

WEEKLY MERCURY

AND

Hawke's Bay Advertiser,

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

VOL. II.—No. 93.

NAPIER, SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 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
 " Freehold, close to town, with 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, Omaranui, with
 1,600 Sheep,
 30 head Cattle, and a few Horses, with improvements

M. R. MILLER,
 Stock and Station Agent.

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 of various extent, and
FREEHOLD PROPERTIES,
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 Lincoln-Leicester
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 All First-class Flocks.

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

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.

Crown Lands Office,
 Auckland, 18 August, 1877.

IT having been intimated to the Waste Lands Board that the Law Officer of the Colony is of opinion that the Wairoa confiscated lands advertised to be sold on the 22nd inst., cannot be offered for sale at a less price than ONE POUND PER ACRE, the said lands are hereby withdrawn from sale, and will be subsequently re-offered at a date of which due notice will be given.

D. A. TOLE,
 Chief Commissioner Waste Lands Board.

SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL FUND

THE Undersigned agree to subscribe to amounts undernoted:—

To amount as per advertised list	£	s.	d.
J. Robertson	227	11	0
G. P. Donnelly	2	2	0
D. Galbraith	2	2	0
E. Merritt	2	2	0
Neal & Close	3	3	0
H. N. Chapman	2	2	0
C. Doney	1	0	0
Rev. Marshall	1	0	0
A. and W. Birch	5	0	0
P. Ramsay	2	2	0
William Ebbitts	2	2	0
J. Harris	1	0	0
J. C. Speedy	1	1	0
Hon. H. R. Russell	5	5	0
Gordon Hill	5	5	0
J. D. Canning	5	5	0

Other subscriptions will be published on receipt of the country lists, the following gentlemen having kindly undertaken to collect subscriptions:—R. Farmer, R. Wellwood, J. S. Giblin, G. Peacock, J. Bennett, M. R. Miller, and the Secretary.
MALCOLM BANKS,
 Secretary Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society.

GREAT REDUCTIONS

TO MEET THE TIMES, AT

J. L. STERRY'S

SADDLE

AND

HARNESS

MAKER,

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LADIES' AND GENTS' SADDLES,
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Carriage, Gig, Buggy, and Spring Cart
 HARNESS ON HAND,
 Made up on the Premises.

BREAST PLATES,
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 WHIPS,
 VALISSES,
 BAGS,
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And every article in the Trade on Hand, or made up on the shortest notice.

Repairs done at moderate charges, and with quick despatch.

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HASTINGS-STREET, NAPIER.

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 WIRE and B.W.BANK'S NAILS. Rim and Mortise Locks, Hinges, Screws, Augers, Adzes. PLANES, Levels, Gauges, Floor Cramps, Chisels, Gouges, Axes, Hatchets, Hammers, Gimblets, Spokeshaves, Saws, (Pit and Crosscut, Hand, Tenon, and Compass), Door Springs, Sash Weights, Lines, Pulleys, &c.

Brass Foundry—
 Cornice Rings and Pole Ends, Curtain Bands and Hooks, Cornice and Window Brackets, Bolts—Sash, Table, and Case-ment Fasteners, Hinges, Blind Furniture, Beer, Bottling, Range Cocks, &c.

Agricultural Implements—
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B.B.H. Bar and Rod Iron—
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 O.G. and 1/4 rd. Guttering, Down Pipe, Ridging, Brackets, Spikes and Tubes, SHEET ZINC, (plain and perforated).

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50 dozed GRANITE CUPS and SAUCERS, from 4s per dozen.
 100 " PLATES, from 2s 6d per dozen
 100 " CHILDRENS MUGS, from 2s per dozen

PRESERVE POTS in Nests, EARTHEN MILK PANS, TEAPOTS, from 1s each; TUMBLERS, from 6s per doz. Also a large variety of Articles, too numerous to mention.

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SHOES.

See our Prices quoted in this paper.

BOOTS.

DIRECT TELEGRAM FROM EUROPE.

LONDON.

August 17.
The Russian and Turkish armies have met near Plevna.
A great battle continues.
The principal positions remain unaltered.
250,000 Russians and Roumanians are now across the Danube.

August 20.
Suliman Pasha, after occupying Elena, attacked the Russians at Tirnova, and a sanguinary engagement, which was decisive, took place.

It is reported the Russians were thoroughly defeated, but the news awaits confirmation.

CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

LONDON.

August 14.
The wool sales opened to-day. The brokers, Balme and Hazard, had a well-selected catalogue of 5142 bales. The attendance of home and foreign buyers is large. The bidding commenced with great spirit. The prices are about the same as last series.

Arrived—Wellington, Trafalgar, and Scathron.

August 19.
The Queensland mail was delivered on the 11th, and the San Francisco on the 15th.

August 19.
Ten Russian cavalry regiments, thirty-five thousand infantry with one hundred and ten guns, attacked Muchtar Pasha's army near Kara. They fought all day. The Russians were compelled to fall back with a loss of twelve hundred. The Turks only lost one hundred.

The Russians have reoccupied Kustendji.

August 20.
At the wool sales, the opening competition, was well maintained.

Prices improve as the sales progress. The home trade is operating vigorously. Thirty thousand bales have been sold. The wheat market is depressed, imports are increasing. There is fine harvest weather. Australian, 67s; New Zealand, 54s to 58s.
New Zealand flax is dearer.

SINGAPORE.

August 17.
Earl Beaconsfield and Earl Derby remain in town during the autumn.
Mukhta Pasha remains on the defensive.
The Russians have evacuated Kustendji.

The left wing of Mehemed is marching towards Suliman Pasha, whose cavalry is posted beyond the Balkans.
Melikoff has been reinforced, and resumes offensive operations.
Ismali checks Tergukason.

BOMBAY.

August 18.
The Imperial Guard has been called into service, and all capable of bearing arms hitherto exempt.
Gourks (?) has gone to St. Petersburg to bring the Guard to the seat of war.
Colonel Wellesley has returned from Bulgaria.
There has been indecisive fighting at Batoum.

August 19.
Suliman Pashais at Elna, north of the Balkans.
Salonica is in a state of seige.
Peti has been deserted.
Hobart Pasha is at Sinope.
Turkey is increasing her army.

August 20.
Skirmishes having been going on in the vicinity of Rutchuk. A Turkish official despatch states that a detachment from the garrison repulsed the Russians.

The Russians are advancing against the Turkish forces near Dobrudscha.
Circassian immigration to Turkey is increasing.

A Russian official despatch admits that a Russian reconnaissance was repulsed at Osman Bazar.
Roodervish carried the advanced Russian positions at Batoum.

SYDNEY.

August 20.
Samoan news states that there has been a fight on the 12th inst., between parties contending for supremacy. The Government party was victorious, a num-

ber of opponents being killed. The foreign residents favor annexation to England.

August 21.
Arrived—Australia with Frisco Mail.

MELBOURNE.

August 17.
The Budget last night shows that the revenue last year was over £4,500,000; the expenditure, £4,358,000. The estimated revenue for the current year, including last year's balance, is nearly £5,000,000; the expenditure, £4,860,000. Certain duties are to be abandoned, and some new ones imposed, including a tax on imported stock.

SUEZ MAIL NEWS.

Late telegrams via Suez are to July 22.

It is rumored the French Government is considering an excuse for the arrest of Gambetta, so as to keep him from using his influence at the elections.

Biron, the French ambassador at Berlin, has gone on a special mission from President Mac Mahon to convince Germany he has been compelled to change his Ministry in order to encounter the increasing Radicalism in France.

The reinforcements in Alsace and Lorraine are to consist of Bavarian and South German troops, in order to signify to France that Southern Germany is quite united with Prussia.

In Greece the war feeling is very strong. Endeavors are being made by the war party to embroil the Government with Turkey. A rupture nearly occurred through the seizure at Corfu of arms for Turkey, but the difficulty was arranged by Austrian mediation.

Prince Gortschakoff made the *amende honorable* re the Grand Duke's reception of Colonel Wellesley. The position, is however, said to be very unpleasant.

A coolness has arisen between Mr Layard and the Porte in consequence of his representations not receiving the proper attention promised. The Bulgarian amnesty has never yet been carried out.

Ardahan has been retaken by the Turks.

The Daily News believes that if the position of England remains unchanged until prorogation and the Ministers and Parliament scattered in the country, Lord Beaconsfield and those of his colleagues who think with him, may commit the country to a policy which would never have been accepted if there had been free and timely communication between the Government and the House of Commons.

The Saturday Review sums up the political situation, so far as concerns European Turkey, thus: At the end of a costly campaign, though it may perhaps have been victorious, Russia will depend on the permission of Austria to effect a permanent conquest in Turkey.

INTERPROVINCIAL.

WAIROA.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

August 17.
It is considered probable that the Nuhaka natives will agree to have the whole of the disputed block surveyed and put through the Native Lands Court.

August 21.
The bar is reported all right. There was a heavy sea on last night, but it has subsided.

AUCKLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

August 17.
The football match between Otago and Auckland took place yesterday afternoon. Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather, there was a large concourse of people, and great interest was manifested in the result of the game. Betting was in favor of the Aucklanders at the commencement. At five o'clock time was called, and it was declared a drawn game. The Aucklanders were not at all sorry, as at the time it was becoming apparent the Otago men were their match, if not more.

A dinner was given last evening to the Southerners, at which the usual after-dinner speeches were made. The Otago men express their satisfaction with their reception.

August 21.
The Southern Cross sailed at 4.30 yesterday. Passengers—Miss Bartholomew, Mr and Mrs Cantele and family (9), Mr and Mrs Cole and family (11), Messrs. Macauley and Merick.

DUNEDIN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

August 18.
A Justice of the Peace has expressed a

hope that some member of the House will call the attention of the Government to the present state of the judicial arrangements of the district. For some time past we have been left without any judge at all, and disappointed litigants have been fretting at the law's delay. If it is thought necessary that two judges should be stationed in a small district like Wellington, on what ground is it considered that one Judge, the youngest and the least experienced of the five, is enough for this district, the largest in the colony. The best thing that can be done is to make one district of Canterbury and Otago, and station three Judges in it, to sit alternately in Banco in two cities every three or four months. As there is apparently little or nothing to do in Auckland, I do not see why Judge Gillies should not sit occasionally in Wellington, so that either the Chief Justice or Judge Richmond could sit here.

All the speakers at the Catholic meeting were very temperate in their speeches. At the close, Bishop Moran delivered a strong speech, in the course of which he said that probably the Government, if hard pushed, will consider and remove the objectionable clause. What right has any man sitting upon the Government benches to put himself forward as an advocate of education? How many of them show their fitness for legislation in the matters of the education of the Catholic people? How many of them are in possession of Christian principles? Some of them are Christians, but I have strong reasons for believing there are some of them who are not. The Government may pass the Bill, but as sure as they do pass it, we will disobey it.

When Bishop Moran spoke approvingly of the position taken up by the Guardian upon the Bill, some individuals called for three cheers for its editor, naming him personally. Some of the audience mistaking the name for that of a person who figured in a criminal case which greatly exercised the public mind very recently, did not appear to relish the interruption, for the author of it very quickly run out of the building, being handled somewhat roughly.

At Queenstown, Judge Harvey, in the case of Scott v. Hall, a mining case, awarded the plaintiff £350 damages, saying that it was the most disgraceful attempt at a swindle he had ever known. A share in the Tipperary claim was involved.

August 21.

The Star calls upon the public to give no uncertain sound re the opening of the Museum on Sundays, and calls the action of the ministers overbearing. A resolution will be prepared to-morrow condemnatory of the manner in which the Museum is thrown open, and asking Parliament to close it on Sundays.

The only witness in the case against Wylee for keeping a still is William Dobson, who has been in his employ. He said that the still had been in the bush for seven months, but never were any spirits distilled with it. They quarrelled last week, and he gave information to the police.

The fire at Weer and Samson's originated in the cellar, the Brigade having to cut a hole through the floor to get at it. The smoke was stifling, but the fireman worked energetically, and in a quarter of an hour the fire was extinguished. The damage is but slight, the property destroyed apparently consisting of a few crates of crockery, and £100 will probably cover the loss. A quantity of tins of kerosene were stored in the cellar, but the fire fortunately did not reach it. The Brigade worked with such care that, although they were all over the shop, not an article was injured. There is no accounting for the fire breaking out, the premises having been locked up at half-past ten o'clock on Saturday night, when everything appeared safe. The Associated Insurance Companies sent the Brigade a complimentary letter on the way their operations were conducted.

The remains of the late Captain Griffiths were interred in the Northern Cemetery on Saturday afternoon. The cortege numbered between fifty and sixty persons, of whom Captain Lloyd and Mr Stoher, immediate friends of the deceased, were the chief mourners. Jas Mills (managing director of the Union Company), David Mills, Captain Jones (of the Samson, the only one of the Company's vessels in port) and a number of office employees of the Company were amongst the procession, as also the Harbor Master. All the vessels in port carried their colors half mast high during the day.

(PRESS AGENCY.)

NELSON.

August 17.
The Queen Bee enquiry is announced

to be before L. Broad, R.M., and Capt. Johnston, Nautical Assessor. The Court stands adjourned till to-day. There is every probability that the enquiry will last a week.

Later.

At the Queen Bee inquiry held to-day, Capt. Davis attributed the wreck to an error in the compasses, which never worked well all the voyage, the observations sometimes showing them to be two and half points off.

August 18.

It is reported from Farewell Spit that a quantity of wreckage is lying there, apparently torn from the bow of some vessel. There are pieces of rail 20 feet in length, 12 inches by 4 inches, of bright hard wood, like mahogany or teak, with planking attached on which are cut the letters A.N.T.O.F.A.G.A.S.T.A. There is also a female figure head, five feet high, painted white, with a wreath of roses round the head.

WELLINGTON.

August 17.

Sailed, at noon, Taupo, for Napier, Tauranga, Poverty Bay, and Auckland. Passengers—Messrs. R. Lancaster, Wallpole, King, Headlam, M'Kenzie, and Kenrick.

August 18.

A despatch from the Secretary of State encloses instructions to pilots in the colony in regard to the war between Russia and Turkey as follows:—"British pilots are not to pilot ships of war for either belligerent, except in British waters, within three miles of the shore, or to do more than pilot such ships into or out of British ports or roadsteads, when they are not at the time engaged in any hostile operation; but ships of war may always be piloted out of immediate danger, other than the danger of immediate or imminent capture."

The following produce prices are quoted:—Adelaide flour, £24; colonial, £18; good feed oats, 4s; bran, 1s 1d per bushel; wheat, 4s 6d; pollards, 7s 6d; maize, 4s 6d; hams, 9d; bacon, 9d; cheese, 7d; potatoes, £3 15s.

The Loan and Mercantile Agency report, under date London, August 15:—The wool sales opened at a level with last series; the opening catalogue contained 5000 bales; 21,000 bales have been sent to the manufacturing districts; the competition by both home and foreign buyers was active. The tallow market is quiet; mutton 43s, beef 41s. Adelaide wheat is worth 67s, and New Zealand 56s per 496lbs; the harvest is deficient alike in quantity and quality. In the leather trade demand is quiet, best sides 10½d.

August 20.

The following are some of the leading features in the District Railway Bill:—Joint Stock Companies may construct and maintain railways, the Companies first to make application to County Councils, and if a majority or one-half of the members, approve of the proposals, then the votes of the ratepayers to decide, but if a majority of the County Council disapprove the matter drops. When the sanction of the ratepayers and the Governor are obtained, the Company may take any land required, and subject to Government inspection, and in accordance with approved plans, may construct railways. The gauge to be three feet six inches. Interest at the rate of seven per cent is guaranteed to the Company on the cost of construction, such interest to be raised by a special rate levied by the Borough of County Councils.

A London cablegram announces the following arrivals:—May Queen, from Lyttleton; Oamaru, from Dunedin; Windsor Castle, from Sydney.

DUNEDIN.

August 18.

A petition is in course of signature for presentation to Dr. Pollen, asking that, as the Corporation of Dunedin has decided to close the Fever Hospital, the Government should keep it open till arrangements have been made for a permanent building.

250,000 shares in the Union Insurance Company have been applied for in Dunedin.

Two illicit stills have been found in working order at Opoko, two miles from Dunedin. They were owned by Alex. Wylie, an ex-policeman.

August 20.

A fire broke out in Weir and Samson's, Rivers-street, on Saturday night. It was speedily extinguished, but not before considerable damage had been done. The amount of insurances are not yet known.

Crossby's fellmongery at Green Island was burned down last night.

CHRISTCHURCH.

August 17.

The total of the application through-

out the colony for shares in the Union Insurance Company, computed from telegraphic returns, is 794,801, but as some from the Union Bank agencies are not yet in, the total number is estimated at 800,000.

August 18.

A meeting of citizens was held on Thursday night at the Oddfellows' Hall, which was crammed. The Mayor occupied the chair. The following resolutions were carried unanimously:—
1. "That this meeting of citizens desire to draw the attention of the Government to the present unsatisfactory state of trade, and urge upon the Government the necessity of fostering as far as possible, the manufacture of all iron work, wood-work, and other material required for the public roads of the colony." 2 "That in view of the greatly increased manufacturing power within the colony, this meeting is of opinion that the Colonial Legislature might with advantage adopt the resolutions passed by the Provincial Council of Canterbury, in August, 1871, viz., that in the opinion of this Council, it is desirable that railway and other plant or material should be obtained within the province, where this can be done at a cost not exceeding ten per cent above that which the same can be imported, and that public tenders be invited for the same." 3 "That this meeting views the importation by the Government of manufactured articles, which can be produced with advantage within the colony, as an injury to the general interests of the community."

AUCKLAND.

August 17.

Mr. Binney reports—Flour, Dunedin £18, Christchurch £14 to £16; bran, £5; pollard, £6 10s; oats, 3s 8d; maize, 3s 9d; potatoes, £3; hams and bacon, 8d; cheese, 6d; oatmeal, £20; pearl barley, £24. The trade complains of limited business.

Mr. Buckland reports fat cattle at 30s per 100lbs.

Buyers: Colonial Bank, 43s; National Insurance, 32s. Sellers: Bank of New Zealand, £22; National Bank, 72s; South British, 81s. Moanatairi, sales £9, sellers £8 12s 6d. Albionias have run up to £8 10s, with buyers at that price, in consequence of rich specimen finds.

August 21.

The schooner Echo has been wrecked at Raglan Heads, and the mate and a young man named Jackson was drowned. The vessel was owned by a company of Maoris, and supposed not to be insured.

INVERCARGILL.

August 20.

At a meeting of citizens, it was resolved that a Benevolent Institution should be provided for Southland, and an influential committee was appointed to take further action in the matter.

TAUPO.

August 20.

The Native Land Court opened here to-day. About 300 to 350 natives were present. Several of the Napier repudiation native party are here, and likely to cause some delay in the transaction of business.

PORT CHALMERS.

August 20.

Scarlet fever has broken out. Five cases are reported since Saturday, and one death occurred this morning.

GRAHAMSTOWN.

August 20.

A great panic occurred to-day on "Change over the Albionias shares. The shares had gone up on Saturday to £10. Another rise took place this morning, and they went up to £14. Shortly after, a panic occurred, and shares came down with a run to £8. There has been a slight improvement since and shares are now easy at £10. The cause of the panic is said to be that the breaking down specimens disclosed less gold than expected.

The excitement was very great while it lasted.

PARLIAMENTARY.

WELLINGTON.

August 17.

An extraordinary scene occurred in the House yesterday afternoon.

Mr Murray moved, "That the House is of opinion that the Government should this session take measures to give effect to the recommendation of the Public Petitions Committee in their report on the petition of the Hon. Henry Russell." The petition of Mr Russell was for a right of access through private property which barred his frontage. In the petition, he offered to construct a road at

his own expense. Mr Murray enlarged on this fact. The land was shut off by means which, if not fraudulent, were certainly not creditable to the administration of the waste lands in Hawke's Bay. Mr Russell was unfortunately in antagonism with certain land speculators and friends of the Ministers in Hawke's Bay, which were discreditable to the colony.

The Hon Mr Reid deprecated importing warmth into the discussions. The case was fully brought out in the papers he would lay on the table. To give a road through Mr Kinross's property would be an unwarrantable interference with the rights of private property.

The Hon Mr Ormond strongly opposed the motion. The mistake in laying out land so as to prevent people having access to it was made under Sir George Grey's regulations, under which the eyes of the country were picked out, and under those regulations enormous properties were sold. Hundreds of people in Hawke's Bay had the same complaint as Mr Russell. He appealed to the House not to give way to this exceptional case.

Mr Stout hoped the Russell and Here-taunga party would not quarrel again in the House as they had a few nights ago. What Mr Ormond said had not damaged Mr Russell's claim, which rested on the report of a Committee of the House.

Sir G. Grey charged the Government with ignoring Mr Russell's case because he is an opponent to Mr Ormond. In reply to the charges Mr Ormond was in the habit of making with reference to his (Sir G. Grey's) land regulations, he was confounding together truth and righteousness, justice and injustice. When Mr Ormond was charged with acquiring lands from drunken natives; when the accusation was made against him of acquiring blocks of tens of thousands of acres of lands which had been put up at certain upset price, but afterwards sold privately at less prices, could Mr Ormond accuse him (Sir G. Grey) of having acquired lands by unfair means? Mr Ormond had referred to great tracts of land bought under his (Sir George Grey's) regulations. Did he (Sir George Grey) buy any? When Mr Ormond was attacked the other night, why did he not get up and deny the charges, and call for a special Committee to investigate them? Let him ask for a Committee to inquire why a special clause was inserted in the Native Land Court's Bill to protect his property, and make retrospective laws to protect lands wrongfully acquired?

Mr Gisborne deprecated the importation of foreign matter into the discussion.

The Premier rose and said the conduct of the member for the Thames was characteristic. At all times since he had been in this House, he had used his position to slander gentlemen whose characters were irreproachable—whose characters were better than his own. I call upon the hon. gentleman to dare—

Mr Wood, (Invercargill): I rise to order. I move those words be taken down. (Hear, hear.)

The Premier: I used those words absolutely. To slander myself and my colleagues—

Mr Wood: I think the better way would be, before this matter goes further, to move "that the words be taken down."

The question that the words be taken down was put by the Speaker. At first only several members cried Aye.

The question was put three times, each time after a long pause.

The third time the Speaker declared his opinion that the feeling of the House appeared to be against enforcing rigorous measures. The Speaker then said: I am of opinion it is undesirable to use these strong expressions, which are likely to provoke members. I am bound to say that the leader of the House in this Chamber ought to set an example.

The Premier who changed from the passionate and vehement tones in which he had spoken before, challenged Sir G. Grey to put in writing the charges he had made, and repeat them outside the House and he (Major Atkinson) would meet him in a Court of law. If Sir G. Grey was a man, let him accept this challenge. Sir G. Grey defamed the characters of men higher than his own. He (Major Atkinson) called upon the House to defend the Government from these dastardly attacks. If such charges were true, the duty of the House immediately was to eject the Government. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear.") In conclusion, he challenged Sir G. Grey to put his statements in writing, and to-morrow he would have them sifted to the bottom.

Mr Rees: I do not intend to grow white in the face with passion. I do not intend to tremble where I stand, and scarcely know what I am saying. I will ask the hon. gentleman to recollect last

year, when I asked him to support me with a Committee, he did not accept the challenge. Mr Rees went on to say, now that the Premier could get a majority to walk into the lobby, and defeat a motion for a Committee, he capered and danced a war dance on the floor of the House. He challenged Major Atkinson now, and all the Ministry, to move for a Committee of inquiry. He (Mr Rees) would make the charges against him, either in writing or any other way. He had done it before, and would do so again. He dared the Premier, with all his influence over the Courts, to accept the challenge. The great sting of the charges was their truth. Let them move for a Committee.

Sir G. Grey: Why did they refuse one last year?

Mr Rees: They refused two or three last year. Will they deny it? Let them have a Committee into the Piako Swamp business. (Great laughter.) They were afraid to grant it. He demanded a Committee from that House. As for the Government, he challenged Mr Ormond to move for a Committee of inquiry, or support him (Mr Rees) in moving it. No; he (Mr Ormond) was afraid to move for an inquiry into the land dealings in Hawke's Bay. Then why all this boasting; this working-up of savage notions? Why not come out in red ochre feathers. Let the Premier come out, with Messrs. Ormond and Reid in the rear. They would be much in the rear. If there was any fighting, they would be in the rear, pulling the wires. If the Premier would mention one false accusation he (Mr Rees) made, he would move for a Committee of inquiry. The result would be to shock and astonish even the Premier. He (Mr Rees) would prove five times more than he had stated.

Sir R. Douglas thought the parties had better settle matters out side.

After further lively debate, Mr Murray's resolution was carried, on the understanding that the Government were to consider the resolution in its general bearing, and not with regard to the Hon. H. R. Russell or any particular case.

On the House resuming, at half-past seven, Mr Whitaker called the attention of the House, as a matter of privilege, to an article in the Oamaru Mail of August 13, (printed by George Jones, late of the Auckland Echo) which accused Mr Whitaker and a company of having combined with Brissenden and one Moon to swindle the natives out of land. It accused him of having introduced a Native Land Bill with the object of making a safe land transaction comprising 250,000 acres of land, or 300 square miles. Mr Whitaker emphatically denied all the allegations in the article, and said he never employed Mr Brissenden, and never had any communications with him on the subject of employment. He concluded by moving that the article was a breach of privilege.

Mr Wakefield, in the interest of the Press, pleaded for deliberation. They ought not to condemn hastily.

Mr Stout deprecated extreme measures. They might accept Mr Whitaker's denial as sufficient. Their attention to newspaper libels would monopolise the attention of the House.

Mr Rees thought, if the House affirmed this a breach of privilege, they ought to go further, otherwise they would offer a premium to newspapers to gain notoriety. The New Zealand Times during the last few weeks was inspired by Ministers, and contained scurrilous attacks on members, and obscene expressions, especially regarding Sir G. Grey, who took no notice. He referred to Major Green's refusal to answer questions when summoned by the Auckland Provincial Council, who said he was acting under instructions from Dr Pollen.

Mr Fox supported the motion. He severely condemned the libels on Sir G. Grey in a letter signed T. O. Williams, J.P. in the New Zealand Times. He said such ribald articles were only to be explained by Watts lines "The devil finds some mischief still, etc." The Government ought to strike Mr Williams' name off the list of Justices.

Mr Gisborne thought an example should be made.

Mr Thomson deprecated extreme measures as usually abortive.

The motion was agreed to. Mr Whitaker moved that the printers and publishers be ordered to appear at the bar of the House that day week.

Mr Wakefield seconded.

Mr Stout thought Parliament ought only to assert its privileges against articles interfering with its freedom. Mr Whitaker had better institute criminal proceedings.

Mr Reynolds strongly condemned the scurrilous articles in the New Zealand Times on Sir G. Grey. They should

call the editor and publisher of the Times to the bar.

Mr Travers said ordinary apologies in similar cases had been made with impertinent humility. A fine or imprisonment ought to be inflicted.

Mr Rees defended the press generally from sharing the obloquy of the present condemnation.

The motion was carried.

After the privilege question, the debate was resumed on the second reading of Native Lands Court Bill.

Takamoana, Hori Karaka, and Tawiti condemned the bill.

Mr Rowe advocated the preparation of a suitable measure during the recess.

Mr Bryce, in a capital speech, severely criticised the Bill, and sketched out the provisions of a suitable measure.

Without any further discussion, the question was put to the vote. The words "During the present session" were struck out. The motion thus amended was carried on the voices in the following form:—"That the order of the day be discharged from the Order Paper to enable the Government to give effect to the amendment of the member for Rangitikei." The latter is practically Mr. Lusk's amendment. The Government did not divide the House. The Opposition cheered loudly.

The Bankers' Evidence Amendment and the Conveyancing Ordinance Amendment Bills were read a second time.

August 18.

Trouble is brewing over the Premier's speech yesterday.

When the House met, Sir G. Grey requested the Speaker that the Clerk might furnish a copy of the speech made yesterday by the Premier, challenging him (Sir G. Grey) to use certain expressions outside the House which he had used inside it.

The Speaker replied that it should be furnished.

Mr. Sheehan gave notice of motion for a Special Committee of inquiry into the Government Land Purchase Department at Poverty Bay in connection with Wilson's petition.

After some questions had been replied to by the Government, the debate on Mr Woolcock's motion regarding incidence of taxation was resumed by Mr. Bowen, who said the Government fully concurred in the propriety of throwing a fair share of the burdens of the country on property, but it was impossible to make any change this year. He moved as an amendment, "That in the opinion of this House the incidence of taxation should be adjusted so as to impose on property a fair share of the burdens entailed on the colony by expenditure on public works, thereby affording means for the reduction of taxation on necessities, and that the financial proposals of the Government next session should embody this principle."

The Speaker ruled the amendment out of order.

A short discussion then ensued, in which Mr. Sutton, the member for Napier, supported the motion in a sensible and argumentative speech, adducing the same arguments in favor of the motion as he did when seconding the reply to the Governor's speech.

Many members advocated the taking over the land fund of the South, but this proposition was not at all acceptable to the Canterbury members.

Mr Woolcock's motion was then put, and declared carried on the voices.

Sir G. Grey then moved a further amendment, "That an income and property tax be at once imposed to relieve the people of the colony from Customs duties on the necessities of life." Sir G. Grey spoke well on the subject, but as usual went out of his way by making attacks on members who differed from him politically. He abused Captain Russell and his family as being land-sharks in Hawke's Bay, and accused them of mopping up Maori lands.

The Speaker interfered, and rebuked Sir George for attacking hon. member's private character.

Sir George maintained that £35,000 could be remitted from the Custom's duties on the necessities of life if an acreage land tax were imposed, the expenditure of the colony reduced, and the land fund made Colonial revenue.

The debate was interrupted by the adjournment hour having arrived.

It is said in an English paper that Russia has given an order for one hundred torpedoes to be despatched to the Black Sea and the Danube. The Russian Government is resolved, to destroy or drive away all the Turkish monitors in or near the mouth of the Danube, and then to assume the offensive with the ironclads they have at Nicolaieff and some torpedo vessels now constructing at St. Petersburg.

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

After a short debate, Mr Murray's motion, affirming the principle that no Government officer receiving £300, should be allowed further remuneration, was withdrawn at the suggestion of the Government.

A paragraph in the Nation newspaper of June 30th, states that Dr Chayrere, who was recently appointed Roman Catholic Bishop of Auckland, has been, at a Consistory held at Rome, promoted to the rank and title of archbishop.

Mr George Jones, the proprietor of the Oamaru Mail, is about to be placed in a prominent position, having been called on to appear at the bar of the House this week for having inserted an untruthful article on the Hon. Mr Whitaker, the Attorney-General. Mr Jones is not the first printer in New Zealand, who has been placed in such a position, but we hardly think the House will gain much by the procedure, if the result is as farcical as the others. Mr Whitaker had another course open to him by appealing to the Courts of law—a course which would have better served his ends than the mode of procedure he has adopted.

The Government has withdrawn the Native Land Court Bill and Ministers have saved their seats. If the Government now introduce their promised measure to bring in a bill to prevent the purchase of Native lands, we can predict for it a like fate. Aware now of the feeling of the House, they will probably not ask the Legislature to discuss the matter further this session.

Sir George Grey's motion on the incidence of taxation will be the next bone of contention. Coming as it does now from one of their leading opponents, who cannot be talked over like Mr Woolcock, they will now have to meet the question face to face. The majority will probably support the government to delay the question until next year, and thus enable the government to bring down their budget according to the principles contained in the motion.

Mr G. Benjamin of Hastings-street has received per Rotorua the first shipment of this season's fruit, amongst which we notice Australian loquats, a fruit which is very palatable and much taken of in our sister colony.

The Medical Practitioners Bill contains 36 clauses. The Act is not retrospective. The following medical districts will be made under its provisions:—Auckland, Hawke's Bay, Tararangi, Middle District, Wellington, Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury District, Canterbury and Westland; Otago District. The Medical Council in each district is to consist of five members, who are to be appointed by the Governor and hold office for five years.

An emergency meeting of Seinde Lodge, 419, I.C., held on Thursday, for the purpose of enabling the Freemasons of Napier to bid farewell to Brother Hugh Campbell. After the Lodge was closed, a considerable number of the brethren sat down to a cold repast that was laid out in the Hall. Brother R. Price, W.M. of Seinde Lodge, occupied the chair, supported by Past Masters Kennedy, Palford, and Wandrum, and by Brother Crawford, the W.M. of Victoria Lodge. The W.M. of Seinde Lodge, in proposing the toast of the evening, said, he need not expatiate on Brother Campbell's many admirable qualities, that had endeared him to the Lodges of Napier as a Mason, and had earned for him the esteem and respect of his fellow townsmen. Earnest in the pursuit of his duties, and zealous in the performance of them, Brother Campbell had been at once a credit of the Craft, and a valuable member of society in this town. Brother Campbell was about to return to the Waikato, and to his mother Lodge (Beta,) whither he would take with him the sincerest wishes for his success and happiness. The toast was heartily responded to with Masonic honors, and was replied to by Brother Campbell in suitable terms. Songs and toasts enlivened the remainder of the meeting, and the brethren separated after spending a most enjoyable evening.

The Hon. Colonel Brett, in speaking to the Address in Reply, in the Legislative Council, among other remarks said:—"I wish also to avail myself of this opportunity to remark upon what I consider the very unjust and unfair manner in which the Constabulary Force was reduced during the recess. In reducing a force of this description in the British army, the system has always been that the men are asked if they wish to be discharged; and those under the number are brought in as supernumeraries, and remain until vacancies occur, instead of being discarded and thrown on the face of the country in a destitute state. I know at present an officer who held a commission in the Armed Constabulary Force for very many years—a gentleman who obtained very high honors at college at Home, and stood for the Civil Service examination there—who is now a private policeman in Christchurch. Is it right to see a gentleman in that position? He was discharged from the force summarily, and was obliged to adopt the only means that offered to obtain a livelihood. I merely mention this because I hope by doing so may tend to prevent such a thing occurring again. It is a discredit to the service to reject old members of the force, and cast them helpless and penniless in the streets."

The woman Gallagher, who was brought up for lunacy (and discharged on Friday, afterwards made an attempt to rush into the surf, but was prevented by Sergeant Robinson, who was watching her movements. She was taken to the lock-up.

The Waste Lands Board met last week when the application of F. Ingobriksen for a reversal of the decision of the Board with respect to the forfeiture of his land was refused. An application from Toha, a native, to be allowed to exchange a section of land he owned for one belonging to the Crown could not be entertained. A letter from the Under-Secretary for Crown Lands was laid on the table, informing the Board that the Tarawera and Te Haroto reserves had been proclaimed waste land of the Crown. Others correspondence was laid on the table relative to surveys, and other matters. An application from Samuel Phillips to transfer his interest in an application (No. 48) for 100 acres in the Makaretu reserve to Joseph Bryan was agreed to. An application (No. 2493) from S. W. P. Peddie to purchase 20 acres in the Patoka district was refused, because it would exclude other settlers from access to a creek. The Board resolved to recommend to His Excellency the Governor to proclaim as reserves certain sections which had been withheld from sale, and had been marked as reserved, but had hitherto proclaimed as such; one of them (at Papaku) to be set aside for a cemetery, and seven others (at Havelock) to be set aside for purposes of public utility. The board also resolved that the reserves should be put to auction to be leased for seven years. The Board agreed to sell by auction in two months time some town sections at Mahia, Clyde (Wairoa), East Clive, and Porangahau; also two suburban sections at Clyde, some rural sections at Woodville, and 2 blocks in the Makaretu reserve. The Board then adjourned.

At the great Pan-Presbyterian Council, now sitting in Edinburgh, Scotland, it has been agreed that only the Psalms will be sung—no hymns—and that no instrument of music, not even a harmonium, is to accompany the human voice. This indicates the prevailing influence to be for the old paths. This Council will represent 34 millions of Presbyterians, or including the Lutherans, 55 millions—the majority of the Protestant world.

Dr. Wallis (says a Wellington contemporary) followed the Hon. Mr. Fox in speaking on the second reading of the Local Option Bill. When he rose to address the House there was a general clear out of members, but after the reverend gentleman had divested himself of his pulpit-like style of speaking he warmed up to the subject, and eventually became irresistibly funny in some of his remarks. Then members returned from the lobbies, and laughed heartily at the hon. gentleman's flights of fancy and dashes of humor. After stating that he would support a permissive but not a confiscatory measure, he gave a happy illustration, as showing how it would be impossible to entirely prohibit the use of liquor. He instanced the fact of a man keeping an allopathic, homoeopathic, or hydropathic establishment. One patient would come and say that he had a pain in his stomach and was generally out of sorts. The doctor would immediately reply, "Gin's your medicine, sir," and that man would go away convinced that the doctor understood his patient's ailment. Then another man would come with a wild look in his eye and a nervous twitching about the mouth. It would be easy to recognise an M.H.R. in him, with Financial Statement on the brain. That man required a glass of brandy and hot water. And so the hon. member proceeded, prescribing various remedies for different maladies. He kept the House in roars of laughter for about fifteen minutes.

In the Resident Magistrate's Court on Saturday, there was only a solitary case on the police sheet, being one of lunacy against the female Gallagher. The Police Sergeant stated she was unfit to be brought before the Court, but he believed she would be all right on Tuesday, as she was only suffering from the effects of drink.

Mr Henry Clappcott, the Government Life Insurance Agent, arrived in Napier on Wednesday. Persons desirous of effecting life insurances, purchase of annuities, for endowments, will be able to obtain tables or rates and all particulars from him at the Post Office. Those unable to call at the office, and desiring information, will be waited on by Mr Clappcott, if they will send their addresses to him.

A writer in the Otago Times makes the following sage remarks:—"The Ministry, as usual, are appointing their relatives and friends to all sorts of billets in the Civil Service; and some people seem to think that for this reason they should be turned out, but I must say I'm of a different opinion. Mr Bowen's late secretaries and Mr Ormond's nephews must be pretty well all provided for now, while a new Ministry would have to make a fresh start and provide for all their friends and nephews—consequently it's economy to keep the present one in."

In the last (July) number of Fraser's Magazine, received by this mail, appears an article by Sir Julius Vogel in reply to that on the position of New Zealand, published in the previous number.

We have had the pleasure of seeing at Messrs Gilbert and Co.'s factory five blocks of artificial ice, manufactured by the machinery recently imported by that spirited firm. The blocks average 200lbs each, and measure about three feet square by about seven inches thick, and look very transparent.

Referring to the debate on the privilege question, the New Zealand Times says:—"To only one matter in connection with the breach of privilege decided upon by the House of Representatives last night can we refer. That is to the mild assertions of Messrs Rees, Reynolds, and Mr Fox with regard to this paper. In reference to these we may say that nothing appears in the New Zealand Times which is not published with a full sense of the responsibilities the law and the privileges of Parliament place upon newspapers. Under these circumstances, we treat all threats and all irresponsible condemnation as 'words, idle words.'"

A most formidable array of counsel (says the Post) will do battle on the respective sides in the great Waka Maori libel case, which is to be tried on the 27th inst. The Government has retained for the defence Mr Conolly, Mr Gordon Allan, Dr Buller, and Mr Chapman. The plaintiff has retained Mr Barton, Mr Travers, Mr Macassey, and Mr Stout. Messrs Izard and Bell are solicitors for the plaintiff, and Messrs Buller and Lewis for the defendants.

The present humiliating position of the Ministry in having to swallow the resolutions of the Opposition is thus referred to by the Post:—"The Ministry has lost prestige. It has only escaped immediate defeat by abject submission, and this circumstance will embolden its opponents to further trenchant and determined attacks."

A meeting convened by circular was held last week at Wanganui to discuss Mr. Fox's Local Option Bill. About 150 of the principal settlers in the district were present and a long discussion ensued on the principles of the proposed measure. It was universally condemned; not one speaker attempted to defend it. A petition embodying the views of the meeting has been drawn up and signed, and forwarded to Mr. Fox, the member for Wanganui, for presentation to the House of Representatives.

With the singular ill-luck that seems to cling to all the Musical Society's entertainments, the last concert of the season was given to a most discouragingly thin house, the small attendance being due to the inclemency of the weather. The instrumental pieces in the programme were remarkably well rendered, but the choruses were not on the whole so successful.

At a meeting of the Cook County Council held at Gisborne about a month ago, a resolution was passed instructing the Chairman to forward a circular to the various County Councils throughout the colony, asking them to co-operate for the purpose of "passing a Bill with the object of so amending the Waste Lands Act that the waste lands of the Crown may be vested in the Councilors and the Council respectively." The Chairman appears to have complied with the request, but the manner in which the suggestion has been received by some of the enlightened Councilors in the colony is truly laughable. One of the Councilors of the Bruce County, in the Otago district, having a very hazy knowledge of the geography of the colony, wanted to know where the Cook County Council was located. An equally enlightened member, with a most solemn look, informed his brother Councilor it was in Napier. Another member, who had seen a map of the North Island thought it was somewhere about Cook's Straits. At length, the seven wise men of Bruce gave up in despair, and passed a resolution, "that the subject was too large for them to attempt to grasp." They thus appear to have a greater knowledge of their own capabilities, than they have of New Zealand geography.

We learn from our latest American files that there is great excitement in the wool market at Boston, which showed little abatement when the mail steamer left. Prices ranged from 55 to 58 cents, or to put it in English from 2s 3½d to 2s 5d per lb.

To the Editor: Sir,—From time to time, Mr W. Colenso has advocated the claims of kingfishers and pigeons to the milk of human kindness, allow me before my death to say a word for butterflies and moths. I fear troublesome times for my species since Mr Colenso has preached a crusade against us by drawing attention to the beauty of our creation. We suffer quite as much as pigeons do when our domestic ties are broken, but in our capture and death for the pleasure of savants, there is none of the excitement that is enjoyed by pigeons when being shot at for the amusement of sportsmen. We are trapped in a net, and are then pinned to a cork, there left to die a miserable death from starvation and agony. The more merciful savants, after putting a pin through the body of his victim, suffocate the quivering creature by placing it for a few seconds in a bottle containing poisonous fumes. But how many do this?—I am, &c. A CRUCIFIED BUTTERFLY. Philosopher's Study, Napier.

A New Zealand lady, who prides herself on her elocution, is under the doctors care for a dislocated jaw. She received the injury in the attempt to read aloud to her husband the account of a battle between the Turks and the Russians.

We regret to learn that, owing to the illness of Mr Cotterill, he has been compelled to postpone the visit to Napier he purposed making in company with his talented wife (Miss Isabella Carandini).

There are so many advantages (writes "Atticus in the Leader") in clergymen changing pulpits with each other, but in churches where a latitude of opinion is allowed startling surprises occasionally come on a congregation. A few Sundays back a sermon was preached in a Melbourne church by an "exchange" in which he condemned in strong language the wickedness of inculcating a belief in the personality of a certain place. Another "exchange" occupied the pulpit on the following Sunday, who was just as emphatic in denouncing those who objected either to the person or the place. If the gentleman whose existence was disputed happened to hear both sermons I wonder which of the two theories would have pleased him more?

The Free Kirk Assembly, of Scotland, received a solemn report from the Committee on Sabbath Observance. The melancholy fact was announced that "from different parts of the country accounts continued to be received of the great amount of Sabbath walking which prevails;" that "unscriptural views of the nature of the Sabbath were widely prevalent;" and that "continental practices were becoming more common in Scotland." Lord Kintore took a more sensible view. He informed the Assembly that he did not grudge the working man and his wife their talk or walk on the Sabbath day.

London Mayfair has a story about the manager of an aquarium. His wife induced him to go to church, where he fell asleep. The minister was reading the first lesson of the day, which happened to be the first chapter of the Book of Ezekiel. As he proceeded in the description of the wonderful beast which the Prophet saw in the land of the Chaldeans, by the river Chebar, the aquarium manager moved uneasily in his seat. "Every one had four faces, and every one had four wings." The aquarium manager rubbed his eyes, and the preacher went on: "And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides, and they four had their faces and their wings." The aquarium manager was now wide awake. "As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man and the face of a lion on the right side, and they four had the face of an ox on the left side. They four also had the face of an eagle." The aquarium manager was now standing up, his wife vainly pulling at his coat tails. "Name your own price," he cried; "I'll take the thing."

Writing under our remarks on Saturday as to the "Jim Crow" manner in which the Herald is conducted, our contemporary makes an attempt to score one on Monday against the TELEGRAPH for what it terms "cribbing" its Parliamentary news. The writer of the paragraph is, however, fearfully illogical. In the first place he says the Parliamentary news forwarded to us is not reliable, and in order to show how reliable the Herald telegrams are, which he charges us with copying, he points out what he terms a "palpable blunder" in his own Saturday's Parliamentary news, making a difference of £215,000! The fact is those Parliamentary telegrams to our contemporary come from the Press Agency, to which we subscribe equally with himself, and being desirous of making our Parliamentary news as intelligible as possible we shall as usual, compare them with "our own," and insert what may have been omitted. So long as we pay the Agency, we shall feel ourselves entitled to do so. On the other hand, we find our contemporary, not having the enterprise to assist in sending a special to England to forward war news, has no compunction in using "our special" news, which costs us a large sum of money. Although we know it is "stale news" to the public of Hawke's Bay after it has appeared in the DAILY TELEGRAPH, (this journal having so large a circulation over the morning paper,) yet it would be only just for the Herald to fairly state to whom it is indebted for its news, as other morning journals conducted on honorable principles do in other portions of the colony.

The Agent-General's usual weekly war cablegram was received on Saturday, but contains only two items not previously forwarded by the Press Agencies. They run thus:—"A second Danube bridge has been completed, and large reinforcements of Russians are crossing.—The Russians are suffering from fever and dysentery. The Turks are healthy."

In the House of Representatives this week the Hon. Mr. Fox moved "for the production of all instructions issued to the police during the past year having for their object the suppression of gambling, sweeps, lotteries, and raffles; also for a return of the number of prosecutions and convictions for gambling or illegal games in public-houses, or other public places; and for the production of any instructions issued to the police to enforce the law against the sale of spirituous liquors to persons of the native race; and a return of all prosecutions and convictions for offences against the laws in that behalf."

The death of the Rev Archdeacon Paul, late of New Zealand, is announced in the English papers.

The opening of St. Matthew's Church, Hastings, took place on Monday afternoon. Prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Anderson, and an appropriate sermon was delivered by the incumbent, the Rev. W. Marshall. The church was crowded.

We regret to learn of the drowning in the Waipawa river on Saturday afternoon last of a youth named Edward Bolt, aged thirteen years. From what we can gather it would appear that on Saturday the father, Mr. James Bolt, with his son, were returning on a dray to Waipawa from his section in the Bush for provisions. In attempting to cross the river, in which there was a fresh, the dray upset, and when the father recovered himself he found his son had been washed away by the swift current and drowned. The body has not yet been recovered, although the river has been carefully watched by the police, nor is it expected to be found until the water subsides.

The Suez Mail arrived at the Bluff on Sunday in the Arawata. The summary of news forwarded by the Press Agency has, however, all been forestalled by the Frisco mail.

Mr George Jones, who appeared on Thursday last at the bar of the House on a charge of breach of privilege, is a brother to Mr E. Jones, of Napier, and was formerly proprietor of the Waikato Times. No doubt it was information obtained from some of his old Waikato friends which has placed him in his present prominent position.

The railway officials got a well-deserved wiggling from the Bench on Tuesday for the extraordinary steps they took in the arrest of a respectable settler for not showing his ticket when called on. It was not an ordinary case. It was clearly shown that Mr. Ray, the defendant in the case, had on Saturday purchased a return railway ticket, but being in ignorance of a new by-law which has only been in force for two months, and not posted up with the fifty-two by-laws to which travellers look for guidance, he neglected to have his return ticket re-dated. On being told of his error, he paid to the ticket seller two shillings that was demanded from him, and was handed back a piece of paper, which he carelessly thinking to be no good threw away. This action appeared to anger the officials, and he was thereupon handed over to the custody of the police, notwithstanding the officials were told that Mr. Ray was a well-known settler, and what he had done was done in ignorance. Furthermore, the railway officials, finding they had committed a blunder in giving Mr. Ray into custody, then altered the charge to another section of the by-laws. It is to be hoped that the remarks of the Justices will have the effect of making the officials show more caution in future, and however their pride may be disturbed, "they will take more precaution before resorting to arbitrary measures."

We do not know who the controller-general of the Napier waterworks may be, but whoever he is his place of residence should be well-known. On Monday, as the Fancy-dress Ball Committee was in grave deliberation in the reading-room of the Fire Brigade Station a fireman, with alarm depicted on his countenance, desired to interview the Captain of the Brigade, Mr. W. Miller. In a few minutes it leaked out that there was no water in the mains. Nobody knew where Mr. Peppercorne lived, much less where he was to be found at 9.30 p.m. One said, "try the White Road;" another cried out "somebody lives on the Spit who knows;" while another recommended application to be made at the Gas-works. As in the course of an hour after it was discovered that the mains had been turned off, water was again laid on, we presume Mr. Peppercorne, or somebody else was found who had authority to use the key. It is manifestly absurd, however, that water can be turned on, or off, at the sweet will and pleasure of somebody or another, who can go to bed, or elsewhere, and be oblivious to the danger in which he has placed the town, and the inconvenience to which he has subjected the ratepayers. On Monday morning, without any notice, the water was cut off, and family washings, we understand, were seriously put out of gear.

It must be very satisfactory to all interested in the subject of education to hear that Mr. J. A. Rearden's Class was well attended last week. Several who seem most anxious to make amends for lost time, or very probably, had not sufficient opportunity in their younger days, are taking advantage of the means now offered them by Mr. Rearden for improving their education.

At a meeting of Mr Jessop's creditors held on Tuesday, the assets which were wholly book debts were shown as £70 16s., and the liabilities amounted to £149 3s 2d, leaving a deficit of £89 7s 2d. Mr Vinsen was appointed Trustee.

We have to acknowledge with thanks from the author, a small book of Poems, from the pen of Mr. Anderson, of Wairoa. The subjects chosen are all local. We do not wish to write disparagingly of the efforts of our local poet, but to those who read the work it will give an inkling of the kind of poetry which often finds its way to the editorial desk for insertion in the papers. We only wish that all our poets would print a book; they would then know better than we could tell them how prized their effusions are. The book is neatly printed by Messrs. Colledge and Craig.

At a meeting of the Acclimatisation Society held at Dunedin last week, in reply to an application from Mr Shrimpton, of Napier, for starlings, it was resolved that he be informed that the Society will endeavour to send a lot of these birds to Hawke's Bay in December, when the young birds will be ready.

The following members of the House of Representatives comprise the Select Committee to consider the Sheep and Cattle Bill, Fencing Bill, and Slaughter-houses Bill. The majority of the members are large-holders, and the interests of their class will not we may be confident, be forgotten:—Messrs Cox and Williams, Captain Russell, Hon. Mr Ormond, Messrs Beetham, Bryce, Richmond, Murray-Aynsley, Harper, Tschemacher, Captain Morris, Mr Seymour, Captain Kenny, Messrs Wason, Thomson, Joyce, Dr Hodgkinson, and the Hon. Mr Reid.

It has been decided to celebrate the anniversaries of the formation of the Napier Volunteer Company, the Fire Brigade, and the Dramatic Club, by a fancy dress ball, to be held at the Oddfellows' Hall on Thursday, September 20, next. The ball-committee held a meeting last night, when it was decided that the price of a ticket admitting lady and gentleman should be 25s, and extra tickets for ladies 10s 6d each. It was resolved to issue circulars, on postal cards, inviting the company and co-operation of those to whom they are sent, to which answers will be desired with as little delay as possible. The novelty of a fancy dress ball should ensure a large assemblage, while the names of the gentlemen on the Committee guaranteed a success for it second only to the ball that was given, now more than three years ago, to the Colonial Prize Firing representatives.

A singular breach of promise case has just terminated in the Dublin Common Pleas Court in a verdict for £200. The plaintiff, a small butcher named Knowles, sued a lady named Verschoyle, widow of a captain in the army, and mother of a family, who is possessed of £600 a year and a handsome residence near Dublin, named Roebuck Hall. Mrs. Verschoyle jilted the butcher, whom she first met in a Liverpool steamer as he returned from the cattle-market there. She had since married a person named Mulligan, described during the hearing of the case as a cashier in the Dublin Post Office and a dealer in periodicals. Knowles, the plaintiff, got into a cab with Mrs. Verschoyle on first landing in Dublin, and on the same day visited her at Roebuck Hall. The marriage was subsequently arranged, and would have taken place but for the interference of the lady's friends. They did not, however, prevent her from marrying Mr. Mulligan. The trial was a humorous one. Knowles had been married twice before he met Mrs. Verschoyle. There was an applause in court when the verdict was returned, Mr. and Mrs. Mulligan both being present.

Some larrikins, the other evening, amused themselves by rolling down the gully, at the top of the Shakespeare Road, a concrete block placed on the footpath by the contractor for the erection of the lamp-posts. The block weighs about five hundred weight, and it will cost less money to make another block than to raise the one thrown down the gully. The police would be glad to get hold of the offenders.

Our special correspondent at Wellington telegraphed us last week, in the event of the Government threatening to bring in a Bill to cause speculations in native lands to cease for 12 months, certain parties during the interim would attempt to make large purchases. From a telegram sent by the Press Agency, it would appear that this prediction is about to be fulfilled. The telegram runs thus:—"Russell and Brissenden are said to be endeavouring to purchase the Otamakapuku block of 145,000 acres, and it is reported that certain land speculators are actively at work to secure all the native land possible before the passing of restrictive legislation."

In the hearing of a recent case in the Nelson Resident Magistrate's Court, the magistrate made a casual observation which, says a correspondent of the local Times, was not received with satisfaction by the legal profession. A witness from the country was explaining to the Court that although certain gentlemen were mentioned in the plaint note without their knowledge, they would not be held responsible. The witness was very particular in trying to make himself understood, and his painstaking called forth the following:—Magistrate: As men of common sense we know your meaning, but legally the matter must be regarded in a different light. Witness: Exactly so. I was always of opinion that law and common sense were utterly at variance, and your Worship's remarks quite confirm this view. A reporter present immediately scored one for the witness from the country.

From a telegram we learn that the Wanganui Art and Industrial Exhibition, which opened on Saturday, was a wonderful success, both as regards the number and quality of the exhibits. An original Reubens and an original Sir David Wilkie are much admired in the art section. The scientific comprises a fair sample of the industries of the district. The Exhibition will be open all next week. It is expected that large crowds of country people will flock in to see this great collection.

The following advertisement in an English paper shows the extent to which turf rogues are carried in England:—"Whereas, at eight minutes past 10 o'clock on the morning of Monday, April 23, 1877, a telegram in the following words was handed in at the South-eastern district office, London for transmission to the Piccadilly Circus office, namely, 'Thomas Gee, Bridge House Hotel, London, to Messrs Gee, Bridge House, Old Burlington street, Old Bond street, Piccadilly, please strike my horse, Julius Cæsar, out of the City Suburban Handicap, and notify same to Tattersall's Subscription Room immediately' whereas this telegram was a forgery of £100 will be paid by Mr Thos. Gee to any person who shall give to his solicitor—Mr W. S. Johnson, 5, Gray's-inn-square, London—such information as shall lead to the discovery and conviction of the sender of the said telegram." Fortunately, the forgery was discovered in time, and Julius Cæsar, not only ran in the City and Suburban Handicap but won it.

There is a sweet thing in drains in Hastings-street, and its present condition is highly creditable to all concerned. The drain is a sort of directory to the kitchen proceedings within the houses from which the sewerage flows. The turbid stream that slowly winds its way along the side of the footpath carries on its waters tea leaves and currants, little balls of dough, and islets of fat, and the aroma from these decomposing substances goes far to make one forget the perfumes of Arabia. The open drainage system of Napier has much to recommend it; it offers a study to the philosopher, a fortune to the medical practitioner, and an ever source of enjoyment to children interested in the displacement of water of various floating bodies.

The Doulin Dam question still agitates the minds of the Blenheim people. One writer in the Marlborough Press twits Mr Dodson with having praised the invention some short time back, but, circumstances having altered, he now condemns what he formerly praised.

The shareholders of the Theatre Company held a meeting on Tuesday at Mr Mayo's Empire Hotel, Mr Routledge in the chair. After some discussion a resolution was carried adjourning the meeting until an opinion could be obtained from the solicitor of the Company (Mr Sheehan) as to the status of the Company. An amendment was moved to the effect "That the Company wind up forthwith," but it found few supporters. The business of the meeting was brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the chairman.

A rather severe lesson was taught on Wednesday, to those persons who neglect to affix stamps on receipts. Mr Robert France was fined nearly £20, and, counting his own solicitor's fee, he will have to pay fully over that amount, for giving three separate receipts to Messrs. Fortune and Black for rent, without placing on each a penny receipt stamp. We are aware that there is a great deal of carelessness shown by many people in Napier in giving unstamped receipts for sums over £2. The result of the proceedings, should be a caution to them in the future.

The Chairmen of all Road Boards in the colony are in future to receive copies of the New Zealand Gazette.

On Tuesday, at the dead of night, three individuals were discovered on their knees, striking matches, and peering on the ground. The party who discovered these people in their investigation was about to give them in charge as lunatics, when, on enquiry, he ascertained that they were sounding the depth of water in the mains. They were members of the Fire Brigade, who, at midnight, finding that there was no water in Hastings-street, were endeavouring to see if the whole of the town had been served in the same manner. In a previous issue, we drew attention to the gross carelessness shown in turning the water off, but, apparently, our remarks had no effect. Perhaps the Municipal Council will take the matter in hand. If the members of the Corporation do not wish to make themselves responsible, in the event of a fire occurring when the water is turned off at the mains, we should advise them to issue some positive instructions which, if disregarded, would lead to the well merited punishment of the offenders.

Mr Clapcott, Government Life Assurance agent, arrived by the coach from Wellington on Tuesday. He will stay at Napier for some short time, during which, we have no doubt, he will "take the lives" of all prudent persons who have not yet secured provision at death for those who are dependent upon them.

The Government has been obliged to ask for another Imprest Supply Bill to the tune of a quarter of a million. The money was required in such a hurry to meet public works contracts that the Premier had not time to give formal notice of the measure. The Opposition objected to pass the measure through all its stages in one day, but were outvoted.

Persons interested in the safe arrival of the ship Zealandia, that left Lyttelton for London some time since back, will be glad to learn that Messrs Levin and Co., of Wellington, have received a cablegram stating that that vessel would not be detained at Rio more than a fortnight for the repair of damages.

A valued correspondent has favored us with a copy of a special edition of the Oldham Chronicle, which contains a full account of the proceedings of the Annual Moveable Committee of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, held at Oldham, in May last. We shall take an early opportunity of giving a précis of the position of the Society given in the Directors' Report. Strange to say, the subject of the separation of Hawke's Bay from the Wellington District is not mentioned. Mr. Henry Radcliffe, who had so long held the position of Corresponding Secretary for the Order, and whose name is so familiar to members of the Society, died when the session was being held.

Yankee Grab having been put down by the police, a fresh "swindle" has been started in public houses, to which we desire to call the attention of pious legislators. Say, five thirsty souls meet in the house of a licensed victualler, and that they desire their drinks to cost them not more than one shilling each. They remove the table cloth, and then, standing round the table, each player places one shilling in front of him. A soda water bottle, previously obtained from the bar, is placed on its side, and spun round (wheel of fortune fashion) and to whomsoever the neck points when its gyrations have ceased, the same is declared the winner, and he picks up all the coins and "shouts" from the proceeds of the winnings thereof. Such are the machinations of the Evil one, that the best laid schemes for the prevention of wickedness end in gang amiss.

In wet weather, persons going from the Spit Post Office to the Custom House have to wade through a sea of mud. This inconvenience might be obviated by the removal of the Customs yard fence, which is now in a line with the Post Office verandah, and by the construction of a foot-path. The Customs yard is never used, and the fence we imagine, encroaches on the public road.

The annual meeting of the members of St John's Church congregation took place on Tuesday, at which the Rev H.W. St Hill presided. The proceedings were opened with prayer, after which Mr. St Hill read a short address, in the course of which he stated that he had undertaken the care of the parish for a period of six months, at the request of the Primate, and the concurrence of the Vestry. The minutes of the last Vestry meeting were then read and confirmed. Dr. Spencer read the annual report and statement of accounts. The receipts from pew rents and offertories, for the year ending June 30, 1877, had been £526 12s 1d, showing a falling off of £315 2s 9d from the previous year. The total liabilities over and above assets, including £200 due to Rev. J. Townsend, was shown to be £1056 19s 3d. On the motion that the report and balance-sheet be adopted and passed, Mr. Tiffen moved an amendment, which was carried, that the report be adopted, and that the balance-sheet be printed. Before the close of the meeting, a resolution was moved by Dr. Gibbs, and seconded by Mr. Tiffen, "that the accounts be adopted." This was carried, after some discussion as to whether it did not recind the amendment to the original motion. The following office-bearers were elected:—Clergyman's Churchwarden, Col. Lambert; Parishioners' Churchwarden, Dr. Spencer; Vestrymen:—Messrs. Miller, Ellison, Tabuteau, Stuart, Sainsbury, and Moore; Auditors, Messrs. Routledge and Sutton. A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

Mr W. Wood has given notice of the following motion: That, in the opinion of this House, steps should be taken for the purpose of obtaining from Mayors of Municipalities and Chairmen of Counties, full information on the following subjects, viz:—The rate of wages paid to artisans, and the number of hours called a day, in each calling, within their respective municipalities and counties; the rate of wages ruling for farm and domestic servants, both male and female; and the prices ruling for the chief articles of food. That copies of such returns be forwarded to the Agent-General, to be published in Great Britain in such manner and at such times as he may deem most suitable.

The Wellington Post, in an article on the Breach of Privilege case, observes:—"Mr. George Jones, however, will probably not suffer much punishment. The procedure of bringing up a man to the bar of the House for breach of privilege seldom comes to anything. Jones will probably humbly apologise, and throw himself upon the mercy of the House. Then the house won't exactly know what to do with Jones. There is no State dungeon to which to consign him, and it is doubtful whether they can send him up to 'the brick house on the hill.' Then, as to any amount of fines they might inflict upon Jones, he can laugh at such things, because if he remains in the custody of the Sergeant-at-arms until the prorogation of Parliament the warrant of the Speaker then becomes waste paper, and Jones can walk forth a free man." The Post, at the same time, castigates Jones for the insertion of the article which led to the Breach of Privilege.

Church of England service will be held (D.V.) on Sunday next, the 26th Instant, by the Rev. Wm. Marshall, at St. Matthew's, Hastings, at 11 a.m.; at St. Luke's, Havelock, at 3 p.m.; and at St. Marks, Clive, at 7 p.m. The Rev. J. C. Eccles will hold evening service at St. Matthew's, Hastings, at 7 p.m.

Owing to the configuration of Scinde Island, a fire might break out in a house on the Spit, and do immense mischief before the news could be conveyed to the engine station in town. We have been informed that, at a cost of £5, a wire could be laid from the Spit Post Office to the engine station, and as this is such a small sum of money, we think this communication should be made. The residents on the Spit have no means whatever of extinguishing a conflagration, and without the engine from town came to their assistance they would be helpless in the event of a fire.

Mr. Pyke's Little Joke.—Scene, Belamy's; time, just after the conclusion of the debate on the Native Lands Bill; *dramatis personae*, Messrs Pyke and Sheehan. Pyke: "Johnny, what is the matter? You don't seem happy." Sheehan: "I feel as if I can neither sit nor stand." Pyke: "Well, you can lie at all events!"

The following is the notice of motion on the Order Paper given by Mr. Rees, asking for a Committee to enquire into Hawke's Bay native land purchases:—"Mr. Rees to move, that a Committee, consisting of Hon. Mr. Bowen, Hon. Mr. McLean, Hon. Mr. Fox, Messrs Stevens, Bastings, Curtis, Ballance, Bunny, Macandrew, Hurlis, Montgomery, Burns, Fitzroy, De Latour, Sir G. Gray, and the mover, be appointed to inquire into all dealings with native lands by landed proprietors in Hawke's Bay. Such Committee to have power to call for papers and persons, and to report in a month. Five to be a quorum."

At a meeting of male members of the Catholic congregation held at Wanganui on Saturday, resolutions were passed condemning the religious clauses of the Education Bill, and instructing the chairman to forward a copy of the resolutions to Bishop Redwood for presentation to Parliament.

Alluding to the Breach of Privilege case, the Thames Advertiser makes the following observations, which may explain the error into which the Oamaru Mail has fallen:—"The writer in the Mail seems to have had no knowledge of Mr. Frederick Whitaker having a son, a lawyer, named Frederick A. Whitaker (formerly in partnership with Mr. J. E. Macdonald), or if he had, it was not exercised, for he persists in naming the Attorney-General "F. A. Whitaker," the second of which names he does not possess.

The Exhibition of Arts, Science, and Industry, was opened at Wanganui at three o'clock on Saturday last. No information has been telegraphed as to its success.

A body of a man has been found in Albert Park Melbourne. Under a tree near which it was lying, the police discovered three small bottles, which had recently contained chloroform. In addition to the £19 16s 4d in the deceased's pockets, the sum of £30 has been found secreted in his clothes, as also some New Zealand stamps. The body has not been identified.

Referring to a case which is to come before the Resident Magistrate's Court at Christchurch the Otago Guardian says:—"Matthew Hayes, a respectable-looking man, who was arrested at Port Chalmers on Sunday under a warrant charging him with obtaining 10s by false pretences from a wagoner named Joseph Shoppard, on the 6th July, was remanded by the Bench yesterday to Christchurch, where the alleged offence is said to have been committed. The Bench naively informed the accused that if he was liberated on bail he would have the privilege of paying his own fare, but if not his expenses would be defrayed by the Government. At his solicitation, however, bail was allowed himself in £200, and two sureties of £100 each.

We (Wellington Post) are authorised to state that the Rev. L. B. Brown has accepted the invitation to found a Baptist Church in Wellington. Domestic arrangements prevent Mr. Brown resuming the Polytechnic services at once, but he may be expected to settle permanently in Wellington about the second or third Sunday in September.

A Press Agency telegram from Wanganui states that Messrs Russell and Brissenden are said to be endeavouring to purchase the Otamakapuku block of 145,000 acres; and it is reported that certain land speculators are actively at work to secure all the native land possible before the passing of restrictive legislation.

Sir George Grey visited the Wellington Working Men's Club on Saturday, and expressed himself highly satisfied with the arrangements which had been made by the Club Committee. Sir George Grey and several members of the House of Representatives have enrolled themselves as honorary members.

It will probably interest some of our readers to learn that the Rev. Charles Clark, the popular lecturer, who travelled through New Zealand en route for the Home country, has been creating quite a sensation in the Midland districts. We understand that since his arrival in England Mr Clark has received overtures with a view to a settlement from more than one important Baptist Church; but as his intention is very shortly to return to Australia, for another course of lectures there and in New Zealand, he prefers to hold himself free from pastoral engagements for the next twelve or fifteen months.

A German residing in the vicinity of Arapawanui, met with an adventure while out pig-hunting a few weeks ago, which will long remain imbedded in his memory. One bright morning, accompanied by a fine bulldog he came across a large boar, which the dog immediately tackled. His enemy, however, managed to get hold of him in his mouth, and carried him thus for about twenty yards, when he threw him down, and killed him with his immense tusks. As soon as the boar had concluded proceedings with the dog, he ran at the German, who made for a tree, into which he climbed. His porcine enemy walked round and round the tree, making it impossible for the man to escape. The boar kept guard all night, and the feelings of the German during that time can be more easily imagined than described. He slept not, for fear of falling into the jaws of the enemy. Next morning, perceiving the boar going towards his dead dog, the man slipped down from his place of refuge, and wended his way homewards, where he arrived weary and hungry. The following day an expedition was organised by some settlers, who went out in search of the boar, which they found and shot. The German, however, declares that he will never again go out pig-hunting alone. Wild pork is good, but sleeping in a tree all night he does not consider beneficial to health.

At the meeting of the Napier Literary Association, held on Wednesday, Mr. D. K. Davis read a well-written essay on the poet Longfellow, which was afterwards discussed. At the next meeting, an essay will be read by Mr. H. Ellison on the mutual relations of capital and labor in the colonies, as affected by immigration.

From our telegrams it will be seen that Mr. Clayton, the Colonial Architect, died on Thursday. He had been suffering for some time from abscesses in one of his aches, and it was found necessary to amputate his foot, and he appears never to have recovered from the operation. Mr. Clayton was father-in-law to Sir Julius Vogel.

A Wellington contemporary alluding to the report that Ministers had threatened a dissolution in the event of the resolution being passed, as to an alteration in the incidence of taxation, observes:—"Ministers admit the principle, in spite of the Colonial Treasurer's injudicious speech, which argued against the terms of his colleague's resolution. But in the matter of a dissolution in the second year of a Parliament, on a question of whether a tax shall come now or twelve months hence, no Ministry could have much chance of success either with His Excellency the Governor or the country. If the Ministerial party should happen to deem it necessary to go to the country, it is by no means improbable that not a few of them would stay there."

The Nelson Daily Times of the 15th inst., states that the little daughter of Mr. George, Martin, assistant pilot at Hokianga, recently met with her death under very painful circumstances. She was playing on the beach and crept into a hole in a high sand bank, when a quantity of sand from above fell, smothering her. Mrs. Martin, missing the child a few minutes afterwards, discovered the body quite warm, but life was extinct.

A native called Mahuki (Ngatimaniopoto), was charged before Major Mair, at the R.M. Court, last week with stealing three pounds of gunpowder and three boxes of caps from Mr Aubin's store counter. The accused was sentenced to one week's imprisonment. Prisoner and a witness declared he took them because such articles should not be disposed for sale at a place which Hauhaus frequented, and which they were not allowed to buy, and it was therefore a temptation to steal. He said he intended taking them to Major Mair. There was no concealment. Major Mair, in giving judgment, said he did not think the prisoner intended to steal, but did it out of bounce, of which there was too much at times in the settlement, and therefore the Court punished him as a warning.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

DIRECT TELEGRAM FROM EUROPE.

LONDON.

August 21.

Owing to heavy rains, there are now great floods throughout Great Britain and Ireland. The crops are greatly damaged.

It is reported that Osman Pasha is surrounded by Russian troops, and that his army is now placed in a critical condition, being cut off from his supplies.

The fighting in Asia continues. There has been another great battle, in which 3,000 are reported as killed, and several wounded, but the number is not stated.

Both Russian and Turkish Generals claim to have been victorious.

"My son," said a mother to a little boy four years old, "Whom above others will you wish to see when you pass into the spirit-world?" "Goliath!" shouted the child, with joyous anticipation, "unless," he quickly added, "there's a bigger fellow there."

CABLEGRAM.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

LONDON.

August 20.

The Russians hold strongly to Shipka Pass.

Suliman Pasha is making a reconnaissance near Jenikoi Pass where the Russians are strongly entrenched.

The Turks were, according to a Russian official despatch, repulsed.

The river Nile has been stationary four days, its level is fourteen feet below the average for the past three years.

August 21.

The Russians have abandoned the Shipka Pass, which is now occupied by the army of Suliman Pasha.

The Porte is concentrating 50,000 militia in Bulgaria as an army of reserve.

Colonel Baker commands the Turkish cavalry.

BOMBAY.

August 21.

An unofficial Russian account confirms the attack by Melikoff on the 18th. After capturing the first line of entrenchments, they fell back to their former positions. Many were killed on both sides.

The Russians have occupied a position between Galatz and Selva.

General Gourka lost 4000 men in retreating to Shipka.

The Turks are preparing for a winter campaign.

INTERPROVINCIAL.

DUNEDIN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

August 22.

Mr. Clayton, the Colonial Architect, who met with an accident last week, lies in a very critical condition.

There is to be an enquiry into the cause of Weir and Sampson's fire owing to alleged suspicious circumstances.

A petition with 1500 signatures goes to Wellington asking the central authorities to retain the Fever Hospital, with the Municipal authorities next month.

Scarlet fever is on the increase in town.

At the City Police Court, yesterday, John Williams, an old printer and cripple, was charged with having no lawful means of support. Inspector Mallard stated that the accused had been arrested out of purely humane motives. It was one of those hard cases where a man, after living a respectable life, had to be sent to gaol because there was no other asylum for old age and frailty. The Bench agreed that the case was a deplorable one, and regretted there was no other asylum but the gaol. He could scarcely be sent to the Hospital, and the benevolent Institution was crowded. He was sent to gaol for three months with hard labor. Mr McKay, a solicitor, stated that he knew the prisoner, who was over eighty years of age. He was unfit for hard labor. The Bench replied that only such work as Williams could undertake would be given him.

WAIROA.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

August 22.

The Manaia and Result both arrived here from Napier shortly after noon.

August 23.

The Result left early this morning for Whakaki, taking in a cargo of maize there for Napier.

The Manaia leaves at 4, if the wind is favorable.

Mr. Sturm is here with a lot of trees, fruit, etc. and is selling them well.

AUCKLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

August 23.

An amusing elopement case came into the Police Court yesterday. A young carpenter, of Waikato, had been paying addresses to a girl of sixteen and the father for some time looked on favourably, but afterwards wanted the girl to marry another man. She declined, and eloped with the first lover. The father gave information to the police at Waikato that the ferry boat was missing, and it was supposed that the couple had gone down the river in it. A warrant was then issued against the lover for stealing the boat. It proved, however, false, the scent of the boat being found floating half-a-mile down the river. The truant pair had gone on horseback, intending to take the train at Taupere for Auckland. The father took the very train to town by which the lovers intended to continue their journey. Before entering, however,

they espied the old man, and drew back until after the train had started, when they waved the exasperated old party a fond adieu. At the next station he got out and telegraphed that the pair were at Taupiri, but meanwhile they had disappeared. The lovers were ultimately arrested in Auckland on the charge of stealing the boat. They were brought up at the Police Court yesterday, but the case was withdrawn by the police, it being certain he had not taken it. An action will possibly result against the old man for false arrest.

The Cricket Committee have been making inquiries re arrangement for the approaching match with the Australian team, and a final meeting will be held on Friday to definitely settle the terms.

The Opera Company is very successful. Soldene and Stella are both first-class, and Campbell is a splendid tenor. The chorus is fresh and vigorous, and includes several good voices. It is the best appointed opera that has ever visited New Zealand.

WELLINGTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

August 23.

Poor Gillon is again in trouble. Since his dismissal from the Argus, he has brought an action against the proprietors for wrongful dismissal. On Monday night, during his temporary absence from home, two provoking bailiffs surreptitiously entered his sanctuary, and took possession in the Queen's name of his lares and penates. This was at the suit of Henry Anderson for £135, costs in the libel action Anderson v. the Proprietors of the Argus. Gillon's name appeared in the imprint as one of the proprietors, and hence the present misfortune. Curiously enough, while the law recognises his position as a partner in order to seize his goods, the other proprietors of the Argus dispute it.

J. S. Willis, the crack scenic artist, was a passenger to Auckland per Hawea, to fulfil an engagement to Mr. De Lias to prepare scenery for the Soldene Opera Troupe.

Five-roomed houses here fetch twenty-five shillings a week rent.

[PRESS AGENCY.]

DUNEDIN.

August 22.

A fire occurred in George-Street on Monday night, which resulted in the destruction of three small shops. The insurance offices are interested to the extent of £700. The Globe, £300; Standard, £300; Victorian, £100.

A general meeting of the members of the Otago Railway Employees Benefit Society was held on Monday night for the purpose of considering a proposal from the Superintendent Engineer of Christchurch that the Dunedin Society should amalgamate with that of Christchurch. The following resolution was carried:—"That this Society, agrees to amalgamate with the Christchurch Benefit and such other Railway Benefit Societies as exist in the colony, on condition that this Society's rules be adopted, and that the head office be permanently held in Dunedin."

A public meeting was held in the First Church to protest against the opening of the Museum on Sundays. Resolutions strongly disapproving of the action of the Museum Committee were carried unanimously, and it was resolved to petition the Governor to have it closed on Sabbath days.

Mr. Norrie, the Rector of the Dunedin High School, has resigned his appointment.

CHRISTCHURCH.

August 22.

Mr Justice Johnston delivered a very important judgment a few days ago. An application was made in Chambers to remove H. E. Alport, one of the trustees in bankruptcy from the trusteeship of the estate of Thomas Andrew. From affidavits read, when the case was argued, it appeared that at an advertised meeting of creditors, there was no one present but Mr Alport, who, although not a creditor, held several proxies. With one of these he proposed himself chairman, and with the other he seconded the motion, and then as chairman of the meeting he declared the motion carried. The judgment of the Court pronounced the election to be null and void, and moreover contended that there must be two persons to make a meeting.

WELLINGTON.

August 23.

Mr Clayton, the late Colonial Architect, died at Dunedin at four o'clock this morning. His foot was amputated a few days ago, and he gradually sunk since the operation.

PARLIAMENTARY.

WELLINGTON.

Friday night.

When the House resumed, Sir George Grey spoke another hour, but generally recapitulated his former arguments, and wound up with a splendid climax. It was generally pronounced as the best oration Sir G. Grey has yet delivered. It was temperate. He did not once mention the rights of posterity or the whole human race.

Mr Macandrew seconded Sir George Grey's amendment by appealing to the Ministry in Heaven's name to sacrifice all selfish considerations on the altar of public good.

The Premier followed, and said he was glad Sir G. Grey had come out as leader of the Opposition, and tabled a distinct issue. As usual the Premier expressed a good deal of sympathy with the Opposition programme, a statement that was received with jeers. He admitted he had been obliged to finance on paper, and in the course of his speech made many other damaging admissions, which Mr Montgomery laboriously and slowly reviewed.

Mr Montgomery shewed clearly that the colony was rapidly becoming involved in a chaos of Treasury Bills. In fact, it was doing a bit of stiff whenever the revenue runs short. He demolished the Treasurer's fictitious balance, and generally lectured on the text, that the Budget was a sham, a delusion, and a snare.

Mr Stout, in a careful speech, shewed the deficiencies of the Customs revenue and the fallaciousness of former Budgets. Mr Reynolds supported the amendment.

Mr Harper, in a haw-haw style, opposed the income and property tax. It would scare away capital.

Mr Pyke slated the Ministry in an amusing speech. He would like to see the Government lead and not follow. He said "They eat, and they swear they eat." It was pistol practice, Shakespeare's pistol. He hoped the Government would cease hauling down the flag and bolting from their guns whenever the enemy fired a shot. After Ballance's amendment on the Native Land Court Bill, they would swallow anything to keep their seats.

Mr Hodgkinson gravely preached a homily on the Ministerial sins. When the annals of New Zealand were written, the present Ministry would be known as the Lymphatic Ministry.

Mr Hunter addressed the House in his usual style. His speeches are generally sensible and to the point, but last night he got beyond his depth in finance and floundered clumsily into crabholes. He is looked on as assistant dry nurse to the elderly matrons, Messrs. Stafford and Fox.

Mr Murray caused a general feeling of relief by moving the adjournment at 12.30.

The debate is to be resumed on Tuesday afternoon.

August 22.

The Petition Committee yesterday considered a petition from 166 residents of Clyde with reference to the reserve. Captain Russell examined the resolution passed, that if the reserve was not already dealt with for local purposes, the Committee recommend it be vested in the chairman of the Wairoa County Council in trust for the inhabitants of Clyde for a public recreation ground.

Takamoana presented a petition against the Native Land Court Bill, and Hoani Nahe presented a petition from the Omaha meeting.

Yesterday may be called the Points of Order Day. The best part of the afternoon was consumed in this way.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply being resumed, Mr Murray resumed the debate on Sir G. Grey's amendment. He concluded by moving that the word "immediately" in the first line be omitted, in order to insert "next session."

Mr Reid followed by moving an amendment standing on the Order Paper in the name of Major Atkinson.

The Hon. Major Atkinson moved that, in the opinion of this House, the incidence taxation should be so adjusted as to impose on property a fair share of the burden entailed on the colony by the expenditure on public works, and thereby afford means for a reduction of taxes on the necessaries of life, and that the financial proposals of the Government next session should embody this principle.

Messrs. Stafford, Stout, Reynolds, Hodgkinson, and Gisborne, delivered orations on points of order.

Mr Stafford said he was in such confusion, that he did not know whether he ought to vote with the ayes or noes.

The Speaker said the substantive

motion was constantly a subject of further amendment. It was customary to regard an amendment as a suspending substantive motion, and make a further amendment—an amendment on a substantive motion. The House would see the reason and rationale of this, as in the present instance it was desired for the sake of hypothesis to amend the original amendment proposed, in order to meet the desire of the House. Many members were unable to vote on the question, and to distinctly make up their minds, unless some modification were allowed in an amendment. It would be extremely hard if members were to be debarred from discrimination in their votes. The system in such cases was to lay aside the substantive motion, and regard the amendment as a substantive motion. At present the House was not concerned with the question of going into Committee of Supply. That could only be resumed by the question, that the Speaker do immediately leave the chair. The debate now was on Mr Woolcock's motion, and Sir George Grey's amendment, which it was proposed to amend in order to render it intelligible to the minds of members. When the House ruled certain progress be made, it did not stultify itself. The amendment by the Minister of Lands was therefore in order.

The Speaker then put the question before the House, namely: Sir George Grey's amendment, with the motion by Mr Murray, to omit the word "Immediately" in the first line, and insert in lieu thereof "next Session." The reporters understood this to mean that Mr Reid's amendment was ruled out of order.

Mr Reid then spoke to Mr Murray's amendment. He agreed with the principles laid down by Sir George Grey in favor of equal distribution of the burdens, but argued that the question required consideration during the recess. A great portion of the speech consisted of flippantly vulgar personal references to Mr Stout and his law. He argued speciously in favor of big land speculators. Mr Reid spoke with considerable hesitation, and amidst frequent and loud outbursts of laughter. His speech was a specimen of bucolic and illiterate special pleading, with a strong consciousness of weakness. It was interrupted by the adjournment hour.

Many members say Mr Fitzherbert is getting into the sear and yellow leaf. The mental faculties are getting hazy. His ruling palpably inclines to the Government, even where there is no necessity for the Speaker to exercise a constitutional bias in order not to disturb the existing order of things.

There are now four amendments to be disposed of before going in Committee of Supply. Mr Murray's amendment takes the objectionable portion out of Grey's amendment, and forestalls the Government in their proposed amendment, which stood on the Supplement Order Paper to stave off the question until next session. As the matter now stands it would command a majority against the Government, but further amendments will doubtless be forthcoming.

When the House resumed, Mr Reid continued, and said all property had improved by the Public Works expenditure. The fault in Sir G. Grey's proposals was, that valuable land would only be taxed at the same rate as poor country land. The House ought not to relieve land which was enhanced in value by Public Works expenditure from bearing its fair share of the burdens. All property taxation was based on the liability of improved property to bear taxation, therefore persons who could not improve would escape taxation. Sir G. Grey's proposals would injure the struggling industrious working settler, who is not benefited by the public works expenditure. He characterised Sir G. Grey's finances as speculative. Anyone who knew how intricate our Customs arrangements are would know that Sir G. Grey's proposal to take £380,000 from the consolidation fund would be impossible. The workmen of the colony are not so urgent. Their claims required careful consideration. Whence this anxiety for the poor man of the said members of this House who voted in favor of ten per cent. on imported goods. Many of those who cheered Sir G. Grey had met their constituents during the recess, and the question of incidence of taxation was never mentioned. He had no doubt that an overwhelming majority of the House would agree to postpone the question until next session. The question of altering taxation was not to be done in a perfunctory manner, but only after a wise and careful deliberation which the House could not give to the matter; during the course of this session he would support the amendment of the Premier.

Sir G. Grey rose to explain. He

would not answer the representation of the last speaker with reference to his intentions. He would not follow him into fallacies. Mr Reid had said he (Sir G. Grey) was anxious to prevent the people of this country being educated.

Mr Reid: No I did not. I did not intend to say that.

Sir G. Grey said he desired to protect himself from being misrepresented in this respect. He was opposed to the Government on education, because it was part of the tyranny and despotism they attempted to force on the country.

He admitted their Education Bill was well-drawn, but it was another attempt to pauperise the country and to establish a sort of colonial aristocracy in the colony and make the poor man provide for the education of the rich. The rich men of Canterbury took education reserves, and made the poor Wesleyan and Catholic pay £1 per head for education which principally benefited the rich. They now proposed to establish high schools for only children attending Government schools so that children of those parents who were prevented from conscientious scruples from allowing them attending Government schools would be debarred.

Mr Thompson (Clutha) followed Sir G. Grey. He accused the Ministry of being split up. There were two Premiers, a chief and sub-Premier. The Government were not able to lead the House. The Treasurer during the first quarters of the year carried £150,000, and during the second £300,000, from the Public Works account to the consolidated fund.

Mr Stafford delivered a strong speech defending the Treasurer's Budget and advocating delay in the imposing of an income or property tax.

Mr Travers advocated a tax of £1 per hoghead on Colonial beer, and an increase of a half-penny on salt and sugar. He also urged the transfer of the railways to an English Company.

Mr Walter Johnston in an excellent speech, supported the Government.

The debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr Ballance.

August 23.

The whole afternoon was occupied with the debate on the incidence of taxation, of which the House is becoming tired.

Mr Ballance's references to the financial articles at home in the Times and Economist, and Fraser's in New Zealand, produced a marked effect on the House. His view of the colony's financial position caused quite a flutter amongst the Lords in the gallery. Mr Ballance's speech was far inferior to his great effort last session.

Captain Russell made some excellent points, particularly in reply to Sir G. Grey's statement that there were men in the country who were building up principalities by monopolising land. Captain Russell told a story of a young man, who came here many years ago, and happening to be in conversation with an official personage, poured out his griefs to the effect that he was disappointed with the country, and contemplated leaving. The gentleman to whom he said this replied that he would be foolish to leave the country at that juncture, when he might by staying acquire a principality by purchasing land. The gentleman who said that was Sir George Grey, the then Governor, and the other person was himself, Captain Russell. He had taken part of his advice by acquiring land, but had not got a principality. In reply to the accusation that he and his family had eighty thousand acres, he said he had only ten thousand. Replying to the arguments in favor of encouraging small farms, he said the laboring men preferred to work at high wages and postpone farming until the time when wages were low.

Mr Woolcock followed, and got on stilts in political economy. His sudden fame has slightly turned his head. He lectured the House *ex cathedra* on Woolcock's political economy and evolved some novel theories from his own internal consciousness. Mr Woolcock would have preserved his fame if he had been content with one great effort in the session. It is said he is good for two hours longer.

There has been so much talk lately that the wires overhead are wearing out, and their ragged ends hang down as if appealing to members below for rest.

The House last night was perfectly demoralised. The last vestiges of party government have disappeared, and both the Government and Opposition are fighting on a guerilla system.

When the House resumed, Mr Woolcock meandered through a pile of notes. Mr Brandon opposed a land tax.

Mr Lusk supported Sir G. Grey. The debate was finished at 9.20. The

House was thin.

Sir G. Grey's amendment was put, and declared carried on the voices.

Mr DeLaTour called for a division.

A curious spectacle was witnessed, the Government and their supporters voting for Sir G. Grey's amendment, and an immediate alteration in the incidence of taxation, while Sir George Grey voted against it.

Mr Macandrew, amidst great laughter, walked over to the Government and reminded them they were voting for an immediate change.

Cries of "Oh! they'll change it immediately."

Sir G. Grey's motion was carried by 40 to 30.

The Premier thus secured an opportunity of moving a further amendment.

Mr Hislop endeavored to forestall him by moving an addition to the words, "after arrangements can be made next session."

The Speaker ruled this out of order.

The Premier then moved his amendment, as on the Order Paper, to the effect that taxation should be cast on property, which should bear its fair share of the burdens, and the financial proposals of the Government should embody this next session.

Mr Stout could not resist another speech.

Mr Sheehan, from behind, handed a paper to Mr Stout, who moved another amendment, that a Bill, giving effect to Sir G. Grey's amendment, be prepared during the session and circulated, and that in the event of the Government neglecting, it will forfeit the confidence of the House. This was a direct vote of no confidence in Ministers.

Mr Montgomery made another financial statement.

Mr Rees, the irrepressible, again wielded Samson's weapon.

Messrs Hodgkinson and Hislop executed a war-dance in front of Mr Reid.

Sir G. Grey replied. He advised the Government to dissolve and take the voice of the people.

Mr Joyce moved an adjournment in order to take up the speaking to-day.

Ministers shouted triumphantly "No." Mr Stout's amendment was then negated on the voices.

Mr Wakefield appealed with folded hands for an adjournment.

The Speaker got fogged by the number of amendments, and ruled him out of order.

Mr Pyke moved the insertion of the words "and income."

Coughs from the Government benches. The amendment was evidently hard to swallow.

The Opposition gave counter-coughs.

Mr Wakefield again moved an adjournment.

The Speaker having recovered his mental vision, ruled him in order.

The Premier resisted. He wanted to carry his amendment in a thin House.

The adjournment was carried on the voices.

Private members desired an adjournment till Friday. The Premier resolutely contended for the resumption of the debate at 2.30 to-day. He carried his point on a division by thirty-seven to twenty-seven.

The House adjourned at 1.20 this morning.

Yesterday, the Hon. Mr Russell moved a resolution in the Legislative Council, requiring the Government to inform the House what steps have been taken to enforce a resolution passed in the session of 1875, with regard to the Te Aute and other educational Trusts. The hon. member gave a summary of the position in which the Te Aute Estate was new in, which your readers are fully acquainted with. A short debate ensued in which Captain Baillie, Colonel Whitmore, Randall Johnston and Dr. Pollen took part. The latter asked that the debate be postponed until that day week, so as to give him time to consult his colleagues, and gather further information.

The debate was then adjourned.

The cablegrams from London received are as important as satisfactory. The DAILY TELEGRAPH special informs us of a great battle between the Russians and Turks at Tirnova, in which the latter it is believed have gained a great victory. From other sources we learn that the Russians are also receiving a series of defeats in Asia. The most gratifying news of all, however, is, that our staple export, wool, continues to advance in price as the sales proceed. This information will tend to improve business, and make commercial matters more healthy.

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT A HURIRI.

ARRIVAL.

August.

- 17—Storm Bird, s.s., from Wellington. Passengers—Messrs. Byrne, Pelemmes, Axup, Dunbar, Jones, Collins, Wells, Joyce and Hart.
- 17—Result, s.s., from Wairoa and Whakaki.
- 17—Minnie Hare, schooner, from Auckland.
- 18—Taupo, s.s., from Wellington. Passengers—Captain and Mrs. McInnis, Mrs. Fry and child, Messrs. King, Headlam, Mackinnon, Witty, Margetta, McDonald, Jobbens, Robertson, Davidson, Jolly, McIntosh, Reed, Groswell and family, and 5 carpenters.
- 19—Jane Douglas, s.s., from Gisborne. Passengers—Mr and Mrs. Clunes, Mrs. Davey and 2 children, Miss Trimmer, Messrs. Mannen, Nolan, Thomas, Rook, Loughran, Tucker, Warnop, native wife and child.
- 22—Southern Cross, s.s., from Auckland. Passengers—Master M'Auley, and 20 immigrants.
- 23—Storm Bird, s.s., from Wellington. Passengers—Mrs. Poole, Misses Lydia Howard, Navaro, and Nye, Messrs. Shepperson, Poole, Sweeney, and Hunter.

DEPARTURES

August.

- 17—Mary Wadley, three-masted schooner, for Newcastle, N.S.W.
- 17—Kiwi, s.s., for Wellington via Mangakuri.
- 17—Isabella Pratt, schooner, for Oamaru.
- 18—Taupo, s.s., for Auckland via Gisborne and Tauranga. Passengers—Messdames Gibbons (2) Stormdale and Butterworth, Misses Harkis, Davis, Gibbons, and Browning, Messrs. Gibbons (2) Harkis, Ewing, Mann, Berry, Joyce, Campbell, Baker, Harrison, Cribb, O'Neal, Firth, Floyd, Dunbar, Turnbull, Farnes, and one native.
- 19—Storm Bird, s.s., for Wellington. Passengers—Messrs. Anderson and Solomon.
- 19—Jane Douglas, s.s., for Wellington. Passenger—Mr. Rock.
- 21—Jannett, ketch, for the Sound.
- 22—Mania, p.s., for Wairoa. Passengers—Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Aislabie, Miss Keys, Messrs. Sturm and Ralph.
- 22—Albatross, schooner, for Whangapoua.
- 22—Lætitia, schooner, for Auckland.
- 22—Result, s.s., for Wairoa. Four passengers.
- 22—Saucy Kate, schooner, for Auckland.

The three-masted schooner Mary Wadley was towed out by the Sir Donald on Friday through the eastward channel. She bumped four times, and is bound to Newcastle, N.S.W., for a cargo of coal.

The s.s. Storm Bird, Capt. Doile, left Wellington on Thursday at 12.30 a.m., and has experienced throughout the trip strong head winds with heavy rain and thick weather. Passed Castlepoint at 3 p.m.—same day, and Cape Turnagain at 7 p.m.; eased engines at midnight owing to the thick weather, and came under easy steam, arriving in the roadstead at 8.30 on Friday. Crossed the bar at 9.15, and was moored to be Breastwork. Sighted a fore and aft schooner off the Castle. The Storm Bird has 73 tons general cargo, principally transshipments ex Endymion from London, and leaves again for Wellington. We thank Mr. Dugdale for report and files.

The officers and crew of H.M.S. Sappho after getting on board Mr. Mason, the third mate of the Queen Bee, nursed him very carefully, and before he left the men-of-war, handed to Mason a subscription amounting to £16.

Negotiations for the purchase of the Jane Douglas have been pending for some time between Messrs. Richardson and Co., the late owners, and Mr. Plimmer, manager of the N.Z.S.S. Co. Mr. Plimmer arrived in the Storm Bird on Friday, and the final arrangements were concluded. The price has not transpired. We hear she is intended to run between Wellington and Manawatu, a trade for which she is admirably adapted, as the passenger traffic is increasing in that river. We hear that some alterations will have to be made to her accommodation. Captain Fraser will no doubt remain in charge of her.

No report of the Taupo's voyage having reached us, we can only favor our readers with the names of the passengers, kindly furnished by Mr. Dunean, shipping clerk at Messrs. Kinross and Co's. On the occasion of the last trip of the Taupo going South from Wellington, she was commanded by Capt. Andrews, with Capt. Evans acting as mate, Capt. Carey and officers being obliged to remain behind to attend a Court of Inquiry, re the running down of the Eli Whitney by the s.s. Taupo.

Capt. Malcolm, late of the Wanaka, is now in command of the Tarakaki.

The s.s. Result returned from Wairoa and Whakaki with only a half cargo of maize in consequence of a souther springing up early on Friday morning, Capt. Baxter was reluctantly compelled to leave with the vessel only half laden.

The Isabella Pratt, Capt. Cross, left on Friday.

A Nelson paper informs us that the Maori crew who brought a part of the shipwrecked

passengers ex the Queen Bee, were entertained whilst in port to several sumptuous repasts at the expense of the Bishop of Nelson.

The s.s. Taupo, Capt. Carey left on Saturday afternoon. She left the major part of her cargo for Napier, and during the transshipment to the Three Brothers considerable damage was done to the lighter on account of the heavy roll.

In consequence of the threatening appearance of the weather on Saturday, the s.s. Storm Bird was detained till Sunday, when she left for Wellington, passing out by the westward channel. At 2 o'clock she was followed by the Jane Douglas.

The schooner Minnie Hare was brought inside on Saturday at 1.30 p.m. She was steered in by the semaphore as far as the passage on the eastward end of the bar, when she was boarded by the pilot, who immediately took the wheel. In crossing the bar the heel of the rudder struck the bar, which took the wheel out of the pilots hand knocking him down, and one of the spokes hitting him severely on the chest, besides injuring his shoulders and wrist. The sea washed the vessel over the bar.

The s.s. Jane Douglas hoisted on Sunday the house flag of her new owners, and steamed for Wellington at two p.m. We are glad to hear that Capt. Fraser, and the engineer, Mr. Dobbie, are still to retain their respective positions in the steamer. We wish the present owners prosperity with their new purchase.

A gentleman recently from Wellington, connected with the N.Z.S.S. Company has kindly favoured us with a description of the proposed improvements and alterations to the s.s. Rangitira. Her engines are to be made on the compound principle, which means a great saving of coal, and are to be increased 20 horse power. Her propeller is to be 20 inches large in diameter, which will make her a ten-knot boat. A new high pressure boiler is being fixed with all the latest improvements. Extra bilge pieces are being fitted so as to prevent the proverbial rolling. The saloon is being fitted up as nearly as possible after the pattern of that in the Wanaka, with green velvet seats and backs. There are fourteen enclosed cabins for gentlemen, and the ladies cabin is to remain as it is. The whole of the internal fittings are being repainted and handsomely decorated. In the future she will steer from the bridge. The whole of her deck fittings will be entirely altered, the donkey engine will be shifted more forward, and a whale back will be fixed forward of her foremast. This will be very useful for coiling away ropes, &c. Her owners expect her to be in Napier in three weeks time. We are glad to inform our readers and the future travellers in this steamer that Captain Evans will retain the command.

The s.s. Storm Bird, Captