

WEEKLY MERCURY

AND

Hawke's Bay Advertiser,

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

Vol. II.—No. 66.

NAPIER, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1877.

PRICE SIXPENCE

IMPORTANT SALE.

THOROUGHBRED HORSE STOCK,
AT HASTINGS ON
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1877,
At Noon.

MR. M. R. MILLER
Has been instructed by R. Farmer, Esq., of
Longlands, to submit for public sale, at
Hastings, on the above date, the under-
noted Thoroughbred Horse Stock,

- "BLACK BESS"**
1 2 ch m, by "St. Patrick"
2 "Duchess"
3 "Marchioness"
4 "Lady Bird"
5 "Mina Mina"
6 "Merlin"
YEARLINGS
7 "Lady Elizabeth"
8 "Merlin"

Also,
The property of Mr. Watt, in training,
Ch c "Merlin" and b g "Parawhenua."

The Auctioneer feels that the well-known
Stud Stock of those gentlemen require no
comment.

Catalogues, with terms and full particu-
lars can be obtained at the office of the
the undersigned,

M. R. MILLER,
Auctioneer.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1877,
AT HASTINGS.

M. R. MILLER.

Has been favored with instructions from
Mr. G. P. Donnelly to dispose of, by
Public Auction, on the above date, at
Hastings, the whole of his

THOROUGHBRED STOCK
comprising the well-known chestnut
colt "Otopai," 4 years, got by Pacific, dam
Valletta, and winner of the Napier and
Havelock Handicap, 1876.

"Tawera," br colt, 4 years old, got by
Pacific, dam Magic, and winner of the
Maiden Plate last November.

"Tamatia," 3 years, bay colt, got by
Pacific, dam Valletta.

The above are nominated for the Waga-
nui J. C. Handicap.

1 Brown Colt, 2 years, full brother to
Otopai.

1 yearling Colt by Pacific, dam Magic,
Valletta, got by Young Plover, dam
Ada, by Jether, stinted to Papapa.

1 yearling, got by Bishop, dam Matilda,
imported from Sydney to Auck-
land by Messrs. Crunin and Wil-
liamson, and winner of the Maiden
Plate, 1875. Stinted to Mute.

The Auctioneer wishes to draw special
attention to the above Thoroughbred Stock
which are for positive sale. The Young
Stock are got by the well-known imported
horse Pacific, out of Mares chosen by Mr.
Donnelly.

M. R. MILLER,
Auctioneer.

SMALL FREEHOLD PROPERTIES
AT WAIROA.

40 TO 200 ACRES EACH.

BY AUCTION.

MONDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1877,
At Napier.

M. R. MILLER

Has received instructions from R. D.
Maney, Esq., to sell by public auction, on
the above date, at Napier,
THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS in the
Wairoa District:—

No. 39—50 acres No. 65—60 acres
" 37—60 " " 66—60 "

Liberal terms.

Plans may be had at the office of the
auctioneer

M. R. MILLER.

WANTED KNOWN—That in all
Orders for GENERAL PRINTING
executed at the DAILY TELEGRAPH Office,
FULL NUMBERS are guaranteed.

IMPROVED FREEHOLD ESTATES.

PAKOWHAI, NEAR NAPIER.

440 ACRES, 416 ACRES, 613 ACRES.

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION
AT NAPIER ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26,
At Noon.

M. R. MILLER

HAS received positive instructions from
the owner of the above properties,
Alex. McHardy, Esq., to dispose of all his
freehold lands at Pakowhai, in three separ-
ate, compact blocks, each complete and
workable in itself—and present improve-
ments, except buildings, rendering each
block capable of re-division if afterwards
found desirable by the purchaser. The
whole of the lands are under English
grasses, watered by seven artesian wells,
and are divided into numerous paddocks,
each having all requisite surface drainage
provided for. The fences are most substan-
tial, a number of them double with live quick
hedges. These, with small plantations
dotted over the property, afford ample
shelter. This Estate, now well known as
the best fattening country in New Zealand,
is carrying fat, an average of AT LEAST
SEVEN SHEEP PER ACRE. It is handy to
market and Port, the nearest point being
only about six miles from Napier. On the
440 acre Block there are a substantial
Dwelling House and Offices, Stables,
Looseboxes, Cowsheds, numerous yards,
and a dip. The Woolshed and Yards are
within 2½ miles of the Farndon Railway
Station.

As the owner requires not only all his
available capital, but also to bestow the
whole of his attention on a larger and more
distant property, he finds it ABSOLUTELY
NECESSARY TO EFFECT A SALE of this. To
ensure this result the reserve is really
nominal, having NOW BEEN REDUCED to a
sum far below value. The terms will be
easy, as about TWO-THIRDS remain on
mortgage at SEVEN PER CENT FOR EIGHT
YEARS.

As the property must be quitted, intend-
ing buyers will do well to pay an early
visit. Plans may be seen and further
particulars obtained at the offices of the
auctioneer,

M. R. MILLER,
Napier.

Napier, 8th January, 1877.

BUTCHER BUSINESS AND STOCK FOR SALE, AT HAVELOCK.

M. R. MILLER

Has received instructions from Mr. Wm.
Smith, at Havelock, (who has purchased
another property, and relinquishing this
business) to sell by Public Auction on
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26,
THE WHOLE OF HIS INTEREST
PROPERTY, AND WORKING
PLANT, &c., being a large and commodi-
ous Butcher Shop with Dwelling-house at-
tached, situated at the junction of the
Hastings, Te Aute, and Te Mata roads,
opposite the Exchange Hotel. Together
with the Goodwill of his first-rate Business
not only in Havelock, but also in surround-
ing districts. On the half acre on which
the Shop and House are erected, there are
also detached Sausage-room, with one of
Stacey's large Sausage Machines; Men's-
room, Out-house, 3 stall Stable, Cow-shed,
and Yards, and two large Coppers built in
good working order; Also, the unexpired
term of lease (3 years) of 127 acres well-
grassed and watered land, adjoining with
Slaughter yards, and gear therein.

On a date after to be fixed will be sold at
Havelock, 41 well-bred Pigs, 3 Young Boars
1 a two-year old, 3 Horses, 3 Springcarts,
and 2 sets Harness.

To a purchaser of the Buildings and
Goodwill, liberal terms will be given.
Occupation 21 days after the Sale, till
which date only a deposit will be required.

Terms for Stock and Moveable Plant,
Cash.

M. R. MILLER,
Auctioneer.

AUCTION SALE OF LAND

AT
WEST CLIVE.

ROUTLEDGE, KENNEDY & CO.
Are instructed by R. P. Giffard, Esq., to
sell by Public Auction at their Rooms,
Napier, on
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1877,
At 2 p.m.

SUBURBAN SECTION No. 25, and a
portion of Suburban Section No. 26,
West Clive, containing exclusive of roads,
about 15 Acres. Subdivided into convenient
Building Allotments of from a quarter
acre to one acre.

The above offers a splendid opportunity
for persons desirous of acquiring a Free-
hold in this convenient and healthy locality.
The land is of the first quality, and safe
from floods.

Plans of the Property will be published.

Terms liberal.

ROUTLEDGE, KENNEDY & CO.
Will offer for sale by Public Auction on
Friday, 16th instant, at Mr. W. Waite's
Yards, Port Ahuriri,
2 DUDGING LINCOLN RAMS

- 1 Marshall ditto ditto
1 Casswell ditto ditto
Recently imported by Melville Smith.

The above Rams will be sold in their
wool, and one day before being released
from Quarantine.

Napier, February 3, 1877.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1877,
At 11 o'clock sharp.

BOOKS, STATIONERY, ARTISTS MATERIALS, AND FANCY GOODS.

ROUTLEDGE, KENNEDY & CO.
Will sell by Public Auction, at their Rooms
Tennyson-street, without the slightest
reserve, a consignment of Goods as above,
including

DRAWING Papers, Winsor and New-
ton's Water Colours, loose and in
boxes, Drawing Pencils, Books, Sketch
Blocks, Camel Hair Brushes, Exercise and
Copy Books, Overland and Linear Note
Paper, Foolscap, Inkstands, Pocket and
Metallic Memorandum Books, Blotting
Books and Cases, Envelopes, L.S.D. Mem-
orandum Books, Puzzles, Common
Prayers, Church Services, Juvenile and
Toy Books, Dictionaries, Cheap Novels,
&c., &c.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1877.

ROUTLEDGE, KENNEDY & CO.
Have received instructions from Mr. S. C.
Caulton to sell by Public Auction on the
above date, immediately after the Races,
the two following Thoroughbred Horses

TREGAEGLE II, brown horse, four
years old, bred in South Australia.
By Tregaegle I (imported from England)
out of Mignonette, by Egremont out of
Grey Bess, by Peter Finn (imported) out of
an Arab mare, Tregaegle by Wild Dayrell,
&c.

Gillie Callum, brown horse, bred by Mr.
John Tait, of New South Wales. By the
Barb out of Rubina, by Warwick (im-
ported from England) out of St. John's
Queen, by St. John (imported from Eng-
land) out of Queen Victoria, by Gratis (im-
ported from England) out of Lady Emily
(imported from England), The Barb by Sir
Hercules, &c.

Napier, February 5, 1877.

ROUTLEDGE, KENNEDY & CO
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
from Messrs Lane, Campbell & Co., of
Dunedin, a consignment of

100 CASES of their well-known
Wine, Raspberry Vinegar, Rum Punch,
Cherry Brandy, Champagne, Cider, Lime
Juice, Cordials, Aromatic Sherry Bitters,
&c., &c., &c.

The quality of the above is strongly re-
commended to Hotel keepers and others,
as being equal to any imported from
England, while the prices are much lower.

FOR LONDON DIRECT.



THE A1 Iron Barque
"SCHIEHALLION,"
CAPTAIN SERACK,
602 tons Register.

This ship is a regular and favorite
trader to this port, and will be followed by
other first-class ships.

In consequence of the reduction of
freights at the Southern Ports the above
vessel will load at ½d per lb for greasy, and
¼d per lb for washed wool, shippers paying
lighterage

For Freight or Passage, apply to
WATT BROS.,
Agents for N.Z. Shipping Co.;

Or to
KINROSS & CO.,
Agents for Shaw, Savill & Co.

WOOL SEASON, 1876-77.

ALBION SHIPPING COMPANY.



THE favorite A1 Clipper
Ship
JESSIE READMAN,
962 tons Register,
CAPTAIN KENNEDY,

Is now on the berth at Wellington loading
for London, and will receive quick despatch.

She is one of the safest and fastest ves-
sels trading to New Zealand, and belongs
to Patrick Henderson's celebrated line of
clipper ships.

First-class accommodation for passen-
gers.

Freight and passage at current rates.

MURRAY COMMON & CO.,
Agents,
Napier and Wellington.

NOTICE.

LEASES for the term of 21 years of the
following Napier Harbor Board Re-
serves will be put up to Public Auction, at
the late Provincial Chambers, on SATUR-
DAY, the 24th February, 1877, at noon:—

No. of Section	A.	R.	P.	More or less.	Next to Watt's store, Spit
544	0	1	16	Do.	Waghorn-st
	1	2	0	Do.	Western Spit
463	0	1	0	Do.	Waghorn-st
464	0	1	0	Do.	Do.
465	0	1	0	Do.	Do.
470	0	1	0	Do.	Do.
471	0	1	0	Do.	Do.
605	0	1	0	Do.	Reclaimed land
608	0	1	0	Do.	Do.
611	0	1	0	Do.	Do.
612	0	1	0	Do.	Do.

For further particulars apply to
C. B. ROADLEY,
Secretary to Napier Harbor Board.
Or the Auctioneer,
MR. J. TURLEY.

CAUTION.

**BARRET & ELLERS PATENT SODA
WATER BOTTLE.**

HAVING secured the sole right to
use in the Province of Hawke's Bay,
Barret and Elers patent Soda-water Bottle
and Syrup Pump, we hereby caution any
person against using or trading with the
same within the Hawke's Bay Province
without our authority.

GILBERD & CO.
Dickens-street, Napier,
January 16th, 1877.

ROUTLEDGE, KENNEDY & CO.

ARE instructed to sell privately a
DWELLING HOUSE, situated im-
mediately opposite the Hawke's Bay
Club, being Town Section No. 549, contain-
ing 1 Road and 5 Perches, with a Seven-
Roomed House and well stocked Garden
and Orchard.

Terms easy.
For convenience of situation the property
is undeniedly the most desirable at present
in the market.

CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

LONDON.

February 8.

Parliament was opened to-day by the Queen. The speech stated that the object throughout of the Conference on the Eastern question was to maintain the peace of Europe and obtain the better government of the disturbed Turkish provinces, without infringing upon the independence and integrity of the Turkish Empire. Regret was expressed that the proposals of the Conference had been rejected, but the speech added that the result of the Conference shewed a general agreement between the Powers, which could not fail materially to affect the condition of the Turkish Government. It was hoped that the armistice would lead to an honorable peace. Throughout, Great Britain had acted cordially with the other Powers. Her relations with other countries were most friendly. The speech then referred to the Queen's assumption of the title of Empress of India, also to the Indian famine, and concluded by stating that the prosperity and progress of the Colonial Empire remained unchecked, and by expressing a hope that the measures taken would prevent serious evil in the Transvaal Republic.

In the course of the debate in the House of Lords upon the address in reply, Earl Derby said that peace depended upon whether the Czar decided upon his obligation to execute alone the decisions of the other six powers. Earl Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury protested against coercing Turkey. Lord Northcote said that England wished to act in union with the other Powers, and that in case of a separate intervention by England, Russia would be suspicious until the peace negotiations had been suspended.

The peace negotiations between the Porte and Serbia and Montenegro are suspended.

Wheat is declining.

February 9.

Earl Granville urges unity of action between the European Powers with a view of coercing the Porte into an acceptance of their proposals.

The Duke of Argyll and the Marquis of Hartington accused the Government of changing its policy.

Lord Hartington said, the Marquis of Salisbury deserved the thanks of the country for restoring the *entente cordiale* between England and Russia, and for having made Turkey understand her relation towards England and other powers under the Treaty of 1856.

February 11.

The Russian Press consider that it is needless for the Czar to make war upon Turkey whose fall they say will be quicker from international anarchy than from foreign attack.

The imposition of a land tax has given rise to serious riots in Japan.

The United States Electoral Commission composed of Judges of the Supreme Court and members of both Houses of Congress, have decided to give Hayes the Florida vote.

SUEZ MAIL NEWS.

It is stated that Mr. Gladstone cleared twelve thousand pounds by the Bulgarian pamphlet.

Mr. Spurgeon, it is reported, offered up prayers at his services for a change of Ministry in England.

At the London School Board election no lady candidate was defeated; four were chosen.

Lord Zouche has obtained a rule nisi for divorce from his wife on account of adultery with Earl Mayo.

The Vane baronetcy terminated in favour of the present baronet.

The Master of the Rolls made a strong comment on the conduct of the Rev. F. N. Gilman of Brighton, who to induce his wife to sign a deed which placed at his disposal twenty thousand pounds, refused to admit her to the communion table. She signed the deed, but the trustees refused to act upon it.

A panic occurred in the town of Stillenbosch, in the Cape, in consequence of the failure of a local bank. The chairman committed suicide. The cashier was arrested for embezzling fifty thousand.

A shocking murder has been committed at Pimlico by a young man named Treadway, who has been apprehended. The body of a young lady was found in Mile-End dock; the skull was fractured, and the legs fastened together, and both broken. The efforts of the police failed to discover anything about her.

Proceedings have been taken at Bow-street against Sir Edward Ceteningham,

Bart., and two others, for conspiracy to defraud a gentleman of property while in a helpless state of drunkenness.

Mr. John Rose, who was seized by the brigand Letone in Sicily, was released on payment of four thousands pounds ransom.

Barry Sullivan met with a serious accident during the fencing scene in "Richard the Third" at Drury Lane Theatre. It is feared he will lose the sight of one eye.

The month's exports to New Zealand were £328,000.

INTERPROVINCIAL.

WAIROA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

February 10.

There is a very heavy storm. The wind is blowing from the S.E., and there is a fearful downpour. Floods are expected.

February 13.

The mailman left this morning, having been detained by the floods.

Considerable damage has been done to the roads in the County, and the Scamperdown bridge is very shaky.

A Maori named Timothy was drowned up the Waiau river while endeavouring to cross the creek.

The County Council had a meeting last night to see how the damages done by the floods could be repaired, and it was proposed to borrow £500 on the first year's rate for that and other purposes.

Men are already at work on the Kapu road opening dray communication.

Mr. Buchanan will command the majority of the Wairoa electors. His supporters gain ground daily.

AUCKLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

February 9.

Curious rumours are about as to the manner in which the Commissioners conducted the enquiry into the Asylum management. Dr. Aicken, it is said, resigned, because the Committee took the evidence of a discharged servant, and the matron, an educated lady, because they pushed the investigations too roughly into her department.

The sailors of the German man-of-war Hertha on leave, were summoned aboard suddenly, and the police employed to catch them. An exciting chase ensued, causing much fun.

A powerful printing machine for the Star, with the latest improvements, and capable of printing its five thousand issue in little over an hour, arrived by the Thurland Castle.

DUNEDIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

February 9.

Mr. Boirie was drowned in an attempt to save a family who persistently occupied a house at Outram when it was in imminent danger of being washed away. He was washed off his horse under a hedge.

One of Shaw's shepherds is missing. Mr. Shaw says he has lost 2000 more sheep.

Mr. Menlove of Windsor Park, says his loss amounts to £2000.

The warden sludge channel, which cost £12,000, has been totally destroyed.

February 10.

The Guardian computes the loss on the Taieri plains by the floods at between £35,000 and £50,000. The plain presents a pitiable sight. The fields are covered with water, and hundreds of tons of grain have been swept down the river and carried out to sea. On many farms the crops were cut and stacked at the time the rain commenced, and farmers were looking forward to a lucrative harvest. John Brown, one of the oldest settlers in Taieri for 25 years, asserts that the flood has been two feet higher than it has ever been before. For miles nothing is to be seen but a clear sheet of water, with here and there tops of cabbage trees. At Graytown the flood rose ten feet, and the water rose level with the platform at the Station. The principal sufferer among the farmers on the plains is James Shand, the whole of his crops being totally destroyed; 1200 sheep of his have been also drowned, and 45 head of cattle. His loss is put down at £5000. The Meadows Bank estate loses £3000, and Mr Menlove, of Windsor Park, £4000. It was the carrying away of the embankment near Outram that did all the mischief.

Borrowe's body has been recovered, and a large jagged wound discovered over the right temple. In his attempt to save the Coopers', he fell off his horse, and it is presumed that he was killed by the animal while swimming. It is a singular coinci-

dence that exactly nine years ago, it was discovered that his brother nearly lost his life in attempting to rescue the same family from the same house during the flood.

A newspaper war commenced *re* the Wanaka's trip. The Star accused the Guardian reporter of falsification, and says that many of his statements are opposed alike to truth and good taste.

February 13.

It is stated that half-million loan has been obtained at five per cent.

The Star points out that by winning the Wellington Cup and Handicap, Guy Fawkes, incurs 10lb penalty for the Dunedin Cup, bringing his weight up to 10st 5lb.

The City Council decline to adopt the Municipal Act until the ninth clause of Rating Act is altered. The latter effectually disfranchises fully 2000 ratepayers.

Miss Christian comes over next steamer under Mr. Medcalfe's management.

[PRESS AGENCY.]

NELSON.

February 9.

Sad accounts continue to come in from the country districts of damage done by the recent floods, houses and orchards being completely destroyed, and cattle, sheep, and horses swept away. One small farmer lost the whole of his little flock of 300 sheep in the Motueka district. He is the greatest sufferer, but a quantity of land has been swept away in the Waimea by the Waitei river, which has never been known so high before.

The weather is still gloomy and threatening, but there is very little rain.

February 10.

In the General Synod yesterday, the business was chiefly formal, with the exception of two long debates, viz., one on the Bishop of Auckland's motion relative to the forming of local branches of the English Church Temperance Society, which the Synod agreed to recommend, and the other *re* the subject of religious instruction of Government schools, it was resolved to petition the General Assembly to sanction religious instruction by the clergy and other authorised persons in public schools, and to subsidise denominational schools in which secular education was up to the standard.

CHRISTCHURCH.

February 9.

The weather is again very wet.

The following are the nominations for the Autumn Handicap:—Shadbolt's Eclat 5 years, Griffiths's Corruption 3 years, Malcock's Mangle, M'Rae's Tekou 4 years, Ashton's Black Eagle, Delmain's Templeton, Pungawerewere, Elfin King, and Titania, Powdrell's Queen of the Vale, Watt's Ariel, O'Brien's Fishhook, Goodman's Tadmor, Walters's Kingfisher, Isaac Walton, and Hippocampus, Studholme's Blue Peter, Valleenias, and Mischief, Nosworthy's Fallacy, Money, and Maritana, Hungerford's Jaspur, Markey and Handley's Chief, Redwood's Guy Fawkes, Korari, Puriri, Bribery, Margro, Stirabout, Songster, Wand's Laura 4 years, Murphy's Amanda, Walker's Tambourini, Ray's Danebury, Middleton and Grigg's Tatler, Logan's Cloth of Gold and Dead Heat, Yeend's King Phillip.

February 13.

The Waimata County Council have decided to adopt the whole of the Counties Act and have declared the Waimata Road Board dissolved.

The All England Cricket match is to be played here on February 26, 27, and 28.

The weather is now fine.

James J. Pain, clerk to the Waimata Road Board, has been arrested for the embezzlement of £988 belonging to the Board.

The Mayor has declared a half-holiday for each day of the All-England Cricket Match.

Meetings are to be held in the city and suburbs on Thursday night, to protest against Mr Carruther's drainage scheme.

WELLINGTON.

February 9.

At two o'clock this morning, a fire occurred in Griffith's fancy biscuit and confectionery manufactory in Farish-street. Notwithstanding the high winds, the firemen were soon on the spot, and saved the building, only the roof being burnt, and the stock damaged. The machinery was saved. The insurance amounts to £1000 in the Standard Office, and the losses are represented at £1000.

Mr O'Shea reports produce prices as follows:—Flour, £14 10s to £15 10s; oats, 2s 9d to 8s 3d; bran, 1s to 1s 1d; hams, 9d to 10d; bacon, 8d to 1s 2d; cheese, 7½d to 8d; pollard, £7 10s to £8; potatoes, 80s to 100s; maize, 4s 9d to 5s.

Selby, the English cricketer, ran Donovan, a local pedestrian, this morning, a hundred yards, for £30, beating him by twenty yards.

There were several very heavy showers during the night, but the strong south-east breeze that was blowing all the morning got the ground in fair condition. The attendance at 12.30 was only moderate. The first race was the Hurdle Race, 50 sovs., two miles, seven flights of hurdles. Six came to the scratch. It was a capital race; all jumping well until the fifth hurdle, when Blue Jacket fell. No injury was done to the horse or rider. St. Albans got a very long lead, but coming up the straight Tommy Dodd closed up all the distance both plying whip and spur, but St Albans managed to win by a bare neck, and coming home Whalebone threw his rider, who seemed hurt.

February 10.

The Maiden Plate of 100 sovs., one mile and a half, four started, Lady of the Lake, Lady Mary, Stirabout, and St. Albans. The others were scratched. There was a good start, Lady of the Lake getting away with the lead, which she improved to ten or twelve lengths, and was never caught, winning as she liked. Stirabout cut the others down, and made desperate efforts to catch Lady of the Lake; he, however, came in second, Lady Mary being third, and St. Albans last.

Flying Stakes Handicap, of 50 sovs., three-quarters of a mile. This was a capital race; the three first horses came in almost together, there not being half a length between the three. Fallacy, 1; Glenavy, 2; Guy Fawkes, 3. There were six entries. Lady of the Lake, Morning Star, and Songster were nowhere.

Wellington Derby, of 100 sovs., 1½ miles. This was a very hollow affair. Only two came to the post—Fallacy and Danebury—both owned by Mr Ray. They merely cantered over, Fallacy taking first place, as it was understood that that was the arrangement. No interest was taken in the race, and there was little or no betting, the result being very generally anticipated.

Provincial Plate, of 125 sovs., 1¼ miles; five entries:—Elia took the lead and kept it throughout, running easily; Flora M'Donald, 2; Tambourini, 3; Treason, 4. It was generally thought that Treason would win. It was rather a fast race.

The Governor was present all the afternoon.

Hutt Park Stakes of 50 sovs.; one mile; entrance, 3 sovs.; weight for age.—Won by Fallacy.

Only two started, Fallacy and Songster. The following were scratched:—Lady of the Lake, Stirabout, Danebury, Morning Star, and Guy Fawkes. It was not much of a race. Fallacy went off with the lead and won easily, hard held by a dozen lengths. The bookmakers were offering two to one on Fallacy against the field.

Jockey Club Handicap of 150 sovs.; second horse to receive 25 sovs. from the stakes; one and a half miles.—Guy Fawkes, 1; Flora M'Donald, 2; Elsa, 3; Lady Mary, Voltarina, and Stirabout, also started. The lead was taken by Voltarina, and Stirabout also started. The lead was taken by Voltarina, all the rest in a cluster, Redwood's pair running neck and neck in the lead of those after Voltarina, and Flora M'Donald last. Voltarina kept the lead for three quarters of a mile; Stirabout showing that he was unable to collar Voltarina, Guy Fawkes challenged him, soon taking first place, which he maintained to the finish without being called upon.

DUNEDIN.

February 9.

At a meeting of the Taieri County Council yesterday, it was resolved to bring the whole of the Counties Act into operation.

The total valuation of the County is £124,685.

It was decided not to allow the Chairman any salary.

February 13.

The Council of Convention have held a meeting, when the following resolutions were agreed to:—"That, in consequence of the continued ill-health of Sir George Grey, and the time that must elapse before the meeting of the Colonial Parliament, this Council is of opinion that Sir George Grey and Mr Macandrew should not at present proceed to England; that the petitions ordered by the Convention to be sent by the delegates be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the colonies; that the province of the convention remain as an organisation to watch the interests of the colony against the efforts of the Centralists; that this council deeply regrets the continued illness of

Sir George Grey, and hopes that he may soon be restored to his wonted health and strength to further the battle in the interests of the colony against the evils of centralism."

The treasurer reported that he had received a considerable sum by way of subscription from the country districts to assist in defraying the expenses of the delegates. It was agreed that the collectors should be written to, asking if in the altered circumstances, contributors wished their amounts to be returned, or would they leave them for objects in connection with the Convention which might afterwards be resolved upon.

AUCKLAND.

February 9.

Mr. Buckland quotes fat cattle at from 2s to 28s per hundred pounds; fat sheep, 2½d to 3d per pound.

Share market—Bank of New Zealand, £19 5s; National Bank, £3 10s; Colonial Bank, £1 17s; New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency £4 15s, new issue £2 13s; New Zealand Insurance, £4 12s 6d; South British, £3 13s 6d.

From nine o'clock on Sunday morning to the same hour on Monday, 2.390 inches of rain fell,

HOKITIKA.

February 10.

Several cases of scarlet fever have occurred during the last two or three days, and two cases have proved fatal.

GREYMOUTH.

February 10.

The following are the acceptances for the Greymouth Jockey Club Handicap:—Tommy Dodd, 8st; Strong Bow, 8st; Lady Mary, 7st 10lb; Isaac Walton, 7st 6lb; Kingfisher, 7st 10lb; Nero, 7st 10lb; Septimus, 6st 10lb; Doncaster, 6st; Black Eagle, 6st 7lb.

A sailor named Brown, of the schooner Cleopatra, fell between the wharf and the vessel while going on board last night, and was drowned. The body has not been recovered. The man was sober, but as there was no light on the wharf, it is supposed that he tripped and fell.

GRAHAMSTOWN.

February 12.

The weather got much worse on Saturday evening and between nine and ten o'clock a terrific storm of rain fell, accompanied by thunder and lightning. This continued all night, and yesterday it somewhat cleared, but last night it came on again with increased force and the result is the flooding of the town, and landings in every direction. The Karaka bridge in Pollen-street has given way. A large volume of water overflowed, running into the houses and shops, and doing considerable damage in Karaka.

A young man named Outridge was proceeding during one of the storms to turn the water off the flume at the Perup Outridge, when he was struck down by the falling boulders, and instantly killed, his back being broken, and his skull fractured.

February 13.

Rogers, alias Armstrong, who was arrested on his own confession of murdering a man known as Red Bill at the Thames in 1866, was brought up on remand yesterday, and discharged for want of evidence. The accused said he was lying when he made the statement that he committed the murder.

The rainfall registered from Saturday, at seven a.m., till Monday evening, was 6½ inches.

ALEXANDRIA.

February 12.

A great proportion of the native crops of wheat has been destroyed by the late rains.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

February 13.

The Englishmen went to the field, Shaw and Lillywhite bowling, who took the first three wickets without a run. The innings closed for 32. Armitage and Ulyett then commenced the innings for the eleven. After making 22, Armitage was bowled, the last wicket for 80 runs, Ulyett having made 18, Greenwood 10, Emmett 12, Shaw 8, Charlwood 5, Southerton 8, and Hill 7 (not out). Five of the Taranakis, in the second innings, for three runs and four byes. Bowling analysis:—Taranaki twenty-two: Cleary, 25 runs, 1 wicket, 56 balls, 2 maidens; Davies, 6 runs, 3 wickets, 32 balls, 2 maidens; Fitzpatrick, 41 runs, 6 wickets, 88 balls, 3 maidens. English Eleven: Shaw, 11 runs, 6 wickets, 100 balls, 18 maidens; Lillywhite, 19 runs, 13 wickets, 98 balls, 13 maidens.

THE FLOODS.

(Daily Telegraph, February 10.)

This morning Mr. Miller, Railway Manager, proceeded at an early hour to take precautionary measures for the protection of the bridges at the railway crossings. We learn that the Ngaruroro river at Merritt's corner, at 9 a.m., was within two feet of the top of the bank, and was then rapidly rising. The tide at that time was ebbing, but by this afternoon, should the river continue to rise, it is possible the railway line may suffer damage from an overflow. We are glad to learn that necessary steps have been taken by Mr. Weber for the clearing of the drift wood and debris which may accumulate at the several bridges under his charge. The Tuki Tuki river at Waipukurau at 11 a.m. had a heavy flood in it, and it was still rising, but the water was then two feet below the highest level attained during the last flood. [Just as we are going to press we learn that the Ngaruroro River covers that portion of the railway line known as Merritt's corner, and the waters are still rising.]

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

From the first railway crossing to Tareha's bridge all the lower road is under water. At the toll-gate the water is four feet deep, and the lower floor of Mr Murray's Hotel is five inches under water. Between the Shamrock Hotel and Tareha's bridge there is a strong stream of water five feet deep. After crossing the bridge there is a perfect sea, the high waves breaking on the chest of our reporter's horse as he was forcing his way towards Meanees. There is not a single spot of dry ground in the road from Tareha's bridge to the Meanees bridge. The roadway of the latter not being above eighteen inches from the level of the Tutae-kuri. Our reporter was unable to proceed further than Meanees owing to the uncertain state of the culverts. There has been no communication between Meanees and Taradale all day. Nearly all the settlers of Meanees are flooded out of their homes and are now quartered at Mr Vaughan's and Mr Speedy's houses. Several other settlers and their families are expected to come in before the night. From Vaughan's Hotel to Father Reigier's as far as the eye can reach there is one unbroken sheet of water; cattle are to be seen breasting their way through the flood endeavouring to reach dry land, and it is feared several sheep are drowned. The river opposite the old racecourse has overflowed both banks, and beyond Mr Beaton's residence there is great danger of the road being washed away altogether. Persons travelling before the subsidence of the flood should be particularly careful how they pass that spot. The second bridge from the Shamrock Hotel, going towards Meanees is partially washed away. Reports from Taradale state that there is a large body of water running through the township from Alley's corner towards the head of the salt water creek. The stop-bank from Mr Powdrell's to the Meanees Hotel has stood so far, but there is a strong stream running through the Mission Station above the bank. From 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. the flood had risen more than six inches. Taradale being completely shut off from communication with town, and there being no doubt that several settlers must be in serious danger and distress, it is incumbent on those capable of doing so that a boat's crew should leave Napier in the morning, and proceed to where their assistance may be required. There will be no difficulty in getting volunteers, and it has been suggested that persons willing to render their aid should meet at the Spit tomorrow morning at Mr. Golden's Crown Hotel, at 10 o'clock.

Since the above was in type, we learn that the Chairman of the County Council, and the Chairman of the Harbor Board, have arranged to despatch a boat from the Spit to night, to render what assistance may be required by the flooded-out settlers.

(Daily Telegraph, February 13.)

The railway authorities are busily engaged in repairing the damage to the line caused by the floods. On Sunday morning, the railway manager, Mr Miller, discovered that the high embankment, leading from the Waitangi Bridge towards Farndon, was being undermined, and a train of trucks loaded with stone was despatched to that place. In the night, however, the embankment caved in above where the stone had been deposited, and about five chains in length of the railway was damaged, fully two chains of the line itself being left almost in a state of suspension, from the formation having been washed away. This break in the line was caused by the Ngaruroro river, which, flooding over the bank at Merritt's corner, swept over the swampy land between there and Farndon, and found an outlet in the ditch along the railway that drains itself into the Waitangi Creek. The embankment is now being rapidly repaired; the line has been "pulled back" as much as possible on to the sound portion of the bank, the damaged side of which is being re-formed. From the energetic measures taken by the manager, trains will be able to run as usual over this spot by tonight. Through Mr R. P. Williams'

paddock the line suffered an immense amount of damage, about seventeen lengths of formation having been washed away, together with a large culvert. This, however, has been made passable, which speaks highly for the promptitude of the authorities. At Merritt's corner there has been eleven chains of the line swept clean away, leaving no evidence of there ever having been a railway along there. This is being repaired from the Hastings side, and, in all probability, will be completed by to-morrow.

We regret to hear that severe losses have been occasioned by the flood. Mr Hague, of East Clive, has lost about two hundred sheep, and Mr R. P. Williams' losses must have been heavy, judging from the number of dead sheep to be seen lying in his paddocks. But the drenching rain following so closely upon the completion of shearing, could not fail to have a serious effect on the flocks, and, probably, not until the next mustering will the full extent of the losses be made known.

The Race-course at Clive, placed at the service of the Jockey Club by Mr S. Johnston, was not flooded, and will be in excellent condition for the next meeting. Unfortunately, the Waitangi road bridge will hardly be repaired by the time the races come off, which will seriously interfere with the pleasure of those who would prefer driving to the course to going out by train.

Owing to the mouths of both the Ngaruroro and Tuki-tuki rivers being opened, there was far less damage done to the districts of East and West Clive than it was at first feared would be the case. The Ngaruroro river has not been so high since the flood nine years ago, and it was solely due to the mouth being opened that more serious losses did not occur. The river burst its banks a little above Mr Hamlin's paddock—now Mr Galbraith's—and poured a stream of water across the road, it is said, five feet deep and fifty yards wide, which took a course towards the head of Muddy Creek, through which it found its outlet in the Tuki-tuki. The Ngaruroro bridge at West Clive has been slightly damaged, some few of the centre piles having been undermined.

The bridge across the Tutae-kuri river, on the new Taradale-road, has again come to grief. It was just passable yesterday, but this morning, the centre piles having given way, the bridge heeled over, and it is now secured by ropes, and is in a similar condition to what it was after the flood of last year.

Boat Expedition to Taradale.

Mr. Kraeft, with a crew of four, left the Spit on Saturday afternoon in the pilot boat, and pulled up the Tutae-kuri river to the toll-gate on the New Taradale road, and then rowed over the flats in a straight course to Taradale. The first house that was called at was a cottage occupied by a man, his wife, and two children. These people were put into the boat, and taken to Mr. Richards' house which was high and dry. From there the boat proceeded to Mr. Johnstone's, where the house was flooded, about a foot of water being over the floor. The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Johnstone and five grown daughters; these were also taken to Mr. Richards. Mr. Kraeft then steered his boat to Mr. Dwyer's house, but found it deserted, Mr. Burton having conveyed the family to his own house by a punt. That dwelling was the most damaged of any, the chimney having fallen and knocked down the side of the house, and the furniture, &c., had been swept away by the rush of water. From there Mr. Kraeft went to Mr. Burton's and took Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer from there, and then proceeded to Mr. O'Reilly's. This house was submerged three feet. The family, consisting of the father and mother and six children, were perched on the bed together with the fowls and household goods. One of the girls was suffering from illness, and had been under medical attendance for some time. After taking these on board, Mr. McCarthy's boat was met, and a transhipment of passengers took place. Both boats then attempted to make for the Taradale township, but in consequence of the force of the current rushing across the main road, it was impossible to reach there. Mr. McCarthy's boat was swept through a gap in the hedge, and brought up in the middle of a paddock adjoining Mrs Wood's property. Mr. Kraeft's boat was also swept in the same direction but was brought up against a fence, which had to be cut away to enable the boat to get through. Mr. Kraeft then attempted to cross the flooded paddocks towards Taradale, but was again prevented by the force of the stream. The boat was made fast to a willow tree for the night, about fifty yards from Mr Robertson's.

Mr McCarthy's boat shortly afterwards came up and made fast under the same clump of trees. A most miserable night was spent. Mr Kraeft's boat had a sail in it, which was converted into an awning under which all the women and children of the two boats were placed. At break of day Mr Ed. Chase waded to the boats the water during the night having fallen about two feet. With his assistance all the families were placed in Mr Peddie's house, where every comfort was quickly provided. The boats' crews found ample hospitality at Mr McDonald's Taradale Hotel. The boats started back at 6.30 a.m. on Sunday, and arrived at the Spit at 8 o'clock. Mr McCarthy left the Spit under instructions from the Chairman of the County Council, about three quarters of an hour after Mr Kraeft, and finding it impossible to pull up the Tutae-kuri river, followed the same course as had been taken by Mr. Kraeft. Having to pull against both the tide and flood combined, it was almost dusk when the first habitation was reached. The people within refused to leave the house saying that if it came to the worst they would take to the trees. An attempt was then made to get towards Mr Tuke's house, but the stream prevented it. Several cottages were then called at, but it was found that either Mr Kraeft had taken the people away, or that they refused to leave their dwellings. Called at a small cottage and found two boys, there was about a foot of water in the house. The boys having managed to keep a good fire in the stove, refused to leave, but requested Mr McCarthy to call at their uncle's, Mr O'Reilly's. The boat proceeded there, and then came across Mr Kraeft's boat as related above.

A SNAKE CHASES A LITTLE GIRL TWO MILES.

The following snake story is related by the Ballarat Courier:—"On Thursday, the 11th January, as a little girl, 10 years old, daughter of Mr. Twiss, of Black-hill, was leaving her father's farm to go to Haddon, a distance of three miles, she espied two large snakes enjoying their dignified leisure under a fence. Native-like, she prepared for battle by arming herself with a stout green sapling, and in a short time sent one out of harm's way. The other, however, instead of making tracks, as is usually the case, stood by, as it were to see fair play, and on seeing his companion in arms bite the dust, prepared for action by standing almost erect on his tail. Our little heroine, nothing daunted, aimed a desperate blow at the spinal cord of his snakeship, but, missing her mark, and seeing the enemy intent on showing fight, bethought herself of the adage about 'discretion,' &c., however, apparently determined on revenging the loss of his comrade, followed up the retreat, and pursued his now discomfited enemy at a tremendous pace until they reached the vicinity of Fox's public-house a distance of something over two miles from where the chase began, where he managed to catch hold of the poor little girl's frock. Her pluck never left her till then, and she allowed a scream to escape her, which reached the ear of a bullock-driver near the hotel. On seeing the difficulty he told her to hit the snake, which she did with the stick with which she despatched the other, and then held it until the man came up and killed it. It measured 6ft long and five in. in girth. The following day the little girl killed no less than three other snakes, and in high glee brought the largest as a trophy to her father."

Mr. Hursthouse, member for Motueka, lately addressed his constituents at Waima West. He was closely questioned by a Mr Arnold, whose remarks are thus reported by the Nelson Mail:—"You speak about a reduction in the estimates, but when Vogel came into the House and gammoned he was going to die, didn't you vote to send him home as Agent-General? Didn't you, now? [Mr. Hursthouse: I did.] I see they are going to reduce the police pay to 6s a day; why don't they reduce other things? When the news came of Dr. Featherston's death, didn't Vogel come down to the House with a long face, and Stafford with tears in his eyes, and Grey crying, and didn't you all vote a lot of money for his family? Ah! we're purty fellows for members, the whole lot of 'em. You're trying to make New Zealand as bad as old Ireland, putting on it a big national debt, and making the working men miserable. Six shillings a day, indeed! I'd have every man out of the Government that had anything to do with the Vogel Ministry, and be d—d to them. What good did you, or any of our members ever do for Nelson? They do well in Otago, but what do we get? I tell you what it is, this is the poorest settlement this side of the line." His burst of eloquence having subsided, Mr Arnold then proceeded to propose a vote of thanks to Mr Hursthouse, which was carried unanimously.

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

At the Government Meteorological station Port Ahuriri, there was recorded a measured rainfall of no less than six inches, equal to 651 tons weight of water to the square acre, on Friday.

We are glad to hear that before the rain came on, the Maoris of Omaha had garnered their harvest. This is the more gratifying as last year the whole of their crops were destroyed by rain.

Mr. W. H. Flood has in publication a set of waltzes, called the "Hawke's Bay Waltzes." These waltzes have been played from memory by Mr. Flood at different entertainments, and evoked the commendation of dancers as flowing in air, and marked in time. They will no doubt become very popular, and should command a ready sale.

The levels and drainage of the town we should say exhibit a state of completeness that reflects immense credit on all concerned. The condition of Browning-street, from Mr. Lyndon's office door to Messrs. Campbell's corner, is only comparable to a lake. Hastings-street being at a higher level than Browning-street at the junction, and Browning-street being at a slope from the beach, it naturally follows that a lake should be formed after heavy rain. This appears to have been the object of the design, and it has been abundantly successful.

It was rumored in town on Friday that at noon there was a rush at the Town Clerk's Office of ratepayers desirous of paying in their water-rates, consequent on the scarcity of that great necessity throughout the Borough. The Collector's face was anything but pleasant, but he told the ratepayers that it was only "interest," not principal, that was wanted.

On Thursday, during the darkness, a man named Thomas Hargreaves fell over the approach to Gough Island bridge in consequence of not being able to see the road. If the Harbor Board in their combined wisdom see fit to make sailing vessels, lighters, and steamers carry a light, surely there ought to be one on the bridge. Hargreaves was rescued by the two resident policemen on the Spit.

The establishment of County Councils, Harbor, and Hospital Boards, will give an impetus to heraldic industry. Each county council must have its coat of arms, or great seal, and so with all other local board. A merely plain seal, with the designation of the Council in bold Roman characters, will scarcely satisfy any Englishman's love of heraldry. There must be a device on a blazoned shield, with chief, fess, and base. The County Council of Waipawa, we notice is about to request Mr. Jarman, of the Lands Office, to furnish a design for its seal. Why Mr. Jarman? Why not have called for competitive designs, and then the following might have been suggested—shield *vert*, chevron *gules*; dexter chief, *ovis arvensis* (merino breed) *argent*; sinister chief, *canis familiaris* (Scotch collie), *sable*; base, bale of wool. Motto—*Argent recu le bras rompu*, which fully interpreted means, you may just as well have a broken arm, as be unable to repay borrowed money.

At the regular quarterly meeting of the Napier Pioneer Lodge, No. 26, I.O.G.T., on Tuesday, 6th February, 1877, the following officers were installed for the ensuing quarter, by Bro. J. Parkin, L.D., as G.W.O.T., assisted by Bro. Hawken (Vanguard Lodge) as G.W.M., and Bro. Troy, M.J.P., as G.W.S.:—Bro. H. Smith, P.W.C.T.; Bro. Erimmer, W.C.T.; Sister Buckingham, W.V.T.; Sister Carter, W.C.; Sister Brobson, W.T.; Bro. Buckingham, W.S.; Bro. Hunt, W.F.S.; Bro. Carter, W.M.; Bro. Hegg, W.T.G.; Bro. Gardiner, W.C.G.; Sister S. A. G. Buckingham, W.A.S.; Bro. Mitchel, W.D.M.; Sister A. Robinson, W.R.H.S.; Sister E. Warren, W.L.H.S.

At a Masonic banquet at Grahamstown, recently, Mr. Whitaker said:—I was connected with the first Masonic lodge in New Zealand, and when I look back at that time (thirty-three or thirty-four years ago) I do so with satisfaction. There were then in Auckland only a few wooden and raupo houses, and in a small room not one-fourth the size of this, we established the first lodge of New Zealand. It is with pride and satisfaction I look back to those days and notice how early from the mother country plant Masonry in the countries they take up their abode in. With about a dozen brethren we set to work and laid the foundation of Masonry in New Zealand.

Mr. Kenworthy, the proprietor, of the Taranaki Budget in his farewell article comments of the depression which has been the cause of his suspending its publication, and says:—"The place is progressing crab-fashion; it is going backwards. Our advertising columns may be taken as an example of what is happening in this district. The proprietor not being satisfied with a miserable existence and to prevent serious money losses has decided to clear out." He says: "The Budget started suddenly, it subsides similarly," and concludes with the remark, "the place is not yet sufficiently advanced to support a daily paper."

93,462 postal cards were disposed of by the Government during the months of November and December.

As a proof of the extent to which Russia is preparing for all emergencies, the Copenhagen correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette, writing on the 21st November, says:—"I can inform you that one of the largest wholesale houses in the clothing and outfitting line here in Copenhagen received a couple of days ago an order for several thousand uniforms, to be delivered within a short time. The report which I telegraphed to you some time ago of the intention of the Russian Government to establish a depot for the Imperial Navy in the vicinity of Copenhagen is now said to be founded on fact. The Danish Government having, however, informed the English Government of the *pour-parlers* entered into with the Russian Government, Sir Charles Lennox Wyke, K.C.B., the British Minister at this Court, at once entered a strong protest, and even intimated the necessity under which Her Majesty's Government might feel of taking stronger measures to prevent such an attempt at encroachment."

On the authority of a gentleman who has recently travelled through from Taupo, we (Wanganui Herald) regret to have to call attention to the state of the road connecting us with the interior. It is rapidly becoming impracticable owing to slips want of drainage, and undergrowth. A sum of £400 has been voted for the purpose of establishing a punt and ferry on the only river where it is required, and this sum will be evidently thrown away unless prompt steps are taken to maintain the passability of the road itself. The matter is of great importance to Wanganui, as our position should ensure our acting as the natural outlet of the central plains. And yet the trade springing up there, which is becoming considerable, is entirely estranged to Napier owing to the want of ready means of communications on our side. There is work at once cut out to tax the energies of the County Council.

An accident which is not a little significant of the efficiency of the British Navy at this moment, is mentioned in a letter from Besika Bay. With a view to ascertain the time that would be occupied in bringing one of our ironclads in action, the Admiral directed a "turn out" in the middle of the night without any previous warning. The command was promptly obeyed the whole ship being cleared for action, and the first gun fired within seven minutes from the alarm being sounded.

At Messrs. Margoliouth and Banner's sale on Friday, apples realised 3d per pound.

Mr. Holder was the purchaser of the building formerly in the occupation of the National Bank, which was sold by auction on Friday by Messrs. Routledge, Kennedy and Co., for the sum of £38.

No less than 4½ inches of rainfall were registered at the meteorological station, Port Ahuriri, on Saturday, making a total of 10½ inches in 48 hours.

Mr. Dyke's cart not being available, the Corporation did not make the rounds of the public thoroughfares of the Borough on Saturday. A considerable gathering of the burghers took place at the Provincial Hotel to witness the start, at the hour appointed by Mr. Ashton, of the Municipal barge (Dyke's cart) not appearing on the scene, no little disappointment was caused. Prompt measures, however, were taken by Mr. Ashton to prevent any revolutionary demonstration, and the presence of a number of the Artillery Company exhibited a military force of sufficient strength to quell disturbance. The rain stopped the pleasure boating excursion round Clive Square that was announced to come off at 11 o'clock.

In another column we reprint from the columns of the Wanganui on Saturday, its leading article, criticising the various candidates. We do this the more readily owing to the fact that the small party in Napier, which supports the Grey-Macandrew clique, has no recognised European organ in this Province. The article we place before our readers evidently emanates from Sir G. Grey's lieutenant, and exhibits a most remarkable weakness so far as argument is concerned. The only portion of the article we have excised is a personal remark respecting Mr. Sutton, and one which we believe the writer would in cooler moments regret having penned. If all that is to be said against Mr. Sutton's candidature by the Sheehan party is to be found in their Maori organ, we ourselves feel that it still more than ever behoves the electors to vote for one whom the Auckland party themselves admit is, next to their own candidate, Mr. Buchanan, the ablest politician seeking their votes at the present election—and one whom they are evidently afraid of—else they would not exhibit such a decided repugnance to his candidature.

The cricket match between Wairoa and Napier has been fixed to be held at Taradale this day. We have applied to Mr. Secretary Campbell for the names of those who will take part in the contest, but he exhibited a disinclination to comply with our request. It does not much matter, however, as doubtless our Napier cricketers being dons at the game, prefer that their names should be kept dark from their Wairoa competitors. This possibly is the reason.

The Evening Post of the 3rd, contains the following paragraph:—"The Poverty Bay people have imported a donkey, and the Herald is greatly rejoiced thereat. The editor will now have congenial companionship."

There was a very heavy flood in the Tutakuri river, and immense quantities of posts and other timber are being washed out to sea. As might have been expected, all quarrying and other labor in connection with the harbor works had to be suspended.

A telegram from Oamaru shows that township to be in a dangerous position at the present time, owing to a large dam outside the boundaries of the Municipality threatening to burst. The telegram runs as follows:—"The large dam outside the municipal boundary threatens the destruction of a large portion of the town, together with other property, of the railway embankment, and also serious loss of life, through its probable bursting. A considerable amount of anxiety is felt by the residents. The municipality has no power to act, nor has the County Council, apparently. Mr. Campbell, the chairman of the Council, is in communication with the Minister of Public Works on the matter. Another flood may carry the dam away. The Municipal Engineer states that the dam contains 100,000 tons of water. It appears that the Attorney-General is the proper authority to proceed by indictment against the owner of the dam."

Our Tamumu correspondent, under date February 8, forwards us the following:—"A public meeting was held at the School-room last night to take into consideration the subject of the salary of an assistant to our respected minister, Mr. Fraser. The meeting was unanimously in favor of supporting the matter, and a subscription list opened, shewed a good round sum in favor of having our Church matters placed on a more satisfactory footing than they have been hitherto. The weather here is something frightful, rain and thunder almost every day."

The Poverty Bay Standard says:—"Mr. H. M. Shepherd arrived at Gisborne on Sunday last, by the steamer Jane Douglas, en route for the Portland Island lighthouse. Mr. Shepherd is the contractor for the erection of the building. Men and material are now on the ground and Mr. Shepherd thinks the lighthouse will be completed so far as his part of the contract is concerned, in eight or ten days. The structure is to be of wood but the description of light to be employed not being included in the contract Mr. Shepherd is unable to afford us any information as to what it is likely to be.

A daring attempt has been made to steal the corpse of President Lincoln, which has been interred in Illinois. It is believed that the outrage was to have been committed in the interest of a noted counterfeiter who has been imprisoned for a lengthy term of years, his confederates hoping that by having possession of Mr. Lincoln's remains they would be able to bring the Government to terms, and obtain a remission of their confederate's sentence. The men implicated in the attempt have been arrested.

Several Taradale settlers desire to express through our columns their grateful thanks to Messrs. Payne, Chase, Collins and Pritchard who, at great risk, rescued some seven or eight families in a boat and conveyed them to Mr. McDonald's hotel. We hear of numerous hair-breadth escapes, but fortunately no lives were lost, through the exertions of the settlers. We regret to hear that Mr. Richards has not been able to find 26 head of cattle which were grazing on his property, but it is hoped that they have succeeded in getting on to the hills. This settler has lost the whole of his hay, and his paddocks, which were green with pasture last week, are now covered, like those of many other settlers, with sediment.

The effects of the flood on the Taupo road have been disastrous. The road has been almost destroyed from Tarawera to Petane, and it is thought that it will take fully three weeks' work before coaches can again run. The Petane river has never been known to be higher than it was on Saturday. From our northern telegrams we learn that the storm has now reached the Thames. Grahamstown is flooded, and some loss of life, we regret to hear, has occurred.

The railway line beyond Farndon was so far damaged by the floods as to stop traffic beyond that station. Workmen were employed all Sunday in strengthening the piling of the Waitangi bridge, and also in repairing the line at Merritt's corner.

Another correspondent following the remarks made by "Observer," last week, writes to say that, since then, "the corner window of the Electric Telegraph Office has been closed, but that the clerks in their anxiety to watch that which is going on in the neighborhood, have worn away the frosting of the glass by the action of their eyelashes, and that now two peep-holes are plainly discernable from the footpath under Messrs. Campbell's verandah." We can scarcely believe it.

We understand that Mr. Bachelder with his diorama of America, &c., will arrive in Napier by the next trip of the Rangitira. The Company has been doing a capital business down south, and is spoken highly of by the Wellington press. Mr. Emmet, the eminent actor, with a strong company will possibly open in Napier on the 5th of March. Mrs. Scott Siddons also promises to visit Napier shortly. There will therefore be no lack of amusement shortly.

Now is the time when the electors should wear their right hands in a sling to prevent their wrists being dislocated by the candidates in the fervency of their affection.

The fissure in the retaining wall of the Corporation reservoir, on the hill above Mr. Tiffen's house, has widened during the last day or two. The rent is about four inches wide, and extends from the top to the bottom of the wall. The cause of the crack is obvious enough. Between the reservoir concrete wall, and the retaining wall, there is a space which has been filled up with rammed earth. The heavy rainfall of the last few days, soaking between the walls has swelled the earth which acting as a wedge has bulged the outer or retaining wall out at the angle. There has been no appreciable subsidence of the wall, a fact that speaks very well for the foundation on which it has been built.

We are glad to learn that there has been little or no loss of stock during the recent flood. The higher lying ground in the neighborhood of Mr. McHardy's and Mr. Russell's stations were free from water, as was also the land around Karaitiana's pab. The lower portion of Mr. James Williams' property was, nearest the river, considerably under water, but the stock was removed before the flood came down. Messrs. Heslop's country, Chesterhope, was for the most part submerged, but the stock was placed on high ground within the estate which saved all the sheep and cattle.

Albeit it may displease Sir Wilfred Lawson, and disconcert an Arctic sailor, who has been telling stories to sympathising teetotallars, it is right that it should be known that the few water drinkers in the crews of the Alert and Discovery were found totally unfit for their work when they got into the polar latitudes. They did not suffer from scurvy, it is true, for the simple reason that they had to be left with the ships, being quite unequal to bearing the fatigue of the sledging parties. Alcohol is an absolute necessity for the support of health in those hyperborean regions, as the official testimony in the Blue Book will show. The last thing the men invariably took before entering into their sacks for sleep, was a stiff glass of good Jamaica Rum.—Atlas of the World.

We regret to learn that Mr. H. Curry, one of the best cornean players in the colony, who is now a messenger at the Government buildings, Wellington, in ascending in the hydraulic lift at the new Government building suffered considerable personal injury on Saturday. Mr. Curry was a surjeant in the 65th band when that regiment was stationed in the colony.

Mr. J. Gardner, agent for Hegarty's Globe Combination, arrived here by the Rangitira, but we are sorry to hear that his talented little company do not appear in Napier. Mr. Gardner informs us that he is en route for Poverty Bay, and will return to Napier for an overland trip to Wanganui, and from thence to Taranaki. He also informs us that, in addition to his company, he has the celebrated Arabian box mystery, which caused so much excitement in Sydney and Melbourne, and which is of a most novel character. It is a common box, open for the inspection of the public at any time. It is just locked, and the key kept by any person in the audience; then strongly lashed with ropes; covered with a canvas cover, and securely buckled, and again over the cover are placed ropes, and the knots sealed; in the space of about two minutes the performer will get into the box without either the ropes, or cover, or anything connected therewith being disturbed. If this be the case, as Mr. Gardner describes, we sincerely hope he will give the Napier public an opportunity of seeing it for a night or two at the Oddfellows Hall previous to his departure, where we are sure he will be liberally patronised, for a more energetic agent we have not seen visit Napier.

In reply to queries put, the Attorney-General has replied to the effect that in elections for the "extraordinary vacancies"—such as that of the Waipukurau Riding—that, as far as voting is concerned, the 51st section of the Counties Act, relating to "first elections" will be the one which must be acted upon.

The Taranaki Herald contains a letter from a Mr. J. Jones to the Premier, in which it is pointed out that numbers of people with small means are obliged to leave that portion of the colony owing to their being unable to obtain land on anything like liberal terms. Mr. Jones says he feels convinced that if either of the Australian Colonies possessed that magnificent province there would be but few acres of the acquired lands unoccupied in two years.

"Tax the large estates" is a cry raised by the Wanganui Herald, which contends that such properties have enormously increased in value through the operation of the public works policy, apart from any exertion, skill, or expenditure on the part of the owners. "Compare," it says, "two periods, 1870 and 1876, and it will be found that land at the former period worth £1 an acre is now worth £3, yet does not carry a single sheep more. But though we believe estates running from 5000 to a quarter of a million acres each are blighting the country and may ruin it in the same sense as the big estates ruin'd Italy, yet we have not proposed anything but a fair tax to meet the demands of the present financial crisis."

A correspondent on Tuesday forwarded us a copy of the Spectator, of Dec., and asks us to compare one of its articles with the leading article of the Herald on Tuesday. We have complied with the request, and like our correspondent were struck with the similarity of views and expressions on the Arctic Expedition of both journals. Possibly the explanation is that the article was first written in Napier, by the editor of the Herald, and forwarded to the Spectator for publication, for we cannot conceive that the Herald after its remarks on plagiarism during the Robinson controversy would lay itself open to such a charge.

The Thames County Council has voted salaries at the rate of £940 per annum, of which the Chairman is to get £200. If all the Counties, including the six named in the second schedule as exempted from the operation of the Act, were to vote salaries at a similar rate, the sum for the whole Colony would be £53,580 for County officers, and that for chairmen, surveyors, secretaries, treasurers, and valuers only.

Corporal Sellars and Gunner Mogrige, N.A.V., left in the Rangitira on Monday for Wellington, en route for Hokitika, to take part in the forthcoming Prize firing. They have our hearty good wishes.

The bridge over the Tatakuri river on the New Taradale road being in a very precarious position, the Chairman of the Hawke's Bay County Council notifies suspension of traffic on the road until, we presume, the bridge is again in a fit state for the public to travel upon.

Kai-Iwi, near Wanganui appears to be Nature's playground. All sorts of freaks in creation have been carried on there for some time past, and now a native has written to the Wananga on the subject. The native says that out of a litter of twelve pigs, "one has only three legs; the fourth was not made complete by God. Hence I think I ought to let this be known." There is nothing like writing to the papers if a person has a grievance, and so he continues—"here is also another thing, I wish to be known. We have a dog which has two noses, but only three nostrils; and a fowl with two heads; and an egg with two yolks. Also, a caterpillar which came from the clouds. It has two bodies, but only one head. All these things are from this place only. But all have died, and the pig only is alive."

Mr. Henry Young, of Wellington, writes to the West Coast Times from Rangitoto, under date 25th January, stating that the company's mine is looking splendid, with immense quantities of ore exposed.

The people of Taranaki are determined to spare no effort to get their harbor works commenced. Soon after the arrival of the Premier in the township, a deputation waited on him to urge the necessity of getting the works commenced. The result was the telegraphing for an Engineer and a staff, who arrived on the following Wednesday. The party went out to the Sugar Leaves to look at the place on Thursday, and at once fixed their camp on the land purchased for the Central Prison site, and commenced their work without loss of time. Mr. Jones is going to make a complete survey of the site for the harbor on which to base an estimate of the cost of the work. The survey it is supposed will occupy him about two months.

Rather a good idea has been put into practice by the Vincent County chairman, and one which, in future, will probably be extensively copied. The post-card is utilised in giving notice of valuation to ratepayers. The necessary form is printed on the blank side, only requiring to be filled up, addressed and slipped into the post-office, and the thing is done. The Argus commends this simple notion to the notice of the administrative officers of Counties, as it saves a world of trouble, and is in compliance with law.

Mr. E. J. Reed, formerly Constructor of the Navy, and now M.P., for the Pembroke District, wrote a letter to The Times lately on the condition of the Russian navy, which he sums up thus:—"I think it will be seen from the foregoing narrative that the pretensions of Russia in a naval sense are modest indeed, and I do not hesitate to say that so far from having evinced any great ambition in this direction of late years, Russia has allowed herself to fall far behind the position which she ought to occupy even in the Baltic. There are very considerable iron-clad squadrons in those seas, and Russia has done almost nothing of late years in the way of competing with them. Her efforts at iron-clad construction has been for several years past limited solely to the three cruising partly-armored frigates, and to the Peter the Great and the two circular ironclads." In the construction of all these vessels Mr. Reed thinks that Russia has shown a laudable desire to do well, and even with originality, what she attempts at all; but it must be a diseased mind, he thinks, which finds "a menace to Constantinople or to Europe in the construction over a course of years by the great empire of Russia of one powerful ship in the North and two small ones in the South." Mr. Reed adds very justly that whatever Prince Gortschakoff may say, no man of common sense will believe that Russia will be contented in the least while she is mewed up in the Black Sea, and not allowed the natural access to her own ports.

Two seamen were brought ashore from the Schieallion on Tuesday, charged by Cap. Levack with refusing duty on Monday.

While the value of the rateable property in Dunedin (says the Star) has increased during the past year only about 8 per cent., in Christchurch the increase has been 21 per cent., and in Napier almost as high. The figures in Napier were £45,000 and £54,327 for last year and the present year respectively, which gives an increase of 20 per cent.

The Davenport Bros. are astonishing the Southlanders by their seances. On Tuesday last, however, one of the brothers (William) had a knot tied by the Registrar of Marriages in Southland that he will find more difficult to untie than any he has yet been secured with in the course of his voyage through life. Yet in nautical English it was not a knot at all, for he was "spliced" to Miss Eva Nora Davies, the charming pianiste whose skill adds so much to the general effort of the Davenport Company's entertainment.

The Government of New Zealand as our readers are aware have borrowed from the Bank of New South Wales in Sydney, half a million of money, for two years at 7 per cent. to relieve the Treasury chest. The New Zealand Times says:—"For some time back the enormous land sales and flourishing Customs revenue of New South Wales have left her with a plethora of funds which her expenditure did not seriously diminish. As the Bank of New South Wales could not apparently discover any sufficiently satisfactory means of investment, our Government has stepped in and taken advantage of a disposition on the part of that bank to utilise, in a loan to this colony, a portion of the accumulations of the Government of New South Wales, and with which it has been actually hampered."

The Lyell Argus is a peculiar paper, in literature and printing. The following is a recent specimen of its sentiments and punctuation:—"We would ask our readers to forgive our shortcomings this week. Our Staff having been absent on pleasure and business combined, we have much that is interesting to lay before our readers. We have laid down our plans for 1877, sorely we confess it against our will; as we in the face of the miserable farce now being enacted in this Colony termed Government, could only see before us a dark and dreary future and had therefore come to the conclusion to return to N. S. Wales. As owing to a wise and enlightened form of Government that colony is fast going to the fore. We don't suppose our remaining here will do much good but if all goes well, we shall remain and as heretofore endeavor to our duty."

It was reported on Tuesday that the public houses had received orders to supply beer gratis to all free and thirsty electors. On hearing the rumor, our reporter's face grew radiant, and he at once discovered that there were several locals to be picked up outside the office. In due time he came back without any intelligence, further than the dismal news that he had had to pay for his drinks. It is not fair to the newspaper officers for Mr. Buchanan's party to spread such demoralising reports.

A correspondent under the signature of "West End" calls our attention to the wretched state of the road from Scandinavian to Battery Point. He writes:—"Sir, I am not one who is fond of complaining, but having to travel almost daily along what is known as the Battery Road, as a payer of taxes, I have a right to speak out, when the roads are not kept fairly and properly in repair. That portion of the road Scandinavian to Battery Point, is simply a disgrace not only to the Municipality, but also to those officials whose duty it is to look after the roads, if roads they can be called. It is now knee-deep with mud, and traffic almost wholly suspended. Trusting these few lines will awaken the authorities to a sense of their duty—I am, &c., WEST END."

Messrs Stock and Vincen, coach-builders, of Napier, have shown us as a specimen of local industry, a pretty little dog-cart, turned out for Mr. Golden of Napier, at their manufactory. Without being desirous of what is generally known as "puffing," we are bound to admit that the workmanship exhibited is of a most superior kind, and worthy of inspection, more especially of those who labour under the idea that to obtain a good and cheap article it is necessary to send out of Napier.

Messrs. Bennett and Johnson announce that in connection with their other business they will act as agents under the Land Transfer Act.

To the Editor: Sir,—In your issue of the 12th, you desire to express your thanks to the settlers of Taradale for their exertions during the floods, and again "Cato" has made an addition; but Cato has forgotten a number of settlers who were as prominent as those mentioned, viz., Mr. F. Williams and Mr. J. W. O'Brien, who at great risk rescued twenty horses, the property of Mr. S. Thorpe; also, their daring attempt to reach the pilot boat when it was quite dark. I am sorry to say Mr. Thorpe did not even express his thanks to these men who risked their lives in rescuing his property.—I am, &c., MUD LARK, Taradale, 14th February, 1877.

The right of erecting booths, cards, &c., for the forthcoming races, were disposed of by public auction on Thursday by Mr. Routledge, the whole realising £123. The following are the names of the purchasers, and the prices given:—Booth No 1, £45, C. Stewart; Booth No 2, £42 10s, C. Stewart; Fruit Stand, £7, G. Benjamin; Confectioner's Stand, £7, C. Stewart; fancy goods, £5, Cohen; cards of races, £16 10s, E. Ashton.

We gather from an article in the San Francisco Chronicle that the Californian farmers have been unsuccessful in growing merino wool, and that the industry was now on the decline. That journal says:—"It mattered little that the carcasses of the wethers were small or that the mutton was of inferior quality, so long as their backs were covered by a thick coat of wool and grease, the more grease the better, as it lodged a greater quantity of sand, which commanded the same price in the market as wool. Now the re-action has set in, and the sheep will not bring cost price when sold to the butchers." In the United States as in England the sheep which will produce the most mutton, not those that produce the finest wool, pay the best.

The Herald on Wednesday acknowledged that its article of Tuesday on the Arctic Expedition was not plagiarised from the London Spectator, but from the World. We offer a full apology.

To the Editor: Sir,—The Wananga Extraordinary chose the other day to affirm that the salary of the Chief Gaoler would be questioned in the House next session. I think it would be more to the point if, at the next meeting of the Municipal Council, the question were to be brought up as to whether it was desirable for the rate collector and inspector of nuisances, &c., to spend his time canvassing for Mr. Buchanan. If he were not canvassing all this morning while driving about with Mr. Knight, what was he doing? Are people dunned for their rates according to the election promises they may make? Will canvassing be his excuse in reply to enquiry for any non-performance of his duties, and for the apparent tardiness of defaulters?—I am, &c., AN EXTRAORDINARY ELECTOR. February 14, 1877.

We are requested to state that the offices of the Wairoa County Council will be situated in the building known as the Volunteer Drill Shed, Wairoa.

Members of the Napier Rowing Club, desirous of taking part in the forthcoming Regatta, are requested to send in their names to the Captain of the Club, Mr. J. Liddle, without delay.

The Weekly Templar Column has been resuscitated. Originally published at the office of the Daily Southern Cross, in Auckland, when the amalgamation of the latter journal with the New Zealand Herald took place, the publication of the Weekly Templar Column was suspended, owing, presumably to no mutually satisfactory arrangements having been made with regard to its issue. It is now printed at an office at the Thames, and is published, as hitherto, by Mr. R. Neal, Esq., Auckland. We wish it success.

The following extraordinary letter appears in the Taranaki Budget:—"Sir—Being convinced that the harbor will never be finished, we, the undersigned able-bodied men, do hereby agree to give a day's labor towards commencing this most important undertaking as soon as we know where to begin." Here follow the names of nearly 100 citizens, among whom are two clergymen and two doctors.

The Registrar-General notifies that he has erased from the Medical Register of New Zealand the name of Francis Goold, late of Gisborne, Poverty Bay, registered as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the said Francis Goold having been convicted of felony at the Resident Magistrate's Court, Auckland, on the second day of December, 1876.

The literary efforts of the opponents of Mr. Sutton in the Wananga extra, reminds us of an anecdote we saw a few years ago in an Auckland newspaper to the effect that once upon a time a citizen, whose life had been somewhat of a mixed character, having departed for another and better world, presented himself at the gate kept by Peter, and applied for admittance to Paradise. But Peter objected politely, and with great firmness, declined to open the gate. The citizen commenced to describe his many virtuous acts and good qualities he had possessed, but Peter was not to be won by that recital. On the other hand he took up the task of remembrances and called to the citizen's mind many matters that had a tendency to eclipse the virtuous acts. The case of the citizen looked very bad indeed, until a happy thought occurred to him that there was a little affair of the past that Peter might not have brought too prominently forward, so he stepped back, bent his elbows to make his arms resemble wing bows, and after clapping them to his ribs two or three times gave vent to a very good and vigorous cock-a-doodle doo. "Oh!" said Peter, "If you are going to rake up old yarns like that you had better go in and be hanged to you!" Does the Wananga think Mr. Sutton will play "Peter" to Mr. Buchanan's "Citizen"? We do not. (Contributed.)

In the Surveyor-General's Department, we learn that the following appointments have been made: Surveyor-General, J. T. Thompson, Esq., F.R.G.S.; Assistant ditto, Mr. M'Kerrow; Auckland, S. P. Smith, Esq.; Napier (including Poverty Bay), H. Baker, Esq.; Christchurch, J. H. Baker, Esq.; Otago, J. Arthur, Esq.

A telegram mentions that despite rumours to that effect no case of small-pox has yet been discovered in the city of Sydney. Some days ago the Herald said:—"The most absurd rumours are current as to the existence of this malady in Sydney. Everybody whose child is affected with chicken-pox, or even with prickly heat, sends to the medical officers of the Government with the information that another case of small-pox has appeared. It is not necessary to tell persons of common sense or experience that every eruptive complaint is not small-pox; but it is extraordinary how far imagination will carry people. The fact is that outside the locality around Miller's Point, already proclaimed as a quarantine ground, there is not known to be a single case of small-pox in Sydney. It was intended by the authorities to burn down the rooms in which the Holden family live. They, however, occupy but two rooms at the end of a building, which is used as a kind of store, and which contains a considerable quantity of ship stores, furniture, diving apparatus, &c. The two rooms which have constituted the dwelling-house of the family have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and it is a matter for future consideration what the Government will do with the store and its contents. To ensure an obedience of the directions of the health authorities, Mr. Inspector Read, of the police, has given his personal superintendence, and he has seen that strict quarantine has been kept, and everything done to check the spread of the contagion."

The Hobart Town Mercury says that His Excellency Governor Weld, when on a visit recently to the New Norfolk district, was anxious to catch some salmon, and thus prove beyond doubt that that fish has been successfully acclimatised in Tasmania. He fished two mornings and two evenings in the rivers Derwent and Plenty, and his success was as follows:—One salmon weighing 8 1/2 lb., which Sir Robert Officer states is the largest salmon yet caught in Tasmania, and which was killed with spinning bait; one salmon grise 4 lb., caught with a salmon fly (the second which has been captured in that way); one trout, 3 lb.; one do, 1 1/4; one do, 1 1/2 lb.; one do, about 1 lb.; one do, 3/4 lb. The total weight of the fish caught was a little over 20 lb. The distinction between the salmon and the trout is clearly marked not only by the colour and shape, but also by the teeth, which is one of the most reliable tests.

In reference to the man recently arrested here, the Timaru correspondent of the Lyttelton Times says:—"Frank Messiter was formerly postmaster at Rakaiia, and afterwards employed at the Telegraph Office here. He boarded at the Club Hotel. On leaving, the landlord detained his box for money due. Months afterwards, Mrs. M'ellan, the landlady, in moving the box, found it contained about 200 letters, addressed to various people here and in England. All the letters are supposed to have been received by Messiter at Rakaiia. Some were registered.

There are some queer candidates for legislative honors in Victoria. Of one who is now standing for East Bourke, the Melbourne Argus says:—"He is unable to pay the expenses of an election himself, and it is not long since his friends had to appeal to the charitably-disposed to raise a sum of money by subscription to purchase a horse for the purpose of enabling him to follow his vocation as a woodcarter."

We clip the following from a Darlington paper:—"Emigrants for New Zealand.—An affecting scene occurred at the North eastern Railway Station at Darlington yesterday, on the departure of between fifty and sixty emigrants for New Zealand, via London. The farewells were of a touching and pathetic character. As the train moved off, the whole party sang Moody and Sankey's well-known hymn, beginning 'We shall meet on that beautiful shore.' In reference to the above, the correspondence of a gentleman in Dunedin says:—"The people of Darlington seem to be in a favour to come to New Zealand. It would have done you good to have seen such a lot of fine young men as left in the train to ship as immigrants; they were really the flower of Darlington. They were so respected—pious, good youths; many of them, indeed most of them, were Sunday-school teachers. I think we will not be long in following." The ship Fernleigh, in which the above mentioned immigrants embarked, sailed from London on December 7th, bound for Hawke's Bay. Some of the voyagers, however, intend going on to Dunedin. We wish them God-speed, and have no doubt whatever of their success in New Zealand.

The District Grand Lodge of Freemasons for the North Island of New Zealand, E.C., will meet on the 22nd instant to nominate a successor to the late Sir Donald M'Lean, as R.W.D.G.M. Representatives of all the Masonic lodges under the English Constitution in the North Island are invited to attend on the occasion.

The Horticultural Society's Show will be held on the 21st instant, in the Protestant Hall. The back yard will be closed in, and made available for exhibition purposes.

Church of England Service will be held (D.V) on Sunday next, the 18th instant at Havelock, at 11 a.m.; at Hastings, at half-past 3; and at Clive, at 7 p.m.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

LONDON.

February 12.

The Liberal organs, commenting upon the Eastern difficulty, as disclosed in the Blue Books, approve of the attitude of the English government, and attack the Conference for stopping short that policy of coercion whereby the isolated action of Russia could have been prevented.

The Times says that the country will go with Earl Derby.

AUSTRALIAN.

AUCKLAND, February 14.

The Australia arrived from Sydney to-day. She leaves with the Frisco mails this afternoon. She left Sydney on February 9.

MELBOURNE.

A London telegram states that the appeal to the Privy Council in the case Woolley v. the Ironstone Hill Company was dismissed, thus upholding the decision of Judge Molesworth that the Crown was entitled to gold on private land which had been granted by the Crown.

John Lord's deficiencies in the Building Society already discovered are over £3000. It has been going on for three years.

John Cuddy, a clerk in the Colonial Bank, has been arrested for stealing £200 belonging to the Bank, and remanded.

Kennedy, late rate contractor of the Water Supply Department, has been convicted of embezzlement, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

Governor Bowen accompanies Sir William Gregory to Tasmania.

The election of a Committee of Management for the Melbourne Hospital is going on amid great excitement, the Catholics and Protestants being ranged against each other.

A block of buildings in Bourke-street, situate above the Opera House, has been sold privately for £36,500.

Negotiations are on foot to erect a large Theatre on this site on the American principle.

Owing to the want of unanimity among the publicans, the resolution to close houses on Sundays is likely to be shortly abandoned, and all the licensed houses will be opened on Sundays as heretofore. The Vigilance Committee appointed by the Association are unwilling to prosecute, and the system of espionage is generally condemned by the trade.

BRISBANE.

A Sub-Inspector of Police who had been dispatched to Tam O'Shanter Point, near Cairns Island, to enquire about a boat that has been seen there on the beach, reports finding some sails stained with blood. He captured two gins, who said that the blacks murdered three men, and then threw them overboard, but nothing is left from which to recognise them.

ADELAIDE.

At Wilson's Circus Aircé slipped from the Trapeze, and being unable to catch the guy, fell thirty feet. He was much bruised and one of his wrists was fractured.

A collision has occurred between the Victoria and Willunga. The former crushed obliquely into the Willunga on the starboard bow, crushing through the main rails of the bulwarks and waterway. The dredge heeled over to port and sank in a short time. All hands were saved. It will take six months and £10,000 to raise the Willunga. Her original cost was £50,000. The Victoria was injured to the extent of £150.

INTERPROVINCIAL.

DUNEDIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

February 15.

The betting market is quiet, and it is difficult to give a reliable list of quotations, prices varying so much. Naroro is never mentioned now and a price cannot be given about him; Guy Fawkes, who was second in favor, receded to 100 to 3 since incurring his heavy penalties, Templeton's indisposition has caused his

retrogression to 10 to 1 offered; as a consequence Pungawerawera is shortening in price, and the Otago horses are getting firmer.

For the Derby there is absolutely no straight out betting, but many candidates take in doubles with the Cup at prices ranging from 100 to 4 to 100 to 1.

The following is as near a list of quotations for the Cup as can be gathered: 9 to 1 against Pungawerawera (tk); 9 to 1 against King Phillips, (off); 10 to 1 against Fishhook, (tk); 10 to 1 against Right Bower, (tk); 10 to 1 against Templeton, (off); 11 to 1 against Dead Heat, (tk); 110 to 8 against Cloth of Gold, (off); 100 to 8 against Elfin King, (tk); 100 to 3 against Fallacy, (off); 100 to 8 against Middleton, (tk); 100 to 8 against Hippolampen, (off); 100 to 6 against Danebury, (off); 100 to 6 against Amandal, (off); 100 to 5 against Storm Bird, (off); 100 to 5 against Rob Roy, (off); 100 to 3 against Guy Fawkes, (tk).

[PRESS AGENCY.]

AUCKLAND.

February 14.

Arrived—Minnie Hare and Nymph, schooners from Napier.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

February 13.

The match with the All England Eleven was resumed at noon. The weather was beautiful. The Taranaki twenty-two resumed their innings, with Harrison, the "not out" of yesterday, and he was faced by Muggerridge, Southerton bowling, instead of Ulyett, and his bowling was most effective, demolishing nine wickets in an hour. The only Taranaki men who made a stand were Fitzpatrick and McKellar, who made 5 and 6 respectively. The total score at 1.15 p.m. was 33 runs with 15 wickets down.

The steamer Taupo is waiting to take the cricketers on to Nelson.

Later.

The cricket match was finished at 2 p.m., when the Taranaki twenty-two were all out in their second innings for 47. Total: All England Eleven, one innings, 80; Taranaki, two innings, 79.

WELLINGTON.

February 14.

John M'Cann, recently sentenced for rape, received thirty lashes this morning. Owen Kane, for a similar offence, received twenty-five lashes. Both men suffered severely, groaning loudly.

The original scheme for forming an opposition Gas Company is revised.

February 15.

The Hinemoa has left for Nelson, with prize firing competitors and others, about 80 in all. About twenty more will be picked up at Nelson.

NELSON.

February 14.

Play was resumed shortly before three, and at a quarter to four Charlwood was cleverly caught at wicket by Cross off Fowler, after running 38; 1 for 52.

Selby took his place, and he and Jupp remained in till the stumps were drawn at six, when the score was 142; Jupp (not out), 30; Selby (not out), 68; wides, 8; byes, 2. The bowling throughout was good, and so was the fielding, but the defect was too good through the ground being in splendid condition, and was in favor of the batsmen, who could calculate to a nicety on the movements of the ball. Play will be resumed at noon to-morrow.

The damages by the floods in the Motueka district are estimated at £30,000. Many families have lost their homes, land, cattle, and all they had.

STOCK AND STATION.

MR. TYE'S HALF-YEARLY CATTLE SALE.

Mr. Tye's initiatory sale of stock in Wai-pukurau, which has been advertised for some time, came off with a most satisfactory result on Wednesday, and must have proved to both up and down country settlers the manifest advantage of this bi-yearly sale, and that Mr Tye has exhibited great pluck in instituting this arrangement. Although the weather was most unpropitious, a very large and most influential meeting responded to Mr Tye's call, Napier, Porangahau, Wainui, and Te Aute being represented either as sellers or buyers. A number of strangers who are interested in stock of all kinds came up by the 11 o'clock train, and swelled the attendance at the sale. As you will see by the list below, the prices realized were most satisfactory. I may, particularize the amounts realized for cattle. I think, I may safely prophesy that each half-yearly sale which Mr Tye intends holding, will prove

one of our most popular local institutions, that the results will be most satisfactory, both to vendor and vender. Most of the stock offered was of a first-class description, and nothing was wanted on the part of the auctioneer which could insure a good sale. Messrs Tye and Monteith's yards are all that could be desired, both for convenience and safe keeping of stock, and with their office as stock and station agents, (which, by the way, is an ornament to the township,) a great want is supplied, which has hitherto been much felt, and which has taken a great amount of legitimate trade to the second rate township of Waipawa. The ubiquitous "T. C." was all about, and assisted the Waipawa Giant in bringing Mr. Tye's sale to a most successful termination. In conclusion, I trust that Mr Tye has had that success which his energy deserves, and that he may find it sufficiently profitable to induce him to adhere to his intention to hold his periodical sales here. The unfortunate down pour of rain which took place to a certain extent militated against the public sale, but I am credibly informed that the greater portion of stock was disposed of privately by Mr Tye. On account of the continued unfavorable weather, the sale of horses has been postponed till Saturday week, the 17th inst., when it will take place at the Waipawa sale yards. The total amount of sale realized £3,500.

The following is a list of the stock sold, and the prices realized:—60 steers, 2 to 3 years, £6 15s to £8 5s; 9 steers, 2 to 3 years, £6 5s to £9 7s 6d; 7 calves and yearlings, £1 12s 6d to £2 10s; 8 heifers, £6 2s 6d to £9 7s 6d; 4 cows and calves, £4 10s to £7; 10 working bullocks, dray, &c., £132; 4 bull calves, by "Crown Prince," £15 each; 30 Lincoln rams, 2 tooth, bred by the Hon H. R. Russell, £3 10s to £7 10s; 15 Lincoln rams, 4, 6, and 8-tooth, bred by the Hon H. R. Russell, £4 5s to £7 10s; 65 merino rams, 2-tooth, bred by the Hon H. R. Russell, £3 to £3 10s; 30 Lincoln ram lambs, bred by the Hon H. R. Russell, £3 10s to £4 5s; 3 Cotswold rams, 4-tooth, bred by J. D. Canning, Esq., £5; 30 merino rams, 2-tooth, bred by S. Johnston, Esq., £2; 1000 merino ewes, 2, 4, 6, and 8 tooth, bred by the Hon H. R. Russell, 8s 6d; 1000 cross-bred wethers, 4-tooth, 8s 6d; 1500 merino ewes, 2, 4, 6, and 8 tooth, bred by A. St. Hill, Esq., 8s 6d; 900 Lincoln ewes, 2, 4, 6, and 8-tooth, bred by Mr J. Walker, 9s.—[Own Correspondent.]

GOLDBRONGH'S MONTHLY CIRCULAR.

MELBOURNE, January 24, 1877.

WOOL.—The auction sales have been held regularly throughout the month, and about 21,583 bales have been sold, thus making a total of 99,232 bales disposed of since the opening of the season in October. Considerable quantities are still coming forward, and regular sales will probably be held for four or five weeks longer, though of course the catalogues will be much reduced.

Unwashed wool fully maintains its value, and competition for this description has been well sustained, both for shipment and for scouring. Washed fleece, in good to superior condition, has also remained firm; but inferior to average sorts must be quoted a shade lower. Scoured continues to rule at about last month's rates. As is usual towards the close of the season, a large proportion of the lots offered are in inferior to ordinary condition, and hence the generally lower range of prices.

The usual quantity available for sale in Melbourne has been supplemented to a considerable extent by consignments from the other colonies, the great inducements offered here for disposal having attracted the attention of growers and shippers in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania. Shipments from New Zealand also are beginning to arrive; and it is evident that this market is now fully recognised as being the first in the colony for the sale of wool.

Operations for America have continued during the month, but on a more restricted scale, owing to the reduced quantity of suitable wool in the market, nearly all the best clips having been disposed of either by sale or shipment before the end of December. The Eunice, now loading for Boston, will probably be the last ship; and she will sail at the end of this month with about 1300 bales, thus making the total purchases for the United States direct about 8000 bales, including 270 bales which have been sent from here to the mills in California by the mail steamer via Sydney.

The weather has continued very dry throughout the month, and feed is scarce over a large portion of Riverina. The rains advised last month added to the supply of water on the back stations, but were not in other respects productive of much benefit, as the hot sun at this season of the year rapidly dries up any spring in the grass and herbage. The summer is now however far advanced and a favorable change to cooler weather may soon be expected.

Buyers are looking forward to the February London sales, and it is to be hoped that November rates will be maintained. The continued difficulties between Russia and Turkey, advised by telegram, may have a disturbing effect, but at this distance from the scene of operations we cannot as yet conjecture their interest on the wool market. The indications generally point to firm

prices, as manufacturers are evidently run bare of stocks, and must purchase freely to meet their requirements.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9.

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

CIVIL CASES.

Kelsall v. Hastings.—Claim, £4 10s 1½d for half share of cost of fencing. Judgment for defendant, with witnesses' costs allowed.

Peddie v. Allen.—Claim, £80, and Allen v. Peddie.—Claim, £58 15s. These were cross-actions. The hearing was adjourned until Tuesday, the 13th instant.

Myhill v. Meadow.—Claim, £6 1s for groceries, &c. Judgment, by default, for amount claimed, and 13s costs.

Boylan's Trustees v. Hobbs.—Claim £1 13s 6d. Adjourned at the request of plaintiffs until 13th instant.

Margolouth and Banner v. Wheeler.—Claim £5 5s 7d, for oats, bacon &c. Judgment (by default) for plaintiffs for amount claimed, and costs 13s.

JUDGMENT SUMMONSES

Robertson v. Thornbill (Wellington).—£21 16s 3d, heard *ex parte*. Order made that defendant shall pay £2 each fortnight until the debt be extinguished, first payment to be made on February 23. In default of any single payment, two months' imprisonment in the gaol at Wellington.

Smith v. Sinden.—£9 18s 6d. Evidence having been taken as to defendant's earnings and ability to pay, an order was made for the payment of 15s per week, first instalment to be made on 16th Feb., and in default of any single payment one month's imprisonment.

A few other civil cases had been settled since the issue of the summonses.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10.

HEAVY WET.

Thomas Hardgrave, for having been drunk yesterday at the Spit, was fined 5s or in default 24 hours imprisonment.

George Sinclair was sent to gaol for 3 months (with hard labour) as an habitual drunkard.

FURIOUS RIDING.

Robert Sporie for the above offence against the Municipal Bye-laws, was fined 20s, and 9s costs. This case was held *ex parte*.

LUNACY AGAIN.

John M'Kenzie, discharged from custody on Thursday, was again brought up as a lunatic not under proper care and control. He was remanded until Tuesday next.

WIFE DESERTION.

An information for the above, under the "Destitute Persons Relief Ordinance," was adjourned for a month at the request of the police, the husband not having been served with the summons to appear.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

(Before E. Lyndon, Esq., J.P.)

OBTAINING MONEY UNDER FALSE PRETENCES.

John Cartwright and James Peters were charged with the above offence. Both of the prisoners had been arrested at Carterton, when on their way to Wellington.

John H. Anderson, who was the principal witness, deposed as to the two prisoners obtaining from Mr Berry, his partner, the sum of £14 on the understanding that they were to give them a mare as security, whereas it turned out that the mare was not the property of the prisoners. Mr Rees defended the two prisoners, and searchingly cross-examined each witness.

Both prisoners were committed for trial at the next sitting of the Supreme Court at Napier.

Bail was allowed for both prisoners, in £100 each, and two sureties of £50 each. Messrs James Bayley and Grinton came forward as sureties.

His Worship took his seat on the bench at 2.30, but two cases set down for hearing were adjourned until a future date, owing to the parties interested being unable to reach town on account of the floods.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

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

DRUNKENNESS.

Thomas Williams, a fine of 10s, or 48 hours imprisonment.

James Lambert was fined 20s.

Joseph McCabe was fined 5s, or 24 hours.

Thomas Warren, a fine of 5s for drunkenness, and for

RESISTING THE POLICE

a further fine of 20s, or 24 hours imprisonment.

LUNACY

In the cases of John McKenzie and Robert Wilford, medical certificates of insanity were lodged with the Court, which will deal with them this afternoon.

Jessie Johnston who has been before the Court a couple of times under the Vagrant Act, was remanded as a suspected lunatic until to-morrow.

SCHIEHALLION SAILORS.

John Norstrum and R. K. Peters, two of the seamen of the barque Schiehallion, were charged, on the information of John Levack, the master, with "wilful disobedience of lawful commands." The evidence adduced was very lame, and failed to sustain the charge. Both cases were dismissed.

CIVIL CASES.

Powdrell v. Flanagan.—Claim £3 2s 6d for hay. Judgment for plaintiff, and 9s costs.

Boylan v. Sellars.—Claim £3 6s for goods. Judgment for amount claimed, and costs 9s.

Broughton v. L. Higgins.—Claim £35 16s 8d, for services as land agent. Plaintiff being a half-caste with a knowledge of the native language, and the land in respect of negotiation for which the claim was made being the Tubirangi Block owned by natives, plaintiff was non-suited with costs to plaintiff £3 2s.

A large number of other civil cases were on the cause list. The Court was left sitting.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

DRUNKENNESS.

Thomas Brown, for having been in a state of intoxication at the Spit last evening, was fined and paid 5s.

LUNACY.

John McKenzie, Robert Wilford, and Jessie Johnson, were all committed as lunatics to the Napier Lunatic Asylum.

PATRICK LYNCH AGAIN.—UNLAWFULLY ON PREMISES.

The incorrigible Patrick Lynch was again brought before the Court, charged with having been found last night without lawful excuse upon the premises of the Napier Club; and was further charged with vagrancy, as having no lawful visible means of support. He was convicted on both charges, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour for each offence, the sentence being accumulative.

LONDON TOWN TALK.

THE London correspondent of the Argus writes on November 24th as follows:—

I know little of those who "pull the strings" in the political world, and to say truth, care not very much what comes of the pulling, but it is evident to me that if in the cause of Turkey England goes to war, it will be for the first time against the grain of the nation. In the old Napoleon days there was a small minority—Byron among them—whose sympathies were enlisted on the other side, but in this all the national sympathies worthy of the name will be arrayed on the side of our enemy. Nobody whose opinion is worth having believes the Russian to be much better than a barbarian, but everybody knows, who is not wilfully ignorant, that the Turk is worse than a brute. I am sorry to say that the rivalries and jealousies of the press have done much harm to the cause of justice, of which a curious instance occurred but yesterday. A letter from Lady Strangford, now in Bulgaria, was read at the Mansion House, describing matters that have come under her own personal observation, and have therefore no connection with "coffee house babble." She says she talked with a Bulgarian woman who had had a son burnt to death by the Bashi Bazouks before her eyes. "I am shocked to have made you speak on such a subject," said she. "Nay, madam, what does it matter?" was the reply. "That fire is burning here" (touching her breast) "night and day; and it is the same whether I speak of it or not." Now here is a story, whether one of a thousand or a single one, which is authenticated, and it is very important that it should be quoted to meet that cuckoo cry of exaggeration with which the careless and the callous are so ready. Yet no less than three of our chief newspapers suppress it, because Lady Strangford's letter goes on to say that those poor trampled wretches

are under the greatest obligations to the agent of the Daily News.

I have not yet seen in a London paper the very best *bon mot* I have ever heard upon a public matter. How did it happen that the late Arctic Expedition came to miss the North Pole? Because those on the Discovery were not on the Alert. Nothing, by the way has excited more public indignation against Mr. Ward Hunt than his rumoured conduct towards the Arctic captains. I say rumoured because I have not seen it contradicted, and because it is characteristic enough to be true. He is said to have reprimanded them for coming up to town without reporting themselves, and to have sent them back to their ships at Spithead. Now this may have lain within the strict lines of his duty, every man with an intelligence beyond that of a common policeman would have avoided under the circumstances exercising such an act of authority. Moreover, in his case, it is especially "bad form," since no man has made more mistakes, or cost the country so much, as Mr. Ward Hunt—not indeed by leaving his post, but by stopping in it.

The case of the barrister accused of throwing his wife over the Stelvio Pass has become a subject of much public interest. The whole story was common talk enough this autumn among tourists in that district who had returned to England, long before any legal proceedings were taken. And that the law was put in motion in the matter was owing, I am informed, to a well-known novelist, who being on the spot—and having perhaps a professional feeling for the romance of the adventure—caused the affair to be taken up. Of course it is freely stated that this is not the first wife the accused has treated in a similar manner. One would imagine, indeed, to hear some folks talk, that he had made a practice of pushing wives down mountain passes every long vacation (for he is a barrister); but I believe that it is really true that in addition to this present "unpleasantness" he had the misfortune to shoot his mother-in-law, with a revolver—quite accidentally. The revolver went off, and the old lady happened to be within range; that is really all, and even if it was not altogether aimless, she was his mother-in-law, and some temptations are irresistible.

It is extraordinary how people besides those in want of money still contrive to interest themselves in the chosen race. In a late will case in Dublin a lady is proved to have spent vast sums in "facilitating the return of the Jews to Palestine." How she did this, except by paying their fares thither, is not stated. She spent much of her time in copying the four gospels in needlework, and an Italian duplicate of them, which ought to have been German, since it was in Berlin wool. Believing also that after the resurrection the Just would be without clothes, she employed herself in making garments for them—but all of a Lilliputian size—to enable them to make a decent appearance in public. In this case of this lady's will a compromise has been effected, the jury thinking it an open question whether she was mad or not. I need not add that it was an Irish one.

The sentence passed upon Dr. Slade, and against which he has appealed, has given almost universal satisfaction, but the people who coquet with these spiritual humbugs pretend to fear that such persecution may fan the flame of superstition. Why they have not used this argument in favor of the poor fortune-tellers all these years I do not understand if it is worth a farthing, any vagabond who has been sent to prison for tricking servants maids out of their wages must have given vigour to the practice. That it is high time something should be done with these "mediums," is evident, from the fact that a house is actually advertised this week as being suitable for persons of this class, being in the centre of a highly spiritual neighborhood.

In Vienna, it seems there is an ingenious system in vogue of getting possession of the contents of a postman's bag. You send a registered letter addressed to yourself, and when the man comes to deliver it you ask him in, that he may get your signature, knock him on the head, and rifle his pack. In England our postman are protected from such attacks by the servant maids. I can answer for my own terrace at least, where at every door or window stands a maiden in waiting for this official. She counts every movement of the lips he bestows on her rivals during his delivery, and if he disappears even for a minute she will know the reason why.

The Queen is still in tolerable health, and seems in no immediate danger of losing her throne, but the stroke of misfortune, we are informed from certain Scotch pulpits, is only delayed. Indeed, if it does not happen in this world, so

much the worse for her Majesty in the next. She has not only been watching some villagers gathering in their harvest on a Sunday, but even expressed her opinion to the farmer that it was a work of necessity. It is true that it had been raining incessantly in the neighbourhood of Balmoral for weeks, and that a fine day seemed a Godsend. But what does that matter? It is this sort of conduct (say the divines aforesaid) which eventually brings people to a district where there is no rainfall at all.

Open my letter to say that the warnings of the ministers have been realised. The unhappy Queen has received from the late Lord Mayor a copy of his "Imagination and Other Poems," and has notified, through General Ponsonby, her immediate intention of reading them.

Some curious incidents have recently occurred in our competitive examinations. There is a gentleman cadet at Woolwich, who, although only 16, and the youngest in his batch, has passed 3000 marks ahead of any other competitor; but he is so short of stature that the authorities can only allow of his admittance upon his solemn promise to grow. He actually obtained the full number of marks that it was possible to get in "obligatory mathematics."

A more romantic story (but I am sorry to say equally true) comes to my ears on the same subject. A very clever young fellow became a candidate for Woolwich, and for a civil institution still more difficult to enter, during the same month, being determined to make sure of one of them. He was first on the Woolwich list, and second on the other; he elected for the latter, and was expelled in the first six weeks. When this is cited, as it is sure to be, as an argument against competition, it may be replied that young gentlemen have been expelled from the same institution as stupid as any lover of patronage or purchase could desire.

The "Portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire," purchased for £10,000, and stolen from the exhibition in Bond street is still advertised as missing. The advertisement is stated by the cynic to contain three flaws. They don't believe—1, that it was the portrait of the duchess; 2, that £10,000 was ever really given; and 3, that it was ever stolen. This is worse than the commentary upon the usurer's statement that he was poor but honest—"two lies in three words."

It must not be supposed that all the failures of our diplomatic system takes place at Constantinople. In a certain capital nearer home—though still not so very near—there is an ambassador with a temper. To call him hasty is to use a very moderate expression indeed; only to counterbalance this he has an attaché who is as cool as a cucumber. On a certain important occasion this young gentleman was sent for by his chief, and directed to start for England at once on a critical errand. "Very good, sir; how am I to go?" "Go? Walk if you like; what do I care?" It was not a time to discuss a question of special trains, and besides that was a subject for another department. The cool young man took six weeks to reach what is called in diplomatic jargon the Court of St. James'. Everybody thought he had been robbed and murdered, and his place was only not filled up because it was of no consequence. He was summoned, of course, before the Foreign Office authorities, but stuck to it that he had been told "to walk if he liked," and he had liked.

BLOTTER'S WATCH DOG.

(Danbury News).

BLOTTER belongs to several societies which keep him away from home rather late at night, and Mrs Blotter being afraid to stay by herself, Blotter concluded to get a watch-dog to keep guard over her during his absence. So last Friday morning he purchased a full-grown bull-terrier from a man, and took it home. He didn't go to his work that day, but stayed at home to pet the dog and make his acquaintance. That night being set apart for one of his societies to meet, he told Mrs Blotter as he left the house, if she retired before he returned home, to just put the dog in the entry and leave the front door unlocked. The society held its meeting longer that night than Blotter expected, and when he went home at midnight he found that Mrs Blotter had retired. She had left the door unlocked, and a growl from within informed him that the dog was in the entry. Blotter started to go in, but the acquaintance he had formed with the dog in the day time wasn't worth a cent at night, and before he got inside the door the dog, who had an eye to business, gave a growl and made a spring for him.

Blotter jumped back and pulled the door shut just in time to avoid having a set of teeth inserted where he didn't

need them. Then he stood outside the door and tried to make the dog recognise his voice, but a savage growl from the canine informed him that there was "no admittance" there. Blotter was at a loss what to do; if he went in at the door he was in danger of being "chewed up" by the dog, and he didn't want to alarm the neighborhood trying to awake Mrs Blotter. At last a thought struck him; he would go in the barn loft and sleep in the hay till morning, and just as he started to go around to the barn a window was hoisted, and Mrs Blotter called out,—

"Is that you, Israel Blotter?"

"Yes," answered Blotter, "and why in thunder don't you come down and let me in? Do you want me to stand out here all night in the cold, and freeze?"

"Why, Israel, the door is not locked," answered Mrs Blotter.

"I don't care if it ain't," said Blotter, getting angry. "You come down and put that confounded dog out, he won't let me get in."

Mrs Blotter lighted a lamp and started to go down and put the dog out at the back door, but just as she reached the head of the stairs, the dog, who thought it was his business to keep any one from going out of the house as well as coming in, gave a growl and started up after her. Mrs Blotter gave a scream, rushed back to her room, and again appeared at the window.

"What's the matter now," yelled Blotter.

"The dog won't let me come down," answered Mrs Blotter.

"How in thunder shall I get in then?" asked Blotter, his teeth snapping together as if he had a chill.

"I would get the ladder and get in at the window, Israel," answered Mrs Blotter.

"I guess that's the only way," said Blotter, and muttering something about women being great cowards, he went around to the woodshed, got a ladder, put it up to a window, and crawling up got in, after which he retired, and spent the remainder of the night dreaming that he was being devoured by bull-dogs.

In the morning Blotter hired a colored man who was passing to get the dog out of the entry and take him off; and now, when he attends the society meetings, he gets his mother-in-law to stay with Mrs Blotter, preferring to have that woman in the house than bull-dogs he knows nothing about.

THE NOMINATION.

MR. BUCHANAN committed a great political error yesterday at the conclusion of his speech when he stated that the day would soon arrive when Mr. John Sheehan the present member for Rodney "would hold the electorate of Napier in his hands." We do not wish for one moment to detract from Mr. Sheehan's acknowledged ability both as a platform orator or as an administrator. As a platform speaker Mr. Sheehan has distinguished himself at the many meetings throughout the districts held in support of Mr. Buchanan; as an administrator, his career as Provincial Secretary in the Province of Auckland speaks for itself. But Mr. Sheehan, before he "holds the electorate of Napier in his hands," will have to occupy a far different position than he does at present. Unfortunately for Mr. Buchanan, and perhaps for Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Buchanan, throughout his whole political career in this province, has proved a false prophet, and speaks evidently without inspiration. When Mr. Buchanan retires from public life, which, if he carries out his promise yesterday, he will do at the close of this contest, (for he has now but a small chance of being elected), he may attempt to place his political mantle on Mr. Sheehan's shoulders as a disappointed man and utterly untrustworthy politician, but neither he nor Mr. Sheehan can go further. Mr. Sheehan, to "hold the electorate of Napier in his hands," has like Mr. Buchanan, commenced his political career at the wrong end. Instead of attempting as Mr. Sheehan has done to place almost every person of influence in Hawke's Bay at enmity with himself, he should have chosen a different line, and commenced by winning their confidence, and that of the general public. At present it is true Mr. Sheehan is but the paid employee of the natives to upset European titles to land. That he will wholly succeed no one believes. He may, as he has done for the past few years, prevent capitalists coming to Hawke's Bay by keeping up the present Repudiation agitation, but that any person commencing his political career in a district like Hawke's Bay after this fashion should ever imagine he could "hold this electorate in his hands" is almost too absurd.—Telegraph, Feb. 9.

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT A HURIRI.

ARRIVALS

February.

- 9—Southern Cross, s.s., from Auckland via Gisborne. Passengers—Messrs J. P. Hamlin, Rees, Black, Hudson, and Parker
- 9—Fairy, s.s., from Mahia and Wairoa. Six passengers
- 9—Rangitira, s.s., from Wellington. Passengers—Mrs M'Lennan, Dr and Mrs De Lisle, Messrs Thomson, McGrath, and several others
- 10—Kiwi, s.s., from Wellington.
- 10—Sarah and Mary, ketch, from Lyttelton.
- 14—Wanaka, s.s., from Southern Ports. Passengers—Mr Birch, Miss Rich, Capt. Petherbridge, Messrs R. Rhodes, Hassall, Snow, Crawford, the Steer, Parker, Phillips, two in the sheen, and nine for the North
- 14—Jane Douglas, s.s., from Poverty Bay. One passenger.
- 15—Fairy, s.s., from Wangewehi. Passengers—Mr G. Walker.

DEPARTURES.

February.

- 8—Jane Douglas, s.s., for Gisborne. Passengers—Mrs Anthony, Miss Parkins, Messrs Hutchinson, Turner, Thompson, Walker, Samuels, Lever, and 24 natives
- 12—Rangitira, s.s., for Wellington. Passengers—Mr and Mrs Perkins, Mr and Mrs Spiller and child, Misses Dowd and Perkins, Messrs Seed, Sturrock, Thomas, Stubbs, Newton, senior, and junior, Motley, Clayton, Mogridge, Sellars, Chinese Giant and attendant
- 12—Southern Cross, s.s., for Wellington. Mr and Mrs Unson, Messrs Fisher, Hansen, and Benson
- 13—Mania, p.s., for Wairoa. Passengers—Messrs Duff, Walker, Steele, Tarton, and a few others
- 13—Kate Macgregor, schooner, for Mercury Bay
- 13—Kiwi, s.s., for Wellington. Passengers Mrs Murray and 6 children, Mr and Mrs Hastings, Miss Best, Messrs Kenrick and Howie
- 13—Christina, schooner, for Auckland
- 13—Fairy, s.s., for Wangewehi.
- 15—Sarah and Mary, ketch, for Lyttelton. Passengers—Master Russell.
- 15—Wanaka, s.s., for Northern Ports.

The steamers Rangitira and Kiwi both anchored in the Bay, the former at 7 p.m. on Friday, and the latter at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

The s.s. Southern Cross arrived in the roadstead at an early hour on Friday from Auckland via Poverty Bay. She took in a cargo of store sheep at the Tamaki, leaving Poverty Bay on Thursday, and arriving here as above.

The s.s. Jane Douglas left on Thursday for Gisborne, with a little cargo, and a large number of passengers.

We notice by advertisement, that the Union Company's new steamer Wauwaka is going to run on this coast. She is under the command of Captain Malcolm, who had the s.s. Storm Bird and Maori on this coast.

The schooner Lady Don, which loaded wool here from the Jessie Readman at Wellington, was caught in a severe gale and blown down to Lyttelton, considerably damaged. Her cargo, which consisted of 230 bales of wool, was all more or less damaged by saltwater. Fortunately for the owners, it was covered by insurance.

The schooner Orpheus, hence on January 31, arrived at Auckland on Thursday.

The s.s. Rangitira, Cap. Evans, after discharging about 40 tons of inward cargo at the Breastwork on Monday, took in a full load of wool for Wellington to be transhipped to the Ocean Mail for London, and left at 4 p.m.

The s.s. Southern Cross, Capt. Holmes left the outer wharf soon after the Rangitira, bound also to Wellington where she will be placed on the slip for a thorough overhaul.

The p.s. Mania, Cap. Smith, left for Wairoa at an early hour on Monday with a little cargo and several passengers.

We were unable to give our readers the names of the passengers per the steamers Rangitira and Kiwi on Saturday, as their reports were not ashore when we went to press. We now append them:—Per Rangitira: His Worship the Mayor, Dr. and Mrs. Delisle, child, and servant, Mesdames Wigan, Hallett, Cole, Faulkner and 2 children, Misses Cole, Allan, and Merritt, Messrs Cole, Biddell, Trindell, Stone, Morvin, Cotterill, Garry, Dawson, Braidy, Matheson, Seymour, several in the steerage, and two prisoners. Per Kiwi: Messrs M'Laggan, Williams, Bartlett, Birch, Herbert, and 7 in the steerage. The Rangitira was steered in by the semaphore on Saturday afternoon, but in consequence of the continued wet weather neither steamer discharged any cargo. They were both full. The latter steamer was unable to call on the coast coming up, consequently she has all her coast passengers and cargo on board.

In consequence of the continued fresh in the Tutaeaki, there has been no perceptible flood tide since Friday last.

The sea is quite smooth in the Bay, so much so that the s.s. Sir Donald was enabled

to lay alongside the Schiehallion to take in the balance of her English cargo.

The Mission schooner Southern Cross is at present on her way to Wellington from Auckland. Her crew consists of 25 boys from the training school at Auckland.

The s.s. Nemesis, a steamer of 2885 tons, will leave Sydney for London via the Cape of Good Hope on the 24th instant. Turnbull and Co. are her agents in Wellington, from whom all particulars can be obtained.

On February 5 the C.G. s.s. Hinemoa, Captain Fairchild, left Wellington for a trip round the Middle Island. She will call at Preservation Inlet to land some ironwork to be used in the construction of a new lighthouse. Captain Fairchild expects to be away about ten days.

The s.s. Rangitira, hence on Monday at 4 p.m. arrived at Wellington at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, and the s.s. Southern Cross, which left half-an-hour after the Rangitira, arrived at Wellington at 5.30 p.m.

The s.s. Fairy left for Wangewehi on Tuesday for a load of wool for the Schiehallion.

The s.s. Wauwaka arrived in the Bay at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, she was immediately tendered by the steam launch Bella, and the passengers landed. The Bella made a second trip to land 32 Longwool Rams. The Wauwaka was lightened by the Three Brothers and Sir Donald, and her cargo which was principally grass seed, discharged this morning. The Wauwaka proceeded to Poverty Bay, Tauranga, and Auckland, at 12 o'clock noon.

The s.s. Jane Douglas returned from Poverty Bay on Wednesday. She has a full cargo of dumped wool, which she is putting on board the Schiehallion this morning.

The s.s. Fairy returned from Wangewehi early on Thursday, with a load of dumped wool for the Schiehallion.

The Schiehallion on Thursday was taken to the northwards of the Bay to throw overboard her surplus ballast. She was towed back to her original mooring by the Jane Douglas on Thursday.

The ketch Sarah and Mary sailed for Lyttelton on Thursday in ballast.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

MAILS CLOSE

For the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, &c., via Suez and Brindisi, by every opportunity to Wellington, where the mails close on the 11th March.

For Fiji, Sandwich Islands, America, West Indies, United Kingdom and Continent of Europe, &c., via San Francisco, on Wednesday, 7th March, at 2.30 p.m. Money Orders for United Kingdom, will close at 11 a.m. on 7th March.

Registered Letters and newspapers will close at 1 p.m.

J. GRUBB.

Chief Postmaster.

BIRTH.

GRAHAM.—At Havelock, on the 11th February, the wife of Mr F. Graham, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

JOHNSON—OAKLEY.—At Sandon, on February 8, by the Rev. A. Towgood, J. T. Johnson, of Napier, to Amelia Mary Oakley, second daughter of J. Oakley, Esq., Sandon, Rangitikei.

DEATH.

DROWER.—At Waipukurau, on the 12th February, Maude Harriet Drower, aged 3 months.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are in receipt of several letters from immigrants complaining of the manner in which they have been treated in Hawke's Bay. To publish the whole of the correspondence would more than fill our columns. Last week we denounced the present system of Free Immigration.

JOHN M'VAY,

SADDLER & HARNESSMAKER

Hastings-street.

The Cheapest House in the Trade.

TO ARCHITECTS REQUIRING PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE.

DESIGNS prepared from rough sketches. Plans colored or etched in first style. J. SPARROW, Architect and Building Surveyor, Waipukurau.

H. MONTEITH,

Stock, Land Estate, and General Commission Agent, Waipukurau. Goods Stored and Forwarded. Offices and Stores: Near the Railway Station.

Government Notifications.



ASSESSMENT COURT.

WAIROA COUNTY.

TAKE NOTICE that MONDAY, the 26th day of February 1877, is the day appointed on which, and the Court House Clyde, Wairoa, the place at which a Sitting of the above Court will be held at 11 o'clock a.m.

FRED. J. ORMOND, Judge of Assessment Court. Wairoa, February 8, 1877.

NOTICE.

Office of Waste Lands Board.

Napier, 8th December, 1876.

TO HUGH MCCORMICK, formerly of the 65th Regiment or his representatives.

You are hereby required, within six months from this date, to prove to the satisfaction of the Waste Lands Board that you have complied with the conditions required to entitle you to 60 acres of land in the Wakarara District, selected under a Military Settlers Land Order, and if you fail to prove your claim within the specified time, your title to the land will be forfeited and the land be dealt with as the Board may direct.

J. T. TYLEE, Chief Commissioner.

TO LET,

THE Shop and Premises lately occupied by Edwin Carter, Clyde, Wairoa.

The above offers a rare opportunity for a person to combine the wholesale with the retail department. General business. Rent Moderate.

Apply to

KINROSS & CO.

Or to

E. CARTER,

Clyde, Wairoa.

SAMSON FENCING WIRE.
This is an entirely new and superior description, and shows an immense saving as compared with old sorts, No. 8 ordinary wire being only 10 cwt., versus 17 cwt. A lady notes that the SAMSON WIRE is slightly oval in shape, to distinguish it. Each coil has a brass padlock tally and a tin of nails. Manufactured by the Warrington Wire Works, Warrington, and may be procured through any Merchant, Prominence, or Storekeeper.

The Weekly Mercury

AND

HAWKE'S BAY ADVERTISER.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1877.

Complete State of the Poll.

Majority for Sutton, 23.

	Buchanan	Sutton	Tiffen	Colenso
Napier	233	219	82	6
Wairoa	28	16	0	0
Hastings	18	31	0	0
Petane	6	4	0	0
Meanee	4	15	3	2
Taradale	7	19	35	2
Puketapu	0	15	3	2
	296	319	153	12

THE Hawke's Bay County Council has not adopted the full powers of the Counties Act a day too soon. The special meeting on Friday was the result of a very short experience of the working of the Act in its limited form. The Council was powerless; in fact, all that portion of the Act mentioned in its third schedule not being in force, local government had ceased to exist within the county. The Council, under the dictatorship of Colonel Whitmore, had been in such a terrible hurry to affirm its resolve not to bring the whole Act into operation, that it did not wait for the main roads to be handed over by the late Provincial Engineer. The bug-bear—expense and taxation—the Hon. Colonel had conjured up in the minds of the councillors had, apparently, created a panic, and the Council quickly determined to leave local government in the hands of the Wellington authorities. The march of events, however, has conclusively shown the absolute necessity existing for local bodies to administer local affairs. Without the full powers of the Act being in force neither the main roads,

nor the bridges were under the supervision of anyone, nor was there any authority by which provision could be made for their preservation in time of floods. Nothing could be more unsatisfactory than was the condition of affairs as left by the Council, and there were no counter-balancing advantages. The only reasons that had weight with the Council in adopting the restricted Act were that it entirely prevented the imposition of a county rate, and the appointment of county officers. It was never thought that the same councillors who were resolute enough to delegate their authority to the Colonial Government rather than leave it in their own power to tax themselves, would not be likely if they had the power to impose any burdens on their landed estates. But Colonel Whitmore's dread was that in playing with edged tools they might accidentally cut themselves, and therefore he advised they should have nothing to do with them. The result we have seen. The Council has found it necessary to carry out its functions, and we trust no more nonsense will be talked concerning the inability of its members to manage county affairs with ability and economy.

THE question of immigration has for some time past forced itself on public attention, and never more so than at the present time. A short paragraph in our columns a few weeks ago has evoked a considerable amount of correspondence, every letter being confirmatory of our statement that immigration is overdue in this province. But the cry is, "still they come." Let us take the list of immigrants for Napier by the ship Fernglen, which may be shortly expected here. In this we find no less than thirty-four families, having between them seventy-four children. Some of the families, we notice, have six children, and one married couple have eight. What is to become of these people we cannot say, and their destiny must be left in the hands of that Government under whose auspices they have been brought out here. By the same ship are now on their way sixty-six single men, and twenty-five single women, one hundred and ninety-nine souls in all. The single men and women may be left to take care of themselves; probably they will find employment; but, we protest against the introduction of married people with large families, as not only cruel to themselves, but unjust to the charitably disposed on whose support they must eventually fall. An amount of hardship is now being suffered by many an industriously disposed family, the extent of which it is impossible to gauge, and we fear the distress that will be apparent during the coming winter will tax to the uttermost the resources of the charitable.

HOWEVER disposed we might be to attempt the conversion of Mr R. Coupland Harding, we are too well aware of the fixity of his opinions on the temperance question to hazard an undertaking that could only result in failure. But Mr Harding having taken us to task for alluding to his stock query to all candidates for the representation of Napier, as absurd, it becomes necessary to again rake up the well worn subject of the Permissive Bill. We should say that Mr Harding is not a humorist; although he is not of that people of whom it has been said that they have to undergo a surgical operation before they can appreciate a joke, we are inclined to think he would require a severe course of medicine before he could perceive the difference between fun and that which is serious. Mr Harding cannot see that there is anything absurd in his mounting the stage at every election meeting, and in a peculiar monotone putting the self same question to each candidate, "in the event of your being returned, will you pledge yourself to support a Permissive Bill, should one be introduced into the General Assembly?" Mr Harding's constant appearance never fails to provoke the heartiest laughter, and the word "absurd" is properly applied to a scene that invariably causes amusement from the very poor satisfaction the questioner receives. There is another feature about Mr Harding's persistency in this respect. He puts the question as though on the satisfactory reply of the candidate hung his chances of being elected. There would be less absurdity about it if the teetotal vote in this town were worth courting. It was in this sense that we spoke of Mr Harding's action in this respect as absurd, and in no way did we wish it to be inferred that the principles for which he contends are worthy of ridicule. With regard to those principles we should advise Mr Harding to study Mr John Stuart Mill's essay on "Liberty. An attentive study of that little work

will, perhaps, convince Mr Harding that the best Permissive legislation we can have is that which, while it ensures the liberty of the individual against the tyranny of a bigoted society, permits every man to abstain from or indulge in the use of alcoholic beverages as his taste or his health may dictate.

THE Canterbury Press of the 6th instant in an able article reviewing the last Custom's returns, in summing up shows that Major Atkinson's estimate of revenue for the year is likely to prove very fallacious. The Press says:—"It will be remembered that Sir J. Vogel, in his statement delivered on the 4th July, estimated the customs revenue at £1,260,000—being what he called the "very moderate advance of £34,000 upon the income of the preceding year. But Major Atkinson in his statement towards the close of the session, somewhat abated his predecessor's estimate. Speaking with the accounts for the first quarter before him, he thought it safer to count on an increase of £14,000 only; and accordingly estimated his customs revenue for the year at £1,240,000. We remarked at the time that any increase at all was very doubtful, and that the Treasurer had better be content with accepting the actual receipts of the last year as his estimate for the next. The result goes to show that even then he would have been too sanguine. A revenue of £1,240,000 means a quarterly average of £310,000. But the receipts for the September quarter were £303,430, and for the second, the December quarter, only £294,128. So that the half-year, instead of producing £620,000, as it should have done to be equal to the intimate, has returned no more than £597,556 leaving a deficit of £22,442. If the revenue continues at the same rate, there will be a deficiency at the end of the year of close upon £45,000. Of course another six months has still to come; and either the current quarter or the June quarter might help to restore the balance. It is too soon to pronounce decisively. But we see no reason to anticipate any remarkable degree of improvement; and so far as the custom are concerned, there is every appearance that, at the end of the year, the Treasurer will find himself mistaken in his reckoning by at least £40,000.

Mr. Buchanan's Meeting.

ON Wednesday the Oddfellows' Hall was crowded by electors and boys to listen to the views of Mr. Buchanan.

Mr. G. E. Lee was voted to the Chair, and introduced Mr. John Buchanan, who was received with hisses and applause.

Mr. Buchanan, in a long speech, referred to the attacks that had been made on his political character during the contest by the press. He intended, he said, to fight this political contest fairly, and should he be defeated, he solemnly promised, without any reservation whatever, that he would never again contest another election in this Province. This statement was received with rounds of applause. He denied that he was a puppet of the Grey-Macandrew party, and appealed to the electors present to say whether in his past career he had ever been a puppet in the hands of any man or party. (Ironical laughter.) He then defended Sir George Grey from the accusations that had been levelled against him, but denied that, if elected, he would be found supporting that party of which Sir George Grey was the head. (Mr. Sheehan: Hear, hear.) Mr. Sheehan would in future be the man who would rule this electorate if he (Mr. Buchanan) was defeated. (Cheers and counter-cheers.) The past land transactions of Hawke's Bay were a sealed book, but he (Mr. Buchanan) would endeavour to unravel the mysteries contained in that work. (Cheers.) There were many present who would remember how in 1868 he supported the Stafford Ministry, which was then in opposition to the late Sir D. McLean and Mr. Ormond. (Groans.) Yes, he did support that Ministry—(cheers and counter-cheers)—and the result showed that, although the people did not have confidence in the policy then pursued, recent events showed that he was right. (Great Laughter.) Mr. Stafford was then the saviour of the country. It was true Mr. Stafford was a large land owner, but nevertheless his interests were identical with those of the working man (Mr. Rearden: Hear, hear.) Mr. Buchanan concluded an able and fervid address by appealing to the electors to vote for one who had consistently supported Mr. Stafford, and who he believed was the first statesman in the colony. (Mr. Buchanan resumed his seat amidst loud cheers.)

Mr. John Sheehan then ascended the platform amidst loud applause and hisses.

He said he would not have come forward were it not at the request of the electors. Mr. Sheehan in a long and frothy address begged of the electors to return Mr. Buchanan at the head of the poll. (Great laughter.) It was true that shortly after the decease of the late Sir Donald McLean, Mr. Buchanan had consulted with him regarding the present election, and he then promised him (Mr. Buchanan) to use his utmost efforts to get him returned, and he would use every effort to carry out that promise. Although to-day he did not hold the electorate of Napier in his hands, he was confident the day was not far distant when he would do so. (Great laughter.) Mr. Buchanan, like himself, was an opponent of the present Government, and he hoped the electors would place Mr. Buchanan at the head of the poll. (Cheers.) At the close of this election he hoped all political feelings would be buried, and those who were opposed politically to-day would work in concord with him. (Laughter.)

Mr. J. N. Wilson then addressed the electors, and amidst much cheering showed that the Auckland party were working the election for their own purposes.

Mr. Rees in a long-winded speech claimed that Sir George Grey having out of his own pocket purchased for the public a large estate should receive their support. (Cheers.) He hoped the electors would place Mr. Buchanan at the head of the poll, because if elected he would support the interests of the Auckland party. (Mr. Rearden: Hear, hear.)

Mr. Campbell amidst loud cheers contended that in electing Mr. Buchanan the electors would be untrue to themselves, and in electing Mr. Buchanan they would entirely place themselves in the hands of Sir G. Grey's Central Committee. He put the question fairly before the electors that in the present contest the real test was whether the people of Hawke's Bay would support the present Government or a factious opposition. (Cheers.)

Mr. Murray, amidst much laughter, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Buchanan for the able speech he had delivered.

This proposition, having been seconded, was carried, amidst laughter and applause. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

WAIROA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

February 9.

Upon reflecting in calmer moments upon the result of Mr. Buchanan's election meeting of last Saturday, it will be at least admitted that Mr. Sheehan has succeeded in clearing up a good many misapprehensions that had been afloat previously concerning him. As he himself admitted he started with the feeling that the Wairoa body politic was opposed to him; by the clear enunciation of his views with respect to natives we found out that his views were almost identical with our own. There is a significance in this determination, from a native district from one where the coddling and restricted actions of the Native Lands Act were in full swing, from a district too where Government officials have great moral power, and finally from a community by whom Sir Donald McLean was worshipped, if possibly more than in Napier itself, this note comes as a warning note, place the Maori on an equal footing with the white man, no more petting, no more protection for them than for any one else, and finally free trade in land. There was the secret of Mr. Sheehan's success. Free trade in land, reduction of the native department, Maories to be made bear their share towards the erection of dividing fences and to pay their quota to the rates. Go a step farther, make them pay Dog taxes, and everything else Europeans do. I would suggest to the electors as a body that they hold a meeting before the election and give a block vote to the most suitable candidate to the place. The election will be a very close one, and the Wairoa votes might win the day after all. Mr. Buchanan is, I believe, the favourite one now, altho' but one short week back Mr. Sutton appeared to be the chosen one of the locality.

In botching up the hurried business of last session, it would be as well if the General Government were to take over the issue of many of the licenses, the fees of which are now payable to the Boroughs and Councils. The publicans' and wine and spirit merchants' licenses can remain as they are, they, the publicans and wine and spirit merchants, are stationary, afford a good source of revenue to the corporate bodies, and no public advantage would be derived by depriving the local authorities of their revenue. But

auctioneers' and hawkers' licenses, together with the dog tax, stand on a far different footing. In some Counties it would not pay to charge a heavy fee (£40 or £50 per annum for instance) for an auctioneer's license, simply because it would not pay an auctioneer to start in the place at such a handicap. Neither could one come for any special job from neighboring County or Borough, but his license would not hold good and the local body would want to collar the fee over again. Let the General Government fix one good fee and let that run all over the colony. Let there be no geographical distinctions at all for such licenses. Melbourne auctioneers sell at Deniliquin; Sydney men at Bathurst. Why then should there be in New Zealand over a hundred different bodies each empowered to grant licenses in their own districts, while at the same time those licenses have no effect beyond some imaginary and arbitrary line? The same with hawkers! Is it to be contended that a man paying his license to one County will have to pay and pay again as he journeys? His first payment is for "hawking." Can you imagine a stationary hawker. The terms are not synonymous. The same argument holds good for the "Dog Tax." Are drovers to keep on paying as they pass imaginary lines of demarcation? Forbid it Jupiter! The General Government could well take over the whole of these sums and make some small concessions to the Municipalities and Councils for this breach of contract on their part if they do so.

In my opinion the strict enforcement of many of the provisions and small sources of revenue that these bodies enjoy under the "Counties Act" and it's equally confusing confres, will entail more trouble and expense than they are worth. Another thing, why are the old Provincial boundaries, laws and fees still kept up? What advantage has been derived from the Abolition of Provinces, while the same old Provincial districts are kept up?

It is rumored that there will be a great many objections to the valuation roll at the first sitting of the Assessment Court for this County (26th February.) It would be as well for intending objectors to bear in mind that those rolls were very hurriedly compiled on purpose to be in time to get the first year's Government subsidy—it is far more than probable that next year will see the Councils getting no subsidy whatever—the land fund and consolidated revenue are both falling off so seriously. Secondly that the valuation has been placed at a very moderate amount in order to cover the many errors and omissions that must have crept in the first time, those rolls being prepared without time being allowed from the Government to search the Registry Offices, and have an accurate map prepared—if every occupier whose property has been wrongly described, or who fancies his neighbor's property has been wrongly described, brings his case into Court and wins it, he may possibly save a shilling or so of rates, but he will most infallibly help to put the county funds into such a low condition that very little will be left in the exchequer to meet the necessary road expenditure as all the costs come out of county funds, at least so I am told and well believe it. The Wairoa ferry is to be sold on the 14th instant, and the bridge (greatly needed) over the Awatere creek to be started as soon as possible. This work, when completed, will be a great boon to travellers from Mahia and the Bay.

In election matters, Mr. Buchanan appears to be, at present the winning horse, Mr. Sutton, and he will possibly make close running, but I fancy the former will be ahead here, the rest nowhere. Mr. Sheehan's plucky manner of feeding the lion in his den (Wairoa bulls he called us) has had the effect of making most people imagine he is not so bad, repudiatively, as he was made to be. Can I impress on the residents throughout the whole county who are not yet on the electoral roll that they ought to get registered at once. Register! register! register! and do you, Mr. Editor, try and get some of the needful for us. Send each of your subscribers one at least.

I hear that are-inforcement of A.C. are now on their way to replace those lately discharged, this district is still looked upon as one in which garrisons are required. It is out of my province to suggest that if any where required here it is at Onepoto, a good garrison should be kept there at all events, it really is of use as the Urwera got very bumptious when it was reduced. A few men there doing bona fide garrison duty, would impress the native mind far more than being scattered about here and there playing at roadmaking or else cooling their heels at

headquarters. Somehow Onepoto never was a very favorite residence for the officers, and yet somehow I fancy some of the "past" officers would take up their residence there for a very long residence indeed—if possible.

The weather is something frightful, tremendous downpour of rain, and blowing hard from the S.E. I rather envy the mailman his trip to-morrow. It is too infernally (excuse the profanity of the remark) wet to go out and look for any more work. So, Mr. Editor, I will conclude by, in local phraseology, "looking towards you."

WAIROA COUNTY COUNCIL.

THE adjourned meeting of the above Council was held at Wairoa on the 12th February.

Present: Councillors Burton (Chairman), Cable, Flint, Parker, and Smyth.

Correspondence was laid on the table—1st. From Cr. McKinnon stating that for the Tongio Ferry a bonus of £20 was given last year, and recommending that Mr. Haultain's offer of placing a man there for 5s per diem when the lagoon has broken out be accepted. 2. From the Colonial Secretary stating that the fees for auctioneers' licence are paid in accordance with the provisions under which they were issued prior to the Abolition of Provinces, and that the Council had neither the power to issue the licenses nor to fix the rates thereof. 2. From Mr. Hamshaw, accepting Waihua Ferry without bonus, providing a punt be placed there by the Council.

On the motion of Cr. Cable, correspondence as read was received.

Cr. Cable moved and Cr. Smyth seconded, that for the present, and until further enquiries be made, the Tongio Ferry be held over.

Amendment moved by Cr. Flint, and seconded by Cr. Parker, that £5 be placed on the estimates for the Tongiro Lagoon Ferry, and same arrangements be entered into to provide the necessary punt. Amendment carried.

Proposed by Cr. Smyth, seconded by Cr. Parker, that the chairman be empowered to expend a sum or sums not exceeding £50 for the purpose of repairing the damage done to the roads by the late floods.

It was then proposed by Cr. Cable, seconded by Cr. Smith, and carried unanimously, that with regard to all private drains in the township carrying drainage water into the river, the owners or occupiers benefiting thereby, be required, within 14 days from receipt of due notice, to construct and afterwards maintain at their own cost in good repair to the satisfaction of the Council, efficient watercourses leading to the river or else such drains will be closed. The Council at the same time retaining the right of closing the drains if found injurious to public property. And that public notification be given to the effect that no drains or any other interference with the river bank will be permitted without the express sanction of the Council.

Proposed by Cr. Cable, seconded by Cr. Flint, that the Bank of New Zealand be applied to increase the present overdraft to £700, taking as security the revenue of the Council for the current year.—Carried.

The meeting then adjourned until the 19th instant.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM KAMCHATKA TO NEW ZEALAND IN 9 DAYS.

SIR,—Mr. Rhodes in his hustings speech states in the event of a war with Russia, that country could send a naval force from Kamchatka here in 9 days.

Now, sir, Nikoloevsk, the only naval port of Russia near Kamchatka lies in 52° 50' N. latitude, and 141° 25' of E. longitude; and Napier in 39° 30' of S. latitude, and 176° 44' E. longitude: this by Norrie's reckoning gives a straight run of 5,936 miles, (no allowance being made for any stoppages, deviations caused by currents, winds, &c.) A vessel therefore to make the passage in 9 days must travel at the rate of a fraction under 28 knots per hour for the entire time stated.

The name of the Russian man-o-war therefore likely to be sent in case of war, will oblige

ONE NOT TO BE FRIGHTENED.
Spit, February 13, 1877.

SOME MYSTERIOUS VALENTINES.

SIR,—The tutelar saint of the day, in his passage through our town, must have left fall by accident a number of the tender-missives with which he was laden. I have picked up a small parcel of these

documents, and thinking it a pity that they should have miscarried, I send them to you for publication, in the sincere hope that they may meet the anxious eyes of those to whom they are addressed. I have taken the trouble to re-arrange them, reversing the order in which they appeared to have been originally placed.

1.
Colenso! all in vain thy arts
To charm the hard electoral hearts—
The polling day will leave to thee
Thy *Lexicon* and liberty!

2.
Intrepid Rhodes! thy first defeat
It now shall be thy lot to meet!
Though wealth and common-sense be thine,
They will not make thee Valentine!

3.
Tiffen! beneath the yew-tree's shade
Thy budding hopes shall soon be laid.
With weeping-willow let us twine
Thy tender floral Valentine!

4.
O Sutton, Sutton! had thy hands
Been still unsoiled by native lands,
The victor's wreath might now be thine—
But thou wilt not be Valentine!

5.
Buchanan! thou with giant might
Can for the People's interests fight.
Against thee though a host combine
Thou art the chosen Valentine!

If the parties interested are inclined to bestow any *Reward* upon the humble individual to whom they are indebted for the recovery of these papers (which, being of a strictly personal nature were unfortunately of no value to the finder), they will kindly leave the same at the office of your paper, and it will be very gratefully received by

AUTOLYCUS.

Napier, February 14, 1877.

BRAVERY DURING FLOODS.

SIR.—“Cato,” by his letter in your issue of this evening, seems to entirely misunderstand the purport of your paragraph in your issue of the 12th instant. In it many wished to express their thanks to those named in your paragraph for their unbounded exertions on behalf of the settlers generally. On the other hand the risk and kindness were simply for the personal benefit of one. Had the man to whom “Cato” refers any thought, he would “as those settlers did who received manifold kindness from Messrs Payne, Chase, Collins, and Pritchard, have thanked those who at the risk of their own lives saved his,” have publicly thanked them through the papers. “It is not even too late” now, but it would have been more to the point had he done so before. “Cato” did it for him.—I am, &c.,

INUNDATED.

Taradale, February 13, 1877.

THE INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

SIR.—The question has been asked and, perhaps, you may be able to answer it, is it not likely that Mr. W. Colenso desires to enter the House to advocate his claims to a fat Inspectorship of Schools—a billet under the General Government at something like £400 a year? The House in the past has proved a very Fortunatus's purse to Mr. Colenso, and, in the lapse of years, he may think the claim has not been entirely worked out. Knowing Mr. Colenso, I should not be surprised, if he fails in this election, if he does not ask the Education Board for an increase of screw to sooth his wounded feelings.—I am, &c.,

BILLY BUTTON.

Napier, February 13, 1877.

LOSSES THROUGH THE FLOOD.

SIR.—I was much pleased to see Mr. J. Sheehan's letter in your columns of last Monday, advocating the calling of a meeting by His Worship the Mayor, for the purpose of opening subscriptions to assist the distressed by the late floods. In addition to this, I would suggest, in order that all might contribute their mite that, as was the case two years ago, for “The Sick Fund,” entertainments might be given and committees appointed in various parts, to report to a central committee those who had suffered greatly and needed assistance.—I am, &c.,

A COUNTRY OBSERVER.

Taradale, February 14, 1877.

THE LATE FLOODS.

SIR.—From “Big May's” letter in your issue of to-night, I fear he is not a resident here; he may be an occasional visitor, but he does not know the residents here to a T. If he did, he would not have been misinformed in his ideas as regards their efforts to protect themselves during the past months. The

river embankment is a sore bone of contention here, and while it has to be done voluntarily out of private sources, it never will be. Somebody has an objection because Mr So and So does not contribute so much, and will, in support of his objection, say, “See what a stake he has in the fence!” And so it is first one and then another, and thus nothing is done. There is no doubt that a meeting will, as before has been the case, be called, and the result will be, ten chances to one, the same nothing will be done, and many will deliberately (of our industrious settlers) refuse to contribute, having lost their produce; and before the Act can be brought into force and the rate levied, they will have moved away to the land they have taken up on the deferred payment system, where they can certainly live in peace of mind. There is no doubt that the flood, or rather the effects, will drive many more away from amongst us. Scarcely had the flood abated, than rumor had it that Mr. H. S. Tiffen was going to provide £500, whether public or private money rumor did not say, for the purpose of embanking a part, and making a wing-dam, which latter word is, by the by, quite a by-word here, for protecting Taradale. That something must be done it is certain, and the sooner they move in a proper direction the better.—I am, &c.,

WASTE LAND.

Taradale, February 13, 1877.

FAMINE IN THE LAND.

SIR.—Under the above heading in your issue of yesterday I notice that (Wairoa) instead of trying to give the unemployed a helping hand, is, by his suggestions and false representations, trying to throw all blame on me and working men. As regards working for lower wages I find that don't keep a man employed, or I would not be idle now, for I may inform him that I have been working for 2s a day less than the current rates; and as for his stating that we will not be at the trouble of seeking it, unless at the old rate, is entirely false; for having a family depending on me for support, I have offered to work for any wages if I can get an honest crust for my labour it would be far acceptable to charitable aid. Even if the unemployed do accept of aid I consider that the Government do no more than their duty; it is they who are entirely to blame for fetching families to a place like this, and if they cannot employ us, send us home again. When a man has to pay 10s and 11s a week for a place to live in, and 1s for a loaf, I think he requires a little more wages than in the old country. In it, even in London, I have had far superior accommodation for 2s 6d a week; in fact, with all the boasted cheapness of meat, I could live better at home on one third the money. I sincerely trust that Wairoa will advertise for good laborers, stating the wages he can afford to give. I know nothing of agricultural labor myself, being a mechanic, but if he will give me sufficient to keep myself and family, I will be glad to do what I can. When I wrote on Saturday I little expected to see “Working Man's” letter; as soon as I began to read it I knew who the writer was, and know that all his statements are true. We have both got a good way through life's journey, and I have in times gone by found it darkest before daybreak. Hoping its better on before.—I am, &c.,

R.M.

Napier, February 14, 1877.

FAMINE IN THE LAND.

SIR.—Under the above heading a Wairoa correspondent attacks you for your articles in your recent papers upon immigration; he also attacks the writers of those letters that by your kindness you allowed to appear in last Saturday's paper. Will you kindly allow me to say a few words in reply to him? “Wairoa” says, first, he would suggest that men should, rather than starve, work for lower wages; well, how much lower would he like them? I, for one, am a carpenter, as I told you last Saturday, yet I have not been particular what I did so long as I could get a living. I have worked for 35s per week under the promise of twelve months' work; and if that is too high, I have even offered to work for 30s a week, finding myself and family everything but meat, namely, mutton on a station. Is that low enough for “Wairoa,” or does he, when he refers to the old country remuneration, mean near Gloucester, where I have seen the agricultural laborer living on 8s per week finding himself? If he does, then, I reply, it were better to have left them there, for when they get sick, old, or infirm they had the workhouse, which they have not here, though I should

advise one to be built soon, or the gaol to be enlarged, as I feel sure, under present circumstances, it will soon be required. Your correspondent also uses the following words—“That, unless work is brought to them without seeking for it at the old rate, they are dissatisfied and feel themselves injured.” To whom do these words refer? Does he mean to the writers of Saturday's letters? If so, do not be so fast, Mr “Wairoa,” or you may get in trouble. I said in my letter that I had made repeated applications for even one day's work, and could not get it—an assertion I can prove to the satisfaction of any person who likes to leave a line or two at the TELEGRAPH office, where they can find all information as to who I am. I have never spoken to you. Mr. Editor, nor had any communication with you, except in last Saturday's paper, but I take this liberty seeing you are well-inclined towards the poorer class as to insert their letters. Finally, Mr “Wairoa,” you also say you can find work for a reasonable number of agricultural laborers. What is your reasonable number, or are you like a good many more who farm four or five miles of land with one paltry farm servant and wife as cook? Or do you intend, old country style, so that by your liberality you will find work for many of the unemployed and get others to do the same? I feel sure if you are so inclined that, if you put an advertisement in the paper and offer reasonable wages and constant employment, you will soon need no lack of hands. You say you can remunerate them at wages far beyond the old country; I say to you, if you are large enough to employ one not an agriculturalist but a carpenter—who is also handy at anything—that, if you will give me even the old country's wages and find me food, clothes, and rent at the old country prices, I will come to you at once. However, I send you my best compliments for the great amount of sympathy you had for the writer of one of the letters, who would have been without food, his children also, from last Saturday till now, but for your kindness towards them by sending them empty suggestions!—I am, &c.,

A WORKING MAN.

Napier, February 15, 1877.

A HINT FOR MR. BUCHANAN.

SIR.—At election times it is usual to throw out feelers in order to catch as many voters as possible. Where there are so many candidates it would be as well if the electors caught the candidates previously. What I mean is, let us, up in the North, send our votes in block to the man we think will best protect Northern interests. Our votes *en bloc* should have a decided effect at an occasion like this when there are such conflicting elements at work. Will you allow me to ask Mr Buchanan through your columns the following questions:—

1. Will you, if elected, vote for free trade in native lands?
2. Will you pledge yourself to razing down the Native Office and doing away with that pernicious protective policy to the natives? Meaning, will you place both Maori and European on the same footing in point of the law?
3. Will you pledge yourself to obtain a larger share of subsidies to outlying corporate bodies than those payable to towns and richer bodies?
4. Will you advocate the introduction of an elected element into the present nominated Waste Lands Board, say for instance, allow the chairmen of councils to be, *ex officio*, members while chairmen?
5. Will you, after buying us, as it were, with these promises, sell us afterwards by not adhering to them?
6. Will you also try and get the fag-end of the East Coast electoral district at present in the Wairoa County brought into the Napier electoral district, so that the county boundary will be also the electoral boundary.—I am, &c.,

WAIROA.

February 7, 1877.

THE ELECTION.

If we are not mistaken, it was at Hastings that Mr. Buchanan in his speech twitted Mr. Sutton with coming forward as a candidate ticketed by Mr. Ormond. Mr. Buchanan on his part does not attempt to deny that he comes ticketed by Mr. John Sheehan, Sir George Grey's lieutenant, and the paid advocate of that portion of the native race, who are attempting to wring more money for their land purchases than they at first agreed upon. It is therefore of the utmost importance to the constituency which has now to choose a representative to see whether the present action of Mr. Sheehan's party is such as to merit its confi-

dence, and whether Mr. Buchanan as the nominee of that party should be placed by the votes of the people in such a position as to be able to further the ends Mr. Sheehan has in view. Mr. Sheehan takes credit to himself that through his aid the district of Napier had an additional representative given it. As we have already stated, Mr. Sheehan did by his vote assist the Government in carrying their original proposition in opposition to Mr. Kelly. Unfortunately however for Mr. Sheehan, the further action taken by him last year in attempting to place a large number of natives on the roll in order to swamp the European votes shows that his object in giving that vote, was not a disinterested one and intended for the benefit of the European settlers of Napier, but it was given in the evident belief that by placing a number of native votes on the roll, he would hold this Electoral District in his hands and be able to dictate to the Europeans who should or should not be their representative. Fortunately Mr. Sealy, the then Registration Officer refused to register the claims made by Mr. Sheehan's natives on legal grounds, else in this present election, the truth of Mr. Buchanan's words as to Mr. Sheehan holding the electorate of Napier in his hands would now possibly be verified! Yet, have we been asked by Mr. Buchanan to give him our confidence and our votes when he comes ticketed to us by a gentleman who has in the past and is now doing his utmost to place on the roll a people who would be driven to the poll in a body, and vote for whoever Mr. Sheehan willed. We hope the electors will be careful and watch the proceedings of these gentlemen. It is no secret that Mr. Buchanan's party already boast that they have forty good and true Maories who are bound to vote as Mr. Sheehan dictates, and that owing to the votes being divided amongst so many candidates, the native votes will carry the day. We have placed the electors on their guard. If the candidates who it is known have no chance, viz., Messrs. Tiffen, Rhodes, and Colenso will not retire, let not the electors be led away by any childish or weak sentiments of friendship for these gentlemen, but on Thursday vote straight for Mr. Sutton, whether they fully agree with him or not in all matters of a political nature. Sink minor differences and jealousies and show to those who are attempting to make the Napier district a Maori pocket borough—for if Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Buchanan have their way it will become nothing else—that their action has not the sanction of the electors, and they are united in resisting the wily political schemes planned for their injury by Sir George Grey's Queen street Central Committee, and which are now attempted to be carried out by its able representative here—Mr. John Sheehan.—Telegraph, February 10.

ALL five candidates presented themselves before the public, yesterday, and severally addressed the electors from the hustings. Mr. Tiffen, who may be said to represent the large landed interests, spoke first. He had very little to say further than that he knew nothing of the Friendly Societies Bill of last session. It is extremely difficult to discover why this gentleman has been induced to offer himself as the successor of Sir Donald McLean. We can only imagine his candidature is a political move to put Mr. Buchanan at the head of the poll. It is every day more and more evident that the contest is solely between Mr. Sutton and Mr. Buchanan, and every vote that is given, and some will be given innocently enough, to Mr. Tiffen, will assist the party that recognises Sir George Grey as its chief. It is absurd to shut our eyes to what is plain to every one that the able lieutenant of the Grey-Macandrew party, Mr. Sheehan, would not be busying himself on behalf of Mr. Buchanan without a deep-laid political object. That object now is the same as that which he and his party had in view throughout the last two sessions—to exalt the two extremities of the colony, Otago to the south, and Auckland to the north, at the expense of the centre. It is perfectly true that Mr. Sheehan did assist in obtaining a third member for Hawke's Bay, but should he succeed in securing the return of a colleague in the person of Mr. Buchanan, the representation of this part of the colony is reduced to one, and the Grey party strengthened proportionately. It is notorious that the influence which Hawke's Bay and Taranaki have been enabled to exert in the House was solely due to the unity of their representation. A house divided against itself cannot stand, and it would be suicidal in the extreme for Hawke's Bay to return a member whose line of action no one can be sure of for a minute. To all outward appearance during this election, Mr. Buchanan has placed himself uncer-

vedly in the hands of one of the fiercest opponents Mr Ormond and the late Sir Donald McLean had to deal with in the General Assembly. We maintain that such being the case, there can be no guarantee that Mr Buchanan will not be found a submissive colleague of Mr Sheehan in the House. Mr Tiffen then, having no chance of being elected, can only be used as a foil to Mr Sutton, in the same way as Mr Rhodes' nomination was effected by Mr Buchanan's party, for precisely a similar object. We warn the electors against this attempt to smother Hawke's Bay influence in the General Assembly, and we are surprised that Mr Tiffen's supporters should have lent themselves to such a purpose. Mr Tiffen knows now why we have consistently opposed him since he offered himself as a candidate. As for Mr Colenso, perhaps, the less said of him the better. The number of votes he will receive can do little harm to any of the other candidates, and his coming forward can best be compared to the persistency shown by a certain young person in Napier, who invariably asks at every election some absurd question relative to the Permissive Bill.—Telegraph, February 9.

THE Auckland party in Napier, headed by Mr. Sheehan, has adopted a new mode of political warfare. Beaten at all points, they are now issuing every evening a broad-sheet, which is termed the "Wananga Extraordinary," and certainly it is a most "extraordinary production." The Wananga is Mr. Sheehan, and Mr. Sheehan is the Wananga, and if ever a candidate had to cry "save me from my friends" Mr. Buchanan after perusing last evening's production, might well make this exclamation. First we have a letter produced signed Mr. Hamlin, in which that gentleman makes certain charges against Mr. Sutton. Mr. Sheehan evidently forgets or omits to mention that the whole of the charges there made were clearly refuted by Mr. Sutton before Mr. Justice Richmond, Judge Manning, and two Native Assessors, a few years ago, when Mr. Sheehan himself, at great expense to the country, attempted to blacken the characters of Mr. Sutton, Sir Donald McLean, and other gentlemen. That attempt was as futile then as it will prove in the present instance. In this "extraordinary" production we have also a letter reprinted, signed by Mr. Sutton, in which that gentleman defended himself from allegations made against him having reference to certain land transactions he had with the late Sir Donald McLean. Mr Sutton has throughout his whole career never been found to bend the knee or receive rebuffs from those in power without giving a *quid pro quo*, and it is for this, among many other reasons, we now support his candidature. We feel confident that Mr. Sutton will ever be found in the future, as in the past, without distinction of party or of persons, prepared to support to the utmost of his ability that which he may think to benefit the many, so long as he considers justice and fair play are on his side. In the case before us, no doubt, Mr. Sutton thought he had been wronged, and in vindication of his own character, placed his view of the matter fairly and fully before the public, so that it might give its judgment between the contending parties. Could anything be more honest or fair? Anything more reasonable? Mr. Sheehan, or rather the Wananga, states that it has been the *uncompromising enemy of Sir Donald McLean during his life*. In this the Wananga speaks the truth, and as the organ of the party which has nominated Mr. Buchanan, it has also chosen a gentleman to contest this election, who is able to make the same proud boast. "A fellow feeling makes them wondrous kind." But are the electors of Napier to choose a man to fill the late Sir Donald McLean's seat on this recommendation? Is such a slur as this to be put on the memory of a man of whom this constituency has been so justly proud? Are we to elect the nominee of the late Sir Donald McLean's most "uncompromising enemy"? The electors will be asked to reply to these questions on Thursday, and we much mistake their character, if they answer it in the affirmative.—Telegraph, February 13.

The St. Louis Courier Journal tells of an impetuous tramp thereaway, who offered a cancelled postage stamp for sale at a high price as a sacred relic, declaring that it was from one of St. Paul's letters to the Corinthians. This is a hard winter. The man who answered an advertisement to the following effect had his curiosity satisfied:—"If you would learn to make a home happy, send half-a-crown in postage stamps to A.B." &c. Upon receipt of postage stamps, A.B., replied:—"Your home would be more happy if you were less frequent there."

THE NOVELIST.

THE WHITE BEGUM;
OR
Lord Tregaron's Daughter.

BY MRS. HARRIET LEWIS.

(Commenced in No. 42.)

CHAPTER XLIX.

GETTING RID OF FALLA.

Sinda's amazement at the high-handed proceeding of Simon Biggs was equalled only by her indignation. She walked the floor with the quick impetuous grace of a caged leopardess; her dusk gray blue eyes flashed like flaming coals; her cream-tinted face, pallid as the Arctic snows, was startling in its expression of haughty anger. Falla was loud and fierce in her expressions of denunciation against Simon Biggs, but Sinda was strangely silent, only her eloquent face declared how deeply she felt the insult and indignity that had been bestowed upon her.

The Hindoo woman ran to the door and tried to open it. Failing, she beat upon it fiercely with her fists, and then sank down upon a chair, furious with rage.

"That my missy should ever be made a prisoner!" she ejaculated, angrily. "That the Begum of Khalsar, queen of an entire kingdom, should be locked into her chamber by low people like these—pariahs—outcasts—the scum of the earth!"

The epithets fell from her lips in hot hissing, as if they had been bullets. Sinda neither heard nor heeded them. Her young breast was the scene of a terrible conflict at that moment.

"Have I not been patient?" she asked. "Have I not borne all things in meekness—that woman's coarseness and vulgarity, her rudeness and inquisitiveness, her persecutions and her tyranny? Have I not tried to be a good daughter to her? Yet she lies down stairs in a drunken sleep, a thing to scorn and loathe."

She quickened her steps in her hurried walk.

"Have I not tried to be a good sister to Simon Biggs?" she went on, in an impetuous voice. "Have I not tried to interest him in books, to make him wiser and better? Have I not borne with his coarseness and his intolerable talk of rats and dogs and races, and tried to elevate his grovelling soul? Have I not tried to do my duty in all patience and meekness and long-suffering? When I have shrunk from mother and son in bitterest loathing, have I not schooled myself to treat them with kindness, and tried to feel for them affection? And this is my reward? These are my relations, my nearest? Oh, my Lord, pity me!"

She flung her arms above her head in an absolute despair, and fell upon her knees by a couch, and, burying her face among the cushions, gave way to an awful abandonment of grief. All her long suppressed agony found vent in her sobs—all her bitter sense of loneliness and desolation—all her keen disappointment in Mrs Biggs and her son—all her anguish in regard to Armand Elliot—found expression now. The heroic fortitude that had borne her up gave way beneath this crowning indignity of imprisonment. All her patience and meekness and long-suffering yielded before the flood-gates of her grief, as all obstacles gave way before the bursting flood of the broken reservoir.

The old nurse was awed into silence by this exhibition, such as she had never witnessed before. She sat hushed and stilled, and frightened, until the wild storm had spent its strength, and the sobs grew fainter, and the convulsive trembling of the slight figure had ceased, and then she came and knelt beside her charge and gathered the little golden head to her bosom in a motherly tenderness and yearning.

"I hardly know you, Missy!" she exclaimed.

"I hardly know myself!" answered the girl in a wearied, spent voice. "Oh, Falla, how shall I bear my life? Why did I not die years ago? Why did not Topee kill me when he discovered me in the deserted barracks?"

"Don't talk so Missy—don't!"

"I am wrong, I know, and desperately wicked," cried the girl, penitently. "God does all things well. But, Falla, I do not think my duty lies here longer. I can do no good here. Even Mr Elliot thinks I ought not to remain here. And though I cannot and dare not marry him, I must leave this house and this people."

"Where will you go, missy?" asked the nurse, divided between delight and anxiety.

"To whom should I go, Falla, but to

Lord Tregaron for counsel and aid? Mr Elliot is too young to befriend me. Besides, as I cannot marry him, I must pass out of his life as quickly and as silently as possible. But the earl is great and wise; he is noble and good; he has known much sorrow. Falla, I will go to him and ask him to advise me. He has been very kind to me, and only to-day I received a letter from his lordship, asking me to come to Belle Isle to be a friend, sister, and companion to Maya."

"But you will not accept his offer?" cried Falla. "You know that Maya seeks every opportunity to insult you—"

"I need not remain there, Falla. I prefer to go elsewhere. But his lordship will assist me to a situation if I ask him. He is so noble, so good, and I love him, Falla. Why did not God give me such a father, whom I could love and reverence? But I will not question His goodness," added the girl, sighing.

"You will leave this house soon, Missy?"

"Yes, I must do so. You have seen Colonel Darke? He has asked me to marry him. And Simon has sworn that I shall do so. I will not. I detest Colonel Darke, and I would die sooner than become his wife. I shall appeal to Mrs Biggs. If she sides with her son, against me, I must leave the shelter of her roof!" The girl and her old nurse talked for a long time, and the result of their conference was to confirm Sinda's resolution.

The shadows grew thicker and blacker. Old Falla lighted the wax candles. A knock sounded upon the door and a maid entered with a tray upon which was a loaf of stale bread and a jug of water. Simon Biggs stood in the doorway, with a sardonic grin on his ruffianly visage; and the maid set down the tray in silence and withdrew, and Biggs unlocked the door and dropped the key in his pocket.

"Frison fare for us both, Falla," said Sinda, quite cheerfully, as she heard her enemy descend the stair with a heavy tread. "At any rate, it is better than a feast with Colonel Darke, is it not?"

"Much better, Missy," said the Hindoo, smiling. "I have eaten worse meals in my day, but you, my precious, ought to have dainty fare. You eat like a bird at the best."

Sinda ate her piece of bread, and was cheerful although she could not rid herself of the heavy weight of trouble that pressed upon her.

Mrs Biggs did not visit her that night. The girl sat up till a late hour, and until she had heard Colonel Darke leave the house alone, and until Simon Biggs, with a lumbering step, had gone into his own room.

Then she barricaded her door, and undressed, and went to sleep.

Old Falla was very wakeful for some hours, and then also dropped into slumber.

Both were astir at an early hour in the morning. The attendant dressed her young mistress, and both sat down to wait for what next should happen. At eight o'clock, the housemaid was let into the room, with a tray of bread and water, and Simon Biggs stood on guard as before.

Some two hours later, the key grated in the lock again, and Mrs Biggs, red and panting, came into the room, while her son closed the door and waited outside, with his ear at the keyhole. He had spent the morning in winning his mother's adherence to his cause, and she was now his firm ally.

"What's this I hear, Rhody?" cried the old woman, in a wheezing voice. "You've been treating our guest disrespectful, Simon tells me, a-setting yourself up superior to your ma and your brother, along of your being a Big'un out in Injy, as I won't have it and shan't stand it, no I won't, and the sooner you understands it the better!"

The girl stood up, pale and calm.

"Colonel Darke asked me to marry him," she said, "and I refused. Was that wrong?"

"You had no business to refuse him without consulting me!"

"But I do not like him. I could not become his wife—"

"And why not, I'd like to know? The colonel's a gentleman, a real gentleman, been in the army, and has relations as is swells. And you set yourself up as his betters, eh, Miss? A young girl has no business to refuse a offer till she consults her ma. You've been forward, Miss, and immodest, a-pretending as you know all there is, and me and Simon is nobody. Now I won't have them airs. You're my datter, and I expects to have my rights and authority. And I insists as you shall marry the colonel!"

"And I," said the girl, calmly, "refuse to marry him!"

The old woman's wrath flamed up.

"I'll force you to marry him!" she

exclaimed. "We'll see if you'll set yourself up against me you baggage! Bread shall be your meat and water shall be your drink till you consent to marry him!"

"I will die—but I will not yield!" declared the girl, firmly.

"You can die, then—"

"You're a fine mother!" cried old Falla. "You've got no heart. I don't believe you are my missy's mother!"

"You don't, eh?" she exclaimed. "I've had enough of you, you old heathen, a-setting up my own flesh and blood against me, and out of this 'ere house you go before you are much older! Being Rhody's mother, she belongs to me absolute, and I shall dispose of her to suit myself."

"Have you no pity?" asked Sinda, deeming the threat against Falla idle, and fixing her thoughts upon the cause of her present trouble. "If you are indeed my mother, you should feel sorry for me—you should not seek to crush and destroy me—"

"Fine words!" sneered Mrs Biggs. "The colonel does you a great honor, as I am sensible of, and as I shall take advantage of. And you'll do well to give in, my stubborn Miss. There's them jools. The colonel'll give me a third, and Simon a third, and will keep a third, as it all ought to belong to me, but not being in my possession, I'm obliged to be liberal. But Simon says he hasn't got 'em, and acts honest, though often I don't believe him; but if not, where are they?" demanded Mrs Biggs, fixing her gaze fiercely upon Sinda. "Is it possible, as the colonel thinks, as you is playin' the sarpint all this while, and has the jools in your keepin', and on your very person?"

"Madam," said Sinda, with that air of girlish majesty that sat so well upon her grand young beauty. "I believe that the jewels are in your possession, or in that of your son. I do not know where they are, if they are not!"

Her mien declared her utter truthfulness.

Mrs Biggs looked staggered.

"Praps," she said, "that ere sarpint heathen has 'em in her possession?"

Old Falla looked up with an expression of indignation. Nothing could seem more honest than her bronze visage, calm and serene, her wide open eyes full of apparent surprise, her lips curled with a cool scorn that angered her enemy.

"If you think I've got 'em," said the Hindoo woman, "you can examine me. I haven't got 'em on my person nor in my possession. I haven't got 'em, no. And it's a pretty person you are accusing others, when you came into Missy's room like a thief to steal 'em, and how do we know that you haven't got 'em your own self?"

"You accuse Falla wrongfully," said Sinda, "and I believe the jewels to be in your possession!"

Mrs Biggs looked from the young mistress to her maid keenly. A study of them caused her suspicions to settle anew upon her son.

"Simon got ahead of me, after all," she said. "And the way he denies it is a lesson to a saint. But you can't believe no one now-a-days, and the colonel'll see justice done to me, a lone widdier. He'll make Simon divide the plunder."

"I have still one set of jewels that I have been in the habit of wearing," said Sinda. "You can have it, if you wish. Take it, take all I have, but let me go away from this place. You are disappointed in me: you do not like me. Give me my freedom, and let me go forth to earn my own support!"

Her passionate outbreak only served to inflame Mrs Biggs's anger. She reproached the girl for feeling above her relations; she insulted her grossly; she threatened anew to send Falla away; and finally stood up and swore a great oath that Sinda should marry Colonel Darke, and that she should be kept a prisoner until she consented to do so.

Then the woman withdrew and locked the door, her son taking the key.

"You did it capitably, mother," he exclaimed, clapping her upon the shoulder. "She'll give in! She's too delicate to stand out long on bread and water!"

"But about the jools, Simon?" said Mrs. Biggs suspiciously. "She says you've got 'em."

"And I says you've got 'em, and you'll have to divide!" retorted her son. "Don't you put on airs to me, old woman. You know me of old, as I won't stand no nonsense!"

The affectionate couple descended the steps together.

Sinda sat down at her window with a smile.

"I can be as patient as they, Falla," she exclaimed. "And they can't force me into the marriage, you know. As

soon as we can find an opportunity of escape, we will improve it."

The day passed wearily. Another supply of bread and water was brought up. In the afternoon Col. Darke arrived, and was admitted into the house. A little later Armand Elliot rang the garden-bell. Simon Biggs went out and parleyed with him. The girl watched the scene from behind her blinds.

Elliot asked to see Sinda. Biggs replied, with unaccustomed politeness, that his sister had received a letter of invitation from Lady Katharine Elliot, and that she had departed that morning for Belle Isle, to be absent from home a month.

Elliot looked puzzled, but raised his hat and walked away. He had not taken ten steps when he halted and looked up at the upper rooms of the cottage. Sinda flung open her blind and waved her handkerchief.

Biggs saw the movement and also halted, with a scowl darkening his visage.

Elliot bowed to the girl, who closed her blind and withdrew from his vision. He waited a little, walking up and down the opposite side of the street, but as she did not again signal to him or show himself, he presently departed, convinced that something was wrong, and wondering greatly at the lie Biggs had told him.

That worthy breathed a curse upon the perversity of women in general, and upon the perversity of Sinda in particular, vowing that he would break her spirit or kill her outright, and "he didn't care a brass farden which."

He returned to the drawing-room and communicated an account of the incident to Mrs Biggs and Col. Darke.

"Miss Sinda has rare spirit," said the latter, admiringly. "I don't admire milk-and-water women. She is a regal creature—"

"She won't put on no airs to me," said Mrs Biggs, "nor regal creature no ways. I'll learn her her place. That there heathen sets her up against her own flesh and blood, that she does; out of this house she goes, afore I'm much older."

The colonel counseled patience. He argued that it would be better to keep Falla in attendance upon her young mistress, at least for the present; that to send her away might create a scandal, and, worse still, render the spirited young lady utterly unmanageable.

Mrs Biggs appeared to be convinced by his reasoning, and to consent to be guided by his advice. But that evening, after he had departed and she had imbibed a pint of brown stout, she grew very fierce, and after a quarrel with her son in which she came off victor, she demanded and obtained the key, and attended by him mounted the stairs and unlocked Sinda's door.

The girl was seated at a small table reading. Falla was in the act of brushing out the long, glittering ripples of her young mistress's hair. Both looked up in surprise at the noisy advent of Mrs Biggs and her son.

"See here, Rhody," said the woman, "have you decided to give in yet?"

"I have not," replied Sinda, calmly.

"I told that Elliot that you had left this house," said Simon Biggs, angrily. "And you threw up your window and waved a rag at him—"

"You shameless creature!" interpolated Mrs Biggs.

"And I'm tired of your nonsense," continued Simon Biggs, veering about, and entering into his mother's war with energy. "We've come up here to tell you, Miss, that if you don't give in now, this very night and minute, that heathen servant of yours, as you're more fond of than your own flesh and blood, will go out of this house into the street headforemost!"

"And I have a right to discharge a servant as don't suit me," declared Mrs Biggs, violently. "The law's on my side. If you're as fond of the creature, just promise to marry the colonel, and she can stay."

Sinda's high-bred, lovely face grew startled and distressed.

"I have given you my decision!" she said, in a trembling voice.

"And you won't change it?" cried Simon Biggs. "Then out your woman goes."

He advanced upon the Hindoo. Sinda flew to her maid and wound her slender arms about her in a desperate clasp. Mrs Biggs and her son hurled themselves upon the pair. The girl was torn from her old nurse and set aside as if she had been a child. The Hindoo fought like a tigress. The conflict was sharp, but short. Simon Biggs had the strength of a prize-fighter, having been trained for the prize-ring, and his mother was in an incarnate fury. The two bore down the strong gaunt Hindoo before them, carried her inch by inch to the door, and out

upon the landing, she disputing the way step by step.

Arrived at the head of the stair, Mrs Biggs, infuriated by drink, sent the Hindoo crashing down the stair, while Simon locked the door upon his frantic young prisoner, whose cries filled the air.

Old Falla lay in a huddled heap at the foot of the stair, without a motion.

"You've killed her!" cried Biggs, rushing down and bending over the poor woman. "No, she was only stunned. Her head must have hit the newel-post. She's coming to."

"Then now is the time to get her out of the house. Hurry up! Lend a hand!"

Between them they carried Falla down to the ground floor and out into the little garden. Simon Biggs unlocked the garden-gate and peered out.

"There's no one in sight," he said. "We'll carry her down a little ways. She's stunned yet. You gave her an awful blow against the newel-post. A policeman'll be along presently and arrest her for being drunk. If she complains of us at a police court, we'll deny what she says, and say we discharged her for drunkenness. So here goes—out with her!"

They carried the woman out into the street and along the pavement and laid her down by the roadside. Then they hurried back into their own garden.

"We're rid of her!" cried Biggs, securing the gate. "Now Rhody's alone with us, and helpless. She won't hold out against us. Victory's ours!"

CHAPTER L.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

No suspicion of treachery entered the mind of Mrs Elliot as she was borne along in the cab through the mist and the darkness of the London night, over rough pavements, through many streets. No doubt that Rannelee had been seriously injured and was lying in a hospital, dying, penetrated her anguished mind. No thought that the policeman who had brought her the strange tidings might possibly be an impostor and an emissary of her bold and daring enemy, ever occurred to her.

Her whole being was absorbed in the supposed calamity that had overtaken her humble friend and companion, and consequently herself. What would life be to her without Rannelee, her only friend on the wide earth, the sharer of her long years of imprisonment in India, who had suffered for her with a rare devotion, who had ministered to her, cared for her, worshipped her?

She leaned her head against the blurred window, the pane of which was covered with rain, and her blue eyes stared drearily out into the night, at the tall buildings, at the dim and sickly lights of the gas lamps, at passing vehicles and pedestrians, but she saw none of them.

"Why does not the man drive faster?" she asked herself, in a wild impatience. "How far is St. Mary's Hospital? Will Rannelee last until I come? Oh, my poor friend, my poor, dear Rannelee! How shall I live without you?"

No tears came to the hot eyes, and the pale face showed deathly strange in the occasional sickly gleam of light that chanced to fall upon it as the cab rattled on. Up one street and down another, and the horse's speed slackened, and the vehicle drew up, at last, at a curbstone, and the seeming policeman descended and opened the door.

"Ere we are, mum," he said. "Mind the step. 'Ere's the 'ospital!"

Mrs Elliot hastened to alight.

She found herself on a paved walk in front of a gloomy row of houses, which appeared to be closely curtained and shuttered, scarcely a ray of light coming from their windows. The street lamp burned dimly at a considerable distance, its light seeming a mere sickly speck amid the general darkness. The mist was thick; the gloom intense. Mrs Elliot could not make out her surroundings, but from the odor that saluted her nostrils it seemed to her that the neighborhood was poor and miserable and ill-drained, and that the street was very narrow.

"Is this the hospital?" she asked, looking up at the building before her and trying in vain to make out its size and proportions.

"Yes, mum," replied the seeming policeman, who had discharged the cabman during the lady's momentary survey. "Step this way, mum. If you'll take my hand, mum, I'll guide you direct."

Mrs Elliot laid her hand on his arm and was conducted up three or four rickety steps. The seeming policeman then pulled loudly at a door-bell, the tinkling notes of which could be heard afar off, seeming to come from cavernous depths.

"You are sure that you have not mistaken the place?" asked the lady, un-

easily, with a sudden and to her unaccountable misgiving. "Should there not be a lantern here in front, and lights in the windows and grounds—"

The door creaked upon its hinges, and was cautiously opened from within, and a man with a short, square-built frame and with a heavy, gray wig and a long gray beard that nearly covered his face stood before them. He stepped aside, holding the door wide open, and the seeming policeman ushered Mrs Elliot into the hall and followed her quickly.

The door was shut upon the instant. While the man who had given her admittance was securing the bolt and chains, Mrs Elliot took a comprehensive look at the interior, or so much of it as was visible to her.

A hall lamp was burning on a table. The floor was covered with India matting. An open case of surgical instruments lay on a chair, as if ready for use. The lady shuddered and looked again at the man who had opened the door.

"The doctor, mum," said the pretended policeman. "Doctor Clark, of the women's ward, Doctor, this is the missus to see the new case, accident, foreigner, a servant woman—"

The gray-wigged man bowed his comprehension and his salutations to the lady, and motioned her to ascend the stair.

"Tell me," said Mrs Elliot, in an agitated voice, "am I in time? Is she still living?"

The man with the gray wig bowed assent.

"You are just in time, madam," he said, in a hoarse, disguised voice. "She can't last many minutes longer!"

A moan escaped the lady's lips: she staggered back.

"Is she so badly hurt?" she questioned. "Is there no hope—none?"

"None, madam. Hush! You will disturb our patients," said the same hoarse and disguised voice. "You should ascend at once. Pray follow me!"

He ascended the stair slowly and almost silently, his feet being encased in list slippers. His figure was wrapped in a long gown; his eyes were hidden by a huge pair of spectacles. The lady was too highly wrought up, too anxious, and too agitated, to notice him more particularly. She followed him up the long flight, the policeman bringing up the rear.

They came out upon a wide passage similar to the one below. The floor was covered here also with India matting. Several doors were seen at the outside of the corridor.

"The men's ward!" said the man with the gray wig, in a husky whisper. "The women's ward is above!"

He had led the way to the third floor. The stillness and loneliness of the old house was something oppressive. Mrs Elliot's heart began to beat with a quicker pulsation. A sense of terror crept over her, but she followed her guide, eager to reach the "women's ward," eager to behold her old servant.

The passage on the third floor was an accurate copy of the others. The man with the gray wig advanced to one of the doors, flung it open, and made a gesture to Mrs Elliot to pass into the room beyond.

She obeyed him, entering the room silently. The man with the wig followed her in, remaining near the threshold, and the pretended policeman stood on guard outside.

Mrs Elliot swept a quick and startled glance around her.

The room was large, but it had no windows, being situated in the middle of the dwelling, with rooms totally unconnected from it in the front and rear.

Air was admitted to it through an open transom over the tall door.

The room was covered with a heavy floor-cloth of Indian-rubber, which effectually deadened all sounds. The furniture, a low couch, a table, two easy-chairs, and toilet arrangements, were simple and inexpensive. A little, white-draped bed was at the farther side of the room. Mrs. Elliot moved rapidly towards it—to find it empty!

"She is not here!" she exclaimed, astonished, turning upon the "doctor" a suddenly appalled countenance.

"No," he answered, easily, still in his disguised voice however, "she is not there!"

"Then where is she?" demanded the lady, frightened yet trying to speak calmly.

"That I cannot tell you," was the answer, in the same easy manner.

"Not tell me? Is she not here? Is not this St. Mary's Hospital?"

The "doctor" pulled at his wig and beard and dashed them upon the floor.

And Thomas Bathurst, with his heavy features, his yellow, puffy face, his little gleaming eyes, all aglow with a devilish

delight, stood before her, bowing with a mockery that was less than Satanic!

Without one word, Mrs. Elliot dropped into the nearest chair, looking like one stricken with death. She tried to speak, but no sound came from her white lips. Her eyes, large and burning, gazed at him in a wild and incredulous stare.

"Let me bid you welcome, Agnes, to my home," said her enemy, with an infernal glee. "I have rented this house for a year. It is in a vile neighborhood, in the very hotbed of crime and vice. There are men and women in the houses about this who would kill you for the dainty clothes you wear. Murderers and thieves throng in this vicinity. You are buried out of sight of decent people. You have drifted out of life. You are lost to every one who ever knew or saw you!"

"Monster!"

"And here you shall stay until you consent to be my wife," continued the Calcutta merchant, calmly. "There are none to trace you here: no one to look for you, or attempt your rescue. Your landlady will wonder at your failure to return, but she is poor and absorbed in her own concerns; she will forget you. And if she were to make a stir, and complain to the police, no one would ever find you. The cabman is the brother of my servant here and will prove faithful to my interests. You thought yourself hardly used in India. The gloom, the solitude, the dreariness of this old house will make that bungalow among the foot hills of India seem to you a Paradise!"

The lady shuddered. She knew there was in store for her a torture worse than death, but she gave no thought to herself. The first shock of finding herself in a trap, in the hands of a merciless enemy who was more dreaded by her than Death itself, was succeeded by a great joy when she thought of her servant.

"Where is Rannelee?" she asked, eagerly. "She is not hurt? She is not dying?"

"No, she is not hurt, and she is not dying!" said Mr. Bathurst. "That was a little fiction I used to lure you here. She is in secure imprisonment, wild with anxiety about you, half-crazed and wholly frantic. But where she is, I cannot tell you. When you become my wife, you shall have her to attend upon you again, but until then you shall not see her! Solitude will be my best aid in bringing you to your senses. Good-night!"

He went out, and closed and locked the door. Mrs. Elliot heard him descend the stairs with his servant, and then she fell upon her knees and covered her face with her hands.

(To be continued.)

FOUND DROWNED.—A MYSTERIOUS CASE.

The Wanganui Chronicle of the 2nd instant says:—"The body of a European woman was found yesterday by Mr. McDonald and some natives, on a snag in the Wangaehu river. The locality was distant some ten or twelve miles above the bridge, near a place called Kaiwhangaroa. When found, the woman's head was resting on one of her arms, as if she had gone to sleep in that position, one leg being slightly bent and the other straight out. There is no positive certainty as to who the unfortunate creature has been but by some the remains are supposed to be those of one of the two women who at different times resided in and near Wangaehu. The body of the deceased female appears to have been in the water for some days, judging by the appearance of the flesh, and decomposition had scarcely yet commenced. The action of the water has rendered the features almost beyond identification, the skin also being discolored. None of those who saw the remains could positively identify them, but the names of the two women previously alluded to above, whose identity for obvious reasons we have not directly indicated, were mentioned in connection with finding the body. A certain amount of mystery attaches at present to the incident, which it is expected the investigation at the inquest will remove. How the unfortunate had wandered away to this remote region, and the manner of her death have yet to be ascertained." An inquest was to have been held on Saturday last.

"I'm a good deal more active than I thought I was," said an old Yankee gentleman who had passed his three-score and ten. "How did you find it out?" asked one of his grandchildren. "My neighbour Johnson's trying to interview me as I came through his field this morning," quietly replied the old gentleman.

HAWKE'S BAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9.

SPECIAL MEETING.

PRESENT:—Messrs. Tiffen (chairman), Kinross, Williams, and Brathwaite.

The Chairman said the meeting had been called under clause 12 of the Counties Act. He had found in carrying out his duties insuperable difficulties, and that if they adhered to their resolution of the last meeting they were powerless. Since the last meeting the late Provincial Engineer had informed him that he would shortly have to hand over the main roads to the county. Under the limited Act they could not take over those roads or hand them over to the Road Boards. There was also no authority under the restricted clauses of the Act to provide for the preservation of the bridges. He did not think the public desired the Council to take over authority now enjoyed by the Road Boards, but under the full powers the Council they need do no more than exercise a general supervision. There was no power now over slaughter-houses, or charitable institutions. In fact, the Council was powerless. In trying to carry out the wishes of the Council that there should be some proper inspection of the bridges, he found under the restricted Act that it was impossible; if they waited till the 22nd March, it might be too late. He was in favor at first of taking the limited clauses of the Act, but he had since seen the desirability of accepting the full powers it contained. By clause 8 it was necessary before adopting the whole Act that every member of the Council should be served with seven days' notice of the intention of the Council to take such course.

In reply to Cr. Kinross, the Clerk said that notice had been given to each Councillor, with the exception of Col. Whitmore, who was in the Bay of Plenty district.

Cr. Kinross moved that this Council comes under the full powers of the Act, and that it rescinds its former resolution.

Cr. Williams seconded the motion having felt sure from the first that the restricted Act would be found unworkable. Floods were now coming down the rivers, and there was no provision made for the protection of the bridges.

Motion put and carried unanimously.

Cr. Williams said that though out of order he desired to call the attention of the Council to the fact of floods coming down the rivers and that there was no one to look after the bridges.

The Chairman said the difficulty might be got over if he were to take the responsibility upon himself, and he did not doubt but what the Council would bear him out in any action he might take for the preservation of the bridges.

Some conversation then took place as to the best means to be taken to watch the floods and their effect on the bridges, and arrangements were made for the general superintendence of the work that might have to be undertaken for the preservation of the bridges.

The Council then adjourned on the motion of Cr. Williams till the 17th inst.

THE NAPIER ELECTION.

(From the Wananga.)

On Thursday last the first official proceedings in connection with the election took place. The nomination, of which we give particulars in another column, has thrown considerable light upon the position of parties, and the chances of candidates. It is now possible to make a tolerable accurate guess at the final result.

The "People's William" came out in good form yesterday, and made a stump speech full of fun, of the kind which always amuses a hustings audience. Unfortunately, an amusing speech is not always a convincing one. Mr. Colenso said of the other candidates, "Let the boys play." We say of him, "Let the old man stop at home." The electors know what is good for him better than he does himself, and despite his own positive assurances to the contrary the voting on Thursday will secure for him that leisure to which he is so well entitled, and leave him free to proceed with the compilation of the Maori Lexicon. The electors as a whole do not favor geology as a study, and a fossil politician stands no chance.

We confess to feeling the liveliest commiseration for Messrs. Rhodes and Tiffen. The episode in the election of which they form the central figures is about the most touching that we have come across since first we shed tears over the story of the "Babes in the Wood." What singular infatuation hath possessed these two quiet, respectable, well-to-do,

and harmless old gentlemen we cannot conceive. Mr. Tiffen evidently has dismal forebodings, for we observe that he has been presenting the inhabitants of Taradale with four acres of land for a cemetery. In ancient Sparta an unsuccessful candidate or law-giver was immediately hanged. Fortunately for Mr. Tiffen that awkward law has no force in Hawke's Bay, or else it is certain that he would be the first person to avail himself of the Taradale burial ground.

A coolness seems now to have sprung up between Mr. Rhodes and John Wesley, —at any rate Mr. Rhodes did not attempt yesterday to travel on the strength of his father's acquaintance with the great English divine. So far as we could make him out, Mr. Rhodes now bases his claim to be returned upon the fact that when some twenty or twenty-five years ago a number of Wellington settlers, alarmed at a big earthquake, attempted to leave the colony, he was not amongst them. Earthquakes are not of much account at elections, especially earthquakes of such hoary antiquity as the one to which Mr. Rhodes refers.

It is evident that the real fight will be between Messrs. Buchanan and Sutton. Of all the candidates, the one who comes nearest to Mr. Buchanan in ability is Mr. Sutton, but as his friend the Hawke's Bay Herald says of him, "It is a serious drawback to him that his native transactions have been such as they were." Our aged morning contemporary follows up this slap in the face by the profound remark, "We cannot have everything, however." Character may be wanting, but it never has been looked upon by the Herald as a necessary qualification. Mr. Sutton's speech at the nomination amused us by its deliberate audacity. The Boss Tweed of Napier says that all he wants is justice. We have been of that opinion for a long time—no man requires it more, and no man is more likely to get it. The blind goddess has certainly moved with somewhat tardy footsteps, but she will not forget to knock at Mr. Sutton's door in good time. Mr. Sutton says that he has won all his cases. He knows better—and would give a Jew's eye to be released from the grip which the "Repudiation Party" have upon him at the present time. Mr. Sutton also referred to Omarunui, and feigned to look upon himself as an injured man. He knows in his heart of hearts that he has no claim to the sympathy of the people, that nine out of ten even of his own personal friends admit that they cannot defend his action about the Omarunui Block. * * * * *

Mr. Buchanan disappointed his opponents by not exploding as they expected. He may have the temper and the courage of a lion, but he appears to be able to "roar to you as gently as a sucking dove." His speech was excellent both in style and matter, and no one could have left the meeting without being convinced both of his ability and sincerity. We earnestly hope for the credit of Napier that he will be successful in the approaching contest, and we feel assured that the interests of the electorate could not be entrusted to any abler or honest man.

WILLIAM LEE REES.

Among the passengers to Napier by the Southern Cross on Friday was Mr. W. L. Rees, the well-known Auckland barrister, and member for Auckland City East in the House of Representatives. The North Otago Times, in its sketches of new members of Parliament, thus refers to that gentleman:—"Mr. William Lee Rees, the member for Auckland City East, is certainly a remarkable man. Well read in law and divinity, he also desires to be considered a politician and a financier. To talk is no trouble to him whatever, on any subject at any moment, and he is alike regardless of accuracy or the feelings of others. His voice is harsh and unpleasing, but his mode of delivery impressive. When he first came into the House he was intolerable, but towards the end of the session he improved considerably. He became less coarse in his imagery, and less virulent in his invectives. He commenced with the apparent conviction that abuse would be more effective in the House than argument. It is seldom Mr. Rees goes into a question in a logical manner. He prefers frothy declamation. Yet when a legal inquiry arises he is as keen as any of his brethren of the long robe. When the famous question of the invalidity of nine European members holding office arose, it was Mr. Rees who persisted, despite all sneering and opposition, in maintaining that the Ministry had no right to act as Ministers, and his view was afterwards sustained by the passing of the Executive Councillors Indemnity Bill. He wrote some two years since a pamphlet on the financial position of the Colony of New Zealand,

which attracted a considerable amount of attention, as no person could understand what the writer intended to prove, or where he obtained his data. His personal antipathy to Sir Julius Vogel colours all his statements, and distorts what facts may be given to him by others. His financial ability is on a par with that of the Hon. Mr. Waterhouse: in fact the criticisms made on our financial position by those two gentlemen would, to a stranger, seem to have emanated from the same source. It is difficult to understand what purpose Mr. Rees can serve in the House, besides that of being a lieutenant to Sir George Grey. He was useful, of course, in the stone-wall debate, and there his usefulness to his party ended save when they wanted him to insult the Canterbury members, or utter tirades against the Ministry. And yet he can speak with a great deal of humour, and keep the House convulsed with laughter. When the Hon. George McLean brought down an array of figures showing the reductions of expenditure that would accrue from the abolition of Provincialism, Mr. Rees was particularly happy, and put the matter so grotesquely before the House that both sides wrung with the mirth evoked; while his badgered antagonist sat at the Ministerial table in aught but an enviable frame of mind. When the Premier pounces down on the financial ravings of the members for Auckland City East and analyses what has been stated, Mr. Rees sits and listens with a puzzled, good humoured air, and, shaking his head, strives with all his financial understanding to find out what the Premier means; but tries in vain. He is ultimately obliged to give the question up and when opportunity occurs makes the same rebutted statements over and over again."

ITEMS BY THE MAIL.

The Servian Government have begun to issue notes with a forced circulation.

Wild horses are being imported into France from the River Plate and being tamed.

The relations of Spain and the Vatican are not very friendly, principally in consequence of the dispute in relation to the Italian Church in Madrid.

The Chambers of Commerce of Manchester, Liverpool, Plymouth, and Bristol have passed resolutions in favour of the proposed colonial museum.

The East and West India Dock Companies have announced a reduction of 15 per cent. on the consolidated rate for Australian and other vessels warehoused with the company after the 1st of January.

No more Sunday trading in Canada. The Dominion Government have issued orders that no trains shall run on the Sabbath day, except in cases of emergency, and then only on direct order of the Government.

The Russians have formed a vast fortified camp at Bender. The work is going on night and day, and stores in great quantities are accumulating there. At Tierspool large barracks have been constructed, and at Paelze and Ungenhenz immense quantities of hay have been stored.

A New York Herald London despatch says the Porte has put in a claim for indemnity against Russia to reimburse the additional outlay caused by her aid to Servia, which prolonged the insurrection. Russia, on the other hand, demands that Turkey shall pay the cost of military occupation of Bulgaria until the Plenipotentiaries and Envoys Extraordinary have communicated with their Governments.

Cardinal Antonelli's will has been published, and is a remarkable document. It contains no evidence whatever that he possessed any fortune beyond such as he may have inherited from his father, and begins with a solemn denial of the calumnies which attributed to him great wealth. The Cardinal declares that "he dies tranquil, in the conscience of never having failed in his duty towards the sacred person of the Pope, and the conviction of having always, with all earnestness and honesty, served him in the true interests of the Church and of the State." He leaves the Pope his crucifix, distributes his means among his relatives, and orders that domestics who had served him twenty-five, twenty, and ten years should enjoy different rates of pension, the highest being full pay for life. The will might have been that of some devout Catholic Bishop, full of domestic feeling, and unclouded reverence for the Papacy.

There is a mark across Mr. Marrowfat's forehead where his wife argued him out of going to a meeting of Black Republicans. She calls it her "colour line"—Brooklyn Argus.

THE EMPRESS OF INDIA.

TELEGRAMS give full particulars of the proclamation of the assumption by the Queen of the title of "Empress of India" at Delhi and throughout Bengal. The scene at Delhi was of unparalleled magnificence. The procession was nearly three miles long, a thousand elephants taking part in the spectacle. The demonstration lasted several days. On New Year's Day a grand assemblage was held at a pavilion on the plains about three miles north of the camp. In a semi-circle fronting the Viceroy's throne were gathered the Governors of Madras and Bombay, the Lieut.-Governors of the Punjab, Bengal and north-west provinces, the Commander-in-Chief, with their respective staffs, also all officers of the Government and chiefs grouped according to political jurisdiction; the whole forming a gorgeous and variegated aggregation of splendor. Sixty-three ruling chiefs were present. In the rear of the Viceroy's throne were grouped the various ambassadors, envoys, deputations from foreign states, and foreign consuls. Farther back were assembled a large number of native nobles and gentry. There were also gathered in the amphitheatre, an immense number of invited spectators. Grouped in various blocks behind the amphitheatre were assembled a large concourse of outer spectators. South of the assemblage, troops of arms were drawn up, numbering upwards of 15,000. On the North, troops retinues, and followers of native chiefs and natives were stationed, forming a characteristic and picturesque scene, quite unique. Guards of honor were stationed on each side of the Viceroy's throne. The Viceroy arrived precisely at noon. On alighting, preceded by his staff, he advanced to the throne, heralded by flourish of trumpets, on which all present rose, the military bands playing a grand march. The Viceroy made a speech to the assemblage, and then read a telegram from the Queen, sending the Imperial greeting, expressing her deep interest in and regard for the people of the Indian Empire, acknowledging the reception accorded to the Prince of Wales, and hoping the Indians would be happy under her rule. The Viceroy presented each chief attending his reception with a splendid banner, bearing the inscription, "From Victoria, Empress of India, January 1st, 1877." His Excellency also gave each a medal commemorative of the event, and honors were bestowed on various chiefs.

NATIVE HOSPITALS.

(From the New Zealand Times.)

Although we differ entirely from Sir George Grey's policy we can never underrate the services he has rendered to New Zealand in the past, nor forget that many of the best institutions of the colony may be traced to the activity and energy of his far-seeing mind. We are led into these remarks by the perusal of some late Cape papers in which a high tribute is paid to Sir George Grey, as having been the originator of an idea for the establishment of a native hospital in King Williamstown, which has been successfully worked out. It seems that in 1865 the province of British Kaffraria was entirely destitute of hospital accommodation for either civilians or natives, and there were no civil practitioners within eighty miles of King Williamstown. Independently of this state of things, there was a large native population, amongst whom a large number of native doctors were practising and over whom they exercised a very extensive influence; for they taught the people that sickness was the result of witchcraft, and that they alone were able to cure the sick person. The people implicitly believed in their power, and whenever any person was afflicted with sickness the witch doctor was sent for to smell out the individual who bewitched the patient, this procedure generally ending in the torture by fire or stinging ants, and the death of the person accused, in addition to his being stripped of all his cattle and property. From amongst this body of doctors false prophets frequently arose, inciting the people to war. Every Kaffir war had its witch doctor, who professed to be able to bewitch the enemy, and to impart strength to the Kaffirs to overcome the Europeans. Owing to the instrumentality of Sir George Grey these evils were cured. A hospital was established at which native youths were taught the science of medicine. The evil was to be attacked in its own stronghold. The pretended alleviators of human suffering and the presumptuous averters of impending evils were to be opposed by men of their own race, and speaking their own language, but instructed at the feet of science, and armed with the skill and the

appliances of modern surgery. Taken from the people, and trained under qualified European practitioners, cultured by the adoption of civilized habits, taught by practical experience the beneficent aims of European medicine, they would return to their people the qualified agents of a science which has much to do with the happiness and morality of mankind. The result has been most successful, as about sixty thousand people have been attended since the hospital was opened, a favorable feeling towards the medical profession created, and some of the prejudices and obstacles removed, although a good deal remains to be done.

COLONIAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

(From the Otago Guardian, February 1.)

GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

The half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders of the Colonial Bank of New Zealand was held in the Temperance Hall yesterday afternoon. The attendance was unusually large, over 200 shareholders being present.

Mr. James Rattray was elected to the chair, on the motion of Mr. E. C. Strode, seconded by Mr. Butterworth.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Directors' annual report was then read by Mr. Cowie, and the balance-sheet which was printed and circulated was accepted as read. The report and balance-sheet were as follows:—

The Directors have much pleasure in submitting to the proprietors the accompanying statement of profit and loss and balance sheet for the half-year ending 31st December last.

The net profit for the half-year, after deducting all salaries and expenses of management, rent and other charges, and after making full provision for bad and doubtful debts, and interest accrued on deposits, amounts to £10,264 16 5

To which add:
Balance of profit and loss account carried over from 30th June last .. 3,051 3 0
Making a total available for division of .. £13,915 19 5
As may be resolved on by the meeting.

The Directors recommend that it shall be appropriated as follows:—

To increase the Reserve Fund (which will then be £100,000) £1,738 0 0

To payment of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of the Bank on 31st December .. £9,774 7 2 11,512 7 2

The balance of .. £2,403 12 3
To be carried forward to profit and loss new account for the current half-year.

Upon the foregoing appropriation being confirmed by the proprietors, the dividend will be payable at head office on and after Wednesday, the 7th February, and at the branches as soon as the dividend warrants reach them from Dunedin, of which due notice will be given by advertisement.

The business of the Bank continues to increase and improve at the head office and branches. In September last a branch was opened at Lawrence, where the progress already made quite meets the expectations of the Directors.

The Hon. Donald Reid, M.H.R., retires by ballot, in accordance with the deed of settlement, and is not eligible for re-election; you will therefore be called upon to elect a director in his stead. The Hon. Mathew Holmes, M.L.C., and the Hon. William Hunter Reynolds, M.H.R., are the candidates for the vacant seat.

The auditors retire from office at the present meeting, only one of whom (Mr. Edmund Smith) is eligible for re-election.

A. CHETHAM STRODE, Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET.

As at 31st December, 1876, including London Office at 30th September, 1876.

Dr.	£ s. d.
Capital paid up to date ..	325,945 6 9
Notes in circulation ..	62,629 10 0
Bills payable and other liabilities ..	109,120 12 4
Deposits ..	413,021 12 9
Balance due to other banks ..	11,071 3 8
Reserve fund ..	8,262 0 0
Profit and loss ..	13,915 19 5
	£943,966 10 11

Cr.	£ s. d.
Coin and cash balances ..	114,607 13 10
Bullion on hand and in transit ..	13,808 13 4
Notes of and balances due to other banks ..	7,121 12 8
Landed property and Bank premises ..	11,376 18 7
Bank furniture and stationery ..	6,204 19 2
Bills discounted, bills receivable, and all other debts due to the Bank ..	790,248 13 4
	£943,966 10 11

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To transferred to reserve fund account, in accordance with resolution of proprietors at half-yearly meeting on 26th July, 1876 ..	£ s. d.	6,473 0 0
To charges for the half-year, including rent, taxes, salaries, remuneration to directors and auditors, and all other expenses at head office and 13 branches ..	13,398 3 2	13,915 19 5
To balance ..	13,915 19 5	£33,746 2 7

By balance profit and loss at 30th June, 1876 ..	£ s. d.	10,084 3 0
By gross profit for half-year (after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and interest paid and accrued on fixed deposits) ..	23,661 19 7	£33,746 2 7

RESERVE FUND ACCOUNT.		£ s. d.
To balance ..	8,262 0 0	£8,262 0 0
By balance at 30th June, 1876 ..	1,067 0 0	
By transferred from profit and loss as above ..	6,433 0 0	
By amount paid on shares forfeited during past half-year ..	762 0 0	
	£8,262 0 0	

A. CHETHAM STRODE, Chairman of Directors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: Gentlemen,—Our balance-sheet and report are now before you, and it falls to me to move that they be adopted by this meeting. I have very few remarks to make on this occasion. The arrears of capital account stood on 31st December at £3450, but they have since been reduced to £2980. These arrears appertain to 149 shareholders, and the directors think that enough grace has now been extended to them. The capital we possess continues to be sufficient for the business the Bank is doing, and the Board see no reason at present to make a further call, or to issue more shares. The deposit accounts in our last balance-sheet stood at a much higher figure, you will remember, than they did six months before—by some £197,000. This was partly owing to three or four special deposits of large amount which we then enjoyed, and which have now been withdrawn for investment otherwise. These withdrawals account for a much greater sum than the decrease of £53,000 in our deposits shown by the present balance-sheet, because really our ordinary deposit business has increased considerably within the half-year, and we have now actually 253 accounts more than we had six months ago. In coin and bullion we are strong, and it might seem that these are above what we need reserve. But the General Manager was preparing in December for the purchase of the London exchange, which would be coming to him during the wool season. The Bank's advances have been fully maintained, both in amount and character. It is the aim of the management to admit to our ledgers only legitimate commercial business, but to encourage that to the utmost of our means. Perhaps it will not be out of place here for the Directors to acknowledge with satisfaction that the Bank has secured, since we met in July, several of the very best commercial accounts in New Zealand. There is no doubt, gentlemen, that the numerous New Zealand proprietary of this Bank gives it an immense advantage over many of its rivals, although we have started so much later, and have still so much ground to gain. The Directors feel this telling in the Colonial Bank's favour every day, and they confidently believe it will be your privilege within a very few years to see this Bank in a strong leading position, paying as good a dividend as its neighbours. To exhibit in a few words the field of operations we have before us. In September last the six banks doing business in New Zealand, including the Colonial Bank, held amongst them £5,428,000 of private deposits, of which we held only £426,000—not one-twelfth. Also, at the same date, the business advances by the six banks stood at £9,355,000, of which again less than one-twelfth belonged to the Colonial Bank. The moral of these remarks is this: I advise you strongly not to sell your shares, even at par. They are good stock, settle them on your wives. (Applause.) But to return to the accounts. The Directors hope you will be satisfied with the amount of gross profits. They are a considerable improvement on the last statement, and are improving each month. The general charges account is an important subject for control, which the Directors keep constantly before them; and although they have felt it necessary during the past year to strengthen the Bank's staff at more than one point, they have been able to keep down and even to diminish expenses by several hundreds. We trust you will agree with our views of appropriating the net profits. Having already extinguished by one stroke the whole preliminary expenses, £6,228 15s 8d, we think if you now make up the reserve fund to £10,000 that you will have done as much in that direction as can fairly be expected of the shareholders at this early stage of the Bank's career, and that you can now begin dividing a six per cent. dividend with a clear conscience, having a good prospect of continuing the same until you see fit to divide more. I beg to move the adoption of the report.

The Hon. Mr. Holmes said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have very much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report. I think it is quite as favourable as shareholders could possibly expect, especially after the six months of dull times that we have experienced throughout the Colony. It must be gratifying indeed, not only to the shareholders of the Bank, but also to those who have the conducting of the business of the institution, that after this period they should be able to come before this meeting and give in a report so highly satisfactory. There is one circumstance, sir, that I wish to refer to, and that is the increase in the value of the stock. Within six months the stock has increased from fifteen to twenty per cent. in value, and that increase may fairly be expected to continue; and I should not be at all surprised if at this time next year the shares are at a premium. There is another circumstance, sir, that I wish to advert to. I am highly delighted that the dividend is being now declared in consequence of a number of persons that are known to shareholders in this Bank having purchased their shares for income. They, of course, will be peculiarly gratified, because they may fairly look forward with the expectation that the dividend now declared will be continued from time to time, and perhaps it may only be the prelude to a much greater dividend at some future period. I think, therefore, you will all agree with me, that the report is highly satisfactory; that the prospects of the Bank are as good as the most sanguine amongst us could desire; and I think we are largely indebted to those who have the management of this institution for the manner in which they have conducted its affairs up to the present time. With these remarks I beg to second the adoption of the report.

The motion to adopt the report was carried unanimously.

LECTION.

The next business was the election of auditors.

The Chairman announced that Mr. J. S. Webb retired from the candidature.

Mr. R. Wilson proposed the election of Mr. Keith Ramsay seconded by Mr. Wilkinson; and Mr. Hill Jack proposed Mr. E. Smith, seconded by Mr. Moody.

There being two vacancies, and no other candidates being proposed, Messrs Ramsay and Smith were declared duly elected as auditors.

The Hon. M. Holmes and the Hon. W. H. Reynolds were the candidates for the vacant seat on the directory.

The votes were taken by ballot at the conclusion of the business and resulted in the election of the Hon. Mr. Reynolds.

THANKS.

Mr. J. Cargill said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I think after the very gratifying report we have heard read and have adopted to-day, it is our duty as well as a pleasure to us to record a very hearty vote of thanks to the directors and officers of the Bank. We have turned the corner, and are now for the first time paying a dividend. I hope it will go on as years roll on. I beg to propose a vote of thanks to the directors and officers of the Bank.

Mr. F. Chapman seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

In reply, the Chairman said: I beg, gentlemen, to thank you very much on behalf of the directors for the vote of thanks which you have passed, although I think most of them deserve that vote of thanks. I am not speaking now of the officers, because I would rather leave that in more fitting and competent hands. But speaking of the directors, I think they deserve the vote of thanks. They attend very closely to the business, and every one of them does so with the greatest success. It may be that sometimes here the Board of Directors is a little short-handed, because of several of them being also members of our House of Legislature, but you cannot escape that, gentlemen, if you want to appoint your leading citizens. Notwithstanding their absence during part of the year, I can tell you this, that they do not forget the interests of the Bank, and that when absent, they are sometimes doing more for the Bank than those of us who remain at home have the means of doing. (Cheers.)

Mr. Cowie, the general manager, said: Gentlemen, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I beg to return you our warmest thanks for the vote you have passed so cordially. It is, I am sure, pleasing to those of us who are now present, and will, I am satisfied, be equally gratifying to those at their posts elsewhere, to find that their efforts in your behalf are thus appreciated and acknowledged; but permit me to add that, however energetic or zealous your staff may be, they cannot, unaided, work up the Bank to the fullest extent, and I venture, in consequence, to take this opportunity to urge upon the proprietors generally not to be merely sleeping partners, but to assist us by taking an active interest in fostering the Bank's business by influencing their friends and bringing their own accounts, so as to make the Bank the success we all aim at, as foreshadowed by the Chairman, and which I hope in a few years to see

fully realised. Gentlemen, I again thank you, on my own and the staff's behalf, for your vote.

This concluded the business.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WAIPAWA COUNTY COUNCIL.

SIR,—The Waipawa County Council have appointed a solicitor, not before they wanted one. If they have already, under section 11 Counties Act, passed a resolution to adopt the Act in its restricted form, then to annul such resolution and bring the whole act into force, a special meeting should be held for such purpose, and a clear majority in number of the whole Council must pass it. If on the other hand the resolution named in section 11 has not been passed, then the whole act is already in force in that County, and their resolution is waste paper. But at the rate the County Councils are going on with Chairmen, clerks, lawyers, and now solicitors, it will be well if we have not jumped from the frying pan into the fire, and like the frogs in the fable, changed King Fox for King Stork.—I am, &c. Lex.

February 9, 1877.

THE PERMISSIVE BILL QUESTION.

SIR,—You have gone somewhat out of your way in yesterday's leader to refer to the "absurd question" put to the candidates relative to the "Permissive Bill;" and the personal reference contained in that allusion is scarcely in good taste.

As you did take the trouble to refer to the question, you might have been more clear. The question will almost certainly arise during the next session of the Assembly; and, such being the case, it was not unreasonable on the part of any elector to endeavor to ascertain beforehand a candidate's views upon it. Had the question emanated from a publican or a brewer, or any other person evidently interested in the subject, you might not, perhaps, have thought it "absurd."

Perhaps, however, the term is intended to apply to the measure itself, if so, you are at issue with the late member for this district, of whom you always were a supporter. In reply to a question on the subject, in December 1875, Sir Donald McLean replied that although he could not speak of the question as one of Government policy, yet privately he had always sympathized with it. He had voted for Mr Fox's Bill, and should do so again. Moreover, he would endeavor to have every facility afforded for carrying it into effect, as he thought the measure a good one.

This reply did not cost Sir Donald his seat. On the contrary, he stood at the head of the poll.

Possibly, you object, as some do, to the permissive principle *in toto*, whether applied to the liquor traffic, or any other matter of social importance. If so, your objection is futile, as the principle is gradually becoming more accepted, and its importance daily more and more recognised. It is of comparative recent growth, and, originally regarded with suspicion, as a dangerous outgrowth of advanced liberalism, it is now adopted and largely used by the Conservative Government of which the Earl of Beaconsfield is the head. It is now about two years since Mr Disraeli was attacked on this point by a pamphleteer, who in pompous language condemned the principle as being "in conflict with the fundamental canons of English jurisprudence." This was quoted in the House of Commons by Sir T. Acland, who in addition (using a similar expression to your own), stigmatized it as "utterly absurd." I will ask you to note Mr Disraeli's reply:—

"Mr. Disraeli said it was difficult to decide what was 'utterly absurd,' and some might think the views and conduct of the hon. baronet were so. The House had decided against his views, and he thought the country was opposed to them. Of course it was known that the items in these clauses did not apply with equal relevancy to all parts of the country; what was aimed at was, to give a general guide to the country on the subject. It could not be pretended that it was possible to draw precise clauses which would apply to all parts of the country. The Bill could not be described in the magniloquent terms in which the hon. baronet wished to describe our legislation. It was a permissive bill, which for the first time treated of a subject of infinite magnitude and infinite difficulty, and one which the Government thought of infinite necessity, and upon which the country wanted and wished to be guided. Under these circumstances it was brought forward; in that temper it was supported

and he did not think the sort of opposition which was carried on by the hon. baronet would be successful." Nor was it.

It may be necessary here to explain that Mr Disraeli was not speaking of "The Permissive Bill" of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, admirably as his remarks apply to that measure. His references were to the "Agricultural Holdings Bill," which, as well as the "Artizans Dwellings Bill," and a number of equally important measures of the same session, embodied the permissive principle.

After all, the innumerable "absurdities" which have clustered round the Permissive Bill arise either from ignorance or misrepresentation of its provisions. It has been recently defined somewhere as the political *pons asinorum*, which, though easily crossed, few people take the trouble to get over. Very few candidates are acquainted with its provisions, and very few electors either. Even the views of the temperance party on the subject, in this colony at all events, are somewhat hazy. You, Mr Editor, are quite ignorant of its nature, or you would not several times have defined it as "a Bill to place the licensing power in the hands of the ratepayers." It aims at nothing of the kind—it does not seek to remove the licensing power to any other hands than those in which it has hitherto been placed—and you are not justified in attaching the epithet of "absurd" to a measure of the effect of which you know absolutely nothing.

The power of granting licenses at present is vested in licensing boards, and this power necessarily implies that of refusal. A license is strictly an annual contract, and is no more a "vested interest" than your own contract for the Corporation advertisements. Now the Permissive Bill does not propose to give the ratepayers the power of granting licenses, nor of refusing them in particular and special cases. The sole power it proposes to give is this. Where a large majority are opposed to the sale of liquor they shall have the right of total and absolute veto over the issue of any license whatever. Unless they are prepared to go this length, things remain as before. It simply proposes to prevent three or four magistrates forcing upon a community a traffic which is looked upon by an overwhelming majority as an unmitigated nuisance.

The difference between a system of this kind, and the plan of "placing the licensing power in the hands of the ratepayers," is surely so essential and so obvious, that to be recognised it only requires to be pointed out.

Finally, Mr. Editor, it is of no use for you to sneer at or ridicule the principle of the Permissive Bill. You are only bringing it into greater prominence, and thus unconsciously helping on a movement the ultimate success of which is assured, and at no very distant date—though the DAILY TELEGRAPH may not live to see it. If it does, you will no doubt be wise enough to congratulate the public on the great victory they (with your assistance) have achieved; you will in glowing terms point out the vast possibilities of moral and social reform which a beneficent legislation has placed in their hands; and you will not forget to remind your readers that your predictions have at last been verified—that when the great principle had to contend against opposition and scorn you were ever its consistent advocate, at the risk of popularity and substantial support; and that in its final triumph you have been amply rewarded for your self-sacrificing labors in the past.—I am, &c.,
R. COUPLAND HARDING.
Napier, February 10, 1877.

IMMIGRATION.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert these few lines in your valuable paper upon the fruits of immigration and its results:—I am one of those who landed in the Bebbington, in November, 1874, but I suppose I must not say much about being brought over myself, as some of those that landed then have done pretty well, there being not half the number of people here then as there are now; but fortune does not favor everyone immediately, and I think it is very hard that being kept down by the loss of the mother, and left in a strange land with three children to support, I was obliged to go up-country after being only four months landed, but I found the place so overcrowded, and being half my time idle, and could no longer find employment, I was compelled to come to town again; and though I have made repeated applications for work the last fortnight, yea, even begged for one day's work, I could not get it to do; my children are this day without food, and where to get it from I do not know. If

it is not time now to stop immigration, when will it be? But they say the wrong class are landing. Truly the Government are an honest class to admit this, for they thereby own their error in not having brought out the right class. Do they want carpenters? There are plenty walking about already, myself one of them. They bring laborers of all classes, and I see hundreds of them up the country and in town with their hands in their pockets idle. I have made application for employment for any work at trade. In the bush I can do anything; I worked a long time for Mr. McKirdy, on the railway, Te Aute, and only left when dismissed. Now, is there anything else to offer me, and I shall be thankful. I have had to sell many of my tools to get the children bread, and now they are on the border of starvation. I only know of one job I have not applied for, namely, at the quarry, where they wear N.G. on their backs, and have a gun kept over their heads all day. God keep me from this.—I am, &c.,
A WORKING MAN.
Napier, February 10, 1877.

IMMIGRATION.

SIR,—In your issue of yesterday, remarks have been made regarding immigration, but it is high time that some provision was made for the honest people who have been so cruelly deceived by being brought from homes where they might at least have been able to get bread. There are now a great many of all classes in great want—living on credit, without the least prospect of payment, the little they have liable at any moment to be seized by hard landlords. Surely if the Government have money to pay the passages of more coming, they ought at least to find shelter for those that they already deceived. To bring people here to starve ought to be telegraphed throughout the globe. If they cannot find them such employment as will enable them to get the common necessities of life, why don't they at once send them back to their homes? I for one had a few pounds when I landed here nearly 2½ years ago, but now, although I am able and willing to do anything for a living, I cannot get one. I may safely say that I have for some time had the five outs, that is out of money, out of clothes, out at the heels and out at the toes, out of credit, and in debt. I am not the only one, many good mechanics that came out with me are in similar circumstances. What are we to do? To whom are we to look for deliverance from the pangs of hunger, or where are we to find shelter from this stormy weather? Surely some one with a heart that can feel for another will consider our sufferings, and give us advice as to what we ought to do; we are apt to judge wrongfully, but still I cannot help thinking that, as the Government brought us here, they ought either to find us work, or provide food and shelter until we can get it, if not send us back; we may as well die of starvation in the land of our birth as in a strange land.—I am, &c.,
R. M.
Shakespeare Road, Feb. 10, 1877.

THE PERMISSIVE BILL IN ITS RELATION TO LIBERTY.

SIR,—Permit me to offer you my acknowledgements for the use of an entire column in your Saturday's issue, in which to explain some of the provisions of the above somewhat misunderstood measure. As you have devoted a portion of your editorial columns last evening to a reply, you will perhaps give me space for a rejoinder.

As before, your remarks are principally of that personal kind which, as they do not bear upon the question, require no answer. I am sorry to find, however, that I have no sense of humor. I fear it is now too late to set about remedying the deficiency, and I have my doubts whether the course of study you have kindly suggested for me would tend to promote that object.

I freely admit that in reading those remarks to which I took exception, I quite omitted to make allowance for the facetious spirit in which it appears they were written. I was obtuse enough to suppose that you were serious! Now that you have opened my eyes so far, I think I have found the key to a matter which has puzzled several people—namely, that in the present hotly-contested election you should have taken exactly the same side as your morning contemporary. Should the poll on Thursday result in the return of Mr Buchanan, it would not now be surprising to find out that you have all along been his warm supporter, and that in your professed advocacy of the claims of

his principal opponent, you have merely been indulging in a stupendous joke.

The late lamented "A. Ward" was occasionally in the habit of inserting the explanatory note—"N.B.—This is a goak," or "(The above is a sarkasum)" in his writings. Such a course may not unreasonably be commended to the consideration of such transcendental jokers as yourself.

You have, doubtless for good reasons, avoided the main question except in the last sentence, where you bring in the magic word "liberty," and appeal to the authority of the late Mr John Stuart Mill. Carefully considering your article as a whole, I feel strongly tempted to refer you to the same gentleman's essay on Logic.

Liberty is capable of many varied definitions. It may be carried too far, as for instance, when in debating a purely abstract question, a writer "takes the liberty" of ridiculing the personal peculiarities or characteristics of his opponent. It is a feature of civilization that it curtails individual liberty to an extent that would be intolerable in a more primitive state of society; and ordinary observation shows that the highest and truest freedom is compatible with a good deal of personal restraint—the only necessary condition being that such restraint should be voluntarily borne. "There is," says the Right Hon. Lord Claud Hamilton, "a dignity attaching to self-imposed restriction that befits a free nation." And the great power of the proposed Permissive Bill—a power that makes it more dreaded by its opponents than the most stringent coercive measure that could be devised in its place—is this: that it can never come into effect until there is a public sentiment in its favor strong enough to ensure its being properly carried out. It is nothing more than the logical outcome of local self-government; and, in the light of the civilization of the present day, the Permissive Bill may be justly regarded as an excellent embodiment of the principle of the liberty of the subject.

You have referred me to Mr Mill's essay on liberty. I am aware of that writer's views on legislation as applied to the liquor traffic. Perhaps, however, you will allow me to conclude with a brief extract covering the same subject, from a living leader of thought—Thomas Carlyle. He is certainly under the disadvantage of being "of that people of whom it has been said that they have to undergo a surgical operation," &c., &c.; but he has the counterbalancing advantage of being mightily in earnest. Hear him:—

"No man oppresses thee, O free and independent franchiser! but does not this stupid pewter pot oppress thee? No son of Adam can bid thee come or go, but this absurd pot of heavy wet can and does! Thou art the thrall not of Cedric the Saxon, but of thy own brutal appetites, and this accursed dish of liquor! And thou pratest of thy 'liberty,' thou entire blackhead!"—I am, &c.,
R. COUPLAND HARDING.
Napier, 13th February, 1877.

FAMINE IN THE LAND.

SIR,—Apropos of your remarks in a late issue, and the letters appearing in Saturday's paper, I would suggest that rather than starve men should condescend to work for somewhat less than the hitherto current rate of wages, which frequently debar outside settlers from making the improvements that they would otherwise be willing to do. Your observations concerning this district would, under ordinary circumstances, show considerable apathy among the inhabitants; but, before launching into an extravagant outlay, they naturally look for a return on the money laid out. The rate of wages has hitherto proved a bar, and if this were lowered, improvements would be likely to go on in this and other districts upon a more extensive scale, and there would then be no excuse for men complaining that they were starving for want of work. For instance, myself, I can give any reasonable number of good agricultural hands work at a remuneration far beyond what they would obtain in the old country, and I believe there are many others in this district who would do the same; but, unless they can get work without the trouble of seeking it at the old rate, it appears they consider themselves ill-used, and prefer starving. Demand and supply is the great criterion of labor as of other commodities, and the cheaper the labor, the more improvements take place, and hence the prosperity of the colony.

You are at liberty to make use of my name if you think proper.—I am, &c.,
WAIROA.

Wairoa, February 12, 1877.

BRAVERY DURING THE FLOODS.

SIR,—In your last night's issue you desire to express the grateful thanks of the Taradale settlers to Messrs Payne, Chase, Collins, and Pritchard, "who, at great risk, rescued some seven or eight families," &c., &c. I don't mean to detract from anything due to the above-named gentlemen of course; but I mean to supply your journal with further particulars of the conduct of some more of our settlers during that time. Your reporter failed to supply you with the information—that, when a man on horseback was seen making his way from the only bit of dry ground between here and Meanee, and watched by scores of people entering the cross-current some three or four hundred yards below Mr Robertson's, and when his horse was seen drifting down (I think) Rymer's paddock without the rider; and, mind you, when it was a service of imminent danger to venture a few yards below the blacksmith's, our foremost settlers then were three brothers, Mr John Jeffares, Mr Joseph Jeffares, and Mr Richard Jeffares; they were the first to cry "let us go." They were followed by Mr Drummond, of Messrs Robertson and Drummond, and I think, a Mr Tulford. The younger Jeffares cut into the paddock, just by the end of Mr Rowley Hill's store, the other two brothers, along with Drummond and Tulford, took the road as far as the drooping willow, when they were all washed into the paddock, where the man and horse came to grief. They there found the rider (I'm sorry I don't remember his name) clinging to a wire of a fence that runs at right angles with the main road. They at no little hazard rescued him and "brought him safe to shore."

This, Sir, is the omission I complain of from your leading local to-day. The action I have related was pre-eminently the gallant thing during the flood.

Pritchard was most assiduous in his attentions; he seemed to be everywhere giving comfort with his jolly laugh, and if he could not console the inmates in their own dwellings, why, he would (as I heard him say) carry them to the best house in the country (viz., the Taradale Hotel). Payne I don't know; he must be all right being in such good society. Chase, Ned Chase, everybody knows he's a brick; and Collins, why, Peter's all there.

I was a spectator of all that I relate, but that did not necessitate my going fifty yards from the Taradale Hotel.

Trusting you will, in the love of fair play, insert the above.—I am, &c.,
CARO.

Taradale, February 13, 1877.

THE LATE FLOODS.

SIR,—When I wrote the account of an imaginary flood to you last November, I had no idea that we should have had one in reality so soon, and of nearly the magnitude I described. Nor did I think that the settlers of Taradale and Greenmeadows would have let the summer go by without having got the new Rivers Act, 1876, in force, and the river banked from Redclyffe to the Maori reserve at least, which would not have cost as many tens of pounds as they have now lost hundreds. It is quite plain that a bank three feet in height would have saved Taradale and Greenmeadows from the flood waters of the Tutaekuri which have caused such an amount of loss both to individuals and to the community.

But sir, it is "Never too late to mend" and I am sure that if a meeting were called, and a requisition got up to put the district under the Act, that something could yet be done before winter to protect us from further damage. Perhaps the chairman of the Road Board, as a public man, would call a meeting. I am sure that if he did, the call would be responded to by all the settlers and owners of land in Taradale, and in the adjacent districts.

It is only a question of pulling together, each putting his shoulder to the wheel, and then perhaps, Taradale might yet be that which from its position and soil it ought to be, the richest and most thriving district in Hawke's Bay.

Hoping that something will soon be done.—I am, &c.,
BIG MAX.

Taradale, February 13, 1877.

Dr. Johnson was once running down Scotchmen in his usual way, saying that none of them ever wrote anything worth reading. A bystander took him up. "I will name to you a Scotchman whose words you thought well worth reading." Who was that? "Lord Bute, when he signed the order for your pension." For once the Doctor was effectually set down.

BULLS FOR SALE.

(Property of R. Wellwood, Esq.)
PURE BRED SHORTHORN King of Hearts, roan, 10 months by Royal Gwynne (32390), Dam Queen of Hearts, by Count of Oxford (25845)
 Lord Barnard, dark red, 10 months, by Royal Gwynne, dam Lady Barnard, by Comet, (25573)
 Lord Caverhill, white, 9 months, by Royal Gwynne, dam Lady, by Lord John
 Don Pedro, rich red, 11 months, dam Grace, by Don Giovanni

STUD SHEEP FOR SALE.

Small stud flock Lincolns, bred by H. Sladen, Esq.—100 Ewes, weaners, 125 two-tooth, 150 four-tooth, 100 six-tooth, 625 eight-tooth, 50 two-tooth Rams, and 2 eight-tooth imported pure Lincolns
 26 pure Lincoln two-tooth Rams, bred by Major Jackson, Auckland
 35 pure Lincoln Rams, six-tooth, bred by Joseph May, Esq., Auckland
 20 pure Lincoln two-tooth Rams, bred by Thos. Sutton, Esq.
 50 pure Lincoln six-tooth Ewes, bred by Thos. Sutton, Esq.
 1 imported pure Lincoln, bred by Turner, Lincolnshire
 8 pure Lincoln, by Sutton's prize Ram

MERINO RAMS.

233 two and four-tooth Rams, bred by Sir Donald McLean, got by J. Currie's Victoria Rams
 40 Merino Rams, bred by the Hon. R. Stokes, got by Larnmouth Rams
 70 Merino Rams (Mr Saxby), bred by Mr Gollan and Messrs Stokes

STORE SHEEP FOR SALE.

1000 Merino Widders, 6 and 8-tooth, delivery immediate
 500 Merino Widders, 2, 6, and 8-tooth, delivery immediate
 2000 Merino Widders, full mouth, delivery immediate
 2500 Merino Widders, full mouth, delivery immediate
 1400 Merino Widders, full mouth, delivery immediate
 1000 Merino Widders, fresh 8-tooth, delivery March
 500 Merino Widders, fresh 8-tooth, delivery February
 500 Merino Ewes, fresh 8-tooth, delivery February
 1000 Merino Ewes, fresh 8-tooth, delivery March
 800 Merino Ewes, fresh 8-tooth, delivery March
 4000 cross-bred Ewes, mixed ages, delivery February
 1500 cross-bred Ewes, mixed ages, delivery February
 1400 cross-bred Ewes, full mouth, delivery February
 1200 cross-bred Ewes, full mouth, delivery immediate
 2000 cross-bred Ewes, full mouth, delivery March
 300 cross-bred Ewes, full mouth, delivery February
 1000 cross-bred Ewes, 2, 4, and 6-tooth, delivery February
 2000 cross-bred Widders, full mouth, delivery immediately
 1500 cross-bred Widders, 6 and 8 tooth, delivery February
 3000 cross-bred Widders, 2 and 4 tooth, delivery February
 300 cross-bred Lambs, equal sexes, delivery February
 500 cross-bred Lambs, Ewes, delivery February
 1500 cross-bred Lambs, Widders, delivery February
 M. R. MILLER.

SMALL SHEEP RUN FOR SALE.

20,500 ACRES LEASEHOLD. Title good, 24 miles from Napier. Rent £150. with
 4,000 Sheep. Few improvements. Price very moderate, and terms easy.

Further particulars at the office of the undersigned,
 M. R. MILLER.

RURAL SECTIONS, WOODVILLE. ON DEFERRED PAYMENTS.

THE undersigned suitable sections FOR SALE on Liberal Terms:—

A. R.	A.
No. 129.—40 3	No. 132.—111
" 130.—40 0	" 133.—104
" 131.—46 2	" 134.—104
" 135.—133	" 153.—80
" 154.—105	" 199.—73

M. R. MILLER.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE.

70,000 ACRES Freehold Crown Grant, and 20,000 acres Leasehold, with 50,000 Sheep, 250 Cattle, 45 Horses
 The Homestead of this property is about 20 miles from Napier; 25,000 acres have been already surface sown, the soil is rich, limestone formation, hills and downs, well watered, rapidly increasing in carrying capacity, and the whole divided into eight great divisions by 107 miles of fencing, and 75 miles good natural boundaries, rivers and creeks, numerous paddocks, and yards, two woodlands and every improvement for working the Station, about 55,000 acres fit for Agriculture, suitable for cutting up into small properties. This Estate is to be disposed of solely on account of dissolution of partnership.

7,000 acres Freehold, Crown Grant, 24 miles from Napier
 23,000 acres Leasehold, 18 years to run, low rent, with
 9,000 Sheep, 40 head Cattle, Horses, Bullocks, &c. Good home improvements, and 2000 acres fenced into paddocks; the whole will take grass seed readily, is well watered, and easy access from town.
 440 acres Rich Land, highly improved 8 miles from Napier
 416 acres Rich Land, richly grassed, 8 miles from Napier
 613 acres Rich Land, richly grassed, 8 miles from Napier

11,000 acres Freehold, Crown Grant, with 2,000 acres Leasehold, excellent pastoral lands, 40 miles from Napier, well bounded, over 30 miles fencing, 25 paddocks, good houses, woolshed, and all necessary improvements, with 10,000 Sheep, few Cattle and Horses
 3,920 acres Freehold, rich pastoral land, Wairoa, with
 800 Sheep, and 100 head Cattle
 900 acres Freehold Agricultural and Pastoral Land, Wairoa
 4,677 acres Freehold Agricultural and Pastoral Land, Wairoa, with
 3,000 Sheep, and other necessary working improvements

3,000 acres Freehold, Southern Seaboard, improved
 1,220 acres Freehold, Southern Seaboard, improved
 400 acres Freehold, Southern Seaboard, improved
 2,500 acres Freehold, Southern Seaboard, improved, with
 2,000 Sheep and 250 head Cattle
 4,200 acres Freehold Agricultural and Pastoral Land, Poverty Bay
 220 acres Freehold Agricultural and Pastoral Land, Poverty Bay
 30,000 acres Leasehold Pastoral Land, Poverty Bay, with
 800 Sheep and 200 head Cattle
 11,000 acres Leasehold, Pastoral, Poverty Bay, with
 3000 Sheep and few Cattle
 1,600 acres Leasehold, half interest, Poverty Bay
 14,000 acres Leasehold, excellent country, Tologa Bay
 8,800 acres Leasehold, excellent country, Tologa Bay, with
 3,000 Sheep and good improvements
 1,100 acres Freehold, rich land, Opotiki, with
 1,000 Sheep, and all necessary improvements
 33,000 acres Leasehold, Pastoral, 26 miles from Napier
 150,000 acres Leasehold, Pastoral, 30 miles from Napier with
 10,000 Sheep, exclusive of Lambs
 55,000 acres Leasehold, Pastoral, 70 miles from Napier, with
 5,000 Sheep and 50 head Cattle
 9,000 acres Freehold, Agricultural and Pastoral, Seaboard, with
 14,000 acres Leasehold, valuable improvements, and
 15,000 Sheep, few Cattle, Horses, &c.
 1,639 acres Freehold, near Greytown, with
 1,040 acres Leasehold, all fenced and subdivided, and
 5,000 longwool Sheep, 120 Cattle, few horses, and every improvement necessary. The coach road passes through the property.

M. R. MILLER,

Stock and Station Agent.

SHEEP FOR SALE.

4000 MERINO WETHERS, 8-tooth; delivery immediately
 2000 Merino Ewes, 8-tooth; delivery February
 600 Merino Wethers, 8-tooth; delivery immediately
 600 Merino Ewes, 6 and 8-tooth; delivery January
 900 1/2 Lincoln Ewes, 2, 4, 6, and 8-tooth; delivery February
 500 Cross-bred Ewes, 6 and 8-tooth; delivery January
 170 Merino Hoggetts and Lambs; delivery February
 700 Fat Cross-bred Wethers
 J. J. TYE,
 Waipawa.

FOR SALE.

THE Lease (8 1/2 years to run) of 60 acres rich Agricultural Land, situate on the Homewood Estate, about 2 miles from Waipawa
 The above is well fenced, and laid down in English Grass, and there is a substantial 3-roomed House and Outbuildings thereon. Rent £50 per annum.

Also,
 The Lease (6 years to run) of 50 acres, adjoining the above; there are thirty-five (35) acres under crop, consisting of Oats, Barley, Potatoes, &c. Rent £50 per annum.
 Together with the above Sections there will be the Stock now running thereon, consisting of Horses, Sheep, and Cattle.

Also,
 Drays and Farming Implements.

For further particulars, apply to
JOSEPH J. TYE,
 Land and Estate Agent,
 Waipawa.

FREEHOLD PROPERTY KAIKORA.

FOR SALE.

30 ACRES GOOD AGRICULTURAL LAND, with frontage to the great North Road, and within a mile of the Kalkora Railway Station, together with four-roomed House thereon.

J. J. TYE,
 Land and Estate Agent,
 Waipawa.

CONSIGNMENT FLOUR, OATMEAL, BRAN, OATS.

FOR SALE,

20 TONS 200lb. Silk dressed Dunedin Flour.
 20 bags, 50 lb, Silk dressed Dunedin Flour.
 5 sacks Oatmeal, Dunedin, new.
 204 bags Bran, Dunedin, new.
 484 bags Feed and Seed Oats.
 Apply to
MURRAY, COMMON & CO.

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JOHN ROBERTSON,
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DRAWS special attention to his Magnificent Stock of WATCHES, just received direct from English and American Manufacturers, and made Specially to Order, which, for Excellence and Cheapness, are unequalled in the colony.

All Watches sold at this establishment are thoroughly regulated and put in working condition before leaving the premises, and Guaranteed.

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"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. Eppe has provided our 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 in the *Civil Service Gazette*.

Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets (this for abroad), labelled:—
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 HOMEOPATHIC CHEMISTS,
 48, THREEKING STREET, and 170, PICCADILLY, WORKS, EUSTON ROAD and CAMDEN TOWK LONDON.

BEWARE OF VILE AMERICAN COUNTERFEITS.

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

The same people are circulating a report that my business is about to be formed into a Company which is utterly false.

I most earnestly appeal to that sense of British justice which I feel sure I may venture upon asking my kind countrymen and countrywomen in their distant homes, to assist me, as far as may lay in their power, in denouncing this shameful American Fraud, by cautioning their friends lest they be duped into buying villainous compounds styled "Holloway's Pills and Ointment" with any New York label thereon.

Each Pot and Box of the Genuine Medicines bears the British Government Stamp, with the words "HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT, LONDON," engraved thereon. On the labels is the address, 533 Oxford street, London, where alone they are manufactured.

Signed,
THOMAS HOLLOWAY.
 London, Feb. 15, 1876.



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WONDER OF MODERN TIMES!

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS

Persons suffering from weak or debilitated constitutions will discover that by the use of this wonderful medicine there is "Health for all." The blood is the fountain of life, and its purity can be maintained by the use of these Pills.

SIR SAMUEL BAKER, in his work entitled "The Nile Tributaries in Abyssinia," says, "I ordered the dragoman Mahomet to inform the 'Fakie that I was a Doctor, and that I had the best medicines at the service of the sick, with advice gratis.' In a short time I had many applicants, to whom I served out a quantity of Holloway's Pills. These are 'most useful to an explorer, as possessing unmistakable purgative properties they create an undeniable effect upon the patient, which satisfies him of their value.'"

SIMPLE, SAFE, AND CERTAIN!

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Is a certain remedy for bad legs, bad breasts, and ulcers of all kinds. It acts miraculously in healing ulcers, curing skin diseases, and in arresting and subduing all inflammations:

MR. J. T. COOPER, in his account of his extraordinary travels in China, published in 1871, says—"I had with me a quantity of Holloway's Ointment. I gave some to the people, and nothing could exceed their gratitude; and, in consequence, milk, fowls, butter, and horse-feed poured in upon us, until at last a teaspoonful of Ointment was worth a fowl and any quantity of peas, and the demand became so great that I was obliged to lock up the small remaining stock."

Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors throughout the World.

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HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1877.