

Local Option Bill are equitable and practicable, and likely to afford public relief from many of the evils resulting from the consumption of intoxicating liquors."

At a conference of the School Committees on Thursday night resolutions were carried in favor of free compulsory education, and the establishment of secondary schools, and larger powers being granted to committees.

The weather is still wet.

June 18.
The damage done to the export shed yesterday is estimated at £10,000. The fire commenced in the Wharf office, but the origin is unknown. The fire would have been nothing, had there been a good fire engine on the ground. All the books and papers were saved.

GREYMOUTH.

June 18.
The schooner Mary Ogilvie arrived in the roadstead on Friday afternoon, but was beached about a mile south of the Grey River, yesterday, after struggling for 30 hours against a terrific N.W. gale. No lives were lost. The cargo is likely to be got out without much damage. The schooner Owake, which was in company with her on Saturday afternoon, it is feared, has also been driven ashore towards Hokitika.

HOKITIKA.

June 18.
A terrific gale and heavy thunder-storm, lasting 24 hours, occurred yesterday, causing considerable damage to the houses by the wind. Communication between here and the Grey is interrupted by floods. The Owake is reported ashore along the coast.

June 19.
The steamer Albion arrived in the roadstead last night, but will not be tendered till this afternoon.

NELSON.

June 19.
The Murray arrived late on Sunday night, with the crew of the brig Star of the Mersey, which left Lyttelton for Newcastle on the 10th instant. On Friday, when she passed Stephen's Island, it was blowing furiously, and the vessel laboring in a heavy sea, she ran back to Guard Bay. When abreast of Motangara she was kept away to stay the vessel, but she would not stay, and there being no room to wear, and as the ebb tide was setting her on to the island, the only alternative was to anchor. At night it blew worse than ever, and the ship began to drag, so on Saturday morning the crew abandoned her, and were picked up by the Murray, which agreed to stop twenty-four hours. Two unsuccessful attempts were made to get alongside, and she anchored for the night under the nearest shelter. On Saturday night the gale increased to a hurricane, and on Sunday morning there was no sign of the brig, which is supposed to have parted her chains and capsized.

The brig Albion, which left Hokiangra for Melbourne on the 9th instant, with kauri logs, arrived on Sunday. On the 12th, a tremendous gale sprang up; a heavy sea broke on board, floated the logs, and smashed the bulwarks; the ship laboring and straining severely, sprung a leak, which gradually shifted the sand ballast to the starboard, giving her five feet list to that side. On the 14th the wind increased, and she continued to ship heavy seas, and so ran for Nelson. She will have to be discharged before proceeding to sea. There were five passengers aboard.

LYTTELTON.

June 19.
Sailed Margaret Galbraith, ship, for London, with a cargo of wool, wheat, and tallow.

The ketch Clematis arrived from Hokitika on Sunday morning. One of her men, James Moore, was carried overboard and drowned while making fast a line. A strong N.W. gale was blowing at the time, and the vessel could not get round in time to pick him up.

Fascinating female music teacher to admiring young gentleman pupil: "Try that again, Mr G—." Pupil: "Do, Re, Mi—" Teacher: "That won't do. You do not hold on to Mi long enough." Pupil (wistfully) "I wish I had a chance to."

A St. Louis Sunday school boy gave his teacher this illustrative definition of "responsibility." "Boys has two buttons for their s'penders so's to keep their pants up. When one button comes off there's a good deal of responsibility on the other button."

What is that which you cannot hold ten minutes, although it is "as light as a feather?"—Your breath.

SUPREME COURT.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1877.

(Before His Honor Mr Justice Richmond.)

WINTER V. SCHULTZE.

This was an action for malicious prosecution. The plaintiff sought to recover £500 for the damage sustained by him by the defendant having procured his (plaintiff's) arrest on a charge of stealing £146 from defendant.

Mr. Cornford (for Mr. Lee) was for the plaintiff; Mr. Rees was for defendant.

The following jury was impanelled:—David Earl Lindsay (foreman), J. Marshall, T. Murphy, J. Beattie, J. Cooper, J. Massey, J. Cunningham, J. Morgan, G. Enright, J. Harris, T. H. Gale, G. Clifton.

Duncan Guy, the Registrar of the Court, deposed as to the information being laid by the defendant, and as to the case being withdrawn in the Resident Magistrate's Court by Mr. Sheehan, on account of insufficient evidence.

Richard Winter, the defendant, gave evidence at great length as to his arrest for robbing the plaintiff of £146—his imprisonment, and also as to the case having been dismissed. He also gave a long account as to what transpired on the evening of the alleged robbery between himself and the defendant, and other parties.

In cross-examination the prisoner admitted that at the time he was in indigent circumstances, and to his having paid debts and purchased clothing, the day after the robbery was supposed to have occurred. He saw the defendant on the 4th day of April with a bundle of notes in his hand, but denied that when he paid Boggs, he had in his possession a roll of notes.

W. H. Schultz the defendant gave evidence as to the loss of the money. He remembered the plaintiff being in his company the evening he lost it at the Criterion and Star Hotels. He laid the information because he had been informed that Winter on the night he lost his money had offered to play euchre with Boggs at £1 per game, and had also a roll of notes in his possession, and had also changed a £10 note at one shop, and at another a £5 note.

This witness was cross-examined at great length by Mr. Cornford, and gave his replies in a very contradictory and confused manner.

Isabella Morley remembered the plaintiff and defendant being in her shop one evening early in April. One of defendant's hands were full of notes. Next morning Mr. Schultz informed her that he had lost his money the night before, and made enquiry as to Mr. Winter. The defendant was sober when he paid her £5 the night previous.

Duncan Guy, sworn, deposed that when the information was laid the police sergeant mentioned that Winter had been seen to change certain notes.

George Boggs, sworn: I am a cab-driver in Napier. I know the plaintiff. I remember seeing him one night in April. He became responsible to me that night for a small sum of money, and I asked him for it. He said it was only a mistake on his part, that he did not mean to go away without paying, and that he had plenty of money. The amount was two shillings. He paid me, and I paid for the drinks. He had some notes in his possession—a good few. This was at the Albion Hotel. Some people had been playing before, Mr. Winter among them. Mr. Winter was wanting to play for £1 a game.

By Mr. Cornford: This would be about a quarter past seven on the 4th April. Next day the sergeant of police came to me about half-past ten a.m., to enquire about Winter. Winter paid me in the street; he was very tipsy. I had followed him out to get the money. He would not go back, because he was tipsy. I would take it to be more than three or four notes that he held in his hand.

Mr. Cornford submitted that there was no proof of loss of money at all. The defendant did not appear to know what he had or had not.

Ben Smith, architect, deposed: I know plaintiff and defendant. I was in the Criterion with Mr. Winter and Mr. Schultz came in. I saw him produce a large roll of notes. About 8 o'clock next morning I saw Schultz in front of his shop. He said, "I have lost £140—seven £20 notes, all in one roll, with an elastic band round them." I told him I had remonstrated the previous evening with him as to his being so foolish as to show his notes. I did not say that Winter owed me £3 10s, he had never owed me a penny. I had only lately paid him £1 for some writing. Mr. Winter's name was not mentioned. I saw Moffatt soon after, and sent him down.

Thomas J. North, solicitor's clerk,

sworn: I know plaintiff and defendant. About two months ago I had to serve a writ on Mr. Schultz in this action. I had great trouble in getting it served. I remember seeing Mr. Schultz outside the Court the day the information was laid against Winter. He said he had lost his money, but had found the party; that he had found the four £20 notes, that they were all right. (Mr. Cornford here endeavored to elicit further evidence which was ruled to be inadmissible.)

Mr. Rees addressed the jury for the defence, and Mr. Cornford for the prosecution, replied.

His Honor then summed up the case, and carefully reviewed the evidence. Regarding a suggestion by Mr. Cornford, that perhaps the money never was lost; but that Mrs. Schultz might know something about it, and considering the circumstances of the disposal of the money in his house, and especially the relations existing between himself and his better half, the possibility of such a contingency had crossed his own mind. It was not impossible that Mrs. Schultz had a private savings' bank of her own—which might be a very excellent institution if her husband often played her such tricks as on the occasion in question. Yet even supposing this—a mere suggestion—to be actual fact, it lay outside the fact; for the question was not so much what had actually become of the money, as whether Schultz had a bona fide belief that it had been stolen, and that the plaintiff was the man who had taken it.

After the jury had been absent about three-quarters of an-hour, they were sent for by His Honor, who stated that with the view of facilitating their decision, he had drawn out a number of questions involving the issues of fact. The answers to these would assist them in coming to the conclusion whether the defendant had reasonable and proper cause for his action against the plaintiff.

The following were the questions submitted to the Jury by His Honor:—

1. Did the defendant, in the afternoon or evening of the 4th of April, lose £146 or any other sum in bank notes?
2. Was the plaintiff in needy circumstances before that date, and unable to pay his debts?
3. Was he unable to supply himself with decent clothing befitting his position in society? (His Honor reminded the Jury that while the affirmative was maintained on the part of the defence, the plaintiff had testified that he was able, but not willing.)
4. Had the plaintiff, on the same night, possession of a considerable number of bank notes?
5. Was the defendant informed of these circumstances before laying the information? and further, that he had changed notes of the value of £5 and £10?

His Honor directed the Jury to deal in the first place with these questions of facts; and upon receiving their answer he would direct them further.

After a short absence, the Jury returned, and the foreman requested His Honor to read over the evidence bearing upon the question No. 5, which His Honor accordingly did.

After a short absence, the jury returned having found an affirmative answer to all the five questions.

His Honor ruled that this finding was equivalent to a verdict that the defendant had reasonable cause for his action. The accused turned out to be innocent, or was thought to be—at any rate there was not evidence to justify a committal. After the answers they had given, nothing remained but a mere matter of law, and it was only for them now to give a verdict for defendant.

The jury then returned a verdict for the defendant, as directed.

His Honor said he had nearly overlooked the fact that the issues on the record had not been answered. This was of course a mere formality after the verdict just given; but it was necessary that it should be complied with. He then read the issues.

The first of these issues—Did the defendant falsely and maliciously charge the plaintiff with stealing a certain sum of money, &c., having been answered in the negative, His Honor said there was no occasion to ask the jury to go through the form of answering the remainder.

The jury were then discharged with the thanks of the Court; and the Circuit sittings were adjourned to Tuesday next, at 10.30 a.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1877.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

His Honor took his seat at 10 a.m.
Re Edward Thomas.—Mr. Rees for the bankrupt. The case was a small one; on the debtor's own petition; the creditors had not proved, nor attended any

meeting. The assets were nil, and the bankrupt had complied with the provisions of the Act. His Honor supposed it was a hopeless case for the creditors. Order of discharge granted.

Re Henderson Gordon.—Mr. Rees for the bankrupt. A case similar to the last, except that most of the creditors were resident in Napier; whereas, in the other instance, several were in Auckland. Order of discharge granted. His Honor remarked that legislators might draw a lesson from the fact that notwithstanding the numerous laws passed year after year on the subject, the proceedings in bankruptcy still ran smoothly. He had administered half-a-dozen different laws, and still the same process was observed:—no proofs, no assets, no opposition; discharge granted. It might almost be done by machinery.

Re Charles McIntosh Robertson.—Mr. Rees for bankrupt. A case very similar to the preceding. Order of discharge granted.

Re Frederick Jones.—Mr. Rees for bankrupt. Case similar to the rest, except that one creditor, Mr. Scarfe, had proved his debt. He did not, however, appear to oppose his discharge, which was granted. Mr. Rees applied that the costs of the adjudication might be ordered to be taxed, under Rule 7. Application granted.

Re Francis Emanuel Saunders.—Mr. Lascelles for the bankrupt. No proofs, and assets nil. Order of discharge granted.

Re John Howell.—Mr. Lascelles for bankrupt, stated that from ill-health and inability to work, combined with pressure from creditors, he had been compelled to seek protection from the Court. There were no assets, except a piece of freehold property, encumbered by a mortgage. No opposition. Order of discharge granted.

Re William Henry Sellars.—Mr. Lascelles for bankrupt. No proofs and no opposition. Discharge granted. Mr. Lascelles applied for an order for costs up to time of adjudication. Granted.

Re Richard Jefeares.—Mr. Wilson appeared for Mr. Caldwell, a creditor, who had applied to have a certain proof expunged. The creditor, who had been summoned, failing to appear, the application was not granted; applicant to pay the costs.

This completed the business in bankruptcy.

IS AUSTRALIA A PROSPEROUS COUNTRY?

The Pall Mall Gazette says that such a budget as that which has just been put forward by the Treasury of New South Wales was probably never before exhibited as the account of the revenue and expenditure of an equal number of people. The total population of New South Wales at the present time scarcely exceeds 600,000, and there is a surplus in hand of nearly £1,750,000. The entire debt of the colony does not exceed £11,000,000, which has been almost wholly incurred for the construction of railways and other public works, and the interest upon it, so far as can be ascertained, under £600,000. It is not very long since New South Wales was regarded as the "Sleepy Hollow" of Australasia. There was wealth, comfort, and contentment, but the people showed no inclination to move too fast or to develop the vast resources of agricultural, mineral, and pastoral wealth around them more rapidly than was consistent with perfect enjoyment in one of the delightful climates in the world. Protection was in full favor, assisted immigration was tabooed, and even the construction of roads and railways was carried on at a very leisurely pace. Now, however, free trade has been introduced, and within the last two or three years a great change has come over the community. The colonists have become alive to the fact that, with the enormous opportunities open to them, New South Wales ought very shortly to take the lead in Australia. Victoria, which still adhered to her protectionism, is being fairly eclipsed in the race for prosperity; and the working men of Melbourne, who refused, a few weeks ago, even to listen to Mr. Henry Taylor, the delegate of the English workmen, on the subject of free trade, may soon regret their short-sighted policy. But for the present, as between these two colonies, New South Wales has it all her own way, and with a revenue of £5,000,000, an enormous proportionate surplus, and light taxation, she can afford to laugh at the struggles of her far more populous rival over the border.

The Hon. E. Richardson addressed his constituents at Christchurch on Friday night, and at the conclusion of his speech received a vote of thanks and confidence.

In our Saturday's issue we were ill-advised enough to insert a letter signed "Napier," and the consequence is that today we have been inundated by a flood of correspondence on the subject of Christianity v. Mahometanism. The first letter that reached us on Monday was signed "Observer," and would occupy more than a column of this journal; we then got the first portion of an epistle from the Rev. D'Arcy Irvine that would take up another column, and a further contribution of half a column from "Napier" arrived soon afterwards. Mr Irvine's letter states that he "particularly wants here in Napier to discuss the whole question of the Christian evidences, as contrasted with Mahometanism, and to go into the question of miracles as contrasted with lying wonders," &c., &c. Such being the case, the sooner we shut our columns to the controversy the better. We are not going to publish another line on such questions, and we beg to inform our correspondents that [they may have their manuscripts returned on application.

John Fairfax, M.L.C., who died last Saturday morning in Sydney was one of the original founders of the Sydney Morning Herald. Mr. Fairfax was at one time in partnership with Mr. Kemp, but purchased that gentleman's interest in the paper for his sons for £80,000 fifteen years ago. The deceased gentleman was much respected in Sydney and was a leading member of the Congregationalists in that city.

A list, we understand, of the owners and occupiers of land in the Taradale District, constituted by the Hawke's Bay Rivers Act, has been posted at Mr. Macdonald's Hotel. The election of the Board of Conservators must take place fourteen days after the list has been publicly posted and notified.

A fire broke out on Sunday morning in the Lyttelton wharf office and speedily communicated with the large export shed on the breastwork. The shed was filled up with potatoes and grain, and was entirely consumed. A strong westerly wind was blowing all the time, which kept the fire from the sheds on the other side of the line. The breastwork has been considerably burned, but the wharves have escaped without damage. None of the shipping sustained any injury.

The foot-ball match on Saturday between Auckland and Napier, again resulted in a victory for the Aucklanders who were winners by several points.

Viscount Maidstone was allowed to pass his public examination as a bankrupt unopposed on February 24, although his debts amounted to £23,365, of which £8365 is unsecured, and his assets to nothing.

The New Zealand Times of Thursday says:—"A few days ago a civil case, Sam Howard v. Ashton, came before the Resident Magistrate and was adjourned: £81 7s. was the amount claimed, on account of a contract entered into between the parties to the suit, when Messrs. Baker and Farron went to Napier for a season. Mr. Ashton, the lessee of the hall there, having guaranteed them £200 for six nights. The claim entered was for the difference between the actual takings and the amount guaranteed. We understand that there is a probability of the case being amicably settled, and that it will not come before the Court again."

A second lecture on spectrum analysis was delivered by Mr. Severn, on Saturday evening, at the Oddfellows' Hall. We were glad to see the lecture so well attended, the advantages of the larger hall were at once apparent, in giving more room for the necessary apparatus. Mr. Severn took up the subject from where he had left off on a previous evening, and explained the phenomena attendant to this most delicate system known of qualitative analysis. In the course of demonstration, the lecturer threw upon the screen the spectra of various metals, among which were zinc, sodium, silver, and that rare metal—thallium. The metals were fused and vaporised by means of an automatic electric lamp of Browning's make, worked by a strong Bunsen battery. The extreme nicety of the tests made by means of the spectroscope was dwelt upon, indeed it is dangerously exact, and some experimentalists claim to be able to detect the presence of certain substances in a compound body, if only existing in quantity, to the extent of one millionth part of a grain. The apparatus used by the lecturer was of a very elaborate description, and efficiently manipulated.

The steamer Star of the South, Southern Cross, and Pretty Jane, are all open to purchase from the Auckland Steam Packet Company. Tenders for their purchase will be received by the Secretary up to the 1st September.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the first copy of the Ashburton Mail, a new double-demy bi-weekly journal, published by Mr. J. Ives, a credit to the district. The first number of the Northern Advocate a new weekly journal, published at Whangarei, in lieu of the Comet, also lies before us. We wish our youthful contemporaries every success.

As an evidence of the very satisfactory manner in which Mr. E. Tuke performed the duties of valuator for the outlying districts within the County of Hawke's Bay, we may mention that not a single objection was raised to his valuation.

