

WEEKLY MERCURY

AND

Hawke's Bay Advertiser,

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

VOL. II.—No. 90.

NAPIER, SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1877.

PRICE SIXPENCE

PROPERTIES FOR SALE.

9,000 ACRES Freehold, Agricultural and Pastoral, Seaboard, with
 14,000 acres Leasehold, valuable improvements, and
 18,000 Sheep, few Cattle, Horses, &c.
 3,920 acres Freehold, rich pastoral land, Wairoa, with
 800 Sheep, and 100 head Cattle
 900 acres Freehold Agricultural and Pastoral Land, Wairoa
 4,677 acres Freehold Agricultural and Pastoral Land, Wairoa, with
 3,000 Sheep, and other necessary working improvements
 25,000 acres Leasehold, Poverty Bay, and 112
 20,000 Sheep, and improvements
 4,200 acres Freehold Agricultural and Pastoral Land, Poverty Bay
 11,000 acres Leasehold, Pastoral, Poverty Bay, with
 3000 Sheep and few Cattle
 1,600 acres Leasehold, half interest, Poverty Bay
 28,750 acres, Poverty Bay, situate about 20 miles from Tologa Bay, title under Native Lands Court
 1657 acres rich Pastoral Land, good title, Poverty Bay
 1385 acres rich Pastoral Land, good title, Poverty Bay
 8,800 acres Leasehold, excellent country, Tologa Bay, with
 3,000 Sheep and good improvements
 3,000 acres Freehold, Southern Seaboard, improved
 1,220 acres Freehold, Southern Seaboard, improved
 400 acres Freehold, Southern Seaboard, improved
 1,200 acres Freehold, Rich Pastoral Land, improved, Opotiki
 225 acres Freehold, excellent Land, Omaramu, with
 1,600 Sheep,
 30 head Cattle, and a few Horses, with improvements

M. R. MILLER,
Stock and Station Agent.

FOR SALE,

M. R. EVAN'S Draught Stallion "LORD NELSON," by "Sir Colin Campbell," dam "Blossom," etc.
 Liberal terms.
 For further particulars apply to
 M. R. MILLER.

RURAL SECTIONS, WOODVILLE.

On Deferred Payments.
 For particulars, apply to
 M. R. MILLER

M. R. MILLER, STOCK AND STATION AGENT

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

RAMS FOR SALE.



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

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

FLOUR, (Duncan's Dunedin Silk Dress), guaranteed. Oatmeal, Pearl and Feed Barley, Oats, Bran, all of superior quality, and at reasonable prices, now for sale by
 MURRAY, COMMON & CO.,
 Port Ahuriri.

Sole Agents in Hawke's Bay, for Roysse, Stead & Co.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE WAIPUKURAU RIDING.

GENTLEMEN—As you are aware, the result of the late election has been to place me once more—and for the third time, in the County Council, as your representative. Mr. RUSSELL has announced that it is not his intention to appeal, we may, therefore, consider that the fight is over.

It is only right that I should publicly express my hearty thanks to all classes of the electors for the honor conferred upon me; and my thanks are more especially due to those small holders, who have throughout the whole contest, and at the cost of much time and trouble, given to me such generous support.

I am,
 Gentlemen,
 Your Obedient Servant,
 SYDNEY JOHNSTON.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10.

BY ORDER OF THE REGISTRAR OF SUPREME COURT.

JAMES NEAGLE TO W. MCARTHUR AND OTHERS. MORTGAGE.

ROUTLEDGE, KENNEDY & CO. Are instructed to sell, on behalf of the Mortgagees, at their auction mart, Tenynson-street, Napier, on Friday, the 10th day of August, 1877, at 2 p.m.,

ALL those Lots, containing in the aggregate 3 roods and 35 perches, and numbered 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 40, on the plan of the sub-division of suburban section 54, on the official map of the Meane district, together with the store and buildings thereon erected. And also, lot No. 7 (containing one rood and three perches) of the sub-division of (inter alia) suburban sections 52 and 53 of the Meane district, together with the cottage thereon erected. And also a portion of lot number 92 of a sub-division of suburban section number 9 of the Meane district.
 Napier, July 30, 1877.

C. L. MARGOLIOUTH in retiring from the late Firm of Margoliouth & Banner, whilst thanking the public generally for the very liberal patronage bestowed on him during the six years he has been in business, informs them that he has leased the Auction Mart, Hastings-street, directly opposite the Repository, and arranged for premises at Port Ahuriri; and purposes carrying on business as heretofore in his own name only as Auctioneer, Land Broker, Custom House Agent, and General Commission Agent. He assures his patrons that every attention to their interests and prompt settlements of accounts sales will be the principle on which his business will be conducted.

GRASS SEEDS.

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

ENGLISH SEEDS.

Guaranteed imported of 1876.

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

MURRAY, COMMON & CO.
 Napier and Port Ahuriri.

WAREHOUSING.

MURRAY, COMMON & CO. are now prepared to receive all descriptions of Goods for Warehousing in their large and commodious Premises at the Spit. Goods covered against Fire, under open policies if required.

Charges at lowest possible rates.
 MURRAY COMMON & CO.

SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL FUND.

WITH a view to direct more attention to Agricultural Pursuits, it is proposed that a SPECIAL FUND be raised to offer Champion Prizes for Ploughing, for Provincial grown wheat and other cereals, as well as for root crops, miscellaneous Farm Produce, and Agricultural Implements heretofore provided for by comparatively small prizes from the general funds of the Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society, the undersigned agree to subscribe the amounts undermentioned:—

	£	s.	d.
Hon. J. D. Ormond	10	0	0
M. R. Miller	10	0	0
R. Wellwood	5	0	0
G. Peacock	2	2	0
J. S. Giblin	2	2	0
John Bennett	5	0	0
John Henslop	2	2	0
F. Sutton	3	3	0
Hugh McLean	2	2	0
J. G. Kinross	10	0	0
W. G. and Farmer	10	0	0
Coleman and McHardy	5	0	0
Routledge, Kennedy & Co.	2	2	0
T. K. Newton	1	1	0
E. W. Knowles	1	1	0
J. T. Johnson	2	0	0

(Mr Johnson will also give a Special Prize for best wheat)

Hugh Campbell	2	2	0
Dinwiddie, Morrison & Co.	5	5	0
John Gemmill	2	2	0
R. D. McLean	10	0	0
Capt. Newman	5	5	0
H. S. Tiffen	10	0	0
H. Williams	1	1	0
P. Dolbel	2	2	0
G. Condie	2	2	0
J. Barry	1	1	0
A. McDonald	1	1	0
T. Tanner	5	5	0
J. Chambers	5	5	0
A. McLean	3	3	0
W. Douglas	3	3	0
J. N. Williams	10	0	0
Russell Bros.	10	0	0
W. Cowper	5	0	0
W. Goodwin	2	2	0
Knight Bros.	2	2	0
J. J. Kelly	1	1	0
R. Somerville	2	2	0
T. Bishop	2	2	0
R. P. Williams	5	0	0
W. Burnett	2	2	0
W. White	2	2	0
Wm. Common	10	0	0
W. Villers	1	0	0
E. Moore, Union Bank	5	5	0
F. Tuxford	2	2	0
Boylan & Co.	2	2	0
H. Wall	2	2	0
J. McVay	2	2	0
R. Holder	2	2	0
S. Hooper	1	1	0
C. Carnell	1	1	0
Large and Townley	2	2	0
E. Lyndon	2	2	0
J. N. Wilson	5	5	0
W. Shrimpton	5	5	0
A. Grant	5	5	0
Margoliouth & Banner	3	3	0

Other subscriptions will be published on receipt of the country lists, the following gentlemen have kindly undertaken to collect subscriptions:—R. Farmer, R. Wellwood, J. S. Giblin, G. Peacock, J. Bennett, M. R. Miller, and the Secretary.

Gentlemen desirous of assisting in the above will further the business much by forwarding their names, with intended amount of donations, as early as possible to the sub-committee named above, to enable them to proportion the amounts to be awarded in prizes to each individual class.

MALCOLM BANKS,
 Secretary Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society.
 Napier, July 9, 1877.

NOTICE.

A PIGEON SHOOTING MATCH will be held at West Clive, on the 11th August, 1877.

Sweepstakes of 20s. Entrance 2s 6d. Birds charged for. Entries addressed to the Hon. Secretary, West Clive Hotel, close on the 30th July.

A. F. DANVERS,
 Hon. Sec.

VERY GREAT REDUCTIONS

IN THE PRICE OF

SADDLERY

Are now being made at

HOLDER'S

There is an ENORMOUS STOCK

OF SADDLES, BRIDLES, HARNESS,

And almost every conceivable article in the trade, which must be

REDUCED

Every description of Harness made to order AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE RATES.

H. R. HOLDER

Opposite the Post-office, Napier.

JUST RECEIVED

A LARGE ASSORTMENT

OF THE

NEW WESLEYAN HYMNALS.

ALL PRICES.

AT

COLLEDGE & CRAIG.

JUST RECEIVED

VIEWS

OF THE

BEAUTIFUL SCENERY OF ROTOMAHANA

WITH ITS

HOT SPRINGS, TERRACES, AND GEYSERS.

Price 2s 6d each.

COLLEDGE & CRAIG, HASTINGS-STREET.



TENDERS are invited for the PURCHASE of the A.S.P. Co.'s Steamers "SOUTHERN CROSS," "PRETTY JANE,"

AND "STAR OF THE SOUTH."

To be sent in any time on or before September 1st, 1877, addressed to the Directors A.S.P. Company.

Tenders will be received for the Steamers as one lot or separately. Every information will be given by the Manager on application.

WILLIAM LODDER,
 Manager and Engineer A.S.P. Co.

WANTED KNOWN—That Printing is executed at the DAILY TELEGRAPH office below Wellington Prices.

CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

LONDON.

July 25.
The strike is extending from New York westward, and various trades are joining.
Abdul Redif is to be tried by a Court Martial.

July 27.
The Russian force has crossed the Balkans at the Iron Grand Pass and reached Jambodi.

July 28.
The Zealandia, from London to Rio Janeiro, has been badly damaged by collision.

The Herald's special says it is believed that a crisis in the war is imminent, owing to the rapid advance of Russians into Adrianople in consequence of the defeat of the advanced guard of Suleiman Pasha's army.

Suleiman Pasha remains at Adrianople. The Turkish troops are evacuating Philippopolis.

The gravest fears are entertained that the Christians will be massacred in Stamboul. The Consuls are appealing to the Ambassadors of Powers to intervene. Sailed—Wakatipu, on Saturday.

Wheat firm; New Zealand, 55s to 60s; New Zealand flax, holders ask full rates.

The quantity of wool admitted to the next sales is 308,265 bales, and includes arrivals per Opawa, Huronui, City of Auckland, Bakaia, Waipa, Waitotara, May Queen, and Adamant.

BOMBAY.

July 27, 10 p.m.
The obstructiveness on the part of a few Irish members culminated in an unprecedented scene in the House of Commons. Mr. Farrell was ordered to leave the House, and suspended until Friday, when Sir Stafford Northcote will submit a motion to alter the rules so as to facilitate business.

The Russians have been repulsed at Silistria.

A despatch from Lord Loftus to Lord Derby states that fears are entertained of a terrible vengeance on the part of the Mussulmans for Russian atrocities.

July 28.
Serious riots have occurred in Chicago. The military were called out, and fired on the rioters, killing and wounding 130.

The Russians have invested Silistria. The mail steamer Tanjore has arrived at Galle.

The Erie strike has ended.

July 30.
The Hon Mr. Michie, the Agent-General of Victoria, will visit Vienna on behalf of Australia.

The Porte semi-officially objects to new order of things being created without its co-operation.

The House of Commons have agreed to Sir Stafford Northcote's motion for facilitating business.

SINGAPORE.

July 26.
The Russians have completely invested Rostchuk.

Heavy skirmishes have taken place in the vicinity of Silistria, Varna, and Shumla.

July 28.
The Turkish army corps is concentrated at Plezna, and threatens the Russians' communication with Roumania.

The Turkish Landwehr have been called out.

July 29.
Suleiman Pasha defeated Karabunas. There is an agitation in San Francisco against the Chinese. A Vigilance Committee has been formed.

SYDNEY.

July 27.
The steam collier City of Hobart, from Newcastle to Melbourne, broke her shaft near Wilson's Promontory, and foundered. All hands were saved.

Markets:—Case brandy, 31s 3d; do, quarters, 8s 6d to 8s 9d; kerosine, 2s, with a falling market; rice, unchanged; Adelaide flour, £19 to £19 10s; wheat and oats, none in the market; tobacco, unchanged; sperms, 10d to 10½d.

INTERPROVINCIAL.

AUCKLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

July 27.
The tenders of Gouk and Cardon for repairs to the s.s. Go-Ahead was accepted out of four other tenders. The amount of the tender is £1450. The repairs are to be completed within nine weeks.

The Jane Douglas on Wednesday was

placed on the hard to have her bottom cleaned.

A deputation of the unemployed waited on the City Council in Committee yesterday. It was represented that unskilled laborers could not earn food for their families at stone-breaking. It was urged some work should be given them at once on day labor, and it was pointed out that this course had been adopted in Otago, a section of the line being opened up immediately. The Council resolved that those who choose could go on with the stone-breaking, and at once would be supplied with tools. Notice will be given to all contractors that they must go on with the works under contract in fine weather. A number of new streets are now in course of formation.

J. C. Firth, on behalf of the Acclimatization Society, has just turned out six Virginian deer on T. and S. Morrin's Piako estate. On the same day, Mr. Firth, with the assistance of Mr. Every McLean, turned out 200 American trout into the Karapiro stream, which falls into the Waikato at Cambridge.

At the Auckland Skating Club's meeting held on Wednesday evening, Mrs James McCosh Clark, secretary and treasurer to the Club, was presented with a magnificent gold bracelet, on which is a coronet composed of diamonds, previous to her departure for England.

The City Council decided to plant ornamental trees along the footpaths of the various streets.

The Thames Scottish Company challenge any other Volunteer company to fire a match or drill fifty men for stakes. It is likely the challenge will be accepted in Auckland.

At an inquest on the body of the man, James Henry Walsh, who was found dead on Wednesday, the verdict was: "Died from kidney disease, exposure, and want of proper food."

At an inquest held yesterday afternoon on the body of a Maori child found dead in the possession of its mother under suspicious circumstances, a verdict of "Died from natural causes," was returned.

A trial trip of the new steamer built for Capt. Casey took place yesterday afternoon.

The extension of the railway from Mercer to Ngaruawahia will be opened to the public during the course of next week. The extension will be of great importance as it is nearly double the length of the present line, and will enable travellers to reach Waikato.

Skating is again becoming extremely popular in Auckland and suburbs, a number of clubs being started.

A meeting of the Auckland Cricket Club is to be held to consider what action shall be taken with regard to the projected visit of the Melbourne cricket team to the colony.

July 28.

An exciting but brief quarrel occurred yesterday between two gentlemen in an office in the Insurance Buildings, in respect of transfers of Caledonian shares. One gentleman used ungentlemanly words which the other could not tamely accept, and which led to an unpleasant termination. The word "liar" was freely used by the aggressor, when his opponent calmly told him that if the term was repeated, he should certainly take the liberty of wringing his nose. The unsuspecting broker angrily repeated the obnoxious "liar" with several unpolite additions, when in a moment he felt his proboscis within the iron grasp of the other, and was at once whirled back into a chair, literally roaring with pain. Mr. — declared that if it were not in consideration of the size of his antagonist, he would certainly smack an important part of his person. The matter is likely to come into Court.

A fearful accident, by which a fine young fellow lost his life, has occurred at Taiera. A party of men were employed felling timber for the mills on the side of the hill at Hikawai creek, and the deceased, William Gamble, was engaged with a companion cross-cutting a log, while another party were felling a tree higher up the hill. Suddenly a high boulder, which had been loosened by the party above, started from its bed, and went crashing down the hill in the direction of the other men. Gamble, on hearing the noise and shout, looked to see what was the matter. The boulder weighed 8 cwt. and was close upon him, and in another instant struck him full in the chest, hurling him backwards with crushing violence. The breast bones were smashed right in, the skull fractured, and the features beaten to jelly. He must have been killed instantaneously. Gamble was the main support of a widowed mother over sixty years of age, who is inconsolable for the loss of her son.

Mr Hesketh, a barrister, was fined £1

yesterday for not registering his child within six months. It was a slip of the memory.

DUNEDIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

July 28.

There was considerable excitement at Lawrence on the re-appointing of a County Chairman. Mr Clayton declined, as did two others to stand, and thus the contest was reduced to between Messrs Bastings and Brown. The former secured five, and the latter four votes. A Bastingsite being in the chair, Mr Bastings would have had the casting-vote had the votes been equal. Mr Bastings has declined to accept any salary.

The result of the Town Hall plans competition will be announced on Tuesday. The special committee had only five sets of designs submitted to the Council. It is not probable the Council will sanction any expenditure for Municipal buildings as there is a great strain on the fund required for gas, water, and supplies generally. It is believed the Council will be forced to increase the rate this year to eighteen-pence.

July 30.

The trades are arranging a demonstration of the unemployed for August.

WELLINGTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

July 31.

I hear the Government has withdrawn the Friendly Societies Bill for the present, with a view of reintroducing it later in the session, after having undergone several alterations deemed to be necessary.

It is rumored that strenuous efforts will be made to secure the appointment of Mr. Stafford as Agent-General, on the expiration of Sir J. Vogel's term of office in December. It is known to be Mr. Stafford's intention to visit England shortly after the close of the session, and it is understood that the Canterbury members are anxious he should be installed in the Agency-General as successor to Sir Julius Vogel, and will strain every nerve to bring about the desired change. In reference to this report, the Post says:—"If the colony is to have any Agent-General at all, Mr. Stafford would be emphatically the best man to hold the appointment. He is a statesman of the highest ability, an admirable administrator, and possesses special aptitude for carrying out the scheme of a judicious and thorough retrenchment in any department. Such a scheme is urgently necessary in the case of the Agent-General's Department."

Mr. Button, a M.H.R., preached in the Polytechnic Hall on Sunday evening.

Mr. Gillon, late editor of the Evening Argus caused a writ to be served yesterday on the proprietors of that journal, claiming damages in consequence of his services having been summarily disposed with.

A grand bazaar in aid of the rebuilding fund of St. Peter's Church, for which preparations have been proceeding the last two years, will be opened to-day by His Excellency the Governor. The bazaar promises to greatly surpass all its predecessors in Wellington if not in New Zealand.

At the Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday morning a notorious character named Michael Saffin was charged with a series of petty swindles. Inspector Atcheson asked for a remand, that evidence might be obtained. Prisoner was some time ago charged with the ill-treatment of his wife when near confinement, and when in prison for this offence she died presumably from the gross treatment she had received from her husband. Three young children were left behind, and were saved from a fate worse than death itself by being adopted by several good Samaritans. Since his release the man has obtained a precarious living by a series of petty swindles.

(PRESS AGENCY.)

CHRISTCHURCH.

July 27.

The Land sales yesterday realise £2500.

London advices received by the New Zealand Shipping Company state that the Opawa, which left Lyttelton on May 13, arrived prior to July 25, thus making the passage under 72 days; also that the Otaki has sailed for Auckland, and the Pareroa for Port Chalmers.

The Press this morning warmly commends the Government for the readiness displayed in bringing forward important public business.

The Times does the same, while both papers congratulate the Hon Mr. Bowen on the general features of his Education Bill.

The wheat market is firm at 7s to 7s 3d for best milling; flour, £17 to £18; potatoes, £5; cheese 6½d; hams and bacon, 8d; bran, £4 10s; sharps, £5 10s. In wheat and flour stocks are low; oats command good business at 3s 6d to 3s 9d, and large quantities are being returned to the country districts, where stocks are bare.

July 31.

Lightband, Allom and Co., large manufacturers of boots by machinery, closed their establishment for a fortnight, preparatory to reducing the scale of wages, and sixty employees have thus been thrown out of work. They have telegraphed to the Associations in other parts of the colony and Australia to support them in resisting the reduction.

Several butchers were fined at the Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday morning for having light weights in their possession.

The land sales yesterday realised £23,957.

KUMARA.

July 27.

Mulloney, one of the men injured at the mining accident, died shortly after being released. An inquest was held, and a verdict of accidental death returned.

LYTTELTON.

July 26.

Arrived: The N.Z.S. Company's ship Waikato, from London, with immigrants. She left Plymouth on May 5, made the Snare on July 22, and passed Otago Heads on Monday last. She made the passage in 82 days from port to port, and 78 days from land to land. She brings seven cabin passengers and 143 immigrants, 93 of whom are single girls, all well. Two births occurred during the passage. She had fine weather throughout the passage.

AUCKLAND.

July 27.

Mr Binney reports as follows:—Flour, Oamaru, £17; Dunedin and Christchurch, £16 10s; Californian, £17 5s; bran, £5 10s; pollard £7, bags included; oats, 3s 8d to 3s 10d; maize, 3s 10d; to 4s; oatmeal, £21 9s; pearl barley, £26; hams and bacon, 9d; butter 9d; cheese, 7½d; potatoes, £3 15s. The market is full of all kinds of produce, and trade is quiet.

Mr Buckland reports fatted steers, 27s; cows, secondary, 14s per 100lbs; fat heifers, 23s 4d; calves, mixed sex, 38s to 55s.

Share Market:—Buyers of National Bank shares, 70s; South British, old, 81s. Sellers of Bank of New Zealand, £22 10s. Mining sales to-day—Caledonian, £4 10s; Moanatairi; £7 12s 6d; Waitekauri, 12s 9d; Alburnia, 58s; Kurunui, 20s; Piako, 10s.

WELLINGTON.

July 30.

At the Hutt on Friday, Frederick Gellan committed rape on a little girl 10 years of age while she was coming from school. He was committed for trial.

At Bulls on Saturday, Wilkins, a tailor, of Wellington, was committed for trial charged with an indecent assault on his two daughters, aged respectively nine and eleven years. About three years ago the same man was convicted of laying poisoned vegetables, with the intention of poisoning his neighbor's cows.

The Customs authorities have received the following notification from the Secretary of the Marine Board of South Australia:—"A new bright revolving first order light, having an eclipse every thirty seconds, will be exhibited at Tipara Reef, Spencer Gulf, on August 20th and will be visible about 18 miles."

July 31.

The Australia with the London Mails of the 28th June, sailed from San Francisco for Auckland on the 18th July, her contract date.

The City of New York, with the New Zealand mails, leaving Auckland on the 4th inst. and arrived at San Francisco on the 26th.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

July 30.

The body of Newbegin has been found in the Waitara river, just above the bridge. An inquest is now being held.

The young ladies at the Post Office are likely to remain unmarried—they are always sending the mails away.

The same thing under different circumstances may produce different results. Many a lover kisses and wears on his heart as a priceless treasure the same lock of hair that in his soup he would regard with loathing.

SUEZ MAIL NEWS.

PER RINGAROOMA.

LONDON.

June 8.

The Queen is at Balmoral in good health.

In the House of Commons, Mr Bourke in answer to a question, said no proposals had been made by Russia for the localisation of the war, and that when the question of peace can be discussed, it was one that would concern Europe and the European Colonies would, consider that they had a right to share in the deliberations respecting the future.

Howard Vincent, the correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, after being cordially received at the Russian head quarters by the Grand Duke Nicholas, was peremptorily ordered away by instructions from St. Petersburg. Colonel Brackenbury represents the Times at the Russian head quarters, and Archibald Forbes and McGabin are also there.

Three hundred English officers have offered their services to Turkey.

Dervish Pasha has been appointed Governor of Kars.

Turkish papers in Constantinople, in commenting on the peace rumours, say the Grand Vizier, Edham Pasha, and Safvet Pasha, are in favor of making terms with Russia after the first decisive action. The German and Austrian ambassadors are united in endeavoring to influence Turkey in favor of peace.

Morissa Bey with four thousand Turkish cavalry was utterly routed at Kule on the 1st May by the Russians movable column of cavalry, infantry, and artillery. They were attacked at midnight on three sides. Several mountain guns, ammunition, wagons, and standard, besides prisoners, were taken.

Temple Bey a nephew of the Bishop of Exeter, and physician to the Sultan, has been summarily ordered to go to Bat-choum, or quit, the Sultan's service, for informing him that many of the shells fired by his troops on the Danube contained no powder.

The military correspondent of the Daily Telegraph states the Russian forces for the Danube consists of nine corps, with a total strength of 310,000 men and 970 guns, besides some battalions of engineers, 10 regiments of Cossacks, a brigade of rifles, and two or three companies of marines. Then there is the Roumania army of some 30,000 effective.

The Turkish arms in Europe amount to 412 battalions, 75 squadrons, and 590 field guns, few batteries of mitrailleuses, 200,000 infantry, and 12,000 horse of irregulars. There appears to be no doubt of the numerical inferiority of the Turks.

At Ardahan the Russians were repulsed five times, but on the fifth occasion they began to attack 40,000 men there. The commandant of Ardahan, a young man lost courage and made his escape.

The hereditary Prince of Bokara has arrived at Constantinople for the purpose of submitting a plan of attack on Russia and enlisting Mussulmen.

The Italian paper has announced the arrival at Home of five cards of presents from Queen Victoria to the Pope.

W. H. Hodgson, one of the Solicitors to the Treasury, was stuck up, on the 28th of May on Black Heath, when returning in a close carriage from Greenwich with a daughter and niece. The robbers who were masked, presented a pistol at the driver's head, and compelled Mr Hodgson to give up all the money he had about him.

A similar outrage occurred in Yorkshire on the following day. In neither case there is no clue to the offenders.

In the cricket match between North and South W. G. Grace, in the first innings of the South scored 252 runs, and then not out.

The first yearling sale at Middle Park, 45 lots realized 12,285 guineas, or an average of 273 guineas each. The highest price was for a bay colt by Rosicrution fifteen hundred guineas.

The heat in London, was most excessive early in June.

Sir Henry Pelly, M.P., for Hurlingdon, received a sunstroke while riding in Hyde Park. He died from the effects.

German papers state a league is being formed in Russia for the rejection of all English products until England shall abandon sympathy for Turkey.

William Dufton, a well-known billiard player, has committed suicide by poison.

Several thousand men are employed throwing up defences at Constantinople.

A resolution in favor of disestablishment has been carried by 460 to 78 votes at the meeting of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

At a large influential meeting of clergymen on the 21st of May, it was unanimously resolved to disregard the decision of the Judicial Committee in the Redistale case

In celebration of his Jubilee, the Pope received 5000 pilgrims on the 2nd June.

The brigand Chief Leore has been killed in an encounter with the Gendarmes in Sicily.

Sir Julius and Lady Vogel were amongst those present at Lord Carnarvon's on the anniversary of the Queen's Birthday.

Obituary—Grand Duke Thesse, Miss Mary Carpenter, Justice Mellish, Ernest Picard, French Senator, Rev. G. Peeks, Ex-President of the Wesleyan Conference.

PARLIAMENTARY.

WELLINGTON.

July 27.

The Waste Lands Bill is a consolidation measure and very bulky. It repeats all previous Acts and Ordinances, and will hardly be down this week.

The Financial Statement cannot be made until about the middle of next week. It will be very elaborate.

In the House yesterday Mr. Karaitiana presented a petition from 232 natives of Omaha, agreed to at a meeting. The petition was received.

Mr. Morris presented a petition from several native praying for compensation for lands confiscated.

Mr. Rolleston gave notice of asking whether the Government intend introducing a Bill to make provision for the Deaf and Dumb Asylum.

Mr. Woodcock gave notice of question as to whether the Government intend making any change in the incidence of taxation.

Mr. Sutton gave notice of a Bill for further endowments for the Town of Napier.

Mr. Gisborne gave notice of a question as to whether the Government will amend the Adulteration of Food and Drink Bill.

Mr. Wakefield gave notice asking for a return of the names of the police, their rank and seniority.

A caucus of Auckland members was held at two o'clock to-day, which was largely attended. The object was to consider Judge Gillies' recent decision invalidating the Waste Lands Board's transactions on the ground of the technical omission of the words "with the advice and by the consent of the Executive." The caucus agreed to a Bill to validate the constitution of the Board. The Government promises to facilitate the passing of the Bill through all its stages.

NATIVE LANDS BILL.

It is said the Government will not make this a measure to stand or fall on. It is expected it will receive violent opposition, and will not be carried.

THE COUNTIES BILL.

Merely remedies defects in the measure of last year, and contains a provision making the adoption of the Act compulsory on the whole country.

NATIVE LANDS COURT BILL.

July 28.

Mr Travers, who is opposed to the Native Lands Court Bill, has given notice of a question as to what revenue has accrued from the Native Lands Act.

THE AGENT-GENERAL.

After some papers and returns had been laid on the table yesterday, notices of motion given, &c., the Premier, in reply to a question put, said that the engagement with Sir Julius Vogel as Agent-General would terminate in December next.

WAYS AND MEANS.

The Colonial Treasurer moved and carried an Imprest Supply Bill for a quarter of a million of money.

GOLD MINING BILL.

There was some slight opposition to the second reading of this Bill, but it was carried by a majority of 37. Several members of the Opposition voted with the Government.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS BILL.

The second reading of this Bill gave rise to considerable discussion, the Opposition being led off by Mr. Rolleston, who objected to the principle of the measure.

He was followed by Dr. Wallis, who resumed the debate on the House meeting at 7 p.m. He said the Bill placed the affairs of the country in the hands of the Government, and was an imperfect measure. It would be a very good Act if the Government simply made it a Bill for industrial schools.

Mr. Stevens made a slashing speech against the Bill, and moved that it be "read that day six months." He kept on protesting he did not wish to oppose the Government, but the Bill set at naught the feelings of an important section of the community, and there were no provisions for sufficiency of funds. He did not be-

lieve in the provisions relating to private subscriptions. If a man broke his leg, what would become of him under the Bill. The whole thing was made to depend upon the managers. The Bill did not make sufficient provision for men to avail themselves of. The Government did not propose a fair system, but simply shirked their responsibility, and threw the burden on the people. He keenly criticised in an incisive speech this part of the Bill. Mr. Stevens excited some amusement by constantly protesting and saying he did not wish to oppose the Government.

The Premier (Major Atkinson) thought the conclusion the last speaker arrived at had been narrowed by the fact of his having lived in a community which could always support its own poor. When the provincial institutions were taken over, the charge for Hospitals, &c. for the whole of the colony amounted to £59,000, of which Canterbury alone paid £29,000. The proposed system worked well in Otago. He hoped the voluntary system would be preferred to anything in the shape of a poor rate, which Mr Stevens seemed to desire. In New Zealand that should be the last thing thought of. If that system was once commenced, there would soon be no limit to it. If he understood Mr Rolleston aright, he advocated simple communism, and seemed to think that the poor had simply a right to take from their richer brethren. He asked the House to consider the real question at issue, which was whether such institutions should be supported by local effort, or whether a system of poor rates was to be instituted.

STAFFORD INVENTING A POLICY.

While the Premier was speaking, Mr Rolleston looked up from his papers, evidently priming for another speech.

Mr Stafford during the debate sat as if dreaming over the memories of the past. With his back to the Speaker, his hand over his brow, he sits with an air of deep abstraction. It is understood he is inventing some wonderful policy.

Mr Kelly next addressed the House in a preaching style. He emphasised the Order Paper in his hands, his intention to support the second reading, with reservations, mental and others.

Mr Rees, in a slashing speech, chaffed Mr Kelly for his lame and impotent speech. He gave a legal review of the Bill, and said there was nothing in the Act to prevent the managers sending a person out to die. He generally regarded the main principles of the Bill as vicious, and as tending to throw the burdens on the poor, who it was said so loved the pockets of the rich men. He read extracts from Mills' Political Economy, and criticised the drafting of the Bill. How long would Government support to these institutions last? [Mr Whitaker: Five years.] Mr Rees hoped the Government would be able to guarantee that.

PERSONAL ABUSE FROM REES.

Mr Rees said the Government was not responsible under the Bill. The Government and Governor shifted the responsibility from hand to hand. The principle of giving powers to the Governor was unknown in English law. He made an onslaught on the Hon. Mr. Reid, and expressed his surprise that that gentleman, who used to be such a lion in the Opposition had become a lamb on the Government benches, and showed none of his old vigour. Did anyone expect sincerity now from him? The Government shirked their own responsibilities, and wanted other people to do their work. He wondered whether any of the swells in the Ministerial residence on Tinakoroad would receive the poor if the country did not support them? Would they take them in?

Mr Swanson hoped the Bill would not be thrown out. He hoped the question would receive their attention.

TRAVERS' AN OPPOSITIONIST.

Mr Travers delivered an able speech. His style was particularly good. But he regarded the Bill from a Wellington point of view. He condemned the mere voluntary system. The country was too young for it. Evidently from his speech, Mr Travers will be a strong opponent to the Government.

AWAKENING OF MR STAFFORD.

During his speech, Mr Stafford awoke from his pale staid air and condescended a languid interest in Mr Travers. Mr Stafford is a politician in a very interesting stage. By and by we may expect something wonderful. He appears to think "after me and then the deluge." He faces his old opponent Mr Fox, with historic pugnacity. The old see saw game between him and Mr Fox of alternate premierships is not possible now.

Mr Wakefield slated the Bill.

A CONVERTED MINISTERIALIST.

Mr Ballance, who regards himself as an incipient Colonial Treasurer, said the Bill was damaging, demoralizing, pauperising. It made no attempt to develop local effort. He approved of the main principle that the burden of charitable aid should be fairly distributed.

Mr Lumsden supported the Bill, and approved of the voluntary system.

Mr Montgomery moved an adjournment, but it was negatived.

Messrs Fisher and Rowe next spoke. The debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr Macandrew, at 12.45.

VOGEL'S SERVICES DISPENSED WITH.

STAFFORD AGENT-GENERAL.

July 30.

Mr Stafford being about to visit England, the Agent-Generalship has been offered him, and accepted.

Sir Julius Vogel's services will be dispensed with.

ELECTORAL FRANCHISE.

It is understood the Government during the session will make important amendments in the electoral franchise.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS BILL.

Mr Swanson will move an important amendment on the Charitable Institutions Bill to prevent clashing with the Destitute Persons Relief Act.

NATIVE LAND CLAIMS.

The Middle Island natives land claims will again be brought under the consideration of Parliament by Mr Tairoa.

MINISTERIAL BANQUETS.

Ministerial banquets are again coming into fashion. One of these was given on Saturday night, and the ancient memories of Vogelian splendor were revived.

THE OPPOSITION PARTY.

No Opposition party has yet been definitely formed. Something will be done, however, about Wednesday.

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The Ministry are most industrious. A large number of consolidation Bills have been brought down. It is doubtful whether all the Government measures can be got through Committee this session.

ELECTIVE UPPER HOUSE.

It is understood that in the debate on the proposed Bill to amend the franchise, the question of making the Upper House elective will be raised, and that the principle is likely to receive a large measure of support.

The Government have got Mr Woodcock to ask whether it is intended to amend the franchise, in order to give an opportunity for discussion.

THE OPPOSITION WHIPS.

Messrs. Sheehan and Brown, the opposition whips, have not arrived. The Opposition will meet after the Financial Statement.

RAILWAY DEFICIENCY.

There is a nice little row in the Treasury which is likely to delay the Financial Statement indefinitely. Some one has discovered that there is a deficiency of £60,000 on the Southern Railway account, and all the fat is in the fire. Correspondence and the wires are at work to discover that trifling deficiency of £60,000, and despair sits on the faces of the Treasury clerks. Major Atkinson's noble countenance wears an interesting air of mournful melancholy. If that £60,000 be not found, the Financial Statement must be put off until it can.

Mrs Partington doesn't talk nearly as much as she used to. She hasn't even found out that the lady with a snowy brow must have a refrigerator congealed somewhere about her.

A morning paper in an obituary of one who died in Boston a few days since says: "He was formerly a native of Lynn." What place he was a native of in later years is the unsettled question.—Boston Traveller.

Sir John Lubbock published a paper entitled Ancient National Monuments, in which he relates the story of an Irish nobleman, who, wishing to preserve the remains of Con O'Neill's castle at Castle-reagh, directed his agent to build a wall round the field. The Goth pulled down the ruins to make the wall.

An American saloon-keeper named his resort "Nowhere," so that when his married customers went home late, and their wives wanted to know where they had been, they could safely tell them the truth.

A pedagogue told one of his scholars, a son of the Emerald Isle, to spell "hostility." "H-o-o-r-s-e, horse," commenced Pat. "Not horse-tility," said the teacher, "but hos-tility." "Sure," replied Pat, "an' didn't ye tell me the other day not to say hoss? Och, it's one thing wid ye one day and another the next!"

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

We learn from a Wellington correspondent that the Canterbury members are using every means to get the leases of the run-holders in the Provincial District of Canterbury renewed, by using influence both inside and outside the House. Through Sir G. Grey's obstinacy, in making Separation the card of the session for the Opposition, instead of the localisation of the Land Fund, which would likely be supported by Ministers themselves, the Canterbury members will not only likely gain their point with respect to the leasing of the runs, but also manoeuvre so as to also retain their land fund for their own exclusive benefit.

An accident, which might have proved serious, were it not for the assistance promptly rendered, occurred on Thursday at the Swamp Reclamation Works, in a street marked on the map of the Borough as Station-street. A horse harnessed to a trap, in which there was a female and a lad, was being driven over the land recently reclaimed for Mr Watt. The driver somehow managed to get near the edge and the horse trap and its contents fell into Station-street, or rather station bog, and there remained stationary, until assistance was obtained, from the men who were on the works, and who perceived the accident. They managed first to get the late occupants of the vehicle out of their dilemma without injury, and afterwards the trap and horse. Some steps ought to be taken by the Corporation either to fence the Station-street, or get it reclaimed ere an accident of a more serious nature occurs.

The Catholic Bazaar for the benefit of the funds of St. Mary's Church was opened on Thursday night in the Oddfellows Hall. The hall, which was well patronised, was prettily decorated with ferns and flowers, a couple of large ferns brought from Taupo by Mr. Peters and placed over the stall at the head of the room, being particularly noticeable. The stalls were very prettily fitted up, and the fancy Parisian goods offered in each compartment had a nice effect. The stalls were presided over by Mesdames Peters, Reardon, Corry, Cranny, Hawkins, St. Clair, and Butler, and Misses Hawkins, Corry, Hunter, and Reardon. The Artillery Band discoursed sweet music throughout the evening.

A large number of our readers will regret to learn that arrangements have been completed by Mr W. Britten, of the Clarendon Hotel, for the disposal of his business. During Mr Britten's tenure of the Clarendon, now about nine years, that hostelry has combined all the comforts of a home with the liberty of a hotel. It was a house that had peculiarly distinctive features, which were solely due to Mr and Mrs Britten's never varying urbanity and kindness. In a town like Napier, where so many bachelors are to be found, a house of the character of the Clarendon Hotel becomes a necessity. With the departure of its proprietors, the house must lose many of those traits in its management that made it regarded more as a Club than as a public house. Mr Britten gives up possession of the house on the 1st September next. Mr M. Corcoran, late of the Greyhound Hotel, Auckland, is the incoming proprietor.

The new member for Napier, Mr F. Sutton, has given notice in the House to bring in a Bill to enlarge the boundaries of this Borough. According to the resolution of the Municipal Council, the enlargement desired is in the direction of the Royal Hotel, and would include about two acres of the lagoon within the boundaries of the town. The funny part of the thing is that the lagoon is the property of the Harbor Board, and that Mr Sutton is a member of that Board. Mr Sutton's Bill should be called a Bill to enable the Corporation of Napier to seize the Napier Harbor Board's endowment.

A work has been published entitled "History and politics," from the pen of Mr R. Wakelin, editor of the Wairarapa Standard, and who previously edited the Wellington Independent, New Zealand Advertiser, and several other Wellington journals, and who also, in the early days of the colony, occupied the position of clerk to the late Dr. Featherston during the first years of his Superintendency of the province of Wellington. Mr Wakelin is an able writer, and the work when announced was expected to contain valuable information regarding the early history of the colony. We have not had the pleasure of perusing the book, but we are informed by a friendly critic in the Wellington Argus, that the author has disappointed those who expected better from his pen. The Argus advises Mr Wakelin to give more information, and fewer of his own stale leading articles written years gone by, as they belong to the buried past. The author, as we have stated, is competent to write a good history of the politics of the early days of the colony, and it will be a matter of regret if, in his next edition, he should permit his egotism to get so far the better of his judgment, as to again only hash up his own views on political subjects.

There was a good muster of members at the monthly inspection of the Napier Artillery on Friday. After the Company had been inspected, a Battery Order was read, which announced the promotion of Corporal Gilbert to the rank of Sergeant, Bombadier Millar to Corporal, and Gunner Christie to Bombadier.

Mr Thorne, the Chief Insurance Agent in Auckland, and Mr Knight, the head of the Department, have been having a paper pellet warfare over matters in connection with the Department. The squabble has (writes a correspondent to a Northern Journal) principally arisen from the unofficial manner in which Mr. Knight wrote to one of the oldest and most respected medical practitioners in Auckland. Some of the members have perused the correspondence, and it is most likely the subject will be inquired into.

Last week, the Napier Fire Brigade held a steam practice. There were about thirty members present. Amongst the spectators was Captain Gorrie, of the Blenheim Fire Brigade, who after the practice was over complimented the officers and men of the Brigade on the efficient manner they went through their drill. After the men were dismissed, Captain Gorrie invited the officers and men to the Criterion Hotel. After refreshments had been provided, the health of Captain Gorrie was proposed and heartily drunk. In acknowledging the toast Captain Gorrie said it gave him pleasure to be present that evening, and he desired to state without flattery, that the manner in which the Brigade went through its practice that evening could not be excelled or perhaps equalled in any portion of the colony. They were well-officed, and the Brigade was a credit to Napier. Mr. Miller their Captain was not only a thorough practical man, but also one who appeared to deservedly command their respect. He would also say that their appliances were not only in capital condition, and ready for any emergency, but also suitable in every respect to combat the fire elements when required. In Blenheim, the Brigade was not so strong, and their practices not being so frequent they were perhaps not quite so efficient as at Napier, nevertheless he could tell them that the Blenheim Brigade had done good service at fires in that part of the colony. (Cheers.) He hoped the Napier Brigade would continue to keep up its efficiency, and that the day was not far distant when the Napier and Blenheim Brigades would have a friendly contest such as that at Dunedin. (Cheers.) Several members then contributed to the enjoyment of the evening by exhibiting their vocal powers, and a pleasant evening was wound up, by the whole company joining in singing "Auld Lang Syne."

It will be remembered during the debate on the Piako Swamp last session, Mr Stafford made a great point in refuting some statements made by Sir G. Grey by stating that when Sir G. Grey was Governor he left blank forms with his Vice-regal signature attached to be at the service of Ministers. It is now reported that the ex-Governor has documents in his possession, which will make the hon. member for Timaru look small with respect to how these matters were managed during Mr Stafford's Colonial Secretaryship.

It is expected that the Napier-Takapau railway will be opened to Kopua some time in October next; about a mile and a half of the permanent way being already completed. The station buildings at Kopua are in hand, and tenders are called for the erection of a station master's residence. The road from Kopua station to be the main road at Norsewood, is about half finished, and will be quite ready for traffic by the time the railway is opened.

There are several enquiries at present by southern capitalists for large sheep stations in this provincial district. As a rule, the size of the estates here do not come up to the expectations of buyers, who, for the most part, having been accustomed to large rough areas of land in the other island, do not realise the fact that our country carries far more stock to the acre than can the runs of Canterbury and Otago.

A correspondent in another column draws attention to the horrible stench emitted, from the sewerage flowing daily along the open drains of Hastings, Tennyson, and Emerson, streets. On Friday the smell was almost unbearable. We see no remedy for this disgraceful state of things but to have concrete drains which can be easily flushed and cleansed. The broken down and often choked up gutters that now do duty for drains, merely form the receptacle for all the rubbish and half rotten garbage that may drift or be blown into them. In hot weather these gutters will be fruitful sources of disease.

Mr John Steed was the successful tenderer for the Gas Company's coke for 12 months, at 2s 6d per bag.

The Otago Daily Times says it will not be surprised if the imposition of a land tax is proposed by the Government this session.

The interest of the information that the remains of moas had been found in a remote spot on the west side of the dividing range of the South Island has been rather spoilt by a correspondent of the Inangahua Times, who states that the alleged "moa bones" found at the Inangahua Junction have turned out to be the bones of a calf belonging to a settler named Christy, which had been washed into the cave and died.

The statement made in the Wellington papers to the effect that Messrs Hastwell and Macara have purchased the West Coast line of coaches from Mr A. Young is contradicted by a Wairarapa paper. Overtures for purchase, it says, were made by Mr Young, but were not accepted by Hastwell and Macara.

The general annual meeting of the subscribers to the Napier Athenaeum was held on Friday, Dr Spencer in the Chair. The report, which was adopted, showed that the total number of subscribers was 179. The statement of accounts showed, after the payment of all outstanding liabilities, a balance of £11 16s 4d. The following were elected office bearers for the ensuing year:—President, R. Stuart, Esq.; Secretary, Mr Fielder; Treasurer, Mr W. Smith. Committee: Dr. Spencer, Messrs Brooking, J. W. Carlile; Dugleby, Garner, Guy, Holder, Large, and Peppercorne. A resolution was carried raising the amount of annual subscription from 10s to one guinea, and another motion was passed entitling quarterly subscribers of 5s to the use of the reading-room and library. Votes of thanks were carried to the retiring Committee, and to the Chairman, and the meeting separated.

The Wellington Argus, although it has changed its editor, has not altered its tone in politics. In its last Wednesday's issue, a sub-leader appears in which the writer denies that it is the duty of the Opposition to frame an antagonistic policy to that of the Government. When the leader of the Opposition is able so "to discredit the administration of the existing Government as to lead to their resignation, then the time will have come for the development of his policy; but no sooner." It is worthy of remark that the same views were enunciated by Mr Fox, when he carried a vote of want of confidence motion in the Stafford Ministry in 1869.

Our Poverty Bay neighbors are busily discussing the benefits which will accrue to the district from the cultivation of the tobacco plant. A large number of settlers, it is said, are about to turn their attention to tobacco culture.

To the Editor: Sir,—I notice that several of the newly-elected Road Boards have fixed the rates for the ensuing year. I wish to ask, whether a Board can do more than elect a Chairman until the names of the new Wardens and Chairmen are officially gazetted.—I am, &c., Q.—[A Board is not in legal existence until formally gazetted. It is the duty of the chairman to forward the names of the Wardens to the Colonial Secretary immediately after the election.—Ed. D. T.]

Mr. John Sheehan, M.H.R. for Rodney, proceeded on Monday by train to Takapau from whence he will travel by coach to the seat of Government.

At the banquet given to Mr Macandrew in Dunedin last week, Mr Stout intimated that the Otago Opposition Contingent intended to abandon their old platform of Separation. Both the Otago morning journals approve of this course of action, so in the event of Sir George Grey attempting to resuscitate the cry, he will find himself in a more hopeless minority than last year. The charge sheet at the Resident Magistrate's Court was blank on Saturday.

We (Poverty Bay Herald) regret having to record a singular accident which occurred on Saturday at Rotorua, terminating in the death of Mr G. A. Brown, a brother of Mr E. K. Brown, of Gisborne. The deceased, who was well-known to many of our readers, having resided for some weeks in Poverty Bay, fell into a hot spring at Rotorua, scalding the lower half of his body in a most serious manner. He was at once extricated, a medical man was speedily summoned to his aid, and Captain Mair also bestowed the utmost care and attention upon the sufferer, remaining constantly by his bedside, but all was unavailing; he gradually sank, without suffering pain, and expired at 6 p.m. on Wednesday evening. We learn that the deceased, who was always addicted to travelling, returned to New Zealand from Victoria with the express object of making a tour to the selfsame springs where he met with so sudden and untimely a fate.

The special correspondent of the New Zealand Herald wired the following to the New Zealand Herald on Tuesday:—"At present, however, there is no organised Opposition, or any acknowledged head. Indeed parties are disintegrated, and the faith of last year is no longer binding on any side. There are various canards. Some think Mr. Stafford is ready for office; others affirm that Mr. Montgomery aims at the leadership of the Opposition, with the view of attainable of taking a seat in the new Ministry. Mr. Gisborne is also believed to be ready to return to those benches which he too suddenly vacated in 1872; and there are one or two Auckland men who, in conjunction with Mr. Stout and others, are thought not unlikely to try the effect of a combination should a chance for ousting the Ministry offer. All at present is uncertainty. Ministers themselves are as yet unable to prick a card correctly as to what support they may expect, and the Opposition is in a similar fix."

At the Waste Lands Board's sale of forfeited sections, under the deferred payment system, and which are situated at Makareto, the following prices were obtained. There were nine sections for which application had been made. No. 13 was bought by Mr. E. W. Knowles for £50 5s; No. 15, £50 6s, and No. 86, £30, both being bought by Mr. E. W. Knowles. No. 17, buyer Mr Arrow, for £156; No. 54, buyer Mr Madds Satrap, at upset price; No. 110, Mr F. Forward, £31 15s; No. 111, Mr Edgecombe, £30; Nos. 49, and 50, failed to secure their upset prices, and were consequently withdrawn.

No little disappointment has been caused by the weather proving too stormy for any communication to be made with the mail steamer Rotorua. In addition to the inconvenience caused to passengers being carried on to Auckland, and to intending passengers being left behind, the English outward mails by San Francisco have not been forwarded from here, and the southern mails for Napier have of course been taken on. We hear also that several cases containing fancy ball dresses and costumes for the forthcoming ball have, with mails and passengers, been passed on to Auckland.

During Saturday, Sunday, and Monday last, the rainfall registered at the meteorological station at Port Ahuriri, has been rather more than one inch and a-half. The rain, which has been warm, and for the most part gentle, must have done much good in the country districts.

Of the Grey River, the Argus says that where vessels used to moor in deep water a year or so ago, there is scarcely enough water to float a dingy. Unless something is done there is fear that the deep water will be confined to the lower end of the wharf.

A meeting was held at the School-house, Tamamū, on Saturday last, for the purpose of forming a Road Board for the Tamamū district. Messrs J. N. Williams, J. M'Kenzie, K. Gollan, J. Nairn, and A. M'Hardy, were elected wardens. Mr M'Hardy was elected Chairman.

Mr E. C. Goldsmith and Mr Connell, of the Survey Department, returned to town from the Coast on Friday evening last, after completing the survey by minor triangulation of Mr Cartwright Brown's run, known as the Wangaparapā block. We understand that Mr Goldsmith met with considerable opposition from the natives in his attempt to connect the survey with the major triangulation, and was in consequence prevented from completing the work. The natives destroyed all the trig stations which were put up between Opapi and Wangaparapā, and at Te Kaha about two hundred natives assembled to oppose the erection of stations, and told Mr Goldsmith that any he put up would be pulled down again, a threat which was actually carried out. The peculiar feature about the opposition shown by the natives in this instance is, that the survey was one of those which are undertaken by the Government on application being made, and the expenses of the survey paid by the applicants.—Bay of Plenty Times, July 18.

Referring to the amendments to the Counties Act proposed at the Conference of Chairmen of Road Boards, a Christchurch paper remarks:—"In short, the Road Boards of Canterbury want a Provincial Council to rule their affairs. This from former opponents of the Provincial system is very suggestive."

There are at present 115 prisoners in the Lyttelton Gaol, a larger number than has been hitherto confined there. The work of extending the gaol accommodation is progressing rapidly.

In commenting on the Governor's speech, put into his mouth by the Ministry, at the opening of Parliament, the Canterbury Times says:—"Altogether, we see no sign that the Ministry is in any way able to cope with the grave difficulties of the situation. With a constitution in the dust, with finance in extremis, with local government a failure, with the fairest portions of the Colony complaining of their hampered commerce and disorganised industries, the Government smilingly talks of progress, and prates about its satisfaction, chronicles the labors of Captain Campbell Walker, and complacently talks about a few Bills which it holds in its weak grasp, and of which it knows apparently nothing, or is heartily ashamed. In short, the Government is not only without a policy, and without knowledge of the situation, but actually without ideas. As a Government composed as it is, it would be a wonder if it ever had any ideas on anything. The speech ends with the usual prayer for guidance. Never was there greater need of such a prayer; never was there such a cause to desire the success of his Excellency's petition."

Concerning the Hon. Dr. Pollen and his interviews with the Waikato natives, the Auckland correspondent of the Canterbury Times writes as follows:—"In his first interview with them, after assuming office, he tried the high falutin' while the Maeris stoically watched and carefully gauged him. Recently, when he solicited an interview for himself and his Excellency, he was quietly but thoroughly snubbed, and informed that they did not want to see him, what they wanted was the restoration of the Waikato lands; until that was done, he could remain at home. Knowing, as he must have done, the feeling of the Natives at the present time, and their humble opinion of himself as a "Maori doctor," it is to be regretted that he was so injudicious as to place himself in such a position. It is not from every one that sulky natives will take a lot of polished palaver, and I doubt not that the Native Minister feels by this time that it requires the head of Sir Donald to walk in Sir Donald's footsteps."

The Dunedin Star fears that sooner or later special rates will have to be struck for the maintenance of hospitals, lunatic asylums and other cognate institutions, and thinks that the sooner that matter is faced out the better.

The Clive Highway Board held a meeting at the West Clive Hotel, on Monday, for the purpose of electing a Chairman, and striking a rate. Mr R. P. Williams proposed Mr Orr for the post of Chairman, but the nomination found no seconder. Mr J. Bennett then proposed Mr F. Sutton, and this was seconded by Mr Hollis. No other nomination being made, Mr Sutton was declared elected. Mr W. Orr, at the request of the meeting, consented to act as Chairman during the absence of Mr Sutton at the seat of Government. The Board then struck a rate of sixpence in the £., and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the acting Chairman.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a copy of the By-laws of the New Zealand Railways. From a perusal of these we find a full justification of the conduct of the Guard who charged a passenger, who had lost his ticket, the fare from Wai-pukurau to Napier. Clause 10 of the By-laws states, that, "any passenger travelling under any circumstances without a ticket shall pay the fare from the station whence the train originally started." The New Zealand Railway By-laws are copies, we believe, of those ruling in England, and their apparent severity, we may be pretty certain, was rendered necessary for the prevention and punishment of fraud. The passenger, whose case we cite in to-day's issue, had his money returned to him on representation to the proper authorities.

We understand that, owing to instructions received from Wellington, the Commission to hear certain evidence in the Waka Maori case will sit in future in the evenings. As the case is fixed to be heard at Wellington on Monday the 20th of August, and as there are a number of witnesses to be heard whose evidence might extend to some length, the course now adopted has become a matter almost of necessity.

The want of another Club in Napier has for some time past been keenly felt, and we are glad to hear that steps are being taken to establish one.

The Municipal Public Works Committee sat on Tuesday, and the Council on Thursday. It may interest ratepayers to know that the present debt of the Corporation to the Bank—the ever-draft bug-bear—has been reduced to £780, to meet which there are over £1000 of uncollected rates for the half year ending October next, and £1900 of General Government subsidy due for the year that ended in June last. We should state that our figures are in round numbers.

A considerable quantity of water was running through Taradale on Monday from the Tuteakuri River, making its way across the road, where it was about fifteen inches deep, and finding an outlet by the salt-water creek into the inner harbor. The river breaking out in this direction has relieved Meaneoe from a flood. There was very little flood in the Ngaruroro and Tuki Tuki Rivers.

The ancients wrote their history on rocks, and the Ten Commandments were written on stone, but the Hawke's Bay County Council propose writing their by-laws on water. By-law No. 2 relating to places of public recreation, reads as follows:—"No person shall carry firearms through the gardens, or shoot, snare or destroy any wild fowl either in the gardens or in or on any water adjacent thereto, or bathe within such distance from such gardens as shall be fixed by any regulation of the Council, to be made in that behalf in such water." Comment is superfluous.

By telegram we learn that Dr. Pollen intends withdrawing the Friendly Societies Bill, introduced by him, in order to make in it certain amendments. A copy of Dr. Pollen's measure now lies before us, and it is certainly an improvement on the Bill brought before the Legislature last year, although far from being what is desired by the members of the Friendly Societies themselves. As the Bill is however to be introduced in another form, we shall not comment on the principles laid down in the withdrawn measure.

The diorama of the American War was exhibited on Monday at the Oddfellows' Hall, and attracted a large attendance. The diorama shows a succession of pictures illustrating many of the principal events of the war of secession, 1863-65, and these are ably described by the lecturer, Mr W. H. Thompson. As a work of art, this diorama is far inferior to any other that has been exhibited in Napier, neither the drawing nor the painting being true to nature. The "mechanical effects" are amusing from their grotesque absurdity. The distribution of prizes was faithfully carried out, and some very good and useful articles were taken away by the lucky ticket-holders. The diorama would prove an interesting entertainment for children.

Miss Alice May was in Manchester in April. The "Australian Nightingale," as she is termed in some of the papers, seems to have taken the critics by storm. In all places she has visited the newspaper notices of her performances are more than favourable, and in many instances enthusiastic. The Sunday Times says she is "one of the most brilliant performers that has been seen for years." Mr Henry Hallam was appearing as Prince Doro, in *Princess Toto*, at the Standard Theatre, London.

By referring to our telegraphic columns, our readers will learn that the mail steamer with the American and European mails left Frisco at the contract date. She will be due in Auckland on Saturday, the 11th instant.

The meeting, that was called on Monday by His Worship the Mayor, for the purpose of eliciting public opinion with respect to the Local Option Bill, was obliged to be adjourned through the smallness of the attendance, due to the wretched state of the weather. We have reason to think that there is much interest felt on the subject of licensing laws, and that at the next meeting there will be a crowded attendance. At 8 o'clock on Monday only eight gentlemen had found their way through the rain and mud to the Protestant Hall. This number was afterwards increased to about twenty, when, all hope of any more coming being abandoned, Mr Douglas McLean was voted to the chair, and the meeting, on the motion of Mr. M. R. Miller, was adjourned until further notice.

A Conference of Ministers was held on Monday in Knox's Church at Dunedin to consider the religious clauses in the Education Act. No Roman Catholic or Jewish Ministers were present. A good deal of discussion took place, and after several propositions had been proposed and rejected, the following motion was carried by a large majority:—"That whereas (1) there are very diverse opinions concerning religious instruction in the schools; (2) the purely denominational system would irritate and the purely secular system would shock the general public; (3) the proposed compromise runs closely along the lines already pursued by the chief provinces; (4) this meeting deems it desirable to accept the Government compromise."

A correspondent of the Wairoa Free Press, who writes under the signature of "Momus," appears to be fearfully and wonderfully excited over a paragraph in the DAILY TELEGRAPH which alluded to a by-law, relative to the owners of pigs, said by the Herald's Wairoa correspondent to have been passed by the Wairoa County Council. It turns out after all, the Herald correspondent blundered, the by-law not having passed in the ridiculous shape put by him. "Momus" must not be thin-skinned. Greater men than he have drawn and framed laws equally as nonsensical as that which the Herald correspondent gave the Wairoa County Council credit for. If it be any balm to his wounded and injured feelings, we would express to him our regret for relying on the correspondent of the Herald for reliable information.

The Express is informed on the best authority that, notwithstanding the statement that the next Colonial Prize Firing would be held in the Lake District, it is already settled that the next event will be held on the Wairau Plain.

It is stated that the Government intend to place a considerable sum upon the Estimates, to be distributed amongst the Mechanics' Institutes in the Colony, and in aid of country Libraries.

A general meeting of the Wanganui Art and Industrial Committee was held last week, when it was resolved that the Exhibition be opened on the 18th of this month.

Concerning a batch of immigrants despatched from Home for Blekheim, the Express says:—"What is to become of them it is hard to tell. We hear of no outcry for laborers in any part of the Province."

Several Northern papers strongly deprecate the "mania for clerkdom" which besets the youth of New Zealand and their parents. The Post says:—"There are hundreds upon hundreds more clerks in New Zealand than there is work for, and the evil is daily becoming worse."

From the numerous enquiries that are constantly being made, we do not suppose very many people are aware that the Police Office at Napier is situated in the loft of the Government buildings. This miserable garret is less like a Police office than the store of a dealer in second hand goods. An old cutlas or two, and some handcuffs, exhibit an appearance of transactions in theatrical properties, while "general goods" are sufficiently represented by saddlery and clothing. The office papers under these circumstances have to be bundled up into any odd corner that may be unoccupied by an "assortment of miscellaneous articles, too numerous to mention." As a matter of course, this pigeon loft is far too small for what is wanted to be put into it, and the Inspector of Police and his Clerk to make room for themselves, have had to lumber by the passage with cases of clothing and an arm chest. Even the office of the Inspector of Sheep has had to be converted into a store for surplus goods, consisting of arms, accoutrements and saddlery. At night the Police Office is one of the most difficult of access of any that could be pitched upon. A stranger, if he can hit upon the right door of the building, has to grope his way through a dark passage and up a dangerous staircase. If he does not break his neck going up, the chances are he will fall headlong when he comes down. There are several rooms in the Government Building that could be used as a Police Office, and we are surprised that Major Scully has not represented to the Government the inconvenience which the service suffers through the want of a convenient Police Office.

According to a West Coast paper seven "art unions," to the value of no less than £14,700, are announced to be drawn upon the West Coast within the next three months. Five of these are the usual lotteries on races, one is for a house and land at Kumeru and one is for the Hokitika Hospital.

We learn the proprietor of Thompson's Diorama has instructed his doorkeepers not to admit any reporter of the TELEGRAPH into the Oddfellows' Hall during his tenure of it, with a reporter's ticket. The tickets we hold were forwarded us, signed "W. H. Thompson." The only reason we can assign for this departure from the ordinary rule by Mr. Thompson, is owing to the fact that on Tuesday our reporter did not follow the hackneyed style of lavishing praise on an exhibition not worthy of it, and giving instead a fair and honest criticism, and one in every respect true. Mr. Thompson has a perfect right to give or withhold reporter's tickets as he pleases, but nevertheless he has shown a want of courtesy, which could only be expected from one ignorant of the ordinary rules of etiquette. Instead of allowing a reporter to run the risk of being refused admission at the door, he ought, were he a gentleman, to have notified to the office his intention of withdrawing the authority given by himself. We notice this matter, not that we care one jot whether Mr. Thompson permits our reporters to attend or not, but to show our fellow journalists in other parts of the colony what treatment they may expect to receive from Mr. Thompson if they follow our course, and give an honest and fair criticism of "Thompson's Diorama of the American War." Mr. Thompson, in a letter to the Herald, describes our report of the exhibition as a "cruel and vindictive criticism." His letter leaves it to be inferred that our opinion of his Diorama was due to the smallness of his printing order. Mr. Thompson may disabuse his mind of any such idea. Our readers may rest assured that they will not be misled as to the character of a public entertainment by anything which we shall say. If a performance is good, or a picture well painted, we shall say it is worth going to see, but if one is bad, or the other a wretchedly ill-drawn daub, no amount of printing orders will warp our judgment.

We are informed by our correspondent that a report is current at Wellington to the effect that Sir Julius Vogel purposes returning to New Zealand in November, and will assume the editorship of the Otago Daily Times. The first portion of the report may be true, but Sir Julius Vogel after winning his way to the top of the tree would not, we believe, go back to his first avocation on his return. He would soon form a strong party against those who have reaped the benefit of his statecraft, and with the aid of his friend Mr Macandrew oust from office any party who may then be occupants of the Ministerial benches.

The Napier Municipal Council made a great blunder in making its Public Works committee consist of an absolute majority of the Council. The reports of the Committee to the Council under these circumstances, are mere matters of form. The work of the Borough is done in Committee, and consequently in secret, and no opportunity is afforded the public of judging of the actions of individual members of the Council. We have heard it stated that the Committee determined on Tuesday, at its sitting, to oppose any motion that may be brought forward to obtain for the Corporation other offices than are now occupied. On Thursday evening, therefore, five members of the Council set their faces against a proposition that certainly ought to be made to provide a safe place in which to keep the public records.

If the Herald is correctly informed, the evening sittings of the Waka Maori Commission has been brought about, not by instructions from Wellington, but at the request of the solicitors employed in the case, who, being desirous of not putting the plaintiff and defendant to any further cost than necessary, urged the necessity of evening sittings on the attention of the Chairman, so as to get the evidence taken by the Commission returned to Wellington by the 20th August. It is really gratifying to notice how solicitous some members of the legal profession are to save the pockets of their clients. Nevertheless, it is still whispered about that those who pull the strings at Wellington have not been altogether pleased at the slow manner in which evidence is said to have been adduced.

At the annual meeting of ratepayers of the Mamekakaho district held on Friday last, the following gentlemen were elected wardens for the ensuing year:—Messrs J. G. Kinross, R. D. McLean, W. Shrimpton, H. W. P. Smith, and H. Ford.

There are few public men who can say with Mr. James Macandrew, the late Superintendent of Otago:—"As far as I am aware, I have neither relation nor kin in the public service in New Zealand, and gentlemen, I can say safely that I retired from a long tenure of the highest office here—Chief Magistrate of this great Province—a considerably poorer man than I was when I entered it upwards of 10 years ago, and goodness knows that was poor enough." The opposition to the proposed Native Land Court Bill is assuming a formidable shape, and if the Government insist upon making it a vital question they will assuredly be defeated.

The Taradale Board of Conservators elected under the Rivers' Act, held their first meeting at the Taradale Hotel on Tuesday evening. The whole of the members of the Board were present, and great interest was manifested in the proceedings. Mr. L. A. Tiffen was voted to the chair. Mr. Anderson was elected Secretary to the Board, and Mr. H. S. Tiffen, Treasurer. The first business of the meeting was to consider the plans and specifications submitted to the Board by Mr. James Gorrie, the agent of Mr. Doulin. All the members of the Board, after hearing Mr. Gorrie read an explanation of the scheme, expressed their satisfaction with it, and a resolution was proposed and carried accepting Mr. Doulin's plans and specifications, and also that tenders be called for to erect a floating spur 260 yards below Redcliff. The estimated cost of the work is a little over £2000.

Mr. Stevens moved in the House last week:—"That it is expedient that the House be informed whether statements to the effect that waste lands in the province of Auckland have been withheld from sale because they would have been taken up by the holders of volunteer scrip, are correct." The Hon. D. Reid said that the statements referred to were not correct; but at the request of a number of residents in the Tauranga and Poverty Bay Districts certain blocks of land had been withheld for a short time, so that the selection might be exercised over a wider area. Further discussion, however, elicited the information that the substance of the charge made was correct, and several members commented on the interference of the Government. The motion was, however, withdrawn, as the mover said he was content with the information he had obtained.

Rather curious things get forwarded sometimes through the Post Office as registered letters. The other day, a paper-collar box, containing 150 pair of kingfishers' feet, arrived from Te Aute as a registered letter at the Post Office, Napier, addressed to the Secretary of the Acclimatisation Society. We are glad that after Wednesday, no further reward will be paid by the Society for the destruction of kingfishers and shags.

In the Supreme Court, at Wellington, Mr. O'Malley, contractor, was sued by one Morris for damage sustained through having his leg broken in a collision caused by certain trucks not being shunted off to a proper distance. The jury returned a verdict for £75.

Lieut. Paynter, the champion shot of New Zealand, having received a challenge from Mr. S. Matthews, of Taranaki, two matches took place a day or two ago, when the champion retained his reputation by beating his opponent by five points in the first, and one in the second.

A day or two ago, (says a Wanganui paper) a lad, a son of Mr. Hatley, schoolmaster, at the Goat Valley, a widower, who has been boarding in town, was missing from his lodgings, and it was suspected that he had either been inveigled away by the natives or had voluntarily taken up his temporary residence with the natives of whom so many are now camped near the Market Reserve. The father was communicated with, who placed the matter in the hands of the police, and Constable Butler was detailed to search out the whereabouts of the wanderer. Early in the evening, in a tent, under the protection of some wabines, the truant was found and taken into safe keeping. As the lad has now evinced this incipient desire for bad companionship, his father has wisely determined to place him where his moral and physical well-being can be attended to, and with that object in view has communicated with the proper authorities so as to have the lad sent to a training ship. We believe that up to last night no reply had been received. It is probable that the boy would have accompanied the natives to their remote settlements, in which case his future career would not probably have been creditable to himself or his relatives.

The trout lately found dead in the river were referred to at a recent meeting of the Acclimatisation Council. A letter was read from Dr. Campbell, attributing the death of the fish to their fighting, as the males preponderated largely in number over the females. The curator mentioned that the spots, or sores, on the fish had a fungus-like appearance when placed under a microscope. Instructions have been given to catch a few fish at various parts of the river, and discover, if possible, the nature of this disease.—Canterbury Press.

The Hon. Dr. Pollen (says the Post) enjoys a reputation for suavity, and, indeed, sapiently, second to none in the Legislative Council. Our reporter, as well as the other representatives of the Press who have to report his polite and oleaginous nothings, would put that reputation to the test by a request that the hon. gentleman should raise his voice above that painisismo which habitually causes them to mutter "curses, not loud but deep," as they lean over the reporters' gallery, and vainly appeal to each other as to "What on earth the old gentleman is talking about." A very wicked and depraved reporter, with whom we will in future have no dealings, the other day suggested that, as soap on the hairs of a fiddle-bow incapacitated it from producing sweet sounds from the sister strings of a fiddle, so did the "soapy" style of address of the hon. gentleman render comparatively useless his vocal chords.

natives of Matata praying that town sections be awarded them; also, a petition from Parawaiti praying for an inquiry into the manner in which certain lands have been dealt with by the Government.

A petition was presented by Kariatiana from 900 Omaha natives.

Mr. Burns gave notice of motion for a return of the cost of the Railway Commission, also the cost of the Storm Signal Department.

Mr. Curtis gave notice of amendment to the Education Bill, the principal one being that all books be approved by the Board.

Sir G. Grey gave notice to ask leave to introduce a Bill to provide for triennial Parliaments and manhood suffrage; also a notice of motion that in the election of a member of the House of Representatives, regard should be had to the number of votes in a district, so that the members should bear in relation to the House the same proportion as members in the district should bear to the whole of the electors in New Zealand.

CROSSED CHEQUES BILL.

The crossed Cheques Bill will probably be amended in the Upper House, so as to carry out the recommendations proposed by Mr. Swanson.

The Crossed Cheques Bill passed through committee without amendment. After considerable discussion, Mr. Swanson moved an amendment to clause 2, to the effect that no cheque under £20 should be treated as a crossed cheque, on the ground that giving crossed cheques was frequently productive of very great inconvenience to poor working men, but it was negatived.

Mr. Sheehan arrived overland, yesterday afternoon and took his seat on the Opposition benches shortly after.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS BILL.

The discussion on this Bill was resumed by Dr. Hodgkinson, who opposed the measure. He was followed by Sir Robert Douglas, who objected to the principle of the Bill.

The Hon. Mr. Fox would only support the Bill on the understanding that the Government would promise to bring the Act into operation for one year only, and in the interim appoint a Commissioner to enquire upon the subject. He complained also of the scarcity of information given by the mover of the Bill, as to the working of the system in other parts of the world.

Sir George Grey moved the adjournment of the debate.

HOW THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT WAS RECEIVED.

The galleries were crammed while the Colonial Treasurer delivered the statement. The House was rapt in attention in the galleries and on the floor of the House. The Ministerialists cheered at the opening. When the Treasurer confessed his inability to retrench on the Departments, there were loud cries of "Hear, hear." When he talked complacently of relieving the land fund of Canterbury and Otago, Mr. Stevens muttered audibly, "Yes, relieve us of it you mean." At the conclusion of the speech, which occupied one hour and twenty-five minutes the Ministerialists cheered.

Mayor Atkinson's delivery was good and clearly audible. A message from the Governor was brought down recommending Parliament to appropriate for salaries, contingencies, and expenses for the Legislative Department for the current year the sum of £31,696. The statement of the total indebtedness of the Colony evoked suppressed murmur from all sides of the house. Considerable amusement was created over that portion of the statement referring to the land fund. The Auckland members laughed uproariously at the proposal to take the land fund from Canterbury and Otago, and even Mr. Stafford smiled. Mr. Rolleston looked wrathful. The Treasurer evidently felt embarrassed, and frequently paused. When concluded, Major Atkinson, moved the adjournment.

A HOWL ABOUT THE LAND FUND.

Since the statement the Otago members say it would be better to make the land fund Colonial revenue at once, instead of insidiously. They say Otago is conserving its land fund, and Canterbury spending it as rapidly as possible. In a short time the Otago fund will be the object of attack when Canterbury will have none to lose.

GOVERNMENT POLICY ATTRIBUTED TO WHITAKER.

The general opinion this afternoon amongst members appears to be that if the Government had come down boldly with a policy to make the land fund colonial revenue, it would have had the support of the majority of the House. Amongst some southern members the

ministerial policy *re* land fund is attributed to Mr. Whitaker.

Nothing was done in the petitions committee to-day affecting Napier. The Committee has been occupied all morning hearing the Oamaru petition. A great many native petitions have been referred to the Native Petitions Committee.

ALTERING PRESS TELEGRAMS.

August 2.

Mr. Rees gave notice of motion for to-day to ask the Postmaster-General by whose authority telegrams sent by the Press are perused by the Telegraph officials, and altered or amended without the consent of the senders.

WAKA MAORI LIBEL CASE.

In the House yesterday, Mr. Rees asked the Attorney-General whether the expenses of the defendants in the action against the Waka Maori were being paid by the Government; also, whether the Waka Maori is being conducted at the expense of the Government.

Mr. Whitaker said the alleged libels were on the 7th July and 8th August last year, when the Waka Maori was a Government publication. The action was against the Government printer nominally, but really against the Government. If an opinion was put to him who would have to pay the expenses of the action, he would say that it was extremely likely the plaintiff would have to pay. At present the Waka Maori was being conducted under a special arrangement. The whole matter would be brought before the House at an early date.

WHITAKER CENSURED BY THE SPEAKER.

Sir G. Grey rose to a point of order. He asked whether the Attorney-General was in order in pronouncing a legal opinion as to the result of the case, and thereby prejudicing the jury.

The Speaker said he thought it would be better if the Attorney-General left that part out.

LAND PURCHASES UNDER PUBLIC WORKS POLICY.

Mr. Travers asked whether the purchase referred to in sections 47 and 48 of the Immigration and Public Works Act, 1872, have been completed; also, whether any sum beyond £17,917 and £3,000 mentioned in the sections have been expended in connection with such purchases.

Mr. Ormond replied, and said the payment handed to the Province of Auckland was not on account of any land purchased, but because the province wanted money. The Act provided that £17,000 should be paid to Auckland for lands which were in the Piako district. Since then £547 had been paid upon those lands, and the titles will shortly be completed. Regarding the payment of £3,000 to the Province of Hawke's Bay, it was because that province had paid the Province of Auckland for lands to that amount.

In reply to Mr. De Latour, Mr. Reid said the Government had not heard that any improper pressure had been brought to bear upon the County Council of Waikouaiti.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ACT.

Mr. Hamlin asked the Government whether they propose to amend "The Medical Practitioners Registration Act, 1869?" He said the present law was a hardship. If the Government did not introduce a Bill some member would introduce a private Bill.

Mr. Whitaker said the Government had no intention to introduce such a Bill.

THE WAKA MAORI.

When the House resumed last evening, Mr. Rees gave notice of motion for to-day:—"That this House is of opinion that it is unjust and unconstitutional for any Ministry to use the influence and money of the Government for the defence of an action by any private person against another for alleged libel;—also, that, after the vote of the House last session in striking out a vote for the Waka Maori, and the promise of the Government not to maintain the Waka Maori out of the public fund, that this House consider the conduct of the Government very reprehensible;—also, that a Select Committee be appointed to take into consideration the circumstances under which an over-draft of the Thames was paid off by the Government, the Committee to take evidence, and report within one month."

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS BILL.

The debate on the Charitable Institutions Bill was resumed, Sir George Grey speaking, evidently primed for a great speech. He says the Bill contained principles which ought to have been promulgated from end to end of the country. He twitted Donald Reid with the difference between his former bold attitude

when in the Opposition and the poor figure he cut on the Government benches. He spoke for nearly an hour, and was about the best speech yet delivered in the House. His style was full of fire and energy, and his declamation was powerful. When denouncing the Ministry, he assumed a tone of concentrated contempt. In his speech generally he denounced the Bill as a poor law Bill disguised. He recommended a commission during the recess, and a Bill brought in next session founded on the report.

The Hon Mr. Bowen twitted Sir G. Grey with vague declamation, and said the Government would only be too glad to meet any specific change. God help the country which had the English poor law system. The speaker frequently blundered, and attributed wrong remarks to the wrong members and got corrected.

Mr. Manders, who seldom rises to address the House without being saluted with derisive "hear, hears," and whose rising is a signal for many members to leave the House, said his district would maintain the poor. This speaker keeps his hands on his hips, jerks himself from side to side, bobs his head, and keeps his coat tails flopping about in a very ridiculous style.

Captain Russell followed next. He spoke well, but got rather mixed. He accused Mr. Rolleston of having spoken of widows as civil servants, and expressed supreme contempt for John Stuart Mill. Mill might be very well as a political economist, but was not successful as a politician.

Mr. Rolleston, *sotto voce* to Gisborne:—"This is warm."

Mr. De Latour, who speaks better than he did last session, severely overhauled the last speaker. He said Mr. Bowen had taunted England with pauperism, but it should be our duty to prevent such a system here.

Mr. Swanson opposed the Bill in a strong speech, and chaffed Captain Russell for having compared New Zealand to a country abounding in springs, and saying a thirsty traveller could sink an artesian well. The speaker thought that should not be left to starving men to sink wells. Let strong men do it. It was an undoubted argument that Mr. Swanson quoted historical parallels, and talked philosophy, and evoked frequent applause and laughter. The Government proposed to leave everything to mere sympathy. A pretty girl, for instance, coming along, would be likely to receive more than an old man. Replying to another argument, the speaker said the girl might just as well try to drink water from her own statue.

Messrs. Joyce and Stout supported the Bill.

Mr. Whitaker said the Government were prepared to adopt the suggestion for the appointment of a Commission, which should be appointed to investigate the whole subject. He admitted the management must be local. It was a bad principle that one set of persons should find money, and another spend it. All the Government proposed under the Bill was to keep present institutions, and make such further provision as was necessary, and next session extend the system on the report of the Commission sitting during the recess.

Several other members having spoken, Mr. Reid replied, and the House divided.

THE DIVISION LIST.

The following is the division list on the second reading of the Charitable Institutions Bill:—

Ayes, 42.—Messrs. Atkinson, Baigent, Ballance, Beetham, Bowen, Brown J. C. (Tuapeka), Bryce, Burns, Cox, Douglas, Fitzroy, Gibbs, Gisborne, Harper, Henry, Hunter (teller), Johnston, Joyce, Kelly, Kennedy, Kenny, Lumsden, Macfarlane, Maunders, McLean, Murray, Murray-Aynsley, Ormond, Reid, Rowe, Seymour, Seaton, Stafford, Stout, Sutton, Swanson, Teschemaker, Wason, Whitaker, Williams, Wood W. (Mataura), and Woolcock.

Noes, 11.—Messrs. DeLautour, Lusk, Fisher, Montgomery, Rolleston (teller), Sheehan, Stevens (teller), Thomson, Tole, Wakefield, and Wallis.

Pairs — For: Messrs. Carrington, Richardson, Reynolds, Button, Russell, J. C. Brown, Tawiti, Morris, and Fox. Against: Messrs. Curtis, Bastings, Rees, O'Rorke, Grey, Travers, Karaitiana, Hodgkinson, and Reader Wood.

The Bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Friday.

The House adjourned at 12.35 a.m.

SIR JULIUS VOGEL.

In the estimates, under the heading Miscellaneous, as honorarium to Sir Julius Vogel for services in England £3000 are set down; specimens of New Zealand woods for new Museum, £60; increase in salary to Colonial Architect, £700 to £900; increase £50 on Secretary of Stamps.

LATEST POLITICAL RUMOR.

Mr. Stafford goes in for the generalization of the land fund.

Auckland and Otago will abandon all ideas of Separation for a given period, so as to form a united Opposition, and turn the present Government out. Sir W. Fitzherbert is strongly solicited to resign the Speakership and lead the party.

TO-DAYS PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. Rees asked the Commissioner of Telegraphs by what authority the officials in the Telegraph Office amended or altered press messages without the authority of the senders.

The Commissioner, in reply was informed that officials did not alter or excise anything in press messages. It was a very difficult thing for officials to determine what was or what was not press matter. If the press were permitted to send private messages as press matter it would damage the revenue. He was not aware of the circumstances referred to by Mr. Rees, but if the circumstances were brought before the House he had no doubt it would be found that the officials had exercised a wise discretion, and that what was attempted to be sent as press matter was not really so.

Sir George Grey's Bills for Triennial Parliaments and Manhood Suffrage were read a first time. Mr. Rees has tabled a motion for a committee of inquiry into the authority exercised by the Telegraph Officers to alter or amend press messages. The Committee is to take evidence.

WELLINGTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

July 26, 1877.

The only debate of any consequence to-day was on the Charitable Institution Bill, introduced by Mr. Reid, and opposed by Messrs. Rolleston, Stevens, Wakefield, Shrimskie, Lusk, Wallace, and Rees, and supported by Messrs. Ballance, Murray-Aynsley, Gisborne, Fisher, Woolcock, Atkinson, and Burns. The debate was adjourned to 1 a.m. on the motion of Mr. Macandrew. The Rev. member for Auckland was particularly prozaic, and evidently not at home. Preaching sermons are not good training for a debate, although Mr. Wallis spoke for only half-an-hour, and had the first show. After the adjournment for dinner, the House was very tired of it, and empty benches soon began to tell a tale. After him came Mr. Stevens, and he also spoke for about the same time and spoke well, arguing the question from his point of view very well indeed. Major Atkinson followed in a short but telling speech, in which he showed Mr. Stevens where he was wrong in his arguments. Mr. Wakefield gave a speech of about twenty minutes, which, as an oratorical effort, was probably the best in the debate so far. He speaks I think, rather better than he did last year. Sir George Grey has not spoken yet. There is little doubt the Bill will pass. I forgot to mention Mr. Travers, who supported the principle, but considered the Bill badly drawn, and recommended its withdrawal for the purpose of getting another Bill more carefully drawn.

It was reported that a meeting of the Opposition was to be held to-day, but I do not think it came off; at all events, if it did, I have not been able to get hold of what passed.

The House passed an Imprest Supply Bill for £250,000 through all its stages to-day.

Probably next week there will be more news; there is at present nothing but mere gossip, and not much of that.

The House Committee have precluded any one frequenting those portions of the House used by members. I have, therefore, more difficulty than previously in getting hold of any news. Even the poor Under-Secretaries are not now allowed to have their select nip in Bellamy's. This is said to be severely felt by some. Only fancy such swells as the heads of Departments not being allowed to have a glass of wine in that respectable establishment. It is too bad that members who have made things so comfortable should now order off all the swells of the staff.

"My son," said Mr. X—, kindly, to his youthful heir, "accustom yourself to be polite to the porter, the servant girl, the coachman—to all the servants; thus you will come in time to be courteous to all people, even to your parents."

How many brave men and fair women there are in the world who go to the theatre and weep profusely over the dramatic sorrows which are bound to end in a happy marriage, but who would never dream of going into the second-story back of a tenement house to give even a cold potato to a starving family.

Shipping Intelligence.
PORT A HURIRI.

ARRIVALS.

- July
- 26—Fairy, s.s., from Pouterere.
 - 28—Taupo, s.s., from Auckland via Tauranga and Gisborne. Passengers—Mrs Corrigan and child, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Berry, Miss Jac, Dr. De Lisle, Messrs Farr, Locke, Graham, Samuels, Taylor, Floyd, Simpson, Goodall, Currie, Long, Solomon, and 6 natives
 - 28—Result, s.s., from Wairoa.
 - 28—Mania, p.s., from Wairoa. Passengers—Mrs Robinson, Messrs M Murray, Webb, and Fraser
 - 29—Kiwi, s.s., from Wellington
 - 30—Rotorua, s.s., from Wellington and Southern Ports
- August.
- 1—Storm Bird, s.s., from Wellington
 - 2—Wanaka, s.s., from Wellington and Southern Ports.

DEPARTURES

- July
- 26—Albatross, schooner, for Whangapoua.
 - 27—Southern Cross, s.s., for the Thames and Auckland.
 - 28—Taupo, s.s., for Wellington. Passengers—Mrs Russell and servant, Misses Russell, Rich, and Shea, Colonel Longley, Messrs Jacobs, Mackenzie, Douglas, Wood, White, Jobson, Aietcheson, Curcliffe, Heman, Tomoana, and six original
 - 30—Rotorua, s.s., for Sydney via Auckland

The s.s. Fairy returned from Messrs Coleman and McHardy's station late on Thursday. Capt. Campbell reports fine weather this trip, and that he succeeded in landing the whole of her cargo.

The s.s. Southern Cross, Capt. Holmes, took in a part of her cargo on Thursday evening and the rest on Friday. She had 60 head of cattle and 308 fat sheep, the half of which was taken outside to her by the Sir Donald. In crossing the bar by the westward channel on Friday she bumped heavily, in fact lost steering way, and stopped altogether on the bar for some time.

The s.s. Taupo, Captain Carey, left Poverty Bay at 4 p.m., on Friday, and came under easy steam to Napier, arriving about 6 o'clock on Saturday. She was tendered by the Bella and Sir Donald, and left about noon, taking away a large number of passengers.

Captain Evans, of the Rangitira has just been to Poverty Bay to defend an action brought by Mr. Horsfall for damage to a case of his whilst on board the Rangitira. The defendant lost the case, but it will come on again, as counsel for defendant, Mr. Rogan gave notice of appeal.

The s.s. Kiwi, Captain Campbell, arrived in the Bay on Sunday afternoon, but as there was a heavy sea on she did not anchor. Captain Campbell headed her out to sea in the evening, and hove her to. She put in an appearance on Monday, but there was no chance of communicating with her.

The steamers Mania and Result both returned from Wairoa on Saturday loaded with maize. The Result called off the Moka to pick up a boat left there last voyage, but was unable to do so on account of the heavy sea on the beach.

The Union Company's s.s. Rotorua, Captain Macfarlane, arrived in the Bay at about 10.15 a.m. on Monday, but, in consequence of the heavy sea, there was no chance of communicating with her, and she left for Sydney via Auckland at about 11 o'clock. Our outward English mails are therefore left behind, and several passengers en route for Sydney, Melbourne, and England, are also still in Napier. A signal was sent up at the station asking if the steamer would wait for the mail, but we imagine that in consequence of the rain and thick weather Captain Macfarlane would not be able to make it out.

The s.s. Storm Bird, Captain Doile, arrived at the westward anchorage at 10.15 a.m. on Wednesday. The Pilot at once hoisted the signal "Bar dangerous," and she laid off there.

The s.s. Kiwi, Captain Campbell, brought up at the westward anchorage on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday, about 9 o'clock, Captain Campbell signalled to Pilot Kreaft, "Have you tried the Bar." The answer was, "No; too much sea." Captain Campbell replied "I am very sorry." A boat from the Kiwi communicated with the Storm Bird on Wednesday.

The s.s. Sir Donald went out on Thursday to the steamer Kiwi and Storm Bird and brought ashore the respective mails. The pilot went out with the Sir Donald and was transhipped to the Storm Bird, which steamer was brought inside at 11 a.m., she grazed the bar there being only 8 feet 6 inches this morning at high water.

The Wanska arrived at noon on Thursday and was tendered by the Bella and Sir Donald.

The improvements and alterations to the s.s. Rangitira are progressing very favorably. She will be ready for sea again in the contract time.

The Rotorua left Auckland for Sydney at one o'clock on Wednesday.

The Zealandia left for Honolulu on Wednesday at 2.15 p.m.

Respecting the mail service between Sydney and New Caledonia, to be performed by the Union Steamship Company, the Otago Daily Times of July 20 says:—The Union Company's steamer Tairaroa, Capt. Peterson, returned from Timaru yesterday morning, and so terminated her career in a trade which she faithfully attended to, and in which she earned for herself a high reputation for all those qualities which go to make up a first-class sea-going steamer. It is decided to remove the steamer from the Timaru trade and send her across to Sydney to take up the mail service to New Caledonia. Rumor says that she is to be commanded either by Captain Andrew or Captain Kennedy. The steamer Wellington has, we observe, been laid on the berth for Timaru, and is to leave to-morrow night instead of the Tairaroa. This fact gives color to the report, and also that Capt. Peterson, of the Tairaroa, is to take command of the Wellington. We have heard of changes pending in connection with another of the steamers running under the company's flag, but for the present can say nothing more about it. The Tairaroa is a boat that may depended upon in all weather, is a fast traveller, and by a little alteration to her accommodation could be converted into an excellent passenger vessel. She has also the great desideratum of economy. No steamer on the coast of her size and power can be run so cheaply. We are sure that the good name she has earned will be maintained in the new line she is about to take up, and we can only regret that the colony is to lose the services of such a high-class vessel. Before she leaves for Sydney, the Tairaroa will receive essential alterations in her saloon accommodation, that will render it most suitable for the trade she is to enter upon. No time has been lost in commencing, inasmuch as yesterday the saloon was partly dismantled and given over to the tender mercies of the carpenters and joiners. The Tairaroa will also be very closely overhauled in hull and machinery, and is expected to leave here in about three weeks.

Commercial.

At Messrs Routledge, Kennedy, and Co.'s sale on Tuesday there was, in spite of the wet weather, a very good attendance of buyers. The following prices were realised.—Hobart-town apples from 2 1/2 to 4d per lb; onions, 3d; maize, 3s 9d to 4s 3d per bush.

Mr M. R. Miller reports sale of Mr William Lyon's Kereru and Poporangi properties—11,000 acres freehold, 2000 acres leasehold, with plant and improvements, and 13,500 sheep, delivery after shearing—for £22,500.

MARRIAGES.

WALLIS—BEAMISH.—At Okawa, on July 26, by the Rev. P. C. Anderson, Arthur Henry, second son of F. Wallis, Esq., F.R.C.S., of Beshill, Sussex, to Jane, eldest daughter of N. E. Beamish, Esq., Okawa, Hawke's Bay.

FLEMING—M'KENZIE.—On July 27th, at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. R. Fraser, Mr John Scott Fleming, of Blackhead, to Harriet Rufford, eldest daughter of Mr John M'Kenzie, of Tamumu.

DEATHS.

TRASK.—At Wellington, on July 25, Thomas Trask, aged 86 years, father of J. II. Trask, Napier.

REID.—At the County Hospital, Napier, on the 1st August, Thomas Glen Reid, aged 26 years.

JOHN M'VAY,

SADDLER & HARNESSMAKER

Hastings-street.

The Cheapest House in the Trade.

H. MONTEITH,

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

An insane correspondent says that he very often reads about the "driven snow," and wants to know how it is driven. Why, with rains, of course!

Ambitious Western newspaper-reporters are now endeavouring to "strike an item" by interviewing newly-married people a few days after marriage.

The first day that Artemus Ward entered one of the towns of Kentucky, travel-worn and seedy, he said to an editor who was on the street: "Mister, where could I get a square meal for twenty-five cents?" He was told; and then he inquired, "I say, mister, where could I get the twenty-five cents?"

CHRONOLOGICAL MEMORANDA.

FROM AUGUST 5 TO AUGUST 11, 1877.

PHASES OF THE MOON.

New Moon.....9th August.

Week Day and month	Anniversaries, &c.	Sun High Water			
		R.	S.	A.M.	P.M.
5 S	10th Sun. a. Trinity	7 10	5 2	1 40	2 11
6 M	Trans. of our Lord	7 9	5 3	2 22	3 3
7 T		7 8	5 4	3 35	4 6
8 W	Canning d., 1827	7 6	5 4	4 36	5 6
9 T	Dryden b. 1631	7 5	5 5	5 34	6 2
10 F	Strasbourg invested, '70	7 4	5 6	6 30	6 55
11 S	Morera b., 1763	7 2	5 8	7 21	7 45

The Weekly Mercury

AND HAWKE'S BAY ADVERTISER.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1877.

The colony is indebted to the Colonial Treasurer for the plain unvarnished statement, made in his Budget speech last night, that the gross debt of New Zealand, when the balances of all authorised loans are raised will be £20,895,311. This enormous debt, considering the total population of the colony is not much more than three hundred thousand, was incurred in the following manner:—"About £8,300,000 has been spent upon railways, £3,500,000 on immigration, £4,400,000 on harbors, lighthouses, public buildings, roads, bridges and other public works for opening up the country, £1,300,000 in the purchase of native lands (including the payment of the debt to the New Zealand Company), £2,000,000 in the suppression of the native outbreak, and the remaining £500,000 on miscellaneous purposes." The total revenue of the colony last year, was £3,011,594, of which £890,535 was derived from the sale of land. Land sale receipts, however, are of a fluctuating character, and Crown Lands open for sale cannot be regarded as permanent sources of revenue; deducting therefore the £890,535 from the colonial income there remains £2,171,059. The Colonial Treasurer in drawing a comparison between the revenue and debt of the colony, with the revenue and debt of England, said, excluding the land receipts, "our net public debt is eight and a-half times our revenue, or, if we include our income from land sales, our public debt is equal to six times our revenue, while the public debt of Great Britain is more than ten times the amount of her revenue. This seems to be a fairer way of comparing our indebtedness than at so much per head of the population. It should, moreover, be remembered that the public debt of England has been incurred for war purposes, while that of New Zealand has mainly been incurred for reproductive works." In reference to the railways, it is satisfactory to know that there has been a profit of £87,924 during the past year. The expenditure had been £228,295, and the receipts £316,220. By amalgamating the Armed Constabulary with the Police Force, there had been a saving effected of £10,000 in six months. The gain by the amalgamation of the two Forces would have been much larger had it not been necessary to pay a bonus to the men who had been discharged from the service. There had been a deficiency of £40,621 in the Customs revenue. The postal revenue appeared to have fallen £9452 below the estimate, but sums amounting to £15,923 had to be received from the Imperial and Australian Governments, so that the seeming deficiency would be converted into an excess of £6000. In incidental receipts there had been a deficiency of £18,457. With respect to the Land Fund, the Colonial Treasurer said: "The sales in Canterbury show an excess, while those in Auckland, Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, Nelson, and Otago, have proved to be less by £83,000 than the sum estimated. In consequence of this the whole of the Treasury bills authorised under the Financial Arrangements Act, amounting to £150,000, have been issued, and an additional sum of £53,000 has had to be advanced from the consolidated fund in aid of the land fund." For the ensuing year 1877-78 the proposed expenditure was set down at £3,109,754. The estimated total revenue of the colony for 1877-78 was £3,392,685. The Colonial Treasurer said, "I have satisfied myself that it is impossible so to reduce departmental expenditure as to bring our expenditure within our income, unless we are prepared to relinquish some of the luxuries we enjoy in the way of telegraphs postal services, and Resident Magistrates, which are spread broadcast over the land, and which, as far as my experience goes, it is hopeless to attempt to reduce. I take it for granted, then, that we must, at

any rate temporarily, aid the consolidated fund, and the question is, how is this to be done?" * * * Our liabilities being what they are, the subject of taxation is not lightly to be touched. It is one which requires the most careful thought. It must be considered as a whole, and it would be quite impossible to deal with it satisfactorily during the present session. When our trunk railways are approaching completion, when we have had time to consolidate and settle down, and are able to determine our real requirements, then the whole incidence of taxation must be considered; but to deal with it now, in a fragmentary way, would, I think, be a serious mistake. The Colonial Treasurer then proposes to make the Land Fund chargeable with interest and sinking fund on the cost of the opening up and settlement of the country under the public works and immigration policy. The land fund of Canterbury is thus to be charged with a sum of £58,000, and that of Otago with £109,000. It had been found impossible to submit this session estimates for the completion of the railway system, therefore, the Government only ask this session for a sum sufficient to unite the already completed sections of the trunk line of 500 miles from Amberley to Kingston, and for the extensions of the main lines in other parts of the colony.

It was foreshadowed before the General Assembly met, that the land fund question would furnish the principal subject of the session, and from the Financial Statement it is evident the Government are not going to shrink from bringing the matter on for debate. The Colonial Treasurer broached the subject at once, and stated that, economise as they would in the administration of every department, the revenue was unable to meet the expenditure. There was no getting away from that fact. Many deep thinking men, he said, were of opinion that the time had arrived when the judicious course to pursue would be the imposition of a land and property tax. The Government were averse to taking that step until all available means had been tried to stave off such a disagreeable duty. The means that suggested themselves to the Ministry were not only those which it would be strictly equitable to use, but which were the readiest to hand. More than half of the enormous debt under which the colony labors has been incurred by the Colonial Government in undertakings that were formerly regarded as the peculiar work of the provinces. The public works and immigration policy was on a scale far beyond the power of the provinces, acting separately to carry out, and it could not be denied that under the management of the General Government, that policy had been on the whole beneficial to the provinces individually and collectively. Basing his argument on the ground that the provinces would have had to have met the cost of immigration and railways out of their land fund, the Colonial Treasurer was justified in debiting the land fund of each province with a proportionate amount of the cost under the public works policy of the opening up and settlement of the country. The smaller provinces, having no land fund to meet such a charge, it is possible they may have ultimately to raise a contribution to the Colonial revenue. This seems to have been hinted at in the Budget speech, and probable it will be proposed that each County should be made to hand over to the Colonial Treasury a certain proportion of its revenue. Unless some such scheme is contemplated it would not be fair to make Canterbury and Otago pay because those provinces happen to have a land fund. It will never do to make fish of one part of the colony and fowl of another, nor do we think the Ministry mean to do so. Taxation is now staring the country in the face, and if it can be imposed in the indirect manner in which it would be as proposed by the Government, it will not be much felt. But it must be remembered that while the revenue of the colony is insufficient to meet ordinary departmental expenditure, with interest and sinking fund on the debt, it is necessary to borrow more money to continue a partial prosecution of the railway works. The indirect taxation proposed this session by a "nibble" at the land fund will not be enough for the next year. A twenty million debt is a hungry monster that swallows up, in interest and sinking fund, almost as much as would pay for the government of the country; an incomplete railway system demands further outlay to make it remunerative. It is a pity the Colonial Treasurer did not at once boldly state that, as the requirements of the colony needed the whole of the land fund, the Government intended to take it. The course now proposed is certainly a gentler

process, for it is calculated to gradually wean the southern settlers from the idea that their land fund is their own. But the proposition will be as strenuously opposed as the other, and the Government may just as well take the bull by the horns.

SINCE the harbor improvement works at Port Napier have been commenced, the monthly official reports to the Board have always been in substance that their action on the bar, and entrance to the inner harbor were such as to afford satisfaction. It was recognised that before their entire completion no very great result could be expected, but that, judging from the present effect, there could be no doubt respecting the ultimate success of the works. Upon these hopes the Board has been living, and upon these monthly official reports the public must form an opinion. There can, however, be no objection to compare the hopes of the Board, and the judgment of the engineers, with what is actually taking place. The state of the bar is absolutely worse than it has been ever, we were going to say, known in the past. It is, however, about as bad as it well can be. On the other hand we have had a remarkably dry winter, and consequently an absence of those floods that would, under the usual conditions of our winter season, have cleared the channel. But we have no reason to think that the bar would have been any worse than it is if the harbor works had not been undertaken. This opinion is also that of some of the members of the Board, and of many of the most experienced residents on the Spit. That this opinion is sneered at by professional men other than mariners, we are perfectly aware, but then professional men are very apt to follow some chosen "bell wether," from whose judgment it would be heresy to differ. The fact of the matter is this, that the shingle beach follows up the pier as fast as it is built out, and that which in the plans was intended to be a pier, pure and simple, has become nothing more than a breast-work. There is no reason to suppose that the shingle beach will not continue to back up behind this so-called pier to its terminal point. The pier, when finished, will merely form a point round which the shingle will wash, as it formerly washed round the original point of the beach, and the bar, removed further out, will be as obstructive as ever. This is as evident as light from darkness to the eyes of persons who have not the advantage of a marine engineer's knowledge, and on Monday striking evidence was afforded of the probability of the hopes of the engineers being dashed to the ground, and the lugubrious fore casts of the ignorant being fulfilled. A heavy sea was rolling into the bay, and breaking with terrific force in continuous lines along the course of the old bar, and of that which is now evidently being formed beyond it. No communication could be held with the mail steamer Rotorna, the pilot even declining to risk the life-boat and crew by attempting the passage through the breakers unless it were a case of saving life. The shingle was being piled up behind and above the "pier" and many of the outward piles of which had been loosened by the force of the waves. The pier did nothing to break the sea, nor to render the passage over the bar at the western channel smoother than it otherwise would have been. Immediately beyond the end of the pier no boat could have lived. How then can it be hoped that any change for the better will be accomplished when the harbor works are completed?

It will be remembered that, in the early part of this present month, the Taradale Board of Conservators offered a bonus of £50 for the best plan and specification of works for the protection of the district from flood waters within the boundaries specified in the proclamation bringing the Hawke's Bay Rivers Act into operation. It is of importance to recollect those boundaries. Roughly speaking, the district under the control of the Board of Conservators extends east and west from the eastern slopes of the Puketapu hills to a line cutting through the Catholic Mission Station, at Meanece; and north and south from the Tutae-kuri river to the inner harbor. It will therefore be seen that the district is a very small one, and does not include any portion of country that, in the past, has most severely suffered from floods. The plans and specifications called for are for protective works for the small area in which the Act has been brought into force, and, we presume, no consideration for the interests of adjoining districts is to be contemplated in the works to be undertaken. The

plans are to be sent in to the Board not later than the 31st instant. Amongst others who will furnish a plan will be we learn, Mr James Gorrie, of Marlborough, whose intention it is to bring under the notice of the Board Mr Douslin's patent floating spur as applicable to the requirements of the district. This invention has been wonderfully successful in the province of Marlborough, in the guiding of swollen rivers, and in turning them into channels in which they could do no mischief. Mr Douslin's patent applied to the Tutae-kuri river from the foot of the Puketapu hills to where it debouches into the inner harbor might be equally successful in forming high banks, deepening the channel, and protecting the land from floods. We only say "it might be," because the current being so sluggish, the spurs might not have the same effect as they have had in swift running rivers. But supposing the plan to be adopted, and to be as successful as it could be desired, what would be the result? The river bed would be deepened, and following the course of the banks huge mounds of sand would be thrown up offering a natural embankment to the river. Another difficulty would then be created, the confinement of this sand which when dry would flow all over the adjoining land doing, perhaps, as much injury as the floods. The remedy would be almost as bad as the disease. But against this, Mr Douslin's plan cannot be adopted in its entirety. The Taradale Board has no power outside the little district proclaimed under the Act, and the floating spur system of protection applied to the upper portion of the stream at Taradale might prove the ruin of Meancee. It behoves the County Council to narrowly watch the action of the River Board. The protection of Taradale may not improbably mean the destruction of a very much larger area of far more valuable country.

A MOVEMENT has been set on foot by the settlers of the southern portion of this provincial district, for the establishment of annual ram fairs to be held during the spring season before shearing. The fair will, probably, be held at Waipukurau, as being the most convenient centre of the district. Whether the movement will be successfully carried out must be left for time to determine. It is certain that since the Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society fixed the site of its Shows at Hastings, considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed by the southern settlers, who, with some reason, complain that their stock cannot compete on equal terms with those bred on the Aburiri plains. In the matter of expense, and in "the knocking about" the stock must undergo through being sent for exhibition, the southern settlers are placed at a disadvantage. The consequence has been that the bulk of the stock shown has been drawn from Heretaunga and the neighboring districts. The proposition to have the Show alternately at Hastings and Waipukurau was, long ago, put on one side as being impracticable, and unnecessary. The proposal that was made, when the railway was opened to Waipukurau, to have the Shows held at some more central place than Hastings was also negatived. At that time, we recollect advocating the selection of Kairoa, or Waipawa, as affording greater facilities for the exhibition of stock by the southern settlers. The convenience Hastings offered from its proximity to Napier to visitors from other parts of the colony, however, mainly decided the question, and there is now very little chance of any change being made. In connection with the Ram Fairs, the southern settlers have not only the same complaint to make with regard to situation and expense, but also to the time of year at which they are held. They contend that no person can so properly judge of the full merits of a sheep after it is shorn as before that operation, and that the ram fair should be held before shearing. It is further said the fair being held at that time would compel breeders to state the course of feeding to which their sheep had been subjected, and that this would do away with the unfair competition which now takes place at the annual Spring Show between grass and artificially fed sheep. We understand that representations, similar in effect to those we have mentioned, have been made to the Society from time to time, but that no corresponding modifications in existing arrangements have been made to meet them. The result is, as we have stated, that a movement is now being made to hold annual ram fairs at Waipukurau in the month of October. Should the scheme be successfully carried out, it is very much to be hoped that it will not lead to any diminution of the Agricultural and Pastoral Society's funds.

Neither the requirements of the province, nor its means, admit of two Pastoral Societies; they could only injure each other's usefulness, and in the end, their establishment would possibly lead to the death of both. That there has been a strong feeling manifested in the Waipawa county to found a rival Society cannot be denied, and our only fear is that the proposed ram fair in October may prove the thin edge of the wedge.

OUR attention has been drawn to the injustice and annoyances to which passengers are subjected on the Napier-Waipukurau railway. As we do not suppose that the complaint laid before us is a solitary case, and as the cause of it is said to lie in the administration of the Railway Regulations, we shall briefly state the particulars as related to us. A traveller by the late up train on Saturday last took a first-class ticket at Waipukurau for Napier. On two occasions before reaching the Paki Paki station, the Guard passed through the carriages demanding to see the tickets of the passengers. At Paki Paki there was, without any apparent cause, a long and tedious delay, so much so that, as is very often the case, many of the passengers got out of the train and walked about. A change of Guard here took place, and between Paki Paki and Napier, a further show of tickets was demanded. When the final collection was made our informant had lost his ticket which, he supposed, must have dropped out of his pocket at Paki Paki. The Guard having ascertained that our informant had come from Waipukurau, demanded, and at once obtained, the full fare from there to Napier. The passengers in the carriage then expressed their sense of the injustice of the charge, when the Guard, after some explanation, offered to return the amount of the fare between Waipukurau and Paki Paki. Our informant declined to accept this gift on the ground that if the charge at first demanded was according to the regulations, the refund could not properly be made by the Guard, whose option in the matter might be called in question. The matter, our informant said, should be reported to the proper authorities when the Guard replied that that could be done, but the money (11s.) would not be recovered. We have stated this case for the satisfaction of travellers by the Hawke's Bay railway, and also for the purpose of discovering whether a charge such as we have related can be made and justified on the ground of the regulation. It was manifestly the duty of the first Guard to ascertain that all passengers from Takapau to Paki Paki were in possession of tickets. The second Guard could not therefore be responsible for passengers from beyond the station at which he took charge of the train. This being the case, we should like to know the particular clause in the regulations that entitled the second Guard to, apparently, demand any fare he pleased from a passenger whom he found travelling without a ticket. In the case of our informant, who is a well known settler, abundance of evidence can be produced that he took and paid for his ticket at Waipukurau.

THE correspondence that has lately appeared in the local papers respecting the Te Aute Estate has evoked a long letter from Mr T. C. Williams, which has been published in the Wellington Argus. After explaining the nature of the Trust, Mr Williams denies that a release of the estate to the Revd. S. Williams has been signed. Mr Williams refers to the correspondence in the Napier papers as being levelled at his brother; and he considers that people who would act as some did in Napier towards the Bishop of Waipapu, and treat their old pastor, Mr Townsend, in an unmanly manner, while they nursed and fondled the curate Mr Robinson, might well be expected to abuse the Revd. S. Williams, and feel glad at having discovered something damaging to his high character. Mr Williams, however, charitably excuses such conduct on account of the inhabitants of Napier being surrounded by many acres of a "most abominable swamp," the impurities of which they daily inhale. Mr Thomas Williams, we think, has entirely mis-apprehended the character of the correspondence on the subject of the Te Aute Estate; there was nothing in it damaging to the character of the Revd. S. Williams, nor has that highly esteemed gentleman been abused. Mr Thomas Williams also appears to be ignorant of the source from whence sprang the controversy. It did not arise in Napier at all, indeed, further than having a general desire to see all Trust Estates made to produce their utmost value for the promotion of the objects of their endowment, the people in town care nothing whatever about Te Aute. Letters like that written

by Mr T. C. Williams are apt to do more harm than good to the cause they profess to advocate, as they seem to point to the existence of personal feeling, and personal interests, in a matter of purely public concern. The allusions Mr Williams makes to the treatment pastors receive at the hands of Napier people are peculiarly unhappy and ill-timed. It is perhaps an unfortunate circumstance that the only congregations that have had cause to regret their connection with their pastors in this town have been members of the Church of England.

SOME telegraphic correspondence has lately taken place between His Worship the Mayor and the Government relative to the Corporation offices, that arose through a report that the Town Clerk's office was wanted for colonial purposes. We understand that in reply to the Mayor's query respecting the tenure of the Corporation of its present offices, the Under Secretary stated that the Government would not guarantee any tenure. This is, of course, the official manner of saying that the Mayor and the Town Clerk may be turned out of doors at any moment. It is just as well to know this, and the knowledge is not acquired any too soon. The Council will meet in a few days, and it is to be hoped the members will take immediate steps to place the Corporation in a less humiliating position than it now occupies. Apart, however, from holding offices on sufferance, and being liable to be turned out any day without warning, the Corporation now possesses valuable documents and records that if lost or destroyed, would have to be replaced at considerable expense to the ratepayers. We contend that the Town Clerk's present office is not the proper place for these documents. If the ratepayers' book, the assessment list, or the valuation book, were stolen, or burnt, no one could be held personally responsible owing to the utter unfitness and insecurity of the office. It is not fair to the Borough or to those who are legally responsible for the safe keeping of the public records, that the Corporation should not possess suitable offices. We trust that at the next meeting of the Council this subject will be dealt with in a manner which its importance deserves.

A CRISIS in the war is imminent. More Russian troops have got across the Balkans and reached Demotika, situated on the banks of the Maritza, and containing 8000 inhabitants. Adrianople, the second city of Turkey lies on the same river a few miles below Demotika. The advance guard of the Turks under Suleiman Pasha has been driven back and obliged to find shelter in Adrianople. The Turks we learn are also falling back from Philippopolis on to Adrianople, and there we may expect a stand will be made. Should the Russian arms be victorious the question will arise: Will Russia be allowed to take Constantinople? The Turks in Constantinople are so thoroughly aroused and their fanatic feelings so worked upon, that it is feared a rising will take place, and the Christian population be massacred. It is difficult to say, what course the Christian nations of Europe would then adopt. The brief telegrams from Europe, can give us but an inkling of the great excitement now prevailing on the Continent, and we anxiously wait to learn the beginning of the end.

WASTE LANDS BOARD.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2.

The Board met at 11 a.m. to-day.

Present: The Commissioner of Crown Lands, Messrs. Tiffen, Kennedy, and Newton.

The Chairman brought to the notice of the Board that the land at Mohaka, called the Ferry Reserve, had been proclaimed in the Gazette of 19th July as a site for a Ferry.

The Board decided that, in reply to the letter of February 7 last, from the Chairman of the Waioa County Council, the land proclaimed should now be offered to the County Council for a period of five years, at a nominal rental of £5 per annum.

Applications No 2491, from Mr W. Royce, to purchase 4743 acres in the Maraekakaho district, was received and agreed to.

In consequence of Fredrick Ingobrisen having neglected to pay the second instalment due on the land selected at Makaretu under application No 56, within the three months allowed under the Act, the land was declared forfeited to Her Majesty.

The Chairman gave notice that, at the next meeting, he would propose that, in future, meetings of the Board shall be held on the first Thursday in the month, special meetings being called when any important business required the attendance of members.

"Leave the room, Pulford!" she said, beseechingly, in a hurried undertone. "You will ruin everything. Leave grandpapa to me!"

Mr Pulford smiled sardonically, but made no movement to obey.

"One moment, my lord," he said, suavely, detaining the marquis at the very door. "Edith, my darling, can you not plead with grandpapa to forgive us and look kindly upon us? Tell him how you love me, dearest—"

Lady Trevor uttered a faint scream covered her ears with her hands, and thrust her head into the depths of the sofa-pillow.

Lord St. Leonards, with a wild snort of rage too deep for words, abruptly quitted the room and the house, violently slamming the doors behind him.

Mr Pulford again smiled and began walking the floor with his hands in his pockets, whistling a tune.

The widow indulged in a renewed burst of hysterics. When her emotion had spent its force, she struggled to a sitting position, angry and sullen, with inflamed visage, and hard black eyes glittering with evil passions, as unlovely an object, perhaps, as a lover's eyes ever rested upon.

Mr Pulford, however, delighted in his power over her. He stopped short before her, exclaiming:

"If you are ready to be reasonable at last, my dear Edith, I should like from you some sort of explanation of this very singular scene!"

Lady Trevor angrily beat her slipped foot upon the carpet.

"I beg to know," continued Mr Pulford, still blandly, but with an authoritative air that indicated his intention to be master, "why you denied to Lord St. Leonards our engagement of marriage?"

"Because," cried Lady Trevor, finding voice at last, "because you and I agreed that our engagement should be secret. You have seen the effect of your announcement upon him. He will never leave me a penny."

"Your chances of inheriting any of his property had grown exceedingly slim, my dear Edith. He has avowed his intention of finding Miss Rosse, and make her his heir."

"But he can't find her. And, not finding her, he might leave his untailed property to me. I have counted upon inheriting it, now that she is out of the way!" cried the widow.

"His untailed property is worth five thousand a year—an income worth scheming for," remarked Mr Pulford, leisurely. "Under ordinary circumstances, I should be willing to sacrifice my own personal feelings to obtain it. But you have a fortune to which that is a mere bagatelle, so to speak, and I do not choose to sacrifice greater advantages to obtain the lesser. His favor and friendship would be worth more to us than his money. He is a great statesman, a power in the land, a favourite with the queen, a counsellor to her majesty; in fact, one of the noblest and mightiest peers of Great Britain. His nod can open to me the best houses in England, as his frown can close them to me. I am ambitious of becoming a man of society, of joining fashionable clubs, and of obtaining a title. All these things his favor would render easy to me—"

"Then why did you declare our engagement to him? Why did you provoke his anger and make such a scene?"

"Because I am tired of waiting in vain—because he would never look favourably upon your marriage to me. The advantages his favor would bring could never be mine because his favor is unattainable. I am letting the substance slip from my grasp while I chase after shadows. We have been engaged to each other about eight months. It was last September at Castle Cliff when I proposed to you, and you promised to marry me in a month's time, and here it is May, and we

are not married yet."

"We have waited on account of the Marquis—"

"We will wait no longer, then. He is mortally offended, but I can live without his favor, as you and Sir Albert Trevor lived so many years."

"We waited also on account of that girl," said Lady Trevor, in a lower tone. "I would not marry while I had anything to fear from her."

"You have nothing whatever to fear from her now. If she isn't dead she soon will be. I think you lack your usual wisdom in deferring our marriage for any such cause, Edith. If I become your husband, it is to my interest to guard your name and fortune from any marauder, is it not? We will not argue. You have put off our marriage upon excuses that appear to me unsound. I shall not listen to them longer. Our engagement shall no longer remain secret."

Mr Pulford—

"The marriage shall take place within a month! By Heavens, madam, do you think I will submit to be cheated much longer out of my share in your wealth! I have submitted to your whims this winter and have allowed our marriage to be put off indefinitely. You have visited country-houses, have flirted with marriageable men, have schemed to win Lord Glenham—I've seen it all!—while I have come and gone as your business-agent, tolerated in good society because I am a gentleman and your friend, but only tolerated! Now we shall change all that. I intend to be master in this house, where now I am a guest. I intend to enter society as your husband; I intend to spend my share of your fortune; to drive and ride with you in the park; to be received as the equal of your lordly friends; to sit at the foot of your table as the master and dispense its hospitalities; to order your servants; to loll in your drawing-rooms; to live the life of a gentleman of leisure! The day for your excuses and postponements is over! We will be married on the first Wednesday in June!"

He delivered his ultimatum as if it had been a decree of fate.

Lady Trevor's face grew livid.

She had liked Pulford well enough as a servant; as her betrothed husband she loathed, detested, and hated him. She was ambitious: the prospect of a marriage with him galled and humiliated her. She secretly loved Lord Glenham with all the fervor of her nature. She had by no means given up hope of winning the earl. Cecil Rosse forever removed from his path, why should not Lord Glenham consider his mother's wishes and contract a marriage with the granddaughter of Lord St. Leonards? If Pulford persisted in his claims upon her, her love and ambition would be alike balked. She knew that he would be a hard master rather than a doting husband, and she said to herself passionately that she would rather die than become his wife.

And then all those dark and terrible schemes of deliverance from his power which she had considered when at Castle Cliff, in the first days of her betrothal to him, recurred to her with sinister force.

She dropped her gaze, her hard eyes emitting a baleful light that might have betrayed the nature of her thoughts, and she set her full lips together in a hard, tense line.

Mr Pulford continued to regard her triumphantly.

"You know that this marriage is distasteful to me," said Lady Trevor, in a hard, cold voice, after a brief pause. "I do not love you—"

Mr Pulford laughed sneeringly.

The widow flushed under her powder rouge.

"Can I not buy off your claims?" she asked, forcing herself to speak calmly. "I will give you five thousand pounds a year for life, and will procure your entrance into society on the terms you crave—"

Mr Pulford laughed again.

"The terms I crave are simply to enter society as Lady Trevor's husband. Lady Edith Pulford—that doesn't sound badly, eh? Come, come, Edith, your reluctance to marry me is anything but flattering. I am a revengeful sort of person. I shall be apt to visit my displeasure on you after our marriage, if you do not profess some liking for me. Do you want people to see that you are being forced into this marriage? They are likely to inquire how it happens that you are in my power? Leave but a slight clue to your secret loose and some one will seize upon it and unravel the whole mystery. You are safe only in your marriage with me."

Lady Trevor shuddered.

"I have appointed the marriage-day," continued Mr Pulford, his face growing dark and terrible, his eyes fixed upon her in a piercing gaze. "Is it your intention to submit to my decree, to proclaim our engagement, to prepare your trousseau, and have a grand marriage at St. George's Hanover Square, with an entire column of glowing description in the court newspapers; or shall I blow your secret to the winds, produce the girl, and send you to a cell in Newgate prison? Take your choice, and let the matter be settled now for one and for ever."

"I choose the marriage," said Lady Trevor, huskily.

"You choose wisely. By Jove! I might force the girl to marry me. No doubt she'd do it to escape her prison. I need not destroy myself you see, to ruin you. But the matter is settled. We will go out to-day to order certain portions of your trousseau—such as require most time. I will go to Emmanuel's, and select diamonds for a bracelet, or other knick-knack for you as my bridal gift. They will set the jewels and have them ready in time, and I'll pay the bill out of your money, my dear. We won't have any marriage-settlements, I detest them. What is yours must belong unreservedly to me!"

Lady Trevor lifted her eyes and flashed a look of hatred upon her suitor.

"I will have marriage settlements," she exclaimed. "I will never give all my money to you, and be left dependent upon you. The money is my own—"

"But how obtained?" asked Mr Pulford, suavely. "By a horrible crime, for which, if I were to denounce you, you would be doomed to the felon's cell. You are a criminal, amenable to the law, through you recline on a silken couch in your gilded drawing room, with your hair frizzled, your cheeks rouged, and your form covered with silken robes. How quickly these frescoed walls would be exchanged for the narrow prison cell—those garments for prison stripes, that chevelure for a cropped head, if I were but to speak?"

"You delight to torture me! Have everything your own way. When the day arrives I will be ready. Meantime, spare me your allusions to the past and your threatenings!"

"It is a bargain. Learn to submit yourself to the inevitable with a good grace. Don't give the world food for scandal. If Lord St. Leonards were to get wind of your reluctance to marry me, he'd suspect the real truth. So make the best of the situation, my dear Edith. Order your trousseau, and remember that our engagement is no longer to be kept secret."

He approached and bent over her and kissed her forehead.

"I'm off to spread the news," he said, lightly, "to order your bracelet and to procure the insertion of a little paragraph in the fashionable newspapers announcing the approaching marriage in High Life. 'The die is cast,' my dear Edith; there's no turning back now. Ta-ta, my love. I will do myself the honor of

dining with you to-day!"

He made a low bow, half in mockery, and departed from the room, humming a tune.

As the house-door closed behind him, the widow sprang to her feet. Now the repressed passion of the past hour, no longer held in check by her terrors, leaped to her eyes and mouth and revealed itself in her quick, impetuous movements, as she began to walk the floor.

"I hate him! I hate him!" she muttered. "The marriage shall never take place. I cannot prevent his announcing the engagement, but I will not marry him. Either he or I will die before the marriage day. There is much to be done. I will make my preparations—but hardly such preparations as he desired! But, first of all, I must arrange to see Lord Glenham, before he hears the report. He must come to me immediately upon his return from the Continent!"

She sat down at her writing-table and wrote a note to the young earl, requesting him to call upon her immediately upon his return to London. She sealed and addressed the missive and despatched it to Park Lane by a servant.

Then she went upstairs to her own private rooms.

Her first act was to send away her French maid upon some trivial errand to a linen draper's shop at a distance of a mile or more. Then she made a hasty toilet of the most unobtrusive description at her command. She brushed her hair low on her forehead, flattening it, thus altering her appearance and expression. A short walking-costume of black silk, a square India shawl with black centre, her plainest bonnet, covered with a large, brown grenadine veil that was doubled over her face, rendered her unlikely to be recognised should she chance to meet an acquaintance.

Her preparations completed, she took from her private desk, in her boudoir, a copy of a newspaper bearing date some months back.

Folding the newspaper so that the inner side came uppermost, she turned to a report of a murder trial, which in its day had attracted her attention. A man had poisoned his wife. He had procured the poison of a chemist, living in an obscure street, who was described in the testimony as old and infirm and avaricious; "a man who would do anything for money," and who had more than once rendered himself liable to the penalty of the law.

Lady Trevor found this chemist's testimony and cut out his address, destroying the remainder of the newspaper.

Putting the scrap in her pocket-book, she counted her money, of which she had over a hundred pounds in bank-notes and gold. Then she glided down stairs and out of the house, alone and on foot, to the surprise of the becalmed and beplushed footman whose duty it was to wait upon the door.

She proceeded to Regent-street, signalled an empty passing cab, and gave the address of the chemist, reading it from her scrap of newspaper.

An hour later, Lady Trevor, with a very pale face under her doubled veil, with her hard eyes glittering with sinister exultation, ascended her own steps and let herself in at the door with a latch-key.

She had returned home by a circuitous route to avoid pursuit doubling upon her course like a hare, had managed to conceal her name and identity from the chemist whom she had seen, and had reason to believe that no one knew her errand save herself, and the chemist, and that no one even suspected her private schemes.

Her pocket-book was empty, but she had gained possession of two vials, which appeared to her as priceless treasures.

"Now," she said to herself, as she

glided up to her own rooms, "now, Mr Horace Pulford, I am mistress of the situation. Before the appointed marriage-day comes around, either the bride or the bridegroom will be dead."

CHAPTER XXXVI.

AMONG THE MOUNTAINS.

As the stout Highland ponies moved quickly out of the stable-yard at Black Rock, and the crisp, cold, salt air blew freshly upon her, old Gretchen revived instantly, the instinct of flight taking possession of her entire being. She leaned forward, clutching the side of the wagon, and looked backward with eager gaze.

"They're coming! they're coming!" she cried, wildly, her voice, half-wailing. "They see us, Miss Cecil. They'll catch us."

Cecil set her lips together; her dusky eyes blazed like burning stars. She plied the whip vigorously, keeping a firm hold upon the reins. The ponies galloped down the hill at a reckless pace; the vehicle jolted against stones, tipped up and then into a rut or ditch threatening an overthrow, and dashed on madly, Cecil's steady hold never once relaxing, nor her stern courage faltering.

They gained the foot of the hill in safety, and plunged into the woodland-path, into a dense gloom made by thick overhanging trees.

Gretchen could no longer see the pursuers, but she kept up her keen lookout, muttering and groaning. The dogs under the wagon bayed and howled, excited by the wild speed of the horses. Cecil sat perfectly silent, the reins in one hand, the whip in the other, listening intently for the sound of pursuers.

One mile—two miles—were gone over. Then Cecil drew a long sigh of relief.

"How many ponies did they have, Gretchen?" she asked, keeping the horses at a steady though not excessive speed.

"Four," gasped the old peasant woman.

"And there are only two to the wagon. The others must have been in the stable or the yard, ready to mount or lead. They must be on our track."

"They will overtake us. With this heavy weight they will find it easy to capture us. What shall we do?"

"We might cut the traces, mount these ponies, and get away," responded Cecil. "But we are likely to repent if we do that. We must keep to the wagon if possible. I have often seen firearms in the old kitchen. See if none of them have been put in the wagon. They would be high at the sides, out of harm's way."

The old woman groped about, and announced her discovery of firearms.

"I think I can use them, if necessary. I have seen the men at the schutzen-feasts firing their rifles, and I know how the thing is done. Do you hear our pursuers?"

"No, Miss Cecil," replied Gretchen, after intently listening.

Cecil again became silent. The ponies pressed on through the gloom and darkness, stumbling now and then, jolting the wagon upon stones and in ruts.

In the course of an hour the faint gray dawn became apparent, even in the forest-wilds. The fugitives could see the wild desolation of the mountain-road, the various features of the weird and rugged scenery, and note the terrible loneliness that reigned supreme over the Northern Highlands. There were mountain peaks on every side, all of them crowned with snow. The vegetation was, after passing the old park and forest of the Black Rock estate, sparse and stunted. No living creature crossed their path.

As the dawn deepened into daylight, and the cold became more

perceptible, as they retreated from the sea, Gretchen began an examination of the interior of the wagon. She found the stores which the Jarvises had prepared with a view to their own needs and comfort, and carved slices from the roasted venison, brought out slices of bread and butter, a pot of fruit jelly, and a jug of strong cold coffee.

"Here is something they intended for themselves," she remarked, depositing her treasures on the broad seat. "Let us eat breakfast, Miss Cecil. I will drive while you eat."

Cecil put her whip in its socket, but kept a firm hold upon the reins while she took up the sandwich Gretchen had made for her. She ate it while driving, not for an instant relaxing her vigilance or permitting her ponies to slacken speed to a walk.

"It is singular that they do not show themselves," said Cecil, when she had finished her meal. "Something must have happened!"

In truth, something had happened. Mr Jarvis had intended to secure the two extra ponies to the rear-end of the wagon, and had left them loose in the stable. Mrs Jarvis, on discovering the escape of the prisoners had attempted to mount one of the ponies thus left, and had been thrown to the floor. No injury had been done her, but the ponies were not secured, and in her haste she had left the stable-door open. After upsetting her, seeing the avenue of escape, both the ponies had gone careering into the stable yard, neighing for their late companions, had overthrown Maria, who happened to be in their way, and had then made a bold break for freedom.

With vivid recollections of a certain pasture from which they had been withdrawn a day or two before, they set off on a gallop and regained the wide field, where for more than an hour they had indulged in the wildest antics, defying the efforts of Jarvis to capture them. At the end of that period they had again taken to flight, and to the old road by which the fugitives had fled.

Jarvis set out on foot, of course, to capture them, swearing till he was hoarse, and swelling with rage and fury that was little short of maniacal.

It was noon when he found them calmly grazing in the grass-grown highway. To belabor them with a club was his first act. Then he mounted and pushed onward in wild pursuit, relieving his pent-up emotions with imprecations "both loud and deep," and resolving to kill both Cecil and Gretchen at sight.

"There'll be no more foolish sentimentality," he growled. "No fears of being haunted, no dread of ghosts. A fortune like that girl a-slipping through my hands like this! I wonder I ain't raving-crazy!"

Throughout that long morning Cecil kept the ponies at a steady jog. At noon, when they showed signs of flagging, she alighted, unhooked them from the wagon, and permitted them to graze in a little green dell by the roadside, where a mountain spring bubbled, and the young grass was thick. An hour was given to this halt. The fugitives ate their dinner under the trees, and kept anxious watch in the direction they had come.

They put the ponies to the wagon again after due rest, and resumed their journey.

The road during the morning had threaded a wide valley, now ran through a dangerous mountain-pass, so narrow in places that two wagons could not have passed each other. The mountain rose steeply upon one side of the path, upon the other a deep precipice yawned, and beyond that were other mountains. Even at mid-day the road was in deep shadow. It was crossed by frequent mountain torrents, spanned by insecure old bridges that threatened to give way under the weight now brought to

bear upon them. In places the path was so narrow that a sheer of the horses to the outer side, of but a few feet, would have precipitated the fugitives into eternity. In other places a misstep would have been attended with the same fatal consequences.

Speed was out of the question. The ponies, sure-footed like all of their breed, and used to such precarious footing, plodded on steadily, while Cecil and Gretchen kept watch in front and rear, their nerves strung to their utmost tension.

For hours they marched in this terrible mountain pass, with strained vision and hearing, but the ponies never swerved from their course, and no pursuer came in sight.

At a late hour of the afternoon they came out into a wide valley, which stretched for miles before them in a comparatively level plain. There were patches of snow in their way, but the road was improving, and Cecil again compelled the ponies to jog. It was twilight when she turned the vehicle aside into a scraggy grove of stunted pines, and came to a halt beside a mountain stream.

"We must stop for the night, Gretchen," she said. "The ponies are tired. And as for us, we must have rest."

Gretchen assented with many misgivings, and alighted from the wagon. The horses were unharnessed and tethered to trees, within easy reach of the noisy little stream. Cecil helped to rub them down.

"We must take good care of them. Our safety depends upon them, Gretchen," she observed, gravely. Jarvis must be on our track. He will overtake us by to-morrow noon, even if he has been delayed, or if he is compelled to rest as often as we."

"Then what are we to do?"

"We shall have to resume our journey in the morning without the wagon. The ponies are gentle. We must ride them. We can take food enough in a bag for our wants, and by to-morrow night this road must bring us to some shepherd's hut or some Highland hamlet!"

Gretchen brought out a variety of food, the best the wagon contained. After supper the old woman filled a bag, which she improvised from a table-cloth found in the vehicle, with choice provisions, and placed it where it could be taken up at an instant's notice, should they be compelled to renew their fight in haste.

"One ought to watch while the other sleeps, Miss Cecil," said Gretchen. "I will watch—you look beat out. Your face is as pale as death."

"But my heart is strong and my courage also," replied Cecil. "We have been free one whole day. I think God is surely befriending us. He will not suffer our enemies to overtake us and put us to death. But we must watch, as you say. You are older than I. Lie down in the wagon and sleep until midnight. Then I will waken you and take my turn at resting."

"But you are weaker than I," protested old Gretchen. "You are delicately nurtured, while I am only a rough serving-woman. Let me sit up and watch while you sleep."

But Cecil shook her head with pretty imperiousness.

"You must do as I say, Gretchen," she said, affectionately. "Lie down now. I promise you I will take my turn."

Gretchen was forced to obey. She crept into the wagon and went to sleep, snoring heavily.

The young girl leaned against a tree, silent and watchful. She was well wrapped against the cold. The noisy torrent was very near. The mountain peaks, crowned with snow, shut in around her on every side like a bristling wall. The wind tore down the valley, coming through the mountain-passes, keen and chill. The shadows of the night deepened into blackness. Only two or three stars could be distinguished through

the dense clouds. It was a strange vigil, one ever to be remembered.

Cecil's thoughts went back over her brief history. The mystery of her origin seemed to her to be connected with her imprisonment at Black Rock and the attempt of her jailers to destroy her life. What could that mystery be? Who were her unseen enemies? Who had bribed the Jarvises and the Portuguese woman to kill her?

She thought of Lord Glenham. His blonde beauty, the rare charm of his manner, his nobleness and goodness, all were reviewed in that lonely silence and gloom. And the young face was turned up to the frowning sky, pale and sorrowful, yet full of tenderness for the lover she believed lost to her; and Cecil prayed for him and for Lady Trevor, whom she believed that he loved, that they might be happy, whatever should be her own fate.

She did not waken old Gretchen at midnight. But somewhere about one o'clock the old woman aroused herself and came forth, compelling Cecil to take her place. The girl did so, sleeping profoundly until day-break.

Then she arose. They had breakfast. A feed of oats was given the horses, and they resumed their journey.

They had been gone three or four hours when Jarvis came riding up. He saw that they had halted for the night. He was hungry, and made an instant attack upon the stores they had left, consuming an inordinate amount of whiskey.

Securing extra stores of provisions both food and drink, he pushed on after the fugitives in better spirits.

"They don't know the road ahead of them!" he muttered. "This second day'll tell on that girl. I shall overtake 'em at Devil's Gap, if not sooner. They haven't the slightest chance of escape!"

To be continued.

ADDITIONAL ENGLISH ITEMS.

In consequence of the English Press, Conservative, Liberal, and Radical, with singular unanimity condemning the action of Marshal MacMahon in dismissing M. Simon, papers have been subjected to a censorship on entering France, and they are delayed for several hours.

M. Fourtue is said to have stated that Marshal MacMahon intends resigning if another Republican Assembly is elected. A quantity of pearls from Western Australia were sold by auction by Messrs Debenham and Storr. They were bought by the trade in sixty lots, at prices varying from 3d to 7s a grain.

Anthony Trollope is going to the Cape at the end of June, and purposes remaining there six months, prior to writing a book on the country.

Both arms of the celebrated statue of the Venus of Milo, found in the island of Melos in 1820, have lately been discovered in the immediate locality.

The London correspondents of several leading country journals state that Lord Beaconsfield was very much opposed to the Queen going to Scotland in the present crisis. Other members of the Cabinet are said to hold the same opinion.

A gross act of treachery on the part of Russia was announced by the Berlin correspondent of the Times. A man named Krysiuski, a leader in the Polish insurrection of 1863, who escaped, applied for leave to return. In answer he was invited to come back. On doing so he was tried and sentenced to Siberia. He made his escape, was caught, and tried a second time and shot.

What's the difference between a cake for tea and a silly person out for a walk?

—One's a muff-in, the other a muff out.

Anent the Arctic Expedition, a correspondent of the Paris Figaro, lately strolling about the London streets, noticed a large crowd hurrying into a wooden booth. Having paid his shilling, he entered also, and found the great attraction to consist of a sailor sitting quietly smoking and drinking beer. Over his head was the following inscription—"This is the only sailor in the Arctic Expedition who succeeded in perspiring at the North Pole."

Remarkably careful is that Aberdeen coal-dealer who stands on the scale himself to see that there is no fooling with the weight of a load.

WEST CLIVE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

July 30.

The weather is particularly disagreeable. The river is rising, and in all probability we shall have a flood which will test the permanence of the works being carried out at Merritt's and Hamlin's ends.

A numerously signed memorial has been forwarded to Major Scully for the purpose of keeping Constable Graham in his present position. Much interest is taken in the matter, and the result is looked forward to with some degree of anxiety.

The election of Chairman to the West Clive Road Board takes place to-day. The contest will lay between Mr. R. P. Williams and Mr. Sutton. I am under the impression, while having the greatest respect for Mr. Williams, that Mr. Sutton will be the chosen one.

Mr. Turley will hold a sale of cattle at the Farndon sale yards to-morrow, and a numerous attendance is anticipated. I understand Mr. Turley intends holding regular private sales at this place, which will be a decided convenience to buyers and sellers.

Mr. Giffard intended giving a picnic to the children of Clive at his estate to-day, but through the inclemency of the weather it has been unavoidably postponed.

WOODVILLE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

July 26, 1877.

The ratepayers' yearly meeting for the purpose of electing Wardens for the ensuing year was held at the Woodville Hotel on July 9. Mr. H. Monteith was in the chair. There was a large gathering of ratepayers, who took great interest in the proceedings. The balance-sheet for the year was read, showing that there was a balance in hand. The meeting then proceeded to elect the Wardens, the Chairman wishing to have all the members proposed together, but the meeting would not agree to anything of the kind. Mr. Sowry wanted the meeting to nominate a number of persons for the office, and then proceed and ballot, and of course the five persons having the largest number of votes would be elected; but the Chairman ruled that he had a right to decide which the meeting should vote. Mr. Sowry again and again protested against the power he claimed as to the matter of voting, when the first person was proposed and seconded. The Chairman then received the next proposition as an amendment—though both persons were acceptable—and the meeting was kept in that state of "humbug" to the end. The members from the special settlement were at the meeting in large numbers, and, if they wished, could have put in the whole of the Wardens without trouble; but moderation was the order of the day, and Messrs Fountain and Horrocks were elected as representing the town interest; Messrs Hughes and Pinfold as representing the special settlements; and Mr. Ross to represent the rest of the country district; which, on the whole, I think was very fair. It is to be hoped that as soon as the Board get into working order they will drain some of the water off the roads. Mr. Fountain was elected Chairman of the Board; and I have no doubt it will be an improvement to have the Chairman living in the district, instead of Waipukurau as before. It came out that Mr. Horrocks had taken the trouble and labor as Collector &c., free of cost, which had given him a great deal of work, and for which the ratepayers are much indebted to him.

A wife of one of our settlers having been ill, a Mr. Hirst, a sawyer, went for medicine, &c., to Palmerston, and on the way met with rather a bad misfortune. As he was going in the dark round one of the cuttings, something hanging from the side caught him and threw him on his head. His leg was much hurt, and also the side of the horse cut. Strange to say as he returned home next day the horse he was riding (which was a fresh one, the other being lame, was left behind) fell, and he came down to the ground once more, but escaped this time with only a few scratches on his face. He has been laid up ever since, but I am glad to say is doing well.

Napier will be well represented here; we had a Mr. Greenaway and family up last week, and are expecting more from Napier shortly.

The last few mornings have been strong frosts; still the weather on the whole is very fine and seasonable.

What is that which lives in winter, dies in summer, and always grows with its roots upwards?—An icicle.

MAIL NOTES.

(From the English papers.)

The Princess Louise is said to have accepted a temperance society.

"Truth" says that the custom of applying an artificial bloom to children's faces is on the increase.

The Boston Post says that Stanley was last heard of in Jzjzjzjzjzjz, on the southern shore of Lake Nylylylylyly.

There are 166 temperance societies in the Royal Navy.

The printing-office of the Waterford News has been almost totally destroyed by fire.

Professor Lister, of Edinburgh, has resolved to accept the Chair offered to him in King's College, London.

Crimes of violence are greatly on the increase in Belgium. At the prison of Charleroi alone there are now 13 murderers awaiting trial.

It is reported that the Marquis of Lorne is engaged upon a new metrical version of the Psalms of David, set to popular hymn tunes, in various metres.

Over £20,000 has been publicly subscribed to erect a new town hall, public library, reading-rooms, arts and science classes, and museum at Reading.

Four new churches are to be erected in Barrow-in-Furness, at a cost of £24,000, of which amount the Duke of Devonshire and the Duke of Buccleuch have already subscribed £18,000.

According to a Paris paper "Sir John Arrison" has invented an apparatus by which persons may walk on the water as easily as on land.

Five rounds were fired from the 80 ton gun at Woolwich on Tuesday. Charges were used of 425lbs of powder and a 1703lb shot, and the velocity registered was about 1480 feet per second.

The pageant of "Lady Godiva" was revived this year in the ancient city of Coventry with unusual splendour. It is now seven years since a Godiva procession was held.

Thomas Dapling, a groom in the service of Lord Hampton, has been sent to prison for two months, with hard labor, by the Westminster police magistrate for having been guilty of cruelty to a mare by an excessive use of the spurs.

Messrs Christie sold on the 25th May, in London, an old relic of the Indian Mutiny, a very fine old Sevres vase given by Louis XVI. to Tipoo Sahib, and taken by the English at the siege of Seringapatam. It fetched £425.

Major Bolden, 68th Light Infantry, was mauled by a tiger near Nusserabad in May last, and died after the amputation of a leg. He was about firing from an elephant's pad when the elephant swerved, throwing him into the tiger's jaws.

The Rev. H. W. Beecher's recent lecture tour in the West was a splendid financial operation. He lectured 40 times, and received, it is said, £80 for each lecture, realising the snug little sum of £3200. This was good pay for a month's work.

The estimated population of the principal towns in Scotland to the middle of 1877 is as follows:—Glasgow, 555,933; Edinburgh, 218,729; Dundee, 142,951; Aberdeen, 98,181; Greenock, 72,377; Paisley, 48,761; Leith, 54,257; Perth, 26,564.

Some pupils of the French Archaeological School, in lately making excavations at Milo, found the arm of a female statue holding a mirror in her hand. It seems beyond doubt, says Galignani, to be a portion of the celebrated Venus now in the Louvre.

Partridges in England are killed in considerable numbers by flying against the telegraph wires along railways. In one season (says the Live Stock Journal and Fanciers' Gazette) 361 partridges were destroyed by the wires of the South-Western Railway alone.

Land and Water says that complaints are being made that there is no machine for digging out drains. Here is an opportunity for an ingenious mechanic. Any one who could supply the want would benefit agriculturists greatly, and, would in all probability rapidly amass for himself a large fortune.

The steamship Saratoga, while being launched in Delaware River, at Chester, Philadelphia, on the 22nd of May, started prematurely while 40 men were under her blocking her up on ways, and many were dragged into the water. Most escaped with slight injuries, but eight were killed and two mortally wounded. The dead were horribly mutilated.

On the 2nd of May a shocking sight was discovered at Kelker, County Limerick. A Mrs. Gibson, a lady who mixed in high society, was found burned to death in her bed at her residence, Albert road, Kildree. Since the previous evening deceased had been missing, not having left the house, in which she alone resided.

Previous to the departure of her

Majesty for Scotland recently, a gentleman arrived at Windsor Castle, and, announcing himself as the King of England, desired to be shown to his apartments in the Palace. He was informed that as he had not sent notice of his coming, they were not ready, and was requested to take a seat. A surgeon pronounced him to be insane, and he was consigned to the Windsor Workhouse.

One of the oldest of the retired shipmasters resident in South Shields has passed away at the age of 78 in the person of Captain William Carter. The deceased had sailed between the Tyne and the Thames for 62 years, and only came ashore about seven years ago. He commanded the Waterhouse for 39 years, and when at last that vessel was lost she had been afloat for 60 years. Captain Carter was a nephew of the illustrious Captain Cook, the discoverer, by his sister, Margaret Cook.

A Braemar correspondent says it is reported that arrangements are all but completed for the purchase by her Majesty the Queen, from Colonel Farquharson, of Invercauld, of the extensive Forest of Ballochbuie, which adjoins the estate of Balmoral. The forest comprises within its bounds the largest area of natural-grown Scots firs in Scotland. It is unequalled in extent and in the size, beauty and symmetry of its trees. For the last few years it has been held by her Majesty on lease from Colonel Farquharson, at an annual rental of £1500 sterling.

The Liverpool Courier says the estate of the late Mr. John Pemberton Heywood, head of the banking firm of Arthur Heywood, Sons, and Co., who died a few days ago, will be proved under two millions and a half sterling. He left no children. The bulk of the property will go to his nearest relatives. Mr. Robert Gladstone receives a bequest in money and the reversion of the Norris Green estate on the death of Mrs. Heywood, Mr. Arthur T. Lonsdale, nephew of the deceased, receives the bequest of one million sterling, the reversion of the Cloverly Hall estate, and he is also constituted residuary legatee.

A pretty little scene, amusing to all but the actors in it, was enacted at a church at Holylake the other day. One of the villagers recently decided to enter the bonds of matrimony, and the ceremony was duly performed a few days ago. The friends of the bride and bridegroom had assembled in considerable numbers in the church to witness the marriage ceremony, and, the service having been satisfactorily concluded, the newly-married couple proceeded down the aisle to leave the church. Ere they had left the church a woman rose from one of the seats and flung a baby into the hands of the bridegroom, saying that his wife would probably take care of his progeny for the future. The bridegroom stood aghast; and what the feelings of the bride were may be imagined. The scene was quite dramatic, and probably the honeymoon of the newly-married pair has not been quite so sweet as they had anticipated.—Liverpool Post.

THE EARTHQUAKE AND TIDAL WAVE.

INTELLIGENCE from South America gives details of the destruction caused by the earthquake and tidal wave there, the influence of which was felt on the New Zealand coast some months ago. Iquique was almost entirely destroyed. The damage done amounts to 4,000,000 dolrs. The valley of Chamoaya, with 400 houses, has only a few standing. The town of Tarabaca, and villages of Pica, Matilla, and Canchenez, were more or less ruined. The earthquake was especially severe at Chanavoyaz.

TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE KILLED.

The bodies were floating in the water, and a pestilence was feared. At Huniallas and Guano all the houses were destroyed. The tidal wave which followed the earthquake was 60 feet high. Many vessels and several of those on board were lost. At Mexillones two-thirds of the town was completely obliterated.

200 MEN SMOTHERED.

At Lapina the Blanca mine sank in smothering 200 workmen, of whom many were Cornish miners. Cabija, the principal town on the coast, lost three-fourths of the houses. As soon as the intelligence reached Lima the Governor sent out a relief expedition. The northern parts of Peru were damaged but little.

UPHEAVAL OF THE SEA.

At Callao there was a gradual upheaval of the sea, which caused serious damage and exceeding alarm. The docks and piers of Muelle and Darsena were the principal sufferers, together with some stores along the shore, nine of which were completely carried away by water. The Elder reports the almost complete destruction of Antofagasta,

Iquique, Arica, Tambo de Maro, Pabellon de Pica and Ilo. Although severe shocks of earthquake were felt they caused but little damage. The

DESTRUCTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY was owing only to a frightful upheaval and the ingress of the sea. At Arica the sea washed over the town to the hill at the back of the church and destroyed much valuable property. The wreck of the United States steamer Wateree, which was carried inland a couple of miles by the tidal wave of 1868, was again floated and carried a mile or two farther up the coast. The lower part of Antofagasta, which is the port of the celebrated Caracoles mining district in Bolivia, is reported completely destroyed.

SMELTING WORKS SWEEP AWAY.

The smelting and other works near the shore were all swept away. The shipping at Pabellon de Pica and the guano deposits suffered severely, and some half a dozen fine vessels are reported ashore and complete wrecks.

At Hilo, Hawaiian Group, a mighty wave swept in, washing up and into all the stores in the front of the town, carrying off a great deal of lumber, and all the stone wall makai of the wharf. The perpendicular

HEIGHT OF THE WAVE.

(as we have since ascertained by levelling with the lamp-post on the wharf) was 12 feet 3 inches above the ordinary low-water mark. But at Waiakea the damage was frightful. Every house within a hundred yards of the water was swept away. Five lives were lost, and numbers were bruised and had limbs broken. The body of one woman was found by the boats off Honoli. The boats of the American whaleship Pacific, Captain Smithers, lying in the harbor, picked up six people who were swimming for their lives in the bay. Thirty-seven dwelling-houses were entirely destroyed; 17 badly injured; five people drowned and killed; seven badly injured; 163 left homeless and destitute; 17 horses and mules drowned.

THE LAKE OHAU TRAGEDY.

ARREST OF THE SUPPOSED MURDERER.

A telegram has been received from Sydney, dated the 16th instant, intimating that Matthew Cunningham, who is charged with the murder of Hugh Hannah at Lake Ohau nearly two years ago, and for whose arrest a reward of £100 has been offered, has just been arrested. The circumstances connected with the Lake Ohau tragedy are briefly as follows: On Thursday, the 28th November, Mr. Dick, manager of the Lake Ohau Station, sent Cunningham and Hannah across the lake in a boat for a boat-load of chaff. As they did not return by Saturday night fears were entertained for their safety, and on Sunday a search-party was organised. The shores of the lake were searched, and the result was the discovery of the boat at the south end, with the oars and chaff strewn about the beach. In the bottom of the boat was the dead body of Hannah lying face downwards. The head was bruised, the neck appeared to be dislocated, and blood flowed from the mouth and ears. Cunningham was not to be found, and this fact, together with the evidence obtained subsequently, led to the presumption that Hannah had been murdered by his companion. A diligent search was made for the presumed murderer, who was described as a seaman, 35 years of age, and well acquainted with the interior of the Colony. Lake Ohau is situated on the borders between Otago and Canterbury, and it was supposed that Cunningham had made his way into the bush adjoining. Notwithstanding a diligent search and the proclamation of the reward already mentioned, nothing whatever has been heard of him till yesterday when a telegram was received announcing his capture, and requesting that a warrant, together with the depositions, and a constable to identify the accused should at once be sent to Sydney.—Otago Guardian.

There was a reward offered the other day for the recovery of "a large leather lady's travelling bag." Whether the "large leather lady" has got it back has not been stated.

The other day a father said to his little five-year-old who came in late to dinner from school, "Robbie, why are you so late? Didn't you hear the bell?" "Yes, father," replied Robbie, "but I couldn't hear it plain."

A butler received a telegram from his master—a certain nobleman—asking him to send "ten bob" at once, as he was "greatly in need of it." Of course the message had been wrongly transmitted through the telegraph-office, "ten bob" having originally been "tin box."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEWERAGE AND SMELLS.

SIR.—A good deal has been written and much more said about the horrible stench arising from the drain in front of the Post Office, but all apparently to no purpose. For a few days certainly a stream of clear water was allowed to flow down the channelling, but this has been stopped, and the delightful (?) odours are playing round again in a most unmistakable manner.

It has been suggested—and to my mind it is not a bad idea—that the members of the Municipal Public Works Committee, with our wonderfully energetic Inspector of Nuisances, should be compelled to stand over this drain for a couple of hours every warm day for a week or two. Perhaps this would lead to a good order for our undertakers, but I really don't know that that would be much regretted by those whose olfactory nerves are daily made to suffer through the manifest disregard that has been shown by the Municipal authorities to the now almost innumerable complaints about the state of this drain.—I am, &c.,

Napier, July 27, 1877.

MUNICIPAL BYE-LAWS.

SIR.—Can you or any one of your numerous subscribers inform me why the City Bye-laws should be framed so as to crush one individual and spare another. I have just heard that one of the civil authorities interviewed Messrs Leonard and Co., and threatened vengeance if they should attempt exposing their wares for sale under their verandah. I cannot see the Justice of such bitterness.

In the name of all that is equitable, let us chuck our laws in the tide if they are only made to be carried out against strangers.—I am, &c.,

JUSTICE.

July 28, 1877.

ROAD BOARDS.

SIR.—I observe in your issue of Saturday, the 28th inst., a question asked by "Q"—"Whether a (Road) Board can do more than elect a Chairman until the names of the new Wardens and Chairman are officially gazetted?" and that you in answer state:—"A Board is not in legal existence until formally gazetted."

Now, Sir, with all due deference to you, I wish to know what your reply infers, as it does not answer the question put by "Q." The election of Wardens, until the Election Act of 1876 is brought into force, is under the Highways Act of 1871, but rating is under the Rating Act of 1876. In no part of this Act do I see provision made for the gazetted of Wardens and Chairman before a rate can be declared.

As there are conflicting opinions upon the two Acts, viz., the Highways Act, 1871, and the Rating Act of 1876, if you will kindly throw some light thereon I feel sure you will confer a great favour on Road Boards in general.—I am, &c.,

S. G. B.

July 30, 1877.

[Clause 6 of the Highways Act, 1871, provides that the newly elected Chairman of Board "shall report in writing to the Superintendent the names of the persons elected as members of the District Board at the said meeting, or at any adjournment thereof within ten days thereafter." This report was necessary to enable the Superintendent to gazette the Board of Wardens, a course that was always adopted. Since the abolition of provinces, the powers of Superintendents have devolved on the Governor, who confirms by Gazette notice the election of Wardens, as was formerly done by the Superintendents.—Ed. W.M.]

PARCEL TRAFFIC.

SIR.—Permit me through the columns of your valuable journal to inform the public that parcels will not be booked at the Waipukurau Railway Station fifteen minutes before the arrival of any train. I wanted to book a parcel to Takapau at fifteen minutes past 11 a.m. on Saturday last, and was told by our most obliging stationmaster that parcels must be booked half-an-hour before the arrival of the train. Now I find by the same day's paper an advertisement in the supplement of the DAILY TELEGRAPH that parcels should be booked fifteen minutes before the starting of the train to insure despatch. Now, Sir, I tendered to book my parcel fifteen minutes before the time of arrival, but was told distinctly that I should book it half-an-hour before the departure of the

train. I should like you to inform me and the public, for our future guidance whether the stationmaster is right, or whether the advertisement in your paper is?—I am, &c.,

ROBERT McKNIGHT.

Waipukurau, July 30, 1877.

[The advertisement was inserted by the authority of the Manager of the Nelder-Waipukurau Railway.—Ed. W.M.]

COLONIAL DEFENCES.

THE Royal Colonial Institute held a meeting lately in London, when Captain J. C. R. Colomb, R.M.A., read a paper on "Imperial and Colonial Responsibility in War." Having given a sketch of our Imperial position and the danger to which it is exposed, he showed how the want of adequate means of defence in one place affected such means in another, and laid great stress upon the necessity of the Empire providing means of defence and garrisons for the strategic points in the sea lines of communication. The expediency of protecting coal depots, and localising and developing naval resources was also insisted upon. He spoke of the importance of the proposed Canadian Pacific Railway, maintaining that it is necessary for the safety of Australia as well as Canada. He also pointed out the advantage of having a food supply in British territory. He strongly advocated the erection of a dockyard at Sydney for the construction and maintenance of the Pacific fleet, by which that fleet would be independent of home dockyards; and he argued that it might perhaps be advisable to abolish a home dockyard so as to localise the reserve ships and stores. Allusion was made to our having no command over the coal in the Straits of Magellan. Imperial and colonial duties of defence, he argued, were alike, and every portion of the Empire was bound to share the burden. He suggested that a general scheme of defence was indispensable, and that the principle of "local defence" was dangerous to our safety. He thought that an Imperial Commission should look into the matter, as our weakness was due, not so much to a want of military force as to inability to apply it readily when required. Mr E. J. Reed, M.P., advocated strongly the representation of the Colonies in the House, and said he would be glad to exchange two hundred home members for 100 colonial members. He complained of the want of system in naval defence; besides building ships that could not leave our shores we had sent an unarmoured vessel as flagship to the Pacific, when several armoured vessels of foreign countries were already there. He also advised, from motives of economy, the establishment of a dockyard in the South Pacific. Mr Strangways, referring to the localisation of troops, said they were told by the Government some time since that they must not rely on their presence in war time. The colonists ought to have a voice in their policy, as united we could defy the world. He doubted the value of King George's Sound as a strategic base. Captain Gilmore, late Colonial Secretary of Tasmania, remarked that the Australian colonies were in a most defenceless condition. There was no adequate naval force in Australian waters, although the dockyard at Sydney could receive the largest ironclads. Colonel Crossman, R.E., strongly urged the careful maintenance of all our strategic positions, especially King George's Sound, Singapore, and Point de Galle. Our colonies must be defended regardless of expense. Canada has set a splendid example in raising a really efficient Militia, which all the colonies should hasten to imitate. Captain Bedford Pim, M.P., stated that Vancouver's Island was utterly defenceless. We had only seven men-of-war there against eleven Russian vessels at San Francisco, all capable of a six months' cruise, and undoubtedly stationed there to cut off our grain supply in the event of war. Mr Labilliere advocated the creation of colonial fleets and Imperial co-operation with such fleets. Mr Copel Hanbury, Mr Trelawney Sanders, Mr G. Cox, member of the Legislative Council, New South Wales, and Mr Champion, took part in the discussion.

It was in one of London's transpontine theatres—the Victoria—that the ever-famous dramatic criticism was delivered by a sweep in the gallery—"Ye don't expex grammar, and ve don't expex hact-ing, but ye might jine yer flats."

Deacon Spilkin's old ram attacked his venerable owner one bright day, butted him to grass, and then frisked away over the meadow, whereupon the deacon arose, brushed his home-spun suit, and muttered, "I never did like mutton with capers!"

A little boy came to his mother recently and said, "Mamma, I should think if I was made of dust I should get muddy inside when I driuk."

LOCAL OPTION BILL.

The following is the petition now being signed throughout New Zealand:—

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLONY OF NEW ZEALAND, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Petition Respectfully sheweth.

That in consideration of the acknowledged evils of intemperance, and the advanced state of public opinion on the matter of prohibition, no Licensing Act can meet the necessities of the case without clauses to the following effect, viz:—

1. That all Licensing Districts shall, as far as possible, be bounded by the same boundaries as are existing in highway districts, boroughs, wards of boroughs, or other already defined areas of not too great dimensions.

2. That all Licensing Officers shall be elected by the people.

3. That on the requisition of twenty householders in any district, it shall be imperative on the Chief Magistrate or other authority of the district, to take the votes by ballot, of all the adult residents in the district, in the usual electoral manner, as to whether any license shall or shall not be granted.

4. That in case of two-thirds of the actual votes given being against the granting of any license, no license shall be granted for the said district; nor shall any district, under any circumstances, be re-tested within a less period than three years.

5. That no new licenses shall be granted unless the person applying for such shall, in addition to complying with all other requirements of the law, furnish to the Clerk of the Court, a memorial in favour of such license being granted, signed by at least a majority of the adult residents in the district in which the house for which a license is sought is situate; such memorial to be lodged one month prior to the day appointed for the annual meeting of the Licensing Officers, and to be open for public inspection, and the genuineness of the signatures thereto to be verified on oath in open court.

6. That applications for Licenses shall be heard only at annual meetings of the Licensing Officers.

Your petitioners therefore pray, that the law of New Zealand may be altered in conformity with this petition, and that your Honorable House may be pleased to pass an Act embodying the aforesaid clauses in such a manner as to give them full legal force and effect.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

FURTHER OUTRAGES IN BULGARIA.

The Turks, says the New York Herald telegrams, have recommenced their barbarities in Bulgaria. All Christian Europe should proclaim a crusade. With seeming frenzy the wild Bashibazouks have been let loose upon the frontier towns along the Danube, and the results are scenes of rapine and spoliation which rival the darkest days of the Middle Ages. The little Bulgarian town of Turtukai, situated across the Danube from Oltenitza and twenty-eight miles west-south-west of Silistria, possessed many Christian inhabitants. Although in numbers far fewer than the Turks, they were in every way an industrious and valuable part of the population. On the night of the 16th (Wednesday last) the Turkish citizens of the town joined with the troops in the fortress, from which the village takes its name, and began an onslaught upon the Christians. The carnage began in all parts of the town at once. The doors of those who attempted to defend their homes were broken in, and the massacres and outrages were perpetrated within the dwellings. In many instances, however, the attacking parties encountered the families seated together in the front of their houses. The method in such cases generally was to either sabre or shoot the father and elder sons, to break the skulls of the old women, and then to seize and outrage the younger women. In very many cases the outrages were perpetrated by neighbours and citizens of the town well known to the poor miserable victims. Nobody was spared who was captured. Scenes of frightful atrocity occurred. The cries of the fleeing woman and children were heard at the outposts of Oltenitza and a small party of brave fellows, under cover of the darkness, ventured across the river, in the hope of being able to rescue some of the fugitives. They were partially successful and brought two Bulgarian men back with them. One of the fugitives was quite an old man, and was for a long time unable to speak from grief and wild terror. When, on the morning of Thursday, he was composed sufficiently to talk with the Roumanian officers, he described the killing of his

wife and eldest son in his sight and the carrying off of his daughter. He seemed to rebuke himself for his escape. He declared that he was returning in haste to his home, having heard of the outbreak in another part of the village, when he saw his wife's head struck from her shoulders, and heard his daughter's wild shrieks as she was dragged away by a fierce mob of scrambling, frenzied brutes.

The accounts which these two men give of the general outrage and murder of old and young are horrible beyond description. The only pretext seems to have been the ineffectual bombardment of Oltenitza from the old fortress of Turtukai, and from the new water batteries which have been erected along the river bank. No damage was done by the Turkish batteries, the weapons being of a very inferior kind. In a single instance a shell passed over a park of artillery and exploded near a powder magazine. Not a person was killed, however, during the ten days of bombardment, and this seems to have exasperated the Turkish commander to a degree bordering upon madness. With his direct sanction the irregulars joined with the Moslem inhabitants to perpetrate the terrible deeds told above. The effect of this massacre is to ever settle the policy of Roumania. From Thursday her future in this war must be part of Russia's. Even neutrality would not protect her from such outrages from the Turks if the Russians were driven back; therefore an armed defence of her own territory is imperative. The Roumanians daily thank the good fortune which placed them on the northern side of the wide Danube.

"SQUARING IT."

A good story has been told of a lispng officer having been victimised by a brother officer—who was noted for his cool deliberation and strong nerves—and of his "getting square" with him in the following manner.

The cool joker—Captain Blakeney—was always quizzing the lispng officer—a lieutenant—for his nervousness, and said one day at mess, "Why, nervousness is all nonsense; I tell you no brave man is ever nervous."

"Well," inquired his lispng friend, "how would you act thpoting a theft with an inth futhee thould drop itthelf in a walled angle, in which you had taken thelter from a company of tharphootert's, and were it wath thertain if you put out your nothe you'd get peppered?"

"How?" said the captain, with a look at his brother officers; "why, take it coolly, and spit on the fusee."

The party broke up, and all retired. The next morning a number of soldiers were assembled on parade, when along came the lispng lieutenant.

Lazily opening his eyes, he remarked to a cluster of officers, "I want to try an exthperiment thith morning, and thee how ektheedingly cool Tom Blakeney can be."

Saying this, he walked deliberately into the officer's quarters, where a fire was burning on the hearth, and placed in its hottest part a powder canister, and instantly retired.

There was but one door of egress from the quarters, and that opened upon the parade ground; the occupant gave one look at the canister, comprehended the situation, and in a moment made for the door, but it was fastened on the outside.

"Charley, let me out, if you love me?" shouted the captain.

"Thpith on the canither!" shouted he in return. Not a moment was to be lost; the captain had at first snatched up a blanket, to cover himself with; but soon dropping it, he raised the window, and out he bounded, sans everything but a very short under garment, and thus, with hair almost on end, he dashed on to a full parade ground. The shouts which hailed him brought out the whole of the occupants of the barracks to see what was the matter, and the dignified captain pulled a sergeant in front of him.

"Why didn't you thpith on it?" inquired the lieutenant.

"Because there was no sharpshooters in front to stop a retreat," answered the captain.

"All I've got to thay, then, ith," said the lieutenant, "that you might have done it; for I'll thware there wasn't a thingle grain of powder in it."

The will of a rich man of the future will read: "To the respective attorneys of my children I give my entire estate and worldly goods of all descriptions. Personality to the children and to my beloved wife I give all that remains." This instrument will satisfy the family and save the trouble of proving the old man insane.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENTS.

SIR GEORGE GREY is never weary of exhibiting his utter want of those qualities that fit men to hold the position of the leaders of political parties. His age, his social rank, his knowledge of colonial history, and his experience in the Government of the colonies, have had the unfortunate result of placing him in a false position. Emerging from his long retirement at a time when the Opposition to the then Government was without any organisation, Sir George was immediately recognised as the leader upon taking his seat in the House. Since that day the Opposition has been powerless for material good. It could be obstructive; it could be argumentative, and it could be very annoying to the Ministerial benches, but it could have been all this, and perhaps more, without a leader. It did nothing to prevent the abolition of the provinces; it was equally weak in checking reckless expenditure, and in securing the better administration of the public works and immigration policy. It had no policy, and as a matter of course it completely failed to obtain the confidence of the country. Yet, during the past three years, the history of this colony has offered no better period in which a statesman of Sir George Grey's reputation could have done more signal service to the country, or in which a politician could have had better opportunities of making a lasting name for himself. But herein lies the secret of Sir George's failure—he is not a politician. He is the antipodes of Sir Julius Vogel. The Opposition made this discovery last session, and, at one time, Sir George himself appeared to have discerned the fact that his presence at the head of his party destroyed both its usefulness and its power. It is said that he then offered to resign the leadership provided that Mr Whitaker would take the place, but the position being declined there was nothing left for the Opposition but to wait. Twelve months have since elapsed but the prospect of a strong and watchful party being formed is as distant as ever. The cry for a separate Government for the two islands, that was raised last year for the purpose, if possible, of amalgamating the discontents of Otago, Canterbury, and Auckland, entirely failed to secure that object. The very thought of Separation caused the country at large to still further distrust both Sir George Grey and Mr Macandrew for proposing such an unpatriotic scheme for party ends. That scheme, however, was apparently, the only one that the leaders of the malcontents could conceive. It is even reported that Sir George has not yet abandoned the idea, and that he will again waste the time of the House, and irritate the country, by advocating its adoption. With such a leader, and with Separation as its trump card, it is impossible for the Opposition to secure public confidence. However much it may be desired to see a strong and healthy Opposition, it would be foolish to give any support to the party that now claims the honor of opposing His Excellency's advisers. This is the more to be regretted from the abundance of material in the House to form an Opposition worthy of the name; nor have the Ministry been wanting in the furnishing of other material of a nature to evoke opposition. The policy *par excellence* of the Ministry—the completion of the work begun in the abolition of provincialism—in its administration, may well provoke hostility and call forth the enquiry whether the present Government are capable of carrying out the programme forced on the country by abolition.

SINCE having made up their minds to introduce this session a Native Lands Bill, the Ministry have been literally almost chafed out of their intention. The Government had promised to bring down such a measure as they hoped would do away with those abuses—if we may use the term—which were believed to be the natural outcome of the existing Act. A very strong feeling at all events was entertained throughout the country that the method of purchasing native lands by the Government was open to abuse; it was certain that it was a costly system, and one too which had not the merit of being successful to compensate for its expensiveness. The Rogan-Wilson enquiry case tended to make people more suspicious than ever of the advantages of the Act, and there was a very general demand for a change. The Government then promised to have a measure prepared and to submit it to Parliament. This promise has been fulfilled, and recognising the importance of the Bill the Government circulated it before the session commenced. As a matter of course it has been freely criticised, and rather roughly handled, but on the whole it must be

conceded by all impartial persons that, with some amendment, the Bill would be a vast improvement on the present Act. In its provisions the Government have not been able to please everyone, and having failed to accomplish this impossible task, they have now given some evidence of being ashamed of their Bill. They have announced that they are not going to make it a party question; they are not going to fight for it, but, the bantling once on the floor of the House the members may do what they like with it. This announcement is not very surprising considering the manner in which the Bill was brought into the world. It was born at Auckland, and may be considered as the pet ewe lamb of Messrs. Whitaker and Swainson. The latter gentleman no doubt treasured it as the apple of his eye, and having fondled his tender offspring till the proper time had come, it was taken to Wellington. Introduced to the wise men—the Ministry—the young stranger did not make a favorable impression; it evoked any number of questions but answered none. Then it leaked out that the members of the Cabinet were not as pleasant towards each other as they might be, and these little differences were ascribed to Mr. Whitaker's pet. The Attorney-General, who had seen next to nothing of Wellington during the recess, it was said, returned to Auckland hurriedly—so hurriedly that expense was not regarded—the Hinemoa being taken off the slip and sent to sea in order to take the hon. and angry gentleman back to his northern home. It is of little or no moment to say that this story of a split in the Cabinet was denied. It was contradicted semi-officially, as it was bound to be, but people like to string disconnected facts together, and work out a romance, rather than to place reliance on official Ministerial contradictions. Not only on the Native Lands Bill but also on other proposed Government measures. Ministers are not believed to be agreed. Perhaps Mr. Whitaker's views on the land question are of such a fixed character as not to be easily shaken, and, it may be, the Native Lands Bill is destined to be kicked from post to pillar through the want of a disposition amongst His Excellency's advisers to give and take.

It will be seen by our Parliamentary intelligence that Mr. Stevens, the member for Christchurch, has moved that the Charitable Institutions Bill be read that day six months. It is satisfactory to think that an effort will be made to consign this proposed measure to the waste-paper basket. The Bill does not attempt to deal with the real and existing charitable institutions of the country, it merely provides that establishments "for the cure of disease, or for the relief of diseased, aged, incurable, or destitute, persons, or for teaching orphans or neglected children or young persons and training them in industrial pursuits, and supported in whole or in part by the voluntary contributions of not less than fifty persons, each of whom shall have paid not less than one pound per annum or ten pounds in one donation, may be incorporated." The Wellington Argus on this subject says, the "existing arrangements for the maintenance of those charitable institutions which were formerly maintained by the Provincial Governments are unsatisfactory in the extreme, and manifestly unjust. The burden of their support is not fairly distributed, and very insufficient provision is made for their proper administration. The experience of the past year has shown all this conclusively, and yet the Government Bill before us actually does not deal at all with the institutions which most require attention." We trust the Ministry will be defeated on a Bill that attempts to create a class of institutions in which Government interference is likely to prove more mischievous than beneficial.

The information furnished us by our special correspondent on Monday, as to the displacement of Sir Julius Vogel as Agent-General to make room for the Honorable Edward William Stafford turns out to be correct, for we learn from another correspondent that the same news had reached the editor of the Wellington Post, and that his Monday's issue contained remarks concerning the alleged proposed appointment. We confess we have never been great admirers of the present Agent-General, but we had hardly expected that those men who obtained whatever little political reputation they have, and whose fortunes we may almost say have been mainly built with his hands, should have so early forgot past favors as to take the first chance to degrade and oust him from a political office, than for which no man in the colony is more qualified. Through the blundering of Sir George Grey and

the Opposition, the Canterbury members hold in their hands at the present time the political balance—through their votes they have the power to oust or keep the present Ministry in office, and their demands however opposed to a sense of right or justice, must be agreed to. They demand Sir Julius Vogel's expulsion from the Agent-Generalship, and Mr. Stafford's appointment to it as one of the rewards of their support, and the Government, apparently must accede. This is an exhibition of weakness in a Government pitiful to behold. Whatever faults Sir Julius Vogel may have, his most bitter opponent cannot but give him credit for being one of the most able administrators these colonies have produced. Captain Russell, only the other evening in the Oddfellow's Hall, told his constituents that the Agent-General's capacity for work was something enormous. Mr. Stafford has held office as Premier in New Zealand in three distinct administrations, twice for five years, and once for a few weeks only. He has had every opportunity of exhibiting his administrative capacities, and no people than those of Hawke's Bay are better aware how utterly incapable he proved to get the colony out of the difficulties he brought it into when he entered upon a war of races. Furthermore, in later years, through his own action, he has not commanded that confidence or respect which he was wont to do. And yet now desirous of retiring from political life in New Zealand, he is to be foisted on the colony as her representative in England—to draw his £2,000 per annum, and become—what has long been one of the great objects of Mr. Stafford's ambition—Sir Edward William Stafford, with other initials attached to his honored name. For ourselves, we believe that the office is not required, and it would be not only a saving but a blessing if it were altogether abolished. The Crown Agents could float loans far more easily and on better terms than ever Mr. Stafford will do, and as for the other duties, Mr. Kennaway, the present Agent-general's Secretary in London, for the same salary as he at present obtains, could do all the work. In the meantime, we can only protest against the manner and mode Mr. Stafford obtains the appointment, and warn the Government that this proposed act of theirs will detract from any popularity they may enjoy, and will add one more nail to their political coffin.

Parliamentary Papers.

REPORT ON NAPIER LUNATIC ASYLUM.

July 27.

The report of the Lunatic Asylums of the colony states that the Napier Lunatic Asylum, in some respects, is merely an extension of the Gaol, and is very bare and comfortless. The patients are too restricted for exercise, the extent of their recreation being hopelessly limited to a little building only suitable for cases which yield quickly to curative treatment. It is otherwise unfitted for the proper treatment of cases of insanity. More lasting cases should be removed without delay to some other Asylum. On the 1st January the total number of lunatics in the colony was 783, and there was deficient accommodation for 513. The report recommends local Asylums instead of a central one, and also that resident medical superintendents would be better than visiting. The Inspector thinks the amount of private contributions too small.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS IN PROVINCIAL DISTRICTS.

The correspondence moved for by Mr De Latour *re* the appointment of executive officers in Provincial Districts, and laid on the table yesterday, does not indicate the preliminary negotiations leading to the appointments, though the early papers refer to negotiations. The correspondence is strictly official, and contains notifications of appointment and subsequent resignations. No mention is made of any overtures to Sir G. Grey or Mr Macandrew. The correspondence contains letters intimating that full payment for services is to be made or has been made to the end of December, 1876. This point will be brought out in a motion tabled by Mr Murray. Mr Reader Wood did not offer his services after December. Mr Donald Reid's resignation is not referred to. A *carte blanche* is given as to the mode of transferring offices and functions thereof. The correspondence is very barren except an indication at the end that their services may again be required.

"Equality means," says a certain writer, "a desire to be equal to your superiors, and superior to your equals."

VON MOLTKE'S MARRIAGE.

When Von Moltke returned to Holstein, after reorganising the Turkish army, he found living there with his sister—who had married Mr Bute, an Englishman—a young girl between 15 and 16, a daughter of Mr Bute's first marriage. The pretty little girl loved already, before seeing him, the soldier who had sent from the Orient such interesting letters to his sister. As for Von Moltke, he had until then seen in a woman only a being constantly interfering with his methodical life of a worker. But when a man more than forty years old is loved by a bewitching girl of 16, he ends by returning her affection. From that time there was but one woman in the world to him, as there was but one work. He married sweet Mary Bute, and when she died in '68 the great Field Marshal could say that his life as a social being was also ended; only the soldier remained. The Countess was buried in his beautiful park in Silesia, and on the marble above her is written, "Love is the fulfilling of the Law." Mary Von Moltke was very bright, very charming, very merry, and it is told as a pathetic truth, that since her death the Field Marshal has not been seen to laugh.—Anon.

When clothes are precisely alike and faces very nearly so, mistakes are likely to occur. On a festive occasion in Melbourne, (writes Atticus in the Leader) a gentleman, thinking he saw his friend, a well known auctioneer, slapped him on the back, and made a jocose inquiry after his health. The other turned round and said, "I think you are mistaken. I am—" "Oh I beg your Excellency's pardon; I really thought you were Mr G—." Half an hour after the same unlucky gentleman came, as he thought, face to face with his friend, and this time he poked him in the ribs. "Such a joke, G—," said he, "I've just slapped the Governor on the back, taking him for you." And now you've poked him in the ribs under the same misapprehension," replied his Excellency. For fear of further mistakes, the unfortunate gentleman went home.

One of the best methods of preventing the irruptions of cabbage-grubs is to make each unpalatable to them. In the spring procure some newly-burnt lime, and lay it under cover until it becomes air-slated. Then take an equal quantity of soot and mix it with the lime. In planting, the holes are made with the trowel in the usual way; each plant is dropped into its hole, an inch or so of the soil put over the roots, a good watering given first, then a moderate handful of the soot-and-lime mixture thrown in each hole, and the remaining soil filled in.

A bit of cotton put into a bird's cage over night will attract the insects. The cotton may be removed in the morning and burnt.

Of 130,000 children under five years of age born in New York, no less a number than 14,208 died during the year 1876. In other words, of every 1000 of these young children 110 died in the course of the twelvemonth.

The Japanese are celebrated for the numerous applications to which they have put paper and *papier-mâché*, but an Englishman has recently made what may be one of the most useful of all the newer uses to which paper has been applied. Captain Warren has found that common brown paper withstands for a long time the action of seawater, and prevents the attachment of barnacles.

Next to Great Britain, France has the largest traffic through the Suez Canal, but at an immense interval. Thus the whole French tonnage last year was only 236,750 tons, against 226,443 in 1875, and 222,944 in 1874. Holland, with 143,675 tons, holds the third place; while Italy, with all the advantages in the Mediterranean, is but fourth, with only 82,024 tons. Austria-Hungary, whose seaborne is restricted, follows close upon Italy with 76,236 tons. Spain is sixth, Germany seventh, and Russia eighth. Greece appears to have practically renounced the competition, since she sent not a single ship through the Canal during the past two years. But Sweden and Norway, though so distant, if taken together, would about equal Russia.

Vaccine lymph direct from the calf is supplied by the Belgian Government to the medical practitioners of Belgium. This lymph is much more powerful in protecting from small-pox than the enfeebled infantine lymph now in use. Doctor Wyld says it has this further great advantage, that in its use there exists no possibility of those constitutional risks so well understood by medical men, and so much dreaded by a large proportion of our population. Of course vaccination direct from healthy calves is advocated. This method has been followed in Belgium for ten years, with complete satisfaction to both the public and the profession, and so perfect would appear to be the protection afforded thereby against small-pox that out of ten thousand traced cases thus vaccinated there has not occurred a single instance of small-pox.

There was no performance at the Wellington Theatre Royal on Saturday night, owing to a quarrel having taken place between the leading actor, Mr. Morton Taveres, and the lessee, Mr. Sam Howard.

Synopsis of Bills.

FENCING BILL.

WELLINGTON, July 26.

The Fencing Bill is to take effect from December 1st. The Act is not to apply to native lands. Former Ordinances are repealed, but prior engagements are validated. Sufficient fences are defined, post and rail four feet six inches, paling fence, four feet, wire fence, four feet with seven wires; bank or wall, five feet, close hedge or line fence, five feet, log rail, five feet; logs and chocks, combination of above, four feet, ditch, five feet, broad with bank three feet six inches, ditch, four feet wide, with bank and wires three feet six inches; Natural stream, seven feet broad at top, with barriers of effective kind, sheep proof fence, seven wires, and also a sufficient combination of fences equal to wire fences. Adjoining occupiers are compelled to make sheep proof fences after one month's notice. Ditch and bank fences are forbidden in towns. Gorse hedge prohibited within one mile of outer limits of towns. Gorse not to be planted without consent of neighbors, or abutting on public roads, or reserves, or Crown lands without authority. The owners of gorse fences abutting roads to keep roads clear. Where there is neglect, the Board or Council may cause the work to be done at the owner's expense after fourteen days notice. Boards or Councils having control of roads and streets, may notify the occupier or owner to clear gorse and clear ditch. Each occupier on both sides of the road to clear half width. Trimming of hedges not to be thrown on roads. Where there is a boundary fence of thorns, the adjoining owner is to contribute half to the maximum extent of 30s per chain. Where a boundary fence is erected three years, and white thorn to be planted, the adjoining owner not to contribute exceeding fifteen shillings. Power is given to construct a fence or road to protect live fence. The adjoining occupiers to share the cost of first fences. Runholders in Canterbury and Southland not to be required to fence. Within two months on the case of open land, and six months if bush, if the adjoining owners cannot agree, the notifier may fence and the owner or occupier becomes liable for a share. If default is made by one party, the other may fence and recover. Where the adjoining lands are Crown Lands, three months after occupation must pay half cost of fence to adjoining owners. Compulsory liability for half cost applies where one party finds a dividing stream not sufficient, and erects another fence. Where the natural boundary is a river, but not capable of resisting trespassing cattle, parties may agree on the line of fence or in the arbitration. The adjoining occupiers to keep dividing fences in repair. Justices and Resident Magistrates may hear evidence and decide on erecting and maintaining dividing fences, as to the proper boundaries, and description of fence to be maintained, and determining time of erection. The Act is not to disturb agreements between landlord and tenant, nor apply to alienated Crown lands. Fences on Crown lands to be provided with gates or openings. Persons constructing fences can enter upon contiguous lands. Landlords may come in and defend proceedings against a tenant.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE BILL.

July 27.

The Slaughterhouse Bill contains 37 clauses. The Bill repeals previous enactments, except that offences under them may be prosecuted. Things done by virtue of them are validated. Present officers and bye-laws to continue. Interpretation of clauses: Abattoir to include any public slaughterhouse or place for slaughtering cattle provided by the Governor or Superintendent; slaughterhouse to include private slaughterhouses or places in respect of which licenses have been issued for slaughtering cattle; public notice to mean insertion in one or more newspapers in the place. No slaughtering to be committed within two miles of any Borough, unless it was in use during six consecutive months before the coming into operation of this Act. No prior existing slaughterhouse to be enlarged. The Council of a corporate district may establish a slaughterhouse outside its own limits. Expenses to be maintained out of the corporate funds. Councils may receive rents, and let tolls not exceeding three years. Power is given to erect abattoirs. Tolls are not to be demanded until the abattoir is completed. The Council not protected from information for nuisance. Penalty for slaughtering within two miles of a Borough elsewhere than abattoir not exceeding ten pounds. The Council may make and amend bye-laws. County Councils may license private

slaughter-houses. By-laws to have the same effect as County bye-laws. Penalty for slaughtering in unlicensed place not to exceed ten pounds. Where a slaughterhouse within two miles of any Borough has been in use six months consecutively before the coming into operation of this Act, the owners shall apply to the Borough Council for license; if the slaughterhouse be within any County, application for a license to be made to the County Council. The Council, if satisfied, may issue a license with corporate seal. Licenses may be for one class of cattle only. Notices of application of licenses to keep slaughterhouse to be published. Licenses subject to immediate cancellation for breaches of this Act. Inspector of Abattoirs and slaughterhouses to be appointed. Inspector may examine cattle to be slaughtered, to enter description, color, marks, brands, sex, &c., in a book, and shall produce such book at the quarterly or annual meeting of a bench of Magistrates. Notice of intention to slaughter to be given to the Inspector under a penalty of five pounds. The keeper of abattoir or slaughterhouse to keep record of cattle slaughtered, to report weekly to the nearest Resident Magistrate's Court, and also to the Inspector. The penalty for neglect of false entry not to exceed twenty pounds. Nothing in the Act is to extend to any person not being a butcher. Slaughterman slaughtering upon their own residence, run, or farm, but where he slaughters more than one head in a week and sells part of the same shall keep a record in a book. The penalty for neglect not to exceed twenty pounds. The Inspector or Justices may demand the skins of cattle slaughtered. No person to destroy brands on any skin, or to have the skin in his possession from which the brand is cut under a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds. Farmers are liable to a similar penalty for purchasing hides with defaced brands. The penalty for having carcasses of cattle not accounted for imprisonment not exceeding six months. Justices may enter premises on suspicion of stolen cattle slaughtered at any time in the day or night. The penalty for obstructing such search not to exceed twenty pounds. The Inspector may charge a half-penny for inspecting each ram, ewe, wether, and lamb, and three-pence for every head slaughtered. Fines and penalties to be recovered in a summary way. Licenses forfeited for breach of the bye-laws. Convictions not to be quashed for want of forms.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' BILL.

This Bill, which is now circulated, is almost a copy of the Bill introduced into the Assembly last session, and condemned throughout the colony. All or nearly all the objectionable features are retained. The following short synopsis will give your readers an inkling of its contents:— It comes into operation on the first of January next. The class of Societies dealt with are those for the relief of relatives not over the age of fifty; insurance money at birth or death; funeral money; relief of members on travel; endowment of members or nominees of members; insurance against fire; Societies for cattle insurance; benevolent, Working Men's Clubs; and special authorized Societies. The Act provides for registration, revising barristers, a register to construct tables for payment of sums of money at the death, sickness, or old age, or other contingency, but the adoption of such tables by a Society are optional. The Society must consist of seven persons at least. Branch Societies may be registered as Societies provided the annuity table is certified to by an actuary. Societies are to make quinquennial returns and valuations. Societies may by special resolution convert itself into a Joint Stock Company. Militiamen and Volunteers, are not to lose benefits. The remainder of the Act generally consolidates the previous laws and provides for a system of Government audit.

It is pleasant to shake hands with a girl whose fingers are covered with diamonds, for you feel that you have a fortune within your very grasp. A contemporary tells young ladies how to arrange their hair in a fashionable style. "Let it all down," it says, "and comb it out. Then go up on the roof, and stand still while the wind plays (whatever is appropriate) with it. Then catch up the back with a bow of ribbon, and allow the front to stay as it is." "Make your home happy," said a club man to a friend, "even if to do so you have to stay away from it, as I do." "You have only yourself to please," said a married man to a bachelor. "True," replied he; "but you cannot tell what a difficult task I find it."

WAIROA COUNTY. REGISTRATION OF DOGS. FEE FIVE SHILLINGS. NOTICE is hereby given that the FEES for Registering Dogs in the above County can be paid to Sergeant HAWKE, Te Kapu. Constable RYAN, Wairoa. Or to the undersigned, HERBERT J. WILLIAMS, County Clerk. County Clerk's Office, Wairoa, 5th July, 1877.

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