lb; Longlands, 7st 8lb; Foul Play, 7st 5lb; Traitor, 7st 5lb; Parthenopoulos, 7st 5lb; Eclipse, 7st 5lb; Atlas, 7st 3lb; Venus Transit, 7st 2lb; Bide-a-wee, 7st 2lb; Cloth of Gold, 7st 1lb; Middle, 7st 1lb; Onida, 7st; Titania, 6st 12lb; Unknown, 6st 12lb; Oberon, 6st 10lb; Orange Lightning, 6st 9lb; Chancellor, 6st 8lb; Waini, 6st 7lb; Tyro, 6st 7lb; Nectar, 6st 6lb; Mountain, 6st 6lb; Blue Peter, 6st 5lb; Swede, 6st 5lb; Multi, 6st 3lb; Satirist, 6st; Lady of the Lake, 6st; Luna, 5st 12lb; Virginia,

5st 12lb; Rose of Denmark, 5st 9lb; Sapphira, 5st 9lb.

Dunedin Jockey Club Handicap:—Ariel, 9st 9lb; Templeton, 9st 7lb; Bribery, 8st 12lb; Kakapo, 8st 10lb; Hippocampus, 8st 5lb; Mororo, 8st 3lb; Trump Card, 8st 3lb; Punga, 8st 11lb; Mata, 8st 11lb; Fallacy, 8st; Songster, 7st 12lb; Longlands, 7st 10lb; Jangler, 7st 10lb; Traitor, 7st 7lb; Foul Play, 7st 7lb; Parthenopoulos, 7st 5lb; Atlas, 7st 5lb; Venus Transit, 7st 3lb; Cloth of Gold, 7st 3lb; Onida, 7st; Unknown, 7st; Orange Lightning, 6st 12lb; Oberon, 6st 12lb; Chancellor, 6st 9lb; Nectar, 6st 8lb; Blue Peter, 6st 8lb; Tyro, 6st 5lb; Satirist, 6st 3lb; Virginia colt, 6st; Sapphira, 6st.

Publican's Handicap:—Bribery, 8st 12lb; Kakapo, 8st 10lb; Pungawerera, 8st 7lb; Maroro, 8st 5lb; Trump Card, 8st 3lb; Mata, 7st 13; Isaac Walton, 7st 13lb; Jangler, 7st 11lb; Parthenopoulos, 7st 11lb; Foul Play, 7st 9lb; Venus Transit, 7st 7lb; Cloth of Gold, 7st 5lb; Onida, 7st 4lb; Oberon, 7st 4lb; Unknown, 7st 3lb; Stirabout, 7st; Blue Peter, 7st; Orange Lightning, 6st 12lb; Tell Tale, 6st 12lb; Nectar, 6st 10lb; Lady of the Lake, 6st 10lb; Virginia colt, 6st 7lb; Rosemary, 6st 5lb; Sapphira, 6st 5lb.

For the Spring meeting Cloth of Gold, Unknown, Oberon, and Chancellor have accepted for the St. Andrew's Handicap, and Blue Peter, Swede, Little Don, Parthenopoulos, Chancellor, Venus, and Sapphira, for the Spring Handicap.

November 24.

Mr Preston and his shepherd have been drowned while bathing.

Dalrymple, the initiator of the Saving Banks schools scheme, has been advised that a clause introducing the system will be added to the Education Bill.

The railway line between Dunedin and Blueskin will be open before Christmas.

The proposed Juvenile Exhibition is likely to fall through, as no interest is evinced in it.

Coombe Hayes' estate at Tokomaitiro has been purchased by Mr Kenyon, solicitor, Dunedin, for £20,000.

The Morning Herald is announced to appear on December 3.

November 26.

A tailor named Henry Martin, in a state of drunkenness, laid himself on the Ocean Beach railway line yesterday. One of his arms was fearfully hacked, and had to be amputated.

A charge of incest with his daughter against David Aitchison has been remanded till Wednesday.

## CHRISTCHURCH.

November 23.

The Board of Education, at a special meeting held to consider the Loburn school flogging case, unanimously passed a resolution to the effect that the evidence disproved the charges; that the witnesses admitted, the master withdrew all Roman Catholic children from the Bible class when requested to do so by the parents or guardians of the children; that the discipline of the school had not been unduly severe, and that from the time which had elapsed since the alleged cases had occurred till they were complained of, coupled with the admission of the Rev. Father Bensfield, warranted the Board in concluding that the charges had been made without due consideration, and for political purposes.

Dr. Skae and two local justices are holding an inquiry at the Hospital respecting the allegations made by the medical staff against Dr. Campbell, one of the surgical staff.

November 24.

Joseph H. Oddinatt, while engaged shunting trucks with a horse at the railway station slipped and fell on to the line, a loaded truck passing over part of both legs, completely smashing them. He was removed to the hospital, and died in two hours after. He leaves a wife and ten children totally unprovided for.

The Wellington and Dunedin Cup Handicaps do not seem to give general satisfaction. Danebury is considered to be let in very light.

## LYTTELTON.

November 24.

The ship Loch Fleet, from London, is at the heads. She left Deal on August 19th, and comes consigned to the New Zealand Shipping Company.

## OAMARU.

November 24.

The markets are still declining. The following are the quotations to-day:—Wheat, 4s 10d to 5s 3d; oats, 2s 9d to 3s; barley, none; flour, £15 to £15 10s; oatmeal, £17; pollard, £5 5s; bran, £3 5s, all f.o.b.

Constables have been making search here lately for sly grog sellers, with the

result that the proprietors of certain oyster shops and boarding houses (some five or six of them) have been fined in sums varying from £20 to £30 each.

## NELSON.

November 23.

The cutter Dido, from Wellington to West Wanganui, has been wrecked at Totaranui. She had discharged an engine at Collingwood and was taking another to West Wanganui, when she missed stay and ran on the rocks. The crew were brought to Nelson by the steamer Lady Barklay. The insurance on the hull is £400, and on the cargo £700, in the Union.

## NEW PLYMOUTH.

November 24.

Miss Retford's tobacconist shop, Devon-street, was burnt to the ground this morning at 1 o'clock. Nothing was saved. Insurances on the building are £200 in the South British, and £100 in the New Zealand; on the stock, £600 in the New Zealand. The fire broke out in the shop, but the origin is not known. The building was separated from large blocks by the river and the railway on one side, and on the other side some old buildings had been removed a few days previously.

## GRAHAMSTOWN.

November 26.

The Indian Famine Relief Fund here reaches £241. The amount is to be remitted through the Government in a few days.

## AUCKLAND.

November 26.

A great alarm of fire occurred on Sunday evening. People rushed out of the churches only to discover a fire in a bush at the rear of Mr Buckland's house in Kyber Pass Road.

Mr Tavarez's final performance of Macbeth was thinly attended. Aucklanders do not appreciate Shakespearian plays. Mr DeLias takes a complimentary benefit to-night.

Dr Wallis flatly denies having applied the words "rogues and trimmers" to the New Zealand Parliament. He says the words were intended to apply to Legislatures generally.

## TAUPO.

November 26.

The surveys here under Captain Turner are now progressing without any native interference or trouble.

Te Heu Heu's meeting takes place at Waahi to-morrow. The King and Rewi were expected, but they will not be present. Though the object of the meeting is to discuss local matters, general political subjects will also come under observation. Great supplies of preserved birds have been collected for the meeting.

## KUMARA.

November 27.

A fire occurred at midnight last night at Roulston and Mellroy's grocer's shop. The Brigade was promptly on the spot, and behaved splendidly. There was a good supply of water. The Times office, next door, was for some time in danger, but the fire was confined to the place where it began. The damage is estimated at £1000. Insurances: Standard, £800; Imperial, £400.

## PARLIAMENTARY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

## WELLINGTON.

November 23.

In the House yesterday afternoon, an Imprest Supply Bill for £100,000 was brought down, and passed through all its stages without opposition.

Then Mr. Stevens, in a remarkably dreary speech of an hour and a half, resumed the debate on the Financial Statement. He confessed that he was very much dissatisfied with the financial policy of the last three or four years as shifty and improvident, but he liked the proposal to colonialize the land fund still less. The Government should have gone to the country upon the question, when he believed the constituencies would declare for heavier taxation rather than have the land fund seized.

Mr. Bowen took a similar view. He greatly regretted the announcement of Sir G. Grey, that the Government would probably not avail themselves of the Inscription of Stock Bill.

Mr Gisborne explained that, after Mr Larnach's statement as to colonizing the land fund, he would support the Government. He regretted the form in which the statement was drawn up, as there was no statement as to ways and means,

but he cordially approved of the principles therein contained, especially the localisation of some portion of the land fund. He would, therefore, heartily support it, though he held himself free to object to details when the Bills were brought down. He also warmly defended Sir G. Grey from the attack of Major Atkinson in his speech in reply to Mr Larnach's statement.

Mr Sutton objected to localising any portion of the land fund. Local bodies should be compelled to carry out local works. He thought if local bodies were allowed to tax property for local purposes, the land fund could be used for general expenditure, which would, in his opinion, be a much better system. But setting aside lands for construction of railways did not look like colonization of the land fund. Two million acres of land had been all vacated to this purpose in Southland lately. Mr Larnach said he wanted to show the English creditor the true state of the colony. Why then did he not show its assets, which in land alone consisted of £16,500,000, besides all the public works. Instead of the Government taking over the main roads, bridges, etc, it would have been better if the Government had turned their attention to devising a better system of local self-government. He believed very much in local government, believing that local bodies would carry out many works much better than the central Government, by which business before the latter would be greatly lessened, and the revenue relieved.

Mr Reid charged the Government with having stepped into power on the strength of continuous reiterated charges of corruption against the late Ministry, which they now dropped, as they knew them to be false. He read whole columns from the Otago Daily Times' own correspondent as to the difficulties thrown in the way of the Government, and altogether acted like a man talking against time. Then he attacked Sir G. Grey, finishing up with a lot of talk about party action.

After the adjournment, Mr Reid continued for another hour. He argued strongly against the colonialization of the land fund, "arguing that it was a question on which the Government should have gone to the country. A far more legitimate means of colonising the revenue would be the imposition of a land tax. He then went at length into figures.

Mr Stout made a splendid thoroughly characteristic reply, turning Messrs Reid's and Atkinson's figures upside down, and showing by a reference to the official returns that they were utterly unreliable. He then pointed out the discrepancies between Messrs Reid and Atkinson, and next turned his attention to Mr Reid alone, reading from Hansard to show the inconsistency of the member for Taieri, and covering him with ridicule. He could not see any great advantage to be derived from the Inscription of Stock Bill, which merely meant adding to the floating debt and permanent debt. He then took the different systems of finance which have prevailed since 1870, each of which were to have been as unalterable as the Medes and Persians, describing Major Atkinson's finance as a wriggling eel without a backbone, which you could not seize. He compared Major Atkinson's estimates of the land fund with the actual returns for the quarter just closed, showing that he had estimated four or five times as much as it actually realized in the greater number of the provinces. He could not understand Major Atkinson's argument that the more land fund Sir G. Grey took the greater would be the deficiency. Referring to the statement that the present was a squatter's Government, he pointed out that in Committee on the Land Bill, the Government had universally tried to impose harder terms on the Canterbury licensees and Otago lessees. How was it that the Opposition had their eyes so suddenly opened to the necessity of a property tax? He believed that the land fund must now be colonialised, but it might have been saved if men like Mr Reid had remained true to their party. He concluded by telling Mr Reid, in a patronising manner, that he had not yet lost all hope of him.

After a dreary speech from Mr Montgomery, Mr Ormond came out energetically. He maintained that the Government was the organ of squatters, and simply a tool in their hands. He looked at the proposal to sell land at one universal price as most mischievous, and calculated better than everything else to stop settlement. He hoped the House would never consent to pass Mr Larnach's estimate of the Otago liabilities, as they were simply the bogus estimates of Mr Macandrew.

Mr Macandrew here said he had nothing to do with them, to which



Mr. Ormond retorted that he didn't care for that, the figures were nevertheless bogus. He strongly opposed the loan of four millions. Two millions would be quite sufficient if the Inscription of Stock Bill were availed of. It would ruin the credit of the colony at home if it were known two millions were required to pay off the floating debt, and the Opposition would prevent that. He referred to the rumors telegraphed by special correspondents about the terrible corruption of the late Ministry, plainly charging the Government with circulating these rumors, which Sir G. Grey indignantly denied. He contended that no attempt had been made to answer Major Atkinson's figures, which were incontrovertible. As to the £127,000 disputed claims which Sir G. Grey had referred to, they were chiefly the unfounded claims of Brogden. It was significant that the Brogden's were chiefly instrumental in placing Ministers on the benches.

Sir G. Grey indignantly denied this. Mr. Ormond, in a passion, repeated his words in a more offensive form, upon which the Speaker sat heavily upon him. Mr. Ormond denied he had made any insinuation. He repeated his words, but in a much milder form.

Amid considerable uproar, he refused to retract his words, upon which Sir G. Grey demanded that a Committee should be appointed to enquire into the whole circumstance. He said Mr. Ormond's statement was false and foul.

Mr. Ormond called upon the Speaker to protect him. The Speaker said such language was most unparliamentary, and Mr. Ormond could have them taken down. But he should remember that his offensive charges were calculated to make any hon. member forget himself.

Amid considerable excitement from both sides of the House, Mr. Ormond's words were taken down, as Sir George Grey's motion for a committee could not be put without notice.

Three times Mr. Ormond refused to retract, upon which the Speaker ordered him to leave the House, which he did.

Sir G. Grey then entered into one of those personal explanations for which he is getting so noted. He said the claims referred to were furnished from the office. Mr. Reader Wood, who inquired into them, told him that many of them would be sustained. He then brought them before the House without the knowledge of Mr. Brogden. He regarded that firm as hostile to the Government rather than otherwise. Captain Holt, their Secretary, furnished Mr. Ormond with the particulars of one of those charges made by Mr. Ormond in the Hawke's Bay debate.

Mr. Stout considered Mr. Ormond's words an insult to the whole House, as it implied that in voting to place the Government on the Treasury benches they had been influenced by contractors. He moved that the words were derogatory to the dignity of the House, calling upon Mr. Ormond to apologise.

Mr. Reynolds seconded. Mr. McLean said that it was notorious that one of the firm of Messrs Brogden and Sons had been continually about the lobbies lately. Mr. Ormond merely meant that Brogden's were trying to influence the Government in favor of their claims. (Uproar.) The late Opposition had said many worse things of him when in power. He saw nothing wrong in such a thing being mentioned in the House.

Messrs Stafford and Gisborne thought the words were susceptible of grave construction. They did not think Mr. Ormond meant that, but he should at once have withdrawn them. Therefore, they would support the motion.

Messrs W. Wood, Rees, Hodgkinson (upon whom the Speaker had to sit twice for unparliamentary language), De Lantour, and others spoke in favor of the motion.

Captain Russell, Messrs Brandon and Moorhouse, spoke on the other side.

After a heated acrimonious discussion the Speaker suggested that the matter should be allowed to drop. With this view Mr. Evans Brown moved the adjournment of the House, which would shelve the matter.

In speaking to the adjournment, Mr. Stout, for a wonder, put his foot in it, the Speaker reproving him in pretty strong terms for imputing words to Mr. McLean which he denied having used.

Ultimately, both Messrs Stout and Brown withdrew their motion in favor of one by Mr. Sheehan, requesting Mr. Ormond either to apologise or to prove his charges before a Committee.

This in its turn was withdrawn in favor of one by Mr. Stafford, "That this House regrets that Mr. Ormond used the words taken down, and requests him to withdraw them."

Messrs Donald Reid, Barff, and others, prolonged the debate until one o'clock, when Mr. Stafford's motion was carried by an overwhelming majority on the voices.

On Mr. Ormond being called in, he said he was strongly of opinion that he never used the words taken down by the Hansard staff. But he would withdraw them after the expression of the House. He did not intend to throw any imputation upon any member of the House. He then continued his speech until 1.30, when the motion for going into Committee of Supply was passed, and the House rose.

November 24. In the House yesterday afternoon, Mr. Sheehan, in reply to Mr. Woolcock, said it was the intention of the Government during the recess to proceed with the survey of the railway line connecting the East with the West Coast of the Middle Island.

In reply to Mr. Stevens, Sir G. Grey said that in cases where excessive deductions for hospitals, &c, had been made from Boroughs, the excess would be returned.

The House decided to sit to-morrow to take private business. There was a long discussion over the amendments made by the Legislative Council in the Education Bill.

Mr. Sheehan proposed that the amendments striking out the capitation clause and inserting religious teaching be disagreed with. All the afternoon was taken up in a warm discussion. A number of amendments to the motion were proposed, but all lost, the motion being finally carried on the voices by an immense majority.

The House was in Committee on the Estimates until 1.30.

On the vote for the Meteorological Department, there was considerable discussion, but ultimately the vote passed without amendment.

On the vote for the Volunteer force, Sir K. Douglas made some disparaging remarks on the Volunteers, which were warmly replied to by Mr. Hamlin and others, who reminded him that though in the Maori wars the regular troops had often been beaten, the Volunteers had never given way.

Sir R. Douglas replied, and said he acknowledged their bravery, but referred to their want of training, which unfitted them for active service.

All the votes passed without reduction, a great part of the Estimates being got through.

November 26. The House was occupied all Saturday afternoon in a series of miserable squabbles started by Mr. Fox. He brought forward, as a question of privilege, the speech of Dr. Wallis at Auckland, in which he said that four out of every twelve members of the House were rogues and trimmers and that at least one had received a pecuniary bribe.

Upon this ensued a hot debate, abounding in personalities, Dr. Wallis being heavily condemned.

Mr. Reynolds sensibly remarked that the House was getting contemptible to these petty matters of privilege.

Several motions were made, but in the end all were withdrawn.

This, however, only settled matters for ten minutes.

Then Major Atkinson moved the adjournment of the House in order that he might reply to some remarks of Mr. Stout on the Piako Swamp and Waitoa Block transactions. This opened up all the fury of the old Piako Swamp debate the discussion lasting nearly three hours.

In reply to Mr. Ormond, Sir G. Grey said that no railway plant ordered by the late Government had been countermanded, as reported in many newspapers. An order for four million tickets was countermanded, but that was all.

Tairoa's Native Marriage Validation Bill caused a brief but warm discussion. It proposed to vest in the husband all the property of the wife, the law having hitherto vested it in the woman. As the Bill was retrospective, the natives could repudiate leases entered into years ago by their wives with Europeans.

Messrs Morris and Sutton pointed this out, when Mr. Sheehan moved that the Bill be referred to the Native Affairs Committee, which was agreed to.

In consequence of the lateness of the session, Sir G. Grey consented to discharge his Duration of the House of Representatives Bill, providing for three-yearly parliaments. It was, however, understood that it will be brought forward again early next session.

The Dominions Bill for legalising in New Zealand wills made in other countries in accordance with the law of such countries was read a third time and passed.

The Crown Redress Extension Bill, No. 1, passed its third reading by 27 votes to 15.

A number of other local Bills passed. The House adjourned at 11 o'clock.

November 27. Captain Russell yesterday presented a petition from 120 inhabitants of Wairoa praying for an increased postal service for the district.

Mr. Fox brought up the report of the Disqualification Committee on the sale of the Luna. They thought that a fair price had been obtained for the steamer, but recommended that in future negotiations should not be conducted privately, but by auction or public tender.

Mr. Gisborne moved the second reading of the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, explaining that it provided penalties for adulteration of articles of food, appointment of analysts, and other machinery similar to the English Act. In Committee he would propose a new clause providing that the Act should only come into operation in such districts as the Governor in Council might from time to time declare. He believed that if it passed, the Bill would check drunkenness, as many of the evils of drinking were the result of adulterated liquor.

Mr. Fox disputed the latter statement, and did not believe that liquor was adulterated to any extent, except by salt to create thirst, and water to increase its bulk. The result of investigations in England proved this, and also the same result had been obtained in 1870 when a Parliamentary Committee inquired into the purity of Wellington beer.

Mr. Barff remarked that of between 200 and 300 samples of Wellington beer, Dr. Hector certified only one to be pure, all the others containing active poison, and temperance drinks were found to be rather worse.

The Bill was then committed, read a third time, and passed.

The Public Libraries Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Registration of Dogs Bill was discharged from the Order Paper.

Several other local Bills passed.

Upon the motion for going into Committee of Supply on the remainder of the Estimates, Mr. Murray made a long and dreary speech. He did not think the present Ministry altogether satisfactory, but better than the last. The land fund would put 40 per cent. to the general revenue, 30 per cent. to Public Works, and 30 per cent. be returned to the local authorities.

Mr. Reynolds then at length gave his reasons for deserting Major Atkinson. He did not like being robbed of the land fund, but it was inevitable now the provinces were abolished, and he preferred to be robbed boldly rather than to submit to a lot of little pilferings. He considered, of the two evils, the present Ministry was the least, so he would support them.

Mr. Donald Reid chaffed Messrs Murray and Reynolds. He considered Mr. Larnach's proposal a wholesale robbery.

Mr. Hodgkinson was content to let the land fund go to keep the present Ministry in power.

Mr. Macandrew expressed his resignation under the loss of the land fund, believing Mr. Larnach had proposed the fairest basis possible under the circumstances.

Messrs. DeLantour, Burns, and Sheehan continued the debate, when the motion for going into Committee of Supply was passed.

There was a long fight over the proposal of Mr. Sheehan to strike out £3000 honorarium to Sir J. Vogel for services rendered in England.

Messrs. Hunter, Macandrew, Evans, Brown, Reid, Carrington, Stout, Reynolds and Manders supported the payment.

Messrs. Gisborne, Hodgkinson, Murray, spoke on the other side.

Ultimately the vote was carried by 33 to 21.

When the item "Surveys, £156,529," was under discussion, Mr. Macandrew said the Government proposed in future to make a reduction of one-third in this department.

Messrs. Reid and Atkinson said the surveys could not be at present accomplished fast enough, and it would be false economy to make reductions in that direction.

The vote passed as it stood, and then the remainder of the Estimates were gone through.

The House adjourned at 1.45.

A young man who was declined with scorn by a girl some three years since, thought the whirligig of time had brought his revenge when he recently drove by a house and saw her, with an old shawl tied about her head, engaged in a futile effort to sweep the pavement with a dilapidated broom, while her husband sat by the window reading a newspaper.

## POLITICAL NEWS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

## WELLINGTON.

November 23.

Last night Mr. Ormond spoke well against the financial proposals, except the land revenue, and this he supported. During the debate he made some remarks about Brogden's claim of £170,000, and complained that Sir G. Grey had stated that these claims, which were unfounded, would probably have to be paid. He said Brogden's influence assisted the Government on the Treasury benches. Sir G. Grey had the words taken down, and he was called to order for words he himself used. Messrs. Rees, Stout, and Hodgkinson were all called to order by the Speaker, who lectured Mr. Stout severely. The Opposition will not oppose the land proposals, but will contest the remainder of the policy, and it is very uncertain what will be the result, but it is probable that another attempt to oust the Government will be made next week.

Mr. Gisborne declares for the Government. It is reported that serious defections exist in the Government ranks. Several prominent supporters want to get rid of Sir G. Grey, but it is said he will not move, and it is very probable that some compromise will be made.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

## WELLINGTON.

November 27.

Owing to Mr. Larnach's indisposition, it is understood that his medical advisers have recommended him to abstain from all official duties for some months. In consequence of this advice, it is understood that Mr. Larnach will resign, and that either Mr. Montgomery or Mr. Ballance will be the new Treasurer, both being spoken of as likely for the office.

John Evens Brown, it is stated, will be appointed Minister of Public Works.

In the Legislative Council last night, Colonel Whitmore moved formally, and it was agreed to on a division by a majority of three, that the Council should not insist upon its amendments in the Education Bill.

## THE BRITISH FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

The English Fleet at Besika Bay have not a very lively time of it, apparently. Gun drill alternated with torpedo drill forms the daily occupation of the sailors at their uninteresting anchorage, where the coast, it is said, is all dry and parched for want of rain. Admiral Hornby has a powerful fleet with him just now, although the *Téméraire* and the *Shannon*, which have been under orders for the Mediterranean for some time past, have not yet been able to leave these shores. The *Achilles*, with Rear-Admiral Sir John Commerell, second in command in the Mediterranean, arrived out some weeks ago, and has now been cruising to practice her crew in gunnery, and to accustom them to the navigation of their vessel. The *Flamingo*, gun-vessel, which broke down so seriously at Malta that there was some talk of sending her direct home again, has had her defects made good, it seems, and has also joined the flag at Besika Bay, and the *Condor*, a sister ship, was expected in a few days. The *Research*, armour-plated battle ship, is still doing sentinel's duty at the mouth of the Suez Canal; but all the other ironclads of the fleet are at anchor under the Vice-Admiral in the Bay, with the exception of the *Swiftsure*, which is probably at Malta. Admiral Hornby's flagship the *Alexandra*, the flagship *Achilles*, the *Sultan*, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in command, and the *Agincourt*, are the four most formidable battle ships of the fleet; and then come the other ironclads, *Rialas*, *Hotspur*, and *Rupert*; and lastly, though not least, the *Devastation*, turret- vessel, which may or may not be regarded as a seagoing vessel. Besides the armoured vessels, there are at present at Besika Bay the *Raleigh*, a fine unarmoured frigate, and the *Flamingo*, *Helicon*, and *Salamis*. How long it will be before the *Téméraire* and *Shannon*, the former carrying heavier metal than any other masted ironclad in the British Navy, are ready to join Admiral Hornby it would be rash to predict, since for a month past they have both been on the point of sailing for their destination. When they arrive out our Mediterranean fleet will certainly be the most powerful that has been got together since the days of armoured men-of-war.



## A Man Found Murdered in the Forty-Mile Bush.

A SPECIAL telegram was received by the Inspector of Police at a very early hour on Saturday, informing him that the body of a man named George Ollandt had been found murdered in the Woodville bush on Friday. The Inspector of Police left Napier by the train on Saturday to institute enquiries. Inspector Atcheson, of Wellington, has also proceeded to the spot.

Hans Thompson, the partner of the murdered man Ollandt, has been arrested on suspicion of being the murderer, and will be brought to Napier for trial. As we mentioned on Saturday Ollandt and Thompson were partners keeping an Accommodation House, but lately the two have been bickering and quarrelling. Ollandt is a baker and Thompson a waiter, and Ollandt who had money was anxious to buy Thompson out, and with this object was recently in Napier to obtain legal advice. In Thompson's room has been found towels spotted with blood, and a leaf of a book was found near the body, corresponding with one found in the prisoners's bedroom.

## Death by Drowning.

### FATAL ACCIDENT.

A boy named William Derry, aged eight years, stepson of Mr Leslie, who went to Poverty Bay on Saturday, was unfortunately drowned on Saturday afternoon.

From what we can learn, it would appear that about half-past three, three lads, two sons of Serjeant Kelsall and the deceased, were bathing near the boatshed. The lad Derry in attempting to get close to a boat got out of his depth, and was unfortunately drowned. The two lads of Serjeant Kelsall got frightened at seeing their companion struggling, and made for land. At this time Messrs. Batham, Brooking, Peters, and F. Duncan, who were out pulling in one of the Napier Club boats, had their attention called by a Maori woman to the lad struggling in the water. The boatmen at once pulled to the spot, picked up the lad, and took him ashore to the Club boat-house, but although they used every effort to restore animation, it was useless.

The poor mother heard of the accident from the lips of the lads Kelsall, who were his companions in the water. She immediately got a cab, but when she reached the place, her mind became so upset that she could render no assistance. The deceased was an only son by a first husband.

An inquest was held on Monday, before the Coroner, Dr. Hitchings, at the Royal Hotel. The only evidence given was that of Mr E. Peters, whose testimony was similar to that given above. The two lads (Hector and Robert Kelsall) were so confused as to be unintelligible. All they appeared to know was that the unfortunate youth had got out of his depth and was drowned.

The jury returned a verdict of "accidental death."

The editor of the Wairarapa Standard, who is a warm supporter of the Grey Ministry, is of opinion that the Premier's acceptance of office at the present time is likely to be injurious to the political prospects of Sir G. Grey and his party, and remarks:—"On his own account, therefore, we cannot but look upon his acceptance of the Premiership as somewhat premature. He rendered himself liable to be looked upon as the author of a state of things which it was impossible for him to prevent, and for which he was in no way responsible. Had he waited till next year he would have had the opportunity of being hailed for the third time as the deliverer of this country. He would not then have been hampered in his movements as he is now by weak and lukewarm colleagues, while instead of a cold and niggard, a warm and generous support would have been accorded to him by both Press and Parliament, which all must admit is far from being the case at present. Not, therefore, on his own account only, but on account of the cause we both have at heart, we are of opinion it would have been better had he not accepted the Premiership under the circumstances."

The telegraphic office in Christchurch is now, through the exertions of the local Chamber of Commerce, made to consult the public convenience in a direction long overlooked. A receiving box is now attached to the door of the office, so that the public may post telegrams under cover with the value enclosed at such hours as the office is not open. It is to be hoped that this provision is not for Christchurch alone.

Sir G. Grey first arrived in Auckland to take over the Governorship of the colony on November 13, 1845, over thirty-two years ago.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

There can be little if any doubt now that the Grey Ministry will exist at least until next session. After Mr Ormond's little escapade, the House passed a resolution to go into Committee of Supply. This settles the question as to whether the Ministry is to remain in office or not.

We hear from Wairoa, that the other day curses both loud and deep were heard emanating from the office of the local phenomenon. The editor it would appear had been absent during an issue or two, and on his return, seemed horrified at the script appearance the "rag" presented. Such is the yarn.

The bell for the town clock that was presented to the borough of Napier by the late Sir Donald McLean, and which is to be fixed over the front entrance to the Post Office, arrived by the Rangitira. It has been re-cast at Wellington at Mr W. Mills' foundry, and weighs, we should think, two hundred weight. This bell is considerably larger than any other in Napier, and its tones will be heard all over the town.

Among the passengers by the Taupo on Friday en route for the North was Mr R. Price, who proceeds to Auckland to attend the installation of Mr F. Whitaker as Provincial Grand Master of the Freemasons under the English Constitution for the North Island. Mr Price, as W.M. of Seinde Lodge, will represent the Masons of this district at the forthcoming imposing ceremony.

It has been intimated to the natives of Hawke's Bay that, after the closing of Parliament, Sir Geo. Grey, accompanied by Mr Sheehan, will meet them at Waipukurau and Omaha. Native runners have been sent throughout the country to get up a grand meeting, so as to give our visitors a great reception.

In the Wairoa district the Armed Constabulary Force stationed therein have suffered a good deal of late from low fever. Several members are only just recovering, and some short while back two young men died from the prostration consequent. It has been remarked that both the cases that had a fatal termination, and those other cases fortunately not quite severe, occurred to men who had been stationed a very long time in the district without change. Probably change of air and of some would have been beneficial.

The road from the foot of the Shakespeare hill to the Spit is in a very bad state of repair; in some places the holes are so deep that in going over them, drivers of express carts are nearly jolted off their seats.

A general meeting of the members of the Napier Cricket Club was held last week, at which W. Routledge, Esq., presided. It was decided to adhere to a former resolution with respect to the application of the Star and Press Clubs for the use of the Clive Square practice ground. Messrs Combs and Co's gift of cocoa-nut matting to cover the pitch on Clive Square was gratefully accepted. Correspondence was read between the Secretary of the Club and the Secretary of the Australian Eleven with reference to the terms under which the latter would visit Napier, and a committee was appointed to make arrangements for the reception of the Australian team. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the business.

A trial was made on Friday of the flow of water in the six-inch main that has just been laid down along the lower levels of the town. The trial was made from the stand erected in Dickens-street, and in its result exceeded the most sanguine expectations. The flow of water was no less astonishing than its force, being quite equal to a rise of thirty feet. The main is supplied direct from the reservoir. The curious circumstance is that the flow of water is stronger in the six-inch main than in the four-inch one.

The clauses of the Land Bill (says the Canterbury Times) relating to the run-holders and their tenures have passed through Committee pretty much as they came from the hands of the Select Committee. The Canterbury run-holders, if the Bill passes into law, will be entitled to an extension of their licenses for 10 years, on payment of a rate per head of sheep ranging between a minimum of ninepence and a maximum of two shillings. A bad feature of the arrangement is that the precise sum is to be left to the discretion of the Waste Lands Board—a course which places the Government of the day in an awkward position of control over the squatting interest. Practically, the run-holders will if the Bill passes get what they want. Already the period in which the relations with the Government of those who represent the Canterbury pastoral interests in the House of Representatives were delicate is over. These gentlemen have nothing more to hope for or to fear either from Major Atkinson or Sir George Grey. It will be interesting to watch their manner of voting in the future. Their great trial of cohesion gone, the ovine phalanx will probably not set together much longer.

The s.s. Taupo was the bearer to-day of the Hawke's Bay portion of the Suez mail. The English mail items have been all anticipated by telegraph. We, however, notice in the European Mail that the Adamant for Nelson and Napier sailed on September 21, and the Renfrewshire cleared for Napier direct on September 25.

Our attention has been called to the fact that the trains running in Hawke's Bay are unprovided with letter boxes, a convenience that has been adopted on all the other railways in New Zealand. Why this boon has not been conferred on the public of this provincial district we do not know, unless it is that we are so accustomed to be grateful for small mercies that the authorities do not think they need supply us with large ones.

Mr. W. L. Coward reports the sale of Mr Neil Campbell's Homewood property to Mr James Collins of Patangata. The estate consists of 600 acres of land, and 1200 sheep.

The Marlborough Express states that a discovery of coal has been made near Pictou. From the specimens shown it appears to be a strong anthracite coal of very superior quality, not unlike jet. Two colliers from Blenheim, who have been down to look at the place, with a view of sinking a shaft, state that there is a vein of coal two feet thick at the outcrop, underlying which is a strata of fireclay, while in the immediate vicinity is slate red limestone in abundance. It is situated close to the water's edge, so that vessels could load with very little difficulty.

The report of the commission appointed to inquire into matters connected with the Dunedin High School has now been laid before both Houses of the Legislature. The report proper consists of 39 sides of foolscap, while the evidence taken before the inquiry fills up more than ten times that amount of paper. The commissioners find that blame is attached to both parties at issue, i.e., the Rector (the Rev. Mr. Norrie) and the Board, though they think the Rector had good reason for feeling aggrieved at the course which the Board pursued towards him.

The New Zealand Times of Wednesday says:—"As a case of goods was being unpacked at a saddler's establishment in town yesterday it was discovered that several wax matches had got into the case and been packed up with it apparently when it left England. The matches were between a piece of blanket and some paper chemically prepared to wrap round harness, buckles, stirrups, &c., to preserve them from mildew or rust, and which paper is of a very inflammable nature. By the shaking of the case these matches might have ignited either on the voyage or after being landed, and in either case a serious catastrophe might have ensued. It seems probable that the matches were accidentally dropped into the case out of the pocket of the man who was packing in London."

The usual monthly steam practice of the Napier Volunteer Fire Brigade took place last week, Mr. Macgregor, the Government Inspector, being present for the purpose of inspecting the engine. The Post Office well was first tried, but through some leakage in one of the lengths of suction hose, the practice was not so successful as could be desired. The boiler having been blown down, the fire was re-lighted, and the steam got up again. The Brigade then went to Newton's well, and in a short space of time had a good jet of water in, and made some good practice.

The late Attorney-General, Mr F. Whitaker, was a passenger to Auckland by the Taupo on Friday. He informed us that he had not paired, and therefore his vote is lost to the Opposition. This hon. gentleman is strongly of opinion that owing to dissensions in the Grey Cabinet a reconstruction of the Ministry must take place soon.

Renata's letter, which appears in another column, will doubtless show the public that the "little game" of Mr Rees, in his recent attempt to individualise native title in his own manner and form, is not coincided in by the leading chief in this province. Renata speaks out openly and boldly. Mr Rees found it necessary not to press his "little bill." It was a measure which we do not care to designate in its proper term, as we have no anxiety to appear before the House on a breach of privilege case, but this we will say, that the very introduction of the measure shows how kindly the party, of which Mr Rees is the mouthpiece, would treat Hawke's Bay settlers and native chiefs.

Mr. Beetham, our respected Resident Magistrate, has resumed his duties. His health has much improved, and we trust he may enjoy a continuance of the same.

The police of the country are no sooner militarised, than a change of government ensues, and they are ordered to be demilitarised. When the late Sir Donald McLean took office, his first order was to demilitarise the Constabulary, but no sooner had he resigned office, than his successor determined to make the Constabulary once more a military force. Mr. Sheehan is a lawyer, and believes in demilitarisation, and is going to make them a civil and not a military force.

Mr E. S. Baker, who has recently come to Napier from Tauranga by the Taupo road, expresses his pleasure at the courtesy and kindness shown him on the route. To put it in his own language he writes:—"I can testify that the service is as well conducted as could possibly be expected. The horses are good, and the drivers civil and obliging."

Mass will be celebrated by the Rev. E. Reigxier, next Sunday, 2nd December, in Hampden school-house, at 11 a.m.; evening service in Waipawa, at 7 p.m.

On Sunday morning at 10.30, the Napier Artillery Volunteers and Cadets paraded in Clive Square. The band, after playing the "Church Call," marched at the head of the Company to St John's Church, where a special service was held, at which the Ven. Archdeacon Williams and the Rev. W. H. St Hill officiated, the Ven. Archdeacon preaching an appropriate sermon. At the conclusion of the service, the Company headed by the band, marched back to Clive Square, where the Company was dismissed. The officers in attendance were Major Withers, Captain Routledge, and Lieutenant Garner, as also was Lieutenant Pell, late of the Dunedin Rifles.

We learn that Mr G. E. Toop, the well known Boniface of the Farnon Hotel, has become the purchaser of the Commercial Hotel at Port Ahuriri, and as soon as arrangements can be made for carrying on his present house, he will take up his residence there.

We believe that upwards of £300 has been raised in the Waipukurau district in aid of the Indian Famine Relief Fund. The subscription list and a cheque for the amount is to be forwarded to the Treasurer at Napier, Mr E. Moore.

The man McMillan who has been "wanted" by the police, was brought to town by railway in charge of a constable on Monday. He was arrested beyond Patea, and was charged with having appropriated money entrusted to his care to bank by Mr B. Reed, hotelkeeper, Takapau. The case was remanded.

On Saturday at Taradale a cricket match took place between eleven of the Napier and Star Clubs. There is nothing particular to mention in connection with the match, suffice it to say that the Napier men, notwithstanding the fine practice ground they have exclusively in Clive Square for practice, were dreadfully bad in the field, their younger antagonists again proving almost more than a match for them. The result of the match was in favor of the Napier Club by only four runs, the scores being Napier, 53; Star, 49.

Dr. de Lisle intimated to the Napier Artillery Volunteers, through Captain Routledge, that it is his intention to present a silver cup to the company to be shot for with the carbine. This is to be an annual present.

We received the following on Monday from a Waipawa correspondent:—"Last night, about 10.30, I was surprised to see the atmosphere lit up all at once with a bright white light, closely resembling that produced by magnesium wire or very bright moonlight, and on looking round I saw the luminous meteor to all appearance about three yards long, and in the form of the letter V, travelling in a S.W. direction. A few falling stars followed immediately after, the air at the time being cool and the sky clear, with the exception of one horizontal luminous cloud in the northern horizon."

The Napier Swimming Baths are now a great source of attraction to the general public and youths of the town, more especially on Saturday evenings. Owing to hot water being able to be let into the swimming bath, it can be made to any temperature. There are swings erected, and those desirous of exhibiting their powers in gymnastics can do so. Last Saturday evening about fifty young men and youths were to be seen enjoying themselves in the water. Mr Trescott shows his guests every attention, and does his utmost to make the baths popular. Days are set aside for ladies, on whom Mrs Trescott attends. The baths have not yet been resorted to as might have been expected, but as the summer advances we expect to see it better patronised.

An interesting controversy is now being carried on in the Timaru Herald respecting the profit to be derived from wheat growing. One writer gave figures to show that a profit of £10 per acre could be made, but he claimed an average crop of 60 bushels to the acre, 4/ per bushel for his grain, and left out of his calculation the interest on the capital value of the land. Another writer places the average yield at 40 bushels, price 3/6 per bushel, and giving account for all possible expenditure, places the return at £2 1s 7d per acre.

In its issue of Thursday the Otago Daily Times has the following notice of the death of an old Dunedin resident:—"On Tuesday the remains of the late Mr. L. L. Levi were carried to their last resting-place, and the cortege, which was a large one, consisted of twenty carriages, the whole of the representatives of the Jewish persuasion attending, as also the representatives of many of the business houses of the city. Mr. Levi was a very old and very much esteemed member of the community. He arrived in Melbourne in 1853, and came to Dunedin in "the good old days" of 1862, since which year he has continued actively in business as a merchant. Although taking no active or prominent part in public life, he was nevertheless a liberal supporter of our charitable and other institutions. He was a much esteemed Mason, and a member of the Royal Arch Chapter."

It is asserted that one of the latest novelties of fashion is a lady's shoe with a looking-glass heel. The object of this extraordinary addition to a lady's toilet is not exactly clear, but those who do not understand will yet admit that something so peculiar there is abundant opportunity for reflection.



Mr. J. N. Wilson left overland for Wellington by the train on Monday morning, having been called, we understand, to the Legislative Council by the Marquis of Normanby. We presume the learned gentleman will be offered and take the Attorney-Generalship of the colony.

We understand that Mr Charles Wheatleigh, the celebrated tragedian, has engaged the Oddfellows Hall, and with the assistance of a dramatic company, which he has engaged, will open the new buildings on Christmas Eve. The company engaged by Mr Wheatleigh is spoken of as being the best ever seen in the colonies. Mr Holmes, the able scenic artist of the Simonsen Company, has been engaged to paint the scenery for the Hall, and will arrive in Napier for that purpose by the Rangitira to-morrow. Mr Wheatleigh and his Company will be passengers by the Taupo to Dunedin on her next downward trip by way of Napier, and will play in the Southern city a few weeks prior to opening the Theatre Royal in Napier.

The length of time during which the cable is silent is due to the occurrence of a break between Port Darwin and Banjoewangi, the landing place in the island of Java. When the Singapore cable is interrupted, steam communication supplies an irregular medium; but between Port Darwin and Java there is no commercial traffic. To supply the deficiency until repairs can be effected a steamer has been chartered from the Netherlands India Company, and it is by this means that despatches are conveyed.

The inward San Francisco mail steamer will be due at Auckland on Saturday morning. The Southern Cross will be then in Auckland and will probably be the bearer to Napier of the Hawke's Bay portion of the mail.

A correspondent, signing himself "A Man of the World," has forwarded to us a poetical effusion which he asks us to be kind enough to insert in the TELEGRAPH. Our space being in request at present, we cannot fully comply with his desire. At the same time we believe the portion we give insertion to below will be quite enough to prove to his friends that he is a perfect poetical genius:—

Are you hungry, cold or dry  
Work or eat grass, the world reply—  
Don't you trespass on this or that field  
Or into prison you'll be wheeled.

The Rev. Dr. Wallis, the well-known Auckland minister, and representative of Auckland City West in the General Assembly, was, on his return to Auckland after his four months' leave of absence, entertained by his flock. The rev. gentleman, in thanking his people for the reception accorded him, spoke of the duties of a clergyman and a law-maker as not being altogether incompatible, pointing out that some of the greatest ministers of religion in Britain had always taken an active interest in the political as well as religious welfare of the people. He, however, admonished his people for having introduced music into the church during his absence. In reference to a remark which had been made by Mr. Maenicol regarding Dr. Wallis's joining the Ministry of Auckland, the Dr. said he would like first to have an answer from the Presbytery of Auckland as to whether they would allow him four months' leave of absence to take part in party debates before he consented to join the Presbytery.

Ministers left the ministerial residences on Monday, and they were taken possession of on Tuesday by members of the Grey Ministry. Last week the Ministers in occupation received each a letter for rent to be computed by a valuer from the 16th of November to the date they left, but we presume they now having given up possession, the matter will be dropped.

Three lads on Saturday morning had a narrow escape from drowning while bathing in the waters of the Whare-o-maraenui Block, one being a son of Mr. Dennett, of the Star Hotel. The lads had got on to a piece of land opposite the brewery, but noticing the tide coming in fast they made an attempt to cross over to the Napier side, but got out of their depth and made cries for assistance. Fortunately Mr. H. Brierly and Mr. Smith saw the struggling youths and at once went in to rescue them, which they fortunately succeeded in doing. The accidents which have occurred should warn youths of the dangers of bathing in tidal places.

The Taranaki weekly journal looks on the recent Ministerial changes in quite a new light. It says:—"If Sir G. Grey is in office twelve months, he will we fear get this Colony into a series of quarrels. He has already commenced one with the Governor; he will next quarrel with the Imperial Government; then the Australian Colonies will become embroiled with us; and we shall find that it will require a very clever man to come to the front to put matters straight again. However, as it is well to have a storm occasionally to clear the atmosphere—even although it may do some damage—so, perhaps, it may be as well to let Sir G. Grey have a short term of office; for although it may tend to retard the progress of the Colony for a while, yet a total change in the personnel of the Ministry was necessary for things were being carried on far from satisfactorily."

The census gave Paris, in 1876, 1,988,806 inhabitants. The number by December, 1877, will reach two millions. The next census will be in 1880.

The New Zealand Tablet is very wroth at the passing of the Education Bill. The editor prefers even the present Opposition to Sir G. Grey's party. The former was a declared enemy, but the latter it describes as a concealed foe. Speaking of Mr Sheehan, the Native Minister, the Tablet says:—"For example, there is in Sir George Grey's Cabinet a gentleman who calls himself a Catholic, but who has not only voted but spoken in favor of the present most unjust Education Bill which is on the point of becoming law. Well, what should Catholic voters do in reference to this gentleman when he becomes a candidate for their suffrages? Catholic voters should vote against him to a man, and we earnestly exhort all who may have an opportunity of doing so, to record their votes against him. He is in reality no Catholic; as such has no claim on any Catholic's vote, and must be regarded solely in the light of a secularist. If we hope ever to obtain justice, we must be impartial, consistent, determined, in all circumstances true to our principles and professions. We have no doubt that what we have said in the last paragraph will give offence in some quarters. But this cannot be helped."

We take the following from the Thames Advertiser of Saturday:—"The Goods Wharf last evening witnessed more than its usual activity at the departure of the favorite packet Rotomahana. Mr. Edmund Cook, the respected postmaster here for the last four years, with his amiable wife and family (who were proceeding, via Auckland, to Hokitika to which office Mr. Cook has during the last week been promoted), were passengers by her. A large number of friends and acquaintances met on the wharf to bid Mr. Cook good-bye in his official and private capacity, as one who had won the lasting esteem and regard of all who had the pleasure of meeting him in either sphere. It was a matter of regret that the complimentary address, now in course of preparation, was not ready for presentation; but it is intended to forward it, on completion, to Mr. Cook, at Hokitika, as early as possible." Mr. Cook, who is so favorably mentioned here, is brother-in-law to Mr. A. Kennedy, of Napier.

Dress coats of various colours have been introduced in London. They are formed of marine, blue, plum colour, claret and green, with pantaloons of a corresponding colour, and white waistcoats.

Alfred Tennyson, Poet Laureate, is third son of the late Rev. G. C. Tennyson, and was born in 1809, at Somerby, Lincolnshire; his mother, who died in 1865, being a daughter of the Rev. Stephen Fytche.

The number of policies issued since the establishment of the New Zealand Government Insurance Department is 8,822, assuring £3,161,213, of which 1,479 have been discontinued.

The Melbourne Argus complains with justice that its special telegrams from Europe, for which it has lately paid as much as £80 in one day, are delayed to allow shorter messages to come through.

Mlle. Titien, the Hungarian songstress and actress, was only 43 at the time of her death. For several seasons she was the chief attraction at her Majesty's Theatre.

Mr Angus Mackay has got a quantity of the Kentucky blue grass from America, which has been distributed to the farmers of Queensland.

A letter has been received in Sydney from Mr Andrew Goldie, the naturalist, who is exploring New Guinea for the second time. He has discovered several new species of birds.

Chinese "justice" is still very terrible. At Fochow lately a sentence was passed, and actually carried out, the barbarity of which is simply appalling. A man was convicted on a charge of having stolen a female child, and for this offence the punishment is death. But, in accordance with female law, the criminal was allowed to choose the manner of his execution. He was offered the alternative of decapitation or starvation, and, strange to say, he selected the latter. He was consequently starved to death, and meanwhile was placed in a cage and publicly exhibited, so that the people might watch from day to day the slow process of his gradual extinction. How long the unhappy wretch lingered we are not told, but the report says this horrible scene was to be witnessed "throughout the greater part of last week."

They have in America a band of negroes, who whiten their faces and imitate their pale brethren in drama, tragedy, comedy, and a variety of other performances.

The Emperor of China has ordered a collection to be made of Chinese poetry, from the earliest time downwards. The collection will be published in 200 volumes.

The Protestant Episcopal Church of America is taking steps to adopt the name of "The American Branch of the Church Catholic."

The necessity that technical education should form an important element in any free-school system adopted by the State is attracting considerable notice at the present moment in England.

Mr Pierpoint said, in a speech lately, that science, aided by the art of printing, has not only greatly lengthened the days of our years, but multiplied the hours of our days.

The alleged murderer of the man Olland in the Forty Mile Bush was brought into town on Tuesday by Sergeant White, Thompson having been committed to take his trial on the Coroner's warrant. The prisoner is a man about forty-five years of age, and arrived by the Friedburg. He is a Dane, but speaks English well. The deceased man arrived in the Hovding. The axe with which the deed was supposed to have been committed is in possession of the police, as also other articles covered with blood, by which it is expected they will trace the deed home. Inspector Scully deserves every praise for the energy and perseverance he has shown in so soon bringing the matter to light. The Inspector remained at Woodville in order to obtain if possible still further evidence. An investigation will be held before the Resident Magistrate, when other evidence will be adduced prior to finally committing the prisoner for trial.

We learn that the Premier intends visiting Hawke's Bay immediately after the close of the session; also, that Mr Knight, known in connection with the Reputation Office, is anxiously engaged in the formation of a committee for the purpose of welcoming Sir George Grey at a public dinner in Napier. It must be generally admitted that the matter could not be left in more appropriate hands.

At the annual meeting of the Hawke's Bay County Council on Wednesday, H. S. Tiffen, Esq, the Chairman, was unanimously re-elected to the office, members speaking highly of his success, Mr Torr proposing that a set of plate should be presented him. The consideration of the testimonial was adjourned, but a resolution of thanks was passed. Mr Arthur Beecroft was appointed poundkeeper at Hastings in the place of Mr Goodwin. After the consideration of other business, and notices of motion being given, the Council adjourned.

A meeting of persons interested in the foundation of a dramatic Club in connection with the Working Men's Club was held on Monday evening last in the Library room of that institution. It was decided to form a Dramatic Club, and officers were appointed.

At a meeting of the Indian Famine Fund Committee, it was resolved to adjourn for a fortnight, and during that time to get all subscriptions paid in, and the accounts audited.

Mr. Kinross has called at our office to say, that although there are some printer's mistakes in our report of his remarks at the meeting of the Harbor Board on Tuesday, it is on the whole pretty accurate, and does not differ much from the Herald's report. The mistakes are obvious, such as "he for one had no reason for failure," in place of "he saw no reason for failure." "When it ceased operations" should be "when we commenced operations," and two lines further down "has widened" is placed for "had widened." Mr. Kinross acknowledges having glanced cursorily at the Herald's article, but the impression left on his mind after perusal was that the editor took a desponding view of the prospects of the port.

On Wednesday, at noon, in the presence of a small but appreciative audience, Robert Stuart, Esq., was duly proclaimed by the Returning Officer as Mayor of the Borough of Napier.

We understand that Mr T. R. Cooper, the architect, is engaged in making plans for the re-erection of the Masonic Hotel at Gisborne, after the style of the Napier Masonic Hotel, making it one of the finest and largest in the colony. Tenders for the erection of the building will be shortly called for.

Dr. Caro, the medical gentleman who has recently entered into partnership with Dr. Gibbs, we are given to understand, enjoyed a very good reputation throughout the Middle Island as a practitioner of no mean attainments. We have ascertained that he holds high degrees from one of the first Medical Schools on the Continent, and that he has also graduated in medicine at Melbourne, and having been for about fourteen years practising in the Middle Island with considerable success, evidence of which we have just seen in some of his Colonial testimonials, he will no doubt be an acquisition to the medical staff of our Provincial District.

There are still further changes being made in the proprietorship of hotels in Hawke's Bay. The other day we mentioned that Mr. Toop had become the proprietor of the Commercial Hotel, Port Ahuriri, and now we learn that the hotel he now keeps at Farndon has come into the hands of Mr. Scott, of the Kaikora Hotel, the Kaikora Hotel having been taken by Mr. Stock, late of Vinsin and Stock, Napier. We also learn that Mr. Scrivener, of Napier, has taken the Foresters Arms now in the occupation of Mr. M. Hayden, and will take possession on the 15th of next month.

A new arrival, who had been engaged as a gardener by one of our townsmen, was digging the other day in a field, and came across several pieces of pumice stone, which he carefully placed away. Eventually he showed them to a friend. The friend asked him what he thought they were, and was told in reply "yams." The disgust of the new-comer on being informed of the nature of his discovery may be imagined.

A committee meeting of the Waipawa Presbyterian Church was held in the Oddfellows Hall on Tuesday, the Rev. J. M. Fraser in the chair. Among the various subjects brought before them, it was agreed to have a concert about the middle of December for the benefit of the Church, when it is expected that several popular singers, ladies and gentleman will assist.

The sale at Hastings on Tuesday, held by Messrs Routledge Kennedy and Co., was fairly well attended. The furniture was first put up, and realised tolerably good price. The house and an acre of land was next offered, and bought in for £550. A three-quarter acre was then sold for £160; another quarter-acre realised £97 10s. The latter belonging to Mr Jackson, who also sold his household furniture &c.

Replying to the toast of the Navy, at the Mayor's dinner in Melbourne, Admiral Hoskins said:—"I am glad to bear testimony to the efficiency of your local vessel, the Cerberus, and I may say that an incident which has recently occurred seems to point out more strongly the utility of a vessel such as that in case of an invasion. I allude to the action between the Shah and Amethyst and the Huascar, a vessel of somewhat the same force and power as the Cerberus. To a naval mind that action is a clear proof of the immense advantage of the turret principle, and had that vessel been manned and armed, and fought, as I believe the Cerberus would have been, there is little doubt she would have sunk both the English ships. There is one other point that it might be of interest to mention. In case of any threatening of a war, I may point out how desirable it be that all the commerce of these colonies should be put into the large sea-going steamers. That would be the real answer to any danger from privateers, such as could be fitted out, would be utterly impossible if it were carried in those large steamers. On the first alarm of war the proper thing to do would be to put all your commerce into those vessels, and allow the sailing vessels to lie up for a better time."

The second volume of the New Zealand Statistics for 1876, comprising Parts iv., v., and vi., has just reached us. It contains some very interesting items, which are worth quoting as illustrating the condition and progress of the colony. It appears that in 1876 the total average liabilities of the banks in the colony amounted to £7,221,399, and their assets to £11,776,070, their paid-up capital to £4,826,632, and the total amount of reserved profits to £1,736,981. The number of mortgages on land effected in 1876 was 7198, and their total amount to £4,230,968, while 2995 releases to the amount of £1,650,164 were effected, the excess of mortgages over releases being £2,580,794. The legal statistics show that 1193 civil cases were tried in the Supreme Court, 450 in District Courts, and 27,367 in Resident Magistrate Courts. The declarations of insolvency numbered 542, the total assets as fled being £395,546, and liabilities £474,600, the latter being £79,054 in excess. The criminal calendar for the year, although less than that of 1875, yet appears very heavy. No fewer than 22,141 criminal charges were heard during 1876, which resulted in 16,331 convictions, and 5811 discharges, acquittals, or non-prosecutions. Of the various offences, drunkenness stands high at the head, there being no fewer than 7153 "drunks" called on to answer to their excesses. There were 1534 cases of common assault, 1242 of larceny, 1687 of vagrancy. Among the graver crimes there were 11 charges of murder, of which 5 were dismissed by the Magistrates, and 6 committed for trial. Of these latter only 1 was convicted, 2 were acquitted, and 2 found insane. There were 12 cases of attempted murder, 7 of manslaughter, 1 of infanticide, 13 of rape, 4 of bigamy, 17 of attempts to commit suicide, only 1 of robbery with violence, 22 burglaries, 54 of forgery, 3 of coining, 12 of arson, 2 of criminal libel, and 24 contempt of court. The inquests on deaths numbered 546. In 252 cases the deaths were attributed to accident, in 17 to intemperance, and 6 to the "Visitation of God." The "New Zealand death"—drowning—still maintains its pre-eminence in fatality, as many as 162 deaths being recorded from this cause. The number of suicides was 38, of which 34 were committed by males and 4 by females. The inquests on fires numbered 61, in 12 of which verdicts of incendiarism were returned. The total number of European schools were 928 employing 1893 teachers and attended by 61,975 pupils. It is estimated that 37 per cent. of the children in this colony are either receiving no education at all, or are dependent upon home tuition. The total strength of the A.C. is estimated at 610 men of all ranks, and of the volunteers at 6545. The fire brigades numbered 28, with a total strength of 90 officers and 655 men. The number of persons registered as electors for the year ending 31st August, 1877, was 61,754, equal to 28 per cent. of the male population in 1875.

The Poverty Bay Standard will be again re-published to-day. The proprietor has certainly used great perseverance and diligence in being able to bring his journal out again so soon after being burned out.

The bell cast at Wellington for the Napier town clock was weighed the other day, and found to be 496lbs. This is, we are informed the largest town clock bell in the colony.



We learn that the Union S.S. Company contemplates, as early as convenient, placing one of their powerful steamers on a new line starting from Dunedin by Lyttelton, Wellington, Napier, Auckland, thence to Fiji and Sydney, returning to Dunedin by the same route.

The Rotorua left Sydney on Wednesday for Auckland via East Coast to Dunedin, and will likely bring down the Napier portion of the San Francisco mail, due in Auckland on Saturday.

We learn from Waipukurau that a fierce fire was on Wednesday and Thursday raging in the bush at Takapau. Mr Miller has sent men forward to prevent as little damage as possible to the railway bridges. [Since the above was in type, we learn there is no danger attending the railway bridge. There was some fear expressed when our informant left that Mr. Drowers' sawmill was in danger.]

The "Stranger's Gallery" of the Resident Magistrate's Court was nearly full on Thursday, as a great field day was expected, but the public left disappointed. Inspector Scully asked that the case against the proprietor of the Terminus Hotel should be dismissed, owing to the principal witness being a lad whose testimony might now be disputed. He would give other reasons if placed in the witness-box. Mr. Lascelles pointed out that this was the third time the case had come before the Court, causing vexation and expense to Mr. James, his client. His Worship said in cases where the police prosecuted, it would be well for them to have everything prepared. Inspector Scully said this would have been the case had he not been called away on an important public duty. His Worship then dismissed the case. — The case against M'Millan, for larceny, was postponed until next day, as was also one against a man named M'Donald for unlawfully assaulting a Maori woman on the 23rd instant. At the request of Mr. Cornford, who said the cases for the defence had been placed in the hands of Mr. Lee, and he was unable to be present.

We are authorised to state that the consecration of the Rev. Mr. Stuart to the Bishopric of Waiau will take place in St. John's Church, Napier, on Sunday week, the 9th of December, a letter to that effect having been received by the Rev. H. W. St. Hill from the Primate.

The Inspector of Nuisances has now determined to put a stop to the open drain nuisances in Hastings-street, which has so long offended the nostrils of the public. Mr Williams being acquainted with the spots where the drains ran caused men to dig down and block them up, the result being that the open drain in Hastings-street is now dry; but still it will be necessary to find how the nuisance arises, and the step now taken will force the Council to adopt the proposition of sinking salt water wells for drainage purposes, or take such other steps as may be deemed necessary.

At the sale of the surplus store ex Mataura, the attendance was very good, and spirited competition took place. The only article that did not realise anything like its value was the flour; fortunately, there was only a small quantity. The sale was conducted by Routledge, Kennedy and Co., at Messrs Watt Brothers' wool stores.

Mr H. E. Towle, who visited Napier as pianist of the Lydia Howarde Company, and afterwards as musical director of a Minstrel Company, has been appointed organist to one of the churches in Christchurch.

A few caustic and witty, yet perfectly humorous remarks were let loose, so to speak, at the expense of Mr George M'Lean the other night. Mr M'Lean replied to Sir George Grey's speech, and rather distinguished himself by an address above the common, but the address was lengthy. Hence did Mr Stout, jocosely intent, remark that the hon. member had been speaking against time, whereupon the late Commissioner of Customs rose up in an angry mood, and indignantly denied, as he well might, the soft impeachment. Mr Rees happening to speak (as he does fortunately or unfortunately happen to do) opined that if the hon. gentleman's speech was not one devoted to the destruction of time, it was at least a remarkably fine imitation! This was remarkably rough, but, be it understood, there was naught but good nature intended, until the irascible Native-born politician, from Auckland gave birth to the idea that if Mr M'Lean could perform such wonders in killing the hours when not bent on so doing, what could he not be capable of if he set his mind to killing time? To this, we think, Mr M'Lean might have replied that he would on no account and under any circumstances be guilty of (an existing) "Government stroke." — Argus.

The Government have appointed a commission, consisting of Messrs T. Heale and Henderson (late of Brogden's), to report upon the plans forwarded to Wellington by the Timaru Harbor Board. *Appropos* of harbor improvement, we observe that Sir J. Coode is coming out to Melbourne to report upon the proposed scheme of harbor improvement there. The Melbourne Harbor Board give him a fee of 5000 guineas, which is to be reduced by 1000 guineas in the event of his services being secured by the South Australian Government, which seems very probable.

London has 117,000 habitual criminals on its police register, increasing at an average of 30,000 per annum.

Art Unions are fashionable for this forthcoming Christmas and New Year's season. Besides others publicly notified, Messrs Langley and Newman offer a furniture one, in which they will give away 90 prizes. Two hundred and fifty members are required at one guinea each, the drawing taking place on New Year's Eve. Messrs Large and Townley offer prizes in the shape of oleographs in gilt frames, chromo-lithographs, &c., there being two hundred and fifty members at one guinea each. Last, but not least, comes our old Christmas Eve friend, Mr Thos. Morrison, watchmaker, of Hastings-street. He offers twenty-five substantial prizes of valuable watches and jewellery, a list of which is advertised.

This is a description of Mr. Fox's oratory during the no confidence debate, as supplied by the Wellington correspondent of the Otago Daily Times:—"The only other remarkable speech yet made besides Mr. Ballance's was Fox's, and it was only remarkable as being in his old style. He shrieked, he yelled, made faces, threw his arms about, scolded and abused in his unequalled form, and the younger members of the House, who had never seen him make a great speech before, were considerably astonished."

The Hon. Col. Brett has given notice that in the Legislative Council he will move, "That in the opinion of this Council, it is desirable that the Government should, during the recess, devote attention to the reorganisation of the volunteer system of the colony, having especial regard to the expediency of combining efficiency with economy, and to the necessity of gradually replacing, within a short time, the arms of almost obsolete pattern by arms which late observation has proved to be so very material in aid of defensive operations."

Melbourne and Sydney are now connected by rail, with the exception of a short gap which is covered by coach traffic, and for the last month or more, the Californian mail, on arrival in Sydney, is instantly despatched overland to Melbourne by special train. There is a saving over the sea route of something like 36 hours, an important consideration in the forwarding of letters.

From all parts of the colony, says the Bruce Herald (Otago) complaints come of the unusual dryness of the season. Where the country is good the crops and the grass are coming away but slowly, and where it is not of the best the crops are much behind. There is very little grass, and the consequence is that stock, especially on high country, is beginning to suffer. A great many of the settlers in the Akatore district are losing their cattle from the latter taking to tute. The tute, this weather, flourishes luxuriantly, and is proving destructive to the stock, which eat liberally of the tempting foliage.

The Wairarapa Pastoral and Agricultural Show held last week is said to have been a very great success, although there was a counter attraction at the Hutt, about 30 miles distant of another exhibition of the same kind. A complimentary dinner was given to the judges the same evening at the Club Hotel, Masterton, when in responding to the toast of the evening, Mr. Common, of Murray, Common and Co., remarked that the quality of the wool shown indicated a growing tendency to get heavy and long fleeces of coarse wool, with well constituted animals; and he suggested, with some diffidence, that it would be well if in future more attention were paid to the lustre and fineness of the fleece.

The death of Mr FitzGibbon, Chief Postmaster at Christchurch, has led to several changes in the department throughout the Colony. Some of these are thus referred to by contemporaries. The Nelson Mail says that Mr Diek, who for the last twelve years has been Chief Postmaster at Nelson, is about to be removed to Christchurch. The West Coast Times states that Mr Robert Kirtin is to be transferred from Hokitika to Nelson. Mr Livingstone, of the Post Office Department, has received promotion by being appointed to the chief clerkship at Christchurch.

Sir William F. Jervois will be in New Zealand about the third week in December to report upon the defences of this Colony. He will begin his work of inspection in the North Island.

The Lyttelton Times performed a journalistic feat a few days ago, which deserves to be mentioned. It issued a fourteen-column supplement of the metropolitan show, corrected copies of which were placed before midnight in the hands of those who attended the society's dinner. The fourteen columns were set up and corrected in about five hours, and but for an accident the "forme" would have been on the machine half-an-hour earlier than it was.

Church of England service will be held (D.V.) on Sunday next, the 2nd inst., at St. Luke's, Havelock, at 11 a.m.; at St. Matthew's, Hastings, at 3.30 p.m.; and at St. Mark's, Clive, at 7 p.m.

"Matrimony. — The greatest help to matrimony is to place the means of life within easy reach of all. When a man finds himself in easy circumstances he strives to make himself comfortable. What can add more to his comfort than a good wife? — Macaulay." We are continually offering these facilities, as a reference to our advertisements in the columns of this paper will prove. — COMUS & CO. — [ADVT.]

## LATEST TELEGRAMS.

## CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

## SYDNEY.

## OPENING OF NEW SOUTH WALES PARLIAMENT.

November 28.

Parliament was formally opened to-day. The Governor's speech promise considerable railway extension in every direction, and public works being carried on without recourse to loans. The present advances from the consolidated revenue to the loan fund amounts to £1,600,000. The revenue this year is confidently expected to reach £3,885,000. Legislation will be directed in favor of the amendment of the Land, Municipalities, Customs, and electoral laws.

## INTERPROVINCIAL.

## AUCKLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

## VICTIMISED BY THE UNEMPLOYED.

November 28.

William Webb, a bricklayer, engaged in the erection of a store in Fort-street for Captain Daldy, was victimised by one of the great "unemployed" yesterday. He had hung his coat on a fence, and when he went to look for it at dinner time he discovered that it was *non est*. Suspicion fell on a bricklayer's laborer, named McLean, who had asked for work during the day. The police were communicated with, and Detective Grace discovered that McLean told an acquaintance on the wharf that he was going to the Bay of Islands in the Iona. The wires were set to work, and on the arrival of the Iona at Russell, to McLean's intense astonishment, Constable McGovern tapped him on the shoulder and politely requested him to disgorge. Search was made leading to the discovery of part of the stolen property in his pockets. McLean returns to town in company with his captor to explain matters before the Resident Magistrate.

## WAIKAWA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

## ROW IN THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

November 28.

At the meeting of the Council held to-day, Mr Levy was the only member absent.

A question was raised as to whether the Chairman or Clerk should be first elected.

It was moved by Cr. Rathbone, and seconded by Cr. Lawrence, that the first business of the meeting is to elect a Chairman.

This was lost by the casting vote of the Chairman.

Crs. Lawrence, Rathbone, and Herrick then left, and there was no quorum.

## WAIROA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

## COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING.

November 29.

The annual meeting of the Council was held yesterday. The Council sat from noon to 6.30.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman for the able and assiduous manner in which he filled the chair for the past term of office. He was absent at the meeting, but was re-elected. It is doubtful if he will accept.

The Council passed a resolution drawing the attention of the Government that this County possessed no representative at the Napier Waste Lands Board.

Tenders are to be called for printing and advertising for 1878.

Tenders are also to be called for making a road from Mohaka to Tongio. The remainder of the roads are to be repaired by day labor.

The boundaries of the Ridings have been altered for the next general election as follows: — Mohaka, 3 members; Wairoa, 3 members; Waikaremoana, 3 members.

The Government are to be asked to appoint some local auditor, as the accounts have not yet been audited by the Government auditor; also a host of miscellaneous business.

Both steamers left at 11 o'clock this morning.

## WELLINGTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

## DIVORCE CASE.

November 29.

The Divorce Court has occupied yesterday and to-day in the case of Cooley versus Cooley, and Murtagh co-respon-

dent. The parties live at the Hutt, but both Cooley and Murtagh, especially the latter, are well known in Napier. The husband never suspected his wife's infidelity until she confessed it she was pregnant with a child by Murtagh. She made a similar confession to his mother and other people. The defence is that the confession was obtained under threats for the purpose of obtaining money from Murtagh.

[FROM THE PRESS AGENCY.]

## CHRISTCHURCH.

## JOCKEY CLUB AUTUMN MEETING.

November 28.

At a meeting of the Jockey Club on Monday evening, it was resolved that the Autumn meeting be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 19 and 20, when about £1000 would be offered in stakes. It was also decided to ask the stewards of the last race meeting to re-open the question of Matthew's disqualification for his riding of Bribery in the Christchurch Plate race, with a view to hearing further evidence.

## PROTEST AGAINST GGVERNMENT PROPOSALS.

November 29.

At a public meeting held at Philipstown, a suburb of Christchurch, on Tuesday night, resolutions protesting against the Government proposals regarding the land fund, and requesting the Government to divide the funds in hand from land sales among the County Councils and Road Boards, were unanimously agreed to.

## ESCAPE OF A PRISONER.

Samuel Dann, alias Robert Kight, a prisoner at the Addington Gaol, escaped on Monday last, but was recaptured on Tuesday. In the interim he had broken into a farmer's house 17 miles from Christchurch, and stolen a suit of clothes to disguise himself. He is only 17 years of age, and was previously in a reformatory in England.

## CALIFORNIAN SALMON.

From correspondence read at a meeting of the Acclimatisation Society, it appears that the fifty thousand salmon ova paid for by the Society have not been sent from San Francisco, and that the ova received here was the Government lot for Canterbury.

## MAYOR'S ELECTION.

The Mayoral election resulted somewhat unexpectedly in favor of Thompson. The votes were 474 for Thompson, and 461 for Gapes.

## DUNEDIN.

## WANT OF WATER.

November 28.

There is great destruction of retail goods in the city owing to the want of water for the streets and continuous clouds of dust. It is proposed to lift the sea water for the purpose of putting down the dust.

## WELLINGTON.

November 28.

Sailed—Rangatira for Napier, at 3 p.m., yesterday. Passengers—Messrs. Carly, Nelson, Clemmil, Dalby, and Murphy.

## AUCKLAND.

November 29.

Many representatives of the Masonic Lodges from all parts of the North Island are coming to the installation of the District Grand Masters, Messrs. Whitaker and Graham to-morrow.

## A STORMY MEETING.

A meeting of the Auckland Steam Packet Company was held yesterday. Offers were received for the Southern Cross and Pretty Jane, but below their value. A resolution was passed in favor of winding up, and the property to be sold to the best advantage. The meeting was very stormy, and considerable personal recrimination ensued. Mr Aitken accused some of the shareholders of being desirous to sacrifice the company's plant, with a view of purchasing and forming a new company.

It will be seen from an advertisement in our advertising columns that Mr. R. H. Robinson has commenced business at the bottom of Hastings-street, in front of Mr. Corbett's Photographic Studio, on the cash principle. There is no doubt it will prove a success, as he guarantees to give articles sold in the ordinary way of trade at 26/6 for 20/. This is a direct saving of 6/6 in the pound, and should induce every one to pay him a visit and judge for themselves. — [ADVT.]

We have too large a Stock of Gents' White Shirts, Hats, Silk Scarfs, and Linen Collars, therefore must clear at once. — Leonard and Co. — [ADVT.]



## PARLIAMENTARY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WELLINGTON.

### ANOTHER BREACH OF PRIVILEGE CASE.

November 28.

On the meeting of the House there was another question of privilege squabble, Mr Travers being the member concerned. After explanations it turned out that this session he has presented a petition from Holmes and Richardson, of Oamaru, for whom he was counsel in a suit against the Provincial Government of Canterbury seven years ago. After a little talk the subject dropped without anything being done.

### EDUCATION IN THE FUTURE.

Mr Kennedy asked the Government if they would place on the Supplementary Estimates a sum sufficient to continue public schools hitherto aided by the provincial governments.

Mr Sheehan replied that, as Parliament had decided to have the system national, and secular education, the Government did not intend to provide for such schools after the end of the financial year.

### LOCAL PRIZE FIRING.

In reply to Mr Brandon, Mr Sheehan said that the Government intended to place only a small sum on the Estimates to provide for local prize firing.

### BI-WEEKLY WAIROA MAILS.

In reply to Captain Russell, Mr Fisher said the Government would cause inquiries to be made as to the advisability of an overland mail service twice a week between Napier and Clyde.

### NAPIER HOSPITAL.

In reply to Mr Sutton, Sir G. Grey said the Government intended to place on the Supplementary Estimates a sum for the erection of hospitals in various places, and the claims of Napier would be favorably considered.

### JUDGES' SALARY.

The Civil List Act, 1863, Amendment Act, providing for an increase of salary to Judges was discharged from the Order Paper on the motion of Mr Sheehan, who said that, while the Government agreed with the Bill, it was their intention to appoint a commission during the recess to inquire into the whole subject of working Courts, salaries, works performed, &c.

### GREENWOOD PENSION.

The Greenwood Pension Act, for granting a pension of £120 a year to the late Sergeant-at-Arms, was read a first time on a division by 37 votes to 8.

### PUBLIC WORKS.

The House spent the real afternoon in talking over the Public Works Act, 1876, Amendment Bill. The measure is merely intended to remedy some defects in the existing law. One side of the House appeared to like the measure. The late Government blamed the Ministry for introducing it, to which the latter retorted that they found it already prepared when they took office.

Ultimately the Bill was read a second time.

### HON. J. N. WILSON, M.L.C.

Mr Wilson was yesterday afternoon raised to the Legislative Council by a message from the Governor. Great efforts to keep it dark have been made, and the Government party contradicted the report, but I procured it from a most reliable source.

### EDUCATION BILL SETTLED.

The Legislative Council have agreed to withdraw their amendments in the Education Bill.

### ANOTHER POLITICAL STORM BREWING.

It was understood that on the House resuming, Mr Ormond would reply to Mr Sheehan's native statement, but when Mr Sheehan moved a postponement of the Orders of the Day to take the Native Land Act Amendment Bill, in order that this might be done, Major Atkinson pressed the Government to take the Land Bill. Mr Sheehan replied that the Government would in a few days bring down their own Bill to deal with the land fund under Mr Larnach's proposals, and until they saw how far they clashed they wished to put off the Land Bill. He would give his word of honor that the Government had no intention to quietly let the Bill go with the end of the session. If it did not agree with the Government proposals they would withdraw it boldly.

### WILL GOVERNMENT SHIRK THE LAND BILL?

Major Atkinson then moved the adjournment of the House until Thursday to give the Government an opportunity to prepare their Bill, though he believed it would take three months.

He believed they intended to shirk the Land Bill, and a warm debate followed on this.

### LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENTARY.

After hours of profitless discussion, Major Atkinson withdrew his motion.

Mr Sheehan then moved the second reading of the Maori Real Estate Management Act Amendment Bill, explaining that its object was to appoint trustees for minors, so that purchases might be completed. It was a question for consideration next session whether this principle should be applied to private purchases. The Native Lands Act Amendment Bill now before the House was intended to prevent factious litigation by giving power to judges to require payment of costs in advance. The third measure would be introduced in a day or two to prevent interference with private purchasers in half completed Government purchases.

### MR ORMOND ON MR SHEEHAN'S STATEMENT.

Mr Ormond referring to Mr Sheehan's declaration of policy, said he had stolen the policy of the late Ministry without acknowledgment. He had said his connection with native appeals were confined to Hawke's Bay, which was true enough, but his connection with the Repudiation Society was something more than the mere relation of a lawyer's clerk and the ramifications of a society extended over the whole of the North Island. It had done a great deal of mischief, which it would be difficult to counteract now he was in office, but it was to be hoped he would be successful. He next referred to the utterances of Messrs. Grey and Sheehan when out of office to show their inconsistency with the declaration of the native policy. He spoke highly of the native schools in Napier, both Protestant and Catholic, especially the latter. As to the reforms in the Native Department, they were all inaugurated and arranged by the late Government. While he did not approve of land purchases in the past, he disputed Messrs. Sheehan's statement that value had not been obtained for money spent. Much more, however, might have been obtained, for it was undeniable that a large expenditure had taken place to serve political ends, but Parliament was primarily responsible for this. He quoted figures to show that last year the Department was much better managed than previously. On some blocks of uncompleted purchases heavy sums would have to be paid, but in the vast majority the sales were nearly complete and would not require very large expenditure, though the House would undoubtedly have to grant further sums of money. He believed that it was true no leases were completed. The truth was that they were entered into for purely political ends to keep back Te Kooti when he was troublesome, but when the leases were completed the money would be recouped. The late Government had also, before going out of office, given instructions to stop all Government purchases, and had taken steps to secure better control over the native officers' department. He referred to other points to show that his policy and Mr Sheehan's were identical. He regretted that Mr Whitaker's Native Land Court Bill had been withdrawn, but thought it was a greater mistake to discharge the Suspension Bill, which would have stopped the operations of large land-sharks. He opposed the increase of special native representation on the basis proposed by Mr Sheehan. While special representation existed they should not have votes for ordinary representation. In Napier the effect of this was severely felt, and the Maoris always voted in a block. He concluded by highly complimenting Mr Sheehan on his conduct since in office.

Mr Sutton did not see why the Bill under discussion should not be applied to private purchases and suggested a minor amendment or two, but supported the measure as a whole.

### SHEEHAN REPLIES.

Mr Sheehan replied to Mr Ormond acknowledging that the principles of the policy were the same, but pointing out differences. He admitted that the late native administration was vastly superior to Sir D. M'Lean's, because the latter had so much to do that he could not look to detail. When relinquishing Government land purchases and announcing other reforms, Mr Whitaker distinctly said that it was a concession to the other side, specially mentioning him by name, so that it was really their policy. He denied that he had ever changed his opinions. The policy of the late Ministry was merely one of expediency, the Native Lands Court and Suspension Bills differing as widely as the North and South poles. Mr Whitaker's proposals for special representation of natives would have given them fourteen members, and

he thought his plan much better for the Europeans. Next session he would introduce a Native Lands Court Bill, distributed before the House met, so as to give the country an opportunity of fully examining it. He concluded by complimenting Mr Ormond on his exceedingly gentlemanly and moderate speech.

The Bill was then read a second time. The House adjourned at 11.10.

### LARNACH'S RESIGNATION DENIED.

Mr Larnach's rumoured serious illness is only an ordinary cold, Mr Sheehan says the rumour as to his resignation is absolutely false.

### THE LAND BILL.

The New Land Bill will be brought down to-day by a message from the Governor. It is rumored that it will supersede the present Bill.

### THE AGENT-GENERALSHIP.

November 29.

In reply to Mr. Henry yesterday, Sir G. Grey said that the Government had the question of the Agent-Generalship under discussion, and had not yet decided whether Sir J. Vogel would be retained or not.

The Government Native Land Purchases Discontinuance Act was read a first time.

A long irregular discussion then arose upon local self-government. Both sides of the House agreed that the present system must be altered, but each side blamed the other for the unworkable nature of the Counties Act.

Mr. Sheehan stated that the Government would try and devise a satisfactory solution of the difficulty next year.

### NAPIER SWAMP.

Mr. Sheehan stated, in reference to the Napier Swamp Nuisance Act, that he had tried to devise means for introducing an Amendment Act, and had come to the conclusion that the only way to do so was by suspending the Standing Orders. He should therefore next day move that this be done, so that the Bill might be introduced. He hoped both sides of the House would consent to this, as the matter was one of great importance to Napier, both from a monetary and sanitary point of view.

The other business was of no public interest.

### HON. J. N. WILSON.

In the Legislative Council, before proceeding to the business of the day, John Nathaniel Wilson, of Napier, Hawke's Bay district, was sworn in as a member of the Council. He was introduced by the Hon. Colonel Whitmore and H. R. Russell, and having signed the affirmation took his seat.

### EVENING SITTING.

At the evening sitting nearly all the remaining private business was disposed of.

Mr Burns' Employment of Females Act Amendment Bill, for increasing the hours of work for women in factories from eight to nine per day met with strong opposition, and was rejected on the voices.

The Forest Trees Planting Encouragement Bill was rejected by 26 to 22.

### Napier Swamp Act Passed.

3 p.m.

The Standing Orders were suspended on the motion of Mr. Sheehan, and the Napier Swamp Bill Continuing Act for two years passed all its stages.

### FUTURE PRICE OF LAND.

The Wanganui Herald, Mr. Ballance's organ, states that the Government land proposals will fix the uniform price of land at £1 per acre, subject to advance at auction. Free selections will be £2 per acre. Canterbury is to be left undisturbed.

### Our Wellington Letter.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

SATURDAY Night.

THE GOVERNMENT SAFE.

I think the Government may now be reckoned as safe to weather the session, and in that case we shall have no dissolution this year. It is just possible that another attempt to oust them may be made, but that is very improbable, and I very much doubt whether, if tried, it would be successful. Six weeks ago Sir George Grey—then with a majority of nine against him—said "My position is this—I mean to retain office until I have had an opportunity of fully laying my policy before this House and the country." It was all very well for Major Atkinson to retort that Sir George's words betrayed the "unconstitutional autocrat." Under the peculiar circumstances the Premier had considerable justification for such a course, although his position was to a certain extent contemptible. If Major Atkinson had shown a little less

greed for office, he would now have been back on the Treasury benches. But by his precipitancy he offended against the strong English feeling of "fair play," and he drove Messrs. Reynolds, Carrington, and Kelly into the opposite camp. Then, by his bad management in allowing his subordinates to "pitch into" the deserters, he made them confirmed supporters of the Government. Lastly, by his whip's bad management he lost the vote when he had a majority of three. Taking all things into account, he deserved to lose, and the unanimous verdict, like that of the Cornwall jury was "Sarve him right." Then he made another mess of it by his haste; but he showed his hand, and the Government saw that he would show them no mercy. They held a winning card which he, blind as usual, did not see, and they played it, though they would rather have kept it back. They colonized the Land Fund, and in so doing

### SPLIT THE ENEMY'S CAMP.

It will be of little use for Major Atkinson to try and gather his forces together for another direct onslaught. They may follow him and defeat the Government by a majority of one upon side issues, but the northern members will not be so blind to their own interests as to risk turning the Government out. At least so it appears to those watching the game.

### THE END OF THE SESSION.

will, I hope, be witnessed next Monday or Tuesday week. That will make a twenty-one weeks' sitting, and what is there to show for it? Heaven knows how many volumes of Hansard, chiefly filled with personalities, weary platitudes, and talk against time. The only bill of any real public importance which has passed is the District Railways Bill! The Land Bill must undergo considerable revision under the financial proposals of the Government. Two or three other measures have passed, it is true, but the only one of real public interest—

THE EDUCATION BILL, MAY YET COME TO GRIEF.

It has passed the Lower House in a considerably revised, and, I think, improved form. But in the Legislative Council the back door has again been opened to religious education, and the appropriation clauses (providing for the State bearing the cut of education) have been struck out. The Lower House will not consent to these alterations. Consequently, a centre of three "managers" as they are called—three members from each House—will meet, and see if some common basis of agreement cannot be discovered. They will meet three times, and if no compromise can be effected, which appears extremely likely in this case, the bill will fall to the ground. Heigho! what a result for twenty weeks' talk, and an enormous expenditure of money!

### MR ORMOND AND SIR GEORGE GREY.

Sir George Grey appears to be Mr Ormond's red rag. He has only made two set speeches this session, and there has been a frightful row about each. I sent you a full telegraphic report of the last "row," and it would be bootless to repeat it here; but a word of explanation would not be out of place. As Mr Bowen truly said, Mr Ormond's charges were not half so bad as those of Rees and Co. against himself and other members of the late Ministry, and therefore, at first sight, it would appear that the Speaker is a partizan, and condemns one side while he lets the other go free. But, as I mentioned a few weeks ago, the Speaker is not supposed to see or hear anything until his attention is called to it by some member. Now Sir George Grey is continually jumping up and calling Mr Speaker's attention to something or other said by Major Atkinson or some other of his party, while the Opposition, when in office, seldom took any notice of the charges of Rees, but treated them with silent contempt. Then Mr Ormond is made to appear in the eyes of the public twice as black as he really is, while his opponents, who are really quite as black, appear pale in comparison.

### Opening of Mohaka Telegraph Office.

We received the following telegram from our own correspondent at Mohaka at 3 p.m. on Thursday, it being the first telegram sent from Mohaka:—"The Rapid is outside. The Telegraph Office is just open. Kind regards from the people of Mohaka to their fellow colonists in Napier."

Two hundred dozen Ladies' Collars, Cuffs, and Sets of the Newest Styles.—Leonard and Co.—[Advt.]



## Shipping Intelligence.

## PORT A HURIRI.

## ARRIVALS.

November.

- 23—Mania, p.s., from Wairoa. Passengers—Miss Higgins, Messrs Smith, Poiser, Gray, Dr. Houghton and 4 natives.
- 23—Taupo, s.s., from the South. Passengers—Messames Knowles and Rathbone, Misses Constable and Knowles, Messrs Johnson, Millar, Knowles, Rathbone, Isaacs, Saunders, Maney, Pearce, Carter, Goldsmith, Cameron, Hodgehan, Kennedy, and Bartleman.
- 24—Rangatira, s.s., from Poverty Bay. Passengers—Mrs Tatham and child, Messrs Phillips, Hill, Faulkner, Dugdale, Leonard, Turner, Edney, and 8 Maoris, including 1 prisoner.
- 24—Result, s.s., from Wairoa.
- 24—H.M.S. Sappho, from Wellington.
- 26—Southern Cross, s.s., from Auckland. Passengers—Miss Buckland, Messrs Petersen and Hendry.
- 26—Rapid cutter, from Mohaka.
- 26—Minnie Hare, schooner, from Hokianga.
- 27—Fairy, s.s., from Mahia.
- 28—Kiwi, s.s., from Wellington via the Coast. One passenger.
- 28—Rangatira, s.s., from Wellington. Passengers—Messrs Jobberns, Randle, Ford, Weller, Wright, Targatt, Clency, and 9 steerage.
- 28—Opotiki, schooner, from Poverty Bay.

## DEPARTURES.

November.

- 22—Rangatira, s.s., for Poverty Bay. Passengers—Mr and Mrs Wilson and two children, Messrs Berry, Roach, Norris, Anderson, Pearce, Dugdale, Johnson, Wilkinson, and 4 original.
- 23—Taupo, s.s., for Poverty Bay, Tauranga and Auckland. Passengers—Messames Singleton, Buller and child, Graham and 2 children, Misses Skeet, Wyllie (2), and Williams, Messrs. Ebbett, Carter, Edwards, Oleson, Mahoney, Watkins, Fletcher, Irvine, R. Price, S. R. Dransfield, J. Watt, H. E. Mann, R. Sime, Leslie, Hamlin, and several others.
- 24—H.M.S. Sappho, for Fiji Islands.
- 24—Elizabeth Curle, schooner, for Pelorus Sound.
- 24—Rangatira, s.s., for Wellington. Passengers—Mr and Mrs Wordsworth, Mrs Davis, Miss Dickson, Messrs Ford, Madden, Russell, Judge, Martin, Thomas, Skelly, Pearson, Constable, Whitehead, Moon, Drake, Meade, Arthur, Fribble, Turner, and Edney.
- 24—Venus, ketch, for Mercury Bay.
- 25—Fairy, s.s., for Whangarei.
- 27—Mataura, ship, for Wellington.
- 27—Result, s.s., for Wairoa. Four passengers.
- 28—Mania, p.s., for Wairoa. Passengers—Messrs Maney, Fraser, Lloyd, Craig, Mackenzie, Glass, Adair, and a few others.
- 28—Rapid, cutter, for Mohaka.
- 28—Southern Cross, s.s., for Auckland. Passengers—Two steerage.
- 28—Rangatira, s.s., for Poverty Bay. Passengers—Messrs Locke, Kelly, Owen, Large, Evans, and Willis.

The s.s. Taupo, Captain Carey, arrived at the anchorage early on Friday, and was immediately tendered by the Bella and her passengers landed. Her cargo was lighted by the Three Brothers, which was towed out by the Bella that morning. When just outside of Wellington, the Taupo was in company with H.M.S. Sappho. The latter vessel then signalled the following message, and requested the Press Agency to wire it all over the colony:—"Future port, bound to Fiji Islands; beginning of January, Navigation Islands."

The p.s. Mania arrived early on Friday from Wairoa, having come down under easy steam. She brings 13 passengers, and 20 bales of wool.

The s.s. Rangatira left on Thursday for Gisborne. In going out she slightly touched. On returning from the steamer, the Pilot had a depth of nine feet of water on the Bar, but it must be borne in mind that the channel was at its best, it being spring, and consequently tides rising a little higher.

The s.s. Rangatira returned from Poverty Bay early on Saturday, having had fine weather both ways. Her outward passengers, of which there was a large number, went off on the Bella at 11 o'clock. She had a cargo of 300 sacks maize, 30 packages sundries, and 2 boxes silver coin.

The s.s. Taupo, Capt. Carey, left on Friday evening for Poverty Bay and Northern Ports.

H.M. steam sloop Sappho paid a flying visit on Saturday, just having called in to receive further instruction from the Government. Mr Henderson, second lieutenant, was ashore for about an hour. Our readers will recollect that the Sappho was here two years ago, and on one of the days (Sunday), she was visited by a large number of inhabitants of Napier. The officers on board are the same as on her last visit, and were all sorry that their stay was so short this time.

The schooner Elizabeth Curle left on Saturday for Pelorus Sound.

The s.s. Result returned from Wairoa early on Saturday, with a cargo of wool, 78 bales of which she put aboard the Helen Denny.

Both the Helen Denny and Dragon are fast filling up with outward cargo. We hear the former will take home a few cabin passengers.

The s.s. Southern Cross, Captain Holmes, left Auckland on Saturday last, at 1 o'clock, arriving here at half-past eleven on Monday, after a fine weather passage. She was promptly boarded by the Pilot, and brought to the outer wharf, Captain Holmes having just saved the tide. She landed all her live stock last trip without the loss of an animal. On this present down trip she has 80 tons of general cargo, being principally transhipments ex Bella Mary from Hobart Town, and Otaki from London. She will return to Auckland on or about Wednesday with a cargo of fat stock shipped by Mr. R. Kelly, of Poverty Bay. Passed two schooners coming up the Bay, but too far off to distinguish them properly. Captain Holmes informs us that the new steamer Mohaka, intended for the Napier and Mohaka trade, was successfully launched at Auckland last Saturday, and will be ready to leave in about a fortnight. She will be commanded by Captain Smith, of the Mania, and Mr. Petersen, late chief officer of the Southern Cross, has left the latter steamer to take charge of the Mania. Mr. Eccles has succeeded Mr. Petersen.

The cutter Rapid has had a quick run from Mohaka, having left there on Monday. She has a cargo of wool and maize.

The s.s. Fairy took out with her a load of wool for the Dragon on Monday, and then left for the Coast for wool.

The schooner Minnie Hare is from Hokianga, with a load of timber for the Harbor Works. In crossing the eastward side of the bar, the schooner, although drawing barely eight feet, grazed slightly; but after crossing, and when 200 feet inside the westward works, and in mid channel, she hung for about five minutes. Fortunately it was half flood tide, and a fair wind.

The s.s. Fairy returned from Mahia on Tuesday, with a cargo of flour.

The ship Mataura, Captain Brown, left on Tuesday for Wellington. The Pilot got her underweigh about 10 o'clock, and with the breeze she had was soon clear of the Bluff. In weighing the anchor, it was seen the cable had parted; fortunately, the anchor is buoyed, and there will be no difficulty in picking it up. Captain Brown informs us he expects to be away from Napier about three weeks.

The Mania and Result left on Tuesday, the former for Mohaka and Wairoa, the latter for Wairoa and Whakabi. Amongst the passengers by the Mania we noticed Mr. Lloyd, Telegraph Inspector, and his assistant, going to complete the telegraph station at Mohaka.

The s.s. Southern Cross, Captain Holmes, took in a valuable lot of cattle on Wednesday consisting of 13 young draught horses, 42 head of prime fat cattle, including the fat prize bullock at the late Cattle Show, also 60 merino ram hoggets, and 250 fat wethers. The steamer left about 11 o'clock. The anchor left in the Bay by the Mataura will be picked up either by the Rangatira or Kiwi, and taken to Wellington.

The Omaha leaves Auckland for the Chathara Islands on Thursday, the 6th December.

The Mataura, hence on Tuesday night, was passed by the Kiwi on Wednesday off the Kidnappers, and by the Rangatira off Pouterere later the same day.

The s.s. Kiwi, Capt. Campbell, arrived in the bay early on Wednesday, and was immediately brought to the outer wharf, when she discharged her cargo, being principally transhipped in English vessels. On this trip, Capt. Campbell found it impossible to call at Castle Point, so he came on to Napier. Since the Kiwi was last here she has made an intermediate trip to Castle Point and back to Wellington with wool.

The s.s. Rangatira, Capt. Evans, arrived in the bay on Wednesday from Wellington, and was immediately tendered by the Bella. The passengers and mails were landed and embarked. Before proceeding to Poverty Bay (having missed the tide here) she put on board the lighter Esk 245 kegs of blasting powder, which was landed and taken to the magazine. The Rangatira had tolerably head wind and fine weather most of the passage.

We are glad to inform our readers that Capt. Bendall, late of the Stella, has been appointed in Wellington Marine Surveyor to the different insurance companies, his duties being principally to superintend the discharging and loading of ships, especially the latter when taking in wool. He will have to survey and report upon all wrecks in his district. He proceeded the other day to the scene of the wreck of the cutter Dido at Totaramu, Blind Bay.

The ships St. Leonard, Orari, and Zealandia are fast filling up in Wellington. The Schiehallion is ready loaded, and only wants a few hands to enable her to start.

The barque Helen Denny was to clear at the Customs yesterday for the old country.

## DECK CARGOES.

The following sections of the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, 1876, relative to the carriage of deck cargoes, has been re-gazetted for general information:

The Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, 1876, is operative throughout the British Dominions; and it is hereby notified that officers of Customs throughout the colony have been instructed to enforce the provisions therein in respect of all foreign-going ships.

If any ship, British or foreign, other than home-trade ships as defined by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, carries as deck cargo, that is to say, in any uncovered space upon deck, or in any covered space not included in the cubical contents forming the ship's registered tonnage, timber, stores, or other goods, all dues payable on the ship's tonnage shall be payable as if they were added to the ship's registered tonnage the tonnage of the space occupied by such goods at the time at which such dues become payable.

The space so occupied shall be deemed to be the space limited by the area occupied by the goods and by straight lines enclosing a rectangular space sufficient to include the goods.

The tonnage of such space shall be ascertained by an officer of the Board of Trade or of Customs, in manner directed by subsection 4 of section 21 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, and when so ascertained shall be entered by him in the ship's official log-book, and also in a memorandum which he shall deliver to the master, and the master shall, when the said dues are demanded, produce such memorandum in like manner as if it were the certificate of registry, or, in the case of a foreign ship, the document equivalent to a certificate of registry, and in default shall be liable to the same penalty as if he had failed to produce the certificate or document.

## POST OFFICE NOTICE.

## MAILS CLOSE.

For the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, &c., via Suez and Brindisi, where the mails close on the 16th December.

For Fiji, Sandwich Islands, America, West Indies, the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, &c., via San Francisco, on Saturday, the 15th December, at 9 p.m.

Money Orders and Registered Letters via San Francisco will close at 5 p.m. Book Packets and Newspapers at 8 p.m. on Saturday, the 15th December.

For Clive, Hastings, Havelock, Te Aute, Kaikora, Waipawa, Waipukurau, and Takapau, on Mondays and Thursdays, at 5.30 p.m.; on other days of the week, at 6.30 a.m.

For Norsewood, Danevirke, Tahoraite, Woodville, Masterton, Greytown, Foxton, Palmerston, Wanganui, Taranaki, Wellington, and Southern Provinces, on Mondays and Thursdays, at 5.30 a.m.

For Motuotaria, Wallingford, and Porangahau, on Mondays and Thursdays, at 5.30 a.m.

For Wainui and Castle Point, on Mondays, at 5.30 a.m.

J. GRUBB.

Chief Postmaster.

## NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SHORTHAND.—Many thanks. If you would call and transcribe portions of the original you would oblige.

## BIRTHS.

CLAYTON.—At his residence, Gisborne, Poverty Bay, on Thursday, the 15th November, the wife of Mr H. Clayton, of a son.

VILLERS.—On the 19th of November, at Ormond, the wife of Mr John Villers, of a son.

WILLIAMS.—At Milton-road, Napier, on the 22nd November, the wife of N. Williams, of a son.

LYNN.—At Hastings, on 24th November, the wife of I. Lynn, of a son.

SNELLING.—At her residence, Tennyson-street, on the 26th November, the wife of Mr S. A. Snelling, of a daughter.

## MARRIAGE.

BOWLER—COLDICUTT.—On November 19, at Gisborne, Poverty Bay, Alexander, youngest son of the late W. Bowler, Esq., of Wellington, to Edith Florence Coldicutt.

## DEATHS.

WHITE.—At Exmore, Te Aute, on Nov. 17th, Reginald Franklin, youngest son of J. Franklin White, aged 7 months.

BISHOP.—At Hastings, on the 23rd November, Sydney Thomas, infant son of Thomas and Elizabeth Bishop, aged 13 weeks.

## ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

MR. R. C. WILSON,  
SURGEON AND MECHANICAL DENTIST.

District Judge Weston was lately bereaved by two of his children dying of scarlet fever, then prevalent at Hokitika. Last week he made a hurried mission from Westport to Hokitika to attend the funeral of other two of his children, twin-infants, who had died on Saturday and Sunday.

A Candid Opinion.—Artist (who had asked the great art critic Grouler a really candid opinion of his picture): "But, hang it, according to you it's all beastly. I suppose the cows are beastly too?" Grouler: "Unfortunately, no; that's what they ought to be!"

Speaking of dancing, a clergyman hits the nail on the head with the remark that "people usually do more evil with their tongues than with their toes."

## Garden &amp; Farming Calendar.

## DECEMBER.

FLOWER GARDEN.—Sow annuals for autumn flowering; remove chinerias and other plants past flowering. Thin out annuals in the borders; take up bulbs that have ripened off; cut down all stems past flowering. Many herbaceous plants thus treated will give a copious autumnal bloom. Look after insects, &c. The flower garden and greenhouse ought to exhibit their highest display during this and next month.

KITCHEN AND FRUIT GARDEN.—Keep the hoe going in all parts of the garden; it not only destroys weeds and insect broods, but purifies and enriches the soil, invigorates the crops and enables them to resist the effects of the drought. Sow brocoli towards the close of the month; sow cabbage, cauliflower, endive, French beans, parsley, spinach, early peas, for late cropping, and turnip. Stick peas and scarlet runners, first earthing them up. Sow salad herbs, plant out celery and leeks, giving plenty of manure, and watering with liquid manure in dry weather. Encourage the growth of tomatoes. When the plants have grown to good size stop the shoots back to joint, above the bloom. Continue this course through the season. Out sweet basil and other pot herbs for winter use. Save seeds of early peas and others as they come to maturity. Attend to transplanting in showery weather. There is little to be done in the fruit garden this month. Keep down weeds; destroy insects. Strawberries, cherries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries, peaches, and early plums will require gathering. Water the newly planted trees with weak liquid manure in dry weather. Thin out superfluous wood; cut off all shoots appearing below grafts and buds; remove suckers.

FARM.—Haymaking now commences in earnest; it is better to cut a little too early than to let the grass stand till it is over ripe, except it is required for seed, when judgment must be exercised, as if cut too early the seed will never yield so well to the scythe nor weigh so well as it should, and allowed to stand too long a great deal is lost.

Hay is made here in different ways; hardly any rule can be laid down, as so much depends on the weather, the quantity to be saved and the supply of hands. It is always desirable, though, as soon as the hay is fit, to stack it and thatch it as soon as possible; the thatch should, therefore, be lying ready to be put on before the stack is made. Rushes are excellent; thatch rye or wheat straw, if thrashed by hand, are also good; a hay-shed best, all. Oaten hay will now be fit to cut, and as soon as all the hay is thatched, fences for harvest will be tracing closely on the heels of hay time. It may be advisable to wren the oldest of the lambs this month.

## CHRONOLOGICAL MEMORANDA.

FROM DEC. 2 TO DEC. 8, 1877.

## PHASES OF THE MOON.

New Moon.....Dec. 5th.

Week Day and month	Anniversaries, &c.	Sun.			
		R.	S.	A.M.	P.M.
1 S	1st Sunday in Advent	4 27	7 13	2 58	3 23
2 M		4 29	7 14	3 54	4 19
3 W	T T Carlyle born, 1795	4 25	7 15	4 39	5 4
4 T	M Mozart died, 1792	4 25	7 17	5 36	6 1
5 F	T S. Nicholas	4 24	7 18	6 31	6 56
6 S	F S. Ambrose	4 24	7 20	7 24	7 39
7 S	Conception B.V. Mary	4 23	7 21	8 12	8 37

## The Weekly Mercury

AND

## HAWKE'S BAY ADVERTISER.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1877.

WHAT is to be done by Sir George Grey for Henry Bunny, the Cabinet maker? Mr Bunny represents the Wairarapa, and has done more to oust and keep in Ministers in New Zealand than any politician. It was through the political intrigues of Henry Bunny with Mr. now Sir Julius Vogel, which caused the fall of the Weld Ministry. Mr Stafford came into power, and up to 1869 had the loyal support of Mr Bunny; but Mr Stafford was forced by that gentleman to very often eat humble pie, in order to remain so long in office. Mr Bunny formed the Tooral-rooral party, and held the votes of his followers over Mr Stafford's head. Mr Bunny gave for one year a loyal support to the Fox-Vogel Ministry, but Mr Fox declined to support all the "little schemes" for the benefit of Wellington, by which Mr Bunny hoped to keep office as Provincial Secretary of Mr. now Sir W. Fitzherbert. Mr Bunny intrigued with the Opposition, and Mr Fox was relegated in a few days to the cool shades of Opposition. Sir J. Vogel and Mr Bunny for years understood each other, and during the days of the various continuous Ministries, he played his cards well, at one time supporting and at other times opposing Ministers. Last year it was understood that Mr Bunny would succeed Mr Cooper as Under-Secretary. Major Atkinson supported Mr Montgomery's Bill, which prevented Mr Bunny, or any other member, obtaining office in a direct manner. A coolness sprang up, and Mr Bunny, who had accepted Abolition, and whose views were supposed by his constituents to be in unison with the Atkinson Government, once more forgot his fealty to his party, and joined forces with Mr Sheehan—and out went the Atkinson Ministry. What office can be found Mr Bunny? Will Sir G. Grey make him a responsible Minister, and give him a portfolio? Something must be done. The loyal services of Mr H. Bunny to Sir G. Grey had best not be passed over, or next year he may find this accomplished Parlia-



mentary Engineer once more trying his hand at Cabinet-making. There are doubts expressed that if Sir George Grey promotes his present indefatigable Whip to office, such men as Mr Montgomery will not join the Ministry, and the most respectable men will go over next session to the Opposition; but Mr Bunny is too valuable a supporter to lose, and must in some shape be provided for.

REPORTS are being industriously circulated from Wellington that the Opposition is unable to hang together any longer, and that in consequence the Ministry is safe. The length of the session, it is certain, has completely tired out a large number of members, but we are not aware that Government supporters are less weary than those of the Opposition. If there have been any defections from Major Atkinson's party, it has not been due to the enunciation of Sir George Grey's policy. Mr Larnach's financial statement disclosed such a thorough misapprehension of the position of affairs, and contained proposals so much at variance with what might have been expected from a statesman, that it is absurd to suppose there has been any revulsion of feeling in the political world at Wellington. From the tactics that have hitherto been adopted by the Government, we are inclined to think that all reports concerning its stability are circulated with the object of creating a false impression. It is of importance to any Ministry that the country should be made to believe that it holds an unshaken position; and a belief converts half-hearted supporters into staunch friends, and brings over all those who "sitting on the rail," hope to get something out of the Government, and who would not be moved till they made sure they could jump on the right side of the fence. Operating, however, against a belief in the stability of the Government is the further report that, during the recess, it is likely Sir George Grey will add Messrs Bunny and Balance to his Cabinet. Those two gentlemen are undoubtedly clever, but their cleverness may be thought by some to be too much of that description of which already the Government is sufficiently endowed.

This Ministry are unable to dwell in unity. Sir George Grey, we learn, without consulting his colleagues made an application to the Governor for a dissolution, which caused Mr Sheehan to be very wroth. Mr Sheehan promised his supporters that there would be no necessity to make any such application to the Governor, and on that understanding several of the Government supporters determined to fight through thick and thin for the Government. Sir George Grey's application has therefore caused discord and bickerings. If report is true, the Premier will not attend meetings of the Cabinet, and wishes to rule absolutely. Mr Rees supports Sir George Grey as against Mr Sheehan, and it will not surprise a few to learn that Mr Rees is likely to take Mr Sheehan's place. Mr Sheehan has shewn since his accession to office, that as a Parliamentary tactician, he has few if any equals in the House, and to snub him as Sir G. Grey has done, cannot but make him dissatisfied with his present position. There is a general desire expressed on both sides of the House, that to leave the colony, even for twelve months, under the personal government of Sir George Grey would be a mistake, and we shall not be surprised to see a compromise arrived at by which a Government will be placed in power having the real confidence of the majority of the House.

The Native Marriages Validation Bill introduced by Mr Taiaroa has, it will be seen, been referred to the Native Affairs Committee. Mr Sutton, when the second reading was being debated, made the following appropriate remarks:—"He thought the Bill objectionable, as it might bring about a state of things not at all desirable. There was a Registrar in almost every town, and the natives had no more trouble than other persons in obtaining marriage licenses. He objected to the Bill on the ground that it was retrospective; and, so far as futurity was concerned, it would not give to those persons who were married according to native customs the same right to property as if they were married according to European customs. It would be the duty of the duly-authorized person to perform the marriage ceremony between persons of the native race according to the English law, but he knew of clergymen who had not done so. They should leave the question of the right to property to be settled in the same way and under the same law as such questions were settled between Europeans."

ANOTHER Breach of Privilege case! It is most unfortunate that when the House really settles down to business, one of those miserable breaches of privilege cases are sure to crop up. Mr Fox, who has a special down on Dr. Wallis, called the attention of the House on Saturday to the speech made by Dr. Wallis in the Choral Hall, at Auckland, recently, in which the rev. and hon. gentleman characterised a fourth of the members as "political trimmers and rogues." The use of such language is to be deplored, but what good was to be effected by Mr Fox wasting the time of the House and country in debating what was little better than a bustings address? Members have spoken in very strong language of each other in the House, and if out of the House members or their constituents make even wilder statements than have been made within its walls, surely there can be little cause for complaint. Mr Fox's own speeches consist most of bitter denunciations and hard names, and he should therefore be the last man to complain of the intemperate language of others.

THE Canterbury papers continue to mourn over the loss of the Land Fund of the district, while the Otago journals take a different view. In the former case, there is all to lose, while Otago has taken care to provide against any loss by the change. The Canterbury Times, in an article reviewing Mr Larnach's statement, remarks:—"The more we think of the wholesale destruction of provincial institutions last year, the more we see the folly of that destruction, and the bitter penalty which it has entailed specially on this Province. We were told at the time that Provincial Abolition would give us better self-government, would ensure the stability of finance, and secure to us the enjoyment of our land revenue. In fact the last condition was paraded as indispensable. We pointed out over and over again the futility of these arguments. We warned this province that the result would be centralisation, uncertainty of finance, and loss of Land Fund. We have now this trio of calamities complete. Local Public Works, will, moreover, now be more than ever discussed in Parliament, in the absence of local knowledge and local interest on the part of nine-tenths of the members. The discussion will be made the shuttle-cock of faction and log-rolling. The construction of the works, directed as it will be from a central bureau, will be costly, and probably defective. Such a state of affairs cannot last long. If some remedy, providing real local self-government be not devised, the alternative, which, we believe, will be insisted on by suffering communities, will be separation. It may yet turn out that those who fought hardest against Provincial Abolition, and were stigmatised as Separationists were the best friends of United New Zealand."

The peculiar wording of the Counties Act of 1877 causes doubt in the minds of many as to whether there was any necessity for the election of a County Chairman of any County this year. We are told by a contemporary that a prominent legal member of the House (we believe Mr Whiaker) has given an opinion on the point to the effect that the present Chairmen of Counties are entitled—if they like—to retain their offices until November, 1878. When the Counties Act was framed, it was believed, and intended that it should come into force before the end of 1876. It did not, however, become adopted in any country before January 1st 1877, and all the County Chairmen were elected subsequent to that date. Now the 54th section of the Counties Act reads as follows:—"The Council shall, at its first meeting, and thereafter at the annual meeting to be held on the fourth Wednesday in November in every succeeding year, elect one of its members to be Chairman." As the time just mentioned in the year 1877 is not in the "succeeding year" to January or March, 1877 (when most of the chairmen were elected), it is held that the Chairman hold office until the next "succeeding year," namely, November, 1878.

THE Government has issued the Bill promised, to amend the Civil List Act, 1863. Besides reducing the salary of the Premier to £1000, and the same amount for the other six Ministers, it also provides for two Maori members in the General Executive with salaries at £400 each. Mr Nahe is therefore to have a colleague, and there is considerable speculation as to whether it will be the Hon. Wi Tako, or the late member of Major Atkinson's Executive, Mr Tawiti. But, then, what would Mr Ballance say to Sir G. Grey going outside his party to obtain a Minister? During the no-confidence in

the Atkinson Ministry debate, one of the reasons given by Mr Ballance for deserting Major Atkinson was, that instead of recruiting his ranks from members of his own party, he sought for Cabinet Ministers on the other side of the House, evidently pointing his remarks at Mr Reid. We can hardly suppose therefore that Mr Tawiti will be the new Minister, if the Bill passes. The appointment of one Maori to the Cabinet has been looked on as a farce, but the new Government require two Maoris to hold them in office. What a burlesque the whole proceeding is on what is termed responsible government!

THERE would appear to be a deadlock in the County Council of Waipawa. On Wednesday three members left the Council, and prevented business being transacted solely because it had been decided to elect a Clerk of the Council prior to electing a Chairman. We believe that the minority acted hastily and without due thought. In the first place it is not a matter of necessity that a Chairman should be elected until next year; and, secondly, the minority had no right to dictate, that unless the party they desired to be elected to the office of Clerk be chosen, they would stop all public business. Their action was childish in the extreme, and the only solution of the whole matter appears to us to be a DISSOLUTION, and an appeal to the constituencies. In the present temper of the various members of the Council, it would appear that they cannot work heartily together for the benefit of the district, and, this being so, in justice not only to themselves and their constituents, the most open and manly course for them to adopt is the one we now suggest. We believe it would be for the benefit of all concerned. Unfortunately for the Council, its proceedings have not inspired public confidence, it has been unlucky in the choice of its officials, one having to be dismissed, and another appearing in a public Court on the serious charge of larceny. A change is required, and the people, after the experience of the past, should be the best judges how to make the desired alteration.

ACCORDING to our Parliamentary correspondents' telegram of Mondays proceedings in the House, it would appear that the General Estimates have finally passed, but we presume the Supplementary Estimates have yet to go into Committee, and as it is in these Mr Ormond placed the amount for the bridge across Port Aburiri, the debate on them will be interesting to Napier people. The voting of £3000 to Sir Julius Vogel for his services in England to the colony was a graceful compliment. The vote appears to have been opposed by Mr Sheehan as a private member, as we notice one of his colleagues voted with the majority. There is every appearance now that the session will close next week, as all the principal business will be concluded, but still it is impossible to prophesy truly what a day may bring forth.

## The Murder in the Forty-Mile Bush.

### CORONER'S INQUEST.

#### HANS THOMPSON COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

An inquest was held on the body of George Ollandt, on Monday, before Dr. Todd, Mr Joseph Sowry being foreman of the jury.

The inquest lasted twelve hours. The first witness called was Samuel Henry Kemp, who deposed: He is a labourer, residing at Woodville. He knew the prisoner. He had breakfast at the house on Friday. This was about 9 a.m. He settled up with the deceased by paying him 5s. He left the house shortly afterwards. After the body of the deceased was found, it was similarly dressed as when he left the house. Deceased had no coat on when he saw him alive. He returned to the house some time after he left it, but no one was within. He then went to Mr Monteith's store, and on returning about one p.m. he went in by the front door and sat down. About half-an-hour afterwards, the prisoner came in and asked him if he had dined. He said, "No." Prisoner replied, "Well we have had our dinner long ago." He then went into the kitchen and he got his dinner. Shortly after Mr Monteith came in and made enquiries for deceased. Prisoner replied, "George is in the bush splitting palings." About an hour afterwards, the prisoner said that "George had taken away some tea to the bush." Mr Reuben Collins came to the house with a load of bricks and made enquiries for deceased.

The prisoner said he was splitting palings in the bush and told him the spot. Mr Collins went and cooeyed for George, but got no answer. Witness then went out and left the prisoner in company with Mr Monteith and did not return for half-an-hour. He returned later, and heard palings drop, and then he asked if George had returned. He replied "No, George might have gone up to the settlement." He did not appear anxious. Later, he said "George was an old fool to lose himself and if he did not come home by next morning, he would go and look for him." Messrs Doney and Hawkins came in later, and put several questions to prisoner relative to the absence of the deceased. Later he went to bed. In the morning after breakfast, a search party was formed to look for deceased. We searched several places about the locality. Myself Hutehison, and Burns were together. We had to travel singly owing to the thickness of the bush. When we came to a clear place we separated. After a while a shout arose, "Oh! what a horrible sight." He looked round but could see nothing of the deceased, but saw the prisoner, who seemed to come from another direction from where we were. Prisoner pointed to where the deceased lay, and he said in answer to a question that it was George. The bush was thick. The distance from where the witness was from the body was 64 feet. Mr Fountain and Mr Peeble then arrived on the spot. They had to go close before they could see the body. He saw a piece cut off the nose of the deceased; his eye out of his head, and his mouth cut right across. He was lying on his back with his knees drawn up; a dice box was on his breast covered with blood; a match box was at the foot of the tree, and when the prisoner lifted the body up, he noticed that he did not appear affected by the sight. He noticed the prisoner take a piece of candle from under the body. A tree at the spot was charred as if a candle had been placed there, and stuck between a sun-jaek and the tree. There were dice in the box. The prisoner took what appeared to be a purse out of the pocket of the deceased a short time after. We all looked for traces of blood and footmarks, but found none. There was no appearance of a struggle on the spot. The body appeared to have been carried there. He was not surprised at the arrest of the prisoner.

The prisoner cross-examined this witness, but did not succeed in altering his evidence-in-chief: It was the prisoner who cried out "What a horrible sight." The prisoner slept that night in the room occupied by George. He heard very soft footsteps about the house after witness had put out his light. He heard prisoner going in and out several times out of George's bedroom. He did not hear prisoner turning over the leaves of a book. Prisoner said he did not sleep well on account of the mosquitoes in George's room, and it was cold, not being lined.

John Dudeck was next sworn. He deposed he was a farmer. He stopped at the house that night. Prisoner said George was in the bush splitting shingles. He had looked for him but could not find him. Prisoner appeared perplexed. He heard the prisoner in George's room. After breakfast next morning the prisoner went out, and on his return said humbly they had found George with his head smashed. He then borrowed a strap from witness and appeared confused.

The prisoner also cross-examined this witness.

John James Murphy deposed: He was a publican. On Friday last Mr Fountain called and said George Ollandt was lost in the bush. After some conversation he and Mr Fountain left together and went to the Accommodation House. The prisoner asked if we were ready. We went to the stump where Ollandt was supposed to work. He saw on the stump a coat, two pipes, a knife, and a pannikin with something like tea in it. He saw a maul with the handle broken off which Mr Fountain picked up and remarked that Ollandt must have gone for a maul handle and cut himself. Prisoner said perhaps he had taken the bill-hook. Prisoner then went to a stump further off and showed where some palings were cut. We then went in further search and prisoner took us over tracks until we reached a sawpit. [The witness here described a long route which the prisoner took him.] Prisoner told us the deceased had taken away the bill-hook from the house. At length they came on the corpse. The witness described the appearance of the body similar to the first witness, but said he found the leaf of a book called the Free Church Magazine near the body. When Constable Farmer arrived, he saw him examine the articles produced. The corpse was removed to the Accommodation House. The pri-



soner was calm, cool, and collected. The body did not appear to have been there longer than 24 hours.

Susan Davey gave evidence as to the prisoner asking her to take charge of the body. About a month ago she was present when the prisoner and deceased quarrelled. George said he regretted he had ever anything to do with the place or the prisoner. The prisoner straightened himself up, and said, "You won't regret it long, you old b—." "He clenched his fist, and ground his teeth, and stared wildly."

Cross-examined by prisoner: I have not exaggerated your appearance on that day. You never told me George was dead until I asked for him. You bent over the saddle and appeared to be laughing.

Thomas Francis Fountain gave lengthy evidence similar in purport to that of Mr Murphy. He had business with the prisoner, and had often heard him say he hated the sight of the deceased. A strong dislike existed between them both, but strongly on prisoner's side. The last time he expressed the feeling of dislike was about six weeks ago. The prisoner showed no signs of fear or distress when he saw the body.

Charles Devan was then sworn, and gave evidence as to the long route the prisoner took them when in search of the deceased. His evidence quite corroborated that of previous witnesses. On Thursday night he heard the prisoner say, "What a lark about George being lost in the bush, and how excited he will be." George was a waiter, and prisoner a baker.

John Penfold deposed that he saw deceased going out that morning. He had nothing on his horse. He had no pannikin. Prisoner was peeling potatoes when he called to serve them with milk.

Picton deposed he saw the prisoner coming from the direction where the palings were split. He heard the prisoner cooey. He spoke to him, and said he had cooeyed. He was carrying palings. He saw no one working in that direction that day. If anyone was working there, he was sure to have heard them.

Cross-examined by Prisoner: You did not say you were cooeying for George. He was not asleep during the day. On Tuesday he saw some one working in the bush, and supposed it was the deceased.

Charles Doney corroborated the evidence of the first witness at what occurred in the Accommodation House.

John Farmer, deposed: I am a constable stationed at Tahorite. On Friday the 23rd of November, 1877, prisoner came to me at Tahorite and told me that a man was found in the bush at Woodville dead, he said it was George Ollandt. I asked him whereabouts in the bush, he informed me, and said one of his eyes was out and that his face was cut. I proceeded to the place at once. As soon as I came to the Accommodation House, I saw some people who showed me where the body was lying in the bush. I examined the body and found there was a large cut across the mouth, one of his eyes was out, a large piece of skin torn from over the eyebrow, apparently gauged. I found a dice box covered with blood on the deceased's breast, a box of matches of a mixed description (blue and red), also a piece of candle, a leaf of a book from the free Methodist quarterly magazine. I saw a tree near the body charred as if from the flame of candle. The deceased's knees were bent. He was lying on his back, his head a little inclined to the left, his boots were clean. I saw a stick over deceased's head which had the appearance of being smeared with blood. I searched the body and found two pocket handkerchiefs and 6d in the pockets. On getting the body removed from the bush, there is a place where some one had been working cutting palings. I found the coat (produced), two pipes, one knife, and a pannikin of tea on a stump. The pocket book was in the coat pocket containing some stamps. There was a maul and an axe about where deceased was supposed to have been working. I then removed the body of deceased to his own home. I looked through the house but did not disturb anything. There was a party searching the bush. I got Mr Murphy to send a messenger to Palmerston, which he did, for aid. I came to Murphy's Hotel, enquiring if Constable Gillespie had arrived. They said yes. This was Saturday morning, and that he had gone to have a lay down. I asked the prisoner how long since he had saw his mate? He said Saturday morning about noon, and said it looked very suspicious, or words to that effect. Constable Gillespie and I arrested him for murder. I cautioned him in the usual way. I brought him to the hotel and got a room. On Saturday morning the prisoner informed me that

he had found the billhook, and he pointed it out to me in the kitchen. I did not see the billhook. We turned everything over in the house, especially in George's room, and found a lot of things, among them a shirt which was much torn. I found a bag with a few blood stains on it. There were four towels in George's room. The prisoner showed us where there was a cheque for £16, one £5 note, 2 sovereigns, 3 ones, and 3d, also 19 coppers. This money was found in George's room. I had a party looking over the place all Saturday, but could find nothing that would lead to the case. Three dice were also found in deceased's room. I found the corresponding portion of the magazine that was found at the body of deceased, at the house. It is the next leaf. The place was pointed out to me where George was supposed to have been working in the bush.

Cross-examined by prisoner: I left Tahorite before you did, as you waited for dinner. You gave me your horse to ride to Woodville, having overtaken me. On the road we exchanged horses and saddles. I took nothing off your saddle. There was a water-proof coat tied to my saddle. I tied up your horse to the wheel of a cart by your directions on my arrival at Woodville. The coat was on the saddle when I left the horse tied up. I did not search or disturb anything prior to the arrival of Constable Gillespie from Palmerston on Saturday. You pointed out the bill-hook some time before he arrived. After you were arrested we found a purse, some money, and some matches. I did not notice any blood on the handkerchief.

John Gillespie: I am a constable A.C. Force, stationed at Palmerston. I heard the evidence of last witness. I received information on Friday night from the police that a murder had been committed in the bush and was requested to come to Woodville at once. I arrived at Woodville early on Saturday morning. I went to the house where deceased was lying and met Constable Farmer. I asked him the particulars of the case. I went in and viewed the body and I saw the prisoner writing in one of the rooms on the left as you entered. I spoke to him, said "Good morning." He only nodded his head. I then went into the kitchen. Previous to going in I asked Constable Farmer if he suspected any one. He said it was a mysterious case, he hardly knew what to think of it, and that it looked curious towards the prisoner. The prisoner then came into the kitchen. I asked him a few questions, among them if he knew anything about this matter. He said "No, it was a very mysterious affair." He told me he last saw his mate alive about 9.30 or 10 a.m. on Thursday at the back of the kitchen. He said he went to look for his mate about dusk in the evening where he was supposed to have been working, and not being able to find him he brought a load of palings with him, he said he had been employed during the day about his house doing his usual work and that his mate was knocking about the place. From the prisoner's actions and appearance I arrested him on suspicion. I cautioned him in the usual way, searched him, and took a purse containing 4 £1 notes, 1 sovereign, 7s 9d in silver, some stamps, receipt and postage. The prisoner requested that some one should remain in charge of the house. He stated that there was a sum of money in the bedroom he wished the police to take charge of; which, I did. I went back and made a search. I found the coat produced in the prisoner's house. It had some marks of blood on it. I then went to the place where the body had been, and returned to the accommodation house and made another search. I found the three dice wrapped up in a piece of paper,—a leaf of a magazine. All the things found have been handed over to Constable Farmer.

Cross-examined by prisoner: You had an anxious unsettled look about you on Saturday when I saw you. It was very difficult to get anything out of you, except by questions. You showed no fear when I arrested you. I am sure I do not know if that was a villainous appearance. You look more haggard now than when arrested. I never arrested a prisoner before on a charge of murder. I have arrested thieves. Sometimes they showed no fear. He seemed to think that the murder was a mysterious affair. I cautioned him in the usual form. He volunteered no statement likely to clear the matter up.

Cross examined by prisoner: A quantity of blood would be found near the body where the act was perpetrated. I think the wounds were caused by a bill hook. The piece of missing flesh was taken away by a instrument like a knife. The murder was committed by some sharp instrument.

The jury returned the following verdict:—"That the prisoner Hans Thompson, did murder George Ollandt at Woodville on or about last Thursday, the 22nd November, 1877."

WELLINGTON.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE LOCAL INDUSTRY QUESTION.

Monday. The Otago Daily Times and other papers have been industriously circulating reports that the present Ministry, anxious to promote local industries, had countermanded some large orders for railway plant. On Friday, while on the Estimates of the Printing Department, one of the Government supporters suggested that the railway tickets should be printed in the colony, which could be done cheaper than by importing. Mr Macandrew replied that the Government had countermanded an order for several millions of railway tickets, so that they could be printed here, as there was very valuable machinery in the colony for the purpose. The occasion was one that evidently suited him, as he was able to show that the present Ministry will support local industry. Mr Ormond asked for more particulars, and Sir G. Grey, thinking he had made a point, proceeded to give them. Mr Ormond replied that there had been no order sent for tickets; that, since the railways were started, the tickets had all been printed in the Government Printing Office; that an order had been sent for a supply of cardboard for the purpose, and if that had been countermanded it was a serious matter, as there would not be material suitable, as it could not be made in the colony within 50 per cent. of the imported article. He complained that the Ministry had not made proper enquiries, and said that any member, if he called at the Printing Office, would see the same valuable machinery that had been referred to working at them. Certainly no railway tickets had been ever imported. He asked whether this was the foundation for the report. He was afraid that if any other supplies had been countermanded, serious results would ensue. Mr Macandrew said there was a large quantity of material that had been countermanded. Mr Ormond moved on Saturday for a return of such plant, and was informed that none had been countermanded, so that the great improvement consisted of countermanding an order that had not been sent.

MIDDLE ISLAND NATIVES.

The Crown Redress Bill, introduced by Mr Taiaroa, to enable the Southern native claims to be heard in Court, brought on a lively breeze. Mr Macandrew moved that the Chairman leave the chair so as to shelve the Bill. Mr Sutton hoped the House would not support it. There was no doubt that large claims existed which should be honorably settled. Several members followed, and the amendment was lost on a division. Mr Stout, who was nominally assisting Taiaroa, moved an amendment, which reduced his claim to the value of the land at the time of the original purchase. Mr Rolleston asked whether the member in charge of the Bill was aware of the effect of the amendment. Mr Sutton said that the whole thing was now a farce; that there was no doubt that as in the Southern Island the natives were weak their just rights were about to be taken from them merely because we were strong enough to do it. He deprecated claims which had always been acknowledged being dealt with in this manner. The Bill in its present form was useless, but he hoped that the House would yet see justice done. Mr Ormond stated that Sir D. McLean had always held that large claims existed, and he was aware that a very large sum was considered by him to be due, and he was prepared last year to recommend a very large payment to settle the claims. On the third reading Mr Rolleston protested against the clause, and spoke warmly on the subject.

NATIVE MARRIAGES BILL.

There is a very suspicious measure called a Native Marriages' Validation Act, that although innocent in appearance is not quite so innocent as it looks. On the motion for committal, Mr. Sutton suggested that it should be referred to the Native Affairs Committee as it involved very important matters. After a little debate, Captain Morris moved as Mr. Sutton had suggested, and the Bill has gone to the Committee for further enquiry. It is not likely to be back in time for this session.

MINISTRY SAFE.

Unless there is a split in the Ministerial

camp, it is not likely any change will be made, but there are ominous signs abroad. Messrs. Reynolds, Montgomery, J. E. Brown, and one or two others are believed to be very dissatisfied. There is a report that the Opposition will not seek a change, as it is considered that the land fund question and the incidence of taxation are matters that may well be left to the present Ministers, but there is nothing certain. The Lords are believed to be largely against Sir G. Grey, and it is very possible they may bring on a crisis. If things go on smoothly, the House will prorogue about ten days from this.

TUESDAY.

The House was treated last night in Committee of Supply to two fresh Financial Statements by Mr Murray and Mr Macandrew. Mr Murray had prepared himself with a large mass of notes, memos, and quotations, and evidently intended to put the finance of the colony in a clearer light than before. A more miserable speech has not been inflicted upon the House, although it occupied over an hour. It was impossible to understand it in the gallery, and the members of the House did not seem to grasp the argument. It was in every way too much confused to be understood by ordinary mortals. However, Mr Murray said we should see it all in Hansard. If it appears there in anything like the form it was delivered in, it will not edify the reader very much. Mr Macandrew defended the financial proposals, and said he had been charged with robbing Otago of her land fund, but the fact was that when they came into office they found the Otago land fund was already gone, but under the new proposals Otago would receive £56,000 per annum, more than she would otherwise receive. If that is the case, there has been a great misconception abroad. Mr Larnach said that the necessities of the colony required the land fund of Otago. Mr Macandrew says that the colony is to provide out of its general revenues a very large sum for the endowment of Otago local bodies. Mr Reid followed Mr Murray, and confessed his utter inability to follow his arguments. He admitted it was beyond his abilities, and he was obliged to admit it. Mr Sheehan said when he came here he had a general idea of the finance of the colony, but after hearing two or three financial statements he got so confused that the whole thing seemed in a perfect muddle. He was not very complimentary to the statements just made.

In the afternoon there was a little excitement, the question being on a Rakaiia Road Board Bill, that the Chairman leave the chair. On a division it was carried by 24 to 23, when Mr DeLatour said one of the members had escaped from the House through one of the lobby windows. After some enquiries the Chairman instructed the Sergeant-at-Arms to request the attendance of the Hon. Mr Fox. After a few minutes delay Mr Fox attended, and explained that as the doors were not locked he had walked out. Mr Fox had paired, but had forgotten it. Ultimately the question was put again, and by this time Mr Takamoana had arrived, and the numbers were Ayes 24, Noes 24, the Chairman giving his vote with the Noes.

It is expected that the House will close about a week from this, or at the most ten days, and the opinion is gaining ground that there will not be a change of ministry this session except in the person of the Ministry. It is rumored that Mr Larnach retires from ill health, and that Messrs Sharp and J. E. Brown will join.

NAPIER-TAKAPAU RAILWAY.

The following is the traffic return for the four weeks ending 20th October, 1877:—

PASSENGERS,—	No.
1st Class .. .. .	2,080
2nd Class .. .. .	4,057
Total .. .. .	6,137
GOODS,—	T. c. q.
Wool .. .. .	44 0 0
Grain .. .. .	40 0 0
Merchandise .. .. .	429 0 0
Sawn Timber .. .. .	530 0 0
Minerals .. .. .	331 0 0
Total .. .. .	1,374 0 0
LIVE STOCK,—	No.
Horses and Cattle .. .. .	47
Sheep, Pigs, &c. .. .. .	168
Total .. .. .	215
RECEIPTS,—	£ s. d.
Passengers, Parcels, &c. .. .. .	1,109 17 0
Goods and Live Stock .. .. .	642 1 4
Total Revenue .. .. .	1,751 18 4

The total amount received for the corresponding month of last year was £1,641 14s 7d.



THE NOVELIST.

FOUND GUILTY;

OR,  
The Marquis's Vindication.

BY MRS. HARRIET LEWIS.

CHAPTER IX.

THWARTED

At sight of Spiridon, the warnings of her lover and the vindresser flashed upon the mind of Alex Strange, bringing with them a natural and vivid alarm. Yet she had sufficient presence of mind to conceal her terror, and while she involuntarily retreated a few paces, she greeted the bandit chief with pleasant courtesy.

His appearance struck her as unusually sinister. His bold, black eyes gleamed with a strange light, as of expectant triumph. Something in his steady, intolerable gaze; something in the expression of his dusky-skinned face, brought a quick blush to the girl's pure cheeks.

"You see, my young lady," said Spiridon, lightly, "we are back again in our old quarters. Pursuit has blown over; the government has settled back into another long season of apathy; the road is at our mercy with all the golden fruit to be gathered upon it; we are again settled in our southern stronghold for the winter—and I have hastened to pay my respects to you!"

"Will you not come into the house?" asked the girl politely, retreating another step.

"Thank you, no. I remembered your old habit of walking in your garden, and watched here last night for you for hours but you did not come forth. I had been waiting nearly an hour to-night, and was growing impatient, when you appeared. What I have to say to you can best be said out in the open air. House walls savor to me of prison," and the bandit chief shrugged his shoulders.

"What can you have to say to me?" asked Alex.

"Several things. But, first of all, I wish to speak of your late guest. I hear, from a friendly peasant, that the Milordo Anglessos had stayed under your roof all the summer," and he regarded the girl jealously. "I hear that he only left your house two days since. Is this true?"

"What of it?" asked Alex, haughtily. "We are accountable to none for the manner in which we dispense our hospitality. You were here two months once—"

"And this Milordo Anglessos has been here nearly four months," interrupted Spiridon, suddenly. "It is well for him that he is gone. By Jupiter! If I had but returned a day or two earlier, I'd have taken him back to his old quarters and held him again for ransom—or killed him!"

"Is this what you wished to say to me?" asked Miss Strange, calmly.

"Partly. When I released him at your request, to keep my oath to you and win your favor, I expected that he would go to Athens, and probably to England. If I had even dreamed that he would have remained here in your house, I would have killed him!" and Spiridon's eyes lighted up with a savage glow. "But he is gone now. The day he returns to this neighbourhood will be an unlucky one for him, I promise him."

"If this is all you have to say, I may as well return to the house—"

"Stay! I have more to say. My men are dissatisfied because the secret of our retreat is in a girl's keeping. I would trust you, but they are uneasy. I have come to state their grievance and settle upon some decision that will satisfy them and me."

The girl bowed her head, but did not answer. She wondered what was coming.

"This den of ours is the best retreat for our purpose in all Greece," continued Spiridon. "We wander to the north, the south, the east, and the west, upon our excursions, and are absent months at a time, but we always return to this stronghold with willing feet. The roads in this vicinity are productive to men of our profession. The peasants hereabouts are our friends, and warn us of the movements of troops, provide us with supplies, and often receive a portion of our gains. We are near the Gulf, and a retreat by water in case of necessity would be feasible although we know a dozen hiding-places among the mountains, where no one without a guide could ever find us. Our cavern is almost inaccessible. I defy any one to discover it unaided. Yet the men feel insecure and grumble, believing themselves at the mercy of a girl, who may betray them."

"I have given my oath to keep their secret—"

"I know, and I trust you. You could have betrayed me when I lay helpless in your house, but you did not. I am sure you would not betray us, if left to your-

self, but these Anglessos will tell how you rescued them, and the government will offer you a reward to betray us, and your father will say that it is your duty to disregard the oath you were compelled to take, and further the ends of justice. Oh, I know how these people will assail you. And I believe it quite possible," he added, gloomily, "that in the end they may conquer."

"Impossible. I shall keep my word—"

"You think so now? I want to put it out of your power to betray us. You kept the secret of my identity when I was in your house and helpless, telling no one but your father. You have showed that you are not talkative. That you are brave as a young lioness is proven by your visit to our retreat—bearding Spiridon in his den, backed by a score of human blood-hounds. You are beautiful as a star—radiant as the morning—light of foot as a mountain goat—fearless as an angel. All these great qualities betoken that nature created you for a grand destiny!"

He drew a step nearer to her, his red fez cap hanging at the back of his head, his bold eyes growing bolder, his dusky skin glowing.

"Yes," he said, "nature created you for a glorious destiny. Not to rule over a quite household to direct a few servants, to plan a flower garden," and he looked round contemptuously; "but to rule over fierce men—to be a queen over a band of robbers, whose name is a terror even in foreign lands—to be the bride of their terrible chief, Spiridion?"

Again he advanced a step and the girl retreated.

"Do not answer yet," he interposed, as she made a movement to speak. "I have called myself terrible. Such I am to my enemies, and the world at large. To you I would be gentle as any turtle dove. You should share my sway over my men, and they would worship you. You should possess diamonds and pearls in profusion, if I had to sack Constantinople to obtain them. I'd steal for you the costliest silks and velvets, shawls of India and laces of France, everything that women love. You should have a cavern draped with costly stuffs, and furniture fit for a queen. Does not the prospect of this power and luxury tempt you?"

"No," answered Alex, quietly. "I prefer my own home, with its security and honor."

"I have not touched your heart yet. I am not used to wooing, being but a rough gatherer of toils upon the highways," said Spiridon. "I ask you to be my wife, and I'll find a Greek priest to unite us. If you prefer you can remain in your father's house for a season, until you get used to the honors of your position. I love you, fair Alex. I have loved you since I first saw you; yet but for your adventurous visit to our retreat I should never have dared to tell you of my love. You seemed as far above me, as yonder moon, and the debt of gratitude owed you would not allow me to pay you my addresses. The debt of gratitude is now paid; your fearlessness has been proved, and my men are eager to welcome you as their queen. All that remains is to obtain your consent."

"And that you can never obtain," said Alex, quietly. "I have no ambition for the grand destiny you have marked out for me. I decline your offer."

"You will not marry me?" cried the bandit chief, amazed.

"I will not."

"But, by Jupiter! you shall!" ejaculated Spiridon, his eyes blazing. "You know too much to retain your freedom. I love you, and my love is like that of the tiger, fierce and terrible as my hatred. I swear by Our Lady that you shall be mine; with your consent, or without it."

He glared upon her with a wild fury that was intended to strike terror to her soul.

"I have given you my answer," said Alex, with girlish dignity—a sweet majesty of mien—that increased his passion for her, as it proved that she was unawed. "I have nothing more to say."

She turned and moved swiftly in the direction of the house.

She had not taken ten steps, when Spiridon, bounding after her, seized her roughly in a fierce grasp.

"I shall not let you go so easily," he exclaimed between his teeth, in a hissing voice. "I am not to be balked like this by a mere girl, a tender thing I can crush in my hand! I am determined to make you my wife. You know too much to be allowed to go free. Your beauty fairly maddens me. By Jupiter! Refuse me again at your peril!"

His eyes blazed into hers; his hot breath scorched her cheeks. She tore

herself from his clasp, and turned at bay.

"Base coward! To attack a woman!" she cried, with a world of scorn in her eyes and mouth. "A cry from me will bring my servants to expel you from these grounds!"

"But you will not utter it!" returned her enemy menacingly. "I came here to-night to conquer. I have wooed you with soft speech and failed to win you. But force remains. Force has subdued haughty women before: Force has broken proud spirits and made them humble! You shall not go to warn your father—you shall not be permitted to escape me. You are mine and now—and now!"

He uttered a shrill, clear, low whistle that sounded like the cry of a night-bird. As by magic, two men in picturesque garb—somewhat like his own—leaped over the wall and ran to his relief. These were trusted members of his band.

"Seize her!" cried Spiridon. "away with her to the retreat!"

As he spoke, he tore off his wide sash and made a gesture to throw it over the girl's head.

But she was too quick for him. One moment she had stood as if stupefied. Now, with a scream that thrilled the night with horror, she ran like a deer in the direction of the house.

The bandits flew after her.

The girl's foot caught in a projecting root and she nearly fell headlong. In the sudden halt thus imposed upon her, her enemies overtook and seized her. Spiridon flung his sash over her head. With a desperation born of mortal terror, she tore the folds from her face and uttered a second scream, shriller than the first.

"Curse her!" cried Spiridon. "She'll have the household about our ears. Quick men—"

The servants came trooping from the house. A glazed door upon the veranda was flung open, and Mr. Strange leaped out into the garden. That wild appeal for help had brought him to the rescue. One rapid glance of his keen blue eye informed him of his daughter's danger. Revolver in hand, he came down the garden-walk at a bound. His servants, animated by his fearlessness, arms in hand, followed him.

The bandits made a movement to retreat, dragging their prisoner with them. Before they could reach the wall, Mr. Strange fired, and Spiridon dropped his captive, his left arm falling to his side.

The servants fired in concert, and one of the bandits was shot in the breast. Spiridon drew his own revolver, fighting at bay, but his confederates leaped the wall in great haste, and were seen running swiftly toward the shelter of the nearest olive grove.

Left thus unsupported, the bandit chief glared at his enemies with a furious hatred. Alex had already flown to her father's side, and was beyond his reach. Half a dozen armed men were ready to defend her with their lives, and only too eager to compass his death. Nothing remained but to retire. He restored his weapon to his side.

"You cannot fire upon a wounded and unarmed man," he said, hoarsely.

"But we can capture him and deliver him to the mercy of the laws he has outraged!" cried Mr. Strange, advancing upon him.

The outlaw placed his right hand on the garden wall and leaped over it. A mocking laugh came back to the ears of his enemies, and he was fleeing in the direction taken by his comrades. Three or four shots rattled after him, going wide of the mark. Presently he disappeared, and the excited servants and laborers returned to the kitchen, and Alex and her father entered the drawing-room.

"What did it all mean, Alex!" inquired her father, as they sat down upon a sofa, and the girl clung to him in a strange trembling. "Spiridon was trying to carry you off by force—"

"Yes, papa, and he would have succeeded, but for you. He asked me to be his wife, and when I refused he declared that he would take me by force!"

"He will renew his attempt," said Mr. Strange, anxiously. "I know Spiridon's reputation. He never gives up anything upon which he sets his heart. He will come back with all his band and take you by force. We are not strong enough to resist him, and half our laborers are in sympathy with him."

"Then what can we do!"

"Our peace is broken up. I have lived here sixteen years without being molested, but henceforth our lives in this place will be one of persecution. Greece is no longer a refuge for us. We must find a new home!"

"But where can we go?"

"I must study the map. We must find some spot more solitary and lonely

even than this—in the wilds of Asia-India, or Africa. My one hope is to escape all notice—to hide myself where Englishmen never come!" said Mr. Strange, bitterly. "We have money, the product of our vineyards, and goat-folds, and olive and orange groves—money enough to buy us another home if we are compelled to abandon this. I will think out a plan to-night. You are pale and trembling still, Alex. You must go to bed my darling. I shall not lose sight of you again for many hours at a time, my little girl. Whatever I have lost, I have you left to me, and with you I shall be content."

He drew her to him and kissed her with passionate tenderness. She returned his caresses with interest, clinging to him with a simple faith and love that touched him keenly. He had wounded her most cruelly, he had sent her lover from her, blighted her young life, overwhelmed her with agony of sorrow and shame of which he did not dream, but in spite of all, her childlike love and reverence for him had not once wavered, nor had she even once doubted his affection for her.

"My poor child," he said remorsefully. "I would that I could have spared you not only your great sorrow, but the knowledge I have been compelled to impart to you. I have refused to see you these three days, because I felt that the sight of you would stab me with a keener anguish, but I now see that you would have strengthened and comforted me. You can sleep peacefully to-night. Some one shall watch, lest Spiridon attacks us. And now good night."

He led her along the wide, dusky hall to the door of her chamber, and again kissed and blessed her. Then he shut up the house carefully, securing every door and window, and retired to his own room.

"Spiridon means mischief," he muttered. "We must move immediately. But where can we go? What country is without an extradition with England? Where shall I be safe? It is as well perhaps that we are compelled to go. When Lord Kingscourt returns, he must not find us here. Alex and he must never meet again!"

He took out a collection of maps, spreading them upon a table, and pored over them with weary eyes.

CHAPTER X.

APPROACHING A CONFIDENCE.

Mr. Strange watched all night, beguiling the time by studying his maps, but Spiridon did not make the expected attack, nor did the recluse find a refuge that seemed to him as desirable as the one in which he had spent so many years. He had tired often enough of the gloom of his cypress trees, of the monotony of the olive groves and vineyards, and of the grim mountains shutting him in like prison walls, but here he had been safe and at times almost content; here he had watched his child blossom into a bright and happy girlhood, and here he had hoped to die and be buried. The necessity of leaving it was bitter and terrible: but it was a necessity, and as such he yielded to it.

He started now and then at some slight sound, fancying it a footstep. He crept to his daughter's room once or twice to assure himself of her safety and that she slept. He searched the maps of Greece, of Turkey, of Russia, and sighed as he muttered:

"I must go farther to the eastward. The farther from England the better. I think I should like best of all a lonely oasis in the heart of the Sahara desert, an oasis too small to be visited even by Arabs. There, with a few negro servants, Alex and I might live and die. Lord Kingscourt asked what would become of Alex when I should be dead. If there were only some Protestant convent which she might enter, I should be relieved of horrible anxieties. Strange that I never thought of it before; but what will become of Alex when I am gone?"

The problem harassed him all the night through, even while he searched the map. Morning found him haggard and worn, thin and pale, and weary of movement, but full of energy and resolution.

He presented himself at the breakfast-table at the usual hour. After the meal, leaving Alex to discuss with old Saba certain housekeeping questions, he called together several servants whom he could trust and informed them that he was about to visit Athens, and that he should be absent from home some time.

"My daughter will go with me," he announced, "and we shall sail in my yacht, which lies in the bay ready for the voyage. I want you to take down to her stores of provisions, and some of my effects that I prize above others. Let



your movements be as secret and quiet as possible, for Spiridion may have out scouts to watch us."

The men transported the provisions to the yacht in a single trip. There were two or three trunks to be taken on board, but, least an unfriendly spy-glass should be turned upon them, their removal was deferred until early evening. The men were then dismissed to their tasks near the house, and Mr Stange summoned his daughter to a conference in the library.

"We shall leave this place this evening," Alex said, sorrowfully. "We shall take no servants with us except the men who will manage the yacht. Have your household linen, your little portable desk, and whatever you prize that can be easily carried, packed in trunks or boxes to-day."

Alex looked startled and dismayed. "Must we leave our furniture?" she asked.

"It is old, and was originally cheap—all but the piano. We can take no furniture with us. You may present it to Saba and the rest."

Living in such seclusion, far from cities and civilization, Alex had no cherished trinkets, no cumbersome favorite chairs or work-tables, no quantity of clothing, and no jewelry beyond her strings of golden sequins which she habitually wore. Her packing, therefore, was not likely to prove troublesome.

"Where are we going, papa?" she asked.

"We shall sail to the Piræus; then journey by rail to Athens. There I shall sell to my Greek factor my yacht and the produce loaded in her. You know she has been loaded during the past few days for market. From Athens we shall go—I don't yet know where!"

Both father and daughter were very busy throughout the day. More produce was taken on board the little vessel, and soon after nightfall, in the darkness preceding the moon rising, the trunks were taken on board also, and preparations were made for a prompt departure.

Old Saba, who had served her master faithfully for sixteen years, was dismissed from her post of housekeeper, with a liberal present in money above her wages, and with all the furniture the house contained. One of the housemaids and two of the men servants were her children, the latter occupying houses in the hamlet half a mile distant, and the old woman, in a fever of delight, set them to work to remove the furniture immediately.

"We won't give the master a chance to change his mind," she said, wisely. "He must be ill. Perhaps he is on the verge of a fever. We will take what the gods send, and make sure of it. Let all the men help. They shall be well paid."

The progress of dismantling the dwelling had progressed to some extent when Mr Strange informed the old woman that she could occupy the house until his return, or until it should be sold—a promise which she regarded as a deed of gift. Accordingly, she turned out her assistants, locked the doors, and sat down before the kitchen fire to exult in her good fortune and wonder at its cause.

Mr Strange and Alex bade adieu to their dependents and left the house. In the garden they paused and looked back. The sky was overcast; a heavy gloom overspread gulf and glen and mountains.

"That is the hour Spiridion would choose for an attack," said the recluse. "We shall get away none too soon for our own safety. We must be far out upon the Gulf before the moon rises. Hark! What is that?"

He listened a moment, hearing only the sighing of the wind among the cypresses. Drawing his daughter's arm in his, he led her out of the garden, across the lawn, in the direction of the sea. Neither spoke. To both it seemed that they were being driven forth into exile by a pitiless fate. Alex thought of her lover and his promise to return. He might come back, but she would not be here to receive him. She would never see his face again, never hear his voice. The spot that had been hallowed by his presence—the spot where all her life had been passed—seemed to her, at this moment, the choicest spot on all the globe.

"It is like the going out of Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden," she sighed. "Oh, papa—"

"Hush!"

They were entering the olive grove. A sound of muffled trampling was heard close at hand. Mr Strange drew Alex close behind the trunk of a tree, and they waited and listened breathlessly.

The trampling was that of a score of men moving cautiously in the direction of the house. They had passed the fugi-

tives when, suddenly, the voice of Spiridion was heard, saying, in a low, penetrating tone:

"We shall take them completely by surprise. Those heavy clouds create a darkness very favorable to our purpose. Before the moon becomes visible, we shall be well on our way to our mountain fastness with the girl. The priest has been captured, and is waiting. Before my young lady sleeps she will be my wife. Thus do I lay my plans in triumph."

Mr Strange drew his daughter closer to his breast, holding her in a strong, firm, reassuring clasp, until the bandits had passed on. Then, without a word, he hurried her down to the beach. A small boat and rowers were in waiting. They embarked, and were conveyed to the *Clytie*, the small yacht which lay at anchor at a little distance from the shore.

A faint gleam of light through the gloom revealed the position of the vessel. Alex was helped on board, her father followed her, and the small boat was raised to the deck. The men proceeded to hoist sail, and to take up the anchor, a subdued excitement pervading them. Mr Strange groped about for a seat, and placed Alex upon it. Father and daughter then turned their eyes shoreward, straining them for a last glimpse of the dear old home.

The yacht was fairly under way, bounding forward under the impulse of the breeze, when the last glimpse of home was afforded the fugitives in a manner they had not looked for. A sudden lurid blaze lit up the black southern sky; their home was in flames! There were figures moving in the red light like demons at infernal work.

"Our dear old home!" sighed Alex.

"I had hoped to sell the estate in Athens," said her father. "But those scoundrels, once they have entered upon their work of destruction, will not pause until the vineyards and groves are laid waste."

The yacht bounded on before the wind, and Alex, when the red glare of her ruined home had been lost to sight, descended to the small cabin and nestled upon a divan. She did not sleep that night, listening to the steady tread of her father as he walked the deck, to the hoarse cries of the sailors, to the creaking of the cordage, and thinking of her lover, who now seemed doubly lost to her, since he could not know her future refuge.

When morning broke, the yacht came to anchor at the Piræus. Mr Strange took his daughter ashore, leaving her at an inn while he attended to the transfer of his trunks. Then, taking Alex again in charge, he proceeded to the railway station, arriving in time to secure a first-class compartment in an early train.

Upon arriving at Athens, they proceeded to a small but well-kept Greek hotel, at which no foreigners ever stopped. Here they registered as Mr. Stasso and daughter.

Leaving Alex in their little private parlor, Mr. Strange visited the office of his factor, and after an hour's conversation succeeded in selling him the yacht and its freight of produce at three-fourths of their joint value, receiving his pay in cash.

He related the misfortune that had driven him from his estate, and commissioned his factor to visit it and ascertain the amount of injuries done, and to sell it for whatever it would bring.

"You will not go back, then?" asked the factor, curiously. "Not even if Spiridion should be captured?"

"Not under any consideration."

"The troops, owing to information lodged by the Milordo Kingscourt with the government and with the English Consul, have already gone in the direction of Corinth in search of him. It is possible that he may be captured."

"It is possible," said Mr. Strange, ironically, "but scarcely probable. I shall seek a home where exists greater security to life and property."

He made his adieux and returned to his daughter.

Their trunks had arrived and had been brought up to their rooms.

"Now they have arrived their contents seem to me nearly valueless," said Mr. Strange, as he sat with his daughter in their parlor at a later hour. "I do not even know that I wish you to adhere to the Greek costume, Alex. It draws attention to you, or will do so as soon as we are out of Greece."

"Have you decided yet where we shall go?" asked Alex.

"Not yet. The whole wide world is before us, but I have not chosen one single spot for our refuge. I have thought of an oasis in the desert, of an islet in the Pacific Ocean, of a dwelling on the Russian steppes, of any retreat far remote from humankind? Am I selfish, Alex, in thus secluding you?"

"Oh, no, papa. I have never known any one but you and Lord Kingscourt. I am not used to society, so I cannot care for it."

"If I seem hard, my child, I am really merciful. Trust me always."

"I do—I do. But papa," said Alex, with tender courage, "it grieves me to see you bear your burdens alone. Can you not lay a portion of them on my shoulders?"

Mr Strange shook his head.

"I suppose that I have guessed your secret," said the girl, softly. "I—"

Mr Strange started violently.

"Impossible!" he said, hoarsely.

"You think I know nothing of the world because I was brought up in such rigid seclusion, papa," said Alex. "But you forget that I have read the works of Sir Walter Scott, of Victor Hugo, of George Elliot, of many other masters of fiction. I know more than you think of life in England and France. I know why, even as the wife of the rich and powerful Earl of Kingscourt. I might be a social pariah," and a great scarlet flush suffused her pure face—"scorned, despised, and hated."

"Alex!"

"Papa, I must tell you all. Since the night you told Lord Kingscourt that I was a thing to be loathed and shunned, I have guessed the truth. I have remembered that you have never spoken to me of my mother: that I do not know her nationality, or even if she be dead—"

"Alex! You are wrong. Your mother was one of the purest and proudest of women. She was of more than honorable birth, incapable of even an impure thought. Your mother! Why, she was pure, as cold, as an angel in heaven."

Alex looked bewildered.

"Then I am not right!" she exclaimed after a minute's pause, raising her grateful eyes upward. "Oh, papa, I thank God! I have feared—have suffered! Tell me about her, papa. When did she die?"

Mr Strange arose and walked to the window, a yearning came upon him to tell his story to his daughter. He longed for her sympathy and tenderness; they would be balm to the unhealed wound he had borne so bravely many years.

"I cannot tell you of her, my child," he answered, "without unfolding to you the mystery I had hoped to keep from you always. How can I tell you that appalling secret? How can I explain to you why you are a creature set apart from all others for a life of solitude and celibacy? The story is not fit for your pure ears—"

"Do not tell me, papa, if you don't think it best," said Alex, softly. "But if I am never to marry I ought to know what this curse is that rests upon me. Is it insanity?"

"No, no. There would be no great horror in that—only a terrible misfortune. I am tempted to tell you, Alex. Since Lord Kingscourt left us, I have more than once longed to tell you all the truth, that you might know me to be just and merciful. I have longed, as long as a sick child, to visit my own country. I have yearned for the damp and the fogs even of dear old England. I would gladly die if I might first revisit the scenes I loved."

"Can we not go, papa? I, too, long to visit England," cried Alex, with enthusiasm. "Would we not be safe in London? Dear papa, I have read that London is a vast wilderness. Would we not be more hidden there than in the desert or on the steppes?"

The color drifted into Mr Strange's cheeks. His eyes brightened with the keenness of his longing.

"I must have changed in eighteen years," he mused. "Who would recognize me now that knew me then? But it is impossible. I should not dare. We cannot go. Alex, an impulse comes over me to tell you the story of our course. If the knowledge proves a sorrow grievous to bear, you must not blame me. Will you hear it?"

Alex assented, with a solemnity equal to his own.

"Lock the door!" he said, briefly.

Alex locked the door.

"Turn down the light!" said her father, gently.

The light was turned down to a sort of twilight.

"Turn away your face," said Mr Strange, in a hollow, broken voice. "Do not look at me, dear. I cannot bear to meet your gaze until my story is finished. God grant it may meet me then, sweet and loving as ever. Are you ready?"

"Yes, papa," was the whispered response.

"I will tell you the whole story of the curse that rests upon you and me. I will tell you why you are a social pariah—an

outcast whom the poorest beggar in England would scorn. "Listen!"

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

## SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

### RACING FIXTURES.

Nov. 30.—Dunedin Spring.  
Dec. 26, 27.—Hokitika Summer.  
26.—Auckland Summer.  
Feb. 7, 8.—Wellington Annual.  
14, 15.—Wairarapa (Wellington).  
20, 21.—Marlborough Annual.  
28, March 1, 2.—Dunedin Annual.  
The question is being asked in Napier, why no announcement has yet been made regarding the Hawke's Bay Annual Races.

## WAIPAWA COUNTY COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28.

The annual meeting of the above Council was held in the Court-house, Waipawa.

Present—Councillors Mackersey (Chairman), Rathbone, Monteith, Johnston, Herrick, and Lawrence.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

On the question being raised as to whether the Chairman or Clerk should be first elected.

Councillor Rathbone moved, and Cr. Lawrence seconded, "That the first business of the meeting is to elect a Chairman."

For the motion: Crs. Lawrence, Herrick, and Rathbone. Against: Crs. Johnston, Monteith, Mackersey.

The Chairman gave his casting vote against the motion, and it was consequently lost.

Cr. Rathbone entered a protest against the resolution as being irregular.

Crs. Rathbone, Herrick, and Lawrence then left the room.

The business then terminated, there not being a quorum present.

There are ten applications for the office of County Clerk.

## APPREHENSION OF THE BLACK-HEATH HIGHWAYMEN.

The two men who some weeks back created such consternation at Blackheath by their daring, and in one case successful, attempts, at highway robbery, were apprehended on September 10 at Portsmouth, by Inspector Shore, of the Detective Department of Scotland Yard. It will be remembered that in their first attempt they stopped the carriage of Mr Hodgson, the Assistant Solicitor to the Treasury, and by threatening him with pistols, succeeded in inducing him to give up about £17 in notes and gold that he had about him. They were wearing masks at the time, and were otherwise disguised, so as to avoid identification. After this they stopped several other carriages, but the occupants of these, of a more courageous disposition, ordered their coachman to drive on, and as the terrible highwaymen evidently had no desire for bloodshed, the pistols were not discharged, and their victims escaped with their money and their lives. For some time all efforts of the local police failed in tracing them, and the matter was given into the hands of the authorities at Scotland Yard, and from the inquiries that were made Inspector Shore went down to Portsmouth, where one of the stolen notes had been cashed, and succeeded in tracing the two men now in custody. Pistols and masks, and some of the stolen property, were found on them, proving without doubt that the real offenders had been captured. The men, who gave the names of Hyslop and Denham, were brought to London and charged before the magistrate at the Greenwich Police Court. They are bakers in employment at Portsmouth, and are aged eighteen and nineteen years respectively. Mr W. H. Hodgson, who had been robbed of £17 testified to the circumstances under which the robbery took place. The prisoners' landlady at Blackheath also gave evidence, and the prisoners were committed for trial.—English Paper.

Scene in a Yankee police court.—Lawyer: How do you identify this handkerchief? Witness: By its general appearance and the fact that I have others like it. Counsel: That's no proof, for I have got one just like it in my pocket. Witness: I don't doubt that, as I had more than one of the same sort stolen.

Some people who go to church are puzzled to find the "collet for the day." There is no difficulty about it; it beams when the plate goes round.

Upon the marriage of Miss Wheat, Virginia, an editor hoped that her path might be flowery, and that she might never be thrashed by her husband.



## Our Wellington Letter.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

## WELLINGTON.

WEDNESDAY Night.

## THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

You have had Mr. Larnach's statement in full, so I need not go into any details here. In Wellington it created a furore, and it certainly was calculated to catch the public. For the time being the heads of old M.H.R.'s appeared to be turned. The grand reason of this was the bold and dashing determination to seize the Land Fund. I verily believe that if the Government could have taken famous "Number three" motion at once, they would have had an overwhelming majority. But reflection leads me to ask—does all this wonderful simplicity of finance only mean superficiality and inaccuracy, after all? There is a growing feeling that it does. Mr. Larnach is a wonderful calculating machine. He can "tot-up" three columns of figures and sustain a conversation all at the same moment, and in an incredibly short space of time he will give you the answer, right to a fraction. No such wonder has ever before been known in our New Zealand Parliament, and in the regular office-hours Mr. Larnach would do more work, so far as mere calculation went, than his predecessor would in three days. In the evening he went to the Theatre, or St. George's Hall, and amused himself like a man without a single care. But is he capable of understanding the real principles of political economy, which must underlie any sound system of finance—is he, in short, capable of understanding the financial problems, which involve something more than mere arithmetic, and which must be grappled with? It is to be hoped that he is, but in the meantime one doesn't feel ever safe with such a man at the helm. Major Atkinson was far from a satisfactory Colonial Treasurer, because of his over-sanguine temperament, and his never-mind-for-to-morrow policy, but we may, in going to the other extreme, have fallen from the frying-pan into the fire.

MAJOR ATKINSON'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT. For such his speech was in reality, was another surprise; but, when his speech is read through carefully and searchingly, there is much that is incomprehensible to the mind of the ordinary layman, and much more that is capable of being twisted and distorted into almost anything. In short, it was a thorough-going Vogelian statement. He proved that either he or Mr. Larnach was sadly culpable and ignorant of colonial finance, and which it is your humble servant is puzzled to decide even to his own satisfaction. I am, after all, rather inclined to lean to Mr. Larnach, for he, as he puts it, deals in cash, while Major Atkinson deals in book-keeping. Still, the Major showed that in some instances, at any rate, Mr. Larnach was decidedly out of his reckoning. It was very odd that he should talk about "anxiously expecting" the report of the Railway Committee, when that report was presented a fortnight ago and when he was himself on the committee. It was also odd that he should talk about carrying out the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee, and sell the Hinemoa, seeing that the Public Accounts Committee never reported on the subject at all. The Weather Reporting Committee certainly did so, but then they recommended that the Hinemoa should not be sold. If Mr. Larnach is so shaky over his facts, one naturally trembles for his finance.

## RESPECTABLE HIGHWAYMEN.

"Yes, we mean to take the Land Fund, but we're going to take it like respectable highwaymen, and not like disreputable midnight burglars," said Mr. Sheehan, and that is just about the way of it. And the bold dash of the Government proposal to take the Land Fund has evoked admiration for them.

## A FARFICAL MAYORAL ELECTION.

The election for a Mayor this year here has been a perfect farce. First, the present Mayor Hutchison is well-pleased with his snug billet, but unfortunately he forgot to pay his rates a little time ago, and his name does not appear on the certified burgess-roll. By a cleverly-devised system of anti-dated receipts the Mayor tried to get over this little difficulty, and felt secure. But unfortunately General Yock, the editor of the Post, was well acquainted with the whole affair, and of course he exposed the Mayor's little dodge. That pawky Scotchman replied through his organ the Argus that he was qualified and would stand. Thereupon the Post sat heavily upon him, and at last he concluded that discretion was the better part of valour, and on the very eve of the nomination he withdrew. But, as he could not set up himself, he thought

he'd put that fiery little Irishman, Mr. G. E. Barton in the chair, to keep it warm for him. So Mr. Barton was nominated, and the Post had to sit upon him also. It made fun of him, and he raved and stormed. Suddenly it struck him that he was solicitor to a Mr. Schultze, who has several actions against the Corporation, and against whom the Corporation has several actions, all of which are pending in the Supreme Court. Now, if Mr. B. were elected, he would as Mr. Schultze's solicitor, have to take proceedings against himself as Mayor, and as Mayor he would have to oppose his client. He would thus have appeared as Mayor defendant, as Mayor plaintiff, as solicitor to Mr. Schultze plaintiff, and to Mr. Schultze defendant. This proved to much for the brain of the little man, and he executed some wild calligraphic gyrations, which he published in the papers, piteously begging the ratepayers not to vote for him. Next day he found a little loophole in the Act regulating elections, which allowed him to withdraw, and he promptly availed himself of the merciful means of escape. So Mr. Dransfield, who had been nominated from the first, was left the only candidate in the field, and he was at last declared duly elected.

## Disastrous Fire in Gisborne.

## TWENTY-ONE HOUSES BURN'T.

[From the Poverty Bay Herald.]

The fire which occurred on Friday was the first extensive one on record in the district. We fervently hope it will be the last. Singularly enough all the recent fires have happened on the sixth day of the week. Mr. Steggall's hotel was burned to the ground on Friday, the 25th ult., the house at Ormond, formerly occupied by Captain Gudgeon, and recently by Constable Villers, was destroyed by the same dread element on the 9th inst., but both of these disasters, serious though they must have been to the parties immediately concerned, recede in absolute insignificance when compared with the terrible conflagration of Friday last. The following is a reliable account of the disaster:—

A few minutes after eleven o'clock on the morning in question

## A SMALL CURL OF SMOKE.

Was observed rising from the framework of a private residence in course of erection for Mr. S. Stevenson by Messrs. Forbes and Skeet, at the corner of Lowe Street, to the rear of the Masonic Stables. A brisk breeze was blowing at the time, and almost in an instant the inflammable material was in a blaze. The dread cry of

## FIRE! FIRE IN THE BREWERY!

Was at once raised, and a crowd soon gathered round, eager to assist in confining the mischief to the framework of the new building. "This was soon found to be a task of no small difficulty; most unfortunately a stack of about a hundred totara posts lying alongside the fence caught fire before they could be removed and a fierce blaze ensued in this corner, which defied all efforts at extinction, and continued to emit a scorching heat long after the framework of the new building had consumed itself.

It was at once evident that the most strenuous exertions must be made use of to keep the fire from catching the little cottage between the new building and the stables, at present used as a residence by Mr. Stevenson and his family. The cottage once ignited the stables would have followed as a matter of necessity, thence it would have been impossible to have prevented it from extending to Mr. Crawford's private residence, and from thence to the brewery, whilst on the other side of the stables the store of Messrs. Robjohns Teat and Co., and the old Court House also would have caught, when nothing could have saved

THE WHOLE OF THE GLADSTONE ROAD from the Court House and the Herald office down to the river bank. There was a good gang of willing workers, however; a bucket line was formed from the brewery reservoir to the scene of the conflagration, blankets being placed around Mr. Stevenson's cottage, and dozens of willing hands rushed into the heat and dashed water on the roof and walls. Others removed the smoking debris, while one or two went to the range of open stalls at the rear of the stables and in spite of the intense heat continued to extinguish the burning portions as fast as the flames ignited them.

The horses in the stables, as a matter of course had been driven forth at the first alarm, the saddlery and harness and all other gear being piled up in a heap in the centre of the roadway, as also the furniture from Mr. Stevenson's cottage. It was indeed a very narrow escape for the Masonic Stables; several times were

the buildings all ablaze, whilst the hay in the hayloft was also ignited more than once, but in each case the fire was extinguished before it went beyond control.

While the flames still burned fiercely, (although it had become evident that by incessant exertions the cottage and the stables could be saved and the fire confined to the house where it had originated) a shout arose that caused

## THE STOUTEST HEART TO QUAIL.

"The Masonic Hotel is on fire," was the hoarse cry, and a moment's glance shewed that the finest hotel in Gisborne, and the whole block of offices and shops as far as the corner of Peel-street were doomed. The long-continued drought and the sultry weather which had prevailed for such a length of time had scorched the shingled roofs and the house walls until they could only be compared to tinder, touchwood, or any other equally inflammable substance. Nothing could avert the disaster, the sparks flew in fiery showers overhead, settled on the shingles and in a few moments

## THE FORKED TONGUES OF FLAME.

Were darting out of the roofs of the Masonic Hotel, the Lands Court Office, and the Standard newspaper office, in a manner which shewed that the block was doomed to destruction. All hope of saving any one building in the block was out of the question. All that remained to be done was to save as many of them as possible.

The stables at the rear of the hotel, the Road Board Office, recently converted to the use of the Borough Council, Mr. Dick's smithy and coach manufactory, Messrs Forbes and Skeet's workshop, a house the property of Mr. Teat, occupied by Mr. Edwards, were all soon in flames, and in an incredibly short space of time only smouldering heaps of ashes remained.

Immediately that the Masonic Hotel was seen to be in flames, the attention of the workers was directed to.

## THE HERALD NEWSPAPER OFFICE.

For it was at once apparent that if that building were suffered to ignite, the Argyll Hotel, Ferris and Pitt's auction mart, Graham and Co.'s temporary stores and the Union Bank must all follow suit, and probably enough, the Telegraph office and the new Government buildings would also be in danger. A strong gang concentrated their efforts on this corner, blankets were spread over the roof, and a plentiful supply of water was passed up as quickly as it could be drawn. The heat as a matter of course was fearful, but the men stood bravely to their work and saved the building and thereby the whole block, although the heat at one time was so intense that the result was just a toss up, and it was deemed advisable to remove the books, the type, and as much of the stock and plant as could be handled, which were carried out accordingly. Simultaneously, however, with the Herald Office, Messrs. Ferris and Pitt's residence became the object of attention. Although lower down the street it was nearer to the pathway, and as the wind blew the flames directly on to it, it was in great danger for some time. There was a numerous party at work at this point, however, and the fire was eventually beat off, although the roof was caught several times and the windows were broken and the whole front scorched brown by the vivid heat. The next house, occupied by Mr. Carlew Smith, was also in imminent danger, but this was also taken in hand and preserved from harm.

As soon as the fire had fairly caught hold of the Masonic Hotel block, the scene of terror and dismay was at its height. Overhead the sun still shone with scorching heat, which seemed as if encouraging the efforts of the destructive element with which the crowd was fighting, almost, as it seemed, for life or death. The burning of so large a block of buildings created a

ROARING, HISSING, CRACKLING SOUND, which could only be compared to a burning forest, everything being so dry that it only added intensity to the conflagration. From all sides came shouts for water, for buckets, for ladders, for additional help at some point where the flames were overcoming the little knot doing battle with them, whilst the busy throng rushed hither and thither like a hive of bees on the swarm. A strange, sad, wierd, aspect was imparted to the scene by the piles of goods which met the eye in every direction. All the handsome, costly and useful furniture had just been dragged or thrown out from the hotel and the offices and stores. Chairs, tables, handsome couches, mirrors, pictures, bedsteads, bedding, a billiard table in sections, crockery, glassware, every conceivable article was heaped up pell mell along the

centre of the road and on the opposite footwalks, some of the articles being ignited by the heat and consumed as they lay in the open air. In spite of the absence of any recognised leader very many of those who lent a helping hand acted with great energy, bravery and judgment; in fact, if it had been otherwise it is quite possible that the whole of the town would have been reduced to a heap of ashes. Messrs. Robjohns, Teat and Co.'s premises were ignited half-a-dozen times and extinguished as often, as was also the case with the Bank of New Zealand, Messrs. Parnell and Boylan's, and Mr. McCaffrey's stores, a careful watch and a plentiful supply of blankets and water being requisite in each instance. In the height of the disaster it was impossible to foresee when the fire would end, and numerous householders carried their goods and chattels out into the open air in readiness for the worst.

## WORKING UNITEDLY.

Where all worked so bravely and so unitedly it would, perhaps, be invidious to mention names. As far as could be seen, everyone who was present, including several settlers from the country, did his utmost to check the great calamity which had so suddenly befallen the town. When at length the flames had subsided, some twenty-five men, sworn in by the Resident Magistrate as special constables, were divided off into three watches by his Worship the Mayor in order to prevent any fresh outbreak during the night, a series of tanks filled with water at the river being placed at convenient distances in case of necessity.

## INCIDENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIRE.

Amidst the heap of furniture and odds and ends carried out from the Masonic Hotel and deposited in the road was a pair of inexpressibles. Ignited by a spark they slowly charred away until the upper portion only remained. At this time Mr. Cox, the well-known maker of garments, happened to observe the remnants of the trousers. He pulled them up and threw them to the ground again, when, noticing that one of the pockets appeared bulky, he again picked up the fragment and extracted from the pocket £19 in £1 notes. The trousers and their contents were found to belong to Mr. J. Carroll, who, it is needless to state, was deeply gratified at the occurrence.

Another inmate of the Masonic Hotel had left a £5 note in one of his pockets; the garment was rescued intact, but the £5 had mysteriously disappeared, burned perhaps. It was not Mr. Cox who found this article of apparel.

## A GOOD STORY.

A rev. gentleman took his coat off at the first alarm and worked with the best of them amidst the heat and fire and smoke. Considering that he required a moment's rest, he approached a little knot of his friends for a short chat. "You look very sad, Mr.——," said one of them. "Yes, I have cause," was the response. "What is the matter?" asked another. "Oh! it's useless for me to mention it now," replied the rev. fireman. "But you may as well let us know," chimed in another. "Well," said the questioned one. "You know that a purse of sovereigns was presented to me last night. I left the purse in my coat when I took it off to try and help, and just now, when I put my coat on again, I found my nice purse all safe, but the sovereigns had vanished." "Oh! what a shame," chorused his audience. "But," said one of the number, "How foolish it was not to put the money in the Bank the first thing." "That's just what I had done," said the rev. joker, and he picked up his buckets and departed, refreshed.

## FOUL PLAY.

A considerable number of fowls were roasted alive, the fire spreading so rapidly that they were unable to escape from the flames. It was rumored too that a horse tied up behind the Borough Council Office for safe custody had been burnt to death, but this appears to be unfounded.

## A TURK ROASTED.

Poor "Turk," a lurchy black retriever, the property of Mr. Piesse, and well known to every man, woman, and child in the township, was burnt to death beneath Mr. J. Edwards' residence.

## CHILDLIKE AND BLAND.

Inspired by the exertions of the *pakehas*, a Maori was tempted by the offer of £1, in cash, to lend his aid in removing the goods and chattels of Mr. S. The guileless aboriginal's ideas on the subject of saving property, however, proved to be somewhat crude. He lodged a bottle of stimulants inside his shirt, dropped a few choice chimney ornaments gracefully into his pockets, and carefully rolling up a new satin dress, and stowing it under his coat, prepared to leave for



his *kainga*. The owner of the goods remonstrated, and the argument ended in the Maori being lodged in the lock-up. On being brought before the R.M. he was surprised at being sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labor, in Napier.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NATIVE LANDS ACT.

FRIEND, GREETING.—I wish you to circulate my ideas both in English and Maori languages so that persons of sense may see it. Friends, my reason for circulating my ideas is to show you the Native Lands Act that I saw in the European newspaper. That Act was framed to swallow up the land belonging to the native tribes. I am vexed about this Act. The purport of this Act is to put the inferior native on an equality with the Chief with lands, and put him on an equal footing with his superior. Friends, the concoctors of this Act, listen to our native ideas. This idea of ours is not a new one, but descended from our ancestors down to the present time. Our notions according to the Maori customs the Chiefs are the only people that have the power over the lands, over the people, over property, over food, over good and bad principles, over fighting, peace, and everything.

Listen! If a great disturbance should arise, a word from a chief is sufficient to end the matter at once; although they may be peaceably inclined, and a chief says, let enmity exist, and it is so. The inferior natives have never been invested with power, as their chiefs. It was the chiefs and not the inferior natives who handed the lands over to the Europeans, and now they say that the inferior natives must be placed on an equality with their chiefs, and on the same equality, with regard to lands and monies. I should like to know where the land is that belongs to the inferior natives.

Friends! what a very trumpety Land Act is that which was drawn up by Governor Grey's lawyer. What a very bad Act that is. I told Henare Tomoana to overthrow the Act, as I had seen it in print, and had it translated into the Maori language. Henry replied that what I had stated was false; I replied, "you had better not say that what I have stated was false, as I have the Act, and have had it translated into the Maori language."

I then sent a telegram to Governor Grey in Wellington asking him to throw out this bad Native Lands Act of Mr. Rees. Sir George Grey replied, Renata, "you are under a misapprehension. This Act was the work of the lawyers, but leave it to me and I will look into the wording of the Act, and I will reply by telegram, should there be any part of the Act that I do not think will answer I will see and put it right." I did think of replying to his telegram, but after second thoughts I deemed it advisable not to do so, as he would not have the power to throw out the Act, that was drawn up by his lawyers who have placed him in the position he now holds.

At the meeting held at Te Hauke, near Te Aute, it was resolved to overthrow the late Government and to have a fresh one, and that some chiefs should be chosen to frame laws for both races, and see if we could not frame some new Acts whereby both races would be content.

There is another evil that I wish to explain through my letter and it is as bad as the Native Lands' Act that I have already referred to, that is, that the principles on which the Wananga is conducted are very bad in my estimation. The tendency of its work is to inveigle us; its working is indeed shameful. It takes good care to publish only things that its supporters bounce over so that the native tribes may see it; but the Native Lands Act (Ture) by which we would be wronged it takes care not to publish. The reason this Act has not been published up to the present time is apparently to let the matter pass, and then let it eat up the land and people, so that when it had passed the teeth of their act would have fastened into the people and their lands. It would be no use their crying out, as alas! the teeth had got a firm hold. When I saw a copy of that Act I had it translated, by which means I obtained the knowledge of the contents of that swindling Act. Then the Wananga's supporters were astounded and ashamed because I had detected them. Perhaps they will again soon work at something similar, as that is the sort of work they delight in, as their great desire is money. Instead of working for the good of the colony, and the prosperity and welfare of all, they refrain from publishing in their Wananga. All they care

about is to get money by some means out of people for their own use. These are indeed very bad principles. If the work was for good I would not grieve. All that I have seen is for evil.—I am, &c., RENATA KAWERO.

Omahu, November 9, 1877.

[Ki te Etita o te Teire Teirikawhe.]

E hoa tena koe me tuku e koe taku Panui i runga i o tatonu reo e rua i te reo Pakeha i te reo Maori hei titiro ma nga tangata Mohio whai whakaaro i runga i te whakaaro pai.

E hoa ma te take o taku Panui he whakaaro naku kia whaka atu au Kia Koutou mo te Ture i Ketea e au i roto i nga Nupepa Pakeha ko tana Ture he mea hanga hei kai i nga whenua e iwi Maori ka nui taku riri ki tana Ture.

Ko te Kupu o tana Ture e ki ana me whaka rite tonu te ware ki te Rangitira me te whenua o te Rangitira kia rite tonu ki te ware Kawa te Rangitira e neke ake i te mea iti o te tangata kia rite tonu i rana haere i runga i nga mea katoa.

E hoa ma e te Runanga Nana tenei ture i hanga whaka rongu mai ki te matou tikanga ki te Maori e hara i te tikanga hou no muri nei, Kaore no mua iho ano no matou tipuna iho tae noa mai nei kia matou.

Ko tana tikanga o matou a te iwi Maori kai nga Rangitira anake nga tikanga katoa te mana katoa mo te whenua mo te tangata mo te Taonga mo te kai mo te kino mo te pai mo te riri mo te mate mo te ora mo nga mea katoa.

Whakarongo ki te puta he kina aha kua nui tana kino ka whaka puta nga Rangitira, kia mutu tana kino mutu tonu e kore e rua nga kupu mutu tonu te riri tetahi aha kua nui te pai ka ki te Rangitira me kino tatanu kino tonu kai nga Rangitira anake te tikanga mo nga mea katoa. Kaore nei he tikanga o matou i nga tutua i nga ware no te mea kaore he mana i runga i a ratou i nga tangata ware Kaore rawa.

Nanga Rangitira te kupu kia kino kino tonu kia pai ka pai, kino Mahia he kai mahi tonu e Matau ana Koutou i naianei.

Nanga Rangitira i hoatu te whenua mo te Pakeha e haro i nga kuare na nga Rangitira anaki ka tahi nei ka kiia, kia rite tonu nga ware me nga Rangitira, kia rite tonu te whenua kia rite tonu te moni ma nga Rangitira ma nga tutua, kai whea tona whenua.

Kai nga Rangitira anaki hoki te wahi paku o te whenua e toe nei.

E hoa ma ka nui te pohehe o te ture a nga Roia i Kawana Kerei ka nui te kino o tana ture i ki atu ana kia Henare Tomoana kia whaka kore atu tauru ture kua kitea hoki e au i te Nupepa Pakeha kua Whaka Maori tia ki au.

Ka tahi ka utua mai e Henare he tito taku korero ka utua atu e au tana kupu e hoa kati koe te ki mai ki au he tito taku korero e hoa kei au te ture, kua oti i au te Whaka Maori ka tahi au ka tuku waea kore atu tana ture ka nui te kino o te ture kia Kawana Kerei ki poueke kia whaka a te Ribii ma Turakino atu e koe.

Ka tahi ka utua mai e Kawana Kerei taku kupu e Renata e Pohehe ana pea koe ki te ture i ki nei koe na nga Roia i Whakatu e rangi waiho maku e ata titiro nga tikanga o tana ture ka tuku atu ai ano i te waea kio koe me he mea he tika te kino o e tahi tikanga waiho maku e whaka tika, ka whaka aro au ki te utu i tana korero ki au, i muri o taku whaka aro, kia utu ai i tana waea ka puta mai tetahi mohio tanga kia au penei, ki te utu atu au i ana korero e kere ia e kaha ki te whaka he i te Ture a ana roia nana ia i tu ai.

Ko te take tenei i kore ai au e utu i ana korero kia au, ka tahi au ka whaka aro ki nga kupu i kia e to hui i te Hauke kia hinga te Kawanatanga, ka tu he Kawanatanga hou me whiriwhiri he runanga mo nga Rangitira Maori hei whaka haere i etahi tikanga mo tatau ma rana tokorua e whaka haere he Ture me kore e ahua pai ka nui nga tau e mahi ana ratou anake te Pakeha he raruraru anake te mahi i nga tau katoa koia i kiia ai ma nga Rangitira Maori ratou ko te Kawanatanga hou e whaka haere nga tikanga mo tatau i naianei me hauke ma te Maori o nga tikanga hei whaka haere, pai rawa tenei ke te whaka aro ake a te ngakau ka nui te pai kia whaka matua ria hoki ki tenei whaka haere kia kitea hoki tona pehea tanga ra o etahi tikanga mo tatau, ki taku whaka aro me mahi raua te Maori me te Pakeha ki te whaka haere i nga tikanga katoa mo te tatau motu me te iwi nui tonu hoki, penei tena pea e kitea te tahi wahi maramatanga o nga tikanga mo tatau, i runga i tenei whaka haere ka marama nga tikanga katoa ka tuturu hei mahi ma tatau ki te korero i marama, kaore ano hoki i waiho tonu hei mahi ma tatau.

Tenei ano te tahi mahi kina me whaka

atu e au i runga i taku panui e rite ana ki te Ture i tubia ki runga ake nei, ko nga tikanga e mahia nei te Wananga ka nui te kino ki taku titiro ko te ahua o tana mahi he whaka wai mai ia matou ko nga korero whaka paipai rupahu nei ka perehi tia e onakai Taiootoko hei titiro ma te iwi Maori, ko ta ratou Ture hei whaka mate mo oratou hua Maori ka pana ki waho o ratou perehi, ko te take pea i waiho ai ki waho o ta ratou Wananga i enei ra e whanga ana ratou kia taha nga ra ka tahi ka tuku ki te kai tangata ki te kai whenua mana. kia pana rawa ake te tangata e hara kua u nga niho o ta ratou ture ki te tangata raua ko te whenua i kona aue noa ai e hara kua u nga niho ki roto. I kites e au tana Ture i roto i nga nupepa Pakeha a tuku ana e au kia Whaka Maori tia ka tahi ka mohio tia e au ta ratou Ture Whanako nei te nei te takoto nei, whaka maro kua ana ka whaka ma hoki nga kai Taiootoko o te Wananga no te mea hoki ka hōpukina e au, tai hōa ano pea ka mahi ano i te tahi mahi ke atu ma ratou, he mahi tuturu hoki no ratou tana mahi ko to ratou hia hia nui ko te moni, ko te mahi i nga tikanga mo te motu nei kia pai kia ora, ka ti ruaka e ratou ki waho o ta ratou Wananga, no te mea ko te patipati moni anake ma ratou te mea nui ia ratou, e hara i te whaka aro pai tana tikanga, me he mea he whaka aro mo te mahi kia tika e kore au e pouri he mahi kino anake nga mahi e kite atu nei au.

RENATA KAWERO.

Omahu, Noema 9, 1877.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23.

(Before Robert Stuart, Esq., R.M.)

DRUNKENNESS. James Stanley, for having been drunk yesterday in a public street, was fined five shillings, and in default imprisonment for twenty-four hours.

ILLEGALLY ON PREMISES. Dennis Daley and John McLean, alias Allan, were both charged with having been found last night without lawful excuse upon the premises of William Robinson. They were both convicted, and sentenced each to three months' imprisonment with hard labor.

CIVIL CASES.

Barry v. Dempsey (Gisborne).—Claim £5 3s 7d. Defendant (whose evidence had been taken at Poverty Bay) had paid 18s into Court, and pleaded not indebted as to the balance. The evidence of plaintiff having been heard, judgment was given for the amount as claimed, with costs £2 8s.

Collie v. A. McKay.—Claim £5 for photography. Judgment for plaintiff for £5, and 9s costs.

Vautier v. Adams.—Claim £4 18s 9d for coals and oats sold in 1869, and interest accruing at 8 per cent. Judgment for plaintiff for amount claimed, and 9s costs.

Myhill v. Williams.—Claim £8 1s 1d, for goods sold and delivered. Judgment for plaintiff for £7 1s 1d, 13s and costs.

Cosgrove's Trustees v. Henare Tomoana.—Adjudged to December 21st.

Graham v. Brown.—Claim £3 16s. No appearance of either side. Case struck out.

Blythe and C. o. v. Boylan.—Claim £29 2s 4d, for goods supplied. Judgment for plaintiffs for amount claimed, and £1 5s costs.

Several other civil cases, as usual, had been settled out of Court.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26.

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

INEBRIATES.

John Stanley was charged by Constable Conner with being drunk in a public place on Saturday evening. The defendant pleaded guilty to the soft impeachment and was fined 5s or take the usual alternative.

James Stanley, who appeared in answer to a charge of being drunk, confessed his fault. He got rather excited and took a glass of beer to much. Unfortunately the police nabbed him. He was fined 10s or 48 hours.

ILLEGALLY ON PREMISES. Francis Coyne was charged with being illegally on the premises of Mr. W. Y. Dennett yesterday morning.

From the evidence given it appeared that the defendant had been knocking about the Star Hotel on Sunday morning, and would not leave the premises. At last he managed to get inside one of the closets, and was given in charge of the constable by the landlord, who wished to be particularly careful as to drunken men knocking about his premises on Sunday.

He was fined 10s., or 48 hours imprisonment.

REFUGE FOR THE DESTITUTE

A man named William Stewart was brought before the Court by Constable Harvey, charged with being illegally on the premises of Mr. B. Johnson, timber merchant, Port Ahuriri.

The defendant informed the Court that he had come from Wanganui, and having only 6d in his pockets was unable to pay for lodgings, and the publicans at the Port being unable to accommodate him, he was obliged to take up his quarters among the sawdust in the saw pit of Mr Johnson.

Mr Johnson informed the Court, he believed the man was not strictly speaking a vagrant, and at his request His Worship dismissed the case.

M'ILLAN'S CASE.

Constable McMahon applied to the Court to have this case remanded until Thursday next, as many of the witnesses were in the country.

Mr Lee, who appeared in defence of the prisoner, made no objection and the case was therefore remanded until Thursday. The prisoner was charged with having appropriated moneys entrusted to his care to his own use.

THE SUNDAY DRINK SELLING CASES.

Constable McMahon applied to His Worship to have the cases against Mr Dennett, of the Star Hotel, and Mr James, of the Railway Hotel, adjourned until Thursday next.

In reply to questions put by His Worship, Constable McMahon said that the Inspector made further inquiries into the case against Mr Dennett, and would probably withdraw it.

His Worship: Are you authorised to make an application for a withdrawal of this case?

Mr McMahon: Yes, your Worship. Mr Lascelles asked for the case against Mr James to be also withdrawn.

After some discussion, His Worship decided to grant the application of the police by dismissing the case against Mr Dennett, and remand that of Mr James until Thursday next.

BREACH OF MUNICIPAL LAWS.

Henry Rogers was charged on the information of Constable Burns with having left a cab unattended in Hastings-street.

The case was a trivial one, it being shown by the policeman that the defendant had his wheels locked, and had only gone into the Empire Hotel to deliver a parcel.

Case dismissed. Mr Lascelles appeared for Mr John Allanach, who was charged with leaving a horse and vehicle unattended in Hastings-street on Saturday. It was admitted that defendant had committed a breach of the law, and he was fined £5, and 6s 6d costs.

This concluded the business.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27.

DRUNKENNESS.

Martin Kinsella, Thomas Hawkins, and John Bourke, severally admitted having imbibed too much colonial, and were fined five shillings each, or 24 hours imprisonment in default of payment. The two first named paid up; Bourke made the default.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Hame Whei, a native, was brought before the Court charged with a breach of the peace at Taradale yesterday, by fighting with another native (not in custody) in the public streets. It appeared that defendant had been drinking, and was very excited, and by his conduct created quite a disturbance in the usually quiet township of Taradale, but as no evidence to support the charge of fighting was forthcoming, and the charge of drunkenness was not pressed, defendant was discharged with an admonition from His Worship not to fight any more.

PATRICK LYNCH AGAIN.

The incorrigible Patrick Lynch made his bow (liberally) to the Bench once again this morning, charged with three separate offences, namely, firstly, drunkenness yesterday in the public street at Taradale; second, using obscene language same time and place, and, thirdly, assaulting the constable in the execution of his duty. He was convicted on all three charges, and for each offence was fined ten shillings, or in default of payment forty-eight hours imprisonment. Defendant not being in the possession of any available assets to pay the fines will consequently be kept out of further mischief for the next six days.

CIVIL CASES.

Several summonses for debt had been issued for hearing to-day, but in all the cases plaintiffs withdrew their suits.



## NAPIER HARBOR BOARD.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27.

The Board met at 11 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Messrs Kinross (chairman), Vautier, Smith, Chambers, Kennedy, Newman, and Robjohns.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Engineer's Report upon Messrs Murray, Common and Co.'s application to have a portion of the quay alongside their store filled up was read.

Mr Smith proposed, and Mr Vautier seconded, "That the work should be carried out." This was carried.

Mr Vautier proposed, and Mr Smith seconded, "That the Engineer should call for tenders to have a shed 16 x 16 erected forthwith on the Petane beach, in accordance with the pilot's suggestion." Carried.

In compliance with a request from the Harbour Master, it was proposed by Mr Smith, and seconded by Mr Vautier, to have the Pania rock buoy towed in for an overhaul." Carried.

The Engineer's Report upon the condition of the bar, accompanied by a table shewing the depth of water during the past fortnight was read.

After the Secretary had read Mr Weber's report, the Chairman remarked that the Engineer's report was satisfactory, and much more convincing than the croaking prophesy of the "Man in the Street," who can anticipate only failure in their works. He for one had no reason for failure. Harbours elsewhere have been constructed on the same plan, but not with anything like the favorable condition of our harbour. We have two rivers discharging themselves into the inner lagoon, and in addition the scour caused by the ebb tide from the wide area of that lagoon. When it ceased operation, it was high time to take steps to preserve our harbour. The entrance has widened to two or three times its original channel, as may be seen on referring to the charts, and the Western Spit was steadily wearing away. When the entrance was narrower than we have now made it, he could remember ships of 500 tons loading inside, and he hope to see them again. They were now experiencing the drought which is prevailing over a great part of the globe, and have not this year had the river floods to clear away the large deposit of shingle inside the pier. It may be necessary to assist nature in removing this deposit. Mr Smith lately instanced to us the harbour of Leith, which in course of construction filled up with silt. Then the croakers succeeded in stopping the works, and what was the result? The contractor recovered £20,000 damages from the Harbor Board for suspending operations, and after a year they were resumed, and the harbor completed, and it answered expectations. At Sunderland, after the harbor works were finished, the channel had to be dredged out, but it has remained open ever since without dredging. I could refer to many other similar cases. I am sorry to see one of the local papers has taken up this Cassandra cry, and devotes leaders to it. Many people are apt to accept as Gospel what appears this way in a paper, and on this account he referred to it. According to this day's leader, the trade of the port is leaving it. So far is this from being the case that much more wool is coming from the coast to Napier than in former years, and from stations which formally shipped to Wellington. If the charges were heavier here, that of course would not be done. Again, so satisfactory is the Napier trade to the Union Shipping Company that they now intend running their fine steamers weekly on the East Coast. He could assure them that the trade of the port was extending in a most satisfactory way. It may be that the eastern pier may require to be extended still further into the Bay. He thought this quite likely, but it may be made a paying work. We saw how the travelling shingle reclaiming land, and by placing a few inexpensive groins along the eastern beach, we may reclaim valuable land, which will recoup the cost of any extension of the Harbor Works.

The Secretary was authorized to apply to the Marine Department, Wellington, for copies of the Harbor Regulations for the ports of New Zealand, with a view to handing copies to captains visiting the port, so that they might be better acquainted with the rules.

A letter was read from the Napier Municipal Corporation, signed by the Town Clerk, asking the Board to abate the nuisance existing on their section No. 469.

Proposed by Mr Robjohns, and seconded by Mr Chambers, "That the

Engineer be instructed to call for tenders to fill up the section in question."

The report of the Committee appointed to report on the Whare-o-maraenu Block was laid on the table.

On the motion of Mr Smith, seconded by Mr Kennedy, it was resolved that the report should be considered at the next meeting of the Board.

The monthly accounts were then ordered to be paid.

To avoid clashing with the December holidays, it was proposed by Mr Kennedy, and seconded by Mr Smith, "That the two next ordinary meetings of the Board be held on the 18th and 31st December respectively, and not on the regular Tuesdays."—Carried.

The Board then adjourned.

## WORKING MEN'S CLUB.

A general meeting of the Working Men's Club was held last week in the Club-room.

The President, Mr Gold, occupied the chair, and explained to the members the reason of their being called together.

The minutes of the last meeting were then read by the Secretary (Mr H. Steed) and were afterwards confirmed.

The President then congratulated the members on the success of the institution. He had much pleasure in informing them that between 260 and 270 members were now enrolled. (Cheers.) The success of the club was far beyond the most sanguine expectations of those who had initiated it, and he was now confident should they all pull together it would continue to still further flourish. They had been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Binnie as Steward and Mrs Binnie as Stewardess, and it was patent to every member that they deserved great credit for the manner in which they performed their duty. (Cheers.) The first question they had to consider was as to the necessity of forming a Library. He felt sure that the formation of a Library would greatly tend to make the institution more popular.

Mr Lindsay proposed that a Library be formed, and pointed out the benefits to be derived from getting a circulating Library and also works of reference.

Mr Grigg would support the formation of a Library, but thought a committee should be formed for the purpose of obtaining funds and also obtaining information as to the best means of carrying out the object.

A discussion then ensued, in which Messrs Chipping, Sellars, Williams, and several other members took part. At length a resolution was carried affirming the necessity of a Library, and on Mr Woolcock's motion the following members were appointed to carry out the object, viz:—Messrs Lindsay, Gillespie, Plowman, Chipping, Wundrum, Grigg, Knight, Fox, Sencer, and Carlile five to be a quorum, the first meeting of the Committee to be held on Monday night.

The President then brought before the notice of members the requisition with regard to a billiard table.

Mr E. H. Grigg thought the getting of a billiard table was premature, believing the Club required many other attractions of an educational nature, and moved that the subject of a billiard table be left over until the next annual meeting.

Mr Murphy said he would move as an amendment that the words annual meeting be left out, so that the matter could be again debated at any meeting that might take place.

Mr Grigg was willing to leave the date out, and the motion being seconded in that form, it was duly carried.

The proposition for a piano fell through, no one speaking to the motion.

Mr Tuely proposed that the public room be set apart once a week for singing and music.

The President supported the proposition. He regretted to notice that so few unskilled working men had joined the Club. He thought if singing and music were allowed once a week, it would be an attraction for them to join.

After several members had expressed themselves in favor of the motion it was put and carried.

Mr E. H. Grigg proposed the formation of a Debating Class, in which could be discussed matters social and political.

Mr Sellars seconded the proposition, and it was agreed that a Debating Class be held on Thursday evenings in the public room, open to all members of the Club, the first meeting to make a programme for the session to be held on Thursday evening next.

Mr Carlile mentioned that Dr. Spencer and Mr Bold had offered to give lectures in connection with the Club.

The President then brought before the notice of the members the formal inauguration of the Club.

A long discussion ensued, in which

several members took part. It was eventually resolved, on the motion of Mr Grigg, that it should consist of a musical entertainment, to be held in the Odd-fellows' Hall, and to be got up under the management of the general committee, the proceeds to go in aid of the Library funds.

The President mentioned that Mrs Neill, Dr Spencer, and Mr Carlile, had kindly offered to assist, and no doubt others would follow their example.

A vote of thanks was given to Mrs Neill and those who had proffered their help and assistance.

The President then spoke in high terms of praise of the assistance rendered by Dr Spencer and Mr Carlile in the formation of the Club, and suggested that they be rewarded by making them life members.

Mr H. T. H. Knight proposed that Dr Spencer and Mr Carlile be elected life members in accordance with one of the rules.

Mr Deane seconded the resolution. The proposition was unanimously carried.

Mr Carlile, on behalf of Dr Spencer and himself, returned thanks.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

## POISONOUS LOLLIES.

The examination made by Mr F. Dunn into the character of the confectionery sold and manufactured in Melbourne has opened the eyes of the public to the way in which their children are being poisoned wholesale. It may well be said that death lurks in the lolly shops. During several months last year Mr Dunn was engaged in a strict chemical examination of the confectionery manufactured in Melbourne, and found a frightful record of the immorality of those engaged in that trade. Of 69 samples—coloured yellow and orange red—he found 16 to contain large quantities of chromate of lead, a deadly poison; and ten like samples were found to contain ultramarine which is a double silicate of alumina and soda, with sulphuret of sodium. Green lollies contained lead, while white lozenges and medicinal lozenges were found to be largely adulterated with flour. What was labelled in the shops "best liquorice" was found to be half potato starch. The exposure was so thorough that the Central Board of Health got other Boards of Health throughout the colony to move in the matter, and samples of Victorian made confectionery were obtained from all parts of the colony, for the purpose of chemical analysis. One sample of lolly stick was found to contain chromate of lead to the extent of 38.88 grains per pound of comfit. A sample of cocoanut cream was also found to contain 17.92 grains of chromate of lead per pound of cream. A sweet-meat known as "cob of corn," which it greatly resembled, was coloured red on one side and yellow on the other. The red was found to be a harmless vegetable colour, while the yellow was produced by chromate of lead, in some places so thickly danted that it was plainly discernible to the naked eye. This poisonous comfit, to make it more pleasant, was flavored with essence of peppermint. "Turkey rock" was also found to contain an amount of chromate of lead equal to 63.52 grains per pound of sweetmeats. The examination which has recently been made has just been published at the Government Press. There is a sensible improvement as compared with last year, but still many things are adulterated with deadly poisons. It has been found that many of the manufacturers have reduced the quantity of chromate of lead used to from one-eighth to one-sixteenth of the quantity used last year, and a greater proportion has been found to be coloured with harmless vegetable colours. The sweetmeats found to be coloured with the poisonous chromates were cinnamon lozenges, conversation lozenges, fancy cuts, ginger lozenges, lolly-sticks, and London and Scottish mixtures. It is time that some legislative action were taken to make it penal to mix sweetmeats with any poisonous substances. Until this be done the temptation to make a large, though unjust, profit will outweigh all the arguments that can be used on behalf of morality and Christianity. The City Council might do worse than instruct a competent chemist to make a thorough investigation into the character of the sweetmeats sold in Auckland.—New Zealand Herald.

"Mother, mother, here's Freddy teasing the baby. Make him cry again, Freddy, and then mother will give him some sugar, and I'll take it away from him, then he'll squall, and mother will give him some more, and you take that, and then we'll both have some."

## SIR G. BOWEN ON THE VICI-TUDES OF GOVERNORS

At the dinner by which the new Mayor of Melbourne (Councillor Pigdon) celebrated his entry into office, Sir G. Bowen, in responding to the toast of "His Excellency the Governor," in the course of an admirable speech said:—"This is the fifth time, I think, on which I have had the honor of being present at one of these annual banquets of inauguration of successive mayors of Melbourne, and I have always been most cordially received at them all. (Cheers.) I only wish most heartily that I could hope to dine here five times more. (Cheers.) I have always endeavoured to bring together in Melbourne at this time of the year the Governors and other eminent personages of the neighbouring colonies, for I am sure you will agree with me that such meetings do much public good in various ways. (Cheers.) During the last twelve-months I have entertained the Governors of all the Australian colonies, and this year I invited the Governor of Madras (the Duke of Buckingham) and the Governor of New Zealand (the Marquis of Normanby). (Cheers.) I regret much that both were prevented from accepting the invitation by the exigencies of their respective Governments—in the case of Madras, by that lamentable famine, one of those famines of such frequent occurrence in India, and which Australia has recently contributed so nobly to alleviate (cheers), and in the case of New Zealand by one of those Ministerial crises (laughter) which, like the famine in India, are of periodical occurrence even in these cooler, and one might suppose, less excitable latitudes."

The correspondent of the New Zealand Herald, writing under date of Nov. 17th, gives particulars of a sad occurrence which occurred at Mercer the previous day:—"A few sad facts in connection with the melancholy case of drowning of the man Tait, which took place here last Saturday night, were brought up before the Coroner, Capt. Jackson, R.M., who presided to-day over the inquest held upon the body. It appears that about midday yesterday the body was observed by some men walking upon the railway, which at this point runs parallel with the river. By throwing lumps of earth beyond the body, it was gradually brought towards the bank. A man here got on a projecting stump, and succeeded in getting hold of the body, but in consequence of the current he was scarcely able to hold on till a companion arrived with some flax, by which the body was securely moored to the tree. Constable Walker having now been communicated with, steps were under his directions immediately taken to remove the remains to the iron round-house, where the jury examined the body. It appears that Mrs Tait having become alarmed at the unusual absence of her husband, came to the village to inquire after him, and learning that he had left to go home by canoe, she at once proceeded on her return homewards. Calling him by name as she went, she eventually had the satisfaction of hearing him reply. Then he was well out in the river. According to her request to come nearer the bank, he turned his canoe in her direction. The poor woman saw him pulling towards the bank, and feeling certain that he would soon regain the shore, she darted home to prepare tea. But a weary time passed, and, after repeated visits to the bank, the distracted woman at last, and in the dim morning light, came upon the upset canoe. The husband was gone, and the inquest of to-day merely corroborated the opinion that universally prevails—that the deceased met his death by the accidental capsizing of the canoe. Mrs Tait is left entirely destitute. She has a little baby six months of age."

Major Tisdall, the Government branding officer, vice Colonel Gorton, promoted, is now on a branding tour to the various Government offices in Auckland. He was last seen busy (says the New Zealand Herald) branding the crockery, gas shades, penholders, and the various paraphernalia of the Post-office Department.

A correspondent points out that the Prince of Wales is the 33rd great-grandson of King Alfred; and he adds—"Thus the English Throne has remained in the possession of the same family for over 1000 years."

An Albany damsel asked one of her fellow boarders, a stylish dry goods clerk at the breakfast table: "Why is your moustache like my back hair?" He blushing gave it up, when the answer caused him to blush still more: "Because it's all down."

"Aunt Julia," said a blooming girl of seventeen, "what is necessary to write a good love-letter?" "Well," replied the aunt, "you must begin without knowing what you mean to write, and finish without knowing what you have written."

A writer in the Post, after weighing the claims of various cities to be the birthplace of Rubens, arrives at the conclusion that the palm must in all probability be awarded to that town where his mother was staying at the time!—Examiner.



Home News.

ENGLAND.

Earl Russell is 85, having been born on August 19th, 1792.

The Home Secretary has appointed a committee to inquire into the condition of the London detective force.

The Sanitary Record denies a statement that an outbreak of Asiatic cholera had occurred at Byers Green, Durham.

Mr Edward Cunard, second son of the late Sir Edward Cunard, was killed on the 30th ult. while playing at polo near Folkestone.

Several English Mayors have received telegrams from Madras, entreating them to open subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers by the famine.

Lord Stratheden and Campbell presided recently at a meeting held in the Westminster Palace Hotel, London, to organise a national anti-Russian demonstration.

Dr Baxter Langley, Wm. Swindlehurst, and Edward Satory have been committed for trial on a charge of having defrauded the Artisans' Dwellings Company of £30,000.

The Princess of Wales has, by her own desire, been elected a "Dame Chevaliere of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem," a philanthropic society presided over by the Duke of Manchester.

Lord Burghley, the Conservative candidate, has been elected successor to the late Mr Ward Hunt in the representation of North Northamptonshire, having obtained a majority of 786 over Captain Edgell, the Liberal candidate.

Lord Russell has requested his name to be added to the list of noblemen and gentlemen who have expressed their opinion that the National Society should send an equal number of ambulances to the Russian and Turkish armies.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Great Northern Railway Company in London, Lord Colville, the chairman, announced that the two accidents at Abbots Ripton and Arlesey Riding had cost the Company £200,000 in personal compensation alone.

Mr W. E. Gladstone, in commemoration of the late Caxton Celebration, has presented to the French Academy, of which he is a foreign associate, the copy of the small octavo Oxford Press Bible, which was specially struck off for him when he presided on that occasion.

The Duke of Sunderland's agent has served the Town Clerk of Stoke with notice that unless that town ceases to pollute the Trent with its sewage, application will be made for sequestration of the borough funds. A similar notice is about to be served on the Town Clerk of Hanley. Action has already been taken against Newcastle-under-Lyme.

News from England confirms the report of a serious strike among the cotton spinners in Bolton and other parts of Lancashire. Already about 12,000 persons have struck work, and 100 mills are closed. The cause of the strike is an unwillingness on the part of the operatives to submit to a reduction of five per centum in their wages. A similar strike occurred in 1874, when the matter being submitted to arbitration was decided against the men. The five per cent. then taken off was restored in 1875, and the present strike is occasioned by an attempt to make the reduction again.

SCOTLAND.

Father Gavazzi has been lecturing in Ayr.

The King of Denmark visited Edinburgh in cog.

The Very Rev. Dean Stanley has visited Dr. Story at Roseneath.

Miss Jessie Forrest has been declared the champion croquet player of Scotland.

The Rev. W. R. Nicoll, Duffton, has accepted a call to the Free Church, Kelso.

The Government grant to the Glasgow School Board last year amounted to £13,752.

The potato disease is reported to have shown itself on several farms in the Carse of Gowrie.

There were 186 fires in Edinburgh in the year ending May last, or 23 more than in the previous twelve months.

The subscription to the Burns's statue at Kilmarnock now amounts to upwards of £1,835.

The Prince of Wales has subscribed 25 guineas to the fund of the Social Science Congress to be held at Aberdeen.

The magistrates of Greenock have granted a sum of £50 towards the relief of those laborers who are in distress through the lock-out.

At a quarterly meeting of the West-barns Co-operative Society a dividend of two-sixths was divided among the members.

The Scotch express train met with an alarming accident at the Motherwell Station on the 15th August, by which

several persons were injured, and much damage was done.

The wet unseasonable summer has not been favorable for attracting tourists to the Highlands. The weather in August, however, gave promise of improvement, and the arrivals in Oban from the south largely increased.

The property of Lodgehill, Nairn, which belonged to the late Colonel H. Murray, was exposed to public sale on the 14th August, at the upset price of £2500, and after competition was knocked down to Mr. Thomas Lowe, late of New Zealand, for £2565.

Lammas Fair, the great agricultural event of the year in Orkney, began on the 15th August at Sunnybank, Kirkwall. The town was densely crowded with visitors from the surrounding islands, and dealers in cattle and all kinds of wares from the south. The show of horses was very large, and numerous transactions took place at a decline in price. Cattle were not so numerous, but prices were maintained. The gathering of people was larger than formerly. Dense fog prevailed all day.

A very laudable effort is being made in Aberdeen, Scotland, to form a Co-operative House Building Company. There is need of a large number of houses for the families of working men, and the present effort is meant to accomplish two objects—first, to meet this public want; and second, to encourage in a higher degree habits of frugality among the people. The proposal is to raise £5000 in £1 shares, upon which the directors would raise another £5000. Already 3052 shares have been taken up, many of them being single shares, and of these 2207 have been partially or fully paid. The effort is worthy of all encouragement. Its practical effect must be beneficial. A similar company was started in Edinburgh a few years ago, which now owns property to the value of over £200,000, and regularly pays a dividend of from 7½ to 15 per cent. The example set in Aberdeen may be wisely followed in other places.

IRELAND.

Contrary to expectation, the Lady-day celebration passed over peaceably in the North of Ireland.

Daniel O'Connell, Esq., of Ballynahown, Caherciveen, has been appointed to the Commission of the Peace for the County Kerry.

The Cavan Anglo Celt of September last says:—"The continuous rain for the past six weeks has materially interfered with harvest operations in the County Cavan."

At the half-yearly meeting of the Dublin Tramway Company a dividend of 8 per cent. per annum was declared, and £750 carried to the reserve fund.

From all parts of the County Limerick there is an unanimity of statement that the harvest of 1877 will be one of the best experienced for years past.

The potato crop in the County Mayo, it is apprehended, is most seriously damaged by the recent wet weather. Hailstones fell with the rain and squalls.

The Marquis of Conyngham is causing considerable improvements to be made in the town of Slane. Several new pumps and fountains are to be erected.

The farmers of the Wicklow district are somewhat alarmed at the state of agriculture, owing to the continuous down-pour of rain and severe frosts at night.

The Cork examiner says that the Holy Father has been pleased to appoint the Rev. Canon Fitzgerald, ex-president of St. Colman's College, to the vacant See of Ross.

On August 22nd, the month's memory of the late Sir Colman M. O'Loghlen was celebrated in the Catholic church of Barefield, the parochial church of Drumcondra, the family residence of the deceased baronet, and was attended by a large congregation of clergy and laity.

Sir Bryen O'Loghlen, who is in his 40th year, is not likely to gain much by the parliamentary honours lately thrust upon him, as the position of Crown Prosecutor, which he has held for some years in Australia, must be a fairly profitable one, the salary of Attorney-General there being £1600 a year, and the four minor judges £3,000 each.

Cardinal Cullen issued a circular on September 14th to his clergy, requesting them to make arrangements for a chapel door collection on Sunday, September 23rd, in aid of the Indian Famine Fund. He alludes to the generous aid already sent by England and Ireland to the relief of the sufferers, but believes that the subscription has not yet had so wide an extent as would be desired. He reminds the people of the fact that during the Irish famine the people of Madras forwarded a magnificent contribution, and hopes this will not be forgotten on the occasion of the subscription. The Protestant Bishop of Limerick has also addressed his clergy on the subject, suggesting a general collection.

NOW LANDING, Ex "Lochnagar," "Helen Denny," and "Mataura," 25 CASES CURRANTS

- 30 barrels Currants
- 4 cases Figs, small boxes
- 3 cases Muscatels, small boxes
- 100 boxes Sultanias
- 10 cases Barcelona Nuts
- 10 cases Shell Almonds
- 20 boxes Jordan Almonds
- 100 boxes Price's Candles
- 1 case Williams' Butcher Knives
- 3 cases Stationery, assorted
- 1 hoghead Milk Dishes
- 120 Camp Ovens, 12 to 18 inch
- 3 cases Rooney's Brushware
- 3 cases Looking-glasses, assorted
- 2 bales Seaming Twine
- 1 case Oakley's Glass Paper
- 2 cases Atkin's Smooth, Jack, and Trymg Planks
- 1 case Sorby's Bill, Fern, and Slashing Hooks
- 5 cases, containing Cut Tacks, Cast Butts, T. Hinges, C.P. Locks
- 3 cases Holloware
- 15 cases Earthenware, assorted
- 12 cases Fry's Cocoa, Chocolate, &c.
- 25 cases Colman's Starch
- 10 cases Colman's Mustard, ½ and 1 lbs
- 2 cases Colman's Thumb Blue
- 1 case Mixed Spice
- 1 case Ground Ginger
- 3 cases Whole Ginger, bleached and unbleached
- 2 cases Cloves and Nutmegs
- 6 cases Day and Martin's Blacking
- 20 cases Moir's Golden Hair Oil, assorted
- 10 cases Moir's Ling Fish
- 20 cases Moir's Sardines
- 300 cases Morton's Oilmen's Stores, embracing—  
Table Vinegar, Castor Oil, Pickles, Curry, Bottled Fruits, Jar Salt, Salad Oil, Carraway Seed, Canary and Hemp Seed, Chlorodyne, Hair Oil, L. and P. Sauce, Glycerine Soap, Essences, Feeding Bottles, Red HERRINGS, Arrowroot, Epsom Salts, Senna, Lemonade and Seidlitz Powders, Cinna-moon, and Mace (ground and whole), Tart Acid, Cream Tartar, Persian Sherbet, assorted Sauces, &c.
- 21 cases and casks Ironmongery, assorted as follows—Gillips's Augurs, Ward's Chisels, Nettelford's Screws, Avery's Counter Scales, Colored and Gray Shop Twine, Patty Pans, Jelly Moulds, Pack Needles, Table, Tea, and Dessert Spoons, Spring Boxes, Rat Traps, Wire Dish Covers, Lamp Wick, Sticks' Files, Horse Rasps, Meat Hooks, Hat and Coat Hooks, Plated Squares, Mincing Machines, Knife Boards, Quilts, Bellows, Plate Locks, Can Openers
- 100 Kegs Wire Nails
- 10 cases Henry Bruce and Co's Men's and Ladies' Saddles, Girths, Spurs, &c., &c.
- 60 drums Raw and Boiled Oil
- 10 barrels Raw and Boiled Oil
- 2 cases White Lead, No. 1 and 2
- 1 ton White Lead, in wood
- 5 cases Raddle
- 3 cases Oak Varnish, 1 and 5 gals.
- 1 cask Black Paint
- 1 cask Green Paint
- 3 cases Patent Drills
- 1 cask Lampblack, ½ and 1 lb
- 2 cases Resin's Blue
- 10 cases B. and P. Corn Flour
- 3 cases Cigars, assorted
- 1 case Concertinas
- 2 cases Johnson's and Lockwood's Cutlery
- 1 case Axle Pullies
- 1 case Fish Hooks, Fish Lines
- 1 case Sorby's Hand Saws
- 1 hoghead Colanders and Coffee Pots
- 1 case Candlesticks, Tea Pots, Toilet Cans, Slop Pans
- 1 case Robert Sorby's Hay Forks
- 2 cases Robert Sorby's Scythe Blades
- 1 case Tyzack's Scythe Blades
- 1 case Reap Hooks and Sickles
- 5 cases Turkey and Scythe Stones
- Brassware &c. &c.

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LANDED,

- 25 Ex "Rotorna," from Sydney—  
TONS COMPANY'S SUGAR, ASSORTED
- 10 cases Treacle
- 6 cases Colonial Saddlery

ON SALE,

- 200 Ex "Silas Fleming," from New York, CASES KEROSENE
- 1 case Hay Forks, each 2 and 3 Prong
- 1 case Manura and Potato Forks
- 2 cases L. H. Shovels
- 10 Bundles Scythe Snathas
- 5 cases Axe Handles
- 20 cases Men's and Boys' Axes, Tomahawk, Shingling Hatchets, &c.

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TO ARRIVE,

- 34 Per "Renfrewshire," due in December, GARTON and KING'S STOVES, 2ft 6in. to 3ft.
- 6 hales Sugar Bags, 1 to 6lb
- 1 hale Tea Bags
- 12 cases Envelopes, Note Paper, Playing Cards
- Slate Penells, Day Book, Ledgers, Metallic and Memo. Books, Copy Books, Blotting Paper, Inks, etc.
- Per "Adamant," due in December.
- 5 BALES TAUPAULINS, 12 x 14, 14 x 16, 16 x 20, 20 x 22, 24 x 30
- 3 bales Navy Canvas
- 5 bales Seaming Twine

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