The Napier Municipal Council met on Monday. The following report of the Public Works committee was read and adopted:—"1. That in future all successful tenderers be compelled to attend with their sureties at the Town Clerk's office, for the purpose of signing their contract documents within seven (7) days from the date of the acceptance of the same by the Council on pain of the forfeiture of their deposit for non-compliance, and that the said deposit, when paid by cheque, be marked by the manager of the bank on which drawn, "Good for 21 days." 2. That the draft conditions for lighting the town herewith, submitted for the approval of the Council, be adopted. 3. That with reference to Mr. Sainsbury's application for the repair of Chaucer-road, the same to be granted on payment by him of the sum of ten pounds. 4. That the salary authorised by the Council to be paid to Mr. R. Burley of £10 10s per month be increased to £12 5s. That tenders be invited for the erection of a fence round the fire engine-shed, receivable up to noon of the 28th inst. On the motion of His Worship the Mayor, Police Sergeant James Robinson was appointed Poundkeeper for the Borough. A petition praying the Governor to extend the boundaries of the Borough was signed by the Councillors. After a few remarks relative to the swamp reclamation, and prison labor, the Council adjourned.

Mr. Severn's sixth lecture was delivered on Monday at the Oddfellows' Hall, and attracted the largest audience he has had during his sojourn amongst us. Electricity was the theme of the lecturer's discourse and investigations, and the experiments and the explanatory remarks were clear and graphic. The subtle force we call electricity has been without doubt of all physical agents disclosed to us by modern scientific research the most potent in the promotion of civilization and diffusion of knowledge. In the course of the lecture, Mr. Severn gave a brief resume of the laws of galvanism, and illustrated the action of the electric current by some striking experiments. The principle of the action of a galvanic battery was explained, and it was exhibited how electricity will be evolved by the chemical action of a suitable solution on two dissimilar metals. The laws of resistance, and the conductivity of metals, was then gone into. Afterwards the principle of the permanent and electro-magnets, and the application of the latter to telegraphy, was practically demonstrated. The application of the electric current to exploding torpedoes, was given with some instructive and interesting failures, without occasional mishaps many wonderful properties of force and matter would long remain uninvestigated. Experiments were then made with the induction coil, its powerful current being transmitted through some magnificent Gieseler's vacuum tubes. This portion of the apparatus was used for the first time at the lecture we are now describing, and is of the best description of its class. The electric light was explained and shewn, and a very delectable and entertaining lecture was brought to a termination with the exhibition of some photographic transparencies and microscopic subjects by means of the lime light, which was in much better form than heretofore.

A correspondent of the Poverty Bay Standard is under the impression that the about to be formed Corporation of Gisborne will be extravagantly charged for the maintenance of prisoners at Napier who have been committed at Gisborne. There is no safe goal at Gisborne, and this correspondent thinks it would pay to have one established there, as the value of the labor of prisoners is more than double the cost of their keep.

In an article in the last number of the New Zealand Reformer, advocating the Local Option Bill, in which can be easily traced the fine Roman hand of the Hon. W. Fox, the following sentence occurs:—"There are hundreds of districts in the colony now, where, if a workable Local Option Act were passed, the majority of two-thirds would drive the public-house out of their neighborhood. Then the idle loafers or greedy blood-suckers who keep these dens, as Kingsley calls them, would have to find other quarters in which to carry on their trade of demoralisation; happy wives would receive the full earnings of the bread-winner to expend on the domestic partnership of husband, wife, and children; and would not have the pain of seeing the publican's wife riding in a buggy, clothed in silk, while she, the workman's helpmeet, goes about on foot, dressed in little better than rags. Happy day for the wife of the working man and his young progeny when the "highly respectable licensed victualler" is no longer licensed to sell that which is the source of all domestic misery, and the ruin of thousands of homes.

Lieutenant-General Sir John L. A. Simons, who is reported, according to the news received by the Zealandia, to command the British troops in the event of England being dragged into the war, is a K.C.B., and a Colonel in the Royal Engineers. His military career is not in "Men of the Time."

The members of the Taradale Mutual Improvement Society have resolved to give a dramatic and musical entertainment on Friday next. The funds arising from the entertainment are to be devoted to the purposes of the Society, which will doubtless be well patronised.

The libel case against the Government Maori organ, by the Hon. H. R. Russell is fixed to come off on Monday, the 20th August, at Wellington.

On Friday, according to the usual home custom, Messrs. Langley and Newman, cabinet-makers gave a supper on the occasion of one of the apprentice's time being completed, in one of their large workshops, which was tastefully decorated with evergreens, flowers, banners, and different coats of arms. All the workmen, and a number of their friends, sat down to a sumptuous repast, which, after being done ample justice to, was followed by the usual and loyal and other toasts, interspersed with some capital songs, several good musicians being present. The evening was enlivened by some well rendered pieces, which tended greatly to the enjoyment of the company present. At eleven o'clock, after singing God Save the Queen, all started for their homes, everyone having thoroughly enjoyed himself.

A Local Option Bill appears to us Utopian (says the 'Tablet'). But there are things which legislation can do and ought to do. It could prevent, if not altogether, at least almost altogether, adulteration, which is the greatest cause of the many miseries so eloquently deplored by the various speakers at this meeting; it could punish drunkenness in a more rational manner than it does at present; it could so punish the drunkard as to stamp on him the brand of infamy, and it could easily reduce the number of licensed houses, which all admit is very much too large at present. If it were possible to frame an Act of Parliament that would certainly put a stop to drunkenness, we should without hesitation advocate such an Act; but as this cannot be, we hold that care should be taken lest, in endeavouring to remedy the evil, the only effect produced should be an aggravation of it. We entertain a profound distrust of all proposals to effect moral and social reformation by majorities resulting from the ballot-box. Such a result is generally nothing more than the outcome of multiplied ignorance and widespread inexperience, of passion and unreason, of prejudice and religious antipathy. Some people look upon a majority, no matter how obtained as something heavenly, but only, however, when it happens to be on their own side. . . . The regulation of the liquor trade is a subject that should be discussed and settled by men competent to undertake the task, and not by chance majorities in localities. It should be settled on well-defined general principles, and not in accordance with the ever-varying caprice of an unstable multitude.

Here is a wrinkle for Inspector Scully to be used when he is on the lookout for unregistered dogs. It is taken from the San Francisco News Letter:—"Dog fanciers in this city are getting shy at answering advertisements for pointers, terriers, and other canine beauties. The astute police officer put a card in the Chronicle this week stating that he wished to buy a handsome pup.—"Apply to C.B., No.—Montgomery-street, between 10 a.m., and 1 p.m., for three days." The advertiser was at the rendezvous punctually, with his wagon and a complete outfit of Mexicans and lassoes. Four hundred and seventeen dogs answered the advertisement, that is to say were offered for sale by their owners, to the wily official. Three hundred and ninety-four of these were unregistered, immediately captured and put in durance vile. An inventive mind over ingenuously devised for the suppression of evils, and it is to be hoped that this plan for the extirpation of mongrel curs may be worked long and successfully.

The Dunedin correspondent of the Sun tells the following story:—"A fearful mistake was made here by two doctors, and endorsed by a chemist, a few days ago. A fine infant boy belonging to a friend of mine had a severe attack of bronchitis. Two doctors were called in, and wrote a prescription for a liniment, which was made up by one of our leading chemists. It was to be applied on a felt pad. The father, when putting the liniment on the pad, noticed that it was very strong, but the nurse girl remarking, "That smells like the embrocation," any suspicious he might have had been lulled. The stuff was applied, and the child began to cry. The mother endeavoured to hush it in her arms but the more she pressed it to her bosom the worse the child cried. At length the poor little thing fainted, and thinking something was wrong, the father cut open the bandages and took off the pad, when the whole of the skin, from the collar bone to the stomach, came off with it, and a fearful sight there was. In extreme haste the doctors were called in, when it was discovered that the liniment was nitric acid pure and simple. The doctors were horrified, and the chemist was sent for, but he produced the prescriptions. When asked why he sent it out of his shop, he said he had only followed the prescription. I am glad to say that the infant is now believed to be out of danger, but for some time his life was despaired of. If death had ensued, what then? Certainly, Dunedin has reason to be proud of its medical men."

To the Editor:—Sir, I have just come to hand a late Oamaru paper in which flour is quoted there at £16 per ton. In looking over an account for wheated to me yesterday, I find I have to pay 29s for a cwt bag of the same flour. Is this not an imposition? and ought not the people to co-operate in getting cheap flour as well as cheap bread?—A BREAD WINNER.

On Tuesday at Waipawa, the petition of S. Johnston and others against the return of the Hon. Henry Russell for the representation of the Waipukurau Riding in the Waipawa County Council. R. Stuart Esq., presided. Mr. Sydney Johnston appeared in support of the petition, and Mr. Sheehan for the Hon. H. R. Russell. The petition was read, in which it was set forth, first, That the Returning Officer refused to permit cumulative voting. Second, That one of the Deputy Returning Officers canvassed in the election booth for one of the candidates. Third, That certain electors, although eligible, were not permitted to vote.—Mr. Johnston made a lengthy and able speech in support of the petition, calling the attention of the Court to the fact that there had been three contested elections for the same seat, and at the two first elections cumulative voting was permitted. Mr. Johnston quoted in support of his argument, Mr. Beetham's decisions in the Olive election, and also the first Waipukurau election in which that gentleman stated clearly that in his opinion cumulative voting was legal. In the face of those opinions, he could not understand the action of the Returning Officer. Mr. Johnston also referred to the fact that the roll supplied by the Chairman of the Waipukurau Riding was one not in accordance with the Act. With regard to the second allegation on the petition he would withdraw it, as he had no evidence prepared to support it.—The evidence of Mr. Arrow, the Returning Officer, was then given, who stated that so far as the rolls were concerned, he was actuated in a great measure by the advice given him by Mr. Beetham. He obtained the rolls he sent by from the several Chairmen of the Road Boards.—Charles Morton, the Returning Officer at Ashley Clinton, deposed that he refused the vote of one person named Brier. It was placed on the roll as Brewer without a Christian name, and he was not sure that he was the same man as on the roll.—Adolf Bruer deposed that he had paid rates, and had told the Returning Officer he was the person on the roll as Brewer. He was a Hungarian. The English always called him Brewer, but the proper pronunciation of his name was Brier.—Bertie Reed deposed that his name did not appear on the rolls. In cross-examination, it was elicited that this witness had disposed of his property interest in the Waipukurau riding to his partner prior to the last election.—The evidence of Mr. Monteith as to the manner in which the valuation roll was made up was then taken, and also that of the Hon. Henry Russell, as Chairman of the Waipukurau Road Board as to the roll he had forwarded to the Returning Officer.—Mr. Sheehan, in a short but argumentative speech, addressed the Court on behalf of the Hon. H. Russell, contending that the election was a legal one, and pointing out the difference between the law as in operation now, and when Mr. Beetham gave his previous decisions.—The Court reserved its judgment, which is to be given at Napier on Tuesday next.

An effort is being made in the County of Waipawa to establish a Horticultural Society. The Hon. H. R. Russell is the instigator of the movement, and, we believe, offers to grant a piece of land at Waipukurau for the use of the Society should one be formed.

To the Editor.—Sir,—Can you inform me if the County is going to pay for advertising expenses for the list of Meaneate ratepayers requesting the County to take over the Road Board? Or whether it will come out of the private purses of those who initiated the movement. As a Taradale ratepayer, if it comes out of County funds, I protest against such a waste of money.—TARADALE SETTLER.

Mr. Garry has turned out from his factory six of the iron lamp-posts out of the thirty-six ordered by the Corporation. The design of the posts is neat, and the workmanship is excellent.

Northern Queensland is rapidly becoming a Chinese colony. According to official returns the population of the Palmer river goldfields consists of 17,000 Chinese, and only 1400 Europeans.

The Revision Court for the Electoral District of Clive sat continuously on Tuesday, at Waipawa, from 11.30 a.m. till 8 p.m. With respect to the objections to native claims to vote, thirteen were sustained and forty-two were overruled. Of the objections to the European claims, of which there were not more than half a dozen, all were sustained except that against Mr. George Hunter, against whose name "dead" had been affixed. As Mr. Hunter, however, had been perverse enough to live, the objection to his name being retained on the roll was withdrawn.

Much amusement has been caused recently in New Plymouth by a Maori of the name of Paramen—but better known as "Irish Whiskey"—who has lately furnished himself with a "cork leg," made for him by Mr. J. Henderson. Of this leg he is mightily proud, and has thought it worth while to invest in a new pair of boots—one of which he wears over the cork leg, but the other he was seen carrying in his hand, evidently not deeming his old leg worthy of such distinction. The cork leg is his hobby and he is endeavoring his best to throw his whole weight in walking on that, probably with a view of saving the sound one. His new toy is likely to prove an expensive one for him. We hear he gave £28 for the cork leg.

known blameless character of the person they had wantonly assailed. A matter like this demands investigation. The charge was of too gross a kind for a man to be expected to sit down quietly under it; his silence would be construed into an admission of guilt. Mr. Kennedy, with two other gentlemen concerned, being the proprietors of a newspaper, it might be hastily inferred that the matter was nothing but a newspaper quarrel, such however, was far from being the case, it was a matter of private reputation. The defendants were proprietors, printers, and publishers of a newspaper, the plaintiff was connected with the rival journal only in the capacity of shareholder. He was neither manager, editor, or contributor, and by virtue of his proprietorship, he had lost none of his social rights. If the defendants had committed a wrong, it was their business to tender some amends; but nothing of the kind had been done. In the Herald of the 27th December last appeared a sub-leader, referring to a Government tender for advertising, signed "Dinwiddie, Morrison, and Co.," which he would now read (In reading the letter, Mr Cornford directed the attention of the Jury especially to the following passage: "Let them take up our challenge. They risk nothing in any case. We will pay the expenses of arbitration, whatever the result may be, and they cannot possibly be called on to pay anything in any event. We may suggest to the Hospital Committee the desirability of making an effort to induce them to take it up. They may put it to them in this way:—That it cannot make their position any worse, whatever the arbitrators say about them. They now stand virtually branded as fraudulent in the eyes of the public, and they may just as well have the brand affixed in a more regular and formal manner." The plaintiff, though referred to by name in this paragraph, had no personal management or supervision of any part of the business. There had been a dispute between the papers as to the accuracy of the returns of circulation forwarded to the Government; each calling in question the correctness of the other's statements. The "challenge" to which the Herald referred was not an offer to examine the whole matter—it left quite out of sight the truth or otherwise of the Herald's own returns—but briefly called upon the TELEGRAPH proprietors to submit their books and every particular connected with their newspaper to the inspection of arbitrators in fact, to give a full and minute statement of the value of their business, for the Herald's satisfaction. No response being made to this invitation, they were in the letter which he had read, dragged severally by name into the dispute, as being responsible for alleged false statements by an employe. He wished notice to be taken of the clause, "It cannot make their position any worse." What did this imply but that the plaintiff and his partners were so utterly ruined in reputation that new disclosures, however serious, of attempted or successful fraud, could not sink them lower in public estimation. He submitted, in spite of the gross aspersions cast upon him, that Mr Kennedy held as unblemished a character as any man in the community. By his present action he challenged the defendants by all means to prove him guilty of fraud if they could; by the writ he said to them in effect, "Justify your statements, or apologise." Had they attempted to justify themselves the whole matter in dispute would have come before the jury. As for the defence they had made—that they had never said anything to injure the plaintiff, the jury would have to say how much it was worth. If by retraction or apology the defendants had brought in some measure to make amends for the wrong they had done, the case would not have been such a grievous one; but no attempt of the kind had been made—not even when a final opportunity was given that morning. The plaintiff had been quite willing to have accepted amends of that kind even up to the last moment. The other side had given him notice that they would, in mitigation of damages, put in articles published by the TELEGRAPH, as having a tendency to provoke the attack complained of. Whatever consideration they might be disposed to attach to evidence of this kind, in mitigation, His Honor would inform them that one libel could not be set off against another. It was a matter of notoriety that journals were in the habit of jarring at each other. If anything had been said on the other side reflecting on the reputation or character of the defendants, they had the proper means of redress open to them, and were not justified in the kind of retaliation they had adopted. It would, however, be clear

that up to the publication of the letter on which the present action was based, ordinary arena of journalistic warfare had not been departed from. It had been laid down that a journal was justified in commenting upon the conduct of another, or the style of its articles, or might indulge in all kinds of sarcastic allusions to these subjects. The present question, however, was not one of criticism, fair or unfair; but of bringing slanderous charges against private individuals in their private capacity.

Alexander Kennedy, sworn: I am plaintiff in this action. I am a member of the firm of Routledge, Kennedy and Co., auctioneers and commission agents. My business extends throughout all the Australian Colonies. I have resided in Napier more than nineteen years. I hold a good many offices of a public nature; I am a Justice of the Peace; I am a trustee of the Napier Savings Bank; I am a member of the Immigration Board, the Land Board, and the Harbor Board; I am Secretary of the Napier Gas Company. I am part proprietor of the DAILY TELEGRAPH. I have no other connection with the paper than that of owner. I do not understand the business. I have taken no share in the ordinary internal concerns of the office. The management is left to the employes, my connection being merely financial. I know the Hawke's Bay Herald newspaper, conducted and published by Messrs Carlile, Dinwiddie, and Morrison. I remember very well a letter signed Dinwiddie Morrison and Co., and published in the Hawke's Bay Herald of 27th December. (Herald produced and identified.) Messrs Newton, Knowles, and myself are mentioned by name in that letter. (Mr. Wilson, objected to the witness being questioned as to the construction placed by him on the terms of the letter.) I understand all the reference in the first paragraph to refer to me. I understood a very serious imputation to be cast upon me by that paragraph. I am not aware of any circumstances tending to give a different meaning to the paragraph, than that which appears on its face. The "challenge" referred to appeared in the Herald of the 22nd December. (Paper produced, and placed in witness's hands.)

By Mr. Wilson: I once appeared as a defendant in a libel case brought by Mr. Sealy, in connection with the DAILY TELEGRAPH paper. A fine was imposed, and I had to pay costs. I cannot prove direct pecuniary damage through the libel of which I complain; but my business may have suffered, and I should be the last person to hear of it. I do not know of any person who has shunned me on account of this. I have not been asked to resign any of my offices on account of it. I read the TELEGRAPH. (A copy of that paper of 23rd December was handed to witness.) It contains a letter signed by Mr. Grigg, the manager. I probably read it at the time; I have never read it since.

Mr. Cornford objected to cross-examination on the contents of the letter at this stage, and the objection was allowed. Cross-examination continued. I took legal advice about the letter, and a writ was issued on the 3rd January. No apology was applied for. I remember a proposition to try one case instead of three, which was rejected by myself and partners.

Re-examined by Mr. Cornford: Referring to my former appearance in a libel case, it was owing to my responsibility for the acts of my employe. I was fined £5, but the jury recommended myself and fellow defendants to mercy.

John Close, sworn: I am a merchant in Napier. I know Mr Kennedy, the plaintiff in this action. I know the Hawke's Bay Herald. I remember reading a letter therein on the advertising contract, signed Dinwiddie, Morrison & Co. I know the three gentlemen, Messrs Kennedy, Newton, and Knowles, mentioned in the first paragraph. I remember Mr Knowles being at my house on the morning of the 27th. We read the letter over together.

Mr Wilson objected to the evidence, which His Honor held to be irrelevant.

Witness continued: I understood, and still understand the plaintiff to have been referred to in the first paragraph of the letter. I understood the plaintiff and his co-proprietors to be referred to as "standing virtually branded as fraudulent in the eyes of the public." I understand it as referring to the staff and the proprietors altogether. I know Mr Kennedy's business. I should not like such a charge to be made against myself.

Cross-examined by Mr Wilson: To whom do you suppose the pronoun "They" to refer in the middle of the

paragraph? To the staff of the office. To whom does it refer in the sentence "Yet they set their circulation down?" To altogether, I suppose. "Let them take up our challenge," and who does that mean? I do not think the staff can be intended in that paragraph. I know Mr Grigg, it might have referred to him. I know Mr Price, who is connected with the paper. It might refer to him; but I think it refers to one and all.

H. A. Banner, sworn: I am a commission agent. I know Mr Kennedy, the plaintiff in this case, and the defendants. I know the Herald newspaper. I remember the publication of the letter produced. I know the persons referred to in the first paragraph of that letter. I had no doubt as to the parties referred to in that letter. (Mr Wilson objected.) I consider the word "they" in the last sentence of the paragraph to refer to the gentlemen indicated by name in the earlier part of the letter.

By Mr Wilson: I presume the term "they" in "It is not possible," to refer to the employes. "Yet they set their circulation down," &c. I suppose that to refer either to the editor or the proprietors.

Re-examined by Mr. Cornford: I am not aware of any extrinsic circumstances to prevent the word "they" referring to the proprietors all through.

Hugh Campbell, sworn: His Honor: For what purpose is this witness called? The same as the last?

Mr. Cornford: Yes. His Honor appealed to the foreman of the jury, who said they required no further evidence as to the meaning of the word "they."

Witness examined: I am a draper carrying on business in Napier. I remember the publication of the letter produced. I understood the proprietors of the paper to be referred to in the sentence, "They now stand virtually branded, &c." This closed the plaintiff's case, and the Court took a short adjournment.

On the Court resuming, Mr Wilson asked His Honor to rule that there was no case to go to the Jury.

His Honor considered that a case for the Jury had been made out.

Mr Wilson then addressed the Jury. The case had been represented as something of a very aggravated kind, where—as it was nothing but a paltry miserable squabble between some of these so-called members of the press. One paper got a Government contract, and was jubilant; the other which did not get it, was sore. It was an extraordinary thing that these so-called gentlemen of the press never could observe the ordinary courtesies attended to in other professions. The alleged libel was just one of these ebullitions constantly appearing in the intestine warfare between newspapers which was considered the correct thing; and although in law one libel was not held to justify another, he would show that the letter complained of had been provoked by statements in the rival paper of quite as injurious a kind. The real questions were, whether the paragraph was a libel directed against the plaintiff; and if so, whether he had sustained any damage by its publication. The exact terms of the letter were extravagantly absurd. It referred to certain persons as being "virtually branded" by the Herald "as fraudulent"—as if any brand they could "affix" would be of a permanent character. He would ask the jury to say that the word "they" referred, not to the plaintiff and his partners, but to certain of their employes, who had rendered themselves particularly obnoxious to the staff on the other side. The witnesses called to prove the libel could not agree as to the application of the term "they"; nor was it possible to give a precise interpretation, the whole thing was written in such loose and wretched grammar. Of course it was also in execrably bad taste; but he would ask the jury by their verdict to discourage actions of this kind—they did not reflect credit on those by whom they were instituted. Both parties had been engaged in abuse, and the defendants had received great provocation; but directly they crossed the border, legal action was taken. Three writs were issued and three separate actions were instituted; when one would have been sufficient; merely with the object of multiplying expenses. The action was most oppressive, and was nothing but an attempt to inflict great pecuniary loss on a rival paper. It was only by a very forced construction that the alleged libel could be made to refer to the proprietors of the paper. It was couched in the exaggerated and turbid language always used by these editors, but meant very little. What was meant by having the brand affixed in a regular manner, he did not profess to

understand. It seemed to be Mr. Kennedy's misfortune to be connected with a paper not always very respectably conducted. It was in the hands of persons who did not carry it on with any reasonable caution, and who had formerly got him into trouble, without any apparent fault of his own. He would read some extracts from the TELEGRAPH, which had provoked this letter.

Mr Cornford objected to the reading of the papers in question at this stage, as they had only been brought in in mitigation of damages.

His Honor said it appeared to be part of the interchange of articles, and the intention of the letter of Mr Grigg's, which Mr Wilson proposed to read, appeared to be to detract from the character of the persons conducting the Herald.

Mr Corn ord said that if added as provocation it must be shown to be libellous.

His Honor would not rule so. It contained statements which the Herald people might consider defamatory.

Mr Wilson said he wished that the plaintiff's side had fully taken it out in abuse. The jury would then be better able to strike a balance.

His Honor: There can be no set-off of that kind, I think. Mr Justice Blackburn has certainly said that in a case of this kind the jury might fairly consider the degree of respect the plaintiff had shown for the feelings of others; but my view of the matter is, that you must seek your remedy for that abuse, Mr Wilson, and obtain it if you can.

Mr Wilson then read a leading article from the TELEGRAPH of the 22nd December, with a running comment on his own, which caused a good deal of laughter. He followed this up by reading an article from the same journal of the 23rd; part of a later article, headed "The Herald's Ululations," also a letter signed by Mr Grigg which was published in the TELEGRAPH, directing special attention to Mr Grigg's remark that certain statements of the Herald regarding its circulation were "deliberate falsehoods." After this he submitted, the plaintiff had no claim for redress—the parties being in the daily habit of libelling each other. It was a case resembling the Estanswill editors; except that the latter gentlemen in the end took a preferable course to suing each other for libel. To claim damages was preposterous, especially after the plaintiff's admission that no damage had been sustained.

His Honor remarked, with reference to what had fallen from Mr Wilson as to the separate actions, that a joint action would only be where joint damages could be shown. To have adopted this course would have been open to great difficulty upon the evidence, as the plaintiff relied on those damages inferred by the law in any case of libel.

Mr. Cornford then summed up his case on behalf of the plaintiff. No evidence had been tendered by the other side except certain newspaper extracts in mitigation of damages. The quarrel had been very properly described by his learned friend as a paltry one, and the articles he had read were really nothing but the purest chaff and badinage. There was certainly not a shadow of provocation to induce the defendants to write such a letter as this one complained of. He saw no difficulty as to the construction of the pronoun "they." In its general sense it included the whole staff from the proprietors to the printers' devil; but to prevent any mistake as to the former being intended, they had been mentioned separately and by name. Mr. Grigg's letter, which had been read, was purely impersonal; having been designated a "mendacious hack" by the Herald, he retorted with a *tu quoque*; but his letter contained no specific charge against any member of the Herald establishment. As to the line of defence taken by Mr. Wilson, he need only say that no man had the right to screen himself from the consequences of his own wrong doing by the plea either of his own insignificance or of the immaculate character of the person he had defamed. The complimentary reference of the plaintiff and his partners with which the letter opened, could not be alleged as an extenuation—it was a mere rhetorical trick, by no means uncommon, to heighten by contrast the abuse about to be poured upon them. "Newton, Kennedy, and Knowles," the letter said, "have always been looked upon as honest and reputable citizens, conspicuous for their scrupulous integrity and sensitive regard for truth." This, they would observe, was in the past, but what about the present? "It cannot make their position any worse, whatever the arbitrators say about them. They now stand, virtually, branded as fraudulent in the eyes of the public." It

of the explanation I gave Henare Matua, before the bills were signed. I fully explained that the bills were to be used only in the event of his neglecting or refusing to carry out this agreement. Paora was there at the time. I cannot swear that anything was said regarding the promissory notes before this agreement was signed. I can only remember it as part of the same transaction. I cannot swear that anything was said regarding the promissory notes in Paora's presence; but I believe he was there at the time. The explanation I gave Henare about the promissory notes was that they were to be used if he failed to carry out the agreement. Other natives were present at the time. The notes were filled up by Mr. Philip Russell. I do not know the exact time when the notes were signed; but think it was about the middle of the day. So far as I recollect, I have related the whole of the purport of the explanation I gave to Henare Matua and the other natives.

Re-examined by Mr Cornrod: Henare Matua made no objection to signing the papers. He was very anxious to get the money.

The Court took the usual afternoon adjournment at this point (1.30 p.m.) After the evidence was heard of Henare Matua and another native, Mr. Rees addressed the Court, and His Honor summed up. The jury gave a verdict on all the issues in favor of Mr. Canning. This concluded the business of the session.

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT A HURIRI

ARRIVAL.

June.

- 15—Jane Douglas, s.s., from Lyttelton.
- 16—Kiwi, s.s., from Wellington via Castle Point. Passengers—Messrs G Hunter, W. Hewitt, Allan, and Cunningham.
- 17—Rangatira, s.s., from Poverty Bay. Passengers—Miss Skipworth, Messrs Griffiths, Doon, Daly, Gallagher, Ship-ton, Cross, 2 natives, and 3 for the South.
- 17—Mansia, p.s., from Wairoa. Passengers—Mrs Moloney, Mrs Ingram, Mrs Turner, Messrs Cable, Burton, Fraser, Swan, Murray, Witty, Brandon, Gillett, Parker, Smith, Gardner, and 3 natives.
- 17—Result, s.s., from Wairoa. Passengers—4 Europeans and 1 native.
- 17—Saucy Kate, schooner, from Dunedin.
- 17—Southern Cross, s.s., from Auckland. Passengers—Mrs Best, and 2 children, Messrs Winkleson, Parroll, Smith, and Snibburke.
- 21—Rangatira, s.s., from Wellington. Passenger—Mr Skelley.
- 21—Wanaka, s.s., from Southern Ports. Passengers—Mrs Walcott, the Hon. J. D. Ormond, Messrs D. McLean, Zelman Silva, Levien, Wall, Price, one steerage, and 9 for the North.

DEPARTURES.

June.

- 15—Rangatira, s.s., for Poverty Bay. Passengers—Judge Rogan, Messrs Goldsmith (2), Harrison, Berry, Griffiths, Cross, Pilcher, Black, Carroll, Brooking, Blackadder, Hone Piti (Native Assessor), 1 half-caste, and 6 natives.
- 15—Result, s.s., for Wairoa. Four passengers.
- 15—Mansia, p.s., for Wairoa. Passengers—Messrs Swan, Fraser, McMurray, Mackenzie, Ormond, and 9 natives.
- 17—Rangatira, s.s., for Wellington. Passengers—Mr and Mrs Oldfield and 2 children, Misses Maxstead and Grayson, Messrs M'Lean, Jobson, Orr, Boon, Sutherland, Alton, Walsh, and 3 original.
- 18—Kiwi, s.s., for Wellington.
- 18—Opotiki, schooner, for Poverty Bay.—One passenger.
- 19—Acadia, schooner, for Lyttelton.
- 20—Southern Cross, s.s., for Auckland. Passengers—Mrs Hogan, Messrs Davis, Shrewsbury, Fisher, Alexander, Brown, Stewart, Paulson, Eager, and Hennessy, Masters Claude and Horace Murry.
- 20—Jane Douglas, s.s., for Gisborne and Auckland. Passengers—Messrs Sturm Oldroyd, Buckland, and Captain Cronin.

The s.s. Jane Douglas returned from Dunedin via Lyttelton, having been 13 days away. She took from here a cargo of wool and tallow for transhipment to the Fern-glen. The Jane Douglas remained four hours at Port Chalmers, and left for Lyttelton. She was twenty-four hours on the passage; took in a cargo of flour, 80 tons, and left on Monday, at half past ten, and arrived on Thursday at midnight. Captain Fraser reports fine weather from the time he left here and his arrival in Lyttelton. Since leaving the latter port, he had a succession of head winds and heavy seas. The whole of her cargo is consigned to Messrs Watt Brothers.

The s.s. Rangatira, Capt. Evans, left for Poverty Bay at 10.30 p.m. on Friday. She had a large number of passengers, besides a

tolerable quantity of cargo shipped at Wellington.

The p.s. Mansia and the s.s. Result both left on Friday for Wairoa. The former had a fair complement of passengers, and the latter only a few, but full of cargo.

We understand the s.s. Tairoa is going to make alternate trips up the East and West Coasts in conjunction with the Wanaka.

The s.s. Kiwi, Captain Campbell, arrived in the Bay late on Saturday night, and was brought alongside the Breastwork early on Sunday morning. Captain Campbell called at Castle Point, but was unable to land any cargo, on account of the heavy sea on the beach. She discharged a small quantity of cargo here on Monday, and left about 10 o'clock for Wellington.

The two Wairoa steamers returned on Sunday, having both been in and out of the river, the bar of which is now good; in fact, there are two entrances to the river.

The s.s. Rangatira, Capt. Evans, returned from Poverty Bay, at an early hour on Sunday morning. She encountered a strong N.W. breeze as far as Table Cape; thence a light southerly wind to the Napier anchorage.

The schooner Saucy Kate arrived in the bay early on Sunday morning, having had a protracted passage of ten days from Dunedin. She has a full general cargo.

The s.s. Southern Cross, Captain Holmes, made a splendid passage from Auckland of 48 hours. She had not many passengers, but a full general cargo, which was being discharged on Monday. On deck, in addition to her cargo, she had two race horses belonging to J. Watt, Esq., viz.: Longlands and Ariel. The Cross will leave on Wednesday, at noon, with sheep for Auckland.

The schooner Samoa arrived at Auckland from Levuka on Wednesday last. She reports the total wreck of the schooner Ida at Roturua, all hands saved. When the Samoa left Levuka there were there H.M.S. Sapphire, and Reward; the brig Maggie arrived the previous day from Sydney.

The schooner Opotiki having taken on board about 20 tons general cargo, including some goods shipped under bond by Watt Brothers took her departure for Gisborne on Monday evening.

The bay is full of sharks. On Sunday last a dead foal that had been thrown into the channel, and had drifted into the bay at the back of the Spit school house, was a source of contention to about a dozen sharks, who fought furiously for the dainty morsel.

The s.s. Rangatira left Wellington at midnight on Tuesday, and came up under easy steam, arriving in the bay at 3 on Thursday and was brought to the breastwork at 11.30 a.m. Captain Evans expects the Rangatira will be laid up for alterations to her engines at the end of this month. Her place will be taken by the s.s. Murray.

The s.s. Wanaka arrived in the Bay at 9.45 on Thursday. Captain McGillivray reports heavy weather as far as Cape Turnagain. She has a large quantity of cargo for Napier, which is being put into the Three Brothers and Bella.

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, Dane-virk, Norsewood, Taharite, Woodville, Foxton, Palmerston, Waunganui, Taran-ki, Wellington and Southern Provin-ces, &c., Wallingford, Porangahau, Wainui, and Castle Point.

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

J. GRUBB.

Chief Postmaster.

BIRTHS.

M'DONELL—At Meane, on June 14th, the wife of D. R. M'Donell, of a daughter.

MASSEY—At Tennyson-street, Napier, on the 17th June, the wife of Mr John Massey, of a daughter.

BEAR—At her residence, Tennyson-street, Napier, on June 19th, the wife of Mr Percival Bear, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

FRASER—BROOK.—At St. Andrew's Church, Auckland, on the 6th June, by the Rev. D. Bruce, assisted by the Rev. R. F. Macnicol, the Rev. J. M. Fraser, of Waipawa, Hawke's Bay, to Ada Elizabeth, only daughter of J. Brook, Parrell.

HAULTAIN—TORR.—At Petane, on the 4th June, by the Rev. G. H. Johnstone, Arthur Ferriek, youngest son of the late Major-General Haultain, Royal Artillery, to Louisa Josephine, second daughter of Joseph Torr, Esq., Petane.

JOHN M'VAY,

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The Weekly Mercury

AND
HAWKE'S BAY ADVERTISER.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1877.

THE Opposition party in the House, last session, having done nothing towards perfecting the local government scheme, as brought down by the Ministry; having had no policy that was worthy of the name to oppose to that of the Government; it is highly improbable that, during the recess, Sir George Grey and his lieutenants have thought out any proposal which would bring together a following of even respectable dimensions. Since Sir George Grey has been the recognised leader of the Opposition, that party, though fertile in accusations against Ministers, has signally failed in providing the substance of those shadowy promises so freely held out as a reward to a grateful country placing confidence in them. Prior to the House meeting last year, the colony was led to believe great things from the joint actions of the Otago and Auckland parties. It was darkly hinted that a policy had been decided upon, which, when disclosed, would not only burst the Vogel bubble, but would bring all concerned in it to a just retribution. This policy was to regenerate the colony; put everything on a sound basis; make Auckland rich, satisfy the South Island, give peace to Wellington, and bring, last but not least, Sir Julius Vogel, and his colleagues to unmitigated grief. This policy was so grand in its conception that not a hint respecting its details was allowed to leak out, lest its originators should be spoiled of the glory attached to the brilliancy of their idea. Nothing more was heard of it, however; like the death song of the dying swan, it only betokened the dissolution of the Provincialist party. The only approach to a policy shadowed forth by Sir George Grey were his Separation resolutions, which were utterly unworthy of him. The country then had nothing to fall back upon, but to make the best of abolition, and to swallow the nauseous and unguiled pill that had been so clumsily prepared. The colony has been blundering along since the prorogation, placing no confidence in the stability of the new institutions, and looking for no improvement except that which time and experience may bring. The Government are groping in the dark, and like blind men are willing to get assistance from any one. The appeal to the Councils for suggestions for the amendment of the Counties Act betokens an utter ignorance of the working of the hybrid institution provided in the room of provincialism, and exhibits in an extraordinary degree the anxiety that was shown to force on the colony any scheme, however crude, rather than maintain a system that was destructive to Centralism. Is it of any use then to look to the Opposition party for a policy that, recognising Provincialism as past reusultation, would happily revive all that was excellent in the old and graft them on to the new institutions? We do not think the Opposition is capable of this. It is a party that is made up of men who are working for the selfish and opposite aims of particular portions of the colony. They have nothing in common to bind them together. In fact, as the Canterbury Press describes the condition of the Opposition party, "there never was anything in existence so completely destitute of all evidences of organised life. There is nothing in the character of the present Opposition which at all realises what we are accustomed to expect from any body constituted to fulfil its peculiar functions. It is founded on no principle. It expresses no common idea. Except of course to turn out the ministry, it is associated for no definite purpose. It is simply a heterogeneous collection of

members of every variety of opinion, connected by no tie whatever but that of a common hostility to the Abolition Act, and separated from one another by personal and political dissensions far wider and deeper than any that part them off from the existing Government."

By the Torres Strait Mail, which arrived yesterday at Brisbane, we learn that the British government contemplate occupying Egypt in the event of her interests being attacked in that quarter. Sir Neville Chamberlain has been offered the command of the troops. "Men of the Time":—"Chamberlain, Sir Neville Bowles, K.C.B., G.C.S.I., the second son of the late Sir Henry Chamberlain, Bart. (who was for some years Consul-General and Chargé d'Affaires in Brazil), born at Rio, Jan. 18, 1820, was appointed to the Indian army in 1836. He served as a subaltern with much distinction in Afghanistan and Seinde, and was wounded at Kandahar and at Ghuznee. In 1842 he was attached to the Governor-General's body-guards, and in 1843 appointed Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General to the Army. In 1848 he was nominated by Lord Dalhousie one of his aides-de-camp, and commanded 8th Irregular Cavalry, attached to the army in the Punjab. In 1855, having previously discharged some important civil duties as military secretary to the Chief Commissioner (Sir John Lawrence), he was placed in command of a force of irregular troops, which he retained until the breaking out of the Indian mutiny. On the death of Col. Chester before Delhi, Col. Chamberlain (then brigadier-general) succeeded to the post of Adjutant-General of the Bengal Army, and was severely wounded in the sortie of July 18. He was nominated a C.B. in 1857, and, in reward for his services in the mutiny, was appointed aide-de-camp to the Queen. He afterwards gained distinction by his services against the hill-tribes, and has been wounded more frequently than any other officer of his years and standing in the service."

THERE has been another attempt made in the House of Commons to introduce a system of licensing public houses somewhat similar to that known as the Gothenburg system. Mr Chamberlain, who moved the resolution, proposed to give Municipal Councils power to adopt this system on payment of fair compensation to those who would suffer by the innovation. But if Mr Chamberlain's object was to lessen drunkenness and its attendant evils by his motion he defeated himself. It appears, from the London correspondent of the Otago Witness, that Mr Chamberlain had drawn up a table in which the number "of convictions for drunkenness in Gothenburg, and in 21 towns in England were set forth. According to this table, 61 out of 71 towns showed a smaller proportion of convictions to population than did Gothenburg; and only three (Tynemouth, South Shields, and Liverpool) compared very unfavourably with the Swedish town. The speech of the evening, however, was that of Sir Wilfrid Lawson. He showed that in Gothenburg the quantity of spirits annually consumed was three gallons per head, which was a third more than the average consumption in Scotland, and also that the arrests for drunkenness in Gothenburg were more numerous in proportion to the population, than in Edinburgh. The force of these facts is further brought out by the additional fact—mentioned in a succeeding debate by Dr. Lyon Playfair—that the drunkenness of Scotland is twice as great as that of England. Sir Wilfrid, however, voted in favor of Mr Chamberlain's motion, alleging as his reasons for so doing that it struck a deadly blow at the present licensing system, and that it placed the power of prohibiting the liquor traffic in the hands of the Municipal Councils, representing 6,000,000 inhabitants. On a division, the motion was negated by 103 to 81. Had it proposed to give the new licensing powers to Birmingham alone, it is not unlikely, from what was said, that the motion would have passed, Mr Chamberlain may possibly bring it forward in this reduced form another year."

THE fear that was entertained last week by the settlers of Poverty Bay lest their district should again be visited by Te Kooti has passed away. It is difficult to believe that there could have been any real cause for the "scare," and the first impression created by the news of its existence was that it was got up for the purpose of increasing military expenditure. That many in Gisborne firmly believed there was positive danger we

cannot for a moment doubt. The fact of a public meeting being held, and of the determination to raise a volunteer force in the district to meet possible hostile visits from the arch-rebel, is proof sufficient of the alarm that had been created. It appears, also, that telegrams had been forwarded from Gisborne to the Native and Defence Minister, imploring him to state with certainty the whereabouts of Te Kooti. These telegrams were unheeded, and the utmost indignation has been expressed at the neglect of the Ministry. The Wananga, in its last issue, speaks of a raid by Te Kooti as most improbable. Our contemporary says:—“It is not probable that any such intention is really held by Te Kooti, as Gisborne is in a very different condition now from that in which it found itself in the last war. European inhabitants were then very few and scattered—now they are numerous and gathered in a centre. Then also Te Kooti could reckon on a large following, but now, most probably, only a few desperate men whose lives are already forfeit to the laws would follow his lead. Indeed, so completely has he been left, that tribes like the Ngatiporou and Ngatikahungunu of Wairoa, which have been visiting him almost to the present time, have at length severed the cord which bound them to him.”

The effect of the law that granted exceptional privileges to the native race in the matter of representation in the General Assembly will be severely felt in the electoral districts of Hawke's Bay at the next election. The number of natives who have substantiated their claims to vote for the return of members to the House of Representatives for Napier and Clive, is now sufficiently great to turn the scale of any election. The Maori has become a political element in our midst, and one which can no longer be disregarded. The influence the natives will be enabled to exert will be so well worth courting at an election, that it may justly be feared our representation will be more at the mercy of any unscrupulous man, than in the hands of the intelligent portion of the European population. Already, the Hawke's Bay natives are able to send to Parliament one of their own race as their special representative, their union giving them an immense advantage within the East Coast Maori electorate where tribal jealousies tend to the splitting of votes. They will now be strong enough to control the elections for European representation. The political differences existing among colonists will never, probably, be so laid aside here as to counteract the effect of a block Maori vote. It can never be hoped that the natives of this, or the following generation, will ever be actuated by the same opinions that create amongst us those political parties which bring about contested elections. The European vote is always pretty certain to be split, but that of the Maori will not, nor will it be until the natives have so far advanced in civilisation as to know and feel that the interests of the two races are identical. They are a long way from holding any such opinion at present, and until their education is advanced sufficiently to acquire political information from other sources than that which they now have, it is not likely the natural barrier separating the two races will be thrown down. In the political struggles that must arise between the two, under existing legislation, the ties of race will be very much stronger with the semi-civilised than with the colonists. The natives will be found working as one man for the attainment of an end that may be promised them by any unscrupulous political adventurer who may have gained their confidence. The danger to us does not lie so much in the fact of Maoris qualifying themselves to hold the privilege of the franchise as it does in the fact of their ignorance exposing them to the machinations of selfish politicians. This danger is heightened by the Maoris having infinitely better opportunities of securing the right to vote than the European can have. Any native is at liberty to build a shanty on tribal land, and the possession of a house of the value of £5 a year qualifies the occupier to have his name on the roll. The practice of our Revision Courts is not so strict, nor the value all Maoris place on an oath so high, as to make it at all a difficult matter for every adult native in this province to secure the right to vote. We make no doubt that the Maoris of Hawke's Bay will accomplish this in time. Such a very bold commencement has been made this year, that it should open the eyes of our legislators to the danger of placing the franchise in the hands of a people who, from their civilisation, cannot possibly be deemed worthy of so great a privilege. Some alteration is loudly called for in the law that requires

no higher qualification for the franchise for an ignorant Maori than it does for the European. No native should be allowed equal electoral privileges to those enjoyed by colonists unless he can read and write the English language with ease, nor should he then till he holds land under a grant from the Crown.

The Wairoa Council has passed a bye-law prohibiting the importation of rabbits into the County. This regulation may prove either *ultra vires*, or inoperative, but it shows, at least, that the Council is alive to the ruinous results arising from the rearing of rabbits by careless people. The Councils of Hawke's Bay and Waiapawa might do worse than take a hint from Wairoa in this respect. We have lately heard that some rabbits have been let loose on the Ruataniwha plains, near the edge of the Seventy-Mile Bush, with the object of increasing the variety of the food supply. Such a thoughtless act merits the severest censure. Considering the disastrous effects of the rabbit pest in the Middle Island, some County regulation in districts not yet afflicted might with advantage be passed that would tend to prevent the evil.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

BOMBAY.

June 18.—1.30 p.m.
President MacMahon asked the Senate to assent to dissolve, because the Government was unable to exist with the present Chamber without submitting to the radicals and paving the latter's way to power. The message was referred to a committee.
June 19.—9.50.

The Montenegrins have been re-victualled.

It is announced that Mohamed Efendi has been compelled to retire, leaving 200 dead on the field.

The Egyptian Contingent has arrived at Stamboul.

Armud Muehtar has been reinforced with 24 battalions from Nicisics.

SINGAPORE.

June 19.—3.45.

A despatch from Mukhtar Pasha states that the Russians were defeated at Alaschgerd after severe fighting. There is no news from the Danube. It is semi-officially stated at St Petersburg that as mediation is impossible a fresh levy will be proposed.

INTERPROVINCIAL.

(PRESS AGENCY.)

CHRISTCHURCH.

June 20.

The Good Templars purpose holding further meetings to discuss the Local Option Bill.

The City Council have received letters from nearly every Municipality in the colony favorable to the proposed conference to be held in Wellington re Municipal subsidies. The conference will most likely be held a fortnight after Parliament meets.

The fire at Lyttelton is believed to have been the work of an incendiary. Nothing reliable is yet known as to insurances, or of the actual value of the goods in the shed.

HOKITIKA.

June 20.

The steamer Albion is not yet tendered. The sea is rough. She is expected to be tendered to-day. She has signalled that the latter part of the trip was very rough. She lost a life boat and thirty feet of railing.

WELLINGTON.

June 20

Sailed—Wanaka, for Napier, Poverty Bay, Tauranga, and Auckland. Passengers:—Miss Sinclair, The Hon J. D. Ormond, and Mr. Silver.

Lord Normanby leaves here for Nelson to-morrow evening in the Hinemoa. It is expected his stay will be till next Wednesday.

Dr. Lemon has received intimation from Adelaide that the Bangalore, with the Suez mails, passed Cape Borda at 4.30 this morning.

June 21.

On Tuesday evening the steamer Luna went out to look for a derelict vessel, the Star of Mersey, and found her off Alligator Point, only a few miles from where she was supposed to have gone down. The vessel was riding with two anchors down, and no one on board. She had evidently been left in a hurry, the sextant, and chart, and oilskins, and

clothes being left behind. The vessel was well supplied with provisions, and only two feet of water in her hold. She was pumped out, her anchors raised, and towed into Wellington last night.

DUNEDIN.

June 20.

The ratepayer's roll for Dunedin will be reduced by one-half this year through the stringency of the Rating Act.

Negotiations for exchanging a site on the Town Belt for the present general hospital have fallen through.

The attention of the City Council has been called to the delapidated, unsightly, and uncomfortable condition of some of the city cabs, and the necessary authority was given for an inspection.

The City Council has resolved to improve the cricket ground by erecting a picket fence at a cost of £150.

GREYMOUTH.

June 21.

A lot of wreckage, consisting of large gangway board (not usually carried by coasters), ship's after-hatch, marked A 1, and a quantity of planking, has been found on the Seventeen Mile Beach, north of Greymouth. A constable proceeds as soon as the tide will permit to make enquiries.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20.

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

DRUNKENNESS.

John Brown, for the above offence, was sent to gaol for 24 hours, in default of paying a fine of ten shillings.

John Golding made his fourth appearance within six days on the charge of drunkenness. An information was laid against him for "habitual drunkenness" and he was convicted, and sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labor.

ASSAULT.

Smith v. Pyne.—An information for assault and battery. The hearing of this case was adjourned until Monday, the 25th instant.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE LIBEL CASE.

Sir,—This morning's Herald states (editorially) that the Judge's summing up in the above case was "grossly misrepresented" in your columns, and that the words "hasty scribbler" were put into His Honor's mouth. In reply, I need not say more than that the report of those remarks was printed exactly as furnished by me, and that the expression objected to occurs in my notes, taken at the time.

The paragraph in question might almost have been written to justify His Honor's epithet when it goes on to refer to the *verbatim* report in yesterday's Herald. While no doubt correct as a condensed abstract of the Judge's remarks, that report is obviously nothing more, being given in the third person.—I am, &c.,

R. COUPLAND HARDING.

June 21, 1877.

A CURIOUS CASE

At Christchurch on June 2 (according to a telegram in the 'Argus') Judge Johnston settled the issue in a case of a somewhat curious nature, the trial of which at *nisi prius* is fixed for 12th July. The plaintiff is Dr Campbell, and the defendants Messrs M'Connell and Todd, the executors of the will of the late Robert M'Kay. The circumstances are as follows:—"In August last the deceased suffered from illness, and was attended by plaintiff. At that time deceased had in his possession a deposit receipt from the Bank of New Zealand in his favor for £500, and also a bill of exchange for £50, drawn by deceased and accepted by James Hogg. As alleged by the plaintiff deceased prior to his death handed over to him the deposit receipt and bill of exchange, duly endorsed, for the sole use and benefit of plaintiff. Deceased died on the 6th August, previously making his will, appointing defendants executors thereof. On the day after his death plaintiff delivered the deposit receipt and bill of exchange to Mr O'Neill, of Joy and O'Neill, for the purpose of making a claim on the executors for the amount of the deposit and bill of exchange. The executors realised the deposit receipt and bill of exchange, and refused to pay over the proceeds or any part thereof to plaintiff. The plaintiff therefore prays for a decree to prevent the defendants from parting with so much of assets of the estate as will cover payment of £550."

THE NOVELIST.

LADY TREVOR'S SECRET;

OR, THE

Mystery of Cecil Rosse.

BY MRS. HARRIET LEWIS.

CHAPTER XXIII.

AN UNAVAILING SEARCH.

Maldred Crafton, seized with the most serious alarm at the mysterious disappearance of Cecil Rosse and her maid, and filled with excitement, engaged at once in an eager search for them. He declared that he should not eat nor sleep until the mystery was solved. He felt instinctively that there had been foul play in regard to them, that Cecil was not hiding herself—that some great harm had happened to her.

"Her beauty has brought some awful peril upon her," he exclaimed, the sweat starting upon his forehead in great beads. "She is a stranger in England. Brought up in a secluded forest-hamlet, among simple, honest peasants, she is as unsuspecting and trusting as a baby! And her servant is a credulous old creature, who believes people mean all they say. They would easily have fallen into a trap. She is like a lamb among wolves. Great Heavens! Have the wolves found her and seized upon her? Has some one seen her, admired her, and ensnared her as one would a bird? But this is madness. In these days, people do not do such things. Yet where is she?"

His agony was unmistakably real and terrible.

He loved Cecil Rosse with all the strength of his bold, strong, selfish nature. He had schemed and toiled to win her. To lose her now, so strangely and mysteriously, was more than he could bear. Perhaps she was dead? He grew faint, and sick, and giddy, with the awful supposition, and leaned heavily against the doorpost, his swarthy face growing suddenly white.

"Won't you come in, sir?" asked the old housekeeper, full of concern. "No. If she is not here, why should I waste time by lingering?" exclaimed Crafton. "I must go back to London by the first train. I will make inquiries on the route. I will search for her in town. It is two entire weeks since she disappeared. Two whole weeks! What may not have happened in that time?"

He questioned the housekeeper further. She was a simple, honest countrywoman, incapable of guile. It was very clear that she had received a letter from Lady Trevor, bidding her send to the railway station on a certain day to meet Miss Rosse, who had been engaged to do certain repairs upon valuable tapestry-work. In fact, on being urged, the old housekeeper produced the letter, and Crafton read it. Nothing could appear more clear and straightforward than the contents of this epistle. The train upon which Miss Rosse might be expected to arrive at the station was specified. Lady Trevor enjoined the housekeeper to treat Miss Rosse with respect and attention, and to pay particular regard for the girl's comfort.

"And I'm sure I did everything I could do," said the old woman. "We've no horses here now, sir, and I sent the farmer over with his spring-cart, the best carriage at my command. And I prepared a hot supper for her, but she did not come. I should have written to my lady, only I thought she must know from Miss Rosse herself that Miss Rosse had not come."

"You had better write to Lady Trevor. She thinks Miss Rosse is here. By the way," added Crafton, with sudden suspicion, "is there any old tapestry in the house?"

"Certainly, sir. The walls of the Tapestry-room are covered with hangings all done by hand that are five hundred years old. People often come to see them. Will you go up.

"No, oh, no," replied Crafton, ashamed of his suspicion and question. "Of course not. I merely asked the question through absent-mindedness."

He dropped a coin in her hand, mounted into the waiting fly, and ordered the driver to return to the railway station, seven miles distant.

The drive was performed briskly. Crafton was too excited and anxious to remain silent, and asked questions with feverish rapidity, but no light could be obtained upon the mystery that occupied him.

They entered the little village of Masham and drove directly to the railway station. Here Crafton made eager enquiries of guards, porters, and various other officials. Even under the stimulus of the coins he liberally bestowed, no one could remember a young lady from London, accompanied by a German servant, at the time Crafton mentioned—nor, indeed, at any other time. Crafton repeated his description of Cecil until he was weary, but no one had seen her, and he was forced, at last, to believe that she had never even arrived at Masham.

"She might have made a mistake and alighted at the wrong station," he said to himself. "But if she had, how would that account for two weeks' absence and silence? I'll go over the ground carefully and inquire at every station, however."

He took the first train for London. Putting his resolve into practice, he inquired at every station on the route at which the mail-train—the one he believed Cecil to have taken—stopped, but obtained no clue to those whom he sought.

Upon arriving in town at a late hour that night, he proceeded to his hotel, where he tossed for several hours on his bed, sleepless and excited. He arose early, haggard and worn, and after a hasty toilet and breakfast he resumed his search.

"I'll begin at the other end of the snarl," he said to himself. "I'll trace her from the moment of leaving Bayswater."

He drove to Queen's Crescent, Number Four. Early as was the hour Mrs. Thomas was up, and came without delay into the little parlour into which he had been shown.

"Mr. Crafton!" she exclaimed. "Why, how you do look, sir! Are you ill?"

"No, no," replied Crafton, impatiently. "Have you heard from Miss Rosse since I was here?"

"Why, no, sir. It's only a day or two since—"

"I went to Lady Trevor," interrupted Crafton, beginning to walk the floor restlessly, "and she had not heard from Miss Rosse, but supposed her to be in Yorkshire. I went to Yorkshire—"

"Since the day before yesterday? Why, you have rushed straight through, sir. And how is Miss Rosse, bless her sweet face?"

"She is not there!" ejaculated Crafton, hoarsely.

"Not there?" repeated Mrs. Thomas, stupidly.

"She has not been there. She has disappeared. She is lost somewhere on her way from Bayswater to Greycourt."

"Lost? That innocent young girl! Disappeared? Why, something's happened to her, Mr. Crafton. Some harm has come to her!" cried Mrs. Thomas, wringing her hands.

"Who procured the cab in which she left your house, madam?"

"Sukey, the maid, sir. I sent her out to the nearest cab-stand, and she fetched it."

"I may be able to trace Miss Rosse to the railway station through the cabman," said Crafton. "Let Sukey come with me to the stand. If the man is there she can point him out to me, and I'll question him. If he is not there I will return again and again until I find him."

Mrs. Thomas went out into her narrow entry and called loudly for

Sukey. The maid came hurrying up the area stairs. To state the service required of her occupied but a moment, and Sukey hurried away for her hat. She returned almost immediately, and Crafton followed her into the street and to the nearest cab-stand.

"There's the cabby now, sir," exclaimed the girl, pointing out a stupid looking man who was in the act of removing a nose-bag from the head of his horse. "The very one as I'll swear too, sir, afore the Lord Mayor, if it's necessary. He took the poor young lady from our house, as he won't dare to deny, sir, not to my face."

Crafton approached the man and opened a conversation by producing a half-crown which he displayed alluringly between his fingers.

"My good fellow," he exclaimed. "I want you to refresh your memory and answer me a few questions. Do you remember taking a young lady and her servant, about two weeks ago, from Number Four, Queen's Crescent?"

"Don't you go for to deny it!" interrupted Sukey, severely, fixing her gaze upon the cabman. "I'll swear you did, and it was I that fetched you. The truth, young man?"

"I ain't going to deny it!" declared the cabman, indignantly. "Why should I deny it? You comes for me at the time you specifies and I goes. What of it? I did take the young lady, and a rare pretty un she was too, and her old furrin servant along of her. What of that?" and he glared at his interlocutors, not softened by the glitter of the half-crown.

"To what place did you convey the young lady?" asked Crafton.

"Yes," cried Sukey, judicially, "that's the question. Where did you take her? The truth, young man, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth!"

"I ain't going to lie, not for no arf-crown," said the cabman, sulkily. "I took the young lady to the place she ordered. There's where I took her!"

"And that place?" demanded Crafton. "Be still my good girl. You do not need to interfere. Here's five shillings for you, my fine fellow. And now tell me where you took the young lady? To the railway station?"

"No, sir, to South Audley street, to a great house there, as belongs to a rich barrow-night's widow, Lady Trevor."

"Oh, you did?" said Crafton, dropping half the sum of money into the mans' hand. "And after South Audley street, where did you take her?"

"No'ers. I left her there!"

"Left her there at Lady Trevor's?"

"Jes' so, sir. You see, sir, the young lady asked me to take her to South Audley street. It was nigh six o'clock, and the horse was tired and hungry. If I'd knowed as she wanted a longer turn I'd a give the chance to some other cabby, bein' as I'd had nothing to eat for hours, except one or two glasses of beer to stay my stomach. So when the young lady gets out in South Audley street and goes into the house, I waits a bit and then takes down her luggage?"

"Well?"

"Just then a gentleman comes out of the house, a fellow with a sandy beard and eye-glass stuck on his nose—"

"Mr. Pulford! Yes, I know."

"And he asks me if I can drive the young lady to the Northern Railway station. And I says as I'm beat and the horse is beat. I allow as I could have been prevailed on to go, for a cab-horse will always stand a few miles more, but the gentleman says 'All right,' says he, and he pays me up liberal and something extra for beer, and so I goes!"

"And you did not take the young lady away from South Audley street?"

"No, I didn't."

"And you haven't seen her since she entered that house?"

"I didn't say that, sir."

"You have seen her since? Where? Here's another crown. Where have you seen her since?" demanded Crafton, eagerly.

"Well, you see, sir, I thought as I might pick up a fare on my way home, so I sort of loitered along, stopping frequent," said the cabman, reflectively. "And I was looking around for a fare, it was fifteen minutes after I left South Audley street, and I hadn't got far, as I'd slipped into a by-place and took another beer, when a cab goes past me with that there dical luggage on top as I'd left at South Audley street, and I'd swear to the pork-mantle and the trunk, both being foreign-looking and uncommon-like. And I catches a glimpse for jest one instant, but long enough to swear to 'em, of the young lady inside and her old servant. They was alone in there and on their way to the railway-station."

"Proof that she left Lady Trevor's house," thought Crafton. "That is all you can tell me?" he said aloud.

"All, sir. What's the row? Is the young lady missing?"

"That she is!" cried Sukey, putting her apron to her eyes. "And as sweeter nor more beautiful young lady never lived. So sweet-spoken as she was, too, and so gentle and kind, a real lady as I knows 'em, and can't be deceived in 'em. Maybe she's been burked, oh, my my poor young lady. And old Gretchen, too. If I was the p'leece I'd tear down every house in London but I'd find her."

"Come, Sukey," said Crafton. "You're drawing a crowd. Home with you, girl, to your mistress. Tell her of my discovery, and say that if I find Miss Rosse I shall bring her back to her old lodgings. Off with you."

He tossed her a shilling, watched her scamper homewards, and then engaged a fresh cab, and drove to South Audley street.

Lady Trevor was at home. He sent up his card, and paused a few moments to interrogate the footman.

"See here, my good fellow," he exclaimed, producing a half-sovereign, money being the "open sesame" to the heart of the lower-class Briton. "I want to ask you a few questions. Do you remember a young lady who came here over two weeks ago with an old German servant? The young lady was Miss Rosse, an embroidress—"

"I remember, sir!"

"Do you know where she is?"

"At Greycourt, sir. My lady sent her there to do some work."

"She came in one cab and went away in another, did she not?"

"Yes, sir. The first cabby did not want to go further, so I ran out and fetched a cab to take her to the railway station."

"You did. Very good. Where did you find the cab. At the stand?"

"No, sir. I picked it up as it was passing."

"Confusion! Did you take the number?"

"No, sir. I never thought of the number."

"Then it's impossible to trace the cab. A chance vehicle which can never be found if I hunt years for it."

"You might advertise, sir."

"So I might, but suppose I don't want to advertise? I don't like to spread my private affairs abroad to all England. You saw Miss Rosse go away in a second cab?"

"I did, sir."

"Who gave the order to the cabman?"

"Mr. Pulford, sir. He went down to the cab and helped the young lady in. And he gave the order to the station—"

"You heard him?"

"Of course I did, sir," replied the

man honestly enough, Pulford's remark to him after the departure of the vehicle having lingered in his confused memory. "I heard him distinct, sir. 'To the railway station at Easton Square.' Them's the words, sir."

Crafton dropped the coin in the man's hand.

"It is proved that Miss Rosse came to this house on the day she left Bayswater," he thought, "and it is doubly proved that she quitted it. I don't know what strange and intangible suspicion was in my mind. Lady Trevor did know that this Miss Rosse was Glenham's betrothed wife, so of course, she could not have wreaked any jealousy upon her. Bah! What an idea! As if the handsome woman of society were a Borgia or a Brinville! She would have done the girl no harm if she had known her identity. Of course not. And yet, I think the black-eyed widow is capable of bold deeds—let me say unscrupulousness—that would amaze her admiring world!"

A second footman, he who had taken up the card, returned with the announcement that Lady Trevor would see her visitor.

Crafton followed the man up-stairs and was ushered into the drawing-room, his name being announced as he passed in.

Lady Trevor was alone. She gave one swift glance at Crafton's troubled visage as he entered, and came forward to meet him, smiling.

She looked better in health than when he had last seen her, only two days before. Her eyes were no longer haggard, her complexion no longer livid. She looked as if a great load of apprehension had been removed from her, as if her terrors had given place to a sense of security.

"I am glad to see you looking so well, Lady Trevor," said Crafton, advancing towards her. "I am come again on business—"

"A little later and you would have missed seeing me," said Lady Trevor. "I am going to St. Leonard's to-day."

"The marquis is not ill, I hope?"

"He has premonitions of gout still, and is obliged to keep very quiet. He has sent for me repeatedly, and last evening I received a peremptory message, commanding me to come to St. Leonard's to-day. Possibly he intends making his will in my favor. I have reason to expect it."

"And that expectation makes you look very happy. With all your wealth, what need have you of further stores? To him that hath shall be given. It's the way of the world. Now it's safe to say that nobody will ever send me a peremptory message to come and visit him while he makes a will in my favor!"

"It's better to be born lucky than rich," said Lady Trevor, smiling. "I am one of the fortunate ones, Mr. Crafton."

"Indeed you are. The magnificent fortune you inherited through so narrow a chance from your step-mother, by the death of the little child proves that," replied Crafton. "But I did not come to discuss your brilliant prospects, but my own affairs."

"Well, you have told your love to Miss Rosse, and have been accepted? Is that it? And you desire me to relinquish my claims upon Miss Rosse's time and release her from her engagement?" asked the widow, with an appearance of friendly interest. "You may count upon my good offices—"

"I have no such statement to make. Lady Trevor, Miss Rosse has not been to Greycourt."

"Not been to Greycourt!"

"She has disappeared. I can find no trace of her anywhere. I have seen her landlady again this morning and the cabman who brought her here, but I can get no clue to the mystery."

"This is most singular."

"I came back to you with the

hope that since my previous visit you might have heard from Miss Rosse."

"But I have not done so. I supposed her at Greycourt. Something must have happened to her. Can she have lost her way and become stranded in some strange town? Can she, through some sudden impulse, have gone back to Zorlitz?"

"I never thought of that."
"It is possible. Lord Glenham is expected home in a day or two, and will come to St. Leonards. I think if he has found the girl—to think of her being his Cecil Rosse, and I never to suspect the truth—that she will be with him and his mother. If you set out for Zorlitz to-night you will meet the earl in Paris."

"I don't want to meet him. I shall have to account to him for my treachery in going back to Zorlitz, after we left the village together," said Crafton gloomily. "I will wait in London until he arrives. Then I will see him and discover what he has heard, and excuse myself as I am best able."

"The earl is too much attached to you to remain unforgiving, and you are much too clever not to be able to represent matters in a light to take all blame from yourself," said Lady Trevor.

Crafton made a movement towards the door.

"I will continue my researches until Glenham comes," he exclaimed. "I cannot think that Miss Rosse would return to Germany when she was doing well here. What can she do in that dead-alive, little peasant hamlet?"

"She may have heard that Lord Glenham has gone there. One cannot make a move now-a-days but it is chronicled in the newspapers."

The idea had an element of plausibility, or rather possibility, in it that arrested Crafton's attention in spite of its baselessness.

He promised to consider it, and took his leave.

Upon the grand staircase he encountered Mr Pulford face to face.

Pulford was freshly attired, but looked travel worn. He had just returned from a two weeks' absence, his destination being a secret between him and Lady Trevor.

Crafton, knowing nothing of his recent absence, stopped to interrogate him upon the subject that filled his thoughts; but Mr Pulford's statement was simply a corroboration of what he had already heard. Crafton descended the stairs, and Pulford went on to the drawing-room.

Lady Trevor sprang forward to meet him.

"I am glad to see you back again," she exclaimed. "You met Mr Crafton on the stair?"

"Yes. He will have hard work to find Miss Rosse," said Pulford, jubilantly. She is disposed of, Edith. I defy Crafton and Lord Glenham, and all the world to find her. And now you must set our wedding day. When is it to be?"

CHAPTER XXIV.

AT ST. LEONARDS.

St. Leonards, in Sussex, was a magnificent estate, comprising a thousand acres, laid out in farms, all in the highest state of tillage, in pastures, meadows, park and woodland. The house was a great, massive, gray stone pile, of composite styles of architecture, forming a princely dwelling. It was approached by a wide and stately avenue a mile or more in length, bordered with great rows of elm trees, and was set in the midst of the park, with its stretches of velvet sward, its clumps of trees, its red and fallow deer, its ornamental lake in full view of the drawing-room windows—as fair a landscape as ever greeted human eyes.

Lord St. Leonards had come down to his country-place immediately after his interview with Lady Trevor, at her town-house, which we have recorded. He had visited his lawyer, according to his declared intention,

and had enjoined him to make arrangements with the parents of Miss Rosse for the young lady's legal adoption, the marquis entertaining no doubt of Cecil's own consent. He informed his lawyer that Lady Trevor would find for him the young lady's address during the following week, when it would be forwarded to Mr Barker. Upon the very evening succeeding that interview, the marquis experienced the pangs attending the return of his old enemy, the gout.

A physician was called in and counselled his lordship's return to his countryhouse, and absolute rest and freedom from all excitement. Lord St. Leonards, chafing at his forced departure at a time when he especially desired to remain in town, journeyed down to St. Leonards, and nursed his afflicted foot and growled at his long suffering and devoted valet.

A week had passed, but no letter came from Lady Trevor. Lord St. Leonards telegraphed to her to send him Miss Rosse's address. She responded by telegram that she had not seen the young lady since his visit, and could not give it. The marquis, in a fury, telegraphed to see Lady Trevor and learn where she had first met Miss Rosse. Mr Barker called upon the widow and made the necessary inquiries. She informed him that a friend of hers, now in Italy, had recommended the young woman to her.

"I never knew the girl's address," she declared. "She used to come to me always for work. I never sent for her."

"But did you give out valuable work to a person whose address you did not know, Lady Trevor?" asked the lawyer, gravely.

"It don't look business like, I confess," said the baronet's widow. "I always was a thoughtless creature, and my friend's recommendation deprived me of all sense of caution."

"You know the marquis," said Mr Barker. "When he sets his heart on having anything, he'll move heaven and earth, if possible, to obtain it. He has taken a fancy to this young girl, a remarkable fancy, and I am not sure but that, in his lonely old age, this craving of nature for filial care and affection is a demand that ought to be gratified, even at cost to yourself, Lady Trevor. In any case, whether others are pleased or displeased, he will have his own will. Now if you will give me your friend's address in Italy, I will telegraph to her for Miss Rosse's address."

"I have not my friend's address," said the widow desperately.

"Tell me your friend's name, and I'll find where she is, my lady."

"My friend's name?" stammered Lady Trevor. "Why, how can I remember who recommends to me my shopkeepers and sewing-women? I don't remember. And let me tell you, sir, that I don't approve my grandfather's project of adopting a low born young woman into the place I should hold—"

"The place you forfeited, Lady Trevor, when you married against his lordship's will."

"He has forgiven me. Cease your insolence, Mr. Barker. How dare you remind me of the past, when he has forgiven it? I will not hold any further communication with you concerning Miss Rosse. If she has not stolen my goods and fled the country—if she should ever present herself again at my house—I will procure her address and send it to my grandfather, as I promised. Till then, I desire not to be troubled with her."

Mr Barker took good care not to call upon Lady Trevor again. But he consulted a directory, and dispatched some of his clerks to search out every man named Ross in the district of Southwark, whether shoemaker or other artisan, and made

every effort to find the supposed family of Cecil. A week passed in this vain search, and then the lawyer journeyed down to St. Leonards with this report.

The marquis was seated in his grand library, before a glowing hearth, and near a wide oriel window overlooking the park. One leg was upon a foot-rest, swathed in bandages. He was in a bad humor. His frosty blue eyes were colder and sterner than ever, and emitted a scintillant light. His mouth was compressed firmly under his bushy, white mustache. A little table at his elbow was covered with writing materials. He had just written a telegraphic dispatch to his granddaughter, Lady Trevor, to come to him by the first train.

"I've telegraphed her two or three times already," he muttered, "and I'll keep it up until she's here. Why don't Barker come?"

He rung his little silver bell fiercely.

His valet appeared.

"Let that message be sent immediately," he commanded. "Do you hear, you blockhead? Why do you stand their like an idiot?"

"If you please my lord, Mr. Barker is come."

"Show him in then, dolt! Was there ever such a fool? Off with you—"

The valet disappeared, and the next moment the lawyer entered.

"Here I am, tied down with this infernal gout," exclaimed the marquis. "And the doctor says I am not to be excited. How the Lord am I to help it? I've been expecting you these last three days. Have you found Miss Rosse?"

"No, my lord. I've looked after every Ross in Southwark, and have not found the right one."

"You haven't a decent clerk in your office!" cried the marquis, testily. "Not found her? Do you suppose I am going to stand this cursed inefficiency of your apprentices? Have you seen Lady Trevor?"

"Not since the interview, of which I wrote you. But I believe that her ladyship has Miss Rosse's address, and refuses to give it through fear of being supplanted in your favor by her."

"Supplanted in my favor—Lady Trevor never was in my favor. But she is deceitful enough to play me such a trick."

The valet re-appeared with an envelope on a salver.

"A telegram, my lord!" he said. The marquis tore open the envelope.

"It is from Lady Trevor!" he ejaculated, as his servant retired. "She is on her way. Will be here in an hour!"

"Then, my lord, you can question her for yourself. She may answer you when she would not deign to speak to me," said Mr. Barker. "But before she comes I have something of importance to say to you. I had scarcely begun my story. My clerks failed to find Miss Rosse's father, so I sent one of them, Brown—a smart fellow is Brown—to see what he could discover through Lady Trevor's hall-porter, the very man who would be likely to know Miss Rosse's address, if any servant of Lady Trevor's knew it."

"And Brown discovered—"

"That Miss Rosse had been employed by a Madame Lange, of Regent-street, a dealer in fancy-works, embroideries, and fol-de-rols of that sort. The hall-porter said that Madame Lange had recommended Miss Ross to Lady Trevor. The information cost Brown a pretty penny, which of course I repaid him."

"And then?"

"Then Brown went to Madame Lange, and found that—but here comes in a mystery. He learned that Miss Rosse lives at Bayswater, but that she had left her lodgings to work for Lady Trevor, and that she was gone to Greycourt in Yorkshire."

"And Edith played false all this while to me! She sent Miss Rosse to Yorkshire to get her out of my way, did she?"

"I telegraphed to Miss Rosse at Greycourt, but received no answer. Then I repeated the message; still no answer. Then I telegraphed to a person of whom I know at Masham and requested him to go to Greycourt and see Miss Rosse for me. His answer came yesterday. Miss Rosse has not been at Greycourt."

"Then where is she?"

"I have learned her address in Bayswater, and I went there. The landlady told me that Miss Rosse went over a fortnight ago, and she has not seen her since."

"Her lodgings—Bayswater! Then Edith has lied from the beginning. There was no shoemaker-father in Southwark, there are no brothers and sisters—Edith has deceived me throughout."

"Precisely, my lord."

"She was afraid I'd leave my money to a stranger. I see through her," declared St. Leonards, grimly. "But who could think that one of my blood could lie like that? A false, deceitful woman like her mother. We will confront her with these falsehoods of hers, and she shall tell us where Miss Rosse is."

"Perhaps she cannot do that, my lord. I find that Miss Rosse went to Lady Trevor's house on the day she quitted her lodgings, but she left Lady Trevor's house with her servant for Greycourt. She must have been lost on her way. She has not been long in England. She is of foreign birth and education. I cannot think that Lady Trevor is connected with Miss Rosse's disappearance."

"But I do think so," declared St. Leonards, in the resolute tones of a perfect conviction. "She has sent the young lady somewhere else than to Greycourt, or she has frightened her out of the way. I must and will know the truth. Edith may have induced Miss Rosse to quit England. She may have procured her a situation as governess to get her out of my reach."

"I think your solution of the difficulty not the right one, my lord. Pray do not let prejudice cause you to accuse Lady Trevor of acts she probably could not have committed. It is clear, from the statement of the hall-porter to Mr. Brown, that Miss Rosse left South Audley-street for Euston Square to take the train for Yorkshire. That much is proved."

"And Edith meant to hide Miss Rosse up there from my pursuit. Barker let no expense be spared. This young girl must be found. Lost for two whole weeks! Great Heaven, what can have become of her?"

"Her servant is with her and has shared her fate," said the lawyer.

"They may have gone abroad to their former home. I shall send Brown to investigate that possibility—"

The door opened again and the valet appeared.

"Lady Trevor has arrived, my lord!" he announced.

"Show her up here!" commanded the marquis. "Now for light, Barker! Be searching in your cross-examination!"

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Mr. George Faulknor has recently turned out of his coach factory a handsome double seated brougham, that was manufactured for Mr. Berry, who purposes to reserve it as much as possible for the use of private families. This carriage reflects the highest credit on Mr. Faulknor's factory; it is fully equal to the best workmanship we have seen in the colony.

Mr. N. Jacobs has just imported, from Paris, a novel musical instrument called a harmonic organ. In outward appearance it is a harmonium, of four octaves, and three stops, and can be played in exactly the same way as one of those instruments, but, in addition, by sliding in barrels, it can be played as a hand organ, the wind being supplied by the action of the pedals. There are six barrels belonging to the organ, each capable of playing six airs. The tone is extremely sweet, and powerful. The instrument is a handsome piece of furniture, and would be a valuable acquisition in any household.

ARRIVAL OF THE
ENGLISH MAIL
VIA SAN FRANCISCO,
AUCKLAND.

June 16.
The Zealandia arrived this morning, with the English and American mails. She left Fisco on the 23rd. Passengers for New Zealand—H. A. Daff, E. Graham, C. H. Lenner, O'Neill, Allen, Mrs Murdoch, and nine steerage.

MAIL NEWS.

The Russian attacking force which captured Ardaban numbered eight thousand, besides several thousand in front of the town. During the Turkish fight the Russian cavalry inflicted a loss of seven hundred on the enemy.

A force of fifteen thousand Bashi Bazonks and Kurds have moved northwards from Lake Van to join the Turkish forces at Korakabisa.

The Russians advance in Asia is delayed by the difficulty of procuring provisions in Armenia.

In the attack on Batoum, where the Turks defeated the Russians with a loss of four thousand men, the Turks were entrenched on the heights defending the town, with a fleet outside. As the Russians advanced to the attack, the Turks moved them down by hundreds by a well directed fire of canon and musketry. A sortie by the Turks under cover of a thick forest outflanked the Russians, and inflicted a serious defeat. The courage of the Bashi Bazonks was highly extolled. The Russians did not withdraw till midnight. They lost several cannon.

A Russian war steamer, which had run the gauntlet from Sebastopol, endeavored to place a torpedo under a Turkish frigate off Batoum. The torpedo failed to explode, and the vessel was driven off.

Admiral Hassan Pasha, with six ironclads bombarded Sukhum Kale, and landed a body of troops. The natives of Abesia fraternized with them and drove the Russians out.

Ten thousand of the population of Abasia have united with the Turks.

The defeat of the Russians below Reni was a reconnoitering force in boats. The Turks waited till they came within easy range and then opened a destructive fire.

The Russians have sunk torpedoed-oppo-site Matashin and Galatz to harass the Turkish gunboats. They have constructed a battery of heavy guns at Shiatie, at the mouth of the Danube.

The Turks have massed a large body of cavalry opposite Galatz.

General Kokeleff's Circassian Cossacks are intended to leave the advance of the invading army on the Danube. They passed through Bucharest.

The Turks made three attempts to cross the Danube, and constructed a battery at Islaz. They were repulsed by the Roumanians.

The Porte has notified the European Powers that he has blockaded all the ports of the Black Sea.

The Servians are making offensive preparations.

It is said that the Servian Government has received a proof that a convention exists between Russia and Austria.

Kossuth has written urging an alliance between Hungary and Turkey to protect its independence from its common enemy, Russia.

All Hungarian papers urge action by Austria and Hungary.

Large troopships are ready in Portsmouth, and thousands of barrels of powder have been sent to Malta.

It is rumoured that Turkey will cede the sovereignty of Egypt to England for payment of a capitalized amount of tribute.

All the Mussulmen in Herzegovina and Bosnia between sixteen and sixty years, have been ordered to join the army.

The "Russe" reports that an English steamer in endeavoring to enter Kertch without the necessary precautions was totally destroyed by a torpedo.

The centre of the Russian army is forty thousand strong.

Prince Melikoff attacked Mukhtar Pasha five miles outside of Kars. The Turks fought desperately. The Russians were supported by a powerful artillery and dislodged them. Mukhtar Pasha called out the reserves, and attempted on the 30th to recover the lost ground with sixty thousand men. He was defeated and driven back under the guns of Kars. The Russian losses were considerable, and the Turkish enormous.

The Bulgarian refugees in Roumania are being armed.

On the bombardment by the Turkish

Monitors, the inhabitants of Reni, Aberail, and Aletitza fled.

Lieut-General Sir John Simmons will be Commander-in-Chief of the English army if sent to the seat of war.

The Turkish force sent to Sukhum-Kale to aid the Circassians numbered ten thousand men.

The Russian forces in Roumania are estimated at 240,000. The Turkish force north of the Balkan is 250,000.

The Turkish needle-gun is said to have caused the strengthening of the Russian army.

Twenty-five thousand Northumberland colliers are on strike.

Great forest fires have occurred in Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and Newfoundland. Several frontier towns were destroyed, and many lives lost.

A revolt has occurred in Paraguay. President Botensa and his brother were assassinated.

France has informed the Porte that she will not send an ambassador to Constantinople.

The shipbuilders lock-out in Glasgow affects 250,000 men.

Fifty thousand deaths from cholera have occurred in India.

MAIL NEWS.

Mr Gladstone's resolutions which were rejected were divided into five parts. The first resolution expresses regret that the Porte had not paid proper attention to Lord Derby's despatch of September 21. The second declared that the Porte has forfeited all claim to the moral or material support of England. The third advocates something like autonomy in the disturbed European provinces. The fourth desires that the British Crown should join with the European Powers in exacting from the Ottoman Porte, by their united authority, such changes in the Government of Turkey as they may deem necessary for the purposes of humanity and justice, for effectual defence against intrigue, and for the peace of the world. The fifth resolution is merely a proposal that an address embodying the substance of the other four shall be addressed to the Crown.

Public meetings were held, and passed resolutions in favor of Mr Gladstone's motion. In the House of Lords, Lord Carnarvon introduced, on April 24, a Bill providing for a constitution for the South African Confederation, the union of the colonies being optional.

The Prince of Wales, who has been abroad, chiefly in the south of France, for a fortnight, reached Paris on May 20. He was expected in London at the end of the week. The Princess of Wales, who has been to Athens, is returning with him. The Duchess of Edinburgh is now in London, and attended service at the Russian Church on April 29, at which success was supplicated for the Russian arms.

Hobart Pasha's daring defiance of the Russians on the Danube is the common subject of table talk. While his vessel was laying near Rustchuk, about 130 miles from the mouth of the river, he was informed that its navigation was unsafe, that the Russians were laying torpedoes, and it would be the safest plan for him to leave his ship and go to Constantinople overland. This he declined to do at once, and made ready to run the gauntlet of the Russian guns. It was already dark, and upon nearing Galatz he found that heavily armed Russian batteries commanded the river. "The batteries," writes a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, "were soon reached, and by the Russian lanterns, the heavy guns and soldiers in great numbers were clearly visible to those who manned the Rethymo, when a rocket was sent up from the Roumanian shore to apprise the Muscovite gunners of Hobart Pasha's coming. His boat went by at twenty knots an hour. Soon all danger was over. When he was satisfied that he had nothing to fear from his enemies, Hobart ordered the crew of the Rethymo, which carries a 49 pounder Armstrong gun, to throw one shell into the centre of the Russian camp, an order which was quickly obeyed, the missile bursting in the midst of the Muscovite tents.

A disclosure of Russian cruelty has just been made in a Parliamentary paper obtained by Mr Lewis, apropos of the treatment of Unit Greeks in Poland, on the ground that these were gradually being transformed into Roman Catholics. The Russian authorities determined to step in, and reassert the loyalty of their co-religionists to Oriental Christianity. Colonel Mansfield, the British Consul-General at Warsaw, was on the spot, and saw how this was effected by whip, shot,

knout, lance and gaol. Those who refused to sign the declaration proposed by the Russian authorities received from a Cossack, every adult man 50 blows, every woman 25, every child 10, and one woman received 100.

On January 1, 1875, Colonel Mansfield reports that the details of the antagonism between the authorities and the peasants have been most harrowing. In one village, a peasant suffocated himself and family with charcoal, rather than have his children baptised by the Government parish Pope. The peasants were assembled and beaten by Cossacks until the military Surgeon stated that more would endanger life. They were then driven through a half frozen river up to their waists into the parish church, through files of soldiers, where their names were entered in petitions expressing their boundless devotion to their august sovereign and liberator, and their readiness to walk in the course traced out by his powerful imperial will. Such is the pious zeal with which holy Russia propagates Christian orthodoxy.

Van Mottke's speech in the German Parliament, on April 24, notwithstanding the numerous attempts made satisfactorily to explain it away, has not had a reassuring influence in Europe. He was supporting a vote of £35,000 for 122 additional captains, and seemed to appeal to the national jealousy and distrust of France, in a very marked manner.

Three weeks ago, a terrible accident took place in a mine near Pontypridd, South Wales. It was caused by a sudden eruption of water from a neighboring disused mine, and nine men were immersed through a huge wall of coal thirty feet thick. At first it was thought they were killed. Their knockings were heard, and an attempt was at once commenced to release them. Night and day for six days did the relief party work with pickaxes. At last they succeeded in releasing them. Four had died during the ordeal of waiting, and the remaining five had supported life on tallow candles and water. They were terribly exhausted, but all are since on the road towards recovery. Subscriptions have been pouring in for their benefit.

Mr. Gathorne Hardy, at a public dinner, alluded in handsome terms to the pluck displayed by the miners, who had finally succeeded in restoring their entombed mates to life and light. The Albert medal, hitherto confined to acts of bravery at sea, has been conferred on the Welshmen who took part in the rescue, and in future will be used as a reward of civilian acts of heroism in the same way as the Victoria Cross for military deeds.

Odessa was almost deserted of inhabitants in consequence of a belief that Hobart Pasha intended to bombard it. The harbor is altogether bare of shipping.

The water scheme of the Feather River Company, for supplying San Francisco, proposes to construct a tunnel under the Golden Gate at a cost of a million and a-half dollars. The total cost of the scheme is sixteen million dollars.

The Roumanian and Russian authorities have issued a decree prohibiting all traffic on the Danube. This completed the paralysis of the largest portion of the Hungarian trade.

Count Andrassy has decided to take immediate steps against such measures being carried out. Although he will doubtless be joined by the other Powers, he will not wait for their co-operation.

An Erzeroum special, describing the first attack on Ardahan, says:—"The efforts of the Russians commenced with a heavy artillery fire, which was shortly returned. This was followed by impetuous infantry attacks, which were repulsed every time with great slaughter. Under orders, apparently, to obtain success somewhere or other at any cost, the troops were led back to the assault after each failure until night stopped the carnage.

The Times Berlin despatch says that in consequence it is supposed, of the appointment of a Semi-Ultramontane Cabinet in France, the oft-mooted reinforcement of Alsace and Lorraine garrisons is likely to be carried into effect. The increase will probably amount to 12,000 in Alsace and Lorraine, and 6,000 in the country between Rastadt, Mayence, and Coblenz. This makes a force in Western Germany equal to those in the North-eastern part of France. There is no knowing as to President MacMahon's immediate intentions, yet it is apprehended that the Ultramontane members of the new Government may prevail over the Duc De Cazes, and induce more active steps in the foreign policy of France.

La France asserts that in spite of the efforts of the Powers, the Hellenic Cab-

inet is about to send a note to the Porte demanding the amelioration of the condition of the Greek provinces of Turkey.

A dispatch from Athens says:—"The new Greek Ministry is determined to adopt a warlike policy. The people, it is believed will support the Ministry. A very uneasy feeling prevails in financial circles, and fears of a clash are entertained. The Grand Duke Michael telegraphs from Tiflis, on May 20th, "that along the entire coast, from Cape Adler to Ptechentchier, the Turkish men-of-war are bombarding and burning un-defended peaceful settlements, and landing Circassian emigrants at various points, who seek to excite the Abchians to rebellion. Troops have been despatched to suppress any rising."

The Russians captured at Ardahan a Turkish Pasha and eighty-two cannon, including one eight-inch and a number of small Krupp's.

A despatch from Constantinople states that the English officers now in that city are actively surveying the defenses of the city and harbor.

The Russians are committing frightful massacres in the Caucasus.

AMERICAN NEWS.

The Mormons throughout their territory are secretly arming, equipping, and drilling, with a view to resist the arrest of Brigham Young, should the present jury, which is composed of Gentiles, find an indictment against him. A Mormon co-operative store, which is controlled by Brigham himself, is receiving and shipping to various settlements in the territory large quantities of ammunition and breech-loading rifles. Reports confirming these facts are coming in from all quarters, and a feeling of uneasiness among the Gentiles is manifesting itself. The matter has been placed before Governor Emery, but he is a Mormon of the austere type, spending about half his time with the Mormon Apostles. He can see no trouble brewing.

In view of the presence of General Escobedo, the chief supporter of ex-President Lerdo de Tejada, on the Texas frontier, and the probability of an attempt to restore Lerdo to the Presidency of Mexico, it is stated that Diaz, the Acting-President, will soon come to Rio Grande, and assume the command of Northern Mexico. Orders have been issued to recruit five to six thousand troops and concentrate on the frontier. Should Escobedo cross, he will meet with a stubborn resistance.

Halifax despatch of May 22, says four men and three women were drowned at Malagawatik, Cape Briton, on Sunday, by the upsetting of their boat while on the way to Church.

Intentions have been sent to the United States Minister to give particular attention to preventing cattle raids into Texas.

Advices from London state that sales of United States 41 bonds are improving, and the Secretary thinks the fact of these being less affected by war than the English consols is proof of the stability of American stocks' bond.

A Washington official says the Treasury officials are a good deal disturbed over the action taken by the Ohio and Illinois Legislatures in making the silver coin of the United States a legal tender to any amount for debts, public and private.

Secretary Evarts has instructed the American Minister at Mexico to demand an apology from the Mexican Government for their imprisonment of the American Consul at Acapulco.

ADDITIONAL WAR NEWS.

The Russian heavy batteries at Ibrail throw shells into the Turkish defence at Matchin.

Eight Turkish soldiers who were captured near Ibrail were armed with American rifles, firing thirty-six cartridges without reloading.

The report is confirmed that the Russians sank a large Turkish monitor in the Danube. The shell penetrated the boiler of the monitor, resulting in an explosion which fired the magazine. The monitor sank, and the entire crew and 200 soldiers perished.

A Russian infantry corps, numbering 52,000, is marching in the direction of Simitza.

The Roumanian shells only reached Turkish vessels off Widdin. The barracks and custom-house at Kalafat were destroyed, and the church injured. Widdin was set on fire. An Englishman reports that the Turkish troops in Widdin and its vicinity number about 50,000. They expect an increase of 25,000 from Sophia.

A Roumanian vessel full of Russian soldiers has been sunk by the Turks.

A Turkish gunboat, which passed Kalafat under cover of the Turkish fire from Widdin, was captured by a Roumanian battery lower down the river.

The Montenegrins hold the Duga Pass, blocking Goransko and Niesic.

According to news from Constantinople, 16 Bulgarian villages were pillaged and burned by the Turks.

In the Turkish village of Turtukai there is quite a Christian element, though subordinate in number to the Turks. On the night of the 16th May the latter made a general attack upon the Christian males, who were put to the sword. Many elderly women shared the same fate, while the younger were brutally outraged. The cries of the victims were distinctly heard by the outpost of the Roumanian army, and the account is further corroborated by the reports of two Bulgarians, who escaped the slaughter.

Along the entire coast, from Cape Adler to Prehenticyn, Turkish men-of-war are bombarding and burning settlements. A panic reigns, not only at Odessa, but all along the Black Sea.

The Sultan has proclaimed a holy war, and has signed a decree deposing the Prince of Roumania.

Serious differences have occurred between the Turkish Chamber and the Government. The latter proposed to declare Constantinople in a state of siege, but found it could close Parliament without doing so. The Chamber desired to impeach Noury Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law, for embezzlement.

On May 2nd a Persian envoy arrived at St Petersburg to conclude negotiations enabling Russia to march troops through the Persian territory.

The first collision between the Greek insurgents and the Turkish troops, occurred near Armyros, in Thessaly. The Press of Athens unanimously demand war.

The Meridites have driven the Turks from Orleschi after a sanguinary fight, wherein an entire Turkish battalion was destroyed. Advices from Scutari, however, announce that the Meridites were defeated in the neighbourhood of Gusingas.

Admiral Hasban bombarded the fortifications of Sukhun Kaleh on May 15 and landed troops. A fight ensued, and the Russians were driven out. The town was in flames. The inhabitants joined the Turks, who drove the Muscovite garrison and the road guards all over the district chasing them to Gangry, which was also destroyed. Hasban Pasha, after taking Sukhum Kaleh, landed a supply of rifles and cartridges to equip the Circassians, and a formidable local force was organised to march upon the railway line to Tiflis, aiming at the destruction of Kutaisi. Another large band was despatched to raise the country in the rear of the Russian columns which are attacking Batoum.

The Turks completely annihilated a company of Cossacks. They took five prisoners, besides some arms and provisions.

The Turkish fleet has destroyed Bourgdjardjare. The Turks shelled Buckell and the Bashi Bazouks plundered the neighboring villages. They also bombarded Port St. Nicholas.

On May 1st the Turks occupied the village of Ichikate, west of Kars. A few days later the Russians attempted to carry Kars by a *coup de main*, and attacked the outer line with a furious but ill directed cannonade from siege artillery. The powerful Turkish batteries replied with better effect. The duel was kept up until the Russians brought up their infantry as close as they dared, as if they intended to take the fortification by storm. The Turkish commander drew together large bodies of troops behind the ramparts and made a tremendous sortie upon the Russian flank and rear, under the shock of which the Russians were obliged to retreat into a disadvantageous position. A bloody engagement then followed and the Russians retreated leaving 300 dead and many wounded on the field. The Russians then commenced to bombard Kars, and invested the city with 50,000 men.

On May 9th the Russians attempted to surround Seghaule, and concentrated to attack the Turkish position at Barbudz and Yenki-kari. The Russian force at Bayazid advanced in the direction of Khamouni and Antob, leaving Karakiliva and Alashkirt on their right. A detachment of Cossacks advanced to Baskdag, but were driven back to Kakissmaun. The Russians tried to stop the telegraph wires, but were discovered and prevented.

On the 17th May the Russians advanced to Karakalissa, and a battle was expected at Toprak Kale. On the 18th there was a fight between the Russian and Turkish cavalry outside Kars. The Turks lost 64, killed; Russians, 20 killed and 54 wounded.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE BOOT ROBBERY.

SIR.—In the Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday, a case was heard before R. Stuart, Esq., R.M. against James Kelly for stealing a pair of boots, and for which the prisoner pleaded guilty, but excused himself that he was drunk at the time, and for this two-fold crime he was dismissed with a caution. Now, I deny the man was drunk and not responsible for his actions. He was first seen cautiously making towards my shop, lift the boots from the hook, and decamp. I immediately pursued him and found the boots under his coat. I have recently, on two different occasions, had boots stolen from my window, valued at twenty-six shillings each pair, of which I gave information to the police at the time. Now, Mr Editor, could you inform me whom I should appeal to for redress should James Kelly or any other person be discovered stealing boots from me again?—I am, &c.,

THOS. WILLIAMS.

Napier, June 15, 1877.

SELLING AMMUNITION TO NATIVES.

SIR.—After the late news from Poverty Bay, I think it is high time that the sale of ammunition to Maori's should be put a stop to. Now to my certain knowledge, they can and do purchase as much as they require, and I have been informed from very good authority without a license from either a Magistrate or officer of the Customs. A form of law is necessary for a European before he can obtain the same.

By inserting the above you will greatly oblige.

AN OUT-SETTLER.

[Our correspondent must have been misinformed. If he is certain of the truth of his information it is his duty to lay the matter before the proper authorities. Ed.—W. M.]

MAHOMET.

SIR.—I cannot allow the unprovoked and cowardly attack made by the Revd. D'Arcy Irvine, in his letter to the Herald this morning, on the memory of one of the greatest men the world has produced, to go unchallenged. I have characterised Mr. Irvine's letter as cowardly, and for this reason, that, relying on the prejudices of a Christian community, he knows no one of good taste would employ the same ridicule against the Bible which he so freely uses against the Koran. I need say nothing further on this part of the subject; Mr Irvine's knowledge of Scripture will supply him with abundance of stories upon which he can exercise his humour, without going to the Koran to ridicule man's efforts to realise the idea of perfect beauty, perfect happiness, that Heaven is believed to offer to us hereafter.

Let me turn to Mahomet, and quoting from Winwood Reade's "Martyrdom of Man," give a description of "the prophet," whose teachings turned millions from the worship of wood and stone, to a belief in a spiritual Creator, the unseen God to whom all Arabs now pray, as did their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. "Mahomet was a poor lad subject to a nervous disease which made him at first unfit for anything except the despised occupation of the shepherd." In the Rhamadan, "a month held sacred by the ancient Arabs," Mahomet and his wife "used to live in a cave outside the town, passing the time in prayer and meditation. The disease of his childhood returned upon him in middle age; it affected his mind in a strange manner, and produced illusions on his senses." He was continually crying out to God for help. "He pondered on the religious legends of the Jews, which he had heard related on his journeys, at noonday beneath the palm tree by the well mouth, at night by the camp fire; and as he looked and thought, the darkness was dispelled, the clouds dispersed, and the vision of God in solitary grandeur rose up within his mind; there came upon him an impulse to believe of God, then came upon him a belief that he was a messenger of God sent on earth to restore the religion of Abraham, which the Pagan Arabs had polluted with their idolatry, the Christians in making Jesus a divinity, the Jews in corrupting their holy books."

Such was Mahomet; and who will dare to deny that he did not fearlessly fulfil the task which he firmly and conscientiously believed had been allotted him? To speak of him in derision, is to exhibit crass ignorance; to ignore the mighty work he performed, is to rob humanity of the glory of one of its

greatest efforts to realise the sublime.—I am &c.,

NAPIER.

Napier, June 16, 1877.

HAWKE'S BAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

MONDAY, JUNE 18.

The Council held its adjourned meeting at 11 o'clock to-day.

Present:—Messrs. Tiffen (Chairman), Williams, Bennett, Brathwaite, Kinross, and Colonel Whitmore.

The minutes of the previous meetings (special and ordinary) were read and confirmed.

Correspondence and reports of the Public Works Committee, and of the Engineer, were laid on the table: also a letter from the Colonial Treasury pointing out discrepancies between the returns furnished by the Road Boards and those forwarded by the County Council. The reply to this latter communication was to the effect that the Council had no authority over the Road Boards in this respect.

The Council then went into Committee to consider the Public Works Committee's report.

1. The report recommended an expenditure of £25, as per Mr Bold's report, on the Waitangi bridge.

Carried.

2. That Mr Bold be instructed to take the necessary steps to strengthen the Ngaruroro bridge.

Carried.

3. As no tender had been received for the supply of timber, Mr Bold be instructed to obtain that which is required.

Carried.

4. That the Governor be memorialised to give the Council the necessary power to stop the flow of water from artesian wells over the Taradale-road.

Carried.

5. That a grant of £15 be made for the purpose of deepening the Taipo creek.

Carried.

6. That the road overseer be instructed to clear out the water tables, and metal certain portions of the Puketapu road.

Carried.

The Chairman, on the motion of Mr Bennett, resumed the Chair, and the Public Works Committee's report was adopted.

In reply to Mr Williams, the Chairman said instructions had been given to Mr Bold to have the road from Meance bridge to the race course put in repair.

Mr Bennett moved that Mr Neagle's application for permission to erect a slaughter yard at Taradale, or suburban section, No. 7, be granted.

Colonel Whitmore seconded the motion which was agreed to.

A communication was read from the Resident Magistrate at Taupo which pointed out that Mr Sutherland, of Tara-wera, was paying £30 for a publican's license, whereas all the other publicans only paid £5.

Colonel Witmore said that the £5 licensed houses, though in Hawke's Bay County, were in the Auckland provincial district. He thought the Council had no jurisdiction in the matter.

Mr Bennett moved that Mr Tracey's salary be augmented to £135, which would include travelling allowance.

Mr Kinross seconded the motion.

Colonel Whitmore objected to the increase on principle.

Motion was put and carried.

Col. Whitmore moved that Major Roberts, R.M. at Taupo, be informed that the Council have no power to alter the existing licensing arrangements.

This was seconded and carried.

In reply to Mr Brathwaite, the Chairman said the dog tax would be collected by the constables.

Colonel Whitmore moved that the Chairman be requested to apply to the Inspector of Armed Constabulary to station a member of the Force at Olive. At present the duty of constable was performed by a local shopkeeper.

Mr Kinross seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Mr Williams moved the adoption of Mr Bold's report on the Omahu bridge, involving an outlay of £50.

Seconded by Mr Bennett and carried.

The Council then adjourned.

"Atlas," in the World, says:—While the Government is being roasted about recalling Captain Burnaby from Central Asia, the gallant traveller is being frozen in the Little Caucasus. Writing from Erzeroum on the 8th February, he says:—"This place is close to the garden of Eden. The thermometer is about zero. If the weather was like this at the Creation, Adam and Eva must have found it uncommon cold in fig-leaves."

THE TERRIBLE GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION IN INDIA.

The following account of the terrible gunpowder explosion which took place at Ahmedabad appears in the Bombay Gazette of February 3:—"An alarm of fire having been given, as is usual in such cases a crowd gathered round the place, which turned out to be a Borah's shop, where ammunition and firearms were sold. The shop had been shut up for the night, consequently the police proceeded to burst into it. As the door flew open a large cask of gunpowder, which appears to have been leaning against it, rolled out and immediately exploded among the crowd. The scene which followed was indescribable. The house in which the shop was, and the next one to it, were so completely blown away that the space where they stood looks as if a clean slice had been cut out of the row. In an instant a great mass of flame, followed by a dense volume of smoke, shot into the air, carrying with it rafters, beams, bricks, and everything. So great was the force of the explosion that though the street is a very wide one, some of the houses opposite caught fire, and most of their windows and doors were smashed, in one case a verandah being torn bodily off. The large beam of the Borah's shop was carried across the street, and now rests on the roof of the opposite houses. In front of where the shop had been, the street was strewn with the dead and dying, while the air rang with wail, despairing, heartrending shrieks. Flaming figures were to be seen rushing frantically about, and some poor wretches, in the hope of extinguishing their burning clothing, sprang into a shallow drinking-tank which stands near the scene of the accident; but overcome by exhaustion and fear, fell down, and though the water was only a foot or so in depth, were drowned before aid could reach them. The terrified survivors, fearing a second explosion, would not for some time venture near the spot to the assistance of the injured, many of whom lay as they had fallen, a slight spasmodic movement of the head and chest being the only indication that life still remained in their poor, torn scorched bodies. It is difficult to ascertain the exact number of sufferers, for though 53 of the worst cases were immediately conveyed to the hospital, many of the injured were taken charge of by their own friends. Of those in the hospital, 15 died during the night, 10 of whom were women, and there is little hope that any will survive. Some are entirely blinded, and those who may not die from actual hurts are almost certain to succumb to the shock. The scene next morning in the hospital was heartrending in the extreme. All around were rows of writhing humanity; in some cases with wounds so awful that all the skin had peeled off their bodies. There were altogether eight persons killed on the spot, four of whom were members of the police force. As nearly as can be reckoned, there were about 125 persons more or less injured by the explosion.

THE FUN OF THE "HOUSE."

The European Mail says:—By the late passage of arms between Captain Nolan and Mr. Bennett-Stanford, it would appear that coughing in the House is forbidden to any one who is not a Home Ruler. The Parliament of the Dominion of Canada will probably wish that it numbered a few Home Rulers among its members, to restrain the exuberant expression of opinion indulged in on the Government side of the House. A Toronto newspaper informs us that, while an Opposition member was speaking Mr. Cheval, who sits on the back benches to the right of the Speaker, raised the lid of his desk and commenced to play a horn-pipe on a Jew's harp. Inspired by the music, an old gentleman of the name of Snider, the representative of North Grey, sprang to his feet, and commenced to dance to the dulcet tones evoked by his confrere. This unseemly conduct continued until Sir John Macdonald called the Speaker's attention to it, when Mr. Snider vanished by the side door. Captain Nolan's remark to the Speaker on the account of Mr. Stanford's cough reminded us of the dialogue between the retainers of the Montagues and Capulets—"Do you bite your thumb at me sir?" "No sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, sir, but I bite my thumb, sir." But, although we must regret the reverberation of coughing in the House of Commons, we have not yet descended to Jew's harps and hornpipes. We have only got as far as interminable twaddle and unceasing boredom.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

FRIDAY, JUNE 15.

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

A DISORDERLY CHARACTER.

John Golding was charged, on the information of Constable Black, with being drunk and disorderly. He pleaded guilty, but promised reformation. It being a second offence, he was fined 10s, or if he preferred not to pay the fine, he was to be allowed board and lodgings free for 24 hours in Mr. Miller's establishment.

LARCENY.

Frank Hyde, a carpenter, was charged with having stolen from the prosecutor, William Phillips, of the Karemu, on the 12th day of June, the sum of £2.

William Phillips deposed that he resided in a whare on the Karemu. On Tuesday he had £3 in a match-box, and took £1 out, and went to Hastings in company with the prisoner. They returned next night, and on the following morning he put the box containing the money under his mattress, and went away. On his return he found his money gone, and the prisoner also had started away. He was told by the constable, that the prisoner had changed two £2 notes at Havelock, which he believed to be his money.

William Plant deposed as to having given the prisoner 6s prior to the alleged robbery, because prisoner stated he was hard up.

The mounted constable at Havelock deposed to having arrested the prisoner on the charge. When arrested, prisoner said he was sorry for what had occurred, and would give £3 to have the affair hushed up. He found the prisoner had changed £2 at Mr. Stuart's hotel, at Havelock.

The prisoner, in his defence, said that he had earned the money he spent at Abraham's.

His Worship sentenced the prisoner to two months' imprisonment with hard labor.

ASSAULT.

Peter Furze was charged with having assaulted, on Saturday last, Mr. William Orr, at Olive.

Mr. Lascelles appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Rees for defendant.

William Orr deposed to having seen defendant on Saturday last. Defendant said he was going to cut down the fence. Defendant then went away, and returned with an axe in his hand. The witness then went and placed himself alongside the fence to prevent it, and caught hold of defendant, who told him to get out of his way. He then threw off his vest, and placed himself in an attitude to fight him. He then commenced to cut the fence down.

Cross-examined by Mr. Rees: The fence had been broken down, but he (witness) had it put up again. He did not lay hands first on the defendant. The reason the defendant cut the fence down was because he had impounded one of his horses. The fence was not across a road, it was a street.

James Nicholls, examined by Mr. Lascelles, stated that he was present at the time. Mr. Orr first collared Furze before Furze pushed him. He was quite sure of that. He did not know why Mr. Lascelles put these questions to him because Mr. Lascelles was present at the time, and knew all about it. (Laughter.) His Worship said it appeared to him a trivial case, and he would therefore at once dismiss it.

CIVIL CASES.

Thirteen summonses for debt had been issued for hearing to-day as also a couple of judgment summonses. Of the first, four had been settled out of Court, and in three others judgment had been confessed. The following cases came before the Court:

Moore v. Baxter.—Claim £7 5s 1d. Judgment for plaintiff with 14s costs, to be paid by instalments of 10s per month, commencing on 9th July.

Hawker v. Spence.—Claim £18. Action of trover. Judgment for £12 and £2 18s costs.

Jessop v. Hastings.—£1 5s 6d. Judgment for plaintiff, (by default) for amount claimed, and costs 12s.

Gillespie v. Tracey.—Claim £3 11s 3d. Judgment for plaintiff (by default) for amount claimed, and costs and expenses 17s.

Graham v. Anderson.—£3 15s for rent. Judgment (by default) for plaintiff, with 9s costs.

Jessop v. Cartwright and Another.—Claim of £3 for four week's horse hire at 15s per week. Judgment for plaintiff for £3, and costs 9s.

JUDGMENT SUMMONS.

Gillespie v. Murrow.—Defendant having filed a declaration of insolvency,—

plaintiff did not proceed any further in the matter.

Langley and Newman v. E. Butcher.—Defendant did not appear to the summons. Order was made that defendant pay the amount and costs (in all £1 14s 6d) by the 22nd instant, or be committed to prison for one month.

MONDAY JUNE 18.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.

John Golding, charged with the above offence, was fined and paid the sum of 20s. This was his third appearance within five days.

BREACH OF MUNICIPAL BYE LAWS.

James Greenaway, for keeping and depasturing four cows on unclosed land within the Borough, was fined 10s with costs 9s.

ALLEGED LARCENY.

James Kelly, on suspicion of stealing a set of sleeve links of the value of ten shillings, the property of Mr. Boylan, was remanded until to-morrow, to admit attendance of a necessary witness.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19.

(Before J. A. Smith, Esq., and Edward Lyndon, Esq., J.Ps.)

DRUNKENNESS.

John McLean, for the above offence, was fined and paid the minimum sum of five shillings.

LARCENY.

James Kelly, charged with the theft of one set of gold sleeve-links, valued at ten shillings, the property of Mr. M. Boylan, was convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labor.

BREACH MUNICIPAL BYE LAWS.

An information against David Earl Lindsay, for obstructing a footpath in the Shakespeare road, within the Borough of Napier, by placing certain goods, namely, bundles of shingles, thereon, was dismissed with a caution, and an intimation that for the future persons charged with this offence, if convicted, would be mulcted in such penalty as the law allows.

CIVIL CASES.

Eleven civil cases were on the cause list for hearing to-day. In four cases, at the suit of the trustees in the estate of R. McRae, of Havelock, there being no proof before the Court of the service of the summonses, the date of hearing was enlarged until the 13th July.

In two other cases, the amounts with costs had been paid, and three plaintiffs were withdrawn. The following came before the Court, and were dealt with as under:—

O'Brien v. Thos. Chase.—Claim of £4 5s 11d, for goods supplied. Defendant did not appear. The claim having been proved on oath, judgment was given (by default) for plaintiff for the amount claimed, and 9s costs.

B. Smith v. Grindell.—Claim of £9 8s, for professional services as architect in June, 1875. Defendant's evidence had been taken in Wellington, under the provisions of the Act of 1870, and was read by the Clerk of the Court. The evidence of plaintiff (whose case conducted by Mr. Lee) having been taken, as also of D. E. Lindsay, his witness, the Court gave judgment for plaintiff for the amount claimed, and £1 15s costs, including solicitor's fee.

VICTORIA RACING CLUB.

MELBOURNE, 1st June.

The following entries were made to-day for the

MELBOURNE CUP.

Don, Silvia, Volo, Portrait, Tim Whistler, Diver, King Winter, Maude, Knight Templar, Ceyx, Newminster, Sultan, Royalty, Rangatira, Coquette, King, Sultana, Peerless, Star, Hipponea, Nutleaf filly, Kaled colt, Tom Kirk, Needle, Artful Joe, First King, Cardinal, Dean, Black Eagle, Kingfisher, Priam, Janitor, Rataplan, Amendment, Maria, Tocal, Lorton, Woodlands, Expectation, Salisbury, Painter, Deacon, Sour Grapes filly, Sunrise filly, Killarney, Waterford, Savanaka, Evenlight, Adelaide, Bread-bane, Hotspur, Pluto, Terriek, Ralph Leigh, Idalia, Pardon, Spark, Fitzroy, Don Alphonso, Waxy, Columbine, Bill Sykes, Aldinga, Quambone Joko, Charity, Sterling, Fernhill, Jack of Trumps, Sultan, Ingomar, Burwood, Lady filly, Rookwood, Neckersgat, Explosion, Acomite, Fillibuster, Starlight colt, Robinson Crusoe, Billy, Lord Harry, Sefton, Woolomat, Dilke, Columbe, Glengarry, B. Sharp, Fisherman, Briseis, Haricot, Imperial, Spring Jack, The Vagabond, Barb, Meteor, Gas, Perth,

Rapidity, Jupiter, Irish Stew, Chester, Cap-a-pie, Ginger, Richmond, The Hook, Hawkesbury, Devilshoof, Locksley, Devise, Defiance, Nightingale, Orator, Pride of the Hills, Venus, Glenormiston.

The following entries were made in Sydney:—Irish Stew, Chester, Cap-a-pie, Ginger, The Cardinal, The Dean, Black Eagle, Kingfisher, Priam, Janitor, Rataplan, Amendment, Maira, Tocal, Lorton, Woodlands, Expectation, Sterling, Charity, Jack of Trumps, Fernhill, Ingomar, Sultan, b.f. by Yattendon, Lady, Burwood, Rookwood.

WELLINGTON CORPORATION.

The public business of the Corporation of Wellington, judging from the reports of the proceedings of its Council, is as muddled as much as it well can be, but not more so than are the proceedings of the Council itself. Some little time back, a special committee was appointed to report on matters relating to the officials of the Corporation. At the last meeting of the Council the following recommendations were made by the committee:—"That the City Surveyor and the whole of the officials under his orders be given three months' notice, and their services dispensed with, and that applications be invited for the office of City Engineer at a salary of £500 per annum. Also, that the services of the Wharfinger be dispensed with at the usual notice, and applications invited for the office; in consequence of Mr. Reeves being a partner in the firm of Messrs. Plimmer, Reeves and Co., a position which is incompatible with the office of Wharfinger, unless Mr. Reeves shall resign his connection with the above firm, in which case the notice shall not take effect. The committee recommend that the City Engineer be allowed an assistant, at a salary of £350 per annum. The committee are of opinion that the whole of the direction of the Corporation business should emanate from the Town Clerk's office, he being recognised as the chief official of the Corporation, as required by the Municipal Corporations Act." These sweeping proposals naturally gave rise to an animated discussion in the Council. The Mayor could not agree with the report. He could not understand why the City Surveyor and all his officers should be swept away, without any charge being made against them. At the same time, he would not defend the City Surveyor, but he would propose that that officer should cease to hold the position of Chief Engineer, and devote himself to the management of the waterworks, and of the wharf extension. In reference to the Town Clerk, the Mayor did not agree with the proposition, which would make the Town Clerk the director-general of the affairs of the Council. He did not know of any office which required re-organisation more than that of the Town Clerk. He thought that it would be a good thing if a committee were appointed to enquire into the working of that department. The Mayor moved certain amendments to the report, and a long discussion ensued, during which Cr. Mills moved the adoption of the report. Cr. Cleland moved that the matter should be referred to a committee of the whole Council. The motion for the report, treated as an amendment to the Mayor's motion, was put and carried, when the following scene took place:—

The Mayor said the motion for the adoption of the report now became the substantive motion, but all the Councillors held that the report had just been adopted.

Cr. Moss moved as an amendment—"That the City Surveyor be requested to tender his resignation, and that applications be invited from persons desirous of filling the office."

Cr. Raine seconded the motion, which was put and declared carried, though the Councillors had got into such a "muddle" that it was difficult to say what was done with it.

Cr. Cleland said he had previously moved an amendment to the effect that the matter should be referred to a committee of the whole Council, and it had not yet been put, which was not right.

The Mayor said he had forgotten all about the amendment.

Cr. Mills (vacantly)—Well, this beats me!

The Mayor—Well, gentleman, it is all right. The amendment is that the report be referred to a committee of the whole Council.

Cr. Raine—I understood, Mr. Mayor, that the report had been adopted.

The Mayor—Then you understand wrong sir.

The motion for the adoption of the report was then put and carried.

The Mayor then put Cr. Cleland's amendment, which was carried unanimously.

The subject was then dropped, the various Crs. seeming completely mystified, and exhibiting the greatest anxiety to understand exactly how the matter stood.

LOCAL OPTION BILL.

ONE of the chief arguments against the Legislature placing in the hands of a majority of the inhabitants in any district, the power to determine whether publicans licenses should be granted, is that it would compromise the liberty of the minority. Another argument is that it would unjustly interfere with the interests of a large number of people whose capital has been invested in the trades connected with the brewing, distilling, and sale, wholesale and retail, of alcoholic beverages. These arguments are unanswerable. No one can attempt to deny that the passing of a Local Option Bill might curtail the liberty of the minority to drink; it might have the effect of closing the public houses, and ruining the alcohol trade. It is essentially the object of Mr. Stout's Local Option Bill to bring about such result. He himself does not attempt to deny it, but that his measure will have that effect is open to doubt. Mr. Stout, in explaining the character of his proposed Bill, was at some pains to show that the law, as it at present stands, is capable of being worked in such a way as to practically bring about the same results as he hopes that his Local Option Bill will do. For instance under the law at present, if two-thirds of the people—not of the ratepayers, but of all the men and women—in any licensing district, choose to say that any publican shall not have a license, the Bench has no option, and the license must be refused. This may fairly be deemed an injustice to publicans, and which the Local Option Bill is intended to remedy. It will take away the power of the people to exercise their likings or dislikings for any particular publican, but instead will give them the right, once in three years, to decide as to whether there shall be a licensed house within their district or not.

The present law allows two-thirds of the people—men and women—to say that Jones shall have a license, but Brown shall not, and when they do not choose to exercise their privileges in this respect, the Licensing Bench may arbitrarily elect to close this house, and grant a license to another, and there is no appeal against the decision. This is a state of things that calls for alteration. The people do not appoint the Licensing Bench, nor have they any power over it. If it be not tyrannical for the Governor to appoint certain gentlemen to sit on a Licensing Bench, having power to close, without appeal, every hotel in the country, it certainly is not tyrannical for the people to have the same power. The Local Option Bill does not propose to alter the present boundaries of existing licensing districts, it does not propose to touch the constitution of existing Licensing Benches. It merely confers on the people, in each district, the privilege to go to the ballot box, once in every three years, and in the event of two-thirds deciding that there shall not be any licensed house in their district, no license can be granted. It will therefore be seen that under the present law, two-thirds of the people can take away any license they please; but under the Local Option Bill, instead of voting for or against an individual license, they will have to vote for or against a whole district. At the public meeting, lately held at Dunedin for the purpose of considering proposals for the reform of the laws relating to the sale of alcoholic liquors, the following resolution was passed:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the principle embodied in the Local Option Bill is equitable, practicable, and likely to afford the public relief from many of the evils resulting from the consumption of intoxicating liquors." Now considering that the present law has proved quite inadequate to afford relief from evils resulting from the existence of too many public houses, we do not see that the Local Option Bill can possibly have any better effect. We are, perhaps, quite safe in saying that under the present law, in no district have two-thirds of the people been got to agree to close a single public house. How, then, can it be hoped that two-thirds can be induced to vote secretly for the shutting up of all the public houses in a whole district? Mr. Stout's Bill must fall far short of the objects hoped to be attained by it, and in its omission to deal with the appointment and powers of Licensing Benches, it is no improvement on the existing law.

THE RUSSIAN LOCHINVAR.

The following clever parody on a well known poem appeared in Punch at the close of the year 1853, when the aggressive policy of Russia towards Turkey was agitating the mind of the British and French nations. It was reproduced in the Southern Cross in its issue of May 19, 1854, and was very popular at the time. It may not prove uninteresting in the year of grace 1877, when the Colossus of the North is making another unprovoked attack upon its neighbor the Turk. We have altered a name or two to suit recent events and with such a terminations the verses might have been written yesterday:—

The big-booted Czar had his eye on the East, For treaties and truces he cares not the least; And save his good pleasure he conscience hath none, He talks like the Vandal, and acts like the Hun. So faithless in peace, and so ruthless in war, Have we e'er heard of a king like the big-booted Czar?

He stayed not for speech, but with sabre and gun, He rushed into Turkey, though cause there was none; But when he got near to the old iron gate, He found certain reasons which urged him to wait, For down by the Danube stood Omar Pasha, prepared to encounter our big-booted Czar.

He drew up his legions—serf, vassal, and thrall, His footmen, and horsemen, and cannons, and all; Then out spoke bold Omar, his hand on his sword, In an attitude fitting an Ottoman Lord,—“Oh, come ye in peace here, or come ye in war, Or to seize St. Sophia, you big booted Czar?”

“I’ve long asked your homage, my suit you denied, And my holy religion you’ve scorned and derided, So now I’ve come down with this army of mine, The rights and the wrongs of the case to define, And you have not a chance, for the Mussulman star, Must pile when it looks on the flag of the Czar.”

He flung down his challenge, the Turk took it up (Remarking on slips ’twixt the lip and the cup) And designed to his logic the briefest reply, “That the claim was unjust, and its proof was a lie.” And he brought up some thousands of swords as a bar To further advance of the big-booted Czar.

So before Sukham Kaleh the battle took place, And the Russians thought proper to right about face, For the ironclad’s guns had a menacing boom, And a bombshell sent flying the Dannenburg plume, And the Cossacks all grumbled, “’Twere better by far To est’blish at home than dine out with the Czar.”

One blast would not do, nor one word in his ear, The despot commands, and the men persevere,— So again to the breezes the standards are flung, And K-lafat echoes the war trumpet’s tongue, And the Ottoman, charging, has scattered afar The ill-fated troops of the big-booted Czar. There was wild disarray in the rear and the van, The Moslems they rode, and the Cossacks they ran; There was racing and chasing—’twas pleasing to see The Russ as well beaten as Russians can be. May this, and much worse, be all fortunes of war That witness the old pirate, the big-booted Czar.

[New Zealand Herald.]

THE FATAL PANIC IN A NEW YORK CHURCH.

(From the New York Herald.)

Two thousand five hundred women assembled on Thursday night in the Jesuit Church of St. Francis Xavier, in West Sixteen street, to attend the fifth of a course of lectures delivered by the Rev. Father Langcake. The course was one of instruction to women, and is known as a mission or retreat. Already the services were drawing to a close, and the preacher was preparing to bring his exhortations to a close, when in the crowded gallery there suddenly arose a loud cry from a hysterical woman that thrilled the congregation to the core. Startled people rose through the audience, and a movement began which too soon developed into a panic. There was a moment of terrible suspense. Now, on startled ears, rang out the awful cry of “Fire! fire!” In an instant all control was lost; that terrible cry had paralysed all power of thought and filled the terrified congregation with a frantic desire to escape from a death of horror. Like a flock of frightened birds the occupants of the galleries rose up and fled toward the stairways which empty it to the vestibules of the church. The stairs were almost immediately choked by the sudden rush of the people. Checked in their flight, the OCCUPANTS OF THE GALLERY LOST ALL CONTROL OF THEMSELVES. Headless of the obstruction, those in the rear struggled to pass beyond those in front, and in their desperate efforts rendered egress more difficult. The scene now became heartrending. The struggling mass of women shrieked with pain and dismay, and some, in an excess of desperation, threw themselves over the balustrades and were trampled to death by those beneath. At first the panic was almost wholly confined to the galleries, but the shrieks of the struggling crowd soon filled with terror the crowd which thronged the aisles, and the movement to escape became general. Out from the body of the church began to pour the immense congregation which, meeting in the vestibule the fleeing occupants of the gallery, made a new obstruction and effectively blocked all egress. Then ensued a terrible struggle to escape from an imaginary danger. In vain the priests mingled with the frightened crowd and tried to calm their fear. They were blind to everything but the phantom of a terrible death which had taken possession of their souls. The news of the accident spread with wondrous rapidity, and the friends of the worshippers gathered rapidly in crowds about the door. Husbands, fathers, and sons, urged by the wish to save their relatives, attempted to enter the church, and so added a new difficulty in the way of those who were trying to escape. Matters were in this condition when Company No 14, of the

hortations to a close, when in the crowded gallery there suddenly arose a loud cry from a hysterical woman that thrilled the congregation to the core. Startled people rose through the audience, and a movement began which too soon developed into a panic. There was a moment of terrible suspense. Now, on startled ears, rang out the awful cry of “Fire! fire!” In an instant all control was lost; that terrible cry had paralysed all power of thought and filled the terrified congregation with a frantic desire to escape from a death of horror. Like a flock of frightened birds the occupants of the galleries rose up and fled toward the stairways which empty it to the vestibules of the church. The stairs were almost immediately choked by the sudden rush of the people. Checked in their flight, the OCCUPANTS OF THE GALLERY LOST ALL CONTROL OF THEMSELVES. Headless of the obstruction, those in the rear struggled to pass beyond those in front, and in their desperate efforts rendered egress more difficult. The scene now became heartrending. The struggling mass of women shrieked with pain and dismay, and some, in an excess of desperation, threw themselves over the balustrades and were trampled to death by those beneath. At first the panic was almost wholly confined to the galleries, but the shrieks of the struggling crowd soon filled with terror the crowd which thronged the aisles, and the movement to escape became general. Out from the body of the church began to pour the immense congregation which, meeting in the vestibule the fleeing occupants of the gallery, made a new obstruction and effectively blocked all egress. Then ensued a terrible struggle to escape from an imaginary danger. In vain the priests mingled with the frightened crowd and tried to calm their fear. They were blind to everything but the phantom of a terrible death which had taken possession of their souls. The news of the accident spread with wondrous rapidity, and the friends of the worshippers gathered rapidly in crowds about the door. Husbands, fathers, and sons, urged by the wish to save their relatives, attempted to enter the church, and so added a new difficulty in the way of those who were trying to escape. Matters were in this condition when Company No 14, of the

FIRE BRIGADE, CAME THUNDERING ALONG. The rumbling of the wheels and the warning ding-dong of the fire-bell echoed with ghastly significance through the church and renewed the panic. The effect was partially foreseen by the commander of the fire company, and when he arrived within half a block of the church he halted his command and ordered his men to take off their helmets before mingling with the crowd, in order to avoid increasing the terror. These orders were obeyed, and the firemen advancing to the main entrance of the church, mingled with the crowd, and, forcing back those who were unwisely attempting to enter the church, succeeded with some difficulty in making a passage for the congregation. A strong detachment of police, under the command of Captain Williams, arrived on the ground almost simultaneously, and forming line held the excited crowd in check. The work of extricating the people was then pushed on vigorously, and in a few minutes the church was cleared. Six dead bodies were found at the bottom of the stairs where they had been

TRAMPLED TO DEATH. One well-dressed lady was picked up and brought to a drug store in Sixth Avenue, where she shortly afterwards expired. Six women and one boy were killed. Many persons undoubtedly received slight injuries, but in every case they were taken by their friends to their own homes. The cause of this sad accident was of such a nature that it could not be guarded against. The means of egress provided in the church seem ample for all ordinary occasions, but the emptying of the whole congregation into a vestibule, however spacious, seems to be a dangerous error in construction, which should be remedied as soon as possible in all places where it exists.

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