

WEEKLY MERCURY

AND

Hawke's Bay Advertiser,

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

Vol. II.—No. 83.

NAPIER, SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 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
 1,320 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
 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
 9,000 acres Freehold, Agricultural and Pastoral, Seaboard, with
 14,000 acres Leasehold, valuable improvements, and
 15,000 Sheep, few Cattle, Horses, &c.
 1,639 acres Freehold, near Greytown, with
 1,040 acres Leasehold, all fenced and subdivided, and
 5,000 longwool Sheep, 120 Cattle, few horses, and every improvement necessary. The coach road passes through the property.

M. R. MILLER,
Stock and Station Agent.

M. R. MILLER,
STOCK AND STATION AGENT
HAS FOR SALE,

SHEEP STATIONS of various extent, and **FREEHOLD PROPERTIES**, Stocked and Unstocked, in the Provinces of Auckland, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago.
 For particulars, apply at the office, Browning-street, Napier.

RAMS FOR SALE.



LINCOLN
 Lincoln-Leicester
 Leicester
 Cotswold
 Merinos,
 All First-class Flocks.

STORE SHEEP.—Various Lots of Store Merinos Ewes and Wethers for Sale.

FOR SALE.

M. R. 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.



IN accordance with the provisions of the "Regulation of Local Elections Act, 1876," and in the matter of a petition filed in the Resident Magistrate's Court, at Napier, by SYDNEY JOHNSTON, and Two Electors of the Waipukurau Riding, in the County of Waipawa, praying that the election for the Riding of Waipukurau may be declared to be void. I hereby give Public Notice that I will hold an inquiry in the matter alleged in such Petition, on TUESDAY, the 19th day of June, 1877, at eleven o'clock a.m., at the Court House, at Waipawa.

ROBERT STUART,
Resident Magistrate.



NOTICE.

PATANGATA HIGHWAY DISTRICT.

A PUBLIC MEETING of the Rate-payers of this District will take place in the schoolhouse, Kaikora, on SATURDAY, the 23rd instant, at 2 p.m., to take into consideration whether it would be advisable to merge the Road Board into the County or remain intact.

Wm. WHITE,
Chairman Patangata Road Board.
Kaikora, June 9, 1877.



Waipawa County Council Offices,
Waipawa, June 8th, 1877.

NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. JAMES McMILLAN Has been appointed DOG TAX COLLECTOR for the County of Waipawa.
 By order,
 A. W. R. DAVIDSON,
Clerk Waipawa County Council

NATIONAL FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

DIVIDEND WARRANTS are now in the hands of Agents for distribution. Shareholders can have same forwarded to them on sending their address to the nearest Agent of the Company.

F. H. DROWER, Waipukurau
 J. J. TYE, Waipawa
 J. NICHOLSON, Kaikora
 J. C. SPREDDY, Manae
 E. BISSELL, Havelock
 S. G. THORNTON, West Clive
 R. SOMERVILLE, Hastings
 J. H. SMYTH, Wairoa.
 Offices, Tennyson-street.
 KINROSS & CO.,
Agents.



WAIPAWA COUNTY COUNCIL.

NOTICE is hereby given that the temporary office of the Waipawa County Council is at the Court House, Waipawa; and that the days on which it will be open for transaction of business will be on MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, and FRIDAYS.

It is further notified for public information that the office hours are from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., on the days above specified.
 A. W. RAMSAY DAVIDSON,
Clerk Waipawa County Council.
 Waipawa, May 14, 1877.



NOTICE.

LIST OF PERSONS who have taken out Game Licenses within the Province of Hawke's Bay, for the shooting season, 1877:—

J. N. Williams, F. Sutton, J. K. Goudy, Kenrick Hill, H. W. P. Smith, W. A. Neale, J. Joshua, Charles B. Winter, Jasper L. Herrick, J. D. Canning, George Pilcher, Evan Morgan, J. Warrilow, Thos. Bishop, R. Brathwaite, R. P. Williams, Jno. Bennett, Alfred Danvers, Robert Wellwood, W. U. Burke, H. Russell, F. Roper, J. Price, T. Parsons, R. Stuart, Col. Whitmore, C. Agnew Brown, W. J. Birch, Henry J. Baker, G. Giblin, G. P. Donnelly, L. Knight, F. E. Simcox, Jas. L. Adams, Alex. F. Hamilton, H. Lambert, F. H. Meinertzhagen, T. R. Moore, C. Waldron, H. A. Hill.

J. M. TABUTEAU,
Custom House,
Napier 28th April, 1877.

This list will be added to every Saturday

NOTICE.

A PLOUGHING MATCH

WILL be held at TARADALE on the 28th June, 1877, in the Paddock kindly lent by Mrs J. Hammond, situated at Taradale, when the following Prizes will be given to the best Ploughman in the following Classes—open to all comers.—The amount of the different prizes will appear in a future advertisement.

Class A— M E N
 Swing Ploug, 1st Prize—
 ditto 2nd "
 Class B—
 Wheel Plough, 1st and 2nd Prize—
 Class C—
 YOUTHS NOT OVER 16 YEARS OF AGE,
 Swing Ploughs, 1st Prize—
 ditto 2nd "
 Wheel Ploughs, 2nd "
 A special Prize will be given to the best Ploughman in this Class.

Class D— M E N
 Double Furrowed Plough, 1st & 2nd Prize.

Class E—
 FOR NATIVES ONLY
 Any Plough, 1st and 2nd Prize.—
 Entrance fee in the above Classes:—
 Men, 7s 6d; Boys, 5s.

Best pair Draught Horses, £—
 Best matched pair Horses, £—
 Best kept set of Harness, £—

Two or more Ploughs to enter for each Class or no public money will be given. Ploughing to commence at 10 a.m. Entries will be received by Mr. A. Macdonald, Taradale Hotel, up to 9 a.m. on the 28th instant.

JAMES NEAGLE,
Secretary.



NOTICE.

PERSONS desirous of Nominating relatives or friends in Great Britain for passages to New Zealand, are informed that the Monthly List will be closed on the 18th of June, 1877.

Nominated Immigrants, on arrival in the colony, may join their Friends immediately after inspection, and will not be required to go into Depot.

Full particulars and Forms can be obtained from the Immigration Office, Napier.
 G. T. FANNIN,
Immigration Officer.

Government Notifications.



"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

Application	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 Arapawani and Moengiangi 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.

AUCKLAND BOOTS,

AT GENUINE AUCKLAND PRICES.
 E. W. KNOWLES
 HAS received from the best factory in Auckland a supply of Boots, which has been made to order, and will be sold at the LOWEST PRICES, guaranteeing the quality.

The following will give an idea that this is no puff:—
 Men's Elastic-sided, 14s, special make
 Men's Bluchers, 9s 6d, good fitting
 Men's Blue ers, Nailed, 10s, good fitting
 Men's Army Bluchers, extra quality, 11s
 Men's Watertights, top quality, 14s
 Men's Lace Shooting Boots, medium, 16s 6d
 Men's Lace Shooting Boots, heavy, 16s 6d
 Men's Oxoniens, lace, 7s
 Men's Oxoniens, canvas, 6s
 Other kinds equally low.
 E. W. KNOWLES.

NOTICE.

T. CARRUTHERS takes this opportunity of returning thanks to his Friends and Customers in and around Waipawa for their kind patronage bestowed upon him during his short time in business, and begs to inform them that he is still selling Bread at 6d the 2lb Loaf.
 All accounts over one month, at the rate of 6d per 2lb Loaf.

T. CARRUTHERS,
Baker, Waipawa.

B. JOHNSON,
TIMBER-MERCHANT,
BEGS to inform Builders and Contractors-inhabitants of Napier and surrounding Districts, that he is now prepared to supply them with really good first-class rusticated Lining and Flooring Boards, thoroughly seasoned. All being filled as it comes through the Mill, at lowest market rates.

CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

LONDON.

June 6.

It is stated by The Times that Count Schouvaloff, the Russian Ambassador at London, is the bearer of a note replying to certain questions raised by England, and it further says that the note has special reference to the eventual temporary occupation of Constantinople by Russia.

The President of the Paris Municipal Council has been arrested for attacking President M'Mahon.

June 7.

Northcote refused to table a copy of a despatch re the Suez Canal, on the ground of inexpediency, though asked to do so by Lord Hartington.

A coalition Ministry has been formed at Athens.

The Suez Mail arrived at Galle on the 6th.

It is semi-officially stated from St. Petersburg that the Russian Ambassadors from London, Berlin, and Vienna are returning to their respective embassies, not charged with any special negotiations, but instructions to re-assert the assurances given by Russia prior to the war as to her intentions.

In the House of Commons last night, Under-Secretary Bourke said he believed the Powers interested could not concur with the action of England.

Sir Stafford Northcote stated the Government did not desire to impose belligerent rights, its only object being to protect the Suez Canal.

June 9.

The passage of the Danube is expected at Nicopolis.

The main Turkish Army in Asia encamped at Hassan Kaled.

Wool has improved in tone. The French buyers are again competing. The home demand is weak; greasy and medium equal to March rates; cross-bred fleece is a penny lower; prices, scoured, somewhat irregular.

Arrived—Waitara and Avalanche.

SINGAPORE.

June 7.

In reference to the proposal to neutralise the Suez Canal, Lord Derby has informed the Russian Ambassador at London, the Porte, and also the Khedive that England has determined to disallow warlike operations on the Canal.

June 9.

The Turks have attacked and defeated the Montenegrin troops.

The Emperor of Russia has arrived at Plovisti.

The Turks are bombarding Giurgevo. Three Russian frigates from America have arrived at Brest.

The right wing of the Russian army in Asia has reached Nariman beyond Olti. The left wing is at Karakessa unopposed.

A Turkish governor has been appointed at Sakumkale.

[From the above telegram it would appear that the Turkish army on the Danube is now acting on the offensive. A late copy of the Army and Navy Gazette says:—"Four lines are available for the Russian army. It could advance through Dobrudzha, as in 1828, throw itself into the interior of the Bulgarian quadrilateral, and strike at Shumla, take for its objective Turnov, or passing beyond Sofia, Nicopolis and Widin, march on Sofia. On the other hand, the Turks, who possess a numerous flotilla, could throw troops into Roumanian territory either to assume the offensive, and threaten Bucharest, or to form testes-depont at Kalafat, Surnu, Margureil, Giurgevo, and Olenitza, before transporting the theatre of hostilities into Roumania." Now that the Russian Emperor has arrived on the scene, we may expect to hear soon of more active operations on the Russian side.]

SYDNEY.

June 7.

Sailed—Wakatipu.

June 8.

There is little change in quotations except in kerosene, which is 1d lower. Breadstuffs are very dull.

Jervois' report approves generally of the present outer fortifications, and recommends the use of torpedoes at Sydney, Newcastle, and Botany Bay, and iron-clads for the defence of the coast and against bombardment. He thinks that in the event of England being engaged in hostilities there is little probability of the enemy's vessels making a descent on the colonies.

INTERPROVINCIAL.

DUNEDIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 8.

A side of the wall of Kirkpatrick's draper shop in Princes-street, where excavation has been carried on, fell away yesterday afternoon. Two girls who were upstairs—the others being absent at lunch—were thrown out amongst the bricks, but fortunately escaped without serious injury.

June 9.

Walker's meeting on Thursday night was crowded, Charles Bright occupying the chair. The morning papers rather lean towards him, but the Star comments on the proceedings, saying the believers in spiritualism are evidently in a large majority, and they backed the medium up with applause on every possible occasion. Especially was this noticeable with a knot of ladies and gentlemen near the platform, who were once addressed by Chairman as "The Committee," and it was interesting to notice how they sat with open mouths and beaming faces as Walker poured out a glowing description of "life of continued pleasure" that awaited human beings immediately on their death; also, how they relished and applauded every scoff or sneer levelled at the Bible. When some of the audience at the conclusion of the lecture asked the medium questions, no matter what Walker answered, the stamping of feet and clapping of hands was great, as much as to say that the medium had completely confounded the sceptics. Instead of the replies being either mere evasions, or else such utter nonsense as that in the next world musicians will congregate together and continue their occupation; that policemen, instead of having cessation from their wearisome duties, will be massed in one enormous posse; that doctors will continue to operate upon patients, who, although it was previously stated that they would leave their physical bodies on this earth, are apparently to take their diseases, deformities, or wounds into spiritland.

June 12.

The City Council propose to give 9½ acres of the cattle market reserve and £12,000, for the present general hospital site building in King-street, and leasing the latter if Parliamentary sanction to the exchange can be obtained. On the other hand, Mr. Barus, M.H.R., as member for the Taieri County Council, moves a series of resolutions asking the Otago representatives of the Assembly to support a motion for the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry into the manner in which the various reserves held by the Corporation have been administered, and proposed that the trusteeship of the town belt should vest in suburban equally with the town Municipality.

The Chamber of Commerce could barely get a quorum at its annual meeting yesterday. The Chairman admitted that the Chamber did not have the influence it ought. The Committee's report went over a deal of old ground. Considerable reference was made to the delay in the construction of the southern line, which was solely attributable to the Government. On Friday the Chamber meets the Otago representatives of the Assembly to advise what action will be taken to push on the work re branch lines. The Committee pronounced in favor of the South Taieri route for the central interior. A line branch from Waipahi to Taieri, and a loop line from Gore to Elbow, all urgently needed in the general cause. The trade report speaks at length, notwithstanding the doubts and fears with which 1876 opened, and the gloomy prognostication indulged in by the Press of the neighboring colonies, New Zealand has gone through what threatened to be a State severe crisis with degrees of success altogether unlooked for, and it may safely be said that the "worst is over." In Dunedin there was an undue accumulation of stocks, which have been and are being gradually reduced. This has led to smaller importation for the past two years, but so far from this being a sign of weakness it may be regarded as judicious management and influence at work, tending to reduce the gross value of imports thus:—1st, many classes of goods have gone down in price in a very marked degree; 2nd, iron for railway purposes has not been required to the same extent as in 1874-75; 3rd, we are now manufacturing amongst ourselves large numbers of articles which used formerly to swell up the sum of imports, viz., amongst others, agricultural implements, apparel, boots and shoes, brass and copper wares, chemicals, hats and caps, and furniture. For the time, too, interprovincial trade of a sort suffered a diminution, but this is fast reviving, and will no doubt continue, even now as the Government immigration becomes smaller

there will not be the same facilities for shipments from home to smaller ports of the colony. A striking example of this is to be seen in development of trade between the East Coast of the North Island and Dunedin and Lyttelton. There can be but little doubt that, with the increased appliances and the growing confidence, the instability of commerce in Otago and other provinces, Dunedin will, through the enterprise of its merchants continue to make steady progress, and takes its own ranks amongst the cities of New Zealand. The returns of the exports for the past year shows an increase in all of the more important items of production, with the exception of gold. The export in wool has increased in quantity 10 per cent. from the previous year. The exports of tallow and preserved meat is much larger than for some years previous, and that of various descriptions of grain is well maintained.

At eight o'clock last night, Constable Willis brought a man named Thomas Johnston to the Police Station in a spring cart intending to lock him up, but as he was suffering from delirium tremens, Sergt-Major Bevan ordered his removal to the Hospital, where he died yesterday. Information was conveyed to the police last evening that Johnston had been going about Waikari Hill shouting and in a very excited state. On going to Mr Johnston's house, the constable found him in the hall lying on his back and unable to stand. He appeared to be suffering from drink, and had both his hands on his throat and held a pocket knife in his hand, but did not attempt any injury to himself. His detention at the Police Station was very short for he was removed to the Hospital almost immediately. An inquest will be held to-morrow.

WAIROA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 9.

The Manaia is outside, and will land a portion of her cargo this afternoon.

There is not much sea on.

John Fiucane of the A. C. who died at Te Kapu yesterday, is to be buried to-day. This is the third death in the small body of A. C. at Te Kapu, in a short space of time.

River very high. A Public Meeting is called for Thursday, to consider the Bar question.

Mr. Frost, Mesmeric Lecturer and Electro Biologist, gives a lecture to-night in the School-room.

GISBORNE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 11.

Much alarm is felt here owing to a rumor that Te Kooti is intending to come here for another massacre. The town is quite unprotected. There are no Volunteer corps, and only some half-a-dozen Mounted Constabulary. A public meeting is to be held to-night. Some of the Poverty Bay natives are known to be in communication with Te Kooti.

June 12.

At the public meeting last night it was decided to form a volunteer force. It is thought very unlikely Te Kooti will dare to show his face. The Government is blamed for withdrawing the reward for his apprehension or for shooting him. A cavalry corps is to be formed for the country.

AUCKLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

June 12.

Frederick Pilling, son of the wife of Colonel De Quincey by her first husband, was killed at football. He was an active young man, weighing twelve stone, and was one of the football team that went South. The accident occurred in a match between Ponsonby and Parnell. Pilling had been very active. He had again obtained possession of the ball, and darted across the field at his top speed to try and secure another touch-down. He had succeeded in passing all approach but two and both these were on the alert to arrest his victorious progress. One of them, a son of Colonel Haultain, a young man about his own size, reached him before the other could come up. Pilling lowered his head and rushed ram-like at his adversary. He landed full butt against him skirting his head against Haultain's left arm, which was held in close to his side. The effect was so remarkable that several of the spectators immediately concluded something was wrong. There was no recoil, but Pilling simply fell all of a heap. He tried to rise, but could not, and on his companion running up and asking him what was wrong, replied that he did not know but that he "felt as if everything had given

way." Two or three tried to put him on his feet, but he again collapsed altogether, his legs being utterly useless. When asked if he was in pain, he said he felt pain in his head and at the back of his neck. He was carried on a stretcher to his home. Three doctors agreed that concussion of the spine had occurred. All the lower part of the body was paralysed. He continued unchanged all through Saturday night. On Sunday the poor fellow felt no pain, and talked cheerfully to a few friends. "Never mind, old man," he said to one, "we won the game." At one o'clock yesterday morning a swelling of the stomach took place. He more than once complained of pain, still there was no decided alteration. At half-past nine yesterday morning, tetanic symptoms began to develop. A few minutes later Pilling was seized with an epileptic fit, and after about three minutes of violent convulsions he expired.

An old woman named Mary Scullen died suddenly on Sunday night. Dennis Scullen states that his wife was about 60 years of age, and no one lived in the house but the pair. They retired at about nine o'clock, when she was in good health. Five minutes before she died she called Scullen and said, "I feel very sick." He got out of bed and struck a light, but when he looked at her again there was no sign of life. Deceased was subject to fits, and sometimes had as many as three a month.

Capt. Pallant, of the three-masted schooner Mera, from Dunedin, was conveyed to the Hospital from Hokianga suffering from extensive injuries received while superintending the loading of the vessel with baulk timber. Pallant was below in the hold watching the descent of a huge log, which was being lowered in slings, which by some defect in the mode of making fast a piece of timber, it fell with its full weight upon him, striking him in the chest and knocking him down, remaining across the upper part of his leg. The log was lifted off, when it was discovered that one of the sufferer's legs was broken in two places, his breast-bone broken, besides sustaining other injuries.

(PRESS AGENCY.)

WELLINGTON.

June 8.

Mr. G. Thomas reports produce prices as follows:—Flour (Colonial), £18 to £14; oats, 3s 3d to 3s 6d; bran, 1s 3d; wheat, milling 7s, chick 4s 3d; bams, 10d to 11d; bacon, 9d to 10d; cheese, 7½d to 8½d; potatoes, £3 15s to £4; maize, 6s 6d.

June 11.

The return lately prepared, shows the progress of the City of Wellington for the past 7 or 8 years, as regards the value of rateable property. In 1870-71 it was £72,125, it now stands at £176,650.

June 12.

Arrived—Wakatipu from Sydney. Passengers:—Mr and Mrs Harding (of Napier.)

CHRISTCHURCH.

June 8.

The Conversazione, with which the Art Exhibition in the new Museum buildings opened last night, was a splendid success. There was a magnificent collection of works of art and scientific apparatus and curios. The former included upwards of 600 pictures, the majority being very high class. A scientific apparatus was arranged, under the supervision of Professor Bickerton, who with others conducted numerous interesting experiment. Nearly 1000 persons were present. The Governor, accompanied by the Hon Mr. Bowen arrived soon after the opening, and were received by the Canterbury College Governors and a guard of honor formed by the Christchurch Artillery. His Excellency remained some time, and showed great interest in the proceedings. The Art Exhibition will be open several days free.

The annual Poultry Exhibition opened last night. There were 268 exhibits and they are generally of superior qualities.

The Georgia Minstrels open here next Monday.

June 9.

The Canterbury College was opened by the Governor yesterday afternoon. Addresses were read by the Chairman of the Board of Governors and Professor Cook. The Governor, in reply, spoke at some length on education generally. A large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. After the opening ceremonial, the Governor had luncheon with the Board of Governors.

DUNEDIN.

June 9.

The compromise proposed re the dock

question is not likely to eventuate, as Mr Proudfoot requires nearly £8,000 compensation for departing from the terms of his contract. The Board will probably decide to adhere to the original plan.

The following resolutions are to be considered at a meeting of the Dunedin School Committee next Friday:—(1.) That the whole body politic is interested in the cause of primary education; (2.) that secondary or high-class education should be left as much as possible to the voluntary efforts of those who desire it; (3.) that in view of the General Assembly, at an early date, legislating upon the subject of education in a comprehensive manner for the whole colony, it is inadvisable that any specialisation of the education reserves of this provincial district should be given effect to.

Miss Black, who was injured at Messrs Kirkpatrick, Glendinning and Co's on Thursday, is dangerously ill. Miss Galley is not seriously hurt.

Dr. Carr declared Walker the trance medium a humbug and offers to lecture on any subject in a more philosophical manner.

AUCKLAND.

June 8.

Mr Buckland quotes good fat cattle at 30s per 100lbs; sheep, 44d per lb. Bank of New Zealand shares, £21 7s 6d; National, 70s; Colonial, 43s; South British Insurance, 90s; National, 31s 6d; New Zealand, 100s; Loan and Mercantile, 50s; Red Queen, 36s; Caledonian, 94s; Moanatairi, £9 5s to £10; Waitekauri, 7s 6d to 8s 3d; Union Beach, 24s; Tokatea, 19s; Kurunui, 27s to 29s; Piako, 8s 6d; Thames, 50s; Queen, 2s 6d.

June 11.

At the football match on Saturday, Frederick Pilling sustained a concussion of the spine. His left arm and both legs are paralysed. He was thrown by a player who gave him the shoulder sideways, sending him with headlong speed several yards, causing him to fall with great violence. He is not expected to live.

Manuel De Faty has been arrested charged with a breach of the Custom's Distillation Act by having an illicit still on the Great Barrier. He was remanded until Tuesday, bail being accepted for himself in £500 and two sureties of £250 each.

June 12.

Frederick Pilling, a stepson of Colonel De Quincey, who was injured at the football match on Saturday, died yesterday morning. He was in the act of taking a run, and had successfully passed all but two of the opposite side, when he lowered his head, and with great force came against the son of Colonel Haultain, striking him with his head on the left arm pressed against the side. Pilling immediately fell all of a heap, and was unable to rise. When asked what was wrong, he said he felt as if everything had given way. The medical examination showed that he had received a concussion of the spine. Tetanic symptoms set in at a quarter to ten yesterday morning, which was followed immediately by an epileptic fit, from which he died. Deceased was sensible from the time of the accident, and conversed cheerfully, laying great stress on the fact that his side had won, and had played brilliantly.

A woman named Mary Cullen, aged sixty years, died suddenly on Sunday night.

WANGANUI.

June 12.

A translation of the Wangaui Herald's leader on the proposed new Native Lands Bill has been circulated among the natives and meets with general approval. The Herald points out that the proposed thirty per cent *ad valorem* duty will tend to reduce the price for land received by the natives, and will not prohibit land sharking.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE BREAD QUESTION.

SIR,—The bread question at the present time gives so much a matter of public interest, I have been induced to offer some explanation (with kind permission of space in your columns) of the position it now occupies in a monetary sense.

It is almost unnecessary to state, that for the purpose of securing good bread, nothing but the best flour can be employed—the question of cost therefore in preparing bread made with inferior or flour from grown wheat, is apart from the purpose—although the profit from such, would be far greater, it could give but poor satisfaction to any tradesman, whose object is to supply that most

necessary article of food, of a quality that should be of the very best.

The present price asked by merchants at the Spit, for best brands New Zealand, is £21; Inferior, £15 and upwards; Adelaide, £25 per ton respectively, and it is a fact tolerably well known, that Adelaide flour must be used by bakers of good bread, on account of its strength.

The proportion used in my bread is one half best Adelaide, one half best New Zealand flour, therefore the cost of 200lb sack with cartage, comes to £2 3s 6d. This quantity is reckoned to turn out 140 plain and fancy loaves together, the dough weighing before putting into oven, about 2lb 2ozs to 2lb to 3ozs. The plain bread on first coming out, will perhaps weigh a little over 2lb, and the fancy bread on account of larger body exposed to heat, thereby losing more by evaporation a little less than 2lb, and of course the longer kept, the less it weighs. Taking the 140 loaves as costing for flour alone £2 3s 6d, and selling the same at 4d per loaf gives a profit of 15s 2d out of which wages, firing, yeast, &c., also, light, rent, wear and tear have to be paid, and if to that man, horse and cart, for delivery, be taken into account, we will suppose they deliver 200 loaves a day—which may be considered a good day's work—4d per loaf only gives 12s 6d cost, an amount I think, most people will say, cannot cover outlay.

When I commenced baking, it was with the idea of convenience to those customers, who favored me with the supplying their wants, and possible profit to myself, and by selling at a low rate for cash at the store, the money expended in cost of delivery is saved to them, as well as extra profit to allow for bad debts. My aim is to co-operate with the public where they will allow me, in bringing about cash transactions, for, wherever instituted, it must be a saving both of time and money, and avoiding errors and disputes in accounts, which so often occur, especially where catables are concerned.

I should not, perhaps, have written upon the bread question, but that lately letters have appeared in your columns respecting weight of bread; and, as I believe I was the only party selling bread at the price mentioned, viz, 3d at the date, I beg to state that, from the commencement, my instructions have been to weigh plain bread whenever requested, in fact, on starting the trade, it was invariably done without request, until my customers expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied without weighing. I have known it repeatedly refused taking the small piece that might be required to make up weight of three or four loaves a day old. I shall be perfectly satisfied to see a thorough system of selling bread by weight carried out; but let it be thorough. I fancy, however, few would like to receive their bread made up of pieces; or if a new loaf, weighing more than it should, to have a slice taken off, and by the time it reached home to lose another slice before it was presentable at table.

In conclusion, I shall endeavor to sell best bread, of fair weight, at my store, for cash, as cheap as the price of good flour will allow; but until some thorough system of regulating the sale of good and pure bread by weight be adopted, the general public are the surest judges of where to get the best value for money.—I am, &c.,

GEORGE SCARFE.

Napier, June 9, 1877.

P.S.—I think your correspondent, in making a public charge, need not have withheld his name.—G.S.

REPUDIATION.

SIR,—At the last meeting of the Wairoa County Council, I heard one of that body, whilst discussing the merits of the arrangement made with you, re advertising, suggest repudiation, provided it could be done honorably. Now, let me tell the honorable member that no man or body of men can do dishonorable or dirty tricks honorably, or be dishonest honestly. Further, I would suggest to this local chatband a discontinuance of preaching, and leave to others the disquisition of such trifles as honor and honesty, or, in other words, to men that understand their meaning.—I am, &c.,

PAPIAS.

Wairoa, June 4, 1877.

SKATING.

SIR,—In reference to the letter signed W. Mayo, in this morning's Herald, I beg to state that the gentleman has made an utterly unfounded statement, in saying I used insulting language towards him. The facts of the matter are these: This gentleman, in company with two others came to the door and offered a shilling to

go into the rink, I told him the shilling place was in the gallery, when he became rather insulting, and said, "I did not keep to the terms of my advertisement, which stated the admission to be one shilling." I told him to read it again, and he would find it said "reserved seats, two shillings" and as all the floor is reserved for skating, I can only put a limited number of skates into the rink which I am obliged to reserve, or I should not have sufficient money in the house to pay expenses. After patiently explaining this to him he said, "he could not pay more than the shilling, and therefore would go to the lecture." He however came back, paid the man at the door a shilling and then refused to go up stairs, but stood blocking up the doorway, I went and asked him to go up stairs, and he began to chaff me until I found he was determined to remain where he was and left him. He remained where he was standing in front of the gentlemen who had paid two shillings until the end of the entertainment, when he went away without any further interference on my part.

During the twenty-five years I have been in the profession, this is the first time I have been charged with insulting behaviour, and I have always held an important position in the profession which I can prove by my critiques in the leading English and American papers. I pride myself on my unflinching courtesy to all, and I think it rather hard that such a charge should be made against me. Assuring Mr. Mayo, that he has made a mistake, and repeating what I told him last night, should he not wish to pay my price of admission, he is at perfect liberty to stay away.—I am &c.,

J. E. TAYLOR

Champion Skater.

June 12, 1877.

MR. SEVERN'S LECTURE.

The announcement that Mr. Severn would give a scientific lecture, on Saturday night, was sufficient to fill the Protestant Hall with a most attentive audience. The subject of the lecture was "The Earth, and its Satellite." In a simple and unassuming manner, Mr. Severn rapidly touched upon the form of the Earth, its motion and tides, illustrating the lesson by rotatory diagrams shown on a screen by means of the oxyhydrogen light. The velocity of the earth's rotation about its axis was illustrated by a pendulum, the action of which was minutely described, having at its lower extremity a needle, which cut through two thin walls of flour, so placed as to be struck at each oscillation of the instrument. In the course of a few minutes the velocity of the earth on its axis (over 1000 miles an hour at the equator) was shown by the flour being cut away by the action of the pendulum needle. The audience were then treated to an exhibition of a series of most beautiful photographs of the moon, shown on the screen and magnified by means of the oxyhydrogen light. Nothing could exceed the interest of this part of the lecture. Finally, various views of places of interest in different parts of the world were exhibited; also animalcules in water, the formation of crystals, and the kaleidoscope. We should not have presumed to criticise Mr. Severn's lecture had he not at its commencement stated that he was lecturing throughout New Zealand with the object of acquiring experience in the art of affording information to the general public on scientific subjects in a popular manner. Mr. Severn quoted Professor Faraday, who said it was easy enough to give a scientific lecture that very few could understand, but it was extremely difficult to bring a lecture within the understandings of the million. This is obvious enough, and it is due to Mr. Severn to say that he has thoroughly overcome the difficulty. If fault could be found with his lecture it would be on account of it being too discursive, and, perhaps, too elementary for the character of the audience. In showing the action of the tides for instance, no explanation was given of the corresponding tide at the antipodes of that under the immediate attraction of the moon. We should also have liked to have heard something more of the radiometer; why one surface of the arms of the "mill" was polished, and the other dimmed; whether it would act under the influence of heat without light, and whether it did not prove that light and heat were not synonymous terms as regards motive power.

It was an old but a good thing said by a French paragrapher lately, to the effect that he hates a girl when she is trying to be a woman and a woman when she is trying to be a girl.

MR. SEVERN'S LECTURES.

Mr Severn gave a lecture on Monday on Spectrum Analysis with experiments illustrative of the production of the spectrum and of some of the striking effects of the light and thermal phenomena attendant thereto. The lecturer briefly described the Emission theory set forth by Newton, and held by Brewster, and stated how it had been set aside by Dr. Young's undulatory or wave theory, that now was universally accepted by physicists. A large model showing the experiment of Newton in retracting a beam of light and forming the spectrum was exhibited and explained. The sifting of a beam of light was next exhibited first the beam was projected through a solution of alum with bisulphide of carbon and the heat rays were cut off. Next the light rays were intercepted by means of a solution of iodine which whilst stopping the light rays permitted those of heat to pass through. The beams were in each instance received on a parabolic reflector in the focus of which stood a cup and there the incident rays fell, the effect being made apparent by, in the instance of the heat rays, the ignition of a piece of phosphorus held in the cup, while with the light rays alone the phosphorus remained in its ordinary state.

The spectrum was then thrown upon the screen by means of the bisulphide of carbon prism. At this stage the lecturer illustrated the decomposition of light, and by means of a second prism, its recombination.

Experiments were then made with that highly sensitive instrument—the thermo-electric pile, the effects being rendered apparent by a reflecting astatic needle, arranged upon the principle of Thomson's reflecting galvanometer. In this part of the lecture we should like to have seen the effects upon the faces of the pile of temperatures below that of the instrument itself, or, in other words, of cold. Photographs were taken by means of the magnesium light, and afterwards in the ultra violet, or chemical rays, of the spectrum. Mr. Severn then described the application of the spectroscopic to the Bessemer steel manufacturing process. Air is blown into the converting vessel containing the molten cast-iron which in this stage of operations contains an excess of carbon; the oxygen of the air burns out the carbon, which ascends the flue as carbonic oxide gas. So long as the carbon is under combustion, certain characteristic lines appear in the spectrum; but the instant these disappear, it is necessary the air blast should be shut off, otherwise the operation is spoiled. The exact time for cutting off the blast was formerly performed empirically by the practiced eye of skilled workmen, with, as the lecturer remarked, much uncertainty. Now, with the spectroscopic, the proper moment for stopping the blast is determined with precision, and the saving thereby in the cost of manufacture is something astonishing.

Some photographic transparencies were then exhibited on the screen, also microscopic objects, and some beautiful designs by means of Dalker's adaptation to the lantern of Sir D. Brewster's kaleidoscope. The lecturer then held in the light beam the radiometer, explaining the construction of the latter, and also describing the theory of its action when held in the path of a beam of light containing heat. We must accord Mr. Severn our hearty thanks for an excellent lecture on a most difficult branch of physics; and we hope that it is only introductory to others in the same domain of scientific demonstration. We were further to hear of his intention to further illustrate spectrum analysis, by shewing us the metallic and other spectra, with the aid of his electric apparatus.

It was gratifying to see the lecture so well attended. The high educational value of scientific expositions, such as the series of lectures to which we are now being treated cannot be overrated, especially in the case of the youths of our community, many of whom will no doubt imbibe from lectures such as these a taste for science, which otherwise might have lain dormant and undeveloped.

A clergyman in Boston recently aroused his sleepy audience by announcing in the most positive manner that, notwithstanding the hard times, the wages of sin had not been cut down one iota.

During a debate in the New South Wales Parliament on the Volunteer Force Regulation Bill, Mr. Parkes expressed the opinion that the time had arrived for the establishment of a military force upon the principle now acted upon in Europe, and found so effective in Germany, and which with certain modifications might furnish a body of men better adapted to the requirements of the country. The second reading of the bill was ultimately lost.

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

At the sitting of the Waste Lands Board on Thursday, the payment by Svend Johansen was accepted of the overdue second instalment of the purchase money of his section in the Makaretu settlement. Mr. Glenny's application was approved for the land forfeited by Hugh McCormick, under clause 78 of the Auckland Waste Lands Act, 1858. This was all the business of public importance.

The exhibition of photographic views of the Lake Scenery, and of White Island, by means of the oxyhydrogen light, in the Odd-fellows' Hall, though desired to be seen by a large number of persons, was only poorly attended owing to so many being drawn away by the Fire Brigade demonstration and other engagements. The exhibition was remarkably interesting, and we are glad to hear that it will be repeated, when we have not the slightest doubt, Mr. Collie will be well repaid for the trouble he has taken to place views of the natural wonders of this country in such a pleasing manner before the residents of Napier.

Any one feeling interested in pig breeding, may witness some of the finest and largest specimens that have been seen in the Province of Hawke's Bay, at Mr. E. Conroy's butchers' shop in Hastings-street. The animals were bred by Mr. M. Baldwin, at his establishment at Waitangi; some of the pigs having taken the first prize at the Cattle Show of 1875-6. We are glad to see that this industry is attaining such perfection in this province, most of the pigs weighing 5 lbs. There is not the least doubt that if this industry was more generally attended to, that the importation of bacon and lard from other provinces would cease. Mr. Baldwin who takes great interest in this branch of his business must find it profitable, and we think beneficial to the province.

The Auckland Star last week fell into an egregious blunder. In noticing in a sub-leader the telegram stating that Her Majesty had been pleased to permit Mr. Richardson, the late Minister of Public Works, to retain the title of Honorable, the Star says "Mr. Richardson, Speaker of the Legislative Council, and then the writer, under the impression that he has hit the nail on the right head, makes some sneering remarks respecting the title of Honorable. As almost every child in New Zealand knows, Sir John Richardson is the Speaker of the Upper House, and in no way connected with the member for Christchurch, the Hon. E. Richardson.

The eaglehawk in the Ararat district are reported to be growing very dangerous and destructive. Whether it is that a scarcity of their ordinary food has made them so bold would be difficult to say, but they now swoop down close to the residences of settlers, and carry away from them anything they can obtain. "On Wednesday last," says the Ararat Advertiser, "when Mr. Clarke was at work amongst his vines at Mount Ararat, he was surprised to see his horse galloping frantically down the side of the hill with an eaglehawk perched upon its neck and tearing at the flesh. The bird was not driven away without some trouble. Mr. Forbes, of Bur-rumbet station, states that four out of a flock of turkeys were carried away from his place in one day last week by these birds, and all bushmen assert that they are the greatest enemy which the hares have."

Mr. Leonard arrived from Auckland by the Southern Cross on Thursday, bringing with him six cases of goods, which he purposes to dispose of in the shop lately occupied by McDowell and Co., in Shakespeare Road. His sale commences on Monday next.

We learn that the Government has paid the subsidy for the year 1875-76 over to the Meaneo Road Board, amounting to £120. A claim still exists for this year's rate.

Were any proofs wanting (writes the Warranamboul Guardian) that a portion of the site upon which Warranamboul now stands was once covered by the waters of the Southern Ocean, it is to be found in the traces of birds and animals found occasionally in the soft sandstone at considerable depths below the present surface. We inspected the other day a piece of sandstone, now in the possession of Sergeant Archibald, which was taken out of Blevin's quarry, at the intersection of Lava and Henna streets, and upon which are clearly traceable the footprints of a large bird, the impressions of the feet being very distinct. This stone was excavated some eighteen months ago at a depth of forty feet below the surface, and though soft enough when first taken out, has now, after a long exposure to wind and rain, become thoroughly hardened, whilst still retaining the interesting marks above alluded to. We understand that from the same quarry stone has been obtained at considerable depth bearing unmistakable traces of the presence of kangaroos in bygone ages.

Amongst the debris collected on the scene of the recent railway accident at Arlesey was a Bible containing the following inscription on a fly-leaf: "Should I by accident be killed to-morrow, I wish this Bible to be given to my mother." This book proved to be the property of a gallant officer who penned those lines on the eve of the battle of Inkerman, and who happily escaped all but scathless from the accident on the Great Northern. The volume has been his faithful companion for upwards of 30 years.

The following story is told by a contemporary:—There is a scandal in Auckland just now in temperance circles, a friend tells me by letter. It seems that two leading lights of the temperance world—I shall call them Messrs Dodson and Fogg—had occasion to go to a suburb on business. They left Auckland in a buggy, and the day being very hot, they stopped—there being no one in sight—at a public house on the way to drink some lemonade. The lemonade was strong, and got into poor Fogg's head—at no time a strong one—and he couldn't be persuaded to get into the trap. "Now consider, my dear Fogg, suppose anyone should see us; get in there's a good fellow." Fogg, I grieve to state, swore awfully, and though hitherto considered a pious man, announced his determination to stay where he was, "and have it out." Fogg then began to boast of his qualifications till Dodson could stand it no longer, and burst out with, "You may be able to drink, Fogg but for—villainy allow me!" Boniface tells the story with great gusto, but, as he doesn't like temperance people, I'm a little suspicious as to the genuineness of the story.

Referring to the rumored split between Mr. J. Mackay and the Government, the Thames Star says:—"In reference to this matter, we have been informed, and are requested to state, that there has been no split between Mr. Mackay and the Government, nor any difference of opinion whatever; that Mr. Mackay's absence from the sitting of the Native Lands Court, in Shortland, is accounted for by the fact that he has no business at such Court, it having been arranged at a previous sitting of the Court that the question should be adjourned to Ohinemuri. This, we are assured, is perfectly understood by the Ohinemuri natives, and is the only reason the latter, as well as Mr. Mackay, have not attended the Court in Shortland. We may mention that two days ago we were informed that there had been a 'split,' as reported by the Herald's correspondent, and the name of a gentleman was mentioned as Mr. Mackay's successor in the land purchase department of this district. It is therefore the more satisfactory to receive an assurance that no rupture has occurred between Mr. Mackay and the Government, nor anything that is calculated to impair the former's influence with the natives in completing the purchases he has begun. Mr. Mackay is to be in attendance at the Court at Ohinemuri as soon as it opens, and we are informed that he has everything in a fair way for completing the business in hand. We trust such will be found to be the case."

The Rev. Dr. Cook says that "existence after death is but a postulate of the psychological analysis of the soul." The wild, natural yearning for an unending existence is intensified three thousand times, now that we know it's going to take a whole dictionary to tell our friends what shape we're in after the funeral.

Confidence is everything between husband and wife; and a woman who loves deserves above all things to be trusted. She would not be glad when her husband is sad; she would not be ignorant of his troubles or his anxieties; anything is better to her than to be shut out from the innermost part of the life of one who should be all hers as she is all his.

Mike Murphy was slightly surprised this morning, says the Gold Hill News. He was working on the 1,000-foot level of the Beldher mine, and while employed in picking up some loose rock found a giant powder cap. It looked as if it had been used, but in order to satisfy himself, Murphy put it in the blaze of a candle. The cap and the ends of Murphy's fingers went off at the same time.

The intelligent Wairoa correspondent of the Herald telegraphed the following, as an item of news to that journal on Friday:—"Popular feeling is against the TELEGRAPH for not giving up the Council advertisements in favor of the local paper." Such refreshing innocence is positively amusing. The TELEGRAPH obtains a contract and actually declines to give it to a rival, and therefore popular feeling is against this journal at Wairoa. The "popular feeling" we imagine is confined to the Wairoa Free Press Office, for every mail we receive fresh evidence of the growing popularity of the TELEGRAPH in that district, by additions to our subscription list. On Monday we shall probably hear from this verdant correspondent, that "popular feeling" is against the TELEGRAPH at Wairoa, because it declines to hand over its subscribers to the proprietor of the local paper.

A fearful accident occurred on Thursday afternoon, about three o'clock, to a son of Dr. Hitchings, aged 12 years. It appears that the youth was riding in one of the trucks on the reclamation works, and attempted to pass from the one he was in to another. In doing so, he fell between the trucks, three of which loaded, passed over both his legs which were fearfully crushed and mutilated. He was conveyed to his father's house, where we need hardly say every attention is being paid the sufferer. Fears are entertained for his recovery.

W. W. Wilson, Esq., has consented to allow himself to be nominated for the office of first Mayor of Gisborne, on the requisition of a numerous body of burgesses. Mr. E. H. Crawford, the Gisborne brewer, and Mr. Berry are also candidates for the Mayorship.

The members of the Napier Gymnasium Club gave their entertainment, in the Odd-fellows' Hall on Friday, when we were glad to see a good audience. The whole of the gymnastic performances were gone through with much neatness, many of them requiring considerable nerve to execute. The proceedings were enlivened by the fantastic behaviour of the Clown, Mr. Rendle, whose eccentricities repeatedly brought down the house. Besides being an excellent clown, Mr. Rendle is also a practised gymnast. The singing of Messrs. Gilpin, Waltho, and Scott, was completely marred by the manner in which the pianoforte accompaniments were played. The orchestral performances, in fact, were simply execrable. We think the Gymnasium Club, in future, would do better to rely on their own powers to amuse, than to go outside the Club for assistance.

The Wananga advises the Maoris to draw up petitions to the General Assembly, praying that natives' titles to land may be settled by the great chiefs and wise men of the Maori race. Our contemporary has come to this conclusion from the very satisfactory manner in which the Court constituted by the Wairarapa Maori Committee, settled the complicated Papawai dispute.

The Bruce Herald makes the assertion that if a petition calling on Mr. Murray, M.H.R. for Bruce, to resign were got up, it would be largely signed in the district.

Messrs Cargill, Gibbs and Co. have received the following telegram from Helmut, Schwartz and Co., London:—"Since our last telegram there is an increase in the animation then apparent. Prices for greasy are as high as at the end of the last series, particularly for medium wools. For the best sorts prices are at par to 1d lower. Prices for fleeces washed show an average decline of fully a penny, compared with the lowest rates of the last series of sales. Cross-breds continue to be neglected."

Mr Valentine Baker's plans for the defence of Constansinople are being elaborated to the minutest detail. The Russians, to whom the outline of the scheme is no secret, admit that Mr Baker has proved himself a master of the art of fortification.—Court Journal.

Judging by the report of the Acting-Adjutant in Otago, the volunteer spirit is somewhat declining amongst the older and younger corps in the city of Dunedin. Of the once celebrated and efficient No. 1 Company of City Guards he says:—"This corps is not in the same prosperous state as when I had the honor of inspecting it last year, and the remarks I then made do not apply on this occasion. On the contrary, there is a general falling off in the attendance at parade, and there seems to be but little interest taken by the members in the prosperity of the company. It is to be regretted that these unhealthy signs should manifest themselves in a corps which formed the nucleus of the volunteer movement in the city, as well as the province, and a corps that undoubtedly was the mainstay of the volunteers here since 1864." Of the City Guard Cadets he also says:—"The arms and accoutrements I found to be but carelessly taken care of, and it was urged as an excuse that the arms issued to the company were now old, and consequently the cadets took but little interest in keeping them clean. I replied that they would be trusted with good and serviceable rifles when they took better care of the old ones. The conduct of the company generally reflects but little credit on its officers."

Poverty Bay papers to hand give an account of the Agricultural Show held on the 2nd instant in Mr. Poynter's paddocks. The exhibits were not numerous; the prizes ranged from 5s to 30s. The Standard's reporter, alluding to the wonders and curiosities of the Show, says:—"There was a donkey also among the exhibits, the first I had seen in New Zealand. It reminded me of my childhood's days and of two or three of my friends. I should have felt happy if I could have got the pumpkins off my mind, but I couldn't. Turu which way I might, hugh pumpkins met me everywhere and stared me in the face. They were so many and in such multitudinous places that they were not to be rid of. They got mixed in with the potatoes. They edged round the poultry. The donkey ran into a pile. The Maoris made stools of them to sit upon. Some appeared as if they had taken root in the ground and were beginning to swell. It looked to me as if we dwelt in the land of pumpkins and had little else to live upon. There was a cask of Crawford's beer on the ground. The beer took the prize and the people took the beer which perhaps equalised the thing."

The "Travelling Contributor" to the Melbourne Leader, in reference to the liquor traffic in Massachusetts says,—"The only peculiar law in Massachusetts is that which prohibits bars, and compels all publicans to serve liquor only to guests who desire to take meals. But the regulation is practically disregarded, and I had been twice at Boston before I knew of its existence. Bars are quite as common in Boston as elsewhere."

It is gazetted that the presenter of a telegram marked "urgent," by paying double rates, can have priority of transmission over all others on and after the 1st of July.

Inspector Seully acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £1 from a lady, per Mrs Flynn, for the destitute poor.

The s.s. Southern Cross is advertised for sale by the Auckland Steam Packet Company.

The Hon W. Fox, in a recent speech at New Plymouth, said:—"As to the ability of the Government to perform public works, I heard from the lips of Mr. Ormond recently that by the loans which they had obtained from the two colonial banks they hoped in two years to be able to complete all the works authorised by Parliament."

The Otago Guardian confidently recommends any young aspirant to political fame to secure a seat in the Taieri County Council, and undergo a few months' training there before entering Parliament. Questions of great and small importance are there discussed according to the practice laid down by "May," and yesterday one of the members "spoke against time" for fully 20 minutes to prevent the passing of an objectionable resolution. He gained his point, as several of the other members had to leave in time to catch the half-past 4 o'clock train. Mr. H. Driver did not appear to enter so thoroughly into the spirit of the proceedings, for at one time he remarked that he would prefer a little more business and considerably less of what he termed "yabber."

The case of Mr. Turner, the Christchurch farmer, who was gored by a bull, may well be said to be a marvellous one. Although trampled on by the bull which attacked him, his legs were not broken, and his body was not injured, but his head suffered terribly. The animal's horn completely lifted the under jaw out of its socket, flesh, skin, and all, along with part of the profile; also injuring one of the eyes. The bull, when first seen after the accident, was standing over the mutilated portions of the head, lying some fifteen yards away from poor Mr. Turner's body, and it was licking it. Mr. Turner, strange to say, is lively and perfectly conscious, and the South Canterbury Times adds that he is able to write, and is fed by means of a stomach pump.

A fatal accident occurred at the Hutt, Wellington, on Friday morning, by which a settler named Johnson, formerly a soldier in the 93rd and 65th Regiments, was killed. He was driving a horse and cart on the road near Belmont, and by some means he got over the edge of a steep bank and rolled to the bottom of a gully. Some men picked him up dead under the cart.

A singular accident happened to an infant named Alexander Cameron aged 15 months, at Linden, just beyond the Dunedin Town Belt last Saturday morning. The little fellow was playing in the house of his parents with a small screw nail in his mouth, when he fell, and the nail got fixed in his throat. He was taken to the Hospital as speedily as possible, but died before the nail could be removed.

The Hawke's Bay County Council held a special meeting on Monday, when the resolution passed at a special meeting on April 27, adopting the by-laws was confirmed. The Council then held its ordinary meeting. Present all the members. Reports on the bridges, prepared by Mr. E. H. Bold, were laid on the table, with estimates of the cost of repair. It was agreed that the police should act as dog-tax collectors. A petition was presented from a number of Taradale ratpayers, representing to the Council the disgraceful state of the Taipō Creek. The Council adjourned at 1 p.m.

One effect of the swamp reclamation in Napier, as far as it has got, is to kill the eels. The undisturbed swamp waters are visited daily by swarms of sea birds that feed sumptuously on the sickened eels wriggling on the surface of the water. It is supposed that the lime stone, of which a large proportion of the reclamation material is composed, disagrees with the eels. As the Napier boys share with the sea-gulls the profits of the harvest thus provided, it is evident that the eels are none the worse as human food for the infusion of lime in their bodies.

The Oddfellows' Hall was opened on Saturday evening as a skating rink, by Professor Taylor and Lillie. There was a very fair attendance. During the early part of the evening several amateurs tried the rollers, and to the no small amusement of those present, made an acquaintance with the floor. Shortly after 8 o'clock Professor Taylor and Lillie commenced their entertainment by going through some graceful movements; then they had a song and dance on skates, followed by dancing the valseviana.—Mr. Flood presiding at the piano. A race on skates was then got up the winner to obtain as a prize a small silver cup. For this there were five entries, the winner being a Napier youth, who went round the course in twelve seconds less than any of the other competitors. The Professor and his lady gave further exhibitions of their skill on the rollers, and went through a series of feats which must be seen to be appreciated.

We must go abroad for news. The dramatic reporter for the New Zealand Times, states in that journal that all the shares in the Napier Theatre Company have been taken up, and that the building is to be erected at once. We are under the impression that we can give an almost unqualified contradiction to the above.

Many of our readers may not be aware that Mr. Otley, of the City Dining Rooms, has fitted up at the back of his establishment, a commodious bath room, where persons can get either cold or hot baths, as they may desire at any hour of the day or evening. The arrangements are very complete, the cold water being supplied from the artesian well, and the hot water being obtained from a pipe leading from a large tank erected in the kitchen.

The friends of Dr Hitchings will be gratified to learn that his son, who met with an accident at the reclamation works, is progressing favorably, he being now considered out of danger.

Dr. Ormond, we understand is about to relinquish medical practice at Wairoa. If this be true, there is a good opening for a doctor in this district.

The shareholders in the Napier Theatre Company met on Tuesday at the Criterion Hotel. Dr. Gibbs in the chair. The Secretary, Mr. Upham, informed the meeting that 100 shares had been taken up, and that the following sites for the theatre had been offered to the company:—A site in Shakespeare-road for £2000; one in Shakespeare-quarry, 90 feet by 180 feet, £600; one adjoining the Herald office, 60 by 125 feet, £1000; and one 66 feet by 165 feet, with frontages to Emerson-street and Tennyson-street, £750. A committee was appointed to inspect the best sites available and report at a future meeting.

To the Editor.—Sir,—It was at one time mooted to raise a monument to our late member, Sir Donald McLean. Are you aware whether any steps have been taken in the matter? Or has the proposition fallen through? There are many—very many—in this district who owe their present independent position to Sir Donald McLean, and I think the least they might do is to assist in erecting a memorial to his honor.—I am, &c., M.D.

A French chemist makes the remarkable announcement that the mere presence of an iron bar in a box of grain, biscuit and the like, will prevent both decay and attacks of insects. It's not an expensive experiment. Any farmer can find a broken plough-share or log chain to put in the grain bin.

We notice the Municipal workmen are engaged making an open culvert from Milton-road and across part of Clive Square. A work that was much needed and required. On Tuesday, to prevent an accident, a fence was erected on one side of the works, but the other was left open. Might we suggest to the authorities the advisability of placing a light where the works are going on, as it might be the means of saving a considerable amount of trouble to some members of the medical profession.

The members of the Oamaru Harbor Board are very unhappy. Last week a special meeting was held to enquire into certain rumors affecting the integrity of the Board, and as to the authorship of a letter signed "Venice Preserved," reflecting on the Board's proceedings, which appeared in the Evening Mail of the 28th December. The meeting was a stormy one, and strong language was used on both sides. The principal evidence was that of one Heskett, who said he had written the letter for Mr. Shrimski, but was not paid for doing it. Mr. Stewart declared that Heskett had told him that he had been paid two guineas by Shrimski for writing it. Mr. Shrimski himself told the Board that he did not dictate the letter, and he did not pay for it, and whoever said he paid for it told a lie. The evidence is to be forwarded to the Governor.

Says the Canterbury Times in its commercial columns:—"We notice that considerable shipments have been made by the steamers to Australia and the North Island. We regret to say that our attention has been drawn to a very reprehensible practice which is beginning to creep into the market, and one that will ultimately tend to bring this province into discredit. We allude to the manner in which some of the parcels reach buyers' hands, viz., the lower portion of the sacks are found to contain very small and unmarketable potatoes, some little larger than marbles, the remainder of the sack being filled with potatoes of good quality. Canterbury potatoes are already looked upon with disfavour in the Australian market, and command 10s to 20s per ton less than Tasmanian or Warrambool production; this is entirely owing to the fact of our farmers not changing their seed often enough, and the manner in which the sacks are filled."

A jury in Alabama, says the Danbury Reporter, had been impanelled in the case of a Mr. Johnson, charged with killing his wife. The evidence was positive and conclusive, leaving no doubt of his speedy conviction. To the amazement of all, the jury, after a short absence, returned a verdict, "Guilty of horse stealing." The judge, astonished, asked an explanation, stating that the indictment was not for horse stealing, but manslaughter. The foreman, with his hand upon a large law book, and with an amusingly dignified air, informed the court that "it was not a case of manslaughter, but woman-slaughter, for which the law made no provision; but being satisfied the man deserved to be hanged, they had brought in a verdict of horse-stealing, which, in that county, would be sure to swing him."

Telegraphic communication between Wellington and Napier was interrupted during the course of Wednesday, but it was restored before two o'clock in the afternoon.

"The Sun, and modern Solar discoveries," were the subjects of Mr. Severn's lecture on Tuesday at the Protestant Hall, and which attracted a large audience. We regret that our space will not allow us to give an extended notice of the lecture, suffice it to say, that Mr. Severn handled his subject in such a way as to place clearly before his hearers much that was extremely interesting. Another lecture will be given to-night, the subject chosen being the "Solar System."

At Oamaru the same complaints with regard to fencing in the railway line are made as in this district. The local journal of Tuesday says:—"It is high time that effectual steps were taken to prevent the constantly-recurring chances of accidents in consequence of the straying of cattle on our railway lines. The engine despatched for last night's missing train encountered a bullock on the line when near the Kaka Bridge. The night was about as dark as Erebus, which circumstance precluded all possibility of discerning any obstruction. The jolt consequent on running over the animal was sufficient to throw the engine off the rails; indeed it is quite a wonder it did not do so. It would have created a little surprise amongst the railway officials here had this engine, sent to render assistance, been missing as well as the up train; and yet it is plain that such a contingency was not far from being realised. It is quite within the range of probability that had the animal been lying across the line over the Kaka Bridge, the engine would have been precipitated into the gulf beneath. Experience teaches us that such an occurrence is just possible, although we may congratulate ourselves upon the immunity we enjoy from serious accidents involving loss of human life. It is a serious question, and calls for the immediate attention of the Government."

A writer in the Nelson Mail is rather hard on the legal fraternity. He observes:—"The Davenport Brothers have found their master at Auckland, and the audience hissed and hooted them because they could not loosen their bonds. I think the audience were in the wrong for two reasons; in the first place the mere failure to get free was not deserving of such treatment under any circumstances; in the second, the audience should have remembered that one of the tiers (Mr. Hesketh) was a member of the legal profession. I have known before this more than one instance of a man being bound hand and foot by the lawyers so that he could not move, and no one thought of hissing him, but rather regarded him as an object of sympathy."

The Canterbury Press is of opinion that the present Ministry will survive the next session. Our contemporary says:—"As far as Ministers are concerned, of course it is impossible to foretell what unfortunate casualties may happen; but looking to the general aspect of political affairs, we do not see that there is much for them to be afraid of. There are rocks ahead which will require careful steering, and they will doubtless have some rough squalls to encounter. But unless they commit some great blunder, or one of those unexpected crises should arise which upset all calculations, we believe that the gallant captain will get safely through the turmoil, and will guide his bark finally into secure anchorage."

Everyone has read of the uses to which photography was put during the siege of Paris. When that capital was cut off from intercourse with the rest of the world, microscopic despatches were sent to and fro by means of carrier pigeons. These despatches, having been printed, were reduced by photography to such a minute form that they could be enclosed in a quill fastened to the tail of a pigeon. They were read easily enough when they came to hand; the recipients projected them on a screen by aid of a photo-electric microscope. The same principle of reducing printed characters by means of photography is, according to a scientific contemporary, to be adopted by the War Office for producing maps and plans on a small scale. The Ordnance Survey maps are to be photographed so as to measure only three or four inches in length. So delicately and distily can this be done, that the roads and railways will still be recognisable with the naked eye, while with the aid of a magnifying-glass the name of every hamlet and village will be read with ease. The little maps will be transparent, so that they must be held up to the light to be examined, and they will weigh only a few grains each. A scout might travel with fifty such maps in his waist coat pocket, and the whole Continent of Europe depicted in this way could be contained in a pocket book.

An Auckland telegram in the Argus says:—"A reporter has interviewed Mr. Whitaker re the alleged differences in the Ministry. Mr. Whitaker denies that any serious difference took place on the main policy, though there was a slight disagreement regarding minor questions. He says it is impossible a set of men could be all of one mind. He explains the hurried departure of the Hon. member thus:—"She was to be at Kaipara on a certain date, and had been delayed owing to the weather at Wellington. She was therefore hurried away to make up time."

His Worship the Mayor, in his capacity of Resident Magistrate, is not likely to be accused of undue severity to offenders. On Thursday, a man of the name James Kelly, remanded from last Monday, was charged with stealing a pair of boots from the shop of Mr. T. Williams. The prisoner did not attempt to deny the charge, but pleaded ignorance of the theft, inasmuch as he was drunk at the time. The stolen boots had been found in the prisoner's possession, and had been taken from him Kelly, previously had been convicted under the Vagrancy Act, and has also been punished for drunkenness. His Worship, apparently forgetting that it has been laid down, over and over again by Judges of the higher Courts, that drunkenness is no excuse for crime, dismissed the prisoner with a caution.

Mr. W. L. Rees, M.H.R., has kindly consented to give a lecture, in the course of a few days, for the benefit of the Athenaeum.

Heads of families will be glad to learn that the price of flour has fallen in Sydney, ten shillings in the ton. We hope soon to hear that a like fall has taken place in the New Zealand market.

The Meance bridge, on the new Taradale Road, is expected to be finished in about a fortnight.

Some ten years ago, the well-known Wairoa chief, Hamana Takiwai, presented, in trust we infer, eight sections in the township of Clyde, as an endowment for a school for Native and European children. The first school at Wairoa was built on this land, but, on the building falling into decay, another school was erected in a more central part of the town. Hamana now wants to know the reason why his gift has not been taken advantage of? Why no native children are taught at the English school? These questions should be answered, and the position of the trust enquired into. Hamana thinks that if his donation is not worth having, or making use of, he may as well have the land back again.

Large quantities of copra are exported from the South Sea Islands to Auckland, from whence they are transhipped to England where the oil is extracted. A mill is about to be erected at Auckland, so as to export the oil instead of the raw material. Copra is prepared from the fruit of the cocoa tree; the shell is taken off and the inside dried.

Onehunga is taking time by the forelock, and is organising a Volunteer Artillery corps.

The "extreme oppositionists," of Dunedin, by which term, we suppose, is meant the party in favor of separation, intend to carry out their project of starting a morning paper at Wellington during the coming session.

The Otago Waste Lands Board has been threatened by Mr. Stout with legal proceedings for its refusal to re-lease certain runs. The Board, however, is determined to carry out its resolution in this respect, and in addition, will probably accede to a petition from the Palmerston district, praying that 10,000 acres of land on Sir Dillon Bell's run may be opened for settlement on the expiry of the lease.

The Harbor Board met on Tuesday. Present:—Messrs. Kinross (Chairman), Kennedy, Vautier, Chambers, Smith, and Newman. The Engineer's report referred to Mr. Rathbone's timber contract being in arrears. The Board resolved that the lighthouse reserve should be leased for twelve months as from June 30 next. A letter from the Commissioner of Customs was read, stating that the lighthouse would be maintained by the Government. A letter was read from the harbor works contractor's representative stating that he would hold the Board responsible for the deviation of the western mole. This was all the business of public importance.

We (Rangiora Standard) believe that at the forthcoming Session of Parliament it is the intention of the Government to hand over the control and management of hospitals to Borough Councils and to County Councils, on certain terms and conditions to be settled by the Assembly, on the recommendation of Ministers. This proposal, we cannot but think is grossly unfair, as the result of its adoption would naturally be to throw the maintenance of hospitals which are erected for the common benefit of several districts, upon one district only, and it would be absurd to place such management in the hands of the people of one district to the exclusion of any other contributing districts. The proper system would evidently be that adopted in some towns in the north of the colony, where boards or committees of management are appointed, who draw their revenues partly from local rates, partly from charitable donations, and also from subsidies out of the consolidated revenue. There is no doubt, but that some warm arguments will see daylight in the Assembly when this question of hospital maintenance and management comes on for discussion.

A scandalous charge is preferred against some member or members of the Westland County Council by a man named W. Kenny, who states that having occasion to get a tender back for alteration before the meeting of the Council, he found it had been opened, and that most clumsily. He asserts that he can prove this by three respectable witnesses.

We hear from Melbourne, that the protection policy of Victoria, established during the administration of Sir C. G. Duffy, was not inaugurated until after the advice had been taken of Thomas Carlyle, J. S. Mill, and John Bright, who were all in favor of a new country protecting its manufactures.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint S. Locke Esq. of Napier, to be a Trust Commissioner for the Hawke's Bay District, under the Native Lands Frauds Prevention Act.

We draw particular attention to Mr. H. A. Severn's second course of lectures. The Dunedin, Nelson, and Wellington, papers speak highly of the experiments, especially the Electric lamp, effusion of metals which are of an exceedingly interesting character. We hope that the citizens of Napier will crowd to the Oddfellow's Hall to see these beautiful experiments. The first lecture will commence on Saturday evening at 8 o'clock, and will comprise spectrum analysis with a large galvanic battery and the electric light.

In an article speculating on the possibility of a general European war taking place, the Timaru Herald points out the complications which would arise amongst the members of the various reigning families. The Courts," it remarks, "of Great Britain, Germany, and Russia are connected by the closest and most numerous family ties; and it is impossible that a rupture could occur between any two of these Powers, without filling many a purple clothed breast with grief and anxiety. The Emperor of Germany is intimately related to Queen Victoria, and his eldest son is married to her eldest daughter. But the Emperor's sister was mother of the Czar Alexander, so that his relationship with the Russian reigning family is quite as close as with that of Great Britain. Next, we find that Queen Victoria's second son is married to the Czar's only daughter, while the Grand Duke Alexander, the Czar's eldest surviving son, is married to a sister of the Princess of Wales, and the Grand Duchess Olga, niece of the Czar, is married to King George of Greece, brother of the Princess of Wales. Here is such a delightful kind of omnium gatherum connection that the next generation of royal and imperial youngsters in Great Britain, Germany, and Russia will all be about equally related to one another. These people plume themselves on the purity of their descent, and the scrupulous care with which any but kingly blood is excluded from their veins. Does it never occur to them, we wonder, that in reality, they are about the greatest of all mongrels?"

The town went to bed on Monday laughing at the idea of twelve men being locked up for not coming to a decision respecting the guilt or innocence of John Hayman. The jury on the trial retired to consider their verdict at a little after one o'clock in the afternoon, and at ten o'clock His Honor the Judge sent for them and enquired whether there was any likelihood of an unanimous decision by midnight. The foreman having replied in the negative, His Honor directed the jury to be locked up for the night, and he then adjourned the Court till 10 o'clock on Tuesday. His Honor's action seems to have been quite unexpected by the jury, who in about three minutes sent a message that they were agreed. His Honor, however, was obliged to inform the suddenly converted Jurors that their verdict must be returned in open Court, and that he had no power to receive it till this morning. The Jurors accordingly withdrew looking extremely crest fallen, and the unsympathetic public, like the Yankee at Mugby Junction, "larfed." The whole of the Jury presented a wretched appearance coming into Court on Tuesday.

Colonel Whitmore, in the Hawke's Bay Council, on Monday, suggested, characteristically enough, that to the recommendations for the amendment of the Counties Act should be added a recommendation for the exemption of county councillors from service on juries. The suggestion met with general favor. No doubt it did. Town Councillors, members of Road Boards, Bank managers, everybody in fact, would be only too glad to be exempted from any public duty that confers no particular honor, patronage, or emolument.

Among the jurymen in the Supreme Court Monday to try the case of Hayman for stealing a watch, was to be seen one who was himself a prisoner charged with forcible entry—we mean Mr. James Neagle. Had his own case been called on, we can imagine the fix the Court would have been in. Should he be called on as a jurymen, to try his own case, we advise him not to seek exemption.

The Hawke's Bay County Council has appointed a committee, consisting of Messrs Tiffin, Williams, and Colonel Whitmore, to draw up and transmit to the Colonial Secretary, suggestions for the amendment of the Counties Act, in accordance with the desire of the Government.

The following telegram from the Napier correspondent of the Post, appears in that journal of Monday:—"It is said Mr. Sheehan has joined the Good Templar Society."—The correspondent must have drawn on his imagination. Mr. Sheehan, is not we believe a Templar, but merely refrains by agreement, with some other individuals from imbibing intoxicating liquors.

The Submarine Telegraph Company has made a proposal to the New South Wales Government, to lay a cable from Point de Galle to Australia.

Anglo-Australian writing in the European Mail, says:—"Your Agent General pursues the even tenor of a pleasant life. He (Sir J. Vogel) is no longer worried by a tiresome Opposition, notices of unpleasant motions, and damaging interpolations. He calmly smiles at the past and serenely enjoys the present. His health is good; his appetite never fails him; and his locomotion is marked by an activity quite comforting to behold."

It will be seen by our telegrams that Mr and Mrs John Harding, of Mount Vernon, Waipukurau, have arrived at Wellington, after a lengthened tour through America, and Great Britain.

A Chinese gardener, residing at Meanee, has green peas for sale. This is a rare treat at this season of the year. A dish of them was served at the Volunteer Fire Brigade dinner by Mr Ostley, and speedily vanished.

Garrett Bros are advertising a further reduction in the prices of their boots and shoes, a large stock of which they have imported from their Auckland manufactory. It is consoling to know that if the staff of life has risen in prices, our understanding can now be covered as cheap, if not cheaper, than in any other part of the colony.

—ADVT.

There will be no excuse (says the Wellington Argus of Wednesday) for the bakers for a short time to come to sell bread made from "sprung" wheat flour. Three hundred tons of Adelaide flour arrived here to-day by the Wild Wave from Adelaide. Of course, till the stock is used up bad bread will be the exception, not the rule.

The Otago Guardian of Monday says:—"A very unpleasant and dangerous accident occurred on Friday afternoon at the quarry in the upper end of the North-East Valley. A charge was fired, when by a fault in the rock a portion was blown away to an unexpected length, a stone of considerable weight striking the wife of the proprietor of the quarry on the head, at a distance of over a hundred yards from the explosion. The skull was fractured in two places. Dr. Coughtrey being sent for, was promptly in attendance, and everything that was possible was done for the sufferer, who lies in a very precarious state. The latest accounts show that, though still in danger, there are some hopes entertained of her recovery."

The Russian Ambassadors who are returning to the Courts of St. James', Berlin, and Vienna, are instructed to reassert the assurances given by Russia, prior to the war, as to her intentions. Such is the tenor of the latest cablegram from London. It will be remembered that, after the declaration of war, the Russian representatives abroad were instructed to state that Russia, although compelled by the course of events to take energetic measures, only intended to obtain guarantees for the improvement of the condition of the Christians, and had no designs to obtain territorial aggrandisement.

We hear that from bad management, coaches and waggons compete successfully with the Wanganui and Manawatu Railway. Mr. Passmore, we presume, has a finger in the pie.

John August Richter, late a missionary of the Berlin Mission, Queensland, but now of Southland, New Zealand, has achieved a new translation of the New Testament, and the work has been printed by Bain and Co, Eskstreet, Invercargill.

The Standard says that the wire across the Manawatu river at the Gorge is broken; traffic by the punt was therefore suspended. When the Napier coach arrived there on Tuesday last a coach had to be hired on the other side to convey passengers thence to Palmerstonland back. The wire has been only stretched across a few weeks. The punt must certainly have been built by some one who knew nothing of the construction of such things. Instead of a flap of sufficient length to enable a coach to get on it, the flap is so short that it leaves a great depth between it and the shore. On the 25th May, the mail coach was detained forty minutes, while ten minutes would have been ample if things had been right. On a previous occasion it was stated the coach had to be hauled on board with a block and tackle. This want of ingenuity in erecting punts too short, with ridiculously short flaps, does not apply to this river only. The same complaint will apply to the one now being put on the river in the Forty-Mile Bush—the third river from Eketahuna.

The following paragraph appeared in a late number of the Australasian:—"An Oamaru correspondent writes a long letter in re the Fishhook case, but throws no additional light upon the subject. He complains that the stewards took no evidence respecting the pulling of the horse. There was no necessity to do this. If the stewards were satisfied that the horse was stopped, they were perfectly justified in acting as they did. In England summary jurisdiction is now the order of the day, and so it should be here."

The Colonial Bank of New Zealand has appointed Mr David Mackie (who has been for many years connected with the Oriental Bank) to be manager of their branch office in London.

Mons. Simonsen has brought together another opera Company, and opened the season successfully at St. George's Hall, Melbourne.

The following "scene in court" is stated to have occurred recently at Tokitika, in the case of Regina v. Mulligan. After the verdict had been returned, the question—"What is your age?" was put to the prisoner. To which he replied, "Write home and find out." He then turned to the jury and said shaking his fist at them, "There is not a man among you." Turning to the Bench, he continued, "There's neither law nor justice in this court."

Victoria, we believe is the only colony in Australasia that has disqualified ministers of religion from sitting in the General Assembly. The election of Dr. McCartney, we observe, has been appealed against on this account.

The Tauherenikau Boiling Down Works, Wairarapa, have concluded operations for the season, during which over 13,000 sheep have been converted into tallow.

Mr Tabuteau, the Collector of Customs, who has been on six weeks' leave of absence returned in the Rangitira on Wednesday.

The great Waka Maori libel case, (says the Post of Monday) in which the Hon. H. R. Russell sues the editor of that periodical for the printing and publishing of a libel against him, will come on for trial in August. It is not yet certain whether the case will be heard in Napier or Wellington, but that point will be definitely settled in a day or two. Dr. Buller and Mr Gordon Allan appear for the defence. The case will excite interest in certain quarters.

Colonel Scratchley and Sir W. Jervois the colonial defence commissioners, having reported on the defences of Sydney and Newcastle, have left for Melbourne. The defence of the former two cities, according to the proposed plans will cost the New South Wales Government £325,000, and an annual charge of £89,750.

Horace Baker Esq., has been appointed Deputy Inspector of Surveys for the provincial district of Hawke's Bay.

Messrs. E. Lyndon, and W. J. Johnson, both of Napier, have been appointed certificated accountants in bankruptcy for the Wellington Judicial District.

Sydney Johnston Esq., has been appointed a member of the Licensing Court for the District of Waipawa, vice J. M. Stokes Esq., resigned.

The Canterbury Press says:—"The Dunctidies would appear to have a veritable white elephant in their steam roller. It makes a greater noise than Dickey Miles' snow-white donkey, and does infinitely less work. Only by assiduous coaxing can it be made to travel at all, and when it does face rough metal its course is most erratic. Recently it was practising opposite Athol place, with Inspector Barnes in command, when it got stuck fast and had to be dug out by an army of Corporation navvies. Something ought to be done to bring it into a state of subordination."

The New Zealand Herald says:—"The fifty creations reported by telegram, and the bestowal of the honour on so many persons connected with these colonies, beginning with the Governor of New Zealand, may excite some little curiosity as to what the Order is. And this curiosity we purpose briefly to allay. "The most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George," as Sir Bernard Burke designates it, was instituted in April, 1818, under the Great Seal of Great Britain; for Natives of the United States of the Ionian Islands, and of the Island of Malta and its dependencies, and for such subjects of the Sovereign as may hold high and confidential situations in the Mediterranean. Within the past few years the Order has been extended to the colonies, and many leading men have been recipients of the distinction. The members of the Order enjoy rank and precedence immediately after the corresponding classes of the Order of the Bath, and wear distinguishing insignia of a star, collar, ribbon, and badge, with mantle of Saxon-blue satin, lined with scarlet and silk; for the higher classes of the order, a blue satin chapeau, also lined with scarlet, and surmounted by a plume of white and black ostrich feathers. The motto of the Order is *Auspiciis Melioris Aevi*, which, being interpreted, meaneth "A pledge of better times." So mote it be in all Great Britain's colonies, and especially in our own!

Professor Taylor, and Lillie, drew a large number of spectators to the Oddfellows Hall Monday, to witness the elegant movements of the champion skaters. In the earlier part of the evening several amateurs amused themselves rinking; at 8 o'clock, the floor was cleared, and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor performed a series of difficult and most graceful evolutions, including valsing, step-dancing, &c. in which they were loudly applauded.

In the Police Court on Tuesday, there were two persons named on the list charged with drunkenness. T. K. Newton, Esq., presided. William Jeffs, who made his bow for the first time before the Court, was fined 5s; and the other, who took the name of the great Scotch poet Robert Burns, declined to make his appearance, and his bail money of £1 was therefore ordered to be sequestered.

The New Zealand Herald states that the date for the installation of the Hon. F. Whitaker as Provincial Grand Master of the North Island of New Zealand, under the Scotch Constitution of Freemasonry, has not yet been fixed, but it will not take place until after the close of the ensuing Parliament session. By that time the regalia and jewels for the Grand Lodge, for which an order will be sent home by the outgoing mail, will have arrived. The sister lodges will in the meantime be communicated with by the committee appointed for carrying out the arrangements, and the inauguration and installation will be carried out in the most impressive manner. It has been suggested that Bro. Lazar, of the West Coast, who officiated at the installation of the late Bro. Sir Donald McLean as P.G.M. of the English Constitution, might be induced to come to Auckland and officiate in the same capacity on opening our new Grand Lodge, and the installation of its officers.

VICTORIAN POLITICS.

The result of the recent general elections, in Victoria, is to place an overwhelming majority of the ultra-protectionist party in the Legislative Assembly. The tide of democracy has fairly set in, and Mr. Berry finds himself at the head of a Government, and with a following, that promises to be strong enough to carry all before it during the term of the Parliament. In a house of eighty-six members, the late Premier cannot muster a party of twenty to oppose the present Ministry. The "gaggers," as Sir James McCulloch and his followers are called, on account of having passed the iron-hand resolution, at the last session of the old Parliament, have been completely beaten. At the formal opening of the new Parliament, on the 22nd May, we read in a Melbourne contemporary, that "Sir James McCulloch sat unsupported at the head of a beggary array of empty benches, while the Government could not find seats enough to accommodate the party that the country had sent to back it." The tables have been completely turned. The country is now committed to an increased protectionist policy, and to a land-tax, aimed directly at owners of large estates. It was upon the question of this land tax that the elections may be said to have turned. The country will brook no delay in the immediate enactment of a progressive land tax. "Public opinion," says the mouth-piece of the party, "has set itself upon the early accomplishment of exacting from the large landed proprietors such a contribution to the revenue as will enable the Government to relieve the masses of the population of the grievous burdens of taxation which now press so heavily upon them, and which do not in any wise promote the policy of protection to native industry. The people also look to the imposition of a tax upon land as a means of checking the tendency which now exists towards the further enlargement of the overgrown estates. And this double purpose of an effective and progressive land-tax the people of this country have pronounced almost unanimously at the ballot-box, to be the mainspring of the financial policy, which is to be expected from the Ministry that is the outcome of the demonstration made in so conspicuous a manner by popular opinion at the recent general elections." The new Parliament having met on May 22, elected a Speaker, and then adjourned till the 22nd of this month. On its reassembling it will be interesting to watch the progress of that problem which the country has now set itself to solve.

NATIVE LANDS PURCHASES.

Mr. J. P. Hamlin returned to Napier from Wairoa, on Saturday night. During his absence he has successfully completed the purchase of the Rotokakarungu block, (19,641 acres) in the Mohaka district, also the Makahia (500 acres) being a portion of the Tukurangi block. The purchase of the Whaka-onga-onga and Hangaroamatawhai blocks (22,000 acres) in the Te Reinga district, is very nearly completed; before such can be said to be finally arranged a visit to Gisborne will be necessary. Mr. Hamlin, we understand, proceeds thither from Napier to settle the sub-divisions of the claims in this property, some of which are very conflicting. Negotiations have also been entered into for the purchase of the Tawharatiro block, (56,000 acres), nearly all the signatures of the grantees having been obtained, there are only some dozen left out of nearly one hundred and sixty, so that it may almost be looked upon as concluded. Mr. Hamlin will shortly return to the Wairoa with the object of paying about £3000, due to the Ngatikowhatu, and other hapus.

ENGLAND has distinctly declined to be forced into war by the clamors of the Liberal section under Mr. Gladstone, on behalf of the Bulgarians, on the one hand, or by the pressure of the old Conservative party on the other, that regards Russian advances on Turkey as menacing the security of the English possessions in India. In only one case will England fight, and that is to protect her highway to India in the event of any attempt being made to obstruct it. Lord Derby's foreign policy has been consistent throughout; the English government not recognising it as any part of its duty, imposed by treaty, to maintain the integrity of Turkey, is not called upon to take up arms in her defence. On the other hand, recognising the Porte as an independent government, England declined to actively interfere in the administration of her internal affairs. The part England took at the Conference only amounted to the offering of certain suggestions, which, if followed, would have tended to the peace and good government of the Porte's Christian subjects. From the first, there has been nothing in the course pursued by England of a hostile character towards Turkey, neither has any encouragement been given to Russia to make that Government believe she would join her in compelling the Porte to accept the conditions imposed in the protocol. Russia now finds herself in a false position. She would willingly withdraw if she could do so without loss of honor and prestige, and it has been more than once hinted at in our cablegrams, that she is likely to do so at the first opportunity after obtaining a decisive victory. It will be seen by our cablegrams to-day, that the withdrawal of the Russian Ambassadors from the Courts of St. James', Berlin, and Vienna, was, as we surmised at the time, for the purpose of obtaining their presence at St. Petersburg to consider the position of affairs with respect to the attitude of Austria, Germany, and England. It would appear from our cablegram that, on hostilities breaking out, England had contemplated the possible occupation of Constantinople by Russia; Count Schouvaloff is now returning to London with the replies to the questions raised on the point. It will further be seen that England regards herself as the guardian of the Suez Canal, and will allow no warlike operations upon it. It will be neither to the interest of Turkey or Russia to make an open enemy of England, and as her neutrality is assured if she be unattacked, there is little fear of her being drawn into the war.

MR. FOX AT NEW PLYMOUTH.

The following remarks made by the Hon. Mr. Fox, last week, at New Plymouth, will be read with interest:—"With the public works scheme the days of provincialism ceased, it being no longer of any use, the General Government having assumed the sole right to borrow and consequently to spend. It is unfortunate that a well-devised scheme did not take the place of provincial institutions. It was at the age end of a most tedious session, when the Ministers were worn out, that the County system was devised. Some alterations will possibly have to take place to harmonise it with the Road Boards, or to merge one into the other. The question of education will have to be considered during the coming session. As you are aware, the systems, which are of a local character, are impossible now provinces are abolished, and a general scheme will have to be devised. It must be based on the broadest principles. There are two obstacles to be contended with—the clergy and the upper classes who do not send their children to the common schools. It is curious that in this professedly Christian country the Bible should be the only prohibited book, but among the contending parties so it is, and, much as I should like to see the Bible read in our schools without gloss or comment, I fear that a broad and purely secular system will have to be adopted. The hon. gentleman concluded by observing that he would recommend the colony to borrow so long as it could find lenders, but to exercise prudence in so doing and a judicious economy in expenditure for the next two years."

The Reading Review tells of a lady lawyer in Montgomery, Iowa. The other day a client found on the locked door of her office this quaint legend:—"Gone to my husband's funeral; back in thirty minutes."

Rush and Trickett are in good form for the boat race. The former is heavily backed.

SUPREME COURT.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13.

Before His Honor Mr Justice Richmond.)

TUESDAY, 12TH JULY.

ARSON.

Hans Peder Pedersen was placed in the dock, charged with having, on the 6th April, unlawfully set fire to a dwelling-house, with intent to injure one Topaia Burslem.

The prisoner, who was defended by Mr Lee, pleaded not guilty.

Mr Cotterill stated the case on behalf of the Crown.

Topaia Burslem, sworn: I am the wife of George Burslem; we live at Mr Bridge's place about four miles from Waipawa; my husband is in Mr Bridge's employ. I know the prisoner; he came to my house one Saturday in April last—about two months ago. My husband was out. Soon after he had gone, about mid-day, I went out and saw the prisoner coming. He asked if I had seen his horse; I told him no. He asked for some water, which I gave him. He gave me back the pannikin. (Witness here narrated some further conversation, after which she was assaulted by the prisoner, from whom she made her escape.) He called after her, "I will burn the house," to which she replied, "It is not my house; it is Mr. Bridge's." After repeating the threat, he lighted a match, and set fire to the house. Turning round soon after, she saw prisoner going away, towards Newman's place. Witness went in the direction of Waipukurau, but missing her way turned back, and meeting her husband told him what had happened. She saw the fire from the whole time it was lighted until the house was burned.

The witness was cross-examined by Mr Lee, as to certain discrepancies in the witness's present statement, as compared with her depositions in the Court at Waipawa.

Mr. J. N. Wilson deposed: that he was solicitor for Mr. Henry Bridge, and that there was a mortgage on the property in favor of Mr. Tollemache.

The evidence of George Burslem, Frank Russell, James Newman, Joseph Bamford, George England and Alexander Jones was then taken, after which Mr. Cotterill on behalf of the prosecution, and Mr. Lee for the defence, addressed the Jury.

His Honor then summed up going carefully over the evidence.

The Jury without retiring, returned a verdict of "not guilty."

ASSAULT

Hans Petersen was then charged with unlawfully assaulting Topaia Burslem on the 7th of April.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Cotterill decided not to offer any evidence, and the Jury returned a verdict "not guilty" against the prisoner, by direction of the Judge.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13.

His Honor took his seat at 10 a.m.

THE FORGERY CASE.

The prisoner Charles Henry Ingle was placed in the box for sentence.

His Honor addressed him, to the following effect:—Prisoner at the bar, I have resolved to treat the two charges against you as constituting a single offence. You have been guilty of two offences at law, each of which subjects you to a separate penalty. I cannot understand what could have induced you to have been guilty of such an act of folly as well as crime. Detection in such cases is certain; yet I have had experience of many similar instances. On both indictments I shall inflict the same sentence—two years imprisonment with hard labor, the sentences to be concurrent.

FORCIBLE ENTRY.

Charles P. O'Dowd, James Neagle, James Daly, and Richard Jeffares, were charged with having entered with force and arms, &c., into premises in lawful occupation of Thomas Macfarlane.

The four accused pleaded not guilty, and were accommodated with seats outside the dock.

Mr. Lee appeared for Mr. James Neagle, and Mr. Lascelles for Messrs. O'Dowd, Daly, and Jeffares.

Mr. Rees opened the case for the prosecution, briefly remarking the particulars of the offence with which the prisoners were charged.

James Reid, sworn, deposed that he was in company with Mr. Macfarlane and Mr. Gordon when the former took possession of Mr. Neagle's premises under a bill of sale to Messrs. McArthur of Auckland. Possession was relinquished

by Neagle, and Mr. Macfarlane, having closed the doors and windows, proceeded to take stock and go through the books. They worked till late in the evening, when a noise was heard outside of people knocking at the doors and demanding admission, which Mr Macfarlane refused. The back door was locked, but Gordon, for additional security, nailed it up. Immediately afterwards, the door was burst open, and about nine or ten persons entered. Neagle was there, and asked why the door had not been opened before. The constable came in, and also Mr. Lee, who demanded Mr. Macfarlane's authority. Mr. Macfarlane refused to show it until the store was cleared. On this being done Mr Macfarlane showed the bill of sale (produced.) Mr Lee asked for a piece of paper, and wrote a protest against the seizure (produced.) Mr Lee told Mr Neagle he had a good case at law, and had better come away and do it properly. Mr. Neagle then took his friends away, and treated them to spirits. They then prepared to leave, but Mr. Neagle said they had come to enjoy themselves, and had better stay. They then had some singing and dancing. I left to communicate with the Inspector of Police, and as I came away I saw the lights disappear, and heard a stamping noise. When lights were again obtained the ledger was missed. It was found a week or ten days afterwards on a public house table. When Neagle was there he took some candles and tumbler from the shop. After the lights had been relit, a large mat was found lying on the desk where Macfarlane had been writing.

His Honor: There seems to have been a kind of dark seizure then.

The witness was cross-examined at considerable length by Mr Lee and Mr. Lascelles.

Hugh Gordon was then sworn, and examined by Mr. Rees. His evidence was corroborative of that given by the previous witness. He was also cross-examined at considerable length.

Patrick Coghlan, the constable referred to by the preceding witnesses, was then placed in the box and examined. He was closely cross-examined by Mr. Lee and Mr. Lascelles, and admitted that he had been drinking on the day in question.

No evidence was called for the defence, and Mr Rees summed up his case.

Mr Lee addressed the Court on behalf of Mr Neagle, and Mr Lascelles, for the other three defendants.

His Honor went carefully through the whole evidence, and concluded with the remark that he need scarcely, after his experience of the present assize, direct the jury to give the prisoners the benefit of any reasonable doubt.

The jury retired to consider their verdict at 3.45 p.m.

On their return at 4.30 they returned a verdict of "Guilty" against James Neagle, and "Not Guilty" against the other prisoners. The three associates of Mr Neagle were then discharged.

The remaining prisoner then made a statement denying that he broke into the house, and alleging that the action he took was by advice, in support of what he considered to be his right.

His Honor, in passing sentence, said that the question was not whether the action was in support of a supposed right, but as to the illegality of the act itself, which might have been attended with very serious consequences. The sentence of the Court was that the prisoner forfeit and pay to Her Majesty the sum of £100, or in default undergo three months simple imprisonment in the gaol at Napier. The fine was at once paid.

STRIKING SPECIAL JURIES.

Prior to the rising of the Court, Mr Sainsbury applied to have the special jury case of Canning v. Henare Matua postponed from the day appointed for the trial until next Thursday. Mr Sainsbury said he made the application because the solicitor on the other side was raising obstacles in the matter of the jury. His Honor asked whether Mr Sainsbury thought that the course he mentioned was being pursued for the purpose of delay. Mr Sainsbury replied that he believed so. His Honor said that if it was done for the mere purpose of delay it was discreditable to the party by whom the means were used, and still more discreditable to the solicitor who made himself the instrument, and so long as he had the honor of a seat on that bench he would not countenance quibbling, and strongly reprobated conduct of the kind. It looked bad on the face of it, but he would rather believe that there was a mistake, and that there was some substantial obstacle of which Mr Sainsbury was unaware. Mr Sainsbury would be good enough to renew his application before the sitting of the Court the following morning.

CIVIL SITTINGS.

THURSDAY 14th JUNE.

CANNING V. MATUA.

Mr. Sainsbury wished to renew an application he had made the previous evening for the adjournment of this case to Thursday the 21st.

Mr. Rees said he should like to be heard first on the subject.

His Honor asked for the grounds of this application. He required to know why this special Jury case which had been appointed for Monday should not then be heard.

From the explanation which followed, it appeared that a dispute had occurred as to the legality of the method by which the special jury had been struck. The ordinary procedure is for the sheriff to draw by lot 48 names from the panel, which are reduced to 24 by the solicitors on both sides. There being only 73 names on the panel, the Sheriff, to save time had drawn and laid aside 25, taking the remaining 48 as having been drawn. Execution had been taken by Mr. Rees, and this proceeding which it appeared had been the usual system in Napier, had never before been called in question.

His Honor said there could be no doubt as to the irregularity of the proceeding; and however honestly it had been done, it was not according to the statute. Time was doubtless of value; but it was a pity to save the time of drawing 24 names—or about 24 seconds—so irregular a course should have been pursued.

Mr. Sainsbury said that special juries here had always been drawn in that way.

His Honor: The Sheriff will never do it again: that is certain. As the Court, by its officer, is mixed up in this case, I shall give you the day you apply for.

Mr. Rees said that last night he had heard from the Bench some very severe remarks, as to his action in objecting to the irregularity complained of—remarks which had already been published and circulated through the Colony, very much to his disadvantage.

His Honor said those remarks were made on certain assumptions, which had not yet been shown to be unfounded. The learned gentleman should not ask him to retract those remarks, lest he should repeat them more emphatically. They did not refer to persons, but to modes of proceeding which it was his duty to condemn.

Mr. Rees said that he had been referred to by name.

His Honor: (Speaking with some warmth) Not by me. I was not aware to whom my remarks might be taken to imply—they were strictly impersonal. In condemning in the most unqualified manner a proceeding which appeared to have been taken for the purpose of delaying the course of justice—and would therefore be contrary to justice—I acted only in accordance with my oath.

Mr. Rees made a further explanation, to show that his action was taken to prevent an irregularity, and not for the purpose of delaying.

His Honor said his remarks had not conveyed a charge against any one; and he had not intended them to be so taken. Regarding the practice he had condemned, he would remark that if members of an honorable profession made use of their knowledge to defeat just claims, or delay their settlement, they were unworthy of the styled members of an honorable profession.

Case fixed for Thursday the 21st.

GOLDSMITH V. POWDRELL.

This case was an action for trespass. Mr. Lascelles for the plaintiff, called Thomas Goldsmith who gave evidence as to having agreed to sell a run at Poverty Bay to Mr. Powdrell, and that when the defendant came to take possession, he earmarked the sheep.

His Honor remarked that this was all very relevant as a breach of contract, but not of trespass. A man complained of a trespass of which he was the instrument.

A very real damage might have been inflicted upon the sheep; but the case as it stood at present was as though a man on being told by another to knock his head against the wall should do so, and afterwards bring an action for an assault and battery. He was not fond of non-suiting, but could not see how in its present shape the case could go on.

Mr. Lascelles said this was a Poverty Bay case, and he had only acted according to his instructions.

His Honor said he had been apprehensive of this result from the first. There was really no case for the jury. Plaintiff nonsuited.

WINTER V. SCHULTZ.

This was a claim of £500 damages for false imprisonment.

Mr Cornford (owing to the illness of Mr Lee) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr Rees for defendant.

Richard Winter, the plaintiff, gave evidence as to the charge of robbery made against him by the defendant at the Resident Magistrate's Court.

This case occupied the Court all day. A verdict was given for defendant on all the issues.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13.

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

FORM FOURS.

James McGregor, John Gilbert, Richard King, and Sig Johnsen, were introduced each by a separate constable, charged with drunkenness. The first three were fined and paid each 5s. Johnsen, whose case was of rather an aggravated nature, was fined 10s, or forty-eight hours imprisonment. He didn't pay the fine.

ALLEGED WIFE DESERTION.

Hutton v Hutton, an information under the "Destitute Persons Relief Ordinance," was to have been heard to-day, but as the summons had not been served as yet on defendant, whose whereabouts is uncertain, the case was adjourned *sine die*.

JUDGMENT SUMMONS.

Pyne v Smith.—£10 7s, on a judgment of this Court obtained by plaintiff on the 1st instant. Evidence having been taken on both sides, an order was made that defendant pay the amount and costs (in all £10 14s) by instalments of one pound per month, first instalment to be paid on the 13th July. In default of any single payment, one month's imprisonment.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14.

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

DRUNKENNESS.

John Golding and John Brown were each fined, and paid five shillings, a penalty for the above offence. Another man was charged with drunkenness at the Spit yesterday evening, but denied the offence, and called witness to support his denial. There appeared to be a reasonable doubt as to whether it was really a case of drunkenness, and defendant was discharged.

LARCENY.

James Kelly was charged with feloniously stealing a pair of boots of the value of 12s, the property of Thomas Williams. Defendant did not deny the taking of the boots, but excused himself by saying he was drunk, and didn't know what he was about. He was dismissed with a caution.

GIURGEVO.

The following observations concerning Giurgevo, the fortress now being bombarded by the Turks, are by a correspondent of the Brisbane Courier, who has been a traveller in the Russian and the Turkish provinces:—"Giurgevo, reported as occupied by the Russians, is the terminus of the Roumanian railway running from Jassy (where it is joined by Russian line from Odessa via Kichenov) through Galatz, Brailov, and Bucharest to the frontier. It is situated a mile from the banks of the Danube, and is hidden from the other side by a slight elevation, which is now occupied by Roumanian troops. This prevents the Turks from being aware of the movement of the Russians in that direction, who can therefore quietly mass sufficient troops there to force a passage of the Danube, which at this spot is only three-quarters of a mile broad. Colonel Vincent, who visited that part of the country in 1875, states that Rustchuk on the Turkish side was a dilapidated bastioned fortress, which the slight earthworks, since thrown up do not materially strengthen, and that artillery posted on the northern bank would soon silence the Turkish guns. Oltenitz is 40 miles lower down the Danube, where the Danube is only 800 yards wide, and is therefore another favourable place for effecting a crossing. It is opposite the Turkish fortress of Twitwikai. The whole of the forts, however, defending the Danubian frontier are stated by some competent authorities to be in such a condition as to offer no material obstacle to the passage of that river: but as opinions differ so much on this point, we must leave it to be decided by fact."

Opera for Teetotallers.—The "Water carrier."

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT AHURIRI.

ARRIVAL.

June.

- 7—Southern Cross, s.s., from Auckland via Whangahwei. Passengers—Messrs Leonard, Owen, Morley, Williams, Sutcliffe, Alfred, Cammack, Stafford, Jennings; from Mahia: Messrs Walker and Burton.
- 10—Fairy, s.s., from Wharepapa and Mangakuri.
- 10—Wanaka, s.s., from Auckland, Tauranga and Poverty Bay. Passengers—Messrs James Hamson, Webb, Butt, Fraser Hill, Wrigg, Hendmarsh, Murray, Richmond and child, Hamlin and 6 children, Misses Davis and Fraser, Rev. Mr Fraser, Messrs Harrison (2), Hooper, Goldsmith (2), Cuff, McDonald, Clark, Baker, Wilson, Barry, Shave, Russell, Moore, Slater, Richmond, Hindmarsh, Pattenson, 5 steerage and 5 for South.
- 12—Acadia, schooner, from Mercury Bay.
- 12—Andrew Reid, barque from Wellington.
- 12—Result, s.s. from Mohaka.
- 11—Kiwi, s.s., from Wellington via Castle Point. Passengers—Mrs Keith and child, Mrs Smith and child, Mrs M'Cormack and child, Mrs Hobbs, Messrs Blair (2), Blackadder, Copwood, Balle, Billis, and 6 steerage.
- 13—Rangatira, s.s., from Wellington. Passengers—Mrs Goodison, Messrs Tabuteau, Arup, Griffiths, Beck, Grindell, and 6 steerage.

DEPARTURE.

June.

- 7—Rangatira, s.s., for Wellington. Passengers—Mrs Kenneth and 4 children, Mrs Ward, Messrs Harrison, Lamb, Crawford and Hill.
- 9—Wanaka, s.s., for Wellington. Passengers—Mrs Fannin, Miss Buckland, Messrs Davis, D. M'Lean, Baillemann Joyce, Mr and Mrs Stuart and child, and two natives.
- 9—Southern Cross, s.s., for the Thames and Auckland. Passengers—Mrs Long, Messrs Coleman and Edwards.
- 10—Mania, p.s., for Wairoa. Passengers—Messrs Sargent, Davis, and about 10 natives.
- 11—Opotiki, schooner, from Poverty Bay. Passengers—Mr and Mrs Beckhall, Mr, Mrs, and Master Hangle, Mrs Kerruish, and 3 children, Miss Toppin, and Mr Barsdell.
- 12—Result, s.s., for Mohaka and Wairoa. Four passengers.
- 14—Mary Wdaley, schooner, for Hobart Town.

The s.s. Result filled up with general cargo for Mohaka and Wairoa, steamed away at 4 on Tuesday. She will have to land cargo at both places on the beach.

The vessel we thought on Monday was the Saucy Kate turned out to be the Opotiki from Poverty Bay, which place she left on Saturday last, with a full cargo of timber, and a fair complement of passengers.

The steamers Rotorua and Arawata both arrived at Sydney on Monday from New Zealand.

The iron clipper Melpomene, which arrived at Melbourne on the 22nd ult., after somewhat stormy passage out, especially on the meridian of the Cape of Good Hope and in crossing the longitude of Cape Leuwini, is commanded by Captain A. H. Blake, who has a full crew of Naval Reserve men on board, who is therefore authorised by Admiralty warrant to fly the blue ensign of the Royal Navy Reserve. The passage of the ship from deck to destination may be reckoned at 101 days.—N.Z. Times.

The ship Gareloch, lately arrived at Liverpool from San Francisco, was boarded off Piteairn Island by two boats, the occupants of which stated that all were well on the island, but the rats had eaten all their crops of wheat, and they were badly in want of corn.—N.Z. Times.

The s.s. Kiwi, Capt. Campbell, left Wellington at 5.30 p.m. on Friday last, and arrived at Castle Point at 7 a.m., on Saturday. Commenced to discharge cargo, but had to discontinue on account of a very heavy westerly gale springing up; gale abated at 1 p.m. on Sunday; recommenced discharging, and left at 5 p.m., arriving in the bay at 6 o'clock on Monday, and, as the tide was favorable, was brought alongside the breastwork. Great credit is due to the pilot for his prompt attendance to the steamer at that early hour. During her stay in Wellington, the Kiwi has been on the Slip and thoroughly cleaned and painted.

The s.s. Southern Cross, Capt. Holmes, left Auckland on Monday last, at 5.30 p.m., and had fine weather to the East Cape; after that to Whangahwei head wind, which compelled her to seek shelter at Happy Jack's; left there at 5 o'clock on Thursday morning, and had a S.W. wind to contend against rounding Portland Island.

The s.s. Rangatira left on Thursday with a moderate quantity of passengers and cargo, the latter being principally tallow for transhipment at Wellington for London.

From a private telegram we learn the s.s. Southern Cross, is to leave Auckland, at 4 p.m. on Thursday for Napier direct.

The three-masted schooner Mary Wdaley was towed out by the s.s. Result on Thursday, bound to Hobart Town, where she will load timber, fruit, &c., for here.

Mr. Donald the purser, has favored us with the following report:—The s.s. Rangatira, Captain Evans, left Wellington wharf at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday last, and arrived at the anchorage here at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. The Rangatira has once more proved what a capital sea boat she is in rough weather; one of the strongest N.N.W. gales that has been met with for some time on this coast having been experienced on this passage. Left Wellington with a strong N.W. breeze and heavy sea running, which on approaching Cape Palliser increased to a strong gale from N.N.W., which lasted till abreast of Flat Point, where it blew strong from the northward dead ahead, with a heavy beam sea, and continued thus to Castle Point, when it again changed to the N.N.W. blowing very strong, with heavy sea. After passing Cape Turnagain, the gale moderated slightly, and the fore-and-aft canvas was set, the wind going gradually down till passing Blackhead, where it blew a fresh breeze from the S.E., which lasted till arrival, as above stated. The Rangatira has a full general cargo, unfortunately the present wet weather prevents the landing of it.

The p.s. Mania left early on Thursday for Wairoa. She will only be able to land her passengers on the beach, as the river is all but blocked up. There are about 15 passengers waiting to return by her.

The s.s. Wanaka, Capt. McGillivray, has had a splendid run down from Auckland, calling at Tauranga and Poverty Bay. She had a little cargo and a large number of passengers for this port; the latter were landed early on Saturday by the Bella, and the cargo is being put on board the Three Brothers. Her outward cargo is principally wool; there are also about three tons of copper in sheets and bolts from the wreck of the Cocq du Village.

The p.s. Mania returned from Wairoa on Saturday; she was unsuccessful in getting in the river, but landed her passengers and cargo on the beach. Captain Smith reports the bar as very bad and shallow.

The s.s. Fairy returned to Port on Sunday, having been fortunate enough to land the whole of her cargo on Saturday and on Sunday at Wharepapa, and Mangakuri, leaving the latter place at noon yesterday, and arriving in the harbor at 5 p.m. Captain Campbell reports seeing a barque on Sunday well to the eastward, and which he supposed was the Andrew Reid from Wellington.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

MAILS CLOSE

For the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, &c., via Suez and Brindisi, by every opportunity to Wellington, where the mails close on the 29th inst. Correspondence for this route should leave Napier not later than the 25th instant.

For Fiji, Sandwich Islands, West Indies, America, United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, &c., via San Francisco, on Saturday, the 30th instant, at 9 p.m., per Rotorua.

Money orders and registered letters will close at 5 p.m. Newspapers and book packets at 8 p.m. on Saturday the 30th instant.

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

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

J. GAURN,
Chief Postmaster.

BIRTH

REWARD.—At Port Ahuriri, on the 11th June, the wife of Mr. Leicester Redward, of a daughter.

STEWART.—At Napier, on the 9th June, the wife of Mr. John Stuart of a son.

Special Advertisements.

H. MONTEITH,

Stock, Land Estate, and General Commission Agent, Waipukurau.

Goods Stored and Forwarded.

Offices and Stores: Near the Railway Station.

JOHN M'VAY,

SADDLER & HARNESSMAKER

Hastings-street.

The Cheapest House in the Trade.

Advertisements intended for insertion in the Country Edition of the WEEKLY MERCURY should be sent in not later than two o'clock on Thursday afternoon, and for the Town Edition not later than two o'clock on Friday afternoon.

The Weekly Mercury

AND

HAWKE'S BAY ADVERTISER.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1877.

On Saturday evening Messrs Loeke and Sheehan returned by train from Takapanu, after having interviewed a large body of native owners of the land known as the Seventy-Mile Bush. The object of their visit was to see if some fair settlement could not be arrived at in respect of the outstanding interests of several grantees in the blocks agreed to be sold to the Government. There are three blocks in which one grantee only is outstanding in each, and one block in which four grantees still remain to be dealt with. After a long korero, extending over eight hours, it became evident that the natives were willing to come to terms. It was agreed that a meeting of all parties concerned should be convened for some day towards the end of the present month to finally close all outstanding interests. Karaitiana Takamoana, and Henare Matua rendered very valuable assistance in inducing the natives to come to terms. It is a matter for congratulation that the Seventy-Mile Bush titles are in a fair way to be made complete. It will at once enable the Waste Lands Board to deal with the lands comprised in the various grants, and open up a large area of country for settlement.

After the Government business was over, the natives proceeded to consider a proposal made to them by Mr. Sheehan, to subdivide a portion of the land now held by them near the Takapanu and Kopua Railway Stations. The land round these stations belongs to the natives. Mr. Sheehan's proposal to them was to lay out a few town sections at each station, and to cut several thousand acres into farms; some of which are to be sold, and others to be reserved for the benefit of the native owners. After the proposal had been fully discussed and explained, it was unanimously agreed to; and it was agreed that the land should be put through the Court, and vested in Karaitiana and Henare Matua as trustees for the owners, to carry out the subdivision and sale.

We beg to congratulate the Takapanu natives on the conclusion to which they have come in respect to utilizing their lands, the soil being of good quality, abounding in timber, and close to terminal points on the railway line.

As the session approaches, the provisions of the several Bills to be introduced by the Government, with a view to consolidate the various Provincial Acts, are exciting the curiosity of the country. Beyond the telegraphic intelligence, published some little time back, that the new Native Lands Bill would be shortly printed for public distribution, the Ministry have given no intimation of their intention to disclose their designs with regard to the legislation of next session. The Premier, when addressing his constituents at Taranaki, last month, announced that the object of the Government was to complete the system of local administration, so crudely entered upon at the prorogation of the General Assembly, and, amongst other measures, to establish an educational system for the whole colony. That which he proposed, or rather, what was intended to be proposed by the Government, at the next sitting of Parliament, was the secular system of education, and it is noteworthy that, in reference to it, the Premier made use of the words "must be secular." It is clear from this the Government do not see their way to any middle course, one which would have the support of all religious bodies in the country. Whether the Ministry are united on this subject, it is impossible to say, but we do know that the Hon. J. D. Ormond has more than once expressed his satisfaction with the working, and with the results of the Hawke's Bay educational system, a system that, at all events, suggests the possibility of framing an Act, applicable to the whole colony, embodying its principal features. We are, however, left completely in the dark as to whether the proposed Bill provides for free and compulsory, as well as secular education. It appears, says the *Thames Advertiser*, "that the matter has been left in the hands of the Hon. C. C. Bowen, but we have nothing upon which to base an opinion as to the principle it is proposed to carry out in framing the new

Bill. The inference is that with so many claims upon the land fund and the consolidated revenue it will scarcely be considered possible to make it free, however desirable such a course may be in the estimation of the hard-working and under-paid class. No doubt there is something to be urged on both sides, but with the heavy pressure on the finances of the colony we have very little doubt Ministers will be compelled to look at the necessity for levying contributions in aid rather than introduce a free system. The Premier told us at Taranaki that it would still be conducted through Education Boards and Local Committees, and although he is known personally to be in favor of the free system, he did not say that such a system was intended. Major Atkinson said last year that "the Government desire to see education, so far as it is not maintained by endowment, provided for from the consolidated revenue;" but his more recent utterances lead us to the conclusion that he cannot see his way to make the system dependent upon this so long as our railways remain unproductive."

The Government have made a concession to the wealthy classes, that we cannot but think is totally unequal for. A telegraphic message marked "urgent," is now to take priority of all others, provided the sender pays double rates. Poor people, accepting employment by telegram, may lose situations through messages being delayed by a wealthy man sending his "urgent" telegrams to his agent to buy or sell in a certain market, by which to add to his riches. A poor woman dependent for her living on her husband, working miles away, may be prevented from hearing of an accident to him until too late to proceed to his death-bed. Medical assistance, in similar cases, may also be delayed till it is no longer wanted. If the despatch of a message cannot be secured without extra payment, the sooner private enterprise steps in to compete with Government monopolies the better.

We are in receipt of a copy of the new Native Lands Bill. A Northern contemporary which received a copy before we did, gives the following synopsis of the Bill:—"The Bill contains 135 clauses and three schedules. Its whole scope, as foreshadowed by our Wellington correspondent the other day, is to give native owners titles to their lands, and to have them free from Government interference afterwards. The legislation of 1873 affecting native lands is repealed. The Act provides that a Court for the investigation of native titles, consisting of one Chief Judge, and other Judges and assessors appointed by the Governor shall be established. Any native claiming land may make application to the Chief Justice, in whom all administrative functions are invested, to have his title enquired into, and the Judge shall fix a time and place for hearing the claims, due notice thereof being given. The boundaries must be clearly marked off, and before a Crown grant is issued the land shall have been surveyed. Provisional certificates may, however, be granted in the interval. The Court has full power to inquire, by the best means at its disposal, into the rights of all claimants, whether appearing in court or not with the single restriction that the Governor may by notice stay proceedings in any case. When the facts affecting a claim have been established to the satisfaction of Court, a certificate of title shall be issued. Any native who feels aggrieved by the decision may apply within three months for a re-hearing. Failing appeal, a Crown grant may be made out in the names of all the natives entered on the Certificate of Title, and the natives thus become possessed of an inalienable right. Beyond the ascertaining of titles; the duties of the Court are few and simple. It has power to consider the propriety of making certain lands, with the consent of a majority of the natives, inalienable as reserves, and, at the request of the Governor, of issuing a title to certain lands now held as native reserves, but which it is desirable should be diverted from that purpose. All surveys shall be carried out by the Surveyor-General or competent persons to whom licenses shall have been issued by him, and all plans are made subject to his approval. The power of issuing or suspending licenses to native interpreters rests in the Chief Judge. The procedure of the Courts appears, and necessarily so, to be very much in the hands of the Judges. Surveys and necessary expenses involved in passing the land through the Court may be carried out by monies either advanced by the Government or private persons, and will be

regarded as a first charge on the land. Where these advances are made privately a certificate in form of the third schedule of the Act must be presented to the Chief Judge for registration, and the reasonableness of the amount may be made the subject of inquiry by him. When there are more than ten claimants to a block, and in other cases on the application of all the owners, the Court may make a division in issuing the certificate of title; and subsequent application may be made by any grantee to have his section individualised. Where this is effected, the land so separated remains subject to its proportion of all charges resting on the other portions of the block, and when under lease can only be sold upon conditions applicable to the remainder of the block. The Government have secured their interests in respect of the large tracts of country upon which payments have been made, by removing them from private sale until the Native Lands Court shall have investigated the title, and made orders either for the completion of the purchases, the apportionment of the land between Government and natives, or the return by the natives of the sums paid. The Government likewise reserve the right of taking land for roads or railways, amounting to not more than five per cent of the whole, free of cost, and claim a royalty of twenty per cent. upon the purchase money in all cases of private sale, and an equal amount on the capitalised rental of leases. Thus guarded, the Act leaves no embargo whatever on the sale of native lands. It enables infants, whose names have been entered upon a Certificate of Title, to alienate their shares, with the approval of the Court, the money so derived to be invested in the hands of trustees, and it in other ways facilitates freedom of sale between owners and purchasers.

Correspondence.

COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

SIR.—I perceive that an attempt is to be made next session of the General Assembly not only to make Road Boards subservient to the County authorities, but also the Municipal bodies. Under these circumstances, it will be necessary for the burghesses to be watchful, and protest against any such measure. So far as the public can see, the County Councils, not only in the Hawke's Bay district, but throughout the colony, have proved the most useless and expensive bodies that have been ever brought into existence. It is notorious of the Waipawa County Council that the business transacted at its meetings is almost wholly confined to repeating what was passed at its previous meeting. The Hawke's Bay County Council has so blundered and mismanaged matters that its Chairman cannot point to one useful object it has accomplished, unless it be providing a billet or two for those requiring it. If the ratepayers of Taradale require a creek cleaned out or a bridge erected, and petition for such work, the document is handed in and allowed to be on the table, and no more is heard of it. The Wairoa County Council is the only one which has set to work, but like the Hawke's Bay County Council, its chief business appears as yet to have been to pass bye-laws for the better Government of the County, half of which are as necessary as the County Act itself. I never was a warm admirer of the Provincial form of Government, but there is no doubt that by its abolishment we have jumped from the frying-pan into the fire.

As a Townsman, although I may have differed with many of the Municipal Councils as to their actions, nevertheless I think we should be placed in a most awkward position, if our funds had to be filtered through such a body as the Hawke's Bay County Council, and it is to be hoped we shall be saved from such a catastrophe. At the next meeting of the Municipal Council the subject will be probably debated as to whether the Napier Municipality should be represented at the Conference proposed by the Christchurch Council; and it is to be hoped our representatives will see the necessity of sending a delegate, if his only business be to protest against our being handed over to those bastard bodies—the County Councils.—I am, &c.,

A BURGESS.

Napier, June 14, 1877.

THE PULPIT AND THE PRESS.

[To the Editor of the DAILY TELEGRAPH.]
SIR.—The Rev. D. Sidey, last Sunday, was good enough to make certain comments on the conduct of the local press, which are deserving of some notice from

his hearers. The Incumbent of St. Paul's was pleased to think that the Press had supported, to a greater or less extent, the irreligious tone of the day, and he was discriminating enough to assert that, in this direction, one of the local papers was more ably edited than the other. I do not suppose for one minute, that you, Sir, will be inclined to dispute the claim of your contemporary to the honor of this distinction thus conferred upon it by the reverend gentleman. But I think you will agree with me when I say, that Mr. Sidey's remarks displayed, on the occasion to which I allude, far more boldness than wisdom. The injunction to be as wise as a serpent, yet as harmless as a dove, was evidently forgotten at that moment. The object was to make a local hit, on the principle, perhaps, that a dull comedy is often made tolerable by the lucky "gag" of an accomplished actor.

In drawing comparisons between two rival newspapers, circulating in a small town, in which each journal has its own particular partisans, Mr. Sidey has, most probably, opened the door to the criticism of pulpit utterances, and to comparisons between his own sermons and those of other ministers.

The Herald, I notice, has taken Mr. Sidey's remarks in a spirit of humble meekness, but as a casual attendant at St. Paul's, I may be permitted to observe that I did not go to church to hear the merits or demerits of the TELEGRAPH and the Herald.

If the reverend gentleman thinks he can edit a newspaper let him try the experiment. He would then find that if the work did not require any stupendous ability, it demanded of the editor broader views than are exhibited in the statement, that people are becoming irreligious, because they may prefer, say, the preaching of the Revd. Mr. Rerry to that of the Revd. Mr. Sidey, or vice versa. He would discover that, to make a paper pay, the editor must regard every son of Adam as a brother in the dust, and not as one bound to perdition for holding other than Calvinistic doctrines.

The time is coming fast, is perhaps now upon us, when to fill a church—to make the pulpit pay—a clergyman must entertain as broad christian views as are indispensably held by an editor of a newspaper, that, circulating amongst a mixed community, caters for all of whatsoever religion.—I am, &c.,

AUREA MEDIOCRITAS.

Napier, June 11, 1877.

[Our correspondent cannot be accused of ignorance of one at least of the qualifications of an editor, but, perhaps, the best reply to the Revd. Mr. Sidey's remarks would be, that a newspaper reflects the prevailing opinions of the day.—Ed. W. M.]

CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

LONDON.

June 10.

Grand Prix de Paris:—Steeplechase, 1; King Lear, 2; Streechino, 3.

June 11.

Berlin papers consider the dissolving of the French Chamber would simply be the triumph of the Ultramontanes, and involve the general conflagration of Europe.

The Czar is at Bucharest.

The Russian right wing is falling back on Pennek.

Turks from Batoum are operating in the Circassian provinces. insisted on the necessity of maintaining European peace, and being ready to defend England's interests if required.

Earl Derby concurred, adding that the maintenance of peace is of the greatest importance to British interests.

Official despatches state that the attempted passage of the Danube at Nicopolis was repulsed.

The Russian Press is indignant at the notion that Russia will be satisfied with peace without solid guarantees.

The Turks were successful at Montenegro.

The Russians are massing troops opposite Rostchuk and Nicopolis.

The Turkish Chamber passed a forced loan of five millions.

LATEST CABLEGRAM.

SINGAPORE.

June 13, 11.15 p.m.

Mukhtar Pasha despatches report the Russians retreating between Kars and Erzeroum. Olta has been abandoned and retaken by the Turks.

A general rising at Caudia is expected.

The Russian Government has ordered a levy of 250,000 men.

Insurrectionary agitations exist at Epirus and Thessaly.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

DUNEDIN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PYKE'S CONFERENCE.

June 13.

The County Chairmen Conference sits on July 2.

BOARDING HOUSE ROBBERY.

The trial of Mrs. Craig and Madden for being concerned in the boarding house robbery excited considerable attention at Oamaru. The prosecutor made several statements diametrically opposed to his evidence in the case against Craig. Alice Purnell admitted being convicted a score of times for various offences, but swore persistently she saw Mrs. Craig taking money out of prosecutor's pocket while Madden held him up. The Magistrate, in dismissing the case, said, "If Purnell's evidence had been in any way supported, he would have committed the prisoners. It appeared to him the only guiltless person in the transaction was the woman Purnell."

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL IN DIFFICULTY.

The University Council is in a little difficulty. When the sale to the Colonial Bank was made, it was intended to except the clock and bell which are worth £500, but the deed makes no mention thereof. The Council intend trying to claim the clock as not being a fixture. Macandrew's amended resolutions propose spending £17,000 on new buildings and professional residences, and offering £250, £150, and £100 for competitive designs. His resolution for adding Professors to the Council is not likely to be carried. Some suburban land which in September last fetched what was then considered high prices, to-day sold at an advance of 50 per cent.

SHERRIN LIBEL CASE.

June 14.

The Waimate libel case is finished. No evidence was adduced, because Sherrin admitted the authorship, but he raised a point as to whether he had published a libel, knowing it to be false. The judge agreed, but said it was competent for the jury to find him guilty of a lesser count. The jury found him guilty on both counts, but that he did not know the falsity of the statements. He was sentenced to three months imprisonment. Sherrin wished to make an apology in Court, but Judge Johnston would not allow it. Cumming pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to £100 fine, or imprisonment till paid.

ATTEMPTED POISONING.

On Tuesday a man named Allan MacRae, an engineer, was committed for trial for attempting to poison himself with laudanum.

AUCKLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

FOOT-BALL RULES.

June 13.

At the inquest on Mr. Pilling, suggestions were made in evidence that the game should be played in future on Association Rules instead of Rugby, as less dangerous. Medical evidence showed that there was no rupture, death being caused from concussion of the spine. The deceased struck with his head at an angle of 45 degrees. Both he and his opponent, with whom he collided, were going at great speed. Pilling was in the habit of butting with his head. A rider was added by the jury recommending alterations in the game of foot-ball, thus rendering it less dangerous.

WASTE LANDS.—LICENSING.

June 14.

An application was made to the Supreme Court yesterday, for a license which the Court at Kaipara refused to grant, on the ground that the place was outside its jurisdiction. The Judge said that every license granted by the Court

outside its jurisdiction was void.

The Waste Lands Board have resolved to ask the Government to hand over 183,000 acres near the southern boundary of the Auckland district.

A petition from the Tauranga settlers, requesting that 4000 acres be granted on the deferred payment system, will be granted when the land is transferred to the Board. Sixteen similar applications were received. A schedule of confiscated lands was sent to Wellington. It is expected that the lands will be shortly handed over to the Board.

A letter from the Secretary of Crown Lands approved of the sale, with modifications, of land to Mr. Stewart for a special settlement.

DEATH REGISTER.

During May fourteen deaths were registered in Auckland, against twenty-one for the corresponding month of 1876.

ILLICIT DISTILLING.

Manuel de Fratz, charged with illicit distilling, was fined £120, or in default six months imprisonment.

ROBBERIES.

At the North Shore, some thieves broke into the residence of Mr. Duder, and stole between £60 and £70 in notes, £70 in gold, and £150 in promissory notes. Such a sense of security reigned at the North Shore, the residents were in the habit of leaving their doors on the latch. Valuables in the adjoining room were untouched.

TIMARU.

SUPREME COURT.

June 13.

In the Supreme Court true bills in every case were found by the Grand Jury, except that of Donald Blue, for sheep stealing. William Lecher, for embezzlement, got two years; William Powell, for larceny, six months; John Wilson, alias Barns, for horse stealing, 18 months; J. W. Fleming, for forgery, 18 months; Cornelius Toll, for larceny, had his sentence deferred. Friendlander is now being tried for rape at Geraldine. The two libel cases are expected to occupy the whole of to-day.

AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE.

Later.

In the Supreme Court Friendlander was acquitted of rape. Toll, on whom sentence had been deferred, bolted from the Gaol. On the way to the Court the Warden fired three shots, but missed him. Three previous convictions being proved, the Judge sentenced him to ten years. Kedlan and Davies, for highway robbery, four years and eighteen months respectively.

LOCAL OPTION BILL.

Mr. Stout lectured last night on the Local Option Bill. A resolution was passed in favor of the Bill, and a petition adopted. Mr. Stafford is to present it to the Assembly.

GISBORNE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

MORE ABOUT THE TE KOOTI SCARB.

June 14.

The report of Te Kooti coming is now generally disbelieved. Volunteer corps are to be formed at four places from Gisborne to Ormond. The Government are much censured for not permitting the 400 stand of arms to be placed in the hands of the townspeople and settlers in the district. Several Maories, with their wives, have moved nearer to Gisborne. The Government have not replied to the telegram asking the whereabouts of Te Kooti. The 400 stand of arms are still lying unprotected in the Customs shed, and no guard nor watch is placed over them. Any six men could carry them away during the night. Te Kooti wants his wife to go to him. She refuses, hence his desire to come for her. Te Kooti, should he put in an appearance, will be shot down immediately.

WELLINGTON.

DRAINAGE SCHEME.

June 14.

The New Zealand Times says it is reported that another difficulty has arisen in connection with the drainage scheme. Mr. J. G. Crawford objects to sewage being discharged into Lyell Bay, and also to its being carried on to his land, unless the deposits be at a greater distance and at a higher level than was anticipated. To comply with the demand would add to the estimated outlay for pumping a further charge of £600 per annum.

THE NOVELIST.

LADY TREVOR'S SECRET;

OR, THE

Mystery of Cecil Rosse.

BY MRS. HARRIET LEWIS.

CHAPTER XXI.

EMBARQUED.

Lady Trevor wrote a letter, which Mr. Pulford dictated, expressing to Miss Rosse her gratification at her acceptance of her ladyship's offer of employment, and requesting her to arrive at Lady Trevor's house in a cab, with her luggage, and servant, upon the afternoon of the next day at five o'clock.

This letter was dispatched by a special messenger, Cecil's address having been given in her letter, and an answer was returned, saying that Miss Rosse would keep the appointment.

While the unscrupulous pair were thus employed, Cecil Rosse summoned her landlady to an interview, and informed her of her purposed change of residence.

Mrs. Thomas's surprise was very great.

"It's a magnificent chance for you, Miss Rosse," she exclaimed. "A hundred pounds, and board and lodging for yourself and Gretchen thrown in, for a winter's work! Them rich nobility don't really know what to do with their money. A hundred pounds above all expenses for just sitting like a lady at your embroidery! I shall be sorry to lose you, Miss. A more quiet lodger, nor a truer lady, I never see. But it's for your good, so I won't say one word against your going."

"Your house seems a second home to me, Mrs. Thomas," said Cecil. "I do not like to leave it, yet I feel as if I ought to do the best I can for myself and Gretchen. I shall come back to you when my work for Lady Trevor is finished. I hope you will always have a room for us."

"I'll always make room for you, Miss Rosse," exclaimed the landlady, energetically. "You'll always be as welcome here as flowers in Spring."

Mrs. Thomas was presently summoned from the room.

"And now," said Cecil, "I will write a note to Madame Lange, to be sent to her to-morrow. She has been very kind to me, and I cannot leave her without a word."

She sat down at her little dispatch-box and wrote a graceful little letter to the fancy-work dealer, stating that Lady Trevor desired her to repair some valuable old tapestry-work at her ladyship's country-house, and that she had accepted the commission.

While Cecil was engaged with this note, old Gretchen, in her own bedroom, was laboriously composing a letter to Maldred Crafton, who would soon present himself again at Queen's Crescent, she well knew.

The letter was written in German, ill-spelled, and execrably penned. It stated that Miss Cecil was going to Lady Trevor's country-house in Yorkshire for the winter, to repair her ladyship's tapestry-hangings, and if Mr. Crafton would call upon Miss Cecil in that remote region she would undoubtedly be glad to see him.

"My young lady knows that Lady Trevor is the betrothed of Lord Glenham," the letter concluded; "but she will never see his lordship. She would have refused the engagement but for my persuasions, but I can see that she is pining on account of his treachery to her, and I know a winter in the country, with long walks and fine scenery, would be good for her. She grows paler and thinner every day. I am alarmed about her. So I have urged her to go to this great house in Yorkshire for a complete change. After a month or so I hope that she will be herself again. If it seems strange to you, sir, that she should go to the house of Lord Glenham's betrothed, blame me and not her."

And the letter concluded with protestations of the writer's good faith and sincere homage.

This letter Gretchen deposited in Mrs. Thomas's keeping the next day, with directions that it should be delivered to Mr. Crafton upon the occasion of his next visit to the house.

The next day, also, Cecil dispatched her missive through the post to Madame Lange.

Then the task of packing was entered upon. Cecil's possessions numbered two trunks. Gretchen owned a portmanteau. One of the trunks contained Miss Rosse's small wardrobe; the other was filled with the choicest books that had belonged to the old pastor of Zorlitz, two or three pictures that had hung on the parsonage walls, and a few additional articles which derived their chief value from ancient associations. This trunk Cecil decided to leave in the care of Mrs. Thomas.

Dinner was served at three o'clock in the girl's sitting-room, and soon after four a cab was brought to the door, and Cecil and Gretchen took their departure from Queen's Crescent.

As the young girl looked back at the dingy brick dwelling, and at her landlady in the open doorway with a handkerchief at her eyes, her heart suddenly sank within her.

"I've a good mind not to go, after all," she exclaimed, impulsively.

"But it is too late to change your mind, Miss Cecil," cried Gretchen, aghast. "What would Lady Trevor say? What would Madame Lange say? What would Mrs. Thomas say?"

"Yes, it is too late!" sighed Cecil. "I must go now. Yet such a strange fear came upon me at that moment, Gretchen, such an awful dread, as if I were going straight to my death!"

She looked at her old servant with wild and frightened eyes and a pallor like that of the dead.

"Nonsense, Miss Cecil," responded the old woman, shivering in spite of her air of rebuke and disbelief. "The tea was too strong for you, that is what ails you."

Cecil shook her head and sank back upon her cushions.

"If it's a presentiment," said Gretchen, who was at heart superstitious and a believer in signs and omens, "it must be a warning against your going to Yorkshire by rail as you'd intended doing. There's lots of accidents by rail, more than by water. We had better go in her ladyship's yacht, Miss Cecil."

"I cannot understand this strange depression, I wish I had refused to go to Yorkshire. How foolish I am, Gretchen. This is all nonsense, as you say. I must conquer it."

The girl sat in silence throughout their drive to Lady Trevor's residence. When the cabman opened the door, and the two alighted, Gretchen noticed that the hand of her young mistress was as cold as ice.

"Are you going to be ill, Miss Cecil?" she whispered anxiously.

"No. It's over now. I am myself again. We—I—must enter the house. Lady Trevor has some last instructions to give me."

Gretchen followed her young mistress up the steps and rang the knocker. A footman in livery opened the door.

"Will you inform Lady Trevor that Miss Rosse is here?" said the young lady.

"Her ladyship said you were to be shown into the morning-room," replied the footman. "Her ladyship will see you directly."

He flung open the door of the morning-room, and Cecil and Gretchen passed in.

The room was unoccupied. The two were kept waiting for some minutes, when the sound of wheels caused Gretchen to approach the window.

"Our cab is gone, Miss Cecil!" she cried, in alarm. "Our luggage is stolen—"

She was about to rush to the door in a panic, when Mr. Pulford, suave and bland, made his appearance.

"Good morning, Miss Rosse," he said, bowing courteously. "I have taken the liberty to pay and discharge your cabman, as he says his horse is too tired to carry you the further distance to Gravesend. The luggage is in the hall, and another cab has been sent for. Lady Trevor will be with you directly."

Cecil inclined her head gravely. "I know nothing about Gravesend," she said. "Are we to go there?"

"It's a suburb where vessels lie," declared Mr. Pulford. "Lady Trevor's yacht is there. You will have a delightful sail in her, Miss Rosse. The weather is fine and you will have a quick trip to Yorkshire. It will be far pleasanter than by rail, and, as the yacht is obliged to go, the trip will cost you nothing."

"Lady Trevor is very kind and thoughtful," remarked Cecil. "I have never been on the water except when crossing the Channel, but I think I should enjoy the sail."

At this juncture Lady Trevor entered the room.

She looked somewhat worn and troubled, despite the rouge and pearl powder that artistically ornamented her countenance. Her eyes were haggard, and there were dark circles below them. An uneasy conscience and a deep and terrible anxiety lest her wicked plans should miscarry had rendered her wakeful during the night, and now tortured her beyond expression. She feared, too, lest Lord St. Leonards or the Earl of Glenham might visit her unexpectedly while Cecil was in her house. The feeling that she was fighting fate was strong upon her. She was playing a bold game, and its issue seemed to her just now more than doubtful—so many were her guilty fears.

She greeted Cecil with a pleasant smile.

"You are punctual, I see, Miss Rosse," she exclaimed. "I like that. I will not detain you long, as you are to go to Gravesend. By the way, have you informed your friends of your engagement with me?"

"I have not many friends, madam," replied Cecil. "I told my landlady, and I wrote to Madame Lange, who has been kind to me, that I should spend the winter in working embroidery at your ladyship's country house in Yorkshire!"

Lady Trevor pulled at her bracelets nervously. Mr. Pulford's florid face darkened.

"That was quite right and proper," said the widow, after a minute's silence. "Did you tell them by what route you intended going?"

"No, madam. In truth I had decided to go by rail rather than by boat," said Cecil, frankly, "so of course I did not mention the yacht."

Lady Trevor and her ally looked relieved.

"Of course," said the widow, "you must suit yourself, Miss Rosse. If you prefer to go by rail, do not hesitate to say so. But the house is several miles from any station and there would be no one to meet you, while if you go in the yacht, which is obliged to make the voyage, you save yourself expense and fatigue, have a far pleasanter journey, and will be met at the landing. I sent a letter to my old housekeeper yesterday to send a carriage to the harbor to meet you."

"It's a pity we had not known earlier of Miss Rosse's change of mind," said Mr. Pulford, consulting his watch, and speaking in a manner that was apparently sincere. "The night train for Yorkshire is going. If you decide not to go in the yacht, Miss Rosse, you will be obliged to wait until morning."

"The yacht is most comfortable," remarked Lady Trevor. "Every arrangement has been made for the

comfort of ladies. I have recently made a voyage in it myself. By the way, the yarns and wools, canvas and needles, have been sent on board have they not, Mr Pulford?"

Her ladyship's confederate assented.

"As you have not decided to go in the yacht, Miss Rosse," said the widow pleasantly, with no outward sign of the discomfiture she secretly felt. "Mr Pulford may as well telegraph to the sailing-master not to wait longer."

"I beg you pardon, madam," said Cecil, "if I have seemed hesitating and undecided. I am not used to the water, but no doubt I shall like sailing. I do not wish to return to my lodgings for the night, as I have given them up, and I will therefore accept with pleasure your kind offer of conveyance on your yacht."

"There is the cab I ordered at the door," exclaimed Mr Pulford.

"Then I will not detain you longer, Miss Rosse," said Lady Trevor, graciously. "I am delighted in having secured the services of such an artist as you are in the restoration of my valuable tapestry. Take your time to the work. I shall not visit my country house this winter, and when your task is done, if you will write to Mr Pulford, my agent, he will send you the amount agreed upon, one hundred pounds! I wish you a pleasant voyage and a happy stay at my dear old Yorkshire home!"

Cecil acknowledged the expression of apparent kindness, and after a few final questions, took her leave.

Mr Pulford accompanied her to the cab-door. The luggage was already placed upon it. He helped her into the cab, handed in Gretchen and gave his order to the driver in a low voice.

The cab rolled away and he re-entered the house.

The footman was looking out after the vehicle. Mr Pulford paused a moment to speak to him.

"You picked up a chance cab, I suppose, James?" he asked.

"Yes, sir, one that had just set down a fare."

"The young lady has entered her ladyship's service," remarked Mr Pulford. "She is to catch the limited mail for Yorkshire, and if the horse is not blown they'll make the train in time. The young lady and her old foreign servant are as ignorant as a pair of geese of English ways. I hope they won't come to grief on their way to Yorkshire—o her ladyship's country seat."

He passed on into the morning-room. Lady Trevor had been watching from the window. She came forward now to meet him.

"All right so far, Edith," said Mr Pulford, airily. "The plot works to perfection."

"You are sure it will continue to do so?"

"Perfectly sure. I must catch a stray handson, and whirl down to Gravesend after them to see them aboard and safely embarked. And then to catch the train for my journey. Have no more fears, Edith. Trust me and all will come out right. Our tracks are covered. I defy any one to uncover them."

He seized his hat and hurried from the house.

Turning the nearest corner he came upon an empty handson cab. He hailed and engaged it, and went swiftly on his way to Gravesend.

Arrived at his destination, he had no difficulty in discovering the yacht he had chartered as it lay in the stream. He hired a row-boat and went out to it.

It proved to be a small, well-built vessel, snug and neat and trim, a gentleman's pleasure craft. The deck was scoured to whiteness. There was a small saloon prettily fitted up, with carpet, table, and divan, and off the saloon were four state-rooms, small, but bright, clean and pleasant.

"These quarters will strike Miss Rosse as sumptuous," thought Mr Pulford. "I had to pay a good

price for it, but then I did my business under an assumed name with the sailing master, and it's all safe—safe as the dead."

One of the state-rooms had been newly cleansed and prepared for the occupancy of Cecil and her servant. After examining this with considerable interest, Mr Pulford re-entered the saloon. A stewardess had just made her appearance and he entered into conversation with her. She was a Portuguese woman whom he himself hired for the occasion—a dark-browed, heavy featured person with something repulsive about her ill-cut mouth, and small, sleepy-looking eyes. He had known her a long time, and was quite well aware that her looks did not belie her disposition, and that she was capable of committing a crime even, if she were well paid for it.

"They will soon be here, Maria," exclaimed Mr Pulford, placing a little bag of coin in her hands. "There is the beginning of your pay. Be faithful to me, carry out my instructions, and you shall have the reward I promised you."

"I'll earn it!" declared Maria, grimly. "Everything is ready. We'll be off as soon as they come!"

"Remember," whispered Pulford, impressively, "that on proofs of the girl's death the reward shall be doubled!"

"I'll remember!" replied the woman, significantly. "I shall claim the whole sum and that soon!"

Mr Pulford, well satisfied, returned to the deck, and presently was rowed ashore.

He had scarcely landed when the vessel, with Cecil and her servant, arrived. It was now growing dusk, with indications of rain. Both Cecil and Gretchen were well muffled.

"I came down to see you off, Miss Rosse," explained Pulford, marking Cecil's surprise, after he had dismissed the cab. "Lady Trevor was so anxious for your comfort that she insisted upon my coming. The wind has changed within an hour, and it is commencing to rain, but you'll have smooth water and a pleasant voyage. Let me take you out to the yacht."

The luggage had already been deposited in the row-boat. Pulford helped Cecil in, Gretchen lumbered after, and himself followed and they were rowed out to the yacht. He led the girl below to the saloon.

"This is the stewardess, Miss Rosse," he said, indicating by a wave of the hand the Portuguese woman, who stood surveying the new comers curiously. "You'll find her faithful to her duties and very attentive. There is a good cook on board, and you can imagine yourself 'monarch of all' you 'survey,' if you choose. Here is your state-room. The lower berth is yours; the upper one is intended for your maid."

"It is all very nice," said Cecil. "Lady Trevor has been very considerate of my comfort."

"Yes, and she hopes you will throw off all care, and give yourself up to the enjoyment of the voyage. The wind having changed, you may be longer on the way, but the passage will be pleasant. You hear the trampling of feet on deck? They are hauling up the anchor. I must go ashore. Good-bye, Miss Rosse."

He held out his hand. Cecil placed hers in it, and he then, with a last word of encouragement, ascended to the deck. The row-boat was in waiting. He exchanged a last word with the captain and went ashore.

The sails were unfurled and the yacht moved down the stream.

"Lady Trevor has been most kind Miss Cecil," said Gretchen, admiring the furnishing of state-room and saloon. "This is her own yacht. She treats you as a honored friend. She was quick to see that you are a real lady."

"The whole thing seems to me like a dream," said Cecil. "I can scarcely believe that I be I, as the

whole woman says in the nursery rhyme. I wonder at my own boldness in daring to leave London, and to undertake such a mission as this."

"Nothing venture nothing have," said Gretchen, wisely. "It would have taken you many years to lay up a hundred pounds clear of all expenses if you had staid in London, but here you get it in a single winter. We are very fortunate, Miss Cecil."

"Very fortunate indeed, Gretchen. And yet I don't like to work for Lady Trevor nor to take her money, since she is to marry Lord Glenham. I suppose I am foolish," and Cecil tried to smile.

"We are off," said the Portuguese stewardess, drawing nearer, as the yacht gave a lurch and a bound. "I will prepare your supper, Miss. Any orders you may give will be obeyed."

"We will go on deck for a few moments," replied Miss Rosse. "I have no orders to give. Get anything you please."

She went up to the deck with Gretchen. The shadows were thickening, and so was the rain. And with the gloom of nature came back that strange and unaccountable depression she had experienced before, that terrible gloom that weighed upon her like a hideous black pall.

"Something is going to happen to me!" she exclaimed. "Gretchen, I feel so strongly depressed. I almost wish we had not come!"

Yet, despising herself for what she deemed her weakness, she made no movement towards return. And the yacht glided on under sail and swept out towards the open sea and the darkness of the night.

Mr Pulford, standing on the shore watched the vessel out of sight. Then his florid visage reddened with a glow of wicked jubilation.

"So she goes out of Edith's life for ever!" he muttered. "Every track is carefully covered. No one will ever trace her to her doom! The thing has been well managed. We have nothing more to fear—nothing. The great danger that beset us so suddenly has been conquered as promptly. The girl is got rid of—we are safe!"

CHAPTER XXII.

SUSPICION OF FOUL PLAY.

It was nearly two weeks after the departure of Cecil Rosse and her old servant from London that Malred Crafton again visiting Number Four, Queen's Crescent, Bayswater. He had delayed his visit, desiring to give Cecil ample time to recover from the crushing blow he had dealt her through the lying paragraph he had caused to be inserted in the Court Journal. During the several weeks that had elapsed since her receipt of that notice of Lord Glenham's engagement of marriage to Lady Trevor, the girl had had time to become resigned to her apparent fate. He knew so well her brave and resolute nature, her strong, earnest, noble soul, that he felt confident she would not weakly yield to her sorrow, or sumpinely sink under her despair. He believed that he would find her calm and selfpossessed, holding her grief in firm check, and devoting herself to her daily duties with quiet cheerfulness.

He had determined to present himself to her as her suitor. Now, if ever, his love would be appreciated by her in her loneliness. He would approach the matter delicately; he did not intend to ask her love at the outset. He would only beg to be allowed to devote himself to her happiness, to shield her from all trouble, to watch over her, and care for her.

"I'll be so delicate that she will consider me her best friend, and a safe refuge from all her troubles," he thought as he mounted the steps of the lodging-house and rung the knocker. "Yes, I'll venture to-day to ask her to become my wife. Old Gretchen must have prepared the way for me. I'll lose no further time!"

The housemaid opened the door. Mr. Crafton passed her, entering the hall.

"Take my card up to Miss Rosse," he said, producing the bit of paste-board.

"Miss Rosse? She isn't here, sir. She is gone, sir," replied the maid.

"Gone!" repeated Crafton, blankly, "Where is she gone?"

"That, I don't know, sir. She's been gone these two weeks. She's is gone for good, sir."

Crafton recoiled a step or two in his amazement. The statement seemed to him incredible. Cecil gone, when she had but so recently come to London! Had she returned to Zorlitz?

"Tell your mistress that Mr. Crafton would like to see her a moment," he said, I am a friend of Miss Rosse, please mention."

"The gentleman as was here before, sir? Yes, sir. Just step into the parlor, sir, and I will call the missus."

Crafton was ushered into the little parlor, and the housemaid hurried away in quest of her mistress.

The visitor had time to study the vases of wax flowers and fruits under their glass covers, the two or three quaint, old-fashioned family portraits and all the objects of interest or curiosity the room afforded, and to grow heartily tired and impatient before Mrs Thomas appeared.

But she came in at last, freshly arrayed in a purple silk gown, with her broad, good natured face shining redly under the shadow of her white lace cap, and with a letter in her hand. She courtesied to the visitor, who demanded at once Miss Rosse's present address.

"That I can't give you sir," replied Mrs. Thomas. "She is somewhere in Yorkshire, at a great country house—"

Crafton repeated the words in bewilderment.

"Gretchen, Miss Rosse's servant, left a letter for you, which here it is," remarked Mrs. Thomas, extending it.

"Miss Rosse herself offered quite of her own free will—for I should never have been bold enough to ask such a thing of a born lady as she is—to write me a letter from her new home, but she has not done so. I expected that Gretchen at least might drop me a line, although her English is so imperfect, but not a line from any one, have I received. I know my place as well as any one, sir, nor do I wish to presume upon it; but Miss Rosse is so young and beautiful, a stranger in a strange land, innocent of the world, and unknown to the wiles of the wicked, and I should feel safer if I could know as she made the journey safely to Yorkshire. I am that uneasy at times that I am sorry she ever went, although a hundred pound is a great sum, and not to be picked off every bush."

Crafton tore open his letter and eagerly perused it.

"Why is it possible?" he ejaculated. "Miss Rosse is gone to Lady Trevor's house! To Lady Trevor's of all places in the world! What under heaven does it mean?"

He was absolutely staggered at the revelation.

Mrs. Thomas was obliged to tell the story of Cecil's engagement, to corroborate Gretchen's letter.

"It's an absolute puzzle!" exclaimed Crafton. "She has gone to Lady Trevor's house—they two have met! Are they friends?"

He wondered how lady Trevor and Cecil Rosse had changed to meet. Mrs. Thomas explained that seeming mystery. Then, in his own soul, he wondered if Lady Trevor knew her beautiful embroidress to be the girl Lord Glenham had known and loved in Zorlitz.

"Impossible!" he thought. "She does not suspect the truth. I'll enlighten her—she wouldn't keep her under her roof over night if she knew her to be her hated rival!"

He extracted all the information

possible from Mrs. Thomas, and then took his leave, re-entering his handsome cab, and driving straight to Lady Trevor's town residence.

The footman declared her ladyship to be at home. He sent in his card, was admitted, and ushered in the drawing-room.

Lady Trevor, in an elegant morning costume, sat in a low chair before the hearth. A book lay open on her knee, and she held a feather screen in her hand. She arose to receive him, and he noticed that she was looking ill, that her hard, black eyes were heavy and that her face, in spite of cosmetics, was wan and haggard.

"I am fortunate to find you in Town, Lady Trevor," he exclaimed. "I wonder that you are not in the country however, with all the rest of the fashionable world."

"Except yourself. I leave town to-morrow for St. Leonards, upon a visit. And afterwards I shall visit Glenham Manor, the earl's seat. Lord Glenham with his mother are at this moment in Germany."

"They are gone to Zorlitz. Yes, I know it. Is Lord St. Leonards in town?"

"No, he is at St. Leonards his own place. He went up nearly a fortnight since, having premonitory symptoms of another attack of his old enemy the gout. He has written to ask me to visit him, and of course I must go. This is the first invitation to his house he has given me since I married Sir Albert Trevor, fifteen years ago."

"He has received you fully in his favour again then? I am glad to hear it, Lady Trevor, and congratulate you."

"Oh, I am not in full favor, Mr Crafton. Don't think that. You know as well as I do that the Marquis is a crochety, passionate stormy old man. I expect to be a martyr during my visit to him, as I have never won my way into his favor; but then I am his granddaughter, and have certain rights that he cannot set aside."

"We shall meet at Glenham Manor, I hope. I am to be there, too," said Crafton. "By the way, what is the name of your own place in Yorkshire, Lady Trevor?"

"Greycourt. I bought it myself. It is not fifty miles distant from Glenham Manor."

"I came to-day to see you on business, Lady Trevor," said Crafton a little embarrassed, yet determined to come to the point. "I wish to inquire about a certain Miss Rosse whom you have taken into your employment."

Lady Trevor started, turning livid under her cosmetics, as could be plainly seen.

"Miss Rosse!" she stammered. "Of Number Four, Queen's Crescent, Bayswater. I suppose she is now at Greycourt, your place in Yorkshire. Do you know who this embroidress really is?"

"How should I know?"

"She is Cecil Rosse, of Zorlitz! I went to Germany while Lord Glenham was in Scotland, and found that her uncle was dead, and that she had come to London. The very day after my arrival in London I came upon her in the street. A most singular occurrence, was it not?"

"Singular indeed!"

"I obtained her address and visited her. She is no fit match for Lord Glenham, but I do not need to ask for rank and fortune with my wife, and I too am her suitor. It was a singular coincidence that threw her in your way, Lady Trevor."

"Marvellous," breathed Lady Trevor.

"I may seem disloyal to the earl in becoming a suitor of the lady he also loves," said Crafton, "but I can easily reconcile my course with my conscience. I know I can count upon your secrecy as far as I am concerned, for you would not wish to betray Miss Rosse's address to him

now that you have discovered her identity with your sewing-girl."

"You are quite safe with me. I shall not betray you," said Lady Trevor, huskily.

"I knew you would not," and Crafton smiled sardonically. "I beg you now to give me the exact address of Greycourt. I shall take the next train for Yorkshire."

Lady Trevor moved back in her chair and put her hand-screen before her face. Her lips were bloodless, her eyes full of swift and lurking terror.

"To Yorkshire!" she said, in an odd, strained voice. "To see Miss Rosse? She is there I suppose. I told her to write to me on her arrival, but I have not heard from her. I hope she went safely. She didn't seem to know much about English ways."

"Mrs Thomas, her landlady, seems alarmed because she has not written to her. But undoubtedly she is at Greycourt, and hard at work. I shall know to-morrow."

"Are you sure that she will be glad to see you?"

"I think she will be. I am going to ask her to marry me, Lady Trevor. I can afford to gratify my fancy for a beautiful face. I wonder that you never suspected her identity."

"How could I? The English name of Ross is common enough, and her name is similarly pronounced. She is certainly beautiful. I hope that you will win her. I have taken an interest in her, not knowing who she really is, but, of course, if she is the girl Lord Glenham loves, I do not care to keep her in my employment. I hope you will marry her directly, Mr. Crafton, before Lord Glenham returns."

She tried to speak playfully, but the effort was a failure.

"Poor soul!" thought Crafton. "She thinks it's all up with her chances, now that Glenham is gone to look for Miss Rosse. She thinks that Lady Glenham has given in to her son's entreaties, and that her day is over. That is the secret of her looking so ill. She'd be happy enough if I should succeed in winning Cecil for myself."

Having obtained the exact address he desired, he made his adieu.

He took the night train for Yorkshire. On the afternoon of the next day he drove up the shaded avenue of Greycourt, and was admitted into the house by an old woman who was placed in charge of it.

"I wish to see Miss Rosse," he explained.

"Miss Rosse is not here!" was the startling response. "My lady wrote over two weeks ago that a sewing girl named Miss Rosse would arrive by the railway-train, but although we sent to meet her, she never came."

"What! is she not here?"

"No, sir. We concluded as she'd changed her mind, it being so lonely like here."

"Not here! Why, Lady Trevor told me she was here."

"Be like, sir. But I haven't written to my lady, so how could she know, unless the young woman told her of her change of mind?"

The housekeeper was old and respectable. Her word could not be doubted. Cecil was not at Greycourt, and had not been there. Crafton felt a sense of shuddering apprehension—a sickening terror. The girl and her servant had most unaccountably disappeared. But where could they be?

"Something has happened them," he exclaimed. She was remarkably beautiful—there has been foul play. But I'll find her if I have to dig up all England. By Heaven, if any one has harmed her, I'll find him out and hunt him to his death!"

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

An exchange publishes an advertisement of a hotel kept by the widow of Mr. Brown who died last summer on a new and improved plan—presumably without the aid of a physician.

PLAYING PRACTICAL JOKES ON A BAILIE.

(Scotsman, March 20.)

On Saturday one of our local Magistrates was the victim of a series of practical jokes, which were carried to a somewhat unusual extent. It will be remembered that on Saturday week Bailie MacBean presided at the Northern Police Court, and inflicted heavy fines on several students for being concerned in the row which took place in the city on the preceding evening. Though no clue has been discovered as to the perpetrators, yet there is a suspicion that the plot must have been hatched among the undergraduates of the University. A number of respectable tradesmen received post-cards last Friday night, purporting to come from Bailie MacBean, and has there was nothing on the face of the cards to indicate that they were other than genuine, a ready response was made to the orders thus conveyed. The following, received by a local contractor, may be taken as a sample of that forwarded to others:—

"Woodside Place, Friday.

"Please send a lorry here at 12 o'clock to-morrow, to remove some furniture.—H.M.B."

In accordance with the orders contained in the various post cards, the residence of the Bailie was throughout the day continually besieged by tradesmen, messengers, cabs, lorries, and other vehicles, and the servants were kept continually attending to the door. Several chimney sweeps called as early as five o'clock for the purpose of cleaning the vents, and these were followed by plumbers who were prepared to remedy the defects in the gas and water pipes in the house. A number of waggons of coals were forwarded to Woodside Place; cabs drove up in any number to carry the worthy Magistrate and his family to places unknown, while we believe no fewer than from 20 to 25 lorries called at various hours to remove his furniture. The procession, which began at so early an hour, continued with little interruption till four o'clock in the afternoon.

Several tradesmen were put to considerable inconvenience in connection with the matter, some of them having disappointed other customers in order to attend to what they deemed a prior order. The household of the Bailie were also considerably annoyed when the callers first commenced, but long before the conclusion of the day's proceedings they had come to understand the matter, and thoroughly to enjoy the joke. No doubt the affair will engage the attention of the authorities.

COLONIAL DEFENCES.

In 1857, Colonel Mould, of the Royal Engineers, acting under instructions from Government, visited nearly all the harbors in New Zealand, and selected sites for defensive works and shore batteries. In 1859 he sent in a report showing how the harbors of Wellington Auckland and Lyttelton could be protected against predatory squadrons by means of coast batteries susceptible of self-defence against attack by parties landing in boats. Later on in the same year he submitted a further report, containing suggestions specially applicable to the defence of Auckland. In 1864 his advice was again asked, semi-officially, on the subject of harbor defences, when he replied, adhering generally to his former reports, with the substitution of more modern and efficient ordnance. The only notice that we (Press) find to have been taken of these reports is that Colonel Mould received instructions to construct a battery on the Bean Reef, at the entrance of the harbor of Auckland; "but this was not carried out for economical reasons." In 1871, a very complete report was obtained from Captain Hutton. It was made by order of the Defence Minister, Mr. D M'Lean, and, in compliance with instructions, included only the defences necessary for repelling "a sudden attack by one or two small cruisers or privateers, coming to the colony for the purpose of plunder only, and not with any idea of taking possession of it." The harbors reported on were those of Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, Lyttelton, and Port Chalmers with Dunedin. The means of defence relied on by Captain Hutton were torpedoes and heavy rifled guns mounted in Moneiff batteries, manned by companies of Volunteer Artillery. Lastly, when Mr. Vogel went to England in 1871, one object of his mission was said to be to confer with the home authorities respecting the defences of the colony from outward aggression. For this purpose he was placed by the War Office in communication with Colonel Jervois. The result was most

satisfactory. Colonel Jervois, so Mr. Vogel wrote, was "most cordially earnest in his desire to afford all the assistance he could to the colony," and "devised plans by which the ports of Auckland, Wellington, Lyttelton, Nelson, and Otago can be placed in a position to resist the attacks of privateers and vessels, not being ironclads, at a cost of £44,000," besides the expenses of freight and the requisite enclosures of land. These plans, with maps, confidential reports, and other papers supplied by Colonel Jervois, were brought to the colony and deposited in the Defence Office, whence, we suppose, they can in case of need be unearthed.

A HEARTLESS CASE OF JILTING.

A breach of promise case—Shaw v. Ashworth—has been before the Sheriff's Court, Liverpool. The plaintiff in this case was Jessie Shaw, of Everton, and the defendant James Ashworth of Manchester. The case was one for the assessment of damages. Mr. Blair said that the plaintiff was now about thirty-five years of age, had occupied the position of cook in families of wealth and position. The defendant was about fifty years of age, so that there did not exist any unreasonable disparity of age between them. In 1868 they became first acquainted and the engagement continued until 1875. In that year an incident of an unpleasant character happened. A young woman presented herself at the house where the plaintiff was living and said she was married to the defendant. Whether that was true or not he (Mr. Blair) could not tell; but then the plaintiff gave up all communication with defendant without any idea of bringing an action for breach of promise. She did not hear anything of him for some months, and then she met him in the house of her brother. She then told him what she had heard, and he said that the woman alluded to was dead. At the defendant's request the plaintiff went to his house at Manchester, and there saw no one occupying the position of mistress and after that the engagement between them was renewed. During the period the engagement with the defendant was suspended the plaintiff became engaged to another; but it was arranged that they (the plaintiff and defendant) should be married on December 26th last. The plaintiff left her situation and went to Wavertree Church to be married. She had bought her wedding dress, actually went to church, but no defendant appeared; a telegram did arrive at ten minutes past twelve o'clock, but no defendant came, and there was no marriage. The plaintiff, Jessie Shaw, was called and deposed that the defendant had promised to marry her. The defendant had told her he was worth £1000. She also had seen him in possession of large sums of money, and he had said that when his father died £8000 would be divided between him and his sister. She went to a draper's shop with the defendant and purchased her wedding outfit. On the morning of the day for which the wedding was fixed she left her situation, a carriage coming for her, and taking her to the church. The defendant did not come to the church, and she returned to her brother's house. The wedding guests had been asked to her brother's house, where provision was made to entertain them. Mr Blair: Afterwards other negotiations took place between you and the defendant? Witness: Yes. About another day on which you were to be married?—Yes. But it never came off?—No; this took place three times in all. What length did these negotiations go to?—I dressed and went to church, and everything was ready for church. But he did not come to be married?—No. Cross-examined: I met the defendant first at a temperance house at Birkenhead. I am a single woman. Within the last few weeks I have lent the defendant money, because he had got £50 and had no change. The plaintiff's brother was called, and said that the defendant had always represented himself as a man in a good position. The jury awarded the plaintiff £150 damages.

The following advertisement, which appeared in a recent issue of the Nelson Daily Times, offers a good opportunity to bachelors:—"Matrimony. Rita and Muriel are two friends, who desire to correspond (with the object of marriage) with two gentlemanly looking, dark young men, possessing moderate incomes. Muriel is nineteen, dark, and considered handsome; fond of home. Rita is eighteen, warm hearted, and very affectionate; is of middle height, with blue eyes, and fair hair. Will exchange cartes-de-visite. Address: Box No. 56, Post-Office, Nelson."

WAIPUKURAU ROAD BOARD.

A MEETING of the above Board was held in the Town Hall on the 13th instant.

Present: Hon. H. R. Russell (Chairman), Messrs. W. L. Newman, P. Gow, S. Johnston, and W. C. Smith.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Board authorised the necessary expenditure for metalling that portion of the Wallingford Road lately formed beyond the Waipukurau Parsonage.

A long discussion then took place in reference to opening (under the Public Works Act), a direct road from Takapau Railway Station to the Makaretu.

The Chairman laid before the Board a report and tracing from the Road Overseer, showing that a good and almost direct line of road from Takapau to Ashley Clinton could be got, and that it would cost very little to make it fit for dray traffic; also that if a short branch road was made from it to the crossing of the Tukipo River, it would suit the whole of the Makaretu settlers. The overseer also reported that the alternative line suggested by Colonel Lambert was impracticable, as it would be impossible to make a road there, except at a very heavy expenditure. The lowest estimate for making a passable road there would be £600.

A petition signed by a large number of the Makaretu settlers was laid before the Board asking that the line of road leading direct from Ashley Clinton to Takapau be the one opened.

It was proposed by Mr Smith, and seconded by Mr Gow, that the direct road through Colonel Lambert's and Mr Grant's runs from Takapau to near Loye's, Ashley Clinton, be opened, and that the portion leading in a direct line from the Mangatawai to the Tukipou river, at the junction of the Great North Road, be also opened, the Chairman being instructed to ask the County Council for a grant in aid towards the expense.

Mr Johnston moved, as an amendment, seconded by Mr Newman, that the consideration of opening that portion of the line between Loye's and the Mangatawai stream be postponed, pending the Chairman's application to the Council, but that the portion of the proposed road between Takapau and the Tukipou river be opened at once.

The amendment was negatived, the original motion being carried, the Chairman, and Messrs Gow and Smith voting for, and Messrs Johnston and Newman against it.

The Chairman was instructed to communicate with Mr Grant and Colonel Lambert on the subject of opening the roads, and to ascertain if they would come to an arrangement with the Board on the subject, and, if so, on what terms.

The Board instructed the Chairman to call the annual meeting of ratepayers for Tuesday, the 3rd of July.

WAIPAWA RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1877.

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

CRIMINAL CASES.

Samuel Ross, charged with being drunk, pleaded guilty, and fined 5s.

James Kerigan, also charged with drunkenness and assaulting the police in the execution of their duty was fined 5s for being drunk, and £2 for the assault.

JUDGMENT SUMMONSES.

Rathbone v. Brears.—Ordered to pay £8 6s 3d within one month, or in default to be committed for one month.

Pritchard and Olley v. Hebden.—Ordered to pay £16 12s on or before the 19th June, in default, one month's imprisonment.

Spiller v. Ower.—Ordered to pay £3 2s 5d on or before 19th June, in default, one month's imprisonment.

CIVIL CASES.

Rathbone v. Tight.—Claim of £15 1s 8d for goods supplied, &c. Judgment for amount, and costs 19s.

J. L. Sebley v. Houguey.—Claim of £3 10s 10d in part account delivered. Judgment for amount, and costs 9s.

Same v. Hebden.—Judgment by default for £20 17s 7d, amount claimed, and costs 21s.

Same v. Lindsay.—Claim £16 4s 10d. Adjourned to 10th July next, defendant having telegraphed that he was empanelled on a jury for the Supreme Court at Napier.

Terry v. H. R. Russell.—Claim £4 15s for wages. Defendant paid into Court £3 9s 2d in full satisfaction, having tendered that amount to plaintiff in discharge. Judgment for defendant.

Houguey v. Meredith.—Claim £8 5s 10d for goods supplied. Adjourned to 10th July next for further hearing.

NAPIER FIRE BRIGADE.

CHRISTENING OF THE "VICTOR."

The ceremony of christening the Steam Fire Engine took place on Thursday at the Engine Shed. Shortly before eight o'clock, the Artillery Volunteers and Cadets under the command of Captain Routledge and Lieutenant Garner, marched up to the shed, when shortly afterwards a signal was given by the ringing of the fire-bells, and the lighting up of the Brigade Building with fireworks that the ceremony was about to commence. The engine was brought out to the front of the building, attended by the members of the brigade bearing flaming torches. F. Sutton Esq., M.G.A., then mounted the platform and said:— We have met on this important occasion to christen the Fire Engine. We have now here an engine and appliances of which Napier may be proud. It was the only steam fire engine in the North Island, there being another in the South at Christchurch. He then called on Miss Miller to christen the engine. A bottle of champagne was then opened and poured into a goblet and handed to the lady, who, in throwing it over the engine, said: "I name thee the Victor, and mayest thou ever prove worthy of the name now bestowed on you." Three hearty cheers were then given by the large assemblage, the band playing the National Anthem. Mr. Sutton afterwards said the engine had already proved itself worthy of the name of "Victor" at the late fire in Emerson Street, but although they had the engine, unless they had willing hands to work it, it would be of little use. He then called for three cheers for the Fire Brigade, which were heartily given, which were followed by three cheers for Miss Miller, and three more for the Superintendent of the Brigade, Mr. W. Miller.

PROCESSION.

The procession was then formed in the following order, the Superintendent walking at its head, with members of the Brigade on each side of him, bearing torches:—

- Four firemen bearing torches.
- The band.
- Detachment of artillery.
- Gun on carriage drawn by one horse.
- Detachment of artillery.
- Four firemen bearing torches.
- The steam fire engine.
- Two firemen bearing torches.
- Hose reel.
- Detachment of artillery.
- Gun on carriage drawn by one horse.
- Four firemen bearing torches.
- The manual engine.
- Four firemen bearing torches.
- Carriage containing the members of the Fire Engine Fund Committee and Mr. F. Sutton, M.H.R.
- Firemen bearing torches.
- Cadets bearing torches.

The procession proceeded along the beach road towards the Court-house, down Browning-street, down Tennyson-street, across the eastern end of Clive-square, up Dickens-street, and along Hastings-street back to the engine-house. The streets through which the procession passed were crowded by spectators. It was acknowledged to be the grandest sight ever witnessed in Napier, the night being intensely dark, and calm.

THE DINNER.

At nine o'clock about 40 gentlemen sat down to a splendid cold collation, provided by Mr. F. Oatley, of the City Dining Rooms, for which he deserves every credit, all things being provided that the most fastidious could desire, while at the same time every attention was paid to the wants of those present. F. Sutton, Esq., M.G.A., occupied the chair, supported on his right by the Superintendent of the Brigade, and Captain Routledge, and on his left by two of the Committee of the Fire Engine Fund, E. W. Knowles, and J. Close, Esqs.

A letter during the course of the evening was read from the Mayor, R. Stuart, Esq., in which his Worship regretted that, owing to his Magisterial duties in the country, he could not accept the invitation to be present.

After dinner, the Chairman called on the company to drink the health of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, which was heartily responded to.

The Chairman then gave the toast of "The Army and Navy," coupling with it the "New Zealand Volunteers, and the names of Capt. Routledge and Lieut. Garner." He felt sure that if such a contingency were to arise as England going to war with a foreign power that Capt. Routledge, with his men and big guns, would do their best to defend the lives and property of the settlers. (Cheers.)

Capt. Routledge, in responding, said he hoped such a contingency would not arise, but if the Volunteers were called on, those of Hawke's Bay would, as in the past, be able to give a good account of themselves. The corps he had the honor of commanding had recently received from the hands of the Napier public an amount of support and kindness for which he felt gratified, for nothing would assist Volunteers more than to be aware that their services were appreciated. He alluded to the liberal response given by the people in prizes for the corps. All the prizes had been fairly and honestly won. The Volunteers of New Zealand had proved themselves worthy of the name of Volunteers both in this district and Poverty Bay, and he was confident, if again called on they would be found doing their duty equally as well as before. (Cheers.)

Captain Routledge said it had fallen to his lot to propose the next toast, viz., that of "The Mayor and Corporation." The speaker then referred to the attention shown to the wants of the town. He, however, regretted their last action in refusing to vote £200 instead of £100 required by the Engine Fund Committee.

The Chairman said that the next toast was one of more importance than any which had preceded it, and he was sure would be drunk with bumpers. It was that of the "Fire Engine Committee, coupled with the name of Mr. Close." It was well known that when any public work required taking in hand some one must have been at work, and they had evidence that some one had been working for them. The building they were now in, the engines and appliances to arrest fire, proved this. He had been a resident of Napier 21 years, and had always advocated a steam fire engine for the town. When he heard that Napier was going to get such an engine, he felt sure that it was the best move ever made here, as the engine would soon amply repay itself. If it had not been for the interest taken by the Fire Engine Committee, they would not have been there that evening to drink the health of the "Victor." (Hear hear.) It must be a great satisfaction to Mr. Close to see that the Brigade worked so successfully. When the £200 debt was paid off, Napier would have a Brigade and appliances of which she might well be proud.

The toast was drunk with musical honors.

Mr. Close who was received with cheers, said, he begged to thank them for their cordial reception of the toast. It gave him pleasure not only as a member of the Engine Fund, but also as a citizen to be present at the christening of the infant. He would ask them to look back and contrast their present position, with what it was now. At the last fire in Hastings-street, they had no appliances, no Brigade, no engine, yet he believed that fire did good for Napier, as it had shewn them their defenceless position, and had caused a few of them to set to work till the engines, building and appliances were obtained. If we go to the engine room what do we now see, on one side a manual engine—next a hose, 150 feet in length—and on the other side we see the steam fire engine—our newly-baptised engine—the Victor; and before us gentlemen we look and see a Fire Brigade, consisting of 35 chosen and picked men of Napier. (Loud cheers.) With our united efforts we have gained this proud position. The result at the last fire proved they were ready for any emergency. And why? Because they worked unitedly—obeyed the commands of their officers—and cheerfully did their duty. He had no doubt the "Victor" would prove true to her name, and that our defenders would prove true also.

Mr. E. W. Knowles said it had fallen to his lot to propose a toast which he felt sure would be as equally well received as the previous one. It was the "Superintendent of the Fire Brigade." (Cheers.) As soon as he mentioned the name of Mr. Miller he knew how it would be received. No one could take so much credit to himself, and there was no one that deserved so much from the public as that gentleman. He was the leader, the life, and soul of everything in connection with the Committee. No one knew better than himself what Mr. Miller had done. He had obtained subscriptions where others had failed, and placed his time and ability at the disposal of the Brigade. He thought the success which attended the procession that evening must be a source of great satisfaction to their Superintendent. He was a man of indomitable energy, and he was sure no one was more fitted for the position he occupied as their Superintendent. The fire in Emerson-street also proved that he ought to be proud of his men—there was there not a dissentient voice, but all

worked with good feeling and for the benefit of the Corps. There were some people who had withheld their support from the Brigade, but there were not many. He thought the ratepayers should not grudge the vote of £100 given by the Corporation. Those members who had supported the £200 vote were deserving of thanks, and those who had not supported it, he believed, had since regretted their action. He begged to propose the health of the Superintendent, coupling with it that of the Brigade. The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

Captain Routledge also wished to add his testimony to Mr. Miller's fitness for the position he occupied, and to the great services he had rendered to the Brigade.

Mr. W. Miller, in rising to respond, was received with deafening applause. He said he was much pleased and gratified at the hearty reception of the toast of his health had met with. He had always a liking for the work. When he first came to Napier, the thing that struck him was its defenceless state in case of fire, and sixteen years ago he formed a Brigade, but it failed. He thought very great credit was due to the Fire Engine Fund Committee. After the last fire in Hastings-street it was suggested that a public meeting should be held to take measures to protect themselves from fire. He, however, suggested that a committee be formed, and the town canvassed for subscriptions, as he believed that it was useless to call a meeting on the subject. The committee met with success. Although praise had been awarded him, yet he felt that to others it was due. (No.) He had belonged to several brigades, but never to one with so many good fellows as were in the Napier Brigade. The great success of the Brigade was to be attributed to the men who composed it. (Hear, hear.) They had no selfish object in the matter, but gave their services for the public benefit. He thought that if a serious fire took place the Brigade would be equal to any in New Zealand, and he had endeavored to impress upon the men that, by keeping cool and obeying their officers, they would always be able to master a fire. He thought more credit should be given to his officers, for the way they had worked, and the time they had given to it. It was indeed a pleasure to work with them. Mr. Knowles had referred to his (Mr. Miller's) canvass; he looked upon it as an indirect tax upon everyone. Their object in starting a brigade was to assist their fellow-citizens, and he might remind them that the best hotelkeeper in Napier had died broken-hearted through a fire. When he accepted the position of Superintendent of the Brigade it was only for six months, as he thought by that time, if they had got what they were promised they would be in a good position. He thought the officers of the Brigade should be younger men than himself. (No, no.) He had done his best for the Corps, but if credit was due to the Brigade, it was due to the members and the officers. Mr. Kemsley had worked for it night and day, and he did not see how they could do without him. He again returned them his sincere thanks for responding so heartily to the toast of his health, and he also begged to thank Capt. Routledge and his company for the great assistance they had rendered in the procession. (Cheers.)

Mr. Miller then proposed the health of Mr. Sutton, and referred to him in complimentary terms. He had known him ever since his arrival in Napier, and had always found him straightforward and honorable. When Mr. Sutton commenced business he was his first customer, and when he retired he was his last, and he was glad to see him at the head of the table that evening presiding over them. He was a most useful man, and when he went to the House of Representatives he would make a name for himself, for whatever he undertook he would carry it through. (Cheers.)

Song—"He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Mr. Sutton, who was received with loud cheers, said that when Mr. Miller asked him to preside on this occasion he had accepted the position with very great pleasure. He would always be happy to give the Brigade any assistance in his power. Mr. Miller had been present at every fire in Napier, and had always taken an active and intelligent part at them, even when he was without an engine or a brigade, and was largely instrumental in saving property. In reference to his (Mr. S.) present position, he might say that he had been in public life for a good many years, that on his first election to the Provincial Council it was Mr. Miller who had asked him to stand, and had carried him through. The people of Napier had always been pleased with his actions in the Council; if he could only succeed in a like manner in the General Assembly, no doubt they would return him again. He knew something

of the wants of the colony and of this province, and if he could be of any use to the constituency he would use his utmost endeavors to serve them. He again thanked them, and said he had occupied the position of chairman with very great pleasure. (Cheers.)

Mr. Warner then, in a modest speech, proposed "The Ladies," coupling with it the name of Miss Miller.

Mr. Christie blushing responded, hoping that on the occasion of the next anniversary, they would be favored with the company of ladies.

The Chairman then proposed the health of Sub-Superintendent Kemsley, speaking in high terms of his qualifications as an officer of the Brigade. A good deal of the success of the Brigade was due to the second officer, and his services were deserving of some recognition at their hands. (Cheers.)

Mr. Kemsley begged to thank them heartily, and said that Messrs Neal and Close and Mr. Miller had stood by the Brigade from the first. He hoped the men would obey their officers, as it was the only way they could succeed. Hitherto they had all worked well together, and he hoped they would continue to do so. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Garner then proposed the health of Mr. Yuill, saying that Messrs Kemsley and Yuill had worked day and night for the good of the Brigade.

Mr. Yuill, in responding, said that he deserved no thanks, he had merely done his duty in the past, and was prepared to do it in the future.

The chairman then gave the toast of the "Press." He said the Brigade had been well supported by both the Napier papers, and they had to thank the press for advocating the cause of the Brigade. (Here, hear.)

Mr. Morrison and Mr. Grigg briefly responded.

Mr. Knowles then proposed the "Officers of the Brigade," and in doing so alluded to how well the Brigade turned out to practice and the efficient manner in which it was drilled.

The Superintendent, Mr. Miller, returned thanks.

The following toasts were then drunk "Honorary Members of the Brigade," responded to by Mr. Carnell, who offered to take the portraits of the members of the Brigade to decorate their reading-room. The "Host, Mr. Oatley," proposed by Mr. Massey, who spoke highly of the manner in which Mr. Oatley had catered for them. Mr. Oatley returned thanks, expressing his pleasure that his efforts had been appreciated. "Engineers," also proposed and drunk enthusiastically.]

The company then sang "Auld Lang Syne," and the majority departed for their homes, after spending a most pleasant and enjoyable evening. From the first to the last everything went off most successfully, and reflected credit on each and every one concerned in the management of the proceedings.

SUEZ MAIL NEWS.

The Hawke's Bay portion of the Suez mail arrived in Napier overland on Friday. Below will be found a summary of items culled from the latest papers. The war news was anticipated by the 'Frisco mail.

The famine in China is very severe, and the Government is doing nothing for the people.

The great walking match between O'Leary and Weston for £1000 came off at the Agricultural Hall last week. It commenced after midnight on Sunday, 1st April, and was concluded late on the night of Saturday, the 7th. O'Leary had the advantage nearly throughout. Weston retired at 11 p.m. having walked 510 miles, whilst O'Leary accomplished 520 miles two laps. On Friday there were 200,000 people at the hall to see the competition.

A large box filled with dynamite cartridges was found on Tuesday at New York in a cask of wine landed from the Hamburg Company's steamer 'Frisco.'

Six millions seven hundred and seven thousand pounds of fresh beef were exported from New York and Philadelphia to England in March, making 30,000,000lb during the last nine months.

The editor of the Turkish Punch has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment for the publication of a cartoon offensive to the Government.

General Grant is about leaving America to make a lengthened tour in Europe.

The shipwrights on the Clyde, to the number of 3000, struck on the 4th for an increase of a penny an hour.

The trial of the prisoners for the turf fraud, when they obtained £10,000 from the Countess De Foucourt, commenced yesterday.

Tyrannical acts are still reported from Turkey. The pupils of the military school at Constantinople having signed a petition for the recall of Midhat Pasha, they were summoned together, and the writer of the petition ordered to receive 200 lashes. He died after receiving 100.

At a meeting of working men held in Hyde Park on Good Friday, Mr. John De Morgan stated that an attempt would shortly be made to enclose a portion of Hyde Park for the aristocracy. He added that he would have to go down to Richmond to pull down some fences which had been put up by the Duke of Cambridge, for they must teach even royalty that no one should steal the land from the people.

The Queen's Theatre at Edinburgh was destroyed by fire early on the 4th inst. No lives were lost. The building had been erected only two years ago, and had not been used for a week or two. Three persons have been arrested on suspicion of having caused the fire.

Large quantities of meat continue to arrive from the other side of the Atlantic. The Guion Company's steamer Wyoming has brought the largest cargo yet, consisting of 2900 quarters of beef and 500 whole sheep. The meat arrives in excellent condition, and the sale is rapidly extending.

An explosion, which has caused nearly as much discussion as that of the powder barges in the Regent's Canal, occurred at the well-known place of amusement, the Welsh Harp, at Hendon. On Easter Monday evening, a diver in the employ of Trinity House, had been engaged to fire a torpedo in the lake, which covers an area of 350 acres, but instead of doing so discharged it on land whilst the assemblage were viewing some fireworks. His statement is that he did it to give them a start. The shock was very great, and was felt as far as Eltham, in Kent, 17 or 18 miles off. Many of the people were thrown to the ground. All the panes of glass at the hotel and many buildings near were smashed, lights were extinguished in houses in the neighbourhood for miles around, and a huge chasm in the ground where the torpedo exploded, 80 feet in circumference, and five or six feet deep, was made. All over London in the north it was thought an earthquake had taken place. The torpedo was only two feet in length and five inches in circumference. It contained a charge of 12lb. of the best cotton powder.

Mr. Walter, M.P., proprietor of the 'Times,' has been attacked and robbed by three men in Rome, armed with stilettos. He was not injured. Several arrests have been made.

Active preparations are being made for commencing the work of draining the Zayder Zee. The cost of reclamation will be nearly £10,000,000, but 500,000 acres will be added to Holland, estimated to be worth between £50 and £60 an acre.

A man who claims the ground on which Cleopatra's Needle, recently presented to the United Kingdom by the Khedive, lies, has fenced it round, and demands several thousand pounds compensation before he allows it to be removed.

At a dinner given by the Bremen Geographical Society a few days ago, all the viands consisted of fish brought in ice, from Siberia. The whole was packed in ice, and though some of it had been brought over 3000 miles, and occupied 83 days in transit, it was perfectly fresh.

A correspondence has been published between Mr. James Ashbury, M.P., and Mr. Gladstone, relative to a statement made by the former regarding the large profit alleged to have been made by the sale of the late Premier's pamphlet on "Bulgarian Horrors." Mr. Gladstone states that he has been an author for 40 years, but all his gains during that period have not come near £10,000.

The Iris, the first steel man-of-war constructed for the British navy, has been successfully launched at Pembroke dockyard.

A serious military disturbance took place at Southsea, on Easter Monday, between men of the first battalion of the 60th Rifles and Marine Artillerymen, consequent upon one of the former kissing—while playing in the game of kissing-in-the-ring—a girl with whom one of the latter corps was "keeping company." The fight was pretty general, waistbelts being freely used. The police were powerless, and strong pickets of the 10th Rifles and the 21st Fusiliers had to be brought on the ground to restore order.

At the annual meeting for the election of churchwardens at Hatcham, the two late office bearers, were not re-elected. Mr. Tooth's churchwarden, it appeared, had not been qualified for several years past, not being resident in the parish, and a Protestant was chosen by 180 to 20

against the Ritualist candidate, as the people's churchwarden; care was taken that none but parishioners should enter the vestry. Mr. Tooth purposes resigning the vicarage, and his brother, Mr. Robert Tooth, will nominate the curate, the Rev. W. H. Browne. Considerable excitement has prevailed at many of the vestry elections, and generally the Ritualists have been defeated.

An inquest was held at the Surrey County Prison, at Working, on 28th ult., on the body of a prisoner named Henry Cavendish, said to be a member of the Duke of Devonshire's family. He had been sentenced to seven years penal servitude in 1872 for bigamy. During the proceedings an elderly lady stated that she was married to the deceased in 1849 at Leghorn, and was his lawful wife, but notwithstanding that she had never been permitted to see the deceased in prison, the Home Secretary, the Director-general, and the authorities at Working having always, when she applied for leave, referred her from one to the other. Deceased was some 15 years ago sentenced to 15 year's imprisonment for some political offence in France, and not pardoned by the Emperor.

Messrs Fintel and Sons, of Bristol, owners of the largest sugar refinery in the world, have failed for half a million. They attribute the ruin of their trade to the French bounty system.

OBITUARY.—Sir D. Dundas, aged 76, Solicitor-General in Earl Russell's first Administration; Andrew Halliday, 47, journalist and dramatist; Mr C. E. Crawley, M. P. for Salford, 65; Lieutenant-General Rowcroft, C. B., 74; Sir Tilson K.T., 73; Countess Poulett, 82; Sir Edward Baker, Bart., 70; Sir W. Maxwell, Bart., of Monteith, 71; Sir William Hanham, Bart., R.N., 83; Lieut.-General H. W. Whitfield, 68.

THE MATRIMONIAL CREED.

Whosoever will be married, before all things it is necessary that he holds the conjugal faith; and the conjugal faith is this—That there were two rational beings created, both equal, and yet one superior to the other, and the inferior shall bear rule over the superior, which faith, except everyone keep whole and undefiled without doubt he shall be scolded at everlasting by.

The man is superior to the woman, and the woman inferior to the man; but both are equal, and the woman shall govern the man.

The woman is commanded to obey the man, and the man ought to obey the woman. And yet there are not two obedients, but one obedient.

For there is one dominion nominal of the husband, and another dominion real of the wife.

And yet there are not two dominions, but one dominion.

For, like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge that wives must submit themselves to their husbands, and be subject to them in all things.

So we are forbidden by the conjugal faith to say that they should be all influenced by their wills to pay regard to their commands.

The man was not created for the woman but the woman for the man.

Yet, the man shall be the slave of the woman, and the woman, the tyrant of the man.

So that in all things, as aforesaid the subjection of the superior to the inferior is to be believed.

He, therefore that will be married must thus think of the woman.

Furthermore it is necessary to submissive matrimony that he also believe rightly the infallibility of his wife.

For the right faith is that we believe and confess that the wife is fallible and infallible.

Perfectly fallible and perfectly infallible, of an erring soul and unerring mind subsisting; fallible as touching her human nature, and infallible as touching her female sex.

Who, although she be infallible, yet is not two but one woman; who submitted to lawful marriage to acquire an unlawful dominion; and promised religiously to obey that she might rule with uncontrollable sway.

This is the conjugal faith, which, except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be married.

Note the Difference.—A ship is decked for use, a woman is decked for ornament.

"Peter," said a mother to her son, "are you into those sweetmeats again?" "No, ma'am; the sweetmeats is into me."

A sailor who has recently returned from Newfoundland says that the fog is so thick there that he used to drive a nail in it to hang his hat on.

SUPREME COURT.

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1877.

(Before His Honor Mr Justice Richmond.) His Honor took his seat at 10 a.m.

The following Grand Jury was empanelled:—J. Rhodes (foreman), T. M. Chapman, J. Chambers, E. Sutton, J. J. Torre, G. T. Seale, K. J. Hill, J. Rochfort, W. Orr, J. Giblin, R. A. W. Brathwaite, M. R. Miller, S. Begg, H. Troutbeck, R. Farmer, W. Douglas, M. Hutchinson, R. P. Williams, A. Kennedy, J. Bennett, S. W. Elmes, A. F. Hamilton, and W. Ellison.

THE JUDGE'S CHARGE.

His Honor then addressed the Grand Jury. The business before them on this occasion, he said, was not such as would give them much trouble, the cases being for the most part of an ordinary kind. The calendar comprised charges of petty thefts and frauds, obtaining money under false pretences, and a petty charge of forgery. There was also a charge of arson, which, however, did not appear to be a particularly aggravated or important case. On the whole, the district might be congratulated on the comparatively trifling nature of the offences disclosed. There was one case only which called for one or two remarks—a charge of forcible entry. Such cases were not uncommon in this Colony. He had more than once noticed an apparent tendency to revert to "the good old rule, the simple plan"—as though proximity to the native race had induced an inclination in some quarters to adopt the Maoris' rough and ready way of asserting a claim. The offence was one against the common laws, but was also defined by an old statute of the reign of Richard II. The offence consisted in entering upon property in the peaceable possession of another, with the strong arm or with a multitude of people. If such a force was brought as tended to overawe resistance, it was called by the law a forcible entry. In a charge of this kind, it might sometimes be of importance, for some purposes, to enquire whether the entry had been made with title; but they need not concern themselves with that question in the present instance—in fact, there was no material in the depositions for such an enquiry, and if there were, he would not recommend them to go into it. It would be enough for them to find a true bill if it appeared that the prosecutor was in peaceable possession, and the persons charged entered forcibly and in considerable numbers upon the property. The law required that a title should be asserted by peaceable means, and not in such a manner as would tend to provoke a breach of the peace. He need not detain them with any further remarks.

JURYMEN'S EXCUSES.

The Grand Jury then retired, and the Petty Jurors were called up and sworn. Two sought to be excused from serving. The first of these claimed exemption on the ground that he was an efficient volunteer; but was informed that the Act on which he relied had been repealed. The other pleaded that he was so deaf as to be unable to hear the evidence. He was totally deaf on one side. As, however, he was able to hear and answer His Honor, who spoke in a low tone, the Court declined to excuse him. Two jurors (from Havelock) who came late, pleaded that the train in which they came, was behind time. They were excused; and His Honor expressed gratification that among the jurors summoned there was not a single defaulter.

The Grand Jury found a true bill against Archibald McEachan, on several charges of

LARCENY.

Archibald McEachan was then placed in the dock, charged with a number of larcenies, comprising a considerable quantity of tobacco and cigars, also pipes, scent, scissors, &c., from Stephen Hooper. There were two indictments, on each of which the prisoner pleaded guilty.

Mr Rees said that the prisoner having placed himself upon the mercy of the Court, he would mention the circumstances attending the commission of the offences, in the hope of mitigating the sentence that would otherwise be passed. The prisoner had a young wife and small family. His wife had been for a considerable time ill, and it was with the object of obtaining for her certain comforts not otherwise procurable, that he had been led step by step into the commission of the offences to which he had pleaded guilty.

His Honor said that it was not a single offence of which the prisoner had been guilty; it was rather a continuous series. In fact, it appeared from the depositions that the prisoner had offered to bring for sale regular supplies of the goods in question. He would again read the de-

positions, and defer sentence until to-morrow.

The prisoner was then removed.

FELONY.

The Grand Jury having found a true bill against John Hayman for felony, he was placed in the box, and charged with stealing on the 23rd February, a watch and chain, the property of James Knowles.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The following Jury was empanelled:—T. Morrison, James Cooper, W. C. Hunt, John Beattie, James Neagle, Joseph Wall, W. Tuckwell, W. Hughes, John Smith, P. Hall, W. T. Newton, G. Merrett.

Mr. Cotterill opened the case.

James Knowles, sworn, deposed: I am a seaman, residing at Port Ahuriri. I am employed on the steamer Fairy, and had a watch and chain on board. I made a mistake in laying information, and believe it was about the 7th or 10th February when I missed the watch. I had left it in my bunk; the chain was then attached. I next saw the chain about the 28th March, in Frederick's possession. (Chain produced and identified.) I know the prisoner; I have seen him about the Spit. I saw him four or five days after I missed the chain. He had come on board several times and lent me a hand with the cargo, before I lost the watch. I never saw him in any part of the vessel except backwards and forwards on deck. I never gave or sold him the watch and chain, nor gave him any authority to deal with it. My bunk was below in the cabin. The cook was on board in charge on the night I lost my watch. The hatch is generally locked when no one is on board. The man in charge ought to be in the cabin. I believe the cook is away at sea in the Fairy at present. I have never seen my watch since.

Cross-examined by Mr Lascelles: I made a mistake in the date when I laid the information, because I was married that day. (Laughter.) That put it out of my recollection, and the 23rd was the nearest date I could get to it. I told Mr Scully the same evening that I had mistaken the date. I had put it down on a piece of paper, but had mislaid it. I gave information of the loss of the watch to Harvey the policeman on the 18th—the day I missed it. I gave him all particulars. I have never seen the prisoner in the cabin. I left the cook on board on Saturday the 10th. The cabin had been generally locked when no one stayed on board.

By the Court: I had seen the watch and chain on the Thursday before I missed it.

By Mr. Lascelles: I do not recollect having seen the prisoner on board between the Thursday and Saturday.

Mary Ann Stone, sworn: I am the wife of Joseph Stone, carrier living at the Spit. I know the prisoner. He was boarding at my house, and left in February on the 16th or 17th. After he left I found a chain and tobacco-pouch in a case in my front room, where prisoner had slept. (Produced and identified.) I knew the pouch as having been in the prisoner's possession, but had not seen the chain before. I put them back where I found them. I saw John Fredericks who used to be boarding with the prisoner, the same day and gave him the chain and pouch to give to him. I did not see the articles again till they were brought to my house by Inspector Scully and Constable Harvey. I found the chain in the pouch. I had never before seen it in prisoner's possession.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lascelles: I believe it was about the end of February when I found the things. I told Fredericks to ask the prisoner to whom it belonged. I spoke to Fredericks on the Friday, and he called for the things, with some clean clothes of prisoner's on the Saturday. The pouch was in a packing case where I kept odds and ends. They had both been boarding at my house, and Fredericks had left about a month before. The prisoner left my house when he was arrested. Fredericks was not in the house from the time he left till he called for the chain. A man named Hammond used to come and see the prisoner sometimes. I never kept the front-room locked except at night, and was often in and out.

John Fredericks, sworn: I am a carter residing at the Spit. I know the prisoner. I know the last witness, I remember her giving me a pouch and chain about the end of February last. (Produced and identified.) I had not seen either of them before. I took them to the prisoner on the same day, he was then in jail. I offered him the pouch and chain, and he told me to keep them. I did not show him the chain; but I told him of it. I said "I have the pouch and chain," and he said, "All right, you can keep them." I did not tell him where I

got them; he knew. Nothing more passed at this time. About a week after, when I took him his clothes again, I told him that I had found the owner of the chain, and that there had been a watch attached to it; and I asked him if he knew where the watch was. He told me no at the time. He did not tell me where he had got the chain. I did not ask him on any occasion where he had got it; I only asked him again about the watch. He told me then that he had given it to Mr Hammond. I gave the watch to the owner, Mr Knowles. Prisoner did not account to me in any way for this chain being in his possession.

Cross-examined by Mr Lascelles: I saw the prisoner twice in the jail. Mr Bygum, an officer of the jail, was present on both occasions. Mr Miller, the governor of the jail was not present on the second occasion. It was then late in the evening. I did not describe the chain to him in any way. I told him that I had his pouch, and asked him if he knew what was in it. He said "Yes." I did not know myself at that time; I had not got it with me; Mrs Stone had told me to ask him. I went up to see prisoner on the same day that Mrs Stone first spoke to me of it. The prisoner then asked me to bring him a change of clothes. I saw him next on the Saturday or Sunday. I did not take much notice, and I cannot say whether I saw him twice or three times. I am perfectly sure that Mrs Stone did not tell me what was in the pouch.

Mrs. Stone recalled: I told Fredericks to take the pouch to the prisoner. He was to tell him of the chain, and ask him what it meant, as I did not know it. I believe it was the same day I showed him the chain the day I found it, and gave him both the pouch and chain the next day.

Cross-examination of Fredericks continued: I am not certain whether it was twice or three times that I saw prisoner. It might have been another officer and not Bygum who was with me. Mr Miller was not present on the last occasion—late on Sunday night; he may have been present on the occasion, Mr. Scully went with me. When I told prisoner that an owner had been found for the chain I said it was Mr. Knowles. It was about a week after I got the chain that Knowles asked me about it and got it, and I went up with Mr. Scully the same day. This was not on a Sunday; it was the middle of the week. It was on that same occasion that I spoke to him about the watch. The prisoner did not deliberately admit that he had taken the watch and given it to Mr. Hammond. I said "This will get you into trouble, and you had better tell me before there's any row about it." I was about half-an-hour or three-quarters inducing him to tell me what he had done with the watch. The owner said that if he found the watch and chain there would be no row at all about it. I do not know the place where the box was found; I had left for three months. I used to sleep in the same room as prisoner; but never used to take much notice of things there.

Mr. Cotterill then addressed the Jury. There was no difficulty as regarded the evidence of the last witness; but all the material facts remained uncontradicted. His Honor: There is one point, Mr. Cotterill, I am rather in doubt, whether this admission if made, amounts to confession. I am sorry that the rule exists; but it is so, that if any kind of inducement is held out to the prisoner to confess, his admissions are not to be taken as evidence. It may be my duty to tell the Jury to disregard that part of the evidence.

The question of admissibility of the prisoner's admission was then argued by counsel on both sides, and his Honor, after hearing the argument, ruled that it could not be accepted. He then directed the Jury, in coming to a conclusion, to dismiss this portion of the evidence from their minds. The English was very particular—too particular it might be—to exclude admissions which had been obtained by any kind of inducement.

Mr. Cotterill for the Crown and Mr. Lascelles for the prisoner, having addressed the Jury, His Honor summed up, charging the Jury if they saw any very fair and reasonable doubt in the case, to give the prisoner the benefit of it.

The Grand Jury having found true bills in all the cases brought before them, were discharged with the thanks of Her Majesty and the colony.

LARCENY.

John Hayman was again placed in the dock charged with having stolen on the 14th Feb., certain monies amounting to £5 from George Wilson.

Prisoner plead not guilty, and the following Jury was empanelled:—James Gray (foreman), A. M'Roberts, T. Murphy, J. Morgan, T. Earlight, C.

Lamb, John Harris, Isaac Trask, J. Marshall, G. B. Toop, T. H. Sale C. Saunders.

The prisoner was defended by Mr. Lascelles.

Mr. Cotterill opened the case and called George Wilson bootmaker of Port Ahuriri, who deposed as to the loss of the money, and his reasons for suspecting the prisoner of having being the thief.

Other evidence was also called to connect the prisoner with the offence, but as it was fully reported when the case was before the Police Court, there is no necessity for our reproducing it.

Mr Lascelles said he would call no evidence.

His Honor said he could not see that there was any case to go to the jury, neither the man nor the property had been identified. After his experience he had been profoundly impressed with the danger of assuming identification from mere similarity of appearance. He felt bound to instruct the jury that there was no case for them. The jury were ordinarily judges of fact, but it was for the judge to say where there was actually no evidence. The jury then left the box.

ONE STICKING OUT.

The foreman of the jury in the first charge against the same prisoner here reported that there seemed no probability of the jury coming to a decision, though only one was now "sticking out." His Honor said that under the humane law of last session a jury was allowed refreshment. He could not dismiss them, but would order the sheriff to see that reasonable refreshments were supplied to the jurymen.

RECEIVERS OF GOODS.

Mr Inspector Scully applied for an order to restore a considerable portion of stolen property now in the possession of the police, to Mr S. Hooper. His Honor, in granting the order remarked that, judging from the depositions there appeared to have been culpable carelessness, if nothing worse, on the part of some of those who had purchased articles from the prisoner McEachan, and that it was perhaps as well for some of them that action had not been taken against them as well as the prisoner.

TUESDAY, 12TH JULY.

His Honor took his seat at 10 a.m.

VERDICT IN HAYMAN'S CASE.

The Jury in this case, who had been locked up all night, entered, and gave a verdict of not guilty.

His Honor: Prisoner John Hayman, it is my duty to discharge you. In my view of the question, you are a very lucky man. You can go.

SENTENCE IN MCEACHAN'S CASE.

Archibald McEachan, who had pleaded guilty to various charges of larceny, was placed in the dock.

His Honor: Prisoner at the bar, I have carefully considered your case, with the view of passing upon you the shortest sentence I can consistently with my public duty. Your offence has been of a very grave character; and you have abused the confidence of your employer in a scandalous manner. It is a very bad case. On the other hand, I take your plea of guilty as indicating contrition; and your counsel has referred to the fact that there are those dependent on you who must acutely feel the position in which you are placed. The latter is a matter that I cannot take into consideration—it is my duty to look at your crime as affecting society, not those who are unfortunate enough to be dependent upon you. On the first indictment you are sentenced to twelve months hard labor in the Napier Gaol. On the second indictment, I shall inflict a light sentence, not concurrent with the other—a further term of twelve months imprisonment with hard labor, commencing at the expiration of the former sentence.

The prisoner was then removed.

OBTAINING MONEY UNDER FALSE PRETEXTS.

John Cartright and James Peters were indicted with having obtained from C. D. Berry and J. H. Anderson the sum of £28 for a certain mare which they falsely pretended to be their property.

Prisoners pleaded not guilty, and were defended by Mr. Rees.

Mr. Cotterill opened the case for the prosecution, and called the evidence of Messrs Berry and Anderson, who testified to the circumstance under which the money was obtained. The prisoners giving a certain mare as security for an advance of money and a previous debt amounting altogether to £28; which mare, it was shown by other evidence had already been sold to another person,

by whom possession was soon afterwards taken. All the witnesses were closely cross-examined by Mr. Rees who in summing up his case agreed in the first case that there was no partnership between the prisoners; that Peters neither had nor professed any claim to the animal; and further that no false pretence was made by either party.

His Honor summed up the case very carefully and at great length, giving through the whole of the evidence. The Jury then (2 p.m.) retired.

The Jury, at 2.30 p.m., returned a verdict of not guilty in the case of both prisoners, who were at once discharged.

FORGERY.

Charles H. Ingle, charged with forgery, pleaded guilty. His Honor reserved sentence till to-morrow.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

FRIDAY, JUNE 8.

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

ALLEGED LARCENY.

John Glover was charged on the information of Sergeant Robinson with having stolen a pair of boots of the value of 12s 6d, the property of one William Tuckwell. On the application of the prosecuting officer, defendant was remanded until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

CIVIL CASES.

Twenty one civil summonses had been issued for hearing to-day, of which number five had been settled out of Court, and two had not been served. In three other cases the date of hearing was extended on the application of the parties concerned. The following cases came before the Court and were disposed of as under—

Simon v Humphry.—Debt £2 12s 6d. Judgment was given by default for the amount, and costs 10s.

Binks Trustees v R. C. Hastie.—Debt £15 14s 10d. Judgment was given for plaintiff, and costs £1.

Moore v Hensen.—£3 2s 8d. Judgment by default for plaintiff, and costs 9s.

LeQuesse v. Krause.—Debt £34 2s 5d. Judgment for plaintiff for amount, and costs £15.

R. Stuart v. Carter.—Claim £5 for five weeks wages at 25s per week. As there was no proof that the plaintiff had been employed by Mr Carter, judgment was given for the defendant.

John Stuart v. Carter.—Claim £9 14s 10s made by the brother of R. Stuart as the balance due to him by defendant. After His Worship heard the evidence and examined the several items, he gave judgment for Mr Carter with costs £1 18s to be paid by plaintiff.

Two cases brought by Canning against Wells for £18 16s 10d and £21 7s were adjourned until the 29th instant.

Hall v. Thornhill.—This was a judgment summons for £6 2s. The Court ordered that defendant pay 30s per month, or in default of payment to be imprisoned for one month.

IMMIGRANTS PROMISSORY NOTES.

Regina v Arnold.—Claim £65. Judgment for plaintiff, and costs £2 18 1d. This included solicitor's fee.

Regina v. Lillywhite.—Claim £24. Judgment for the amount, and £2 6s costs.

Regina v. Cameron.—Claim £29 10s. Judgment for amount, and costs, £2 6s.

Regina v. T. P. Fuller.—Claim £32. Judgment for amount, and costs, £2 6s.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9.

DRUNKENNESS.

Thomas Sullivan, for an aggravated offence of the above nature, was fined 20s, or in default 48 hours imprisonment. He elected to do the 48 hours.

SUSPECTED LUNACY.

George Hammond, on suspicion of being a lunatic, was again brought before the Court, and again the information was dismissed, the medical report not warranting his committal to the Asylum.

SHOPLIFTING.

John Glover, charged with stealing a pair of boots of the value of 12s 6d from the shop of W. Tuckwell, shoemaker, said that "he did not know anything about it; he had been drinking, and he had a sunstroke." The evidence showed that Glover walked deliberately into the shop and took the boots and went off with them, and was taken with them in his possession. The evidence was most conclusive against him. Defendant hoped the Court would be lenient. He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

MONDAY, JUNE 11.

LARCENIES.

Mary Ann McNameara, alias M'Donald, was charged on the information of Police-Sergeant Robinson, with having stolen, on the 31st day of May last, one shawl of the value of one pound—the property of one John Fisher of Port Ahuriri. She admitted taking the shawl, but said she thought it was her own. The evidence went to show that prisoner had taken the shawl from a little girl, the daughter of Fisher, whilst she was attending a place of public Worship, and had consequently converted it to her own use. She had told the police she had taken it, and was sorry. A previous conviction was proved against her. She was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labor.

ANOTHER PAIR OF BOOTS.

James Kelly charged with stealing a pair of boots valued at twelve shillings the property of one Thomas Williams on Saturday last, was on the application of Sergeant of Police remanded until Thursday the 14th instant.

THE HAUHAU RELIGION.

The special correspondent of the Auckland Star in the Tuhua country writes:—Although no places of worship are to be found in the upper Wanganui district, yet the natives, being Hauhaus, use the *Pai Mariri* prayers, praying for the welfare and protection of their King, Tawhiao. They have prayers daily the first thing in the morning before breakfast, and again in the evening after their supper. Their supplications commence with these words, "nga te ngaria," and end with the word "paimariri." I took the trouble to count how many times the word paimariri was used in the prayers, and found that it was repeated thirty-two times. The priest commences the prayers, and the natives all join in, chanting them, the wife of the priest also says one of the short prayers alone. The Hauhaus do not reckon their time as do the Europeans—they make each month thirty days long, calling every tenth day "Ratapu" (Sunday). On the sixth day of each month they chant their prayers six times during the day instead of twice, but for what reason I could not learn.

The members for the Grey River district do not appear to be popular with their constituents. A correspondent of the Grey River Argus writes:—"The members for the Grey district seem determined not to meet their constituents previously to the meeting of Parliament. Mr. Kennedy is doubtless too much engrossed with his trade in coal and coke to afford a few days amongst the 'free and independent electors' of the Valley; and Mr. Woolcock, I daresay, prefers canvassing for some newly-fledged newspaper, which is to restore New Zealand to a very high state of morality in the days to come. Mr. Woolcock, when in No Town last week, certainly wanted to know whether he could do anything in the House for the district, but the fact is, nobody cared much to have any talk with him, and, if he had called a meeting, I don't think he would have had a dozen listeners."

A few days ago a little boy, son of Mr. James, of Bridge-street, Nelson, was accidentally killed, under the following circumstances:—The little fellow, whose name was Thomas William, and who was eight years of age, hung on behind his father's furniture van, as Mr. John James was driving from the front of his warehouse, and on the latter telling him to get down he did so, when Mr. Barnett's butcher's cart, driven by George Cumming, following closely in the rear, came on the boy before the driver could pull up, and the wheel of the cart passed over his head, killing him almost instantly within sight of his father. The horse was being driven at an ordinary trot. At a later hour an inquest was held at the Royal Hotel, before Dr. Squires, the Coroner, and a jury. The jury returned a verdict that deceased was accidentally killed, and that no blame attached to the driver of the cart.

The Wairarapa Standard relates the following cowardly act perpetrated by a Maori:—A son of Mr. M'Cardle left Masterton to walk home after dark, a little in advance of his father, who was detained a few minutes. A Maori accosted the boy, who was only nine years of age, and asked him what he had in the basket which he carried. The lad answered "bread," when the native asked for a loaf. The boy declining to give him one, the Maori struck him in a brutal manner in the face, and being afraid of Mr. M'Cardle coming up, made off as fast as he could. A few minutes later, Mr. M'Cardle finding what had taken place, borrowed a horse and rode in pursuit of the Maori and caught him. Mr. M'Cardle endeavored to take the fellow to the lock-up, but when he had got him a portion of the way, being encumbered with the horse which he was leading, the native, after a struggle, managed to get away.

FOURERERE.

In the long past, so long that most of those then living have gone to their last home, a young European stood on an elevated mound surrounded by a number of natives, who out of curiosity had accompanied him to this position. "Listen!" he said, "you wish me to live amongst you; you are ready to lease me all the land there is to be seen from here, and much beyond. I tell you I am not rich; I am young and strong; I know I am hopeful; so be it. We will be friends, and, with God's help, I will do the work allotted me, fulfil the responsibilities I undertake, and, should the day come when I shall have mastered the difficulties and troubles there will be to meet, I find myself a free and independent man, I pledge myself to build a church on this spot as a token of gratitude for achieved success." And thus it comes that on this 3rd June, 1877, many a year after, a church stands where the past had seen but dense scrub and wild vegetation; and its bell tolls so lustily and cheerily as this is the first occasion Divine service is to be held within its walls.

But why so unusual a commotion, such a gathering of friends, such whisperings amongst the young, such pleased looks? Of a truth an event of no small moment has taken place. There has been a birth, there is now to be a christening; a son has been given to Mr J. Nairn, Junr, and its baptism takes place to-day. The morning service is performed by the Rev Mr Simcox, resident clergyman, who, taking his text from the 1st Epistle of St. John, 7th and 8th verses, gave us a most impressive sermon. Then came the churching of Mrs J. Nairn, followed by the baptism of her first-born, Charles Edward Nairn, in as pretty and charming a small church as anyone would wish to see. It stands on a tolerably high mound, about half-a-mile from the sea, which it overlooks; and it seems to shelter, as it were, with its holy spirit, the surrounding dwellings and their inmates. Its style is of the Gothic; its size capable of holding a congregation of some sixty, costing about £500; it has a good nave, is well supplied with lights and is substantially built of totara and red pine, having a couple of vestry rooms. Its interior is strikingly pleasing, and much praise is due to Mr. H. Nairn for displacing a heavy attempt at a pulpit, and replacing it by a very prettily made reading desk and a couple of chairs of his own make; nor can his wife be exempted, for the altar cloth, the work of her hands is very handsome. Well may he and his brothers, owners of this valuable property, congratulate themselves at having such a building on their estate; and their father, the respected and esteemed octogenarian Mr. J. Nairn, sen., of 85 winters, has cause to be thankful for the realization of a long desired wish.

In the evening, another service was held by the rev. clergyman, who taking his text from 19th psalm, 10th verse, was most happy in the subject of his sermon; and as we left the building we could not but feel that the light from its spiral windows was as the harbinger of the spiritual light, which would in time shed its beams over a christianised world. When it is taken into consideration that the site upon which this Church stands, represents an old fortified Maori pa, where years gone by savage yells were heard, and still more wild and savage feelings influenced the occupants, truly may it be said, to the uttermost ends of the earth shall the gospel of Christ be carried, that gospel which teaches peace, good will, and brotherly love to all mankind. —[Communicated.]

WAIPAWA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.) June 7, 1877.

The scene of yesterday's railway accident was in the cutting about a mile and a half on the Napier side of Kaikora. I think these accidents, occurring almost day after day, should at last awake the Government to the fact that it is absolutely necessary to fence in the line for the protection of life. It was by a happy chance that some trucks carrying rails for the line were next the engine, for had the bullock jumped among the passenger cars it is more than probable that the affair would have assumed a more serious aspect. As it was, there was no further damage done than the tearing up of a short length of line, killing the beast, and the inconvenience to the passengers, who were sent on in an open truck procured from the Kaikora station. But, of course, with the usual consideration and attention, our mails were left behind to come by the train, which did not arrive until late in the afternoon.

Our worthy Licensing Commissioners have been creating a commotion here; but still we are almost obliged to them for giving us a little excitement. The Empire Hotel is one of the best conducted houses in Hawke's Bay, containing every comfort and convenience the travelling public can desire—saving a water-closet inside the house. And because the host refuses to turn his clean and healthy house into a fever nest, the aforesaid Commissioners threaten to cancel his license. Forsooth, we shall see!

I see by the DAILY TELEGRAPH that one or two of the Napier publicans have been cautioned as to the state of their back yards. Waipawa certainly wants an Inspector of Nuisances; an unfortunate horse which met with an accident and was killed the other day was chained behind a cart, dragged to the river-bed, and left under the railway bridge to fumeigate the township. One would also think from certain odours which assail the olfactory nerves at every corner, that the pig trade was in a very flourishing state. I hope it is, for everything else is very quiet and slack.

The price of bread here is sevenpence the two pound loaf.

P.S.—I have just seen your local today, in reference to my telegram of yesterday. Of course, the railway authorities desire to keep the fact of these numerous accidents happening, in the dark. The Herald of this morning contains no mention of it at all. I can only repeat that I obtained my information that the line was torn up, and that new rails were taken from the trucks and laid down before the train could be brought up, on good authority. The train arrived here between half-past two and three in the afternoon, instead of at 10.55 a.m.

Watches! Watches! Watches!

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

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

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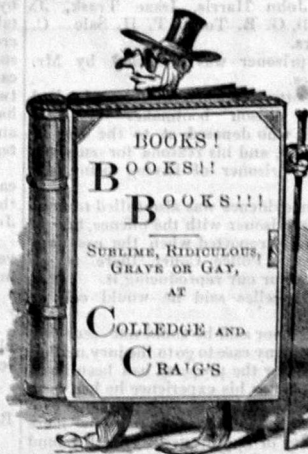
IN thanking the public of Hawke's Bay for the liberal support they have given him hitherto, wishes to inform them that he has removed to KAIKORA, where he hopes by strict attention to business to merit a fair share of their patronage.

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