

WEEKLY MERCURY

AND

Hawke's Bay Advertiser,

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

VOL. II.—No. 82.

NAPIER, SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1877.

PRICE SIXPENCE

PROPERTIES FOR SALE.

- 7000 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.
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
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, Tolaga Bay
8,800 acres Leasehold, excellent country, Tolaga Bay, with
3,000 Sheep and good improvements
1,100 acres Freehold, rich land, Opoitiki, 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
5,000 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.

COUNTRY RESIDENCE. FOR LEASE.

MR. GRANT, the purchaser of the Pakowhai Estate, has instructed the undersigned to Lease for a term the very substantial and commodious Dwelling-House, lately occupied by Mr. McHardy, with the well-stocked Garden, Orchard, Shrubbery, and a small paddock adjoining; with part of the offices, a Coach-house, Stable, &c. This is situated within easy drive of Town or the Farndon railway station. To a good tenant the rent will be very moderate.

M. R. MILLER.

FOR SALE.

MR. EVAN'S Draught Stallion "LORD NELSON," by "Sir Colin Campbell," dam "Blossom," etc.

Liberal terms.
For further particulars apply to
M. R. MILLER.

RURAL SECTIONS, WOODVILLE On Deferred Payments.

For particulars, apply to
M. R. MILLER.

FREEHOLD ESTATE.

HOMEWOOD-KAIKORA.

The Undersigned is instructed by Mr. Robert Evans, of Homewood, Kaitiara, to offer for Sale, as a whole or in convenient lots,

1,000 ACRES RICH AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL LAND. This property has frontages to the Waipawa River, from the bridge downward, a ring fence round the remainder.

This property is divided into two large divisions, one of these portions containing three small paddocks, about 30 acres, under artificial grass, two whares, sheep-yards, &c., with or without 1500 sheep now depasturing thereon.

Price moderate, and a considerable portion of the purchase money remaining on mortgage.

M. R. MILLER.

GRASS SEEDS.

50,000 LBS COCKSFOOT from Pigeon Bay
1500 bushels Rye Grass provincial and Canterbury

ENGLISH SEEDS.

Guaranteed imported of 1876.

White Clover
Cow Grass
Heyke Clover
Meadow Fescue
" Foxtail
Sheep Fescue
Timothy
Crested Dogstall
Poa Nemoralis
Florin Grass (agrostis stolonifera &c., &c., &c.)

FENCING WIRE.

To arrive per "Plieone,"
1400 Coils No. 6, No. 8, &c.

Flour
Oats
Ran, &c., of the best quality.
MURRAY, COMMON & CO.,
Napier and Port Ahuriri.

Encourage Local Industry!

As the planting season has arrived again, we beg to draw the attention of the public to our large stock of Nursery Produce. Our collection comprises all the well-known varieties of Conifers, Forest, Fruit, and hardy Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, and consists of—

- 23,000 Conifers, as Pines, Cypress, &c.
- 11,000 Forest and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs
- 7,000 Fruit Trees of the choicest varieties
- 2,000 Roses in great and choise variety
- 100 Choice Standard Roses
- 270,000 White Thorn, 1, 2, and 3 year old
- 6,000 Sweet Briar for hedges
- 2,000 Arbor Vitae for hedges
- 4,000 Cherokee Roses, Privets, and Pittis-parums
- 20,000 Osage Orange, &c.

We also have a large stock of Greenhouse and Stove Plants, Florist Flowers, Vegetables, and Flower Seeds of the best and choicest varieties. We can warrant all our trees, shrubs, and seeds healthy, sound, and true to name. We therefore, beg to trust us trustfully with your esteemed orders, which shall have our best attention.

Orders addressed to us at the Nurseries, or left at our Seed Store, Emerson street, Napier, will meet with prompt attention.

Our prices will be found as low and reasonable as those of any respectable house in the Colony. Where large quantities are ordered, a most liberal reduction in price will be made.

F. W. C. STURM & SON.

Hawke's Bay Nurseries,
West Clive, near Napier.

WANTED KNOWN—That the Cheapest and Neatest BILL-HEADS may be had at the TELEGRAPH Office.

WAIPAWA.

THE REPOSITORY.

SALE OF FRUIT TREES, &c.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1877.

MR. J. J. TYE

Will sell by public auction, on the above date,

AN ASSORTMENT OF FRUIT TREES Consisting of—

Apples, Pears, Plums
Peaches, Nectarines, Gooseberries
Currants and Strawberry Plants

Also,

3 tons Potatoes
Set Single Buggy Harness, silver-plated (new)

Pair Buggy Shafts

Chairs, Knives and Forks

Plateware, Pictures

Tea, and Sundries

And

Several useful Hacks.

Sale at 2 p.m.

J. J. TYE,
Auctioneer.

WAIPAWA.

SALE OF BUILDING MATERIAL, FURNITURE, &c.

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1877.

MR. J. J. TYE

Has received instructions from Mr. J. Sowry (who is leaving the district) to sell by public auction on the above date, at his residence (near the 40-mile post),

A QUANTITY OF BUILDING MATERIALS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.

Consisting of—

Timber, House Blocks, Shingles
Posts, Stainers, Benches
Iron Spouting, Sashes, Tap and Dies
Rope and Blocks, Vice, Spades
Grindstone, Tools, and Sundries

Also,

3 Double Bedsteads, Table

Arm, Camp, and other Chairs

Washstand Service, Book Cases

2 Clocks, Sausage Machine

Washing 7 rays and Tubs

Forms, Stools, Jars

Baskets, Pictures, Books

10 Bee Hives, with Glass Fronts

Churn, Firewood, Chaff-cutting Machine

And

3 First-class Cows, quiet and good milkers

Sale at 2 p.m.

J. J. TYE,
Auctioneer.

FREEHOLD LAND FOR SALE.

3,000 ACRES Rich Pastoral LAND, portion of the Tautane Block.

Terms easy.

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

FOR SALE

WOODVILLE RURAL SECTION, No. 3, containing 40 acres land, with Cottage.

For further particulars, apply to
TURLEY & BRATHWAITE,
Auctioneers.

HOMEWOOD ESTATE.

The undersigned have for sale, 160 acres of land on the above estate, situate between Waipawa and Kaitiara Railway Stations. Thirty-five acres are fenced, improved, and leased to good tenants at a rental of 15s per acre.

TURLEY AND BRATHWAITE,
Auctioneers, Napier.



ARMED CONSTABULARY.

TENDERS for the supply of FORAGE to the Armed Constabulary, at (i) Napier, (ii) Taradale, (iii) Havelock, (iv) Waipawa, (v) Danevirke, (vi) Wairoa, (vii) Gisborne, (viii) Poverty Bay, (ix) Ormond, Poverty Bay, will be received at this office up to 12 o'clock, noon, on TUESDAY, the 14th day of June, 1877.

Form of tender and all requisite information can be obtained at this office.

Tenders to be addressed to the Officer commanding the Hawke's Bay District, Napier, and marked "Tender for Forage." The lowest of any tender not necessarily accepted.

THOMAS SCULLY,

Inspector A.C.F.

Commanding H. B. District.
District Office,
May 18, 1877.

NEWTON IRVINE & CO.,

WHOLESALE & RETAIL

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

AND

COMMISSION AGENTS,

HASTINGS-STREET, NAPIER.

AGENCIES

In London, Wolverhampton, and Glasgow.

AGENTS FOR THE WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINE COMPANY.

Indents executed on favourable terms.

IMPORTERS

OF

General Drapery, Hosiery, Household Furnishings, Blankets, Fancy Colored Rugs, Carpets, Hearth Rugs, Oil Cloths, Men's, Youths', and Boys' Clothing, Boots, Shoes, and Slippers,

GENERAL GROCERY GOODS
OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.

Wines and Spirits, Ales and Stout, Patent Medicines, Builders' and General Ironmongery, Holloware, Tinware, Electro Platedware, Lamps, Lampware, and Kerosine Oils, Brushware, Combs, &c., Stationery and Account Books, Cutlery, Earthenware and Glassware, Saddles and Saddlery.

TAILORING, MILLINERY,

AND

MANTEL MAKING

ON THE PREMISES.

MONTHLY SHIPMENTS

OF

GENERAL DRAPERY,

CLOTHING, &c.,

From the leading Manufacturers, and Warehousemen.

N. I. & Co. having full stocks in each department are prepared to execute all orders that may be entrusted to them with the utmost promptitude.

NEWTON, IRVINE, & CO
HASTINGS-STREET.

Depot Stores Carlyle-street.

CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

LONDON.

May 29.

The Queensland four per cent. loan of £740,700 is subscribed at a minimum of 91.

Boyd has defeated Higgins [for the championship of the Tyne] by 20 lengths. Arrivals—Newcastle, Somersetshire, Astoon, Schiehallion, Marathon, Collingwood, Thunderbolt, and Pacific.

WEDNESDAY, May 30.

Prince Gortschakoff's accompanying the Czar to Ploiesti, has given rise to many rumors.

The semi-official organ at Berlin lays stress on the necessity of neutrality of Germany, and exhorts Germany to secure the peace of Europe.

The Le Nord is anxious to assure England that Russia will neither assail nor interfere with British interests.

The recapture of Ardahan is not confirmed.

A continued cannonade is going on at Widdin and Kalafat.

The Russian troops have evacuated the Transcaucasus province of Abassia.

DERBY.

Silvio	...	1
Glenartha	...	2
Rob Roy	...	3

June 1.

In the House of Commons, the Hon. R. Bourke said there was no reason to suppose that Russia imagines a peaceful settlement possible, unless one satisfactory to Europe. He had no knowledge of a Russian proposal to localise the war.

June 2, 2.25 p.m.

The Liberals made a demonstration in Birmingham. Mr. Gladstone challenged the Government to test the opinion of the country.

The recapture of Ardahan is officially confirmed.

June 3.

The Brindisi mails were delivered on the 14th.

There is a failure in the Stock Exchange. Intense excitement prevails.

Fifty creations have been made of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Grand Cross—Prince of Wales, Marquis of Normandy, the Prelate, and Bishop Selwyn. Knights Commanders—Walcott, Barry, Robertson, Parkes, Darvall, Blythe, and Governor Hercules Robinson. Companions—Frederick Barle, John Douglas, Thomas Russell, John Smith, Frederick Knollys, and Arthur Gordon.

Wool shows a quieter feeling, at opening rates; 12,000 bales withdrawn.

Wheat lower. Australian, 66s to 68s; New Zealand, 64s to 66s.

Arrivals—Orient and Rangitikei.

SINGAPORE.

May 31.

The Russian Ambassadors at Berlin, Vienna, and London have gone to St. Petersburg.

The German Squadron have gone to the Levant.

June 1.

Telegrams from Hague (Holland) give rumors of peace negotiations through German mediation.

Germany has sent reinforcements to Alsace and Lorraine.

June 4.

Peace rumours continue. The Danube is falling rapidly. Active operations are going on at Kars. Greece is doubling her army, and summoning reserves.

5 p.m.

The recapture of Ardahan is erroneous.

The Russians have completely invested Kars. Mukhta Pasha is commanding the garrison.

The position is very critical. The Queen of Holland is dead.

BOMBAY.

June 2.

The Circassians in the Russian service have been recalled from the Danube, owing to disaffection.

THE OAKS.

Plucida	...	1
Belphebe	...	2
Muscatel	...	3

June 3.

It is reported at Bangalore that Russia is anxious for peace, after the first victory to prevent European complication.

M. Gambetta, in replying to the address in the French Chamber of Deputies, counselled moderation, and alluded to the contingency of Mr. Mahon's resigning. He approved M. Thiers succeeding to the Presidency.

MELBOURNE.

June 1

Arrived—Wakatipu. Mr J. C. Francis has received the honor of knighthood.

A draught horse, Lion King, valued at two thousand pounds, arrived by the Northumberland.

June 2.

Extensive forgeries have been discovered in the City of Melbourne Bank.

SYDNEY.

June 1.

The Chief Commissioner of Insolvency has expressed an opinion that the Bank of New Zealand and the Loan and Mercantile Agency, not being registered under the Companies Act, are illegally trading here, and he advises that they should obtain the passing of a private Act.

Hennessy's case, 31s 5d, quarters unaltered. Kerosine, 2s 4d; rice, nominal; Adelaide flour, £18 to £20 6s; Adelaide and New Zealand wheat, no transactions, shipments preparing for England; sperm, 10½d.

Sailed—Australia.

June 2.

Arrived—Hera. There are satisfactory entries for the Metropolitan Stakes.

For the Melbourne Cup a very large number of horses have been entered.

Two thousand pounds worth of jewelry has been robbed from Mr Goldstein.

June 4.

The City of Sydney has arrived with the 'Frisco mail at contract date. Tararua arrived from Melbourne.

INTERPROVINCIAL.

WELLINGTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 1.

The proprietors of the Evening Post announce that to-day their paper will appear in a greatly enlarged form, owing to the demand on the advertising space. The Post will then be the largest evening paper in the colony.

Further complication has arisen in connection with that piece of land which is known as the Rangitikei-Manawatu Block. The Post last night publishes a lengthy letter from a number of Maoris interested in the land, in which the writers complain that their claims have not been settled. They accuse the Government of delaying the settlement of their claims. It appears that the Government paid £4000 to one McDonald, and thought the matter squared, but they were mistaken. The Post, in referring to the matter, says:—"The letter from Hoani Meihua and others, which we publish in another column, prove too clearly that the patching up of the Rangitikei-Manawatu dispute by the payment of over £4000 to Alexander McDonald was a false move on the part of the Government. McDonald is the avowed champion of one of the hapus (the Ngatikawhata), and he has been most persistent for years in urging their claim upon successive Governments. Not satisfied with the award made to his clients by the Native Land Court after an exhaustive hearing of the case, he has tried every constitutional means for keeping the question open, and in the end the Government, apparently willing to get rid of his opposition at any price, and anxious to be in a position to issue Crown grants to Messrs Douglas and Co, conceded everything asked for, and made a cash payment in lieu of further award of land, amounting to between £4000 and £5000. We believe that every precaution was taken to obtain from Mr McDonald and his clients, as the condition of this payment, such a bond as will effectually prevent their giving any more trouble, and if this meant the putting a stop to the Manawatu dispute, we feel persuaded that every member of the community would joyfully acknowledge that the Government had done a wise thing." The Post then proceeds to show that the natives are greatly dissatisfied with the arrangements made by the Government in regard to the matter, and says that the reckless expenditure of £4000 has put fat into the fire, and that fresh claims will arise. It regrets that the Government did not satisfy themselves that the payment of £4000 would end the dispute.

The Georgia Minstrels are playing to large houses, despite unfavorable criticism. They proceed to Christchurch shortly.

It is said that the Intelligent Vagrant has come into a fortune of £300,000, and it is said that he intends going into the Upper House.

June 2.

The Evening Post last night is published in an enlarged form. In announce-

ing the enlargement, it remarks that the Post is now the size of "double royal," or a paper with eight instead of seven columns in each page, thus making thirty-two columns in all in place of twenty-eight as heretofore. This enlargement in size makes the Post the largest daily journal published in this city, and the largest evening newspaper in New Zealand and the whole of the Australian Colonies. To be able to state this, remarks the Post, affords us no little honest pride and satisfaction. It, moreover, speaks well for the commerce and resources of the City of Wellington and surrounding districts, that the large and liberal measure of support which is given to journalistic enterprise renders such rapid extension necessary; the enlargement of the Post has given general satisfaction in Wellington. The paper is very popular, and its circulation has risen within the last year very largely.

DUNEDIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 1.

A wool cablegram, dated May 27, says the Continental demand has fallen off. Superior greasy has declined a halfpenny to one penny per pound. For combing and washed the market is easier.

June 2.

Mrs. Duncan Beats, a well known Lawrence resident, has died suddenly.

The Taieri County Council have decided to levy no rate, and by a majority are to discontinue levying tolls throughout the County. There was also carried a series of resolutions re interior railway, affirming that the North Taieri is the best route, that falling its construction by the Government, power be given to the County to construct it up to its boundary, the opinion of the Maitoto Council thereupon to be invited at a City Court this morning.

Arehabald Smith was fined 40s. for kissing one Miss Andrews. The defendant's plea was that he did it as a lark.

The Good Templars hold a demonstration on Tuesday night. When speeches will be made in favor of the Local Option Bill. The principal speakers will be Mr. Stuart, Dr Rosby, Messrs. Stout, and A. J. Burns.

Four sets of competition designs for a new Town Hall were received yesterday, one from Strouts, of Christchurch, one from Auckland, and two from Dunedin, Lawson and Peter. Three sets are on their way from Melbourne.

A public meeting on the Gaol Chaplaincy question will be held next week.

Indian telegrams by the mail contain later news, dated April 18, which states that Vienna advises are that Austria will occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina when Russia crosses the Danube.

Mr Bourke in the House of Commons said no treaty exists for guaranteeing the neutrality of Roumania, which the European Powers consider part of Turkey.

Earl Derby vindicated the action of the Government re protocol, adding, "we best say nothing about our future policy."

On April 28, the Powers rejected the Turkish proposals for mediation.

Russia promises not to occupy Bucharest.

WAIROA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 1.

The Council meeting was held yesterday. The bye-laws were all passed. The TELEGRAPH is still to be the advertising medium for the Wairoa County. The fees payable for auctioneers' licenses have been included in a bye-law at £10.

I am tired of reporting the bad state of the bar.

There is to be a great native meeting this afternoon at Waihiriri, the subject being religion again. The native mind is exercised at the reports in Napier papers re Mere Karaka's visit to Te Kooti. This subject will be brought on the board.

June 4.

W. Black's hotel and store at Mahia were burned to the ground yesterday morning during Mr. Black's absence in Wairoa. The cause is unknown. An inquest will probably be held by Dr. Ormond.

June 5.

The Licensing Court sat to-day. All the renewals were granted. H. Flint, Clyde Hotel, had his license extended till midnight. C. Gray, of the Border Hotel, Te Kapu, and Steed, of the Maru Maru Hotel, were warned to provide better accommodation by the next licensing day. A bush license was refused to J. Hamshaw, Waihua.

There is a very heavy surf on the bar.

AUCKLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 1.

The Mechanic's Institute Committee applied to the City Council yesterday for a grant to preserve it from closing. Since the Provincial Government subsidy was withdrawn, the Institute has been unable to support itself.

June 2.

The Davenport Brothers go to Sydney, while Davis and Fay make a tour of the Thames and provincial towns.

Papers by the schooner Lovett Peacock, from Newcastle, report that a little girl, aged 6 years, named Annie Maxted, was burned to death at Newcastle. She was left in charge of the house by her father, a coat trimmer. A watchmaker who passed the house in the morning heard the child screaming, and on going in found the girl's clothes in flames. He pulled them off as soon as possible, but the child was so severely injured that she died soon afterwards. The accident was caused by the girl pulling the poker out of the fire.

June 4.

An old woman named Garrett, 70 years of age, residing in a cottage at Howick, and who gained her livelihood by the produce of a small piece of ground and washing, has been the victim of a diabolical outrage. Amongst those for whom she did washing was a blacksmith named David King, a widower, aged 40, residing in the same township. On Wednesday last King went on the spree in company with some other men, and as the potent liquors got into their heads they were prepared for any enterprise. King appears to have gone into the house of Mrs. Garrett, and after some conversation forced the poor old woman upon a sofa and committed a criminal assault upon her. She was too feeble to resist the ruffian. Subsequently she was confined to her bed. Information was given to the police by her neighbour. King was arrested on Friday evening at Howick by Constable Moar, local policeman. Accused was identified by a young woman who had seen him in the house. The case will come before the Police Court to-day. Detective Jeffreys has gone to Howick to make further enquiries.

GISBORNE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 5.

The enquiry into the stranding of the Go-Ahead has resulted in the following decision:—"First, that it was dangerous, if not impossible, to sound the bar on the morning of the 2nd May. Second, that there does not appear to have been any want of care or neglect of duty on the part of Captain Cooper. Third, that it was arranged between Captain Cooper and the pilot that the latter should leave the vessel at the inner beacon; that the vessel was afloat and in the channel when the pilot left her; that there was no evidence as to whether there was sufficient water on the bar or not; that Captain Cooper, in attempting to cross the bar without the pilot, allowed his anxiety to get to sea to get the better of his prudence, but that the pilot gave him to understand there was a probability of his succeeding; that Captain Cooper's mistake was not of a character to warrant the suspension of his certificate."

WANGANUI.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

May 4.

During the time of the fire at Mrs. Rankins, the Sergeant of Police apprehended a respectable tradesman named Joseph Villiers, a tobacconist, and took him to the Police Station. The constable did not tell him what he was apprehended for. During Sunday morning the sergeant released Villiers on his own recognisance, having previously told him that he would be charged with setting fire to the house, and for being illegally on the premises. When releasing him the sergeant wanted Villiers to sign a paper agreeing to take no action against the sergeant in consequence of being arrested. Villiers refused to sign, and the case came on this morning, the Court being crowded, Villiers only being charged with using obscene language. The evidence proved that the constable apprehending Villiers was drunk, and that he only took him in charge because he alleged Villiers had insulted him. Mrs. Rankin deposed that she had asked Villiers to remain in the house after the fire in order to protect her interests. The case was dismissed. Mr. Villiers intends bringing an action against the police for false imprisonment. Little damage was done to the stock and premises. The case is a bad one against the police, and great sympathy is felt for Villiers.

WAIPAWA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 5.

The Licensing Court sat to-day. Baker's license for the Empire Hotel was refused renewal on the ground that there is no water closet within the house. McDonald's Manawatu Gorge Hotel was refused on the ground of it being badly conducted.

The Council sat to-day at noon. Present: All the members. The principal matter was rescinding the resolution by which all the roads became County roads.

The Chairman pointed out that the only work done by the Council since its formation was to undo all it had done.

The discussion is still going on, but clearly there is a majority to rescind the resolution, although the solicitor's opinion is that the Council cannot do it without the consent of the Road Boards. The majority, apparently, care no more for legal opinion than they do for the Act, and are quite as willing to rush at pulling down as they were to build up. They act in haste, and repent just as quickly.

The only work done to-day was to affirm the desirability of establishing pounds at Makaretu and Porangahau.

(PRESS AGENCY.)

AUCKLAND.

May 31.

The ninth annual meeting of the Moanatairi was largely attended to-day. The report showed that 10,700 tons had been crushed during the year, yielding 33,125 ounces, and realising £85,974. At the end of the previous year the company owed the bank and other creditors £5488. The indebtedness has been paid off, and a sum of £33,940 distributed in dividends, while a further sum of £4000 has been invested as a reserve fund, leaving a balance in hand of £6818. The net profit for the year's transactions has been somewhat over £68,000. The report was adopted, and £250 was voted for the directors.

June 1.

Mr. Buckland reports:—Fat cattle 28s to 30s; mutton, 4d. Mr. Binny quotes:—Crown brand flour, £22; Southern ditto, £19; bran, £6; oatmeal, £16; oats, 3s 6d; bacon, 7d to 8d.

The Customs revenue for May was £13,342, showing a falling-off of £2948, compared with May, 1876.

During a recent visit of the Attorney-General the Native Lands Bill has been finally settled. Mr. Whitaker's proposals have been accepted, nearly without objection. The Act of 1873 is to be repealed altogether. The general scheme is to return to the policy of 1875, with such amendments as have been suggested by experience. The Government evacuates the land market and leaves speculation to the public. Certificates are to be extended to owners, and they may sell or lease to whom they please at once. Mortgages are forbidden. The general idea of the Bill is absolute freedom to the Maoris in territorial rights, and absolute freedom of land from Government interference. The duty is to be 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

KAIPARA.

May 31.

A portion of wreck was found near Maungakarama. One board had the word "Glimpse" on it. The Glimpse was expected from Melbourne to load timber at Kaipara.

The Captain of the Kate McGregor, ashore at Waikato Heads, telegraphs that the cargo is dry and that there is a chance of floating her off.

TAUPO.

May 31.

The mail coach from Tauranga to Napier broke down between Tauranga and Ohinemutu in consequence of the bad state of the roads, and the mail arrived here one day late. It left for Napier at 3 p.m. to-day.

The weather is very unsettled. The lake has risen three feet, and is still rising.

WELLINGTON.

June 1.

Captain Thomas reports flour good at £17 10s; oats, first quality, 3s 3d; bran, £6 5s; wheat, milling, 7s; hams, 1s; bacon, 10d; cheese, 9d; potatoes, £4; maize, none; pollard, £7 10s.

June 2.

Captain Fairchild reports the existence of the following dangers in Dusky Sound, not marked in the Admiralty chart:—Facile Harbor: A ledge of rock with about 9ft of water on it, in the centre of the entrance to the Cove on the north-west side of Facile Harbor. Dusky

Cove: A sunken rock on the eastern side, distance from Porpoise Point about one-third of a mile, west by north with about 6ft of water on it at low water.

June 4.

The Superb from Melbourne, and the Border Chief from the Bluff, have both arrived at London.

The Governor, accompanied by the Hon. Mr. Bowen, leaves at three o'clock to-day per Hinemoa for Lyttelton.

June 5.

Sailed—Rangitira, for Napier, at 11 a.m. Passenger—Mr. Boon and 6 in the steerage.

BLLENHEIM.

June 1.

An important decision has been given in the Revision Court by District Judge Broad. He rules that the onus of proof of disqualification rests with the objector. Ten appeals have been lodged.

CHRISTCHURCH.

June 1.

The Press this morning says it is informed that in consequence of information obtained by Captain M'Clatchie at the Bluff, the s.s. Gazelle is to be sent back without delay to the Auckland Islands, and that Captain M'Clatchie intends forming a company on a small scale for the purpose of recovering the gold in the wrecked ship General Grant.

June 2.

The grain and produce Market is very active. Wheat for milling readily commands 6s 6d; good 5s 9d to 6s; sprouted and second quality oats are firm at 3s; barley is dull of sale, and quotations are nominal; flour is in brisk demand at £16 to £17; bran, £4 10s; sharps, £3 10s; potatoes, £3; cheese, 7d. Grain deliveries are over till spring, and stocks are being rapidly reduced.

June 3.

The N.Z.S. Co. have received advices of the arrival of the Rangitikei at London on June 1. The Rangitikei had 70 passengers from various parts of the colony.

DUNEDIN.

June 1.

The Customs revenue collected at Port Dunedin for the past month is £28,871. For the corresponding month last year the amount received was £30,900.

During the month of May 58 deaths, 136 births, and 41 marriages were registered in Dunedin.

June 2.

Yesterday afternoon Archdeacon Edwards and the Rev. Dr. Stuart, on behalf of the city clergy, waited upon the Mayor and obtained his consent to preside at a public meeting next week, to consider the advisability of taking steps to retain the services of Mr. Torrence as Chaplain of the Gaol, Hospital, and Lunatic Asylum.

The Times says: We have reason to believe that the Otago members, dealing with an economic administration in the Assembly next session, will have a good deal to say concerning Mr. Whitaker's Auckland trip in the Hinemoa, and other circumstances connected with that vessel and the Stella. A suburban member, it is known, is determined to make strict enquiries into Colonel Gorton's Branding or Stock-taking Department.

June 4.

Mr. Blair, the District Engineer, has been instructed by the Government to make a reconnaissance Survey for a railway to the interior, and report on the relative merits of the various routes.

A stable, containing five horses, in Maclaggan-Street, the property of Mr. Fitzgerald, was destroyed by fire last night. It was insured in the New Zealand office for £100. The estimated loss is £300.

BLUFF.

June 2.

The Ringarooma, with the Suez mail, arrived early this morning, after a fine passage of four days and nine hours. She sails at 3 p.m. for Dunedin. She has 16 saloon and 15 steerage passengers, and 203 tons of cargo for all ports.

MASTERTON.

May 31.

Mr. Carrick, editor of the News, was assaulted to-day in the Club Hotel, in the presence of a number of settlers, by a local auctioneer, for calling him a liar.

TIMARU.

June 4.

Mr. Wakefield addressed the electors of Geraldine on Saturday evening. There was a crowded meeting. Mr. Wakefield expressed himself in favor of generalisation of the land fund on the condition that the Canterbury system extended to the whole colony. A vote of confidence was carried unanimously. Mr. Hayhurst, whom Mr. Wakefield only

headed by one vote at the late general election, seconded the resolution.

MARLBOROUGH.

June 4.

The Racing Club on Saturday evening declined to adopt the New Zealand Club rules.

WANGANUI.

June 4.

A fire broke out on Sunday morning at Mrs. Rankin's millinery establishment, Wickstead Place. Prompt assistance being rendered, the flames subdued and all danger was averted. The fire Brigade attended, but owing to water being cut off every night at 6 o'clock they could not render any assistance.

GREYMOOUTH.

June 5.

A digger named Watson, working on the North Beach, in the course of a drunken melee, bit off the nose of his mate named Williams and then burned down the tent. Williams is in great danger; previously he was beaten over the head with a billet of wood by the same party. Watson was committed for trial at the District Court.

The Wealth of all Nations Quartz Company yielded 486ozs. 12dwts. of smelted gold for the month of May. A dividend has been declared of three shillings per scrip.

A trial was made during the week of Joseph Kilgour's patent gold saving brush, at the Golden Fleece Extended Company's works. The trial was thoroughly satisfactory, the result being a saving of 10ozs. 12dwts. amalgam per week.

GRAHAMSTOWN.

June 5.

The Rev. J. Hill was presented with an illuminated address and purse of sovereigns at a public meeting last night.

Professor Fay was securely tied in the cabinet and it took him 35 minutes to free himself. When he came out his arms were covered with blood. The ropes also were smeared from a cut on his wrist caused by his struggles to get out. The cabinet manifestations are dispensed with. The Professor was greatly applauded for his pluck. The dark seance business was gone through as usual.

The Waitekauri monthly return shows 1750 ounces. The mine is looking as well as ever.

LIENSING COURT.

TUESDAY.

Before R. Stuart, Esq., J. Rhodes, Esq., and J. A. Smith, Esq., Licensing Commissioners.

NEW APPLICATION.

Considerable interest was shown by the public and the outside public to know the result of an application made by Mr. H. Ford, late of the Criterion Hotel, for a license for a new hotel at the Spit, to be called the Occidental Hotel.

Mr. Sheehan, for the applicant, handed in two memorials, one signed by the masters and officers of vessels trading to the port, and the other from fourteen commercial travellers.

Mr. Sainsbury, for the objectors handed in a memorial signed by Messrs. Watt, Kinross, Sutton, Balharry, and others.

Mr. Sheehan, in a lengthy and able argument, contended that an hotel such as the one proposed, costing as it would fully £2000, and built for the accommodation of the travelling public and others visiting the district, was urgently and greatly needed. He ridiculed somewhat forcibly the ground of objection taken, namely, bankruptcy of the applicant, and finally admitted that, should anything of a fraudulent nature turn up in the bankruptcy examination of the applicant, he would not obtain the hotel. In fact, said the learned counsel, the head and front of the opposition is led by the growing interest of Mr. Swan, of the White Swan Brewery.

Mr. Sainsbury, contended that Mr. Ford through his bankruptcy was ineligible to take out a license for an hotel. Where was the money to come from? The applicant might not pass his examination for a year, but he informed their Worship that if Mr. Swan was the guiding spirit of the opposition, Messrs. Robjohns and Ellis, were the real applicants for the license. At this period it turned out that Mr. Watt on whose objection Mr. Sainsbury much relied, also signed the memorial for the applicant.

Inspector Scully, in reply to the Bench stated that there was ample hotel accommodation at the Spit at present, but he could not say that there was any hotel

offering accommodation for the upper classes, such as the one proposed.

On the Court resuming at 2 o'clock, the Chairman stated that the Bench declined to entertain Ford's application.

FORESTER'S ARMS.

The yard being reported to be in a filthy condition, the application was adjourned until the 28th instant, when, if not in a clean condition, the license would be forfeited.

MASONIC HOTEL.

A similar report having been made regarding the filthy condition of the back yard, the application was also adjourned until the 28th.

NAPIER HOTEL.

The application was adjourned for three months, owing to the house being in a leaky condition. If not remedied by the 28th, the license would be forfeited.

VICTORIA HOTEL.

The license for this house was adjourned for six months, so as to have a six-stall stable erected by that time.

SHAKESPEARE HOTEL.

The license for this house would be granted provided Mr. Edwards would guarantee to put it in repair, and have it handed over to a suitable tenant.

The application for a license by Mr. O'Brien at Tunanui would be considered at next meeting.

All the other applications in the district were granted.

ABDUL KERIM PASHA, THE TURKISH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Abdul Kerim Pasha, the general who has been trained to a certain extent by his connection with British military chiefs, is the best Ottoman follower of Omar Pasha that Turkey now possesses. His great predecessor was a Hungarian. The birthplace of a man "too learned for victory," as Omar Pasha said, is in Bulgaria, not very far from the scene of the atrocities perpetrated by the irregular and unempowered Turkish troops. General Kerim Pasha is one of the most scientific military leaders in Europe. His German training and his experience with the English troops concur to make him a man on whom the Turks may well rely. The only drawback which he must fear among a race who believe in Kismet is that he has been hitherto unsuccessful. The circumstances of the engagements do, however, absolve him from any blame, for as a tactician he has proved himself able even while he had no luck. Near the close of last year at Djunis he showed his singular ability by routing the Servians and the Russians under the command of the boasting ex-editor Tehernialeff. The vaunted position of that guerilla chief was assailed and carried by Kerim Pasha, who has at least the grand quality of modesty, to which his antagonist at Djunis cannot lay claim. This Turkish commander is also fortified in his reputation by other attributes which are uncommon among public men in Turkey. Like the noblest specimen of the military race, Field-Marshal Moltke, Kerim Pasha can be silent in seven languages. He is, besides, honest, unassuming, and practical. No monetary advantage ever effects his keen sense of the duty which as a native of the district of Philippopolis he owes to the Power within whose territory he was born and under whose flag he takes an independent position. The soldiers like him. He is severe but just. Stories are told of his passion for sport overcoming his discretion as an officer, of his fondness for shooting game instead of Russians; yet while crediting these we must not forget that a warrior of three score and ten is unlikely to betray any of those frivolous peculiarities when the existence of his country is the main object of his concern in occupying Schumla.

A "HORSEY" REPORTER IN CHURCH.

(Whitaker's Journal.)

An Irish reporter, who was sent down to Newmarket to write an account of the races, was told that the correct thing was to attend church on Sunday and report what he saw and heard. The organ being somewhat out of order the music was intermittent, and the result was thus reported:—"At one moment the organ would be galloping to keep up with the choir, and the next minute the choir would get up a tremendous burst of speed to catch the organ. Finally the two started off side by side as they went into the doxology; but as they reached the latter part of the second line and were going finely and squarely, the wind of the organ gave out completely, and the choir had to finish the race alone, which it did in excellent time."

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

We have to acknowledge the receipt of £1 from Messrs. Gow and Scrimgeour for the benefit of Mrs. Goddard.

The inside of the mole, on the western Spit, has now been faced on its inner slope, and the pile driving at the outer end is progressing satisfactorily, although the ground is extremely hard.

The railway line at the Spit is now in course of being raised to the level of Levestreet, which is being formed from the Ferry landing towards Battery-road, passing the side of Mr Young's Hotel. No steps are being taken as yet to raise the Broadwater Quay, which is fully two feet below the level of the railway. The consequence is, that the quay is, in wet weather a perfect quagmire, and every day it is getting in worse condition.

Messrs Upham and Inglis, we notice, have dissolved partnership as general commission agents. The business will be continued by Mr Upham.

We are glad to hear that all the partridges were not destroyed by the heavy floods last spring. Five coverts, numbering about forty birds have been seen this season on Mr. Lowry's property at Okawa. Two years ago, a few coverts were to be seen in the neighborhood of Meavee, and elsewhere on the Ahuriri plains, but we have not heard that any birds have been seen since the floods.

A bridge over the Waiohine in Wellington has been constructed nine feet above the level of the road, with approaches so steep that nearly all the traffic goes over the old bridge alongside of it.

The Secretary of the Auckland Hunt Club has communicated with a gentleman in Wanganui, stating that the hounds are about to be drafted, and is desirous of learning whether there is any demand for the animals.

Flour, we were told on Friday by a Napier baker, cannot be purchased here under £24 per ton. From a Wellington telegram it will be seen that good flour is procurable there at £17 10s. Why there should be such a vast difference in the price of flour in Napier and Wellington must puzzle the outside public.

An article which appears in another column from the Canterbury Press, under the heading "Public Servants Interference with Private Pratices," will doubtless commend itself to many of our readers, and will probably be keenly discussed in several official circles in Napier.

There is said to be a special Providence watching over fools and drunken men, and so Thomas Lloyd, sailmaker, found out. At the Dudley Police Court, Thomas was proved to have been drunk and incapable. He created roars of laughter by pleading guilty, and saying that he was glad of it, for whilst falling about helplessly drunk his shoulder, which had been thrown out, had suddenly shot into its place, and he could now work for his children. The Bench in consideration fined him 5s.

A wedding which excited considerable interest took place at Alexandra, Waikato, a few days ago. The bridegroom is well known in Auckland as an old settler, and has achieved a colonial reputation for the quality of his brews. The bride is the daughter of a military settler in the Waikato, and in the capacity of house keeper to the bridegroom, succeeded in winning his mature affections. He has attained the age of 75, and the lady is but 25. It is said that there is much tribulation amongst several dashing members of the A. C. who were paying their addresses to the young lady.

It is stated that the authorities of the London Post Office have resolved to abandon to a large extent the employment of young women in the Telegraph Department, and the persons recently appointed to the staff have all been young men. The reason given for this step is that the women cannot be employed during the night. An experiment has been made at Warrington by the London and North-Western Railway Company with regard to the employment of young ladies as booking clerks, but the result has been such, after an experience of eight months, that the Company has found it necessary to replace them with clerks of the sterner sex. It is rumored that the ladies who acted as ticket distributors discharged their duties so gracefully and so agreeably to the passengers that frequently the patience of the guards was tested somewhat severely, as through the conversations at the booking office window the trains were not unfrequently delayed.

The latest deliverance of the irrepressible editor of the Lyell Argus is as follows:—"Matrimonial.—We hear that Little Cupid is up to his little pranks again. Three well-known bachelors have cavied in and a heavy wager has been laid by a Buller Squatter—that he gets married before Ye Koutor. (If it is that Red Headed Nelson Girl, that I saw him squeezing the other day at Hampden by gum old chap you can have her and welcome...E.A.)"

Stephen S. Jones, editor of the religious philosophical journal of Chicago, was shot dead in his office by W. C. Pike, who alleged that Jones had seduced his wife. All the parties are spiritualists.

It is reported that Mr. C.E. Haughton, has not left New Zealand, but is engaged in Otago on the staff of a paper.

The Auckland correspondent of the Otago Times says, that there never was a period when a deeper and stronger discontent existed in the public mind than at present. People feel that they are being ruled by men and by parties for whom they have no respect, and whom they are unable to shake off.

A little girl named Elizabeth Hill was burned to death at Clinton, Otago, on May 19.

Who would believe that the fashion of a lady's dress 850 B.C. was very much the same as it is now, A.D. 1877? But here is the evidence from Hesiod ("Works and Days," Part I): In his counsels on marriage he says:—"Let no fair woman tempt thy sliding mind, with garments gathered in a knot behind."

A large meeting was held at Palmerston on the 18th to consider the steps necessary to secure the formation of a railway from Palmerston to Naseby. Committee was appointed, Sir E. D. Bell being one of the members.

It is understood that Mr Fox's Bill, regarding the drink traffic, will take the form of a Local Option Bill.

The Taranaki Herald says that the harbour there is now removed beyond the region of uncertainties. Funds being now available, and the necessary data obtained, the Board will be able within three or four years to give facilities for landing and shipping cargo and passengers in the vicinity of Mikotahi.

The following paragraph will be instructive at the present time to heads of families in Napier:—"A co-operative bakery has been established in Hokitika, and has caused a reduction in the price of bread."

Another Judge of the Native Land Court is likely to be appointed, the Premier having promised to take steps towards securing the services of a Judge in New Plymouth.

During the visit of the Hinemoa to Dusky Bay, on the West Coast, Dr. Hector discovered and mapped two previously uncharted rocks. On two other rocks, the depth of which was wrongly charted, the Hinemoa touched.

The Resident Agent at Jackson's Bay reports that the Government have expended about £20,000 on the special settlement, that is placing 367 souls on the land. He is of opinion "that without some further assistance the settlement will, comparatively speaking, be a failure."

Ballarot, like other places, the Star says can produce Enoch Ardens, as the following narrative will show. About eight years ago a miner left his wife in Ballarot, and started for a new rush in New Zealand. As the steamer he was to have sailed in left the Melbourne docks, he fell overboard into the Yarra, and was fished out, all but gone. The steamer kept on her way, and some kind friend, writing to our hero's wife, informed her that her husband had fallen into the Yarra and been drowned. For nearly eight years the wife received no further tidings of her husband, and, thinking herself a widow, re-married about a month ago. In the meantime the first husband took the next steamer for New Zealand, and, after the usual fluctuations of fortune, dropped on a patch and sailed for Melbourne with a small fortune. As he had never communicated with his wife, some weeks elapsed before he could trace her and then he found his long vacant place occupied by another. Matters rest here; the lady, divided between the old and the new love, does not know well to whom she should cling, and the last act of the play has yet to come.

The s. s. Rinsarooma with the New Zealand portion of the Suez mail, arrived at the Bluff on Saturday, at eight o'clock. The most important items of news brought by the mail, were telegraphed to New Zealand on its arrival in Melbourne.

Three more sheep were destroyed by a train passing over them on Friday morning. The railway is, apparently, doing the most flourishing butchery business in the province, and it has been suggested that the Superintendent Engineer for Constructed Railways should be compelled to take out a slaughtering license.

In consequence of the threat on the part of the Immigration Officer to take out summonses against immigrants whose passage moneys have not yet been paid, several have redeemed their promissory notes, and it is to be hoped that the remainder of the outstanding debts to the Government in this respect will be paid without much further delay.

Some changes have taken place in the constitution of the Patangata Road Board. Mr White has been appointed Chairman in the room of Mr James Tod, resigned, and Mr S. Greevy has accepted the appointment of Warden.

Some individual has poisoned at Taradale four valuable sheep dogs. Mr Macdonald offers a reward of £10 to any person giving information of the culprits. The act was a wanton one, and it is to be hoped Mr Macdonald will be placed in a position to bring the offenders to justice.

In reply to a letter from His Worship, the Mayor, the Colonial Secretary has forwarded a telegram stating that a proclamation is now in course of preparation to abolish the old Napier pound; that as soon as the proclamation has been signed by His Excellency the Governor, the Mayor can establish a pound under the Municipal Corporations Act.

The Officers and Brethren of the Seinde and Victoria Masonic Lodges purpose celebrating St. John's day, June 26, by a ball, and we are requested to intimate to brethren intending to attend, the desirability of taking tickets at their earliest convenience, in order to permit of the necessary arrangements being carried out by the Committee.

We hear that towards the middle of this month it is the intention of the Rev. J. Townsend to proceed to Lyttelton to relieve the Rev. Mr. Lloyd, who goes home on twelve months' leave of absence. Mr. Townsend will perform Mr. Lloyd's duties during that period, after which he will return to Napier. It is not yet decided who is to take Mr. Townsend's place.

Before taking his departure from Napier, the Bishop of Auckland strongly recommended the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Stuart to the Bishopric of Waipapa. It is understood, that both the Bishop of Auckland, and the Bishop of Wellington, decline to have annexed to their dioceses any portion of the diocese of Waipapa.

To the Editor, Sir:—There cannot be a doubt that there is a combination amongst those bakers who signed the advertisement notifying the rise in the bread, as I was informed by one of the parties that were he to sell bread cheaper than agreed upon, he would make himself amenable to a fine. Now, Sir, I would suggest to the public that they should not deal with one of these bakers, until they come to their senses, and drop their extortionate price.—I am &c NAPIER.

The Supreme Court will sit at Napier on the 11th instant. The following prisoners will be tried:—Cartwright and Peters, for obtaining money under false pretences; Hayman, for housebreaking; McEachan, for larceny; Ingle, for forgery; O'Dowd, and others, for forcible entry. The following civil cases are, up to the present time, set down for hearing:—Neal and Close v. Keith and Hunter, for specific performance of contract; John and Arthur Harrison v. J. Palmer; J. D. Canning v. Henare Martua.

At a meeting of the creditors of Mr. John M'Leod held on Friday in Mr. Sheehan's office, an offer was made to pay 20s in the pound, in bills at four, eight, and twelve months. The proposition was accepted. The amount was guaranteed by Mr. S. G. Brandon and Mr. H. Williams, who hold Mr. M'Leod's property as security for the payment.

The entertainment given by the Clive Christy Minstrels on Thursday evening, in the Clive School-house, for the benefit of Mrs. Snowsell, passed off most successfully. The total amount received, was £16 17s 6d. The expenses were £2 11s 6d. The balance £14 6s, was on Saturday handed over to Mrs. Lascelles.

A man named William Hammerton, charged with horse-stealing at Waverley, near Wanganui, was arrested at Waipawa on Friday with the horse in his possession. He will be remanded to Wanganui.

Mr Rochefort, we are informed, is engaged by Captain Newman to survey the property he purposes cutting up into small blocks for settlement.

The Wanganui Herald, which supported Sir J. Vogel's Ministry, and for a while the Atkinson-Whitaker Government, remarks in a recent number:—"The question might appropriately be asked, Who leads in the present Ministry? To this no outsider is prepared with an answer. We should be satisfied if we could say that Major Atkinson was Premier in fact as well as in name. But we cannot believe that he is permitted to shape a policy before it, and it is not so blind as not to see the want of harmony in the Cabinet. A weak team is better than a team pulling in different directions,—the one fatal weakness of coalitions formed of 'all the talents.' But if the position of the Ministry is unsatisfactory, that of the Opposition is worse. Sir George Grey has declared his intention of resigning the leadership, and it will be difficult to find one to fill his place; that is with the prestige which the different sections of the many-sided Opposition to work together. The proper place for Mr. Whitaker is at the head of the Opposition, though his views on the Land Fund must have alienated Canterbury and Otago. But his opinions on Separation are equally objectionable to the great body of the supporters of the Government. It is far too manifest that principals and parties are in a state of chaos."

The revenue of the Inangahua County is said to be £7000, while its expenditure is estimated at £14,310.

In pursuance of the now established custom, a testimonial is to be presented to the Hon Jas. Bonar, ex-Superintendent of Wellington.

There are now about 120 men on the field at Tadmor, most of whom are making good wages.

A Wellington paper says:—"A remarkable illustration of the curious freaks which nature sometimes indulges in is now in the Rangitikei district. There is within a hundred yards of Marton a baby 18 years old. This may seem a misnomer, but we know of no more appropriate term; for though 'the little thing' has a head of the normal proportions belonging to a girl of that age, with long dark hair, the body is that of an infant some six months old. She is carried about by a nurse, in every way tended as an infant, and unable to articulate a single sound."

'Egles' writes in the Australasian:—"A Gentleman who takes a lively interest in Australian trade development some time ago sent an experimental shipment of 50 first-class sheep from Melbourne to Calcutta. He paid 11s 6d. for them here, say £28 15s, and paid freight and shipping expenses £25 10s, together £54 5s. Six died on the voyage, and the remaining 44 realised 13 to 14 rupees each; but as rupees were at a discount, the sterling was only worth £53 11s. From this was deducted the feeding after landing in Calcutta of the 44 sheep for 11 days, 144 rupees (l) and the total charges for selling, &c. amounted to £24 12s 9d.; so that the spirited introducer into India of Australian mutton was rewarded for his enterprise by a loss of £25 6s 9d. He suspected his agents of excess when they trusted the result would be satisfactory; adding, if you could send us another lot, to be here by November or December next, they will be sure to sell to advantage! He fails to appreciate Calcutta advantages."

The Guardian says:—"The painful case of the death of the gardener Smith from blood-poisoning has had a sorrowful sequel. The Rev. Dr. Stuart appeared as a witness at the Police Court yesterday in connection with a very distressing case. Three little children, named Charles, Jessie, and Mary Smith, appeared on the floor of the Court charged with being neglected. Dr. Stuart stated that they were the family of the unfortunate man who had died some time since from blood-poisoning, the result of a scratch received while exhuming the remains of the late Dr. Hulme. Since the death of her husband, the mother of the children had given way to drink, and on Saturday evening last a visit to the home of the bereaved family in Castle-street, revealed a deplorable state of affairs—Mrs. Smith lying in a helpless state from drink, while her youngest child was undergoing a pining process, unobserved in a cradle. The worthy doctor at once interfered, handing the children over to the charge of a neighbour, and calling the attention of the police to the state of the affairs. A promise was exacted from the mother, who appeared in Court, to the effect that she should amend her conduct for the future, and on these conditions her family was restored again to her control. This is a case of total desolation descending on a family with the death of the breadwinner, protector, and guide. We have already urged the claim of these poor children on those who have inherited the great wealth of the late Dr. Hulme, for it is impossible to discover the death of poor Smith from its cause. We have heard that the claim has been represented somewhere or to some one interested in those bequests; but whatever may be the ultimate result, we have here, in the meantime, this immediate scene of wretchedness and ruin. A little timely help, judiciously given, might have spared this. Now, the prospects of those poor orphans is a very dreary one."

President Hayes has set an example by declaring relationship with himself or family to be an insuperable obstacle to appointment to office, and thus has destroyed the policy of nepotism that marked General Grant's administration.

The death of a woman 120 years of age, at Rensselaer, on the frontiers of Chili, is reported.

An attempt was made recently to shoot the editor of the Alta California, General John M'Comb, by a lawyer named Hayes. The editor belaboured his would-be assailant unmercifully.

At a little before eleven o'clock on Monday, the ringing of the fire-bell brought everybody within hearing of it, into Hastings Street. In a space of time that reflects the highest credit on the Fire Brigade, the two engines were dragged out; the steam engine was run down to the salt water well at the rear of Messrs Newton, Irvine and Co's stores, and the manual engine was rapidly drawn to the scene of the supposed fire, at the back of Mr Corbett, the Photographers shop, Hastings-street. On arrival there, it was found that the shingles of the roof of a so detached portion of the building had been set alight by a spark from the chimney, the accident, however, had been discovered in time to permit of the fire being extinguished by the help of a bucket of water. No damage was done, and a feeling of relief was experienced at the retirement of the engines to the shed.

A goods delivery cart, with horse attached, belonging to Mr. Knowles, passed through Hastings-street on Saturday evening last at a pace not in keeping with the safety of pedestrians. The horse must have been started by something while the driver was delivering goods. Fortunately not the slightest harm was done.

The Queen of Holland, whose death is announced by cablegram, was previous to her marriage to King William III, in 1839 known as Princess Sophia Matilda, of Wurtemberg.

In the Odd Fellows' Hall on Monday, Mr. Corbin Lamb gave readings and recitations from some of the best authors. The Hall was not crowded. We have listened to many excellent readers and elocutionists, and now we have heard Mr. Lamb. We will however spare ourselves from such another infliction.

The Napier Pound difficulty will now soon be settled. We notice in the New Zealand Gazette of the 31st ult., that His Excellency the Governor has, by proclamation, abolished the old Pound appointed by the Superintendent, so that nothing stands in the way of His Worship the Mayor re-appointing it under the Municipal Corporations Act.

Herbert William Brabant, Esq., has been appointed Resident Magistrate of Maketu. This office has been held for some years by F. E. Hamlin, Esq., who, being now relieved may be shortly expected at Napier, to occupy the post of Native Interpreter to the Resident Magistrate's Court.

Mr Justice Richmond will take the next sittings of the Supreme Court, at Napier, on the 11th June. Chief Justice Pendergast takes the Blenheim sittings on the same date.

The steam fire-engine was christened last Thursday evening, when there was a grand demonstration by the members of the Fire Brigade, Artillery Volunteers, and Cadet Corps, who, accompanied by the Artillery Band, formed a torchlight procession through the town.

His Honor Mr. Justice Richmond was a passenger to Napier by the Rangitira on Wednesday, and has taken up his abode at the Criterion Hotel.

A meeting of gentlemen interested in getting up a dramatic performance for the benefit of the Cricket Club, Napier, was held on Monday, at the Clarendon Hotel, W. Routledge, Esq., in the chair. A letter was read from the Hon. Sec of the Napier Cricket Club, addressed to the General Manager of the Dramatic Club, asking whether it were possible to assist the Cricket Club funds by giving a performance in conjunction with the cricketers. A resolution was passed expressive of willingness to do so, and a committee was appointed to carry out the proposal. The following gentlemen were chosen as a committee—Messrs Swan, Ball, Britten, Routledge, Jacobs, Bear, and Garner. The Cricket Club committee to act in conjunction with the above are—Messrs Sainsbury, Mayo, Caulton, and Campbell. A committee meeting will be held on Wednesday night, at the Clarendon Hotel. Before the meeting separated, the following gentleman signified their willingness to assist at the entertainment, Messrs Morgan, DeLisle, and Winter. It was resolved that the performance should be given on Friday, the 29th instant. A vote of thanks to the chairman, brought the meeting to a close, after a vote of thanks had been passed to Mr E. Ashton for the use of the Oddfellows Hall gratis.

A Gazette was published at Wellington on Monday, summoning Parliament to meet on Thursday, July 19, for the despatch of business.

We have received several letters asking why only one salt water well has been sunk for the use of the steam engine. One correspondent writes—"If the fire that occurred yesterday morning had occurred during the night, nothing could have saved the block of buildings in Hastings-street, it being doubtful whether the hose would have reached the scene of the fire. The Corporation can readily vote away our rates to pay for entertaining governors, but when it is asked for votes for wells or assist in preserving our property, what is given is done in a most begrudging spirit, and although we have a good steam engine it is rendered useless except for one particular portion of the town."

The New Zealand Loan and Merchantile Agency is about to have a rival in the field, news having been received in the colony of the floating in London of the National Mortgage and Agency Company of New Zealand. The capital is to be £2,000,000. A number of shares are reserved for the colony; the bank to be the National Bank of New Zealand.

At a meeting of the creditors of Mr O'Shea, held at Wellington on Monday, trustees were appointed. Captain Thomas stated that the estate would likely realise 10s in the £.

In the Resident Magistrate's Court on Monday, a man named Blake was sent to gaol for fourteen days for being illegally on the premises of Mr Johnson at Port Ahuriri.

Our attention has been called to an Order in Council having reference to Inspectors of Weights and Measures, from which it appears that that official cannot recognise any complaint unless on a requisition of five persons. In Wellington we notice the bakers evaded the law by pleading that they sold their loaves at 5d each, and did not profess to give any specified weight. Under these circumstances the sooner an alteration in the law is made so as to convict those who attempt to defraud their customers the better.

The Lydia Howarde Troupe are, we notice, advertised to appear in Grey-mouth on an early date.

We hear that a new Constabulary Act, to suit the condition of the recent amalgamation, will be introduced by the Government at an early date. In the meantime, the present Police Force will be reorganised on the 1st July next to serve for a term of 12 months, receiving the rates of pay set forth in the New Zealand Gazette of the 7th May last. The principal feature of the new Act, will be that which confers a retiring allowance on all officers, non-commissioned officers, and constables, incapacitated by age or ill-health, calculated on the basis of one month's pay for each year's service. Provincial service to reckon. Pensions will be conferred on those receiving injuries on duty, calculated on the resulting disability.

A peculiar case was heard at the Charleston Court the other day. One Peter Murphy by some means got hold of a blank summons for debt, and got it served on Edward Murphy, adding to the amount of debt 11s. fees and 23s. mileage. Mr Herbert Cross deputy-clerk of the Court, then laid an information against the aforesaid Peter Murphy for forgery.

An invention for enabling a horse to cross a river is engaging attention at Paris just now. The invention, if successful, would prove of incalculable benefit to the bush travellers of Australia. It is a device by which horses may be supported while swimming rivers, and is due to the ingenuity of Lieutenant Lubowitch, the Austrian officer who, it will be remembered, rode from Vienna to Paris, a year or two ago, on a single horse. The animal has its body covered with trappings and is kept on the surface of the water, like his rider, by a sufficient quantity of air. The inventor has proved the efficacy of his contrivance by crossing the Danube.

Egles in the Australasian tells the following story:—A very good fellow, and a warm man, too, was sounded the other day as to whether he would stand for the vacancy in the Ward. He did not say anything decisive, but in the evening he gently broke the subject to his wife thus:—Maggie,—they want me to go into the City Council—what do you say? "City Council! What! to be brought home on a saveloy-machine! NEVER, Tom, with my consent." He didn't stand.

The Nelson Mail has been shown a sample, received by the San Francisco mail, of wool which recently sold in London at the enormous price of 5s 1/4d. per lb. It is scoured merino, and very nearly as fine as silk. There was but one bale of it, and the competition was keen, several of the buyers having determined to secure it at any reasonable price. The gentleman who forwards the sample says that although such a price could not be expected for any large quantity, he believes that 500 bales might have been disposed of, even at the then unsatisfactory state of the market, at 3s. per lb. The wool, we believe, was from Kieldoun station, Victoria.

Mr. G. Trimmer announces his intention to sell the 2lb loaf for 4d for cash.

The News Letter learns on good authority that the Rev. J. C. Andrew has again declined resigning his seat, or for that matter the Mastership of the Nelson College. This is just, it remarks, what we expected; for the worthy gentleman would lose the reputation of being crotchety if he did not do something of the kind. We wonder what the next step will be. Doubtless, we shall hear more on the subject.

There is no chimney sweeper in Napier, so at least we are given to understand, and that is the reason why so many chimneys lately have caught fire. The Corporation should see to this matter, and call for tenders for cleaning flues, when there can be no excuse for foul chimneys.

We call the attention of the public to Mr. Mark Rolls advertisement in connection with the price of bread.

Mr. Black's hotel and stable at Mahia, which were burned down on Sunday, were insured in the South British office for £400.

A young female was assaulted by a man at the corner of Coote Road, and the Marine parade, on Saturday evening. Fortunately Mr. Thompson, attracted by the cries of the girl came to her rescue, when the scoundrel decamped, leaving his hat which fell off in the struggle on the ground. It is to be hoped that the man will be found out and arrested. We have heard of several of these cases lately, and if one delinquent was caught, and severely punished it would serve possibly as a lesson to others. It is a crying shame that a young female cannot pass along the roads unmolested.

The New Zealand Reformer, a newly established temperance journal, is rather severe on the Wellington police, who, says, our contemporary "not only wink at the crimes—the foul murderous crimes of the publicans—but we fear if all we hear be true, that they rather encourage them in their illegal work, for not only do they allow public-houses to be open after hours—not only do they allow children of tender years to be served with drink—but they drink themselves while on duty, and we are informed that their doing so on Sunday is no exception; and what is more, they do not arrest one drunken man out of fifty."

An attempt to blow up a snag in the Hokitika river, with an 80lb charge of blasting powder, resulted in the destruction of about 30 feet of the adjacent wharf, leaving the snag still definitely obstructive.

An Auckland telegram to the Wellington Argus says:—"There is great apprehension lest the new Native Lands Bill may offer too great facilities to private speculators. It is generally rumored that a ring of large capitalists here will gobble up immense blocks immediately the restrictions are removed."

The Wellington Post says:—"The services of the various Provincial Executive Officers are, we learn, to be dispensed with prior to the meeting of Parliament, and their delegated powers withdrawn. The object of this proceeding is to enable Ministers to meet Parliament with the statement that the entire administration of the affairs of the colony is in their own hands."

War has been declared at Dunedin between the stage and pulpit, or orthodoxy and free thought. Last week Charles Bright lectured on "The religion of inhumanity, or the jackass in the lion's skin," the lecture being intended as a reply to the Rev. Dr. Copeland's discourse on "The religion of humanity, or the jackdaw in peacock's feathers."

We (Auckland Star) are glad to learn that Sir George Grey's health is rapidly improving, and that he is determined to be in his place in Parliament next session, in spite of all obstacles. One gentleman who saw him lately came away with the impression that Sir George Grey was resolved to go to Wellington, even if he had to be carried on board the steamer.

A certain Civil Servant (says the Post) is likely to learn the intimate association which frequently subsists between "penny wisdom" and pound foolishness." He hired a cab for a shilling journey—the fare for the distance being distinctly marked on the table of fares exhibited. On the fare being demanded, the economical passenger tendered 6d, and refused to pay another farthing. The consequence of saving this 6d is that he has been served with a summons to pay that sum, together with 5s, the cost of the summons, total 5s 6d, which he must either pay, or else see it augmented by another 4s, the cost of hearing. Possibly counsel may be employed on both sides, in which case the economical passenger stands to lose £2 11s 6d. We are inclined to think he might as well have paid that 6d.

"Egles," in the Australasian, says:—"Two thousand men, under Chamat Croun and Prince Silvio, with several ironclads had engagement with the Russian batteries at Ibrailha," &c. This is the ingenious interpretation placed upon a submarine message by the Sydney Morning Herald of the 7th instant. A little consideration will suggest that on that occasion its sporting reporter and its war correspondent had been spending a cheerful evening together. The real purport of the first part of the message was, that the Two Thousand Guineaes had been won by Chamant, with Crown Prince and Silvio second and third!" The telegram was forwarded from Sydney to New Zealand in the same condition as the Herald published it.

G. A. Oliver, Esq., held a Revision Court on Wednesday, when all the objections that had been made to the Electoral Roll were withdrawn.

From Masterton we learn that the Rev. J. C. Andrews has resigned his seat in the General Assembly for the Waikarapa, and that Mr. G. Beetham, a younger brother of our worthy Magistrate is seeking the suffrages of the electors.

There was an alarm of fire on Tuesday, about 5 o'clock. The Brigade got out their engines with very great rapidity, and proceeded up the White road. It was afterwards found out that it was but a fire in the Meaneze swamp, and the Brigade therefore turned and put back their engines. The members of the Brigade have, however, shown that they are always on the alert, and prepared for any emergency.

The Wellington town belt leases for 14 years were sold by auction on Tuesday. There was a large attendance and the bidding was spirited; 56 lots out of 60 were sold at an aggregate rental of over £5000 a year. The prices ranged from £5 to £10 10s per acre.

Since our last, the following civil cases have been set down for hearing, in the Supreme Court:—Thomas Kennedy Newton, v. W. W. Carllie, and others, Alexander Kennedy v. W. W. Carllie, and others, and Edward William Knowles v. W. W. Carllie and others, all for libel. These cases will be heard before special juries.

As lately reported, Mr Thomas, better known as the author of the "Vagabond Papers," appeared at the Brunswick Police Court to answer the charge of having conveyed tobacco to one of the prisoners at the Pentridge stockade during a recent visit to the scene of his former labors. The court was crowded, and a great deal of interest was evinced in the case, but the inquiry was cut short by Sergeant Sleigh, who raised an objection on behalf of the accused that three offences could not be alleged in one summons. This point was fatal to the prosecution. The ill-drawn summons, with its triple charge, was dismissed, and the "Vagabond" left the court.

Amongst other items of news by the San Francisco mail more or less improbable, is the following:—"M. Bourgoing, the French envoy, has had a stand-up fight with Edhem Pasha. Bourgoing taking offence at the language of the Turk, is alleged so far to have forgotten the dignity of his situation as to grapple with Edhem Pasha, who thereupon drew his scimitar. The affair naturally created the greatest consternation among the diplomats, until Chaudordy rushed forward and pulled back his colleague by the coat-tails."

Professor Taylor and his wife, the Champion Skaters, arrived in Napier overland, and will give three performances in the Oddfellows Hall, commencing this (Saturday) evening: The Wanganui Chronicle, in noticing their performances in that town says:—"The advent of the famous Rinking Champion, Professor Taylor, and the charming Lillie, Queen of Skates, last night attracted a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen to witness the unique performances of these incomparable rinkers. There were also present a considerable number of the members of the Club, who regularly frequent the Hall to indulge in this new and fascinating amusement. Both Lillie and the Professor wore medals and other distinctions which had been conferred upon them by their patrons and friends in the various metropolitan centres, conspicuous upon the breast of the lady being two gold medals—one presented to her, on behalf of her friends in Christchurch, by Sir Cascroft Wilson C. B., and the other by Mr Krull, the German Consul in Wellington. We do not propose to describe the performance, save to say that it exhibited the perfection to which rinking can be brought, and proved what marvellous evolutions can be gone through on roller skates."

On Tuesday, in response to the advertisement, calling a meeting to consider the advisability of starting a Co-operative Bakery, between 250 and 300 people assembled in the billiard-room of the Provincial Hotel, the Protestant Hall, in which the meeting was first announced to take place, not being available. J. Sheehan, Esq., M.G.A., was unanimously voted to be the chair. The Chairman after reading the advertisement convening the meeting, called on Mr. Steel to state the object for which they were assembled. Mr. Steel said the meeting had been convened in consequence of the bakers having risen the 2lb loaf to 6d, and to see what was the opinion of the public in the matter. Since the meeting had been announced, one baker had advertised to sell bread at 5d, and tonight another had come down to 4d, and he believed by co-operation, they could have the 2lb loaf for 4d. Since the proposition had been mooted two bakeries had been offered, which the Company, if formed, could either rent or purchase altogether. The capital required would be £2,000, in £1 shares, thus enabling the working classes to take a share. All classes had promised to give their support to the movement, and he believed the shares would be readily taken up. He would move:—"That it is desirable, in consequence of the action taken by the bakers of Napier, that a co-operative bakery be established." Mr. John Begg then at the request of the proposer addressed the meeting, and gave an amusing account of how he came to grief in managing a Co-operative Bakery. He had no faith in a people who supported such a man as Sir Julius Vogel and his crew. (Cheers and laughter.) He was afraid they would not stick together, and when the bakers would be forced to lower the price of bread, the people would go to the nearest shop. What they should do, would be to support the baker who lowered the price of bread, and deal only with him. This would teach the others a lesson, but as he said before, he had no faith in a people who voted to support such a Government as we had. Mr. James Wait seconded Mr. Steel's motion, which was carried unanimously. The following committee was then appointed to report upon the matter, and to prepare a prospectus and estimates, to be laid before another meeting: Messrs Watt, Gribblinton, Steel, Carter, and Hamlin. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Steel, seconded by Mr. Begg, that the meeting be adjourned to a day to be notified by public advertisement. A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

An extraordinary case of murder was heard at the Hobart Town Criminal Sessions, which commenced on the 20th February. Michael Bakay was charged with having wilfully murdered one Thomas Fynch, in the district of Franklin, on the 29th January last. The facts proved in evidence were briefly that Bakay, being jealous of one Denis O'Reilly's intimacy with his wife, placed a bottle of rum containing a quantity of strychnine, in O'Reilly's garden. O'Reilly happened to be a teetotaler, and gave the rum to the deceased man, who chanced to be passing on the 29th January. Fynch drank nearly half the contents of the bottle, and died in tetanic convulsions an hour or two afterwards. The several steps in the crime were clearly traced home to the prisoner, and notwithstanding an able defence, the jury, after a short retirement, brought in a verdict of guilty, with a recommendation to mercy, on the ground of the provocation received from O'Reilly. His Honor passed sentence of death in the usual form.

Some doubts having been expressed as to whether the Bank of New Zealand and the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency were trading legally in the colony of New South Wales, the opinions of four of the leading counsel in Sydney has been obtained, and all agree that those Companies are trading with the fullest legality, and have the fullest power.

Our attention was called on Wednesday by a storekeeper in town—who is a large consumer of butter—to the disgraceful state in which some dairymen in the country send to town for sale their butter. It was wrapped up in dirty linen cloths, and its make-up was a caution. In no other part of New Zealand should better butter be produced than in Hawke's Bay; yet owing to the carelessness of some dairymen this product bears anything but a good name.

The s. s. Ringarooma, with the Suez mails, arrived at Wellington on Wednesday morning. The letter portion for Hawke's Bay will arrive overland by yesterday evening's train.

A public library has been started at Marakakaho, the nucleus of which was formed by private donations from Napier, amounting to three hundred volumes.

In the Resident Magistrate's Court on Thursday, there was only one case on the charge list, that being against one John Henderson for drunkenness, who having been let out on bail, forgot to make his appearance, and his bail money £1 was ordered to be forfeited. The Scandinavians having settled their assault case among themselves, the charge was withdrawn.

The Napier Police have just completed a census of the town of Napier. From this it appears there are 911 inhabited houses, the total population being 5135. The house containing the largest family is the Gaol, where, on the day of the census there were forty inmates.

The dog-tax for the Borough of Napier is now being collected. We understand the Police are going to enforce this tax more rigorously than before. The tax must be paid at the office of the Inspector of Police, Government Buildings.

Inspector Scully, gratefully acknowledges the receipt of £10 10s from "Anonymous" for the destitute poor.

It is said three of the railway engines are to be re-christened. The "Eel" is to be named "The Cleaver," and the other two are to be termed respectively, "Sausage Machine," and "Butcher."

The many friends of the Rev Father Forest, who has been all the week suffering from a severe illness, will be glad to learn that the reverend gentleman is much improved in health.

Old Spence, who has often been up before the Napier Resident Magistrate, has been up to his games again. It was this notable individual whose heart-rending tale caused so much commiseration for him when found in a lone hut at Kaikora on Monday morning, and to whom Mr Pritchard exhibited so much kindness. He is always an inmate of either the Hospital or Gaol, and is now under the watchful care of Constable McGuire at Waipawa.

Our attention has been called to the state of the lower end of Milton-road. Some persons have been quarrying there, and left large boulders in such a position as to make it positively unsafe for persons to drive vehicles along these dark evenings. We hope our calling attention to the matter will be the means of having it rectified.

In reference to our Waipawa telegram in to-day's issue, we learn that at 7.55 a.m. down train yesterday was between 1st Aute and Kaikora, a bull-calf standing by the side of the line at the time the train was passing, took it into his head to rush the carriages. The beast struck one of the trucks that was loaded with iron rails, and the force of the concussion, together with the animal being run over, threw three trucks off the line. The train was delayed two hours and a-half in consequence, but no mischief was done, beyond killing the bull-calf.

Mr H. Severn, who is now making a tour through New Zealand, giving scientific experimental lectures, arrived with his agent Mr Davy in Napier on Wednesday, by the s. s. Rangitira. He purposes giving his first lecture in Napier in the Protestant Hall this evening, the subject being the "Earth and its Satellite."

The joint committee of the Dramatic and Cricket Clubs' entertainment, met on Wednesday at the Clarendon Hotel, and arranged a programme. It has been decided to produce the sparkling one-act comedy of "Paint heart never won fair Lady," and Mr Laughran's pretty burlesque of "Fair Rosamond," with a musical interlude between the two pieces.

The Press Agent at Sydney thought the following item of information worth sending by cablegram on Wednesday:—"The winning dog pilot of the Grant and Polworth Coursing Derby (Victoria), has been bought for New Zealand."

Mass will be celebrated by the Rev. E. Reigner next Sunday, in the Schoolroom, Havlock, at 11¹/₂ a.m.

The Waipukurau Riding, in the Waipawa County, seems doomed never to enjoy the benefit of a representative. The last election held on the May 22 has been appealed against by Mr. S. Johnston, on the ground, mainly, that the Returning Officers should have allowed plural voting. The petition was filed on Tuesday last.

A correspondent to an Australian paper says:—"I may state that human hair, placed in rat holes, or laid about the premises, will banish these vermin. Any barber will gladly give it away. Chloride of lime is also efficacious."

A new telegraph station was opened on Thursday at Stirling, County Bruce, Otago. There is a Maori minister in this Province (writes "Loafers" in the Canterbury Press) who is anxious to impress the advantages of truthfulness upon his congregation. He has endeavored to work this by fining the members of his flock a shilling upon every occasion they lie. Assuming the noble Maori to be as good on the falsehood as the white man, I should imagine the minister's regulations must be more honored in the breach than the observance. Otherwise (the ecclesiastical mandate has now been in force some months) the rev. gentleman would ere this have reduced the whole tribe to the lowest depths of insolvency. It appears, however, there are times when the rule works out in a flawless style. The following facts prove this:—A Maori went to pay a bill which he owed the storekeeper, amounting to 11s 6d. While counting it out he observed to his creditor that he supposed, as the account had been standing so long, he had given up all hopes of getting paid. "Oh, no," said the storekeeper, "I knew you were honest, and felt sure that you would pay soon." "That's a lie," responded the truth loving Maori, "You're fined a shilling, so here's ten and six, Tenakoe," and he walked out.

Our attention (says the Star) has been called to a somewhat novel swindle perpetrated upon unsuspecting Auckland importers by some rather too clever person in Hobart Town. The plan is to pack a number of apples in a case, which by the peculiar fastening of the boards can be conveniently opened at one end only. At this end two or three rows of fine apples are temptingly arranged on the top, while beneath are nothing but very diminutive specimens. Mr Hannaford was the victim in this case, having bought the apples at auction, but fully exonerates the auctioneer, who was equally deceived. The price paid was 34 1/4 pence. It would be well for our Hobart Town friends to bear in mind that by this course they will injure their own trade.

A writer in the Nelson Mail on the subject of writing on the racing disqualification says:—"I don't think we treat our race-hors well in New Zealand. It may be remembered that some years ago that magnificent mare Peersess, with which so many of us in Nelson are acquainted, was disqualified because the poor thing who was so eager to take her part in the contest was debarred by her owner from starting; and now Flashok, the winner of the Dunedin Cup, who tried his best to win, despite the efforts of his jockey, at an Otago meeting the other day, has been subject to a similar indignity. Why pass such a slur on the noble animals, whose disappointment at being debarred from what to them are the pleasure and excitement of a well contested race, is I really believe, as great as that of their backers? They are honest enough, and therein they set an example that might be followed with advantage by that professedly noble animal—man. Put the saddle on the right horse, Messieurs the Stewards. Let disgrace lie on the proper shoulders, and whenever you find an owner or a jockey playing such pranks, disqualify him, order him off your course, and never allow him another chance of selling the public, upon whom, after all, depends the success or failure of your race meetings. Racing in New Zealand used, in the year long gone by, to be conducted upon honest, and honorable principles, but now! Ye what can we say of it now?"

The two visits of the Hon. W. Fox (says the Patea Mail) to this district, have been well timed—in that there have been splendid opportunities of picking up "frightful examples" in regard to the debasing effect of drink on the native race. His visits have, however, been ill-timed so far as the credit of the district is concerned. On his first visit to Carlyle, a lot of Maoris had just received cash on account of lands disposed of to Government, and were spending some of it in liquor. It was the same at Hawera. Again, on arriving at Hawera on Monday last, that usually quiet township was in complete uproar, for the reason that it was swarming with Maoris, who had received payment for land, and were doing a general jollification on the strength of it. Such a rumpus had not been before known there. The hon. gentleman, locating in one of the pubs, would get a full benefit of the noise. Having twice had similar experiences, he will no doubt conclude that sort of thing to be the rule, and will make the most of it in teetotal circles.

A civil case came before the Resident Magistrate at Wellington on Monday, in which a Mr. Hooper, who had for some time been employed as Editor of the New Zealand reformer, sued the directors of that public

tion for the recovery of three months' salary. It appears that Hooper was employed by the provisional Directors of the Company owning the publication, and edited it for some weeks. Directly, however, the permanent Directors were elected they discharged Hooper, giving him a week's wages in lieu of notice. Hooper, it appears, contends that he was entitled to three months' notice, or in lieu thereof, three months' wages. The Directors refuse to recognise this claim. The hearing of the case was postponed. [In our telegrams to-day will be found the sequel of this case.]

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

SINGAPORE.

June 6, 2.5 p.m.
Great difficulty is experienced in supplying the Russian army in Roumania with provisions.
The Circassian insurgents have been defeated with great loss.

AUSTRALIAN.

(Per s.s. Australia.)

MELBOURNE.

June 1.
An attempted murder and suicide has occurred in Stephen-street. A woman named Annie Walker cut the throat of her so-called husband, and then cut her own in a fit of jealousy. She lies in a precarious state. The man is not much injured.

The three-masted schooner Young Australia was driven over a reef at Curdie's Inlet, near Warnambool. Five persons were saved, and one drowned.

Mr Berry, at Geelong, said he would introduce a land tax estimated to yield £200,000, which would leave a surplus at the end of the year. The whole to be devoted to the reduction of the tariff. Protective duties were not to be interfered with, but other articles not now protected, would be added. A loan for railway purposes would probably soon be required.

Mr Francis has declined the honor of knighthood. He is understood to hold a very decided contempt for colonial titles.

Two men were arrested for forgeries on the City of Melbourne Bank. They are supposed to belong to an organised gang.

BRISBANE.

June 1.
A motion for £2000 to form a Torpedo Brigade was carried by the Queensland Parliament.

A monster meeting at Kingsborough has resolved to petition Parliament to prohibit the Chinese from going on the goldfields.

SYDNEY.

June 1.
The Government, in consequence of a vote of the House, withdrew all the proposed increase of salaries.

A vote of £100,000 for immigration was carried.

Several speakers in the Opposition said that already large numbers were unable to obtain employment in New South Wales.

COMMERCIAL.

Olive raisins, 6 1/2; cornsacks are sold at 9s 6d; sales of wheat are 7s 2 1/2 to 7s 3d; kerosine, 1s 8d.

INTERPROVINCIAL.

WAIKAWA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 6, noon.
The train is off the line at Kaikora. The metal is all torn up.
A bullock jumped off a high embankment between the trucks.

WAIROA.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

June 6.
The Revision Court on the County Electoral Rolls sat to-day. There were no objections, and but one application, J. Aislable to be included.

The bar was never in a worse state. There is a heavy sea. The out-flow of the river is over half a mile of shingle. No tide, however high, can come in.

AUCKLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 6.
Dr Goldsbro' has held an inquest at the Lunatic Asylum respecting the death of an inmate named Henry Swain. It was shown by medical evidence that the deceased labored under a peculiar form

of insanity, known as kleptomania, and this had assumed such a pronounced type that he could not resist the temptation to steal any articles he could lay his hands on, and was in the habit of running off with the patients' blankets. In examination of the scalp, it was shown that there were large quantities of congested blood on the inner surface of the skull, and towards the interior of the frontal bone there was a speculum of bone, a quarter of an inch long, which was thought to have been the source of irritation to the membranes and brain. Death was attributed to exhaustion resulting from congestion and chronic disease of the brain. The jury returned a verdict accordingly. The deceased had frequently brought himself into the hands of the police by his singular freaks, and was recently confined in Mount Eden Gaol, but only a few hours after his release he was again attacked with a mania for stealing, and was arrested. Medical men are of opinion that the piece of bone found in the brain by the irritation it would cause was sufficient to account for the peculiar mania with which he was afflicted.

The Teetotallers made a special effort to stop all of the six licenses in Kaipara, and had collected a thousand names to the memorial, but the Court overruled it as informal.

The Licensing Bench in Auckland refused two applications for new licenses for houses on which large sums had been expended.

DUNEDIN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

June 6.
At the City Council Meeting yesterday, a lawyer's letter was read intimating that Scanlon intended prosecuting his action against the Mayor for the recovery of moneys spent in entertaining the Governor. The Mayor wanted to pay the money himself, but the Council refused to allow him to do so.

Another lawyer's letter was read on behalf of the local competitors for the Town Hall designs, protesting against the reception of any not received by the Town Clerk on the 1st. This is aimed at the Melbourne designs received by the Ringarooma, but the Council will receive all bearing post marks up to June. Veritas (Melbourne) and Leo (Dunedin) are most fancied.

Very few of the up-country Councils will be represented at the Council County Conference.

The Licensing Bench was unable to get through the whole of the business at yesterday's sitting. The Bench granted no new licenses.

The Fire Brigade's relations with the City Council are not over pleasant. The undue delay at getting to work at Sunday's fire provoked a sharp comment from the Times, with which the Brigades are indignant. Some Councillors will try and have a paid Brigade appointed.

June 7.

A rather large robbery of money in a boarding house at Oamaru is giving rise to other proceedings and complications. Craigs and his wife, and a man named Madden are all under remand charged with being concerned in the robbery, and one Alice Purnell, who is an important witness in the prosecution against the Craigs, is charged with having committed perjury, in which she claimed wages from Craigs. She then swore that the signature to the receipt put in by Craigs was not hers. The Craigs swear with equal pertinacity that Purnell signed the document. The Bench committed the woman for trial at the District Court, and refused the application of her counsel to remit the case to the Supreme Court, saying that they had no reason to suppose she would not get justice from an Oamaru jury. Purnell's trial takes place to-day, and the Craigs and Madden are to be brought up again on Friday. She maintains that she never was able to write.

The Harbor Board find themselves in a difficulty again re the dock. Mr. Proudfoot, after he had verbally promised to effect the alterations involved by substituting one dock for two, now intimates to do so without consulting his partner, and the firm will charge one shilling per cubic yard, which means an extra expenditure of £7666. The Chairman of the Public Works Committee said yesterday that the way the Board was going on they would have a deficiency of £56,000, and only get the harbor improvement scheme in three parts completed. The chances are that the Board, by a small majority, will adhere to the Engineer's original plans.

(PRESS AGENCY.)

AUCKLAND.

June 6.
The Australia arrived this morning

from Sydney, and will leave with the Frisco mails this evening.

CHRISTCHURCH.

June 6.
The City Council has received several letters favorable to the proposed Conference of Municipal delegates at Wellington, to consider the reduction of Municipal subsidies.

The Governor arrived here at 11.30 o'clock yesterday morning, and was received by the Mayor and City Councillors, the Primate, Judge Johnston and other gentlemen, at the railway station, where a guard of honor, composed of the City Guards and Engineers, was drawn up. An address from the City Council was read by the City Solicitor. The Governor made a verbal reply, in which he said he was agreeably surprised at the great progress and improvement in Lyttelton Harbor since he visited Canterbury last year, and was sure such a harbor must tend greatly to promote the prosperity of Canterbury, and the colony as a whole. Three hearty cheers were given for the Governor. He was then escorted to an open carriage, in which he was driven to the Club, where he will reside during his visit. At one o'clock the Governor attended a private luncheon given by the City Council, only about twenty-four being present.

The citizens have not complied with the request of the Mayor to observe a holiday, the reason being that not sufficient notice was given.

DUNEDIN.

June 6.
Walker, the trance medium, gave a seance on Monday night in the presence of fifty people. He lectured on evolution and those present say that the lecture was an exceedingly able one. Arrangements are being made for a public appearance.

The fire Brigade had a stormy meeting on Monday night, in the course of which they sought to vindicate themselves against the charges of incompetency and delay in dealing with the fire on Sunday evening. One member said that the officers stood looking at each other, and he expressed a hope that in future the captain would not swear but conduct himself like a gentleman.

A public meeting was held at the Temperance Hall last night to consider a Local Option Bill. There were about 800 people present. The Mayor presided. The following resolutions were carried:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the principle embodied in the Bill is equitable, practicable, and likely to afford the public relief from the many evils resulting from the consumption of intoxicating liquors." "That in the opinion of this meeting no system of Licensing laws has yet been effective for the prevention of evils to prevent which they were enacted, and therefore a change is necessary both in the principle and method of the laws dealing with the liquor trade. In the opinion of this meeting a very large proportion of vice, crime, disease, poverty, and other social evils which exist in this colony are the direct result of the traffic in, and the using of alcoholic beverage." A petition for presentation to the Assembly was also submitted and approved. Mr McLaren interrupted, and a free fight ensued, which ended in his being thrown down stairs and out into the street.

INVERCARGILL.

June 7.
On Wednesday the first meeting of the Southland Coursing Club took place at Morton Mans. The weather was splendid, and the attendance large. Hares were plentiful, and the sport was very good. None of the stakes were settled, having to be run off to-day.

WELLINGTON.

June 6.
The Zealandia with the London mails of the 3rd May left San Francisco for Honolulu and Auckland on May 23, and is due at Auckland on the 15th instant. The City of Sydney, with the New Zealand mails of the 9th May, arrived at San Francisco on the 31st ult.

The Governor has remitted the sentence of two years penal servitude, passed last session on Richard Gordon, who was convicted of horse stealing in the Wairarapa. The evidence on which he was convicted is shown to have been unreliable.

In the case of Hooper v. the Reformer newspaper, for £75 damages for insufficient notice of dismissal, the editor was nonsuited. The case will probably be taken to the Supreme Court.

PORT CHALMERS.

June 7.
A large Masonic gathering took place

on Friday evening, on the occasion of the consecration of a Royal Arch Chapter, and installing the principal officers. Fully 70 members were present. The Chapter was consecrated by ex-companion E. Nathan, and the principal officers were installed by Companion Myers. Two members were than exalted, and a banquet wound up the proceedings.

HOKITIKA.

June 7.
Fifty-six applications for publicans licenses were granted by the Licensing Bench on Tuesday. None were refused.

The Harbor Board is making a survey of the river before commencing the harbor works, for which it is proposed to borrow £10,000 on debentures in Christchurch or Dunedin.

WESTPORT.

June 7.
At the Licensing Court, on Tuesday, thirty-four applications for the town and district were all granted, except two new applications, and these were adjourned. The publican business is greatly overdone, the entire population being about 2000.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHORT WEIGHT IN BREAD.

SIR,—In Monday's TELEGRAPH I am glad to see that the matter of short weight in bread has been brought before the public by "One who wants to know;" and he asks if there is an Inspector of Weights and Measures in Napier? Allow me to add my testimony to his, that when loaves purchased for my family have been weighed, the result has been from two to four ounces short, and in loaves which the bakers are pleased to call fancy bread, from two to five ounces short. True, we have an Inspector of Weights and Measures, but even allowing that he occasionally pays the bakers a visit, and tests their weights and measures, will that remedy the evil? What I want to know is this: Are not the bakers bound by law to sell their bread the correct weight, and also to weigh it to a customer when asked to do so? If so, the public have the remedy in their own hands, by compelling the bakers to weigh the loaves when delivered, and no doubt Mr Scully will see that the scales and weights are in proper order. The present system of short weight I look upon as a most monstrous piece of dishonesty, and with the high price combined, must tell very severely upon poor people who, in many cases, have a hard struggle to keep body and soul together; and thus have, as it were, the very bread taken out of their mouths.—I am, &c.,

ANOTHER WHO WANTS TO KNOW,
Napier, June 6, 1877.

THE SPIT FERRY.

SIR,—I am glad to see the Harbor Board purposes to bring about some improvement in the ferry arrangements across the harbor. The existing arrangement is simply ridiculous, and would not be tolerated, I am sure, in any other civilized community but Napier.

I do not wish to find any fault with the present ferryman; he is about the most civil and obliging man who has been there for a long time past. I simply complain of the ferry itself—the *modus operandi* of the concern, which is utterly bad, and unfit for the traffic.

By inserting the above in your valuable paper you will oblige

A TRAVELLER,
Napier, June 5, 1877.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

FRIDAY, JUNE 1.

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

DRUNKENNESS.
One James Blake, for this offence, was fined and paid five shillings.

BREACHES OF NAPIER HARBOR REGULATIONS.

Daniel Cotton on the information of Edward Cook, Wharfinger, was charged with taking his hackney carriage plying for hire on part of a planned jetty. He was convicted and fined £1, with costs and expenses amounting to £1 10s.

The same defendant was further charged with bringing goods for shipment on the West Quay, a wharf under control of the Napier Harbor Board, without the production of the Wharfinger's receipt for the wharf dues. He offered no defence, and was fined £1, and costs and expenses amounting to a further sum of 16s 6d.

ALLEGED BREACH OF "STAMP ACT."

William Warrand Carlile, Peter Dinwiddie, and Thomas Morrison, were charged on the information of the Deputy Commissioner of Stamps with having about the 7th December, 1876 unlawfully written or caused to be written a receipt for a sum of £2 10s. to one Joseph Jessop, without the said receipt being duly stamped. They pleaded not guilty. The evidence of the Deputy Commissioner and Joseph Jessop was taken for the prosecution, and of Mr. St Clair and Messrs. Dinwiddie for the defence. His Worship considered that the charge was not sustained and dismissed the information with costs.

CIVIL CASES.

Some eight or nine civil actions had been settled out of Court, two against natives were confessed, and two others adjourned for a month. The following were heard:—

Bowman v. Taylor.—Claim £9 12s for groceries, &c., supplied from the shop known as Mr. Topping's at Port Ahuriri. An account had been previously rendered to defendant for the same goods, in which he was made Topping's debtor; now he was sued by Bowman. Nonsuited.

Pyne v. Smith.—£9 7s 6d, for board and lodging. Judgment by default for amount claimed, and 13s costs.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2.

A HAPPY TRIO.

W. Thompson, F. McCarthy, and Henry Davis, all charged with drunkenness were convicted and fined each five shillings, or twenty-four hours imprisonment. Owing to the prevailing tightness in the money market, the whole trio went unanimsly for the twenty-four hours.

HABITUAL DRUNKARD.

James Griffen was sent to gaol for one month, with hard labour, for habitual drunkenness.

PROTECTION ORDER.

Mr. Lee applied for a protection order for a Mrs. Williams, whose husband, after deserting her for eight years, arrived in Napier on Saturday, and made a claim to what property she had in her possession. After hearing the learned counsel, His Worship acceded to the request.

MONDAY JUNE 4.

DRUNKENNESS.

Thomas Hudson, for this offence, was fined and paid five shillings.

William Smith preferred a twenty-four hours alternative.

ALLEGED LUNACY.

William Sparrow, who had been remanded until to-day for medical examination as a suspected lunatic, was brought up and discharged, the medical testimony not warranting his further detention.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6.

DRUNKENNESS.

John Morgan, not being in funds to the amount of five shillings to pay the fine imposed for having imbibed too freely, went to prison for 24 hours.

LUNACY.

George Hammond, who had this time been brought all the way from Waipawa, was charged with being a lunatic, and not under proper care and control. He made some incoherent remarks, and produced his handkerchief, which he laid down in front of him for some intelligible reason, muttering some unintelligible words at the same time. He was remanded until Saturday morning for medical examination and report.

ALLEGED ASSAULT.

A case of this kind, in which all the parties concerned are Scandinavians, was adjourned until to-morrow.

THE LATE RUNAWAY.—BREACH MUNICIPAL BYE LAWS.

Thomas Hall, charged on the information of Sergeant Robinson with leaving a horse and vehicle, of which he was the driver, unattended, admitted the offence, and was fined £2, with 6s 6d costs of Court.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AT MANAWATU.

The Fielding correspondent of the New Zealand Times, under date May 28, furnishes the following:—

I have to note a remarkable social development in this district, brought about slowly and silently by the influence of a religious belief, which brings to mind the statement that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Here is a religious community, with Christian ideas as primitive as were held in the latter half of the first century of the Christian era. The members of this communion call themselves Christian Brethren—a sect

that had its origin a few years ago in Wairarapa. Their founder was a Mr. Beckland, a Norwegian, who met his death by drowning in one of the Wairarapa rivers. The mantle of Mr. Beckland fell on the late Mr. Feist, and from Mr. Feist it descended to Mr. Roots, late of Wairarapa, who is now the leader of the brethren at Fielding, many of the Wairarapa brethren having come over to Fielding. These worthy people read no book but the Bible. Newspapers have no interest for them, and they neither know nor care for any of the new ideas that have been troubling the peace of other Churches; at Fielding the brethren are not troubled about any new readings of the old book. They believe in the near approach of the end of all material things. When one of them addresses anyone on any subject whatever he does so in the name of the Lord Jesus. I one day remarked to a brother that a good many of the brethren were coming to Fielding from Wairarapa. His reply was that "a good many more will come here if the Lord tarries and no earthquake occurs." They

WORK VERY MUCH ON THE COMMUNIST PRINCIPLE.

As regards property, 1200 acres of land have been bought in the name of their leader, Mr. Roots, which is held on the co-operative principle, and this principle seems to succeed with them in many of their undertakings as they are industrious and are also so much under the influence of a strong religious feeling, looking as they do every day, for the end of the world. Another trait I notice is that they take no part whatever in public questions or politics affecting the community. In short, whatever view one may take of their abounding faith it has the effect of making them very good members of society, and also desirable neighbours, and it seems that the new schism of Fielding contained a considerable number of a class that had such a strong affinity, chemically speaking, for the brethren's faith that the numbers of the brethren have increased, until they are now the most important religious body in the district. Another specimen of their primitive faith is that when sickness overtakes any of their number the leaders among them meet and pray over the sick person, and I am told they lay on hands like the Apostles of old, hoping for a miraculous cure, but that they will not call in medical aid. A case of this kind occurred lately, when a child sickened; their prayers failed; and the end of it was that medical aid was at last called in just as the child was dying; but too late to save its life.

HOW TO RAISE CHICKENS.

We have a good deal of trouble last summer with Pitman's chickens. As fast as we would plant anything in our little garden, those chickens of Pitman's would creep through the fence, scratch on the seeds, fill up, and go home. When the raddish-beds had been ravished in this manner for the fifth time, we complained to Pitman. He was not disposed to interfere. "Adeler," he said, "I tell you it does 'em good; and it does them beds good to be raked over by chickens. If I have raddishes, give me chickens to scratch around 'em and eat up the worms. Raddishes that haven't been scratched ain't worth a cent." Then we climbed over the fence, with the determination to take the law into our own hands. We prepared a half peck of corn, and two dozen diminutive fish hooks. Fastening the hooks each into a grain of corn, we tied thin wire to each hook. Then we scattered the whole of the corn on the raddish-bed and fixed the end of the wires to the biggest sky-rocket we could get. The rocket stood in a frame about ten yards away from the hooks. That very morning Pitman's chickens came over and instantly began to devour the corn. We were ready, and as soon as it was evident that the hooks were all swallowed, we applied a match to the rocket. It is regarded as probable that no barn-yard fowls that have lived since the days of Noah ever proceeded towards the azure vault of heaven with such rapidity as those did. A fix, a few ejaculatory cackles, a puff of smoke, and Pitman's roosters and pullets were swishing around among the celestial constellations without their feathers, and in some doubt respecting the stability of earthly things. Pitman never knew what became of his fowls; but when we read in the paper next day that twenty-four undone chickens, with fishhooks in their craws had been rained down by a hurricane in New Jersey, we felt certain that the sky-rocket had done its duty.—Max Adeler.

"Oh, she was a jewel of a wife," said Pat, mourning over the loss of his better half; "she always struck me with the soft end of the mop."

Shipping Intelligence.
PORT A HURIRI.

ARRIVAL.

- 4—Mary Wadley, three-masted schooner, from Newcastle, N.S.W. No passengers.
- 4—Rotorua, s.s., from the South. Passengers—Mrs Luckie, Misses Luckie, Kilman, and Baker, Messrs Cotterill, Rundle, Jobson, Chambers, and 55 for the North
- 6—Rangitira, s.s., from Wellington. Passengers—Judge Richmond and Secretary, Mrs Cook and 7 children, Mrs Bowerman, Messrs. Boon, Sutfield, Simmons, McGibbyn, Lovern (2), and Davey.
- 7—Fairy, s.s., from Mangakuri

DEPARTURE.

- 31—Wanaka, s.s., for Auckland via Gisborne and Tauranga. Passengers—Right Rev. Bishop of Auckland, Archdeacon Williams, Rev. J. C. Eccles, Rev. J. M. Fraser, Messrs Mann, Patterson, Liddle, Chapman, Meyers, and six original
- 1—Albatross, schooner, for Whangapoua
- 2—J ne Douglas, s.s., for Port Chalmers. Passengers—Messrs King and Brown.
- 4—Rotorua, s.s., for Auckland. Passengers—Mrs Campbell, Miss Francis, Messrs D. Fleming, F. H. Meinerzhagen, Beetham, Smith, H. Williams and son, two others, and 55 original
- 4—Columbia, schooner, for Kennedy's Bay.
- 6—Falcon, barquentine, for Newcastle, N.S.W.

The s.s. Wanaka did not leave the anchorage till 10.30 p.m. on Thursday, having been detained in loading the Bella. The ketch Why Not did not bring a full cargo from the Wanaka, owing to not being able to lay alongside.

The s.s. Sir Donald had a good run down to Wellington, where she was immediately taken on the slip, and has had a thorough overhaul.

The s.s. Jane Douglas left on Saturday at 8.15, with a full cargo of tallow for transhipment at Port Chalmers for London, per the Fernglan.

We hear Mr Warner has got the contract for lightening the waterworks plant ex Andrew Reid, which vessel left Wellington for this port on Saturday.

The s.s. Rotorua, Captain Macfarlane, arrived at the anchorage at 8.45 a.m. on Monday. She was immediately tendered by the steam launch Bella. The mail steamer only remained here one hour. Mr. Pringle, the purser, furnishes us with the following:—Left Port Chalmers on the 1st June, at 1.45 p.m.; arrived at Lyttelton on the 2nd, at 7.30 a.m.; proceeded at 7 p.m. same day, and arrived at Wellington at 10 a.m. on Sunday; left at noon for here, arriving as above stated. Experienced light variable winds and hazy weather throughout the passage.

The Wairoa Free Press has the following:—"The bar being bad precludes the arrival of either of the steamers now lying loaded for this port in Napier.—the d—bar."

The Napier shareholders in the A.S.P. Company will be glad to learn that the steamers belonging to that Company are put down in the last annual report as being worth £36,500.

The three-masted schooner Mary Wadley, Captain Cronin, has been 18 days on the passage from Newcastle, N.S.W. She comes consigned to her owner, Mr. Vautier, and has a cargo of 230 tons coal.

A schooner called the Saucy Kate, is supposed to be on her way to Napier from Dunedin. Several consignees have received Bills of Lading of goods in her.

The following appears in the minutes of the annual meeting of A.S.P. Company, held in Auckland on the 28th May:—"Mr. L. D. Nathan moved that this meeting of shareholders empower the Directors to sell all boats and property of the Company, whenever they can obtain fair prices for the same, with a view to wind up the Company as soon as possible." This was carried, only one gentleman, Mr D. H. McKenzie, voting against it.

The schooner Kate McGregor, which went ashore at Port Waikato, has been floated off, and is now being repaired.

A Press Agency telegram states that Capt. Fairchild has on board the Hinemoa fragments of an old vessel wrecked in Facia Harbor, Dusky Sound, including part of a rudder bearing the name "Saville London." The vessel was of a large size, probably 80ft. long. It is supposed that they are portions of the same wreck seen 26 years ago by the Acheron survey party. The captain also discovered a large iron case lying in the fore part of the vessel. A further attempt is to be made to raise the iron case.

The ship Hermione, from London, with 1800 tons cargo and 39 passengers, arrived at Port Chalmers on Monday; 103 days out. Sighted no ice; spoke no vessels.

The s.s. Rangitira, Capt. Evans, left Wellington wharf at 11 a.m. on Tuesday morning, and arrived at the anchorage at 10.15 a.m. on Wednesday, having made a good passage of 23½ hours. The Rangitira exper-

enced a fresh head wind and beam sea as far as Cape Palliser, then till arrival a light S.E. wind.

Three days after the Mary Wadley left this port for Newcastle on her last trip, she encountered a very heavy gale, and in the tossing about her ballast shifted, causing her to go on her beam ends. Capt. Cronin then dropped his beat bower anchor over the quarter, with a good scope of rope, and also a hen coop attached, which caused her head to pay off before the wind, and fortunately she righted. On her last trip from Newcastle, she again suffered from bad weather, having been struck by a heavy sea, which carried away a portion of her bulwarks and smashed about seven stanchions.

The barque Andrew Reid was at anchor in the fairway when the Rangitira left Wellington. She had taken on board 600 tons of ballast, and will leave for here the first favorable opportunity.

The schooner Isabella Pratt, a constant trader to this port, is at present in Wellington, having just arrived there with a cargo of breadstuffs from Oamaru.

The barquentine Falcon took her departure for Newcastle on Wednesday. The following are the names of the passengers:—Messrs. Willis, Buchanan (2), and Robertson.

The s.s. Jane Douglas, hence on Saturday last, arrived at Port Chalmers on Tuesday, at 4 p.m.

The ketch Mary Ann Hudson has been successfully launched, and is now in the Mohaka very little the worse for her besching.

A Press Agency telegram states that the wreck of the Peronia enquiry has resulted in the suspension of Captain White's certificate for three months, and the mate's, David Young, for one month.

The s.s. Fairy, Capt. Campbell, returned to port on Thursday, having been unsuccessful in landing the whole of her cargo at Messrs Coleman and McHardy's station. Capt. Campbell managed to get two boat loads on shore on Tuesday, but towards evening a strong southerly wind springing compelled him to seek the shelter of the Kidnappers, where he remained till on Thursday, and as there was no appearance of the weather improving, the captain deemed it advisable to return to port.

The s.s. Ladybird, Capt. Griffiths, is now taking the place of the s.s. Taranski, pending some slight repairs to the latter steamer.

The s.s. Hinemoa arrived from Kaipara yesterday at 1 p.m. after a very smart run of 27 hours. She landed the steam launch known as the "perfect failure" at Kaipara, and it is stated that it will be about as useful there as it was at Wellington. We hope, at any rate, that it will not have to visit the slip as often as it had to here, for in fact while in this port it was quite amphibious in its habits.—N. Z. Times.

The Otara Guardian has the following:—"Captain Arnold, of the schooner Owake, which arrived in harbour on Wednesday last, reports that the supposed missing vessel Aspasia, which left Wellington on 2nd May for Kaipara, put into Keider Bay on the 14th instant. Her captain reported being off Kaipara with dirty easterly weather for four days, when the wind suddenly shifted to the westward on the 11th instant, and he kept away for the Sound, having lost jibboom, both jibs, portion of bulwarks, and was without firewood or water. During the gale her captain sustained severe injuries to his right arm. When the Owake left Keider Bay on the 17th instant, the Aspasia was there repairing damages, and expected to leave about the 20th instant. The captain's wife and two children were on board."

The Customs revenue collected at Port Napier, during the month of May last, was made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Spirits	1597	7	11
Cigars	38	13	9
Tobacco	729	0	0
Wine	156	12	4
Ale	24	0	0
Tea	124	11	0
Coffee	17	13	6
Sugar	369	10	9
Goods by weight ...	50	12	3
Goods, ad valorem ...	369	10	0
Other duties	27	7	0
Total	£3527	18	6

MARRIAGES.

MAY—HILLS—At the residence of William M'Bath, Esq., Eglinton-road, Mornington, Dunedin, on the 31st May, by the Rev. Dr. Stuart, Mr William May, of Dunedin, to Jessie Emma Gertrude, second daughter of Mr Edwin Hills, of Napier.—Auckland papers please copy.

NORMAN—QUEREE.—At her uncle's residence, Springfield, Paketapu, on June 6, by the Rev. P. C. Anderson, Lizzie Queree to John Norman, both of St. Heliers, Jersey.

DEATHS.

HENDERSON.—On 30th May, at his father's residence, Woolcombe-street, Wellington, Harcourt Herbert Henderson, youngest son of John Henderson, Esq., C.E., aged 1 year and 9 months.

PATON.—At Napier, on June 5th, Joseph, fifth son of Mr T. Paton, aged 17 years and 6 months.

NILSSON.—At the Napier Hospital, on the 6th June, Gustaf Nilsson, aged 27 years.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

MAILS CLOSE

For Auckland per s.s. Southern Cross, on Saturday, at 11 a.m.

For the undermentioned places every Monday, and Thursday, at 5.30 a.m.—Clive, Hastings, Havelock, Te Aute, Kaikora, Waipawa, Waipukurau, Danvirik, Norsewood, Tahorite, Woodville, Foxton, Palmerston, Wanganui, Taranaki, Wellington and Southern Provinces, &c., Wallingford, Porangahau, Waiuui, and Castle Point.

On the other days of the week, mails close as usual, at 6.30 a.m.

J. GRUBB,
Chief Postmaster.

Government Notifications.



District proclaimed under "The Hawke's Bay Rivers Act, 1876."

(L.S.) NORMANBY, GOVERNOR.

A PROCLAMATION.
WHEREAS a petition from the owners or occupiers of more than two-thirds of the acreage of the district comprising the part of the Provincial District of Hawke's Bay defined in the Schedule hereto has been presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying him to declare that "The Hawke's Bay Rivers Act, 1876," shall come into operation within such district:

Now, therefore, I, George Augustus Constantine, Marquis of Normanby, Governor of the Colony of New Zealand, in pursuance and exercise of the powers and authorities vested in me by the said Act and by "The Abolition of Provinces Act, 1875," do hereby proclaim and declare that the said "Hawke's Bay Rivers Act, 1876" shall, from and after the date hereof, come into operation in that part of the Provincial District of Hawke's Bay the boundaries whereof are defined in the Schedule hereto; and do also proclaim and declare the same to be a district under the said "Hawke's Bay Rivers Act, 1876," and the name by which such district shall be known is the "Taradale District;" and do further proclaim and determine that the number of Conservators who are to constitute a Board for such district shall be five.

SCHEDULE.

Bounded on the South by the Tutaekuri River; on the East by a straight line running north and south from the Tutaekuri River to the head of Purumu Creek, down Purumu Creek to where it joins the Tutaekuri River thence following the Tutaekuri River to the Ahuriri Harbor; on the North by high watermark of the south side of the said harbor to the foot of the first hills; on the West by the foot of the said hills to Redcliffe cutting.

Given under the hand of His Excellency the Most Honorable George Augustus Constantine, Marquis of Normanby, Earl of Mulgrave, Viscount Normanby, and Baron Mulgrave of Mulgrave, all in the County of York, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; and Baron Mulgrave of New Ross, in the County of Wexford; a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council; Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same; and issued under the Seal of the said Colony, at the Government House, at Wellington, this seventeenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

DANIEL POLLEN.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

"HAWKE'S BAY SPECIAL SETTLEMENTS ACT, 1872."

Crown Lands Office,
Napier, 19th May, 1877.

NOTICE is hereby given that the following selections of land in the MAKARETU RESERVE having been forfeited, will under Section 13 of the above Act, be sold for Cash, by Public Auction at the Crown Lands Office, at Noon on MONDAY, the 30th July, 1877.

SCHEDULE

Applica- tion	Contents	Upset price
	A. R. P.	£ s. d.
13...	100 0 0	50 0 0
15...	100 0 0	50 0 0
17...	200 0 0	100 0 0
49...	100 0 0	50 0 0
50...	60 0 0	30 0 0
54...	100 0 0	50 0 0
86...	40 0 0	20 0 0
110...	50 0 0	25 0 0
111...	50 0 0	25 0 0

*The above areas are exclusive of 5 per cent allowance for Roads.

J. T. TYLEE,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

NOTIFICATION.

Crown Lands Office,
Napier, 19th May, 1877.

I HEREBY give Notice that the right to depasture Stock for a period of 5 years over 1500 acres more or less land in the Arapawanui and Moeangiangi District, now at the disposal of the Government, and which was lately comprised in License No. 123, will be offered for competition by Public Auction at this office, at Noon, on SATURDAY, the 30th June next, subject to the terms of "The Hawke's Bay Renewal of Licenses Act, 1870."

Conditions may be obtained at this office.
J. T. TYLEE,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

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 Wakaarua 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.

JOHN M'VAY,

SADDLER & HARNESSMAKER

Hastings-street.

The Cheapest House in the Trade.

H. MONTETH,

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

The Weekly Mercury

AND

HAWKE'S BAY ADVERTISER.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1877.

This question that just at present most nearly concerns this colony in general, and Hawke's Bay in particular—always provided England remains neutral—is, how long is the Russo-Turkish war going to last? It is evident that the period of exceptional prosperity we have been enjoying for the last five years is fast drawing to a close, if it has not already come to an end. It is equally clear that anything which disturbs the manufacturing industry of Europe is immediately felt here in the depression in the value of colonial produce. This colony is solely dependent on the state of the European market, and the prosperity of Hawke's Bay depends upon but one of these. If the London wool market is depressed, trade here languishes, property of all descriptions depreciates in value, and there is no money for the employment of labor. Such was the condition of this province ten years ago, and as our settlers have developed no new industry since then, we cannot but expect a similar state of things to occur again. Hence, it is of the utmost importance to us as a community, to consider the position in which we are placed by the commotions in Europe. Before the war began, trade was depressed, money was scarce; Germany, despite the enormous sums of money she received from France, was in a state of impecuniosity; and the shadow of a coming war clouded the manufacturing industry of the French. This gloomy condition of affairs has been still further darkened by Russia's attack on Turkey, and as long as the war lasts we can scarcely hope for any material improvement of trade. In 1854 Russia entered upon a similar war, unaided, and though she had to contend against England, France, and Turkey, and was menaced by Austria, she succeeded in prolonging the struggle till 1856; the war lasting exactly two years. Should the present hostilities be continued for two years, we shall then be entering upon a period that cannot but have a serious effect upon the wool market. In 1880, the French President's term office expires, the Septennate comes to an end, and France will have to make up her mind as

to what form of government she will have. The past history of France affords no hope that this question will be settled in such a way as not to seriously disturb the industry of the country. The French manufacturers are the largest foreign buyers of Australian wools in the London market, and should a revolution in France follow closely on the heels of the Russo-Turkish war—a by no means improbable contingency—then we may anticipate a period of depression here compared to which that of 1868 may be considered prosperity. Taking these possibilities into consideration, would it not then be as well to "set our house in order," and in some measure to be prepared for the worst? We have said that this question affects Hawke's Bay particularly for the reason that, at present, we have absolutely no industry but that of wool growing, nothing whatever to fall back upon. The subject we have thus raised, and only slightly glanced at, is of the deepest interest to the bulk of the inhabitants of this province, and it is one which concerns the welfare and prosperity, to more or less extent, of every one earning his living in the colony.

The estimates of the receipts and expenditure for the year ending June 30, 1877, of the Cook County Council, have been published, and are deserving of notice. The total income is estimated at £7055 17s 1d, but, as since this was made the town of Gisborne has been created a borough, it will probably be reduced to £5715. The expenditure is put down at £5715, a sum which includes the cost of the maintenance of the Gisborne streets, an expense the County will not now have to bear. The most noteworthy items in the expenditure are "salaries and office furniture, £450," and "contingent expenses, £100." It will thus be seen that the total cost of the administration of the County is estimated at but £550. This economy is the more remarkable as it is contemplated to levy a five per cent rate, a procedure that involves the expenses of valuation and collection. Besides this, we believe, there are no Highway districts to assist in keeping local roads in repair. Let us now compare these estimates with those of the Hawke's Bay County Council. In these latter, the total income is put down at £2,775, an amount which is calculated to be spent with the exception of £147. But although only £2,628 are to be expended, it will cost the County no less than £995 to spend it, that is to say, that amount is put down to cover salaries, honorariums, valuations, and other contingent expenses. And these estimates only bring us down to the 31st December next. Now, it is evident, the Cook County Council must altogether have mistaken the cost of the administration of its affairs, or else that the Council for Hawke's Bay is ruinously extravagant. But, in the event of the Cook Council having under estimated its expenses, it will have a balance of over £500 to fall back upon. The position of the two Counties, however, is incomparably superior to that of many in the Middle Island. The revenue of the Inangahua Council, for instance, is £7000, while its estimated expenditure is £14,310, a financial condition that provokes the following from the Nelson Times:—"There are only two ways to avoid future financial difficulties for County Councils, and unfortunately both are alike undesirable. The first is additional taxation; the second is to make expenditure and revenue meet by allowing the chief public works to fall into disrepair; whatever of these two evils is chosen, the result will be the same so far as the progress and prosperity of the colony is concerned; but as a remedial measure we certainly incline towards the second course, inasmuch as it will be more efficient in bringing about a much needed reform in the whole system. The General Government will be perfectly satisfied to let things remain as they are if the people will submit to additional taxation to support the *soi-disant* local Government or if County Councillors can be found unscrupulous enough to borrow money at ruinous rates of interest—for only on terms approaching to usury can money be obtained at present upon the security the counties can offer—then no alteration need be anticipated. But if a system of reprisals be initiated then a change for the better may be confidently looked forward to at no distant date. For instance, the whole system may be rationally regarded as an attempt made by the central Government to throw upon the inferior powers a burden that they are unable to bear, and it is only by a distinct refusal to submit to the injustice that any real redress can be hoped for."

In our report of the proceedings of the Municipal Council held on Monday will

be found a letter from the Inspector of Police to his Worship the Mayor calling the attention of the Municipal authorities not only to the destitution which exists among a certain part of the population of the borough, but also to the fact that in order to assist destitute persons the Inspector has out of his own private pocket expended nearly £600 in alleviating distress and assisting the poor. The Inspector before expending any more of his own monies naturally seeks to be reimbursed for this outlay. A plea has been made to the General Government, but it turns a deaf ear. Inspector Scully asks the Municipal Council, but with that spirit of procrastination which distinguishes that body, under the belief that it should not bear the burden, the matter is allowed to lie over, notwithstanding that the Council had before them a communication from the Christchurch City Council which clearly showed that no help was to be expected from the General Government, they having used every means to get an adjustment of accounts having reference to Hospital and Charitable Aid. We venture to predict that the Napier Council will meet with the same rebuff from the General Government as that of Christchurch, and the sooner, to put it in Mr Lee's words, "we look the matter straight in the face the better." No doubt when the General Assembly meets the Government will be forced to act with justice, and will not be allowed to evade those payments which by the abolishment of the Provinces fairly fall on its shoulders, but in the meantime it is a disgrace to the Municipality that the Inspector of Police should be called upon to pay out of his private purse monies, for charitable objects, or if he refuses to do so, that those needing assistance and help cannot obtain it.

HAWKE'S BAY, having been declared by its early settlers to be a pastoral country, has continued to produce nothing but wool. The character thus given to this provincial district, the local government and legislature, in the past, were by no means backward in encouraging the idea that this portion of the colony was better fitted for sheep than for human beings. The consequence has been that, although we may be justly proud of our provincial flocks and herds, the country has fallen into the hands of the few, and our exports fall infinitely short in value to what they should do from the soil and climate we enjoy. In periods of commercial depression, the effect of limiting our industry to one line was most marked, and in the future will be still more so. We shall find that while the other provinces in the colony are developing to their utmost their natural and industrial resources, Hawke's Bay is standing still. Let us for one moment glance at the present condition of Canterbury, and ask ourselves why it is that that province has so completely outstripped Hawke's Bay in riches, population, and commerce. Neither the soil nor the climate of Canterbury can be compared with ours; the country was naturally less attractive to immigrants than this should have been; and land, though abundant, was four times as dear as it was here. But with these comparative disadvantages, capital and labor flowed into the country, because its rulers were wise enough to perceive that there was abundance of room for both the agriculturist and the grazier. The rulers in Hawke's Bay, on the other hand, pursued a different course; they knew that the country could support sheep, and, being sheep-farmers themselves they so framed the land laws that the agriculturist was practically shut out. Not until every inch of open country had been converted into a sheep run was it deemed advisable to let the man of small means participate in the ownership of the soil. The mischief done in the early days of this settlement will take very many years to remedy; at the present time it is felt in this way, that to procure open land for agricultural purposes it must be acquired second hand, and such a value is put upon it as to render its purchase a very doubtful speculation.

We have said that Hawke's Bay is a pastoral country, let us look then at the result of having turned it into a sheep-walk. We have a population of about 12,500, of whom 581 occupy land either as freeholders or leaseholders. Out of about 900,000 acres of land sold by the Crown, within the provincial district, only 2552 acres are under crop, of which 143 acres are in wheat, and 1527 in oats. We have 23,000 head of cattle, and one million four hundred thousand sheep. The value of our exports represents our producing power as a pastoral community; that value is a miserable total, the production of 900,000 acres of land, of less than half a million of money. This is

the estimate of the value of all we shall receive from wool, tallow, and hides, exported for the year ending April 30, last.

We will now turn to the picture Canterbury presents as described by the Lyttelton Times:—"Farmers are numerous, their small holdings are everywhere to be seen dotting the landscape, their land carries a large population, comparatively; a great manufacturing trade has arisen for the supply of their wants. They make the employment of capital lucrative, and the products of their industry has assumed very respectable proportions. This class has not always the same reason to fear the results of war that the pastoral interest may justly entertain." Our southern contemporary then compares the value of the respective productions of the agriculturists and the wool growers. The value of the wool exported this year is estimated at £875,000. Against this, our contemporary says, "estimating for the purposes of a rough comparison, wheat as worth to the farmer four shillings per bushel, oats at two, barley at four, and the potatoes at forty shillings the ton, we obtain the following figures:—

2,700,000 bushels wheat	... £440,000
2,100,000 " oats	... 210,000
500,000 " barley	... 100,000
20,000 tons potatoes	... 40,000
	890,000
To this has to be added—	
Butter and cheese	... 110,000
Grass seed, hams, and bacon	... 100,000

Total value of agricultural produce ... £1,100,000

These figures are probably rather under than over the real state of things; but they are sufficient for showing approximately the relative values of the agricultural and pastoral products of Canterbury.

A LETTER has been received by His Worship the Mayor, from the Christchurch Corporation, on the subject of the deductions from the subsidies made by the Government for the maintenance of the charitable institutions. The Christchurch City Council proposes that delegates from all the Boroughs should meet at Wellington, before the next meeting of the General Assembly, for the purpose of taking joint action to remedy the injustice, and of suggesting to the Government a better means for the management and maintenance of charitable institutions, so that the burden of their cost should fall fairly on both town and country districts. The proposition is a good one, and we trust the Napier Corporation will act with that of Christchurch and other Boroughs, to bring about a more satisfactory state of things.

The cablegram informing us of the capture of Ardahan by the Russians was dated London, May 23, and on the 28th it was reported that Turkish frontier post had been retaken. This latter news has since been confirmed, so we have pretty good evidence that the Russians are far from having it all their own way in Asia Minor. Neither have they gained any advantage on the Danube, and that river being now flooded a further delay of active operations of importance is likely to occur. It is not improbable there may be some foundation for the report that Germany is endeavouring to bring about negotiations for peace. It is well enough known that the Czar was averse to going to war, and the conference of the Russian Ambassadors, at St. Petersburg, that is implied by their temporary withdrawal from the Courts of Berlin, St. James', and Paris, give some hope that a peaceful settlement of the difficulty into which Russia finds herself by undertaking the solution of the Eastern Question unaided, will be found.

The Waipawa County Council is remarkable for its eccentricities. It appears never satisfied with what it does, and has, hitherto, found it necessary to undo anything of importance it has done. Perhaps, from the peculiar circumstances of the County, and from the unsatisfactory state of the law with regard to outlying districts, no more absurd course could have been pursued than that adopted under the resolution passed in April last, by which all highways were declared County roads, with the object of killing the Road Boards. The Road Board districts are very poor, and, for the most part, being newly formed, and situated in forest lands, they require a comparatively large expenditure for the formation and maintenance of their roads. The outlying districts, on the other hand, contain the bulk of the richest grazing lands within the boundaries of the old province of

Hawke's Bay. These lands have been vastly improved in value by the main roads formed under the Provincial Government, and by the railway, yet they have contributed nothing to the revenue. To make them pay a just contribution to the public purse, a County rate is desired, by the far seeing in the Waipawa Council, and this would certainly be struck when the proper time arrives (July) if the far seeing could have their way. But it is to be feared that one object sought to be gained by throwing the roads back again upon the Road Boards, was to test the strength of the two parties in the Council, and, if possible, to relieve the outlying districts of all fear of taxation. If, however, no such object is at the bottom of the movement, we are quite of opinion that the Road Boards should be left with their full functions undisturbed. The double rating to which they would be subjected by a County rate, they can well bear, and the money so raised will be no more than sufficient to cover the cost of their requirements. The Waipawa Council should have been taught a lesson from its past proceedings, and have learnt the folly of jumping at hasty conclusions. At the present time, it is quite on the cards that, at the next meeting, notice of motion will have to be given to rescind the resolution carried by Colonel Herriek. The Council has relieved the Road Boards of their responsibility, and as their consent has to be obtained before that responsibility can be again thrust upon them, some may justly decline to be saddled with the trouble and expense.

THE Napier Licensing Commissioners have decided that what is sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander; the Waipawa Commissioners have also arrived at the same very equitable decision. The former, in the matter of the license for the Victoria Hotel, Napier, applied for by Mr. J. M. Parker, required the proprietor to erect a six stalled stable in connection with his house, otherwise the license would be cancelled at the next quarterly meeting. Now, it would strike most people, that, if a six stalled stable were an essential requirement to the Victoria Hotel, it would be also a necessary qualification for the licensing of all hotels and public houses situated in Napier. But then most people differ from Licensing Commissioners. No stable is wanted for the Criterion or the Ma-onic Hotels, and other public houses might possibly be mentioned where there are no stables on the premises. Why Mr. Parker's customers should be expected to want the use of stables any more than persons frequenting the Criterion or the Ma-onic Hotels, is a question we must leave to the Commissioners in their sense of justice to decide. The Waipawa Licensing Commissioners, however, beat those of Napier hollow. These gentlemen have resolved that certain hotels, where "the quality" do mostly stay on their travels, shall have peculiar conveniences attached to them, which, hitherto, in neither private nor public houses could rarely be found. The rise in the value of land is supposed to have something to do with this desire for unaccustomed luxuries. Be this as it may, when the Empire Hotel at Waipawa, was being improved and enlarged, and made one of the best hostleries in the province, the proprietor, Mr. Baker, received warning that unless he provided the convenience above hinted at, his license would be cancelled. Mr. Baker replied, that water was not laid on to his premises; that there was no drainage; that the stud of his building was not high enough to permit of that which was demanded of him; that unless the whole of the arrangements were perfect, the "convenience" would not only be a nuisance, but unhealthy, tending to damage his house, but that he would provide every requirement the most fastidious could expect. The licensing day came round, and on the Commissioners learning that their request had not been complied with they refused the license. Now, if the Empire Hotel had been a disgracefully kept country inn, where no respectable person would dream of staying for a night, no such demand would have been made to Mr. Baker. That which was asked for is only to be found in one house—the Criterion Hotel—in Napier, and if it were made compulsory by the Napier Commissioners that all public-houses should be provided with the same, we rather think it would not be long before the Inspector of Nuisances interfered. The decision of the Waipawa Commissioners, we consider, arbitrary, and unjust. Their action, unless reversed, will shut up the most convenient hotel in Waipawa, and force travellers to houses whose accommodation cannot be compared in any respect to the Empire Hotel.

Our morning contemporary learns, "with reference to the decision of the Licensing Commissioners requiring stables to be erected in connection with Mr. Parker's hotel, that the reason that neither the Criterion nor the Masonic have been required to have stables in connection with their hotels, is that the requirement is supplied by Palmer's stables being in the immediate vicinity of those hotels." We must presume from the above, that the Licensing Commissioners have favored the Herald with their reasons for giving a decision that strikes every sensible man as one requiring to be immediately reversed. The explanation only makes what is bad, very much worse. No excuse that can be offered will alter public opinion on the matter, which is, that arbitrary conditions are imposed on some publicans, and others are allowed to jog along just as they please. We now learn that the Criterion and Masonic Hotels are not required to have stables on their premises, as being in the immediate vicinity of Mr. Palmer's livery establishment. Do the Licensing Commissioners consider it any part of their duty to protect private enterprise? If so, why are not publicans compelled by the Commissioners to deal with certain butchers, and bakers? Let us not be misunderstood in this matter. We do not consider there is any more necessity for the Criterion Hotel to have stables than for the Victoria Hotel to be forced to erect them. In towns like Napier, livery stable keeping is a private undertaking, with which the public houses should not enter into competition. More than that, there should be a Municipal bye-law to prevent stables being erected within certain distances of dwelling houses. It may fairly be considered that the Commissioners, by their absurd decision, have added to the risk of fire within the town. It is simply ridiculous to compel a publican to crowd buildings on to a small section of land, and to virtually tell him that, unless he lives in constant dread of having his premises destroyed by fire, the investment of his capital in his business shall be so much money thrown away. We have seen above the reasons given for having stables built at the Victoria hotel; it only remains to be discovered why the Terminus, the London, and Shakespeare Hotels, which are situated further away from Palmer's stables than is the Victoria, are not also compelled to provide accommodation for horses. A dirty ill-kept drinking shop, without accommodation of any sort for man or beast, obtains a license without difficulty; a decent house, a credit to the town, and of convenience to the public, is saddled with conditions that can only be regarded as arbitrary, and so far as its customers are concerned, absolutely unnecessary. It is high time some change in the method of licensing houses was brought about. The examples of the working of the existing system, afforded by the Licensing Commissioners of Napier and Waipawa, should be sufficient to show that nothing can be worse.

The New Zealand Times and the Wellington Post have been discussing smartly the present position of Sir Julius Vogel, the Agent-General. The controversy was commenced in a leader in the Evening Post of Saturday last, which advocated that, as Sir Julius Vogel had only been appointed for one year, and that there was a general agreement of opinion that the necessity no longer existed for maintaining an Agent-General and a costly staff in London at the expense of the colony, because in truth there was little or no work to do, his services should be at once dispensed with. The Government organ, the New Zealand Times, of Monday, denied that any such arrangement had been made, and said "that the present Agent-General was not appointed on an understanding that the office should be temporary, but that on the contrary it was Sir Julius Vogel himself who declined to accept the position of Agent-General, unless on the understanding that he intended to leave it and direct his attention to his private affairs, if necessary, in two years." The Times then accused the editor of the Post of making "an untrue and cowardly statement," and also of showing an "obstinacy as blind as it was ignorant." This called forth from the Post on the same evening a reply, which may be said to be a most crushing one, and proved at least that the Times editor was no match for his antagonist of the Post. The Post quotes the despatches of the Premier to Sir Julius Vogel on his acceptance of the office, which show plainly that the arrangement was made for one year only. Also a letter from Dr. Pollen, dated 19th October, 1876, forwarding the commission as Agent-General to Sir Julius Vogel, in which Dr. Pollen remarks: "You will observe that no definite term

is assigned in the commission to the duration of the office. It is, however, understood, as expressed in my letter of the 6th ultimo, that, for the reason therein assigned, the appointment is only for one year certain from the date of your arrival in England." The Post's article concludes as follows:—"Finally, we desire to offer a word or two of counsel and advice to the editor of the New Zealand Times. He should be a little more cautious in calling names and attributing all sorts of offences to his contemporaries which have no foundation in fact—in case they might retaliate. If they did so, they might say, and with perfect truth, that the New Zealand Times is the most unreliable and unreadable newspaper of its size in the colony; that its editorial columns are almost absolutely destitute of ability, vigor, or knowledge of political affairs; that its pretensions to assume the position of "a really colonial journal," are everywhere laughed to scorn; that it displays no enterprise in the way of obtaining information and news; and finally, that the bulk of its contents consist of a distasteful and indigestible cold hash of literary matter as ever was forced upon the notice of a long-suffering community."

WAIPAWA COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Waipawa County Council met on Tuesday, in the Court House, Waipawa, at noon.

Present—Messrs Mackersey (Chairman), Levy, Herrick, Rathbone, Russell, Lawrence, and Monteith.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The correspondence was read.

The Road Overseer's report on all roads within the County, upon which provincial government money had been expended, was read. The total cost of these roads was put down at £42 0.

Mr James McMillan's tender for the collection of the dog tax at 20 per cent on the receipts, was accepted.

An application from Mr Adolf Brew for the appointment of Poundkeeper at Sherwood (Makareto) raised the question as to the power of the Council to establish pounds, and appoint poundkeepers.

Mr. H. R. Russell drew the attention of the Council to the Act, and moved that a Pound be established at Sherwood, or other most convenient position within the district of Makareto.

Mr Rathbone seconded the motion, which was carried.

An application from Te Kuru to Mr. S. Locke, to have the native stock-yard at Porangahau, declared a public pound having been referred to the Waipawa Council, Mr. Russell moved that a Pound be established at Porangahau, the site to be chosen by the settlers.

Mr. Monteith seconded the motion.

Mr. Rathbone called attention to the bad management of the existing Pounds, to the fact of impounded cattle escaping, and of the claim of poundkeepers to non-responsibility.

The motion was carried.

The Chairman pointed out that permission to the Council to use the Court House as offices, and as a meeting place, was only granted temporarily; that at that moment the Court-room then occupied by members, was wanted by the Licensing Commissioners. He thought the Council should take steps to provide the County with permanent offices.

After some discussion, Mr. Levy moved, and Mr. Lawrence seconded, that application be made to the Colonial Secretary for the permanent use of the Court House.

Mr. Russell moved as an amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Monteith, "That in view of alterations in the existing legislation bearing on local government, the matter of offices be left till after the next session of Parliament."

The amendment was carried.

The consideration of letters from Mr. Glenn, and from Mr. Bridge, in reference to opening up roads in their respective localities, was deferred pending the decision of the Council with respect to taking over the County roads.

The Chairman said the next business before the meeting was the consideration of Colonel Herrick's motion to rescind a former resolution passed by the council, by which all highways within the County had been declared County roads. At the last meeting of the Council the question had arisen as to whether it was competent for the Council to rescind that resolution without the consent of the Road Boards. It had been agreed to refer the matter to Mr. Cotterill, for a legal opinion, and the reply received was that "there can be no doubt the resolution cannot be rescinded without the consent of the Road Boards." The consent of the Road Boards had not been obtained. He did

not know to what extent the outside public had been watching the proceedings of that Council, but it must have been apparent that the only work done since its formation had been to pull down at one meeting what had been done at a previous meeting. The Chairman then referred in strong terms to the systematic manner in which the Council had all along stultified itself. He then said, if Colonel Herrick's motion were carried, the same majority that carried it would be united enough, he feared, to prevent any County rate from being levied; the outlying districts would escape taxation altogether, though it was in them that the largest expenditure of public money was required. There were at present nine Road Boards in working order, but their revenues were altogether inadequate to meet their wants. Putting the rates they levied at an average of 6d in the pound, the following statement showed their pecuniary position,—the total valuation of the nine Road Boards was £28,178, the rates on that sum would bring in £1486 11s 6d, which with the Government subsidy would be a total revenue of £2973 2s. The total valuation of the outlying districts, was £41,723 8s 3d, which, had they been liable to be rated, would have brought in a revenue with the Government subsidies, of £2036 5s 6d, which of course was now lost to the county. The five Road Boards of Norsewood, West Woodville, Ormondville, East Woodville, and Makareto, had but an unnetted income of £166 18s 5d, and that required twenty-five Wardens to expend. On the other hand, if the Road Boards would merge themselves into the County, the revenue of the Council might be estimated as follows:—

Rates, at 1s in £	5059
Government subsidy	5059
Publicans' fees	350
Wholesale licenses	30
Dog tax, say	80
Auctioneers' licenses	80
	£10,658

Against this, if Colonel Herrick's motion were carried, the available revenue of the County would only be £2,026 13s 6d. He (the chairman) considered it of the highest importance to strike the highest rate the law allowed, in order to obtain the largest possible subsidy. They could not expect these subsidies to be continued, and they should take advantage of them while they could get them. It was further of moment that the County should be in a position to carry on useful public works; the contractors who had been engaged on Government works were now out of employment, and they, having all necessary plant on hand, were in a position to undertake work at a cheaper rate than others. Moreover, while they were thus engaged, they would probably settle down as permanent settlers. Speaking for himself, as a wool-grower, he did not want roads; sheepfarmers who did not intend disposing of their estates wanted neither population nor roads, but as members of that Council it was their duty to sink private interests, and seek the welfare of the country.

Mr. Monteith said there was no guarantee that the Council would strike such a rate as would bring in a revenue sufficient to keep all the roads in repair, and carry on the work of the Road Boards.

Mr. Rathbone did not think the statement of the Chairman put the matter in a fair light. The Road Boards had done good work in the past, and he hoped Parliament would further strengthen their hands next session. He thought the Counties Act should be amended so as to give power to the Council to levy rates in outlying districts. The report of the Road Overseer had shown that it would take over £4000 to keep the main roads in repair, the by-roads had not been considered, and he thought the local bodies in a far better position to look after them than that Council could be.

The Chairman remarked that although only the principal roads had been reported upon, it was seen that a much larger amount was required for their maintenance than the Road Boards could find. Some of the roads had been reported as passable which, he knew, were in a state that obstructed the traffic.

Col. Herrick said the report referred only to outlying roads, showing that the Road Boards had done their work well. He anticipated that Road Boards' powers would be greatly increased after next session.

Mr. Russell said they were wandering from the immediate question, and moved that a special meeting be appointed to consider Colonel Herrick's motion. He sympathized with the Road Boards, but he considered the subject of such importance as to demand more consideration than had been given it by members. He thought that if more deliberation had

been shown by the Council before taking the action, they would not have had to undo so much of the work they had performed.

Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion. Mr. Monteith moved, as an amendment, and Mr. Levy seconded, that Colonel Herrick's motion be disposed of at once.

Then followed a long discussion of no importance, each member speaking four or five times on the question. Finally, Colonel Herrick's motion was carried, that the resolution, passed on the 19th April, with respect to all roads being taken over by the County Council be rescinded, subject to the approval of the Road Boards.

Messrs Lawrence and Rathbone were appointed a Finance Committee.

A special meeting of the Council was appointed to be held on Tuesday, 19th inst., for the consideration of the report on the roads.

The Council then adjourned.

OFFICIAL ECONOMY.

Ministers are determined to retrench. Two office boys have had their salaries docked 2½d a week. If it wasn't for this stern economy there'd be nothing left to pay Ministers' travelling expenses. The other day at Wellington there was a sale of furniture at a place called the Terrace. It is a road cut along the side of a bleak-looking hill, from which elevated position the Government swells look down in lofty grandeur upon the little insignificant taxpayers. One of the things sold was a pianoforte, and it was bought for the Government for £90. Of course, the instrument wasn't worth half that, but it doesn't matter. It is said the piano has been purchased for the Ministerial residence and that Dan'l Pollen intends to revive the Vogelian splendours of the past when champagne lunches and "jigs" turned the political scale, and spoozy young members were betrayed Judas-like. The purchase of the piano has caused some excitement in fashionable circles in the Empire City, and the tailors are counting upon a revival in trade in dress suits. A friend of mine has sent me an account of a conversation he accidentally overheard between the wives of two M.H.R., which stands for "Muddle," "honourarium," and "Rant." It took place in a draper's shop. Said Mrs. A., as she meditatively turned over a seven-and-sixpenny silk, "So the House meets on the 20th July. How does your husband vote?" Mrs. B. (contemplating a fashionable sable jacket) "Well he would very much like to join the opposition for he thinks a change of administration would stop the extravagant expenditure that is now going on, but if the Major gives parties and balls like that dear Sir Julius, of course, Mr B. will support the Ministry. I couldn't think of permitting him to join the opposition under such circumstances." Whereat I want some one to answer this conundrum: If the majority controls the affairs of the State, who governs the majority?—Auckland Star.

An old lady sleeping during divine service in a church in Liverpool, let fall her Bible, with clasps to it; and the noise partly awaking her, she exclaimed aloud, "What you've broke another jug, you slut, have you?"

A man who drinks on the sly when he does drink, inadvertently began a speech the other night, "Unaccustomed as I am to public drinking"—stopped, stammered, and tried to recover himself, but the point was seen, and the applause became tremendous.

"Five o'clock tea!" Mistress—"I really must inquire, Timmins, why the tea comes up so weak of an afternoon?" Parlor-maid—"Well, it should not m'um! Cook, she puts in a spoonful for herself, a spoonful for myself, and a spoonful for the parlor; and as you rings as we finishes, I fills up the teapot myself with billin' water!" Punch.

A man is never so full of longing to be at rest in the grave, as when he has just landed on the cellar bottom, with the handle of his wife's best china pitcher in his hand.

Why cannot the Russian soldiers make use of their railways? Because they cannot get into (Kars).

"That was an intelligent composer who, when he came to the words "Arch-Bishop's residence," set it up to read "Mr. Archibald Bishop's residence."

A Quarter of Twelve.—"Ben, why were you out so late last night?"—"It wasn't so very late—only a quarter of 12!"—"How dare you sit there and tell me that? I was awake when you came, and looked at my watch. It was three o'clock."—"Well, isn't three a quarter of twelve?"

THE NOVELIST.

LADY TREVOR'S SECRET;

OR, THE

Mystery of Cecil Rosse.

BY MRS. HARRIET LEWIS.

CHAPTER XIX.

AN UNEXPECTED VISIT.

Lady Trevor stood upon the threshold of her wicked success. She was about to discover Cecil Rosse, to meet her face to face! Her excitement deepened with every instant. She paced the floor of her morning-room like a caged panther. Her dark face grew darker still with sinister joy; her hard black eyes glittered like polished jet beads; her rouged lips were set together in a hard, tense line. She looked all evil in that hour of joy, like a lost soul revelling in deeds of darkness.

"Oh, why doesn't Pulford come?" she muttered, impatiently. "We ought to consult together before her arrival. What are we to do?"

Her excitement had grown to fever-heat before her messenger returned with the statement that Mr Pulford had been found at his lodgings and would present himself at her ladyship's house immediately.

The message had scarcely been delivered when Lady Trevor's trusty ally made his appearance.

He entered the morning-room after his usual noiseless fashion, and paused an instant unseen just inside the door, watching the tall, full figure in its long maize colored robe, sweeping the floor in haste to and fro, the dark face gleaming, the pointed, cruel-looking teeth shut tightly into the full under lip, the eyes full of wicked fire. Then he broke the silence, exclaiming:

"Rehearsing tragedy, Edith? What's the matter?"

Lady Trevor started and rushed up to him, crying exultingly:

"She's found, Horace; she's found!"

"Who is found? Who has been lost?"

demand'd Mr Pulford, with an air of bewilderment.

"For whom have you been searching during the past month? Whose presence in England endangers my liberty and my fortune?" cried Lady Trevor, in a fierce whisper. "Whose existence is a continual menace to us?"

"The girl? You don't mean—"

"I do!" interrupted Lady Trevor, vehemently. "Fate has thrown her in my way! She is coming here, to this very house, to see me!"

"Cecil Rosse?"

"Cecil Rosse!"

Mr Pulford stared, amazed, stupefied.

"Do you see that cloak?" exclaimed Lady Trevor, pointing to the glittering garment upon the chair, where she had thrown it. "Madame Lange, the fancy work dealer, who has done much work for me, brought it to me this morning. I asked her if it had been done in France. She answered no, that a young girl named Cecil Rosse had done it, and I bade her send the girl to me for more orders. She will be here to-day, this very hour, perhaps—"

"The girl may not be the same."

"The name is not common. It is the same. Madame Lange said that her Miss Rosse is always attended by an old German serving woman. Of course, it is the same. There cannot be a shadow of doubt."

"Call your excitement, Edith. If the girl were to come now you would betray everything. If she does come what shall you say to her?"

"I shall give her work. I shall make her trust me. I shall be as gentle and gracious as a tigress playing with her victim. But what must come afterwards you know as well as I. I cannot have her at liberty. I cannot live in terror of her. I cannot risk the discovery of her by the Marquis of St. Leonards, or by Lord Glenham. She must be got rid of!" and Lady Trevor hissed the words into the ear of her confederate.

"I understand. Whatever we do, we will do together and share the guilt alike," said Mr Pulford, coolly. "I am willing to do anything to retain in our hands the magnificent fortune you now hold. Whatever menaces our possession of that fortune I shall sweep from our path as remorselessly as I would destroy a fly."

"I will have no murder!" breathed Lady Trevor, shuddering. "Not that, Pulford. It cannot be necessary."

"Perhaps not. We shall see. But if it should prove necessary we shall not hesitate even to commit murder," said Mr Pulford, grimly. "We—you, I mean, in particular—have gone too far to stop even at murder, Edith. Murder

would be preferable to suicide. You may be forced to one or the other."

"Hush! I cannot bear such words even from you. Let us try anything rather than commit the worst of crimes."

"I am willing, if milder measures will answer. Do you think I am anxious to imbue my hands in blood unless I am driven to it? The girl must be disposed of; but how? Sit here by me on this sofa, Edith, and we will try to arrive at some decision."

They sat down near together, and conversed in whispers for a long time.

An hour—two hours—passed. Lady Trevor began to watch the clock with feverish anxiety.

"The girl must be here soon," she exclaimed. "I will see her alone, and engage her to do some embroidery for me. After half-an-hour or so you must come into the room quite carelessly, as if in search of a book, and observe her, and take good care to fix her features in your memory. We will be very careful not to excite her suspicions. We understand each other now, Pulford."

"We do. And as soon as this girl is safely out of our way you will marry me?"

"I promise. You will have a right to share in the fortune you will have helped me to retain."

The luncheon-hour had arrived, and still Miss Rosse did not make her appearance. The confederates lunched together, but neither made any pretence to appetite and returned as speedily as possible to the morning-room.

It was three o'clock, and the conspirators were growing impatient, when a double knock was heard upon the outer door of the dwelling. Both started.

"That is not a work-woman's knock," said Mr. Pulford. "It is some visitor—"

A servant entered.

"A young person wishes to see your ladyship," he announced. "The name is Miss Rosse."

"Show her up, James," exclaimed Lady Trevor, flushing and paling with singular rapidity. "Let her come up at once."

The servant disappeared. Mr Pulford hastily beat a retreat to the library. A minute later Cecil Rosse was ushered into the morning-room.

Lady Trevor was standing before the hearth, looking intently into the fire, her heart beating wildly, her dark face pale as ashes, her manner full of agitation. She made a violent effort at self-control, and turned slowly, facing her visitor.

She had expected to behold a beautiful girl, but she was amazed at the vision of beauty, grace, and loveliness that met her eyes.

The lithe and slim figure, dressed simply in black that fitted it exquisitely, the star-like face, and its splendid young beauty, the radiant eyes, with the golden glint in their red-brown depth, the tenderness and spirit expressed in the lovely mouth, all impressed her with startling force and vividness. She marked the simple, girlish dignity, the unconscious hauteur of carriage, the lofty poise of the small and beautiful head, and a sudden terror possessed her.

This a working-girl! This an embroideress come for work! Why, she looked like a young princess. Lady Trevor said in her own heart fiercely that she had been deceived, that Madame Lange had lied to her, that this was no girl in search of work, but one who had been wronged and who had come demanding her rights!

The guilty woman trembled with fear. And even in that moment of terror, her heart was riven by a keen pang of jealousy. This girl, who looked like a goddess, had won Lord Glenham's heart. After loving Cecil Rosse he would never love Lady Trevor, that the latter felt convinced. She felt an awful impulse of hatred toward Cecil. In spite of her reluctance to do murder, she could have strangled the girl in that first moment with her convulsively-wringing fingers.

"You wished to see me, madam?" asked Cecil's clear, sweet voice, breaking the silence. "I am Miss Rosse, sent to you by Madame Lange."

"Ah, yes," said the widow, hoarsely. "Be seated, Miss Rosse. I—I am not quite well, but will attend to you directly."

Cecil sat down as directed. The maner of Lady Trevor struck her as very singular, and something in the appearance of the tall brunette impressed her deeply. But before she had time to analyze her feelings, Lady Trevor was calm and ready to enter upon the apparent business of the visit.

"Madame Lange tells me, Miss Rosse," said the baronet's widow, "that you embroidered this opera cloak. I was quite sure that the work was French. Did you really design and embroider it yourself?"

Cecil replied in the affirmative.

"It is marvellously well done," said Lady Trevor, taking a seat near that of

Cecil. "And it is so accurate and so charmingly designed that I know you must have learned your trade in Paris!"

Cecil reddened. Her pride was stung, and her manner was a little touched with haughtiness as she responded:

"I did not learn to embroider in Paris but in Germany. The art was taught me as an accomplishment. I am glad that my work has pleased you, madam, and shall be glad of further orders."

"I was very positive that the work was French," said Lady Trevor. "You have certainly a great deal of talent, Miss Rosse. By the way, is yours a German name?"

"I am not German," answered Cecil, quietly. "I was brought up in a little village of the Black Forest, but I am of English birth."

"Singular?" Your parents settled there, perhaps?" asked Lady Trevor, carelessly.

The girl's face grew paler than usual. "I have no parents," she said, with her head held a little higher than before. "I was brought up by a German Lutheran pastor and his wife, but they were not my kindred."

She was beginning to wonder at the interest which Lady Trevor seemed to take in her history. The widow, having satisfied herself of the girl's identity, hastened to change the subject.

"I am so delighted with your work, Miss Rosse," she remarked with assumed carelessness, "that I should like to engage your service exclusively during the next few months. I may as well tell you what all the world knows—I am about to be married!"

Cecil bowed gravely, her lips growing white. She had suspected that her new patroness was the lady whom report declared to be the betrothed wife of Lord Glenham.

"If you know anything about fashionable society," said Lady Trevor—and even a sewing-girl, I presume, takes an interest in the aristocracy from which she derives a support—I dare say you have heard my name linked with that of the Earl of Glenham!"

Cecil again bowed. She could not speak. The hard, black eyes of her enemy read her secret agitation, and glittered with triumph.

"I am to be married in the course of a few weeks," continued Lady Trevor. "We shall spend the winter abroad. Now the work I have in hand would require your residence at one of my country houses throughout the winter."

Cecil looked surprised.

"You would see nothing of me or my husband," continued Lady Trevor, as the girl did not speak. "The servants would remain in the house, of course, but they would not in any way interfere with your comfort—on the contrary they would have strict orders to treat you with every consideration."

"What is the work you wish me to do?"

"I possess some priceless old tapestry that has been in our family for hundreds of years," explained Lady Trevor. "It is moth-eaten and rat-bitten, but enough of it remains to render its renovation desirable. The design is rather elaborate and intricate. The hand of an artist is required in its restoration. Pieces of canvas require to be fitted in with the utmost precision and nicety, and the design carried out upon them. Up to now I have never found any one to whom I would entrust this precious work. Will you undertake it?"

Cecil hesitated.

"The pay shall be liberal," said Lady Trevor, hastily. "As I require not only manual dexterity, but thought, research, invention, I am willing to pay one hundred pounds for the work, which will require the winter for its successful accomplishment."

"The pay is more than liberal, madam," said Cecil, "but I am not sure that I can accept the place you offer me. I have an old servant from whom I cannot be separated."

"It is not necessary that you should be. She can accompany you."

Cecil reflected seriously, while her enemy watched her as a cat watches a mouse. The girl felt that she was very pleasantly situated at Queen's Crescent, her landlady was kind and motherly, and the place had already begun to seem home-like to her. But then she had a longing for the country, and often felt stifled in the close quarters of her lodgings. The sum offered for her winter services was magnificent. She could keep Gretchen with her, and in the spring they could have a handsome little extra fund to add to their store.

Against these considerations were to be placed certain drawbacks and objections. She felt that she could never meet Lord Glenham again. She loved him with all her heart, and could not

bear to look upon his face when he should be the husband of another. How could she work for his wife? The passionate young soul thrilled with jealous pain. How could she take money from the woman who had supplanted her in Lord Glenham's heart.

Lady Trevor witnessed the struggle going on in Cecil's mind, and awaited its conclusion.

"I did not deem it necessary to say that your board and that of your servant with other necessaries, would be included in the price of your services, and be exclusive of the hundred pounds," said the widow. "I can see, Miss Rosse, that you have been brought up as a lady. You would be treated as such at my house. The servants will regard you as a superior. You will be virtually mistress of the house, since I shall be abroad with my husband, and shall not return until your work is done."

"Where is your house, Lady Trevor?"

"In the northern part of Yorkshire, near the coast. It is remote from a railway station, and if you decide to go, I shall be glad to send you to Greycourt—that is the name of my place—in my yacht. It will be in London to-morrow, and is to sail to-morrow evening for Greycourt."

This was false, the Undine being at that moment on her way down the west coast from Scotland en route for London. But the plans of Lady Trevor and Mr Pulford were well-laid, and this statement was in accordance with them.

"I cannot give you a decided answer at this moment, Lady Trevor," replied Cecil. "I must first counsel with my servant, who is my only friend. If you will kindly give me until evening to consider your kind offer, I will send you my answer."

The widow could scarcely conceal her disappointment. She had expected the girl to accept her offer without much delay.

"If you desire to achieve an independence, Miss Rosse, I am sure that you could not do better," she exclaimed. "And the work would interest an artist. Of course you must do as you think best, however."

Before Cecil could make any response, Mr Pulford sauntered into the room. Under cover of searching for a book, he stared curiously at the young girl, starting at the sight of her splendid beauty and radiant loveliness.

Cecil colored under his gaze, and arose to her feet.

"If you will excuse me now, madam," she said, courteously, "I will return to my lodgings and counsel with my servant."

The door-knocker at this moment sounded violently. Lady Trevor paused to listen. Before she could collect her thoughts sufficiently to answer Cecil, the door opened, and the Marquis of St. Leonards stalked into the room.

CHAPTER XX.

THE SUCCESS OF THE CONSPIRATORS.

The consternation of the two plotters at the unexpected and unwelcome appearance of the old lord was too great for words.

Lady Trevor's visage grew livid in its swift pallor. Her hard, black eyes filled with sudden horror. She clutched at her chair with uncontrollable faintness. Mr. Pulford stood like a statue, scarcely less startled and horrified.

The marquis surveyed them both in astonishment. His keen old eyes could not fail to mark their agitation, but he attributed it to a wrong cause.

"Excuse my unceremonious entrance, Edith," he exclaimed. "I would not let the footman announce me, especially as he said that you were not engaged with visitors."

Lady Trevor made a vigorous effort at self-control.

"You are always welcome, grandpa," she said, her voice quavering in spite of herself. "I am delighted to see you!"

"You look so!" said the Marquis dryly.

Cecil had made a movement to withdraw. That movement drew the marquis's attention upon her. He had not previously noticed her presence, now he stared at her, bewildered. He recognised her at first glance, as she also recognised him.

"Miss Rosse!" he ejaculated, his stern and haughty old face kindling into sudden warmth and pleasure. "Is it possible! I am delighted to see you!"

Lady Trevor and Mr. Pulford exchanged looks of utter amazement and horror.

The marquis approached Cecil, holding out his hand. She, blushing like a rose, placed her small hand in his, and faltered a response. Something in his looks and tones thrilled her strangely.

"Grandpapa," said Lady Trevor,

huskily, "I did not know that you were acquainted with Miss Rosse."

"I owe to Miss Rosse the preservation of my life and property," said the old marquis. "I was attacked by two miscreants upon the night after my return to town in a dark little street out of Regent Street. The rascals threw me down, clutched my throat, and would have strangled me and rifled my person at the same moment if Miss Rosse had not come to my rescue. She had seen the struggle and, like the brave young lady she is, she gave a scream for help and came flying towards me! The two rascals took to their heels. I have thought very often of you since that night, Miss Rosse, and am very glad to see you again. I am delighted to find that you are one of Lady Trevor's friends."

It never occurred to the old Lord that this graceful, high-bred, beautiful girl was less than Lady Trevor's social equal.

"The service I was enabled to render your lordship was too small to merit your gratitude," said Cecil moderately. "I trust that you have quite recovered from the effects of the assault."

"Quite, I thank you. Do not let me keep you standing, Miss Rosse!"

"I was about to go, when you came in," replied Cecil. "Permit me to bid you good-morning."

She bowed to Lady Trevor, to Mr. Palford, and to the marquis, who opened the door for her, and watched her departure with something of wistful sadness in his grand old eyes.

"The loveliest girl I ever saw in my life!" he ejaculated, when the house-door closed after her. "Who is she, Edith? The heiress of some noble house, I know."

Mr. Palford discreetly withdrew into the inner room, leaving the marquis and his granddaughter alone together.

The widow felt a great burden lifted from her, as Lord St. Leonards indicated by his question that the girl's history was not known to him.

"You are mistaken grandpapa," she exclaimed. "Miss Rosse is not what you think. She is only a sewing-girl."

"Impossible! She! This is not a proper subject for jest, Edith," said Lord St. Leonards, sternly.

"I am not jesting. The girl has been sewing for me. Do you see my cloak? Is it not a perfect work of art? Miss Rosse embroidered it. I consider her one of the foremost in her trade."

"But there must be some mistake, Edith. Miss Rosse is a thorough lady, well-educated, and well-bred. She is better fitted for a governess, if she is poor, than for manual labor."

"Ah, beauty blinds the eyes of men!" cried Lady Trevor, with assumed playfulness. "Miss Rosse has the outside varnish and veneer of good-breeding, but she is of obscure parentage. Why, she was brought up on the Surrey side, on some humble street in Southwark, and her father is a shoemaker. She has one sister who is a milliner. On account of her beauty this girl has had superior advantages, which she has well improved. She looks quite like a lady!"

The marquis looked staggered at this declaration, uttered with every appearance of truthfulness.

"If the girl be what you say, Edith," he exclaimed, "then I will never more believe in blood. Generations of culture and gentle living are supposed to have a refining effect upon the human body. This young lady shows, if every human being did, the effects of such culture and refinement among her ancestors. We of the aristocracy, as we call it, are no better, perhaps, than our neighbours of Southwark, but they, for generations, have had time only for labor, thought only for wants and how to gratify them. Our ancestors have been among those who have made the laws; they have been leaders; they have cultivated their minds and let their muscles dwindle into feebleness, and the result is that we look different, and are different from the people who have been obliged always to toil. Miss Rosse cannot belong to such a family as that you describe. I should as soon expect to see a rose blossom upon an apple tree."

"Your theory is very fine, grandpapa," said the widow, "but in this case you are mistaken. Miss Rosse is certainly pretty, she has been educated above her station, and appears like a lady, but she is not ashamed of her humble origin or of her humble relations."

"I can well believe that. Granting once that she has the origin you say, I know that she would honor her parents if they were beggars even. Her pure, sweet eyes show that though she is very proud her pride is not vanity. She is incapable of looking with scorn upon any one, however humble."

"You seem to know her well, grand-

papa."

"I judge from her face. I am a student of physiognomy. I never saw her but twice—that night in the street and now. But, Edith, I never met a person who so impressed me so singularly and deeply. Do you know her address?"

The widow felt a new and keen alarm, which she did her best to conceal.

"She lives in Southwark, but she did not tell me the street and number," she replied, with pretended indifference. "She will bring home fresh work for me next week. I'll ask then for her exact address."

"If my little Alba had lived she would have been about the age of Miss Rosse," said the old marquis, thoughtfully. "And this young girl's eyes somehow remind me of the baby eyes of my little grandchild, a deep gloom with sunlight in its midst."

Lady Trevor stooped to pick up her handkerchief. Her breathing was strangely hurried. The marquis could not see her face.

"Alba might have looked as Miss Rosse does," he continued, as if thinking aloud. "But then I never see a young girl but I think of the little child I idolized. Oh, Edith, I can never forgive you for keeping her from me during those last months of her little life! I can never forgive you for letting her die away from me. I parted from her when she was all baby-beauty and brightness. You sent her back to me in her coffin."

"You are unjust, cruelly unjust, grandpapa! I would to Heaven I had died in her stead!" cried Lady Trevor, putting her handkerchief to her eyes. "You blame me for what I could not help—"

"If I could only be sure of that. I doubt you, Edith, in spite of all my efforts to believe in you. The little creature stood between you and a colossal fortune—"

"And you think that I may have killed her? Why, I was not twenty-one years old at the time!"

"You were old in many respects, and you were the wife of one of the worst men who ever disgraced the name of Englishmen. I believe that he would not have scrupled to kill a little child who stood between him and a great inheritance. I may be wrong. If so, forgive me. But you were greatly to blame for not bringing her to me immediately after her mother's death. That you did not do so, I will never forgive you! You benefited by Alba's death. That fact in itself is an accusation against you!"

"You are very cruel and unjust to me. I am friendless and alone!" murmured Lady Trevor, in passionate reproach. "Do you call this reconciliation, my lord? I cannot bear such scenes as these. I will not. If you will treat me as your grandchild whom you have forgiven, I will devote my life to your happiness, but to be accused of horrible crimes is more than I can bear."

"We will have no more of such accusations, Edith," said the Marquis, in a subdued voice, repenting his outbreak. "The sight of Miss Rosse brought it all back to me, my grief and loss, and the memory of the little dead child in her baby-beauty and sweetness. I live a lonely life, full of haunting memories. If I had only a family about me I should be content. I am old: I was made for domestic life. I go home to great desolate rooms, where only servants enter to break my solitude. I sit alone at my table, with my butler and footman to wait upon me, but with no friendly face near, no kindly voice to speak to me. It's a hard, barren, miserable life."

"You need some one to cheer you, dear grandpapa," said Lady Trevor, changing her seat for one nearer to him. "Let me come to St. Leonards. I would ask nothing better than to devote my life to securing your comfort and happiness."

"Very prettily said, but I cannot have you there yet. I should break out upon you in stormy scenes like this one, until your life became a burden. I feel very bitterly towards you still at times. I suspect you of crime towards your innocent little step-sister. Heaven grant I wrong you, Edith! But for the present you must see that we are better apart. I loved the Earl of Glenham as if he were my son. If he can be weaned from his foreign adventures, and if you and he should marry, I shall be glad to have a place at your fireside. Gordon's presence will turn our antagonism into harmony. Until that marriage, I shall come to see you often, and desire your visits, but we will not have one home!"

"And you will continue to bear your loneliness, grandpapa?"

The Marquis flushed with a new idea. "I do not know that that is quite necessary, Edith," he answered. "You say that Miss Rosse belongs to an obscure family, and that she is well-educated. She is out of her proper place where she

is. She is made for a life of refinement. Edith, I will adopt her, if she will consent."

"Grandfather!"

"Does the project seem wild? I will adopt her as my grandchild, ward, whatever she may choose. She shall brighten my lonely home, sing to me, write my letters, and fill out my desolate existence with new interests. I think she could not refuse my offers."

"It is not proper. The world will talk," ejaculated Lady Trevor, in a panic.

"I am seventy-five years old. People do not imagine evil of one so near the grave. The child is but seventeen or so. And I will legally adopt her, Edith, and settle upon her a fortune sufficient to keep her properly after I am gone. I wish I had her address."

"I shall have it next week when she brings home my work. I will then send it to you," said the widow, hoarsely.

"Thank you. I will go down now and see my lawyer about it. He must see the father and arrange affairs legally. I will myself see Miss Rosse."

"You don't seem to anticipate a refusal."

"I do not. I saw that she liked me as I liked her. It was a mutual attraction, Edith, although I am so old and she is so young. I know I could win her daughterly love. I intend to make the effort at any rate. Send me her address as soon as you receive it. I'll go down now to see Barker."

He arose, and the widow followed his example.

"Ah, by the way," said Lord St. Leonards, halting midway to the door. "I noticed your confusion, Edith, when I entered the room. And I knew its cause."

"Impossible!" breathed Lady Trevor. "I expressed my disapprobation of man Palford when I was at Castle Cliff. He was the friend and companion of your dissolute husband, and you should not permit him to visit you. No wonder you were confused at having me find him so familiarly in your presence. You must close your doors upon him. I know faces. His is a bad one!"

"You do him injustice, my lord. He is my man of business—"

"Get rid of him, then. Some one asked me yesterday at my club if it were true that the fellow were your lover. Think or that. You may imagine how I resented the insinuation. After your mad folly in running away with Sir Albert Trevor, people suspect you capable of any amount of idiocy. I imagine. Get rid of Palford. I'll find you another man of business who won't presume on his place!"

"I can't discharge Palford at present, grandfather, but I will do so before I marry Lord Glenham. Come and see me often. I am always delighted to see you!" said the widow, bestowing an embrace and kiss upon the marquis, who received it as if it were distasteful.

"Good-morning, Edith. Don't forget Miss Rosse's address!" and the old lord formally took his leave.

Lady Trevor had scarcely resumed her seat when Mr Palford rejoined her.

"Did you hear what the marquis said?" demanded the widow.

"Every word, including his complimentary ment on of myself," replied Palford, his florid face burning with his anger. "Proud as he is, he'll find that I shall be his grandson-in-law in spite of him! That will be my revenge upon him, Edith. I thought your reply to him very good."

"He wants to adopt that girl!"

"Can he suspect?"

"No. He is in his dotage. He has taken a fancy to her, but he cannot possibly have the most remote suspicion of the truth, else he would have killed me in his fury. He is awful in his rages. But what a complication! Who could have foreseen that he would encounter her? Do you know, Palford, I feel as if I were fighting against invisible beings—as if I were struggling with fate itself in this matter? Just see what has happened. The girl was hidden in the depths of the Black Forest, and Lord Glenham found her there and fell in love with her. Her guardian died and she came to England, and Lord St. Leonards encounters her strangely, and wants to adopt her. Do you believe in Providence?"

"I am tempted to do so now."

"And so am I. There is something in all this I can't understand. The girl has not decided to accept my proposition. Suppose she refuses?"

"Then we'll carry her off by force. We have gone too far to stop now."

"She hesitated because she believes me engaged to marry Lord Glenham, and she does not want my money, and she does want to avoid seeing him. I offered a handsome bait. I think the old ser-

vant will prove a prudent sort of person and advise her to accept the offer. She was brought up in the forest and I saw her eyes sparkle at the mention of the country. I think my pretty gudgeon will swallow my bait."

"I will have a yacht ready to-morrow for the trip. I can charter one easily enough. The other arrangements will also be made to-day!"

Lady Trevor's prophecy proved correct. Old Gretchen had a longing, even greater than that of her young mistress, for the country, and strenuously urged Cecil to accept Lady Trevor's offer.

"We shall never see Lord Glenham there," the old woman urged. "Her ladyship's money is as good as anybody's. Do consent, Miss Cecil."

"It is something to live for an entire winter in the house he will hereafter inhabit," thought the girl, drearily. "And the work I do will meet his eyes often and often in the years to come, and he will never know whose hands restored his tenantry. Yet she may tell him, and he will look on the work with tenderness, for her he once loved. I'll go."

"I'll leave a letter for Mr Crafton," thought old Gretchen. "He can follow us if he likes. He'll have a better chance of winning Miss Cecil in the country."

And so it happened that Cecil, suspecting no deep laid design against herself, feeling no misgiving, sent that very afternoon a letter to Lady Trevor accepting the situation offered her.

If she could have seen the evil joy of the conspirators when the letter reached them she would have trembled with terror.

"It's all right now," said Mr Palford.

"Write to her to come here with her luggage and her servant in a cab at five o'clock to-morrow afternoon. She will come—she will go away again—and then she will disappear from the knowledge of all who have known her, and be beyond the search of the keenest detective in all England. It will be only another of the 'mysterious disappearances' that now and then are recorded in the newspapers. I am impatient for to-morrow! We shall sleep in safety to-morrow night! We shall then have never more reason to fear 'Miss Rosse'!"

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

AWKWARD MISHAP TO THE NAPIER COACH.

An awkward mishap, says the *Master-ton News*, befel the Napier coach on its outward journey the other day. Arriving at the Mangatānoka, the river was so high that the ford could not be taken. The day was too far advanced to think of returning to Eketahuna, so that nothing was left for the hapless passengers but to make the best shift they could for the night. The coach contained, besides the driver, a lady and four gentlemen; Professor Taylor and his conjutrix, "Lillie, Queen of Skates," being amongst the number. To make matters worse the weather was wretchedly bad, with rain falling in perfect torrents. Fortunately, a roadman's party was camped in the vicinity, from whom Mr Taylor and the lady received shelter for the night. Some idea of the shelter afforded may be gathered from the fact that they were stowed away in a tent 6 x 8 along with another woman, two men, and four children. The other two passengers, along with the driver, had to do the best they could inside the coach. The only thing in the shape of edibles to be procured was a piece of "damper" moistened with a few mouthfuls of tea, so that altogether it will be seen, that while the party were not well housed, neither did they fare very sumptuously on the occasion. The Mangatānoka is one of the rivers on this road upon which punts were lately placed. These, however, have not yet been brought into use, in consequence of the wire ropes not having been suspended. The ropes have been lying on the ground for five or six weeks past, but in consequence of the blunder of some one having charge thereof, the punts are, practically speaking, useless. Now that attention has been thus pointedly drawn to the matter, surely the completion of the work will not be longer delayed.

The gentleman who kissed a lady's "snowy brow" caught a severe cold and has been laid up ever since.

A Sunday-school teacher was giving a lesson in Ruth. She wanted to bring out the kindness of Boaz in commanding the reapers to drop large handfuls of wheat. "Now children," she said, "Boaz did another nice thing for Ruth; can you tell me what it was?" "Married her!" said one of the boys.

London Punch defines a woman as a creature endowed with self-ornamental instincts.

EDUCATION BOARD.

MONDAY, JUNE 4.

The Education Board met this morning at eleven o'clock.

Present—Messrs Rhodes, (Chairman), Newton, Lee, and Chambers.

A letter was read from the Rev Mr Simeox, re the Wainui school, informing the Board of the election of a School Committee, and of the amount of the sum subscribed (£161 18s); also asking whether the Government would augment the sum of money locally raised, by a grant to enable a schoolhouse to be built to accommodate eight or ten weekly boarders.

The Secretary was instructed to refer Mr Simeox to the Act, and that when the amount subscribed had been deposited in conformity with the same, the Board would advance one-half the amount up to £100; the plans of the building to be submitted to the Board.

An application from the Waipukurau School Committee, for a further grant in aid towards the cost of the schoolmaster's residence, was read.

The application was approved of, and £100 granted in aid.

An application from Mr. Anning for the favorable consideration of the Board to aid him in his endeavors to carry on a private school at the Western Spit, was refused, on the grounds that it was a private school.

The sum of £50 was granted to the Kaikora school for its enlargement, and the sum of £25 to the Hastings school.

The resignation of the Hon. R. Stokes from the trusteeship of the Waipawa school was received and accepted.

A letter was received from Mr. E. Fannin, written on behalf of the settlers of Mohaka, requesting to be informed as to the amount required to be subscribed in order to obtain a grant in aid of £100 towards the erection of a school house and master's dwelling.

The Secretary was instructed to forward the required information.

The accounts were then passed, and the Board adjourned until next sitting day.

MRS. NEILL'S CONCERT.

When we say that the concert, given on Friday by Mrs. Neill, was the most successful of the agreeable series that lady has offered to lovers of music since her residence in Napier, we mean it to be understood that it was the best amateur performance of its kind that we have had here for very many years. At her former concerts, Mrs. Neill has had the pianoforte only, but last night she had brought together an exceedingly effective band of instrumentalists.

The programme commenced with the Sadowa March, which, after a little shakiness at first, was played very well, and in excellent time, Miss Martin presiding at the piano, and Mr. Crawford playing first violin. This was followed by the "Mermaid's Song," and chorus. Mrs. Neill took the solo, which she rendered most artistically, Miss Martin playing the pianoforte, and Mr. Jones the cornet accompaniments. At the right moment, the stage scenery was drawn back, and the chorus singers, forming a bank of young ladies, were disclosed. The effect was extremely pretty. Mr. Jones gave afterwards Wallace's beautiful song, "There is a flower that bloometh," which was deservedly encored, to which he responded, by singing "In Happy Moments." The duet that followed "Sainted Mother," by Mrs. Neill and Miss Le Couteur, was admirably sung, and received a well merited encore. Mrs. Powell's "Love's Request" was also encored, being very sweetly rendered. "Softly falls the shades of Evening" was given as a quartette, by Mrs. Neill, Miss Le Couteur, Messrs. Jones and Martin. The lively "Rain Chorus," from "Chilperic," was given with excellent spirit and time, and was loudly applauded, and encored. Miss Martin's accompaniment on the piano was excellent. The first part of the programme was brought to a close by the "Miserere" from "Il Trovatore," Mrs. Neill took the part of Leonora, and Mr. Jones that of Manrico. This which could only be done by good artistes, was really well sung, and provoked much applause. The invisible chorus was most effective.

The second part of the programme opened with a lively galop by the band, which was followed by the Gipsy Maiden's chorus, and then by "Ring on sweet Angelus," by Mrs. Powell. A duet, "The Sailor Sighs," by Miss Le Couteur and Mr. Morgan was encored. Then came a charming song, "Waiting," by Mrs. Neill, accompanied on the piano by Miss Rearden. In response to an encore Mrs. Neill gave "She wore a wreath of

roses." This was most sweetly and feelingly rendered, and was decidedly the gem of the evening. Messrs Jones and Martin sang "Love and War," a very spirited duet, that was very well given. Miss Le Couteur's "Shy Robin" elicited immense applause and an encore. The trio "I'm not the Queen" by Mrs. Neill, Miss Le Couteur, and Mr. Morgan was admirably given, and was deservedly encored. "Hark the Drum," was sung by Mr. Morgan, accompanied on the piano by Mr. Crawford, and on the cornet by Jones. In this Mr. Morgan has seldom been heard to better advantage. The "Market Chorus" brought the concert to a conclusion, after a most enjoyable musical entertainment.

THE WINTER IN ENGLAND.

The London correspondent of the Auckland Star says:—We have been having an awful winter. For the past two months the papers have daily contained a ghastly register of shipwrecks and drownings. The floods in England have been awful and universal, and no doubt Parliament will be called to legislate on some scheme for preventing extensive floods in future. As for wrecks, our coasts have been literally strewn with the bodies of drowned seamen. In one gale no less than 17 fishing smacks were lost out of Yarmouth and Lowestoff; and if we put the number of hands at five each, which is below the mark, we have an awful result. There has been very little frost or snow, but endless wind and rain. Last week was wet and warm at the beginning, primroses were opening, and every one thought he smelt spring. In twenty-four hours the ground was a foot deep in snow, and the thermometer registered 23 degrees of frost. This lasted for two or three days; and then hey! presto! just as the skates began to appear in the windows, down came an awful gale of wind, with torrents of rain and a balmy atmosphere, followed again two days ago by a northerly blow, with sleet and hail enough to skin one alive, such is life in this lively old hulk of a country where only the fittest survive. I am rapidly becoming convinced that the reason why the English have maintained their reputation and their stamina is, that sickly folks usually are carried off before they have time to reproduce their infirmities and only the tough and wiry attain a decent age.

LOCALE OF THE WAR.

The following article from the Melbourne Age, written by a military gentleman who has a thorough acquaintance of the scene of operation, will be read with interest:—

The Australian Associated Press telegram of 9th May shows that hostilities are now in full force along the whole line of the Danube from Kalafat and Widdin, the western frontier line of Roumania, to Galatz, one of the most important fortified positions on the Danube to the west, and that so far the Turks are acting on the offensive with more or less success. The Turks, the telegram of 9th May states, are bombarding Kalafat, which is on the north or Roumanian side of the Danube, and the Roumanian batteries are replying to the fire. Kalafat played a most important part in the campaign of 1853-4. The Turkish town of Widdin is on the opposite side of the river. It contains a large population, and has for centuries been one of the strongest posts in the contests of the Turks with their northern neighbors. Kalafat is a much smaller town, having outside it two high hills about a mile asunder, which have furnished the means of supplying Kalafat with strong fortifications. On the 28th October, 1853, the Turks—12,000 strong—crossed the Danube, and occupied Kalafat and a small island near the Walachian shore. The Russians at once retreated upon Slatina, a small town on the Aluta River, and the Turks proceeded at once to strengthen Kalafat. They raised redoubts of great strength and extent, some on the two lofty hills, commanding all approach to the Danube in that direction. The little island, too, was defended by strong earthen entrenchments, mounted with large guns. Taken in connection with Widdin and its defences, the two towns and the interlying island formed one stronghold, well fortified, supplied with 250 heavy guns, and occupied by a large army. The Russians were not prepared for such a vigorous attack in this one spot. They had 400 miles of the Danube to look to, and could not spare a large force at each important place. Shortly after the occupation of Kalafat there were several brilliant encounters between the contending forces, the results of which greatly buoyed up the spirits of the Turks, and

these culminated in the famous battle of Citale. Citale is a little higher up the Danube than Kalafat. Aurep, the Russian general, had been ordered to advance upon Kalafat from Krajova, and he endeavored to render the roads passable for artillery between Slatina, Karaacal, Krajova and Kalafat. The Turks however, drove the Russian general Fischbach from Krajova, and compelled him to retire behind the Aluta. Meanwhile 20,000 Russians advanced upon Kalafat. The Russians got round on the flank of the Turkish entrenchments, and flung up redoubts at Citale. Ahmet Pacha, who held Kalafat, sent a strong corps to the little village of Maglovet, near Citale, where the troops bivouacked for the night. The next day the contending armies met in battle, when the Turks gained the most brilliant victory they had yet achieved. The Russians were defeated both in the village and on the plain, for in effect there were two distinct battles. The Turkish artillery was splendidly served. The Turks lost at Citale 338 dead and 700 wounded, whilst the Russians numbered 1500 dead and an untold number wounded.

Many subsequent skirmishes took place between the Turks and Russians near Kalafat without any decided advantage. Subsequently the battle of Giurgevo lower down the Danube, was fought, and to this we lately made reference in connection with recent hostilities. The whole of the Russian operations along the Danube in 1853 were directed at obtaining the strongly fortified Turkish city of Silistria, on the south bank of the Danube. This is now also the coveted position, but so far the Turks, under greater advantages than they labored in the last war, are not only holding their own all along the river, but are proving themselves at every important point stronger than their enemies. That the Turks are allowing the Russians quiet possession of Ismail and Kilia, near the mouth of the Danube, is intelligible enough. The Turks are quite willing that the Russians should enter the Dobrudzha, knowing that if once a Russian army landed there they could shut them up like rats in a trap, as in the last campaign, and that a comparatively small force would suffice to keep them from advancing beyond Trajan's Wall upon Silistria.

The telegram received on the 13th inst. states that the Russians attempted to cross the Danube at Reui, a small Russian town of Bessarabia. This is evidently a mistake. Reui lies between Galatz and Ismail, on the Moldavian side of the Danube. By crossing the river successfully at this point, the Russians would enter the Dobrudzha, and the design, no doubt, was to march upon Toutha, its capital city, which lies but a short distance from the river. If, as the telegram states, the Russians were defeated here with great loss, it shows that along the entire length of the Danube the Turks are still holding their own, although they are being attacked at numerous points on the river for a total distance of between 400 and 500 miles. The Russians, it is to be remembered, have possession of Ismail on the west, and Galatz on the east, so that, Reui lying between the two, they must have been able to oppose a very powerful force to the Turks, and their defeat, therefore, under such circumstances, is of all the more importance.

MR. FOX'S NEW PERMISSIVE BILL.

The Hon. W. Fox, at a public meeting held at Wanganni this week, gave the following outline of the new Bill he proposes introducing next session:—

The alterations which it was proposed should be made in the present Licensing Law by the Permissive or Local Option Bill, he would explain. By the present law, Licensing Courts have been instituted, composed of nominees of the Government, into whose hands the vast monopoly has passed; but it was not proposed to interfere with their duties or powers, save in one important particular. The first duty of the Court was to decide upon the qualifications of the applicant for a license; the second, as to the suitability of the premises. With these duties it was not proposed to interfere. The third question they had to decide was, whether the license was wanted—not in the interests of the publican, or importer, or distiller—but in the interests of the people of the district. By the Permissive Bill this most important question would be taken out of the hands of the Court, and relegated to the people themselves to decide—he hoped to the adult, males and females of every licensing district. There were one or two slight variations of opinion as to how the will of the people

should be expressed. Mr Stout and others, backed by the authority of constitutional usage, wished the matter decided by a simple majority of one; for himself, he was liberal enough to abide by the result involved in recognising a majority of three-fourths. Mr. Stout's bill relegated the matter to a simple majority of the ratepayers; he, on the other hand, was willing that it should be decided by two-thirds of the number who recorded their votes—the Resident Magistrate forwarding voting papers to every household, whose duty it would be simply to fill in the word "yes" or "no" in answer to the query therein contained, as to whether any license should be granted within the district. The speaker here explained that the Licensing Bill introduced by him in 1873 contained the germ of the permissive principle, but the machinery for carrying it into effect had been so mutilated by its opponents that it was rendered unworkable. In addition to the stale arguments against the bill, that it would not effect the objects aimed at and that it was an interference with personal liberty, it was now urged that obtaining the voice of the people in the way proposed was unconstitutional—was Napoleonic—was in the form of a plebiscite. To this he might answer, that if it was unconstitutional it was in accordance with the practice of the British Parliament, which had recognised the principle when dealing with the questions of public schools and public libraries.

TORPEDO EXPERIMENTS.

At the present moment all information in reference to means of defence against naval attack is of interest. The Guardian of March 14, gives the following account of some very interesting torpedo experiments made a few days previously at Cherbourg with a little "submarine" vessel called the Thorneycroft. It was the first occasion of testing in French waters whether a torpedo could be launched against a ship in full sail. Admiral Jaurès, who commands the squadron, ordered a disabled ship, the Bayonnaise, during a rather rough sea, to be towed out by a steamer belonging to the navy:—

A second lieutenant, M. Lemoine, was sent for, and informed that he had been selected to make the experiment of launching the Thorneycroft against the Bayonnaise while both were in full sail. He accepted the mission without hesitation, picked out two engine-men and a pilot, and went down with them into the interior of the Thorneycroft, of which only a small part was above water, this visible portion being painted of a greyish colour, so as to be easily confused with the sea. The torpedoes were placed so as to project from the bow of the vessel, at the extremity of which were two lateen sails about three meters in length. The towing steamer then took up its position in front of the squadron, and the Thorneycroft also assumed the position assigned for it; an interval of three or four marine miles separating the torpedo and the Bayonnaise. On a signal being given, both were set in, the steamer advancing in a straight line, and the Thorneycroft obliquely, so as to take the Bayonnaise in flank. The steam-tug went at 14 knots an hour, going at full speed in order to escape the Thorneycroft. The latter went at 19 knots an hour, a rate not attained by any vessel in the squadron. The chase lasted about an hour, the squadron keeping in the rear, so as to witness the operations. At the end of that time the distance between the Thorneycroft and the Bayonnaise had sensibly diminished, and at a given moment the former, in order to come up with the latter at the requisite distance, had to slacken speed to eight knots an hour.

The whole squadron watched this last phase of the struggle with breathless interest, and people asked themselves whether the shock of the torpedo would not infallibly destroy the little vessel which bore it. It was feared that the lives of the second lieutenant, Lemoine, and his three companions were absolutely sacrificed:—

However, the two vessels got visibly nearer. All at once the Thorneycroft put on a last spurt, and struck the Bayonnaise with its whole force on its starboard bow. The sea was terribly agitated, a deafening report was heard, and the Bayonnaise, with a rent as big as a house, sunk with wonderful rapidity. As for the Thorneycroft, rebounding by the shock about 15 metres off, even before the explosion occurred, it went round and round for a few moments, and then quietly resumed the direction of the squadron. No trace remained of the Bayonnaise; it was literally swallowed up by the sea. The experiment was repeated two days later, under the same conditions, with another disabled ship, with the same success.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRICE OF BREAD.

SIR,—I see the bakers of Napier have combined to raise the price of the 2lb loaf here to sixpence. I enclose to you a paragraph from the Wellington Argus, which at the present time is more applicable to Napier than any other part of the colony. On behalf of heads of families here I hope you will use your pen in trying to upset this scandalous arrangement.—I am, &c.,

PATERFAMILIAS.

White Road, Napier, June 1, 1877.

The following is the paragraph forwarded by our correspondent:—

PRICE OF BREAD.

Twenty Auckland bakers have combined to raise the price of the 2lb loaf to 5d. The Auckland people feel very sore at this, and the Star, in a leading article, goes into figures to show that although the price of colonial flour has risen £2 since the beginning of the year, the rise in the "staff of life" is equal to a rise of £6 in flour. It urges on the public to "smash up" the combination, and says:—"What misery and hardship does this penny a loaf on bread mean to hundreds of struggling families in Auckland? We declare war to the death against this and every similar combination, and the subject shall not rest till every honest man cries 'shame on it.' If reason and remonstrance fail, the combination shall be met by co-operation." The article thus concludes:—"We now offer to publish an advertisement gratis for every baker who breaks through the ring, and sends us his name as being prepared to sell bread at a reasonable price. But if none are willing to do so let the people look to themselves, the remedy is in their own hands, and there shall not be wanting opportunity to apply it vigorously and well." The Star's remarks might also apply to Wellington, as here the price is 4½d the 2lb loaf, while the quality is often bad; the bread half raw, and in many cases underweight.

WAIPUKURAU RIDING ELECTION.

SIR,—I notice in your last night's edition a letter from Mr. S. Johnston, in which he denies the report of the closing of the road through Colonel Lambert's property. He is evidently misinformed on the subject, as it is a well-known fact that about a fortnight before he was last elected, that the road desired by a large majority of the Makaretu settlers was opened for their use, they all supporting Mr. Johnston in consequence. The day after he was elected the gates on that road were locked by Mr. H. Lambert, and the road was not again opened till the late election took place, when an offer to open the gates during the polling day (only) was made, but not availed of. The section of the voters interested knowing they had been sold in the matter voted against, instead of for Mr. Johnston. The road that Colonel Lambert proposes to open is not the one spoken of, nor desired by nine-tenths of the Makaretu settlers. Of that fact Mr. Johnston should be perfectly aware.—I am, &c.,

ONE WHO KNOWS.

Waipukurau, May 31, 1877.

THE WOOL TRADE.

SIR,—A short time since, it was rumored that some of the wool growers of this colony, fearing that a reduction in the price of wool was imminent, were endeavoring to open up a trade with China, and, though I am far from censuring the promoters of the project, must still express an opinion that they would exhibit a better judgment by pursuing a different course of action.

If the time has arrived when we can no longer find a market in Europe for the whole of the wool which the Colonies produce; if the time has come when wool growers must expend money in an attempt to create a market at a considerable distance from these shores; if energy must be directed to secure a commerce that may hereafter prove to be an unprofitable venture, then, assuredly, the establishment of numerous woollen manufactories throughout the colony would be a source of profit to the wool growers, and improvement and stability to the districts in which they may be located.

A trade with China is to be placed in the category of uncertainties; there is nothing of a definite character in connection with it to justify the most ardent of wool growers in anything but a hope that it may be successful; and when this is so, why is it that they do not turn their attention to some other means of getting

rid of their wool, and, at the same time, ingratiating themselves with the public, who at present look upon them as a selfish class who, to a great extent, keep the country from progressing by retarding the settlement of the people on small homesteads?

Why is it that these wool growers do not recognise that they have been fortunate in having secured the lands of the colony? They are under some obligation to assist in its progress, and to take the initiative in movements which are essentially necessary to give it stability.

Why is it they make no effort to give to others an opportunity of sharing in the property which they themselves enjoy from whence their profits are drawn?

The answer to these questions would probably be because the labor in the colony is too dear to work woollen mills at a profit. Whether this is a fact or not is a question which I doubt; but even assuming for a moment that it is true, does it follow that large landholders are justified on that account in refraining from establishing local industries which cause the expenditure of large sums of money among the poorer classes, give confidence to men of property, tend to the advancement of a district as a whole, and, ultimately, by increase of population, and increased business activity must become good paying speculations to the promoters of them.

Even though the profits from a woollen mill might at first not be so large as the gains derived from the disposal of the wool in the other way, still, in consideration of what the country would gain from its establishment, one would think that men actuated by any other than selfish motives would be only too willing to assist in its establishment, more especially as their possessions of large tracts of land preclude the settlement of a numerous class of small farmers who are always to be considered the backbone of a country.

The farmers would not consider these views as embodying sound principles of political economy, albeit the time will come when they will have to make greater sacrifices; so we may turn to the consideration of labor.

That the labor in the colony previous to the construction of the public works was not sufficient for the purpose may readily be admitted, but now that there has been such an influx of laboring persons, that the market has been flooded, and the public works almost completed, can we doubt that there is in the country at the present time more industrious persons than can find employment, and, therefore, hands enough to work any number of mills that capitalists would establish. There are at the present time in all the large towns in the colony, numbers of men, women, and children out of employment, and the number will be ever increasing, so that we now have labor enough to develop the resources of the colony if there be a judicious expenditure of capital.

That the remuneration for the labor would have to be greater than that given in China is beyond doubt, but let the cost of transit, insurance, agents, and other expenses be considered, and what will the difference be. Again let the wool-growers consider the number of persons who would receive employment at those mills, and consequently become a number of well-to-do taxpayers, who would thereby lessen the necessity for a colonial land and export wool tax, and thus indirectly benefit themselves by creating a class, who could bear some of the burdens which otherwise they would have to bear largely.

It is evident that as an article of export the wool is depreciating in value, while on the other hand, the price which we have to pay for so called woollen goods manufactured out of American cotton is as high as ever, and hence a powerful reason why the wool should be manufactured into clothing in the colony.

A better clad population would grow up around us, as almost every one would find it within the compass of his means to purchase local made clothes, and thus two advantages would be secured, profits to the owners and contentment among the people.

An ill-fed and ill-clad democracy is a dangerous element in a State, and those who have much to lose, would act wisely by looking into the future.

Some persons have stated that a gentleman now in England is likely to start a woollen manufactory at Hastings, but even if true, that is no reason why a second should not be started; and I am of opinion that an excellent site for a manufactory would be the vacant piece of ground on the opposite side of the line from the railway station at Napier. The ground available there is at present

almost worthless for any other purpose, and I have no doubt could be purchased at a small figure.

A mill started there would have this advantage, that there would always be a plentiful supply of labor, and doubtless a cheaper one than that which could be obtained in the country, for no matter how poor persons may be they like to live in towns. A water supply is also easily obtainable, and as water in artesian wells will rise to a considerable height, some man of engineering talents might be able to utilise the surplus of a couple of artesian wells, by making it turn a water wheel.

Water falling a height of twenty or thirty feet through a three-inch pipe would doubtless be of some benefit, but whether it would or not, I think a mill could be profitably worked in Napier, and those who are largely concerned in the growth of wool would I think find it to their own interest to utilise some of the surplus labor of the colony in manufacturing their wool, and when they then have a surplus, send it to China.

Some of the Hawke's Bay landowners have conferred advantages on the public; and I know of no man whose action deserves more commendation than does that of Mr. Tiffen, whose disposal of the Homewood estate on deferred payments at low rates of interest, has been the means of giving many industrious settlers at Kaikora and Waipawa, an opportunity of acquiring a life independence, and probably the same gentleman would give the scheme of a woollen factory in Napier some consideration in conjunction with other interested persons.

Viewing the matter politically, there can be no doubt that the true policy of the capitalists is to establish numerous industries, by which a large portion of the population will become dependent on them for support, and thus divide the interests of the democratic party, for assuredly should they by a suicidal policy leave that party wholly independent of them, and thus united by a common interest against wealthy non-employers of labor, they will have cause to regret the short-sightedness of their present action; the fruits of which will be that they will have to bear a heavy burden of taxation, or be forced to dispose of their estates.—the people must either be provided with employment or become settled upon the land.—I am, &c.,

MEMNON.

Monday, June 4, 1877.

PINCHING ECONOMY.

SIR,—As we children are never allowed to read the morning paper until our lessons are over, and until papa has seen that there is nothing in it of an objectionable character, we did not know that the bakers had combined to raise the price of bread until just before tea time. We do not get the TELEGRAPH till after six o'clock. Well, at tea time, all sorts of funny odd scraps of bread were put on the table that had been stored up for puddings, and so sixpence the 2lb. loaf was brought practically to our understandings.

At breakfast time, the next morning, we had porridge, but papa, who was watching us narrowly, discovered that we devoured more sugar, more milk, and butter with the mess than would pay for two loaves. This morning we had hot potatoes and bacon; no bread, no porridge, and no butter.

Do, MR. EDITOR, try to bring the bakers to reason, and get us back our toast. I am sure though, if nobblers went up to ninepence each, papa would not drink one less.—I am, &c.,

MARY S.

Napier, June 4th, 1877.

SHORT WEIGHT.

SIR,—Can you inform me if there is an Inspector of Weights and Measures in Napier, as I sent on Saturday for two loaves, and for which I paid the sum of 10d, each of the loaves not weighing more than 1½lb? By giving me the required information you will greatly oblige—

ONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW.

Napier, June 4, 1877.

[Major Scully is, we believe, Inspector of Weights and Measures.—Ed. D.T.]

RE SUBSCRIPTION ON BEHALF OF MRS. GODDARD AND FAMILY.

SIR,—Allow me still further to acknowledge, per favor of yourself, the sum of £1, being subscription from Messrs Gow and Scrimgeour, and also £3 15s, being proceeds from raffle of watch, kindly given by Mr Morrison, watchmaker, Hastings-street, on behalf of Mrs

Goddard, and to convey her thanks to these gentlemen. I may still further state that I shall be glad to receive more aid for herself and family either in clothing or other ways, as they are greatly in need of same.—I am, &c.,

ANTHONY G. OLDFIELD.

Napier, June 4, 1877.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

The Council held its usual fortnightly meeting on Monday.

There were present all the Councillors, with the exception of Mr. H. Williams.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Town Clerk read the

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEES REPORT.

Your committee having met pursuant to notice, beg to recommend the Municipal Council to give effect to the following, viz:

1. That the tender of Mr John Garry, to supply and fix certain 1½ inch iron gas piping for the sum of £28 10s, be accepted.
2. That none of the tenders for the erection of the wooden fence in Shakespeare-road be accepted.
3. That the drains at the foot of the Shakespeare-road, near Mr Kennedy's, be repaired.
4. That the tender of Mr B. Warnes, for lightening of the waterworks plant, ex Andrew Reid, for 7s per ton net, be accepted.
5. With reference to the letter from the Town Clerk, Christchurch, the committee beg to submit the same for the consideration of the Council.
6. That Mr R. Burley be appointed superintendent of the landing of the waterworks plant, and subsequently the laying of the pipes, at a salary of £10 10s per month.
7. That with reference to Mr E. W. Knowles' application for pecuniary assistance to defray the outstanding liabilities of the Fire Engine Fund Committee, the sum of £100 be voted by the Council for this purpose.
8. Drafts of an Act and petition to his Excellency the Governor, relative to the land adjoining the Town Hall reserve, are submitted for the approval of the Council.
9. That the vouchers for expenditure of the borough fund, waterworks and swamp reclamation accounts for May be passed, and ordered to be paid.

All the first four clauses were agreed to without discussion.

On clause 5 being read; a letter from the Town Clerk of Christchurch was read, proposing that as it was found impossible to obtain an equitable adjustment, with respect to subsidies, from the General Government, that a convention of delegates from the several Municipalities throughout the colony should be held at Wellington, with a view of bringing the matter before the General Assembly.

His Worship said that the Napier Borough having kept religiously to the rules laid down they were not in the same position as many other boroughs. The General Government however had deducted £192, and he was attempting to get that money refunded, but as yet without success.

Councillor Lee spoke in strong terms of the manner in which the local bodies were being treated by the Government, and thought the boroughs should be represented at the proposed convention.

After a few remarks from Councillor Neal and other members, the subject dropped.

DESTITUTION IN NAPIER.

The following letter was read from Inspector Scully:—

To His Worship the Mayor,
SIR,—It is with very great regret I have to bring to your Worship's notice the large amount of absolute destitution existing within the Borough of Napier; and towards which, I am, and have been for some time powerless though want of necessary funds.

In the absence of any notification to the contrary, I have continued as heretofore to issue rations, and small pecuniary grants to the most useful applicants, as well as giving orders for the burial of destitute persons; and up to the present date disbursed small sums amounting to about £19, together with holding myself responsible for rations and funeral expenses exceeding £40 more.

It is now with very great pain, (feeling as I do, heartfelt pity for the destitute poor) that I inform your Worship that I will from this date discontinue to dispense charitable aid out of my private funds, but trust that means may be arrived at by which the poor may not entirely suffer from the present state of affairs.—I am &c.,

THOMAS SCULLY,
Inspector Armed Constabulary.

A long discussion ensued, during which Councillor Lee stated that the time had come when they would have to look the matter in the face and make provisions for the poor of the town. He had been told frequently by medical men who had seen these destitute persons that what they needed was not medicine, but absolutely the necessaries of life. He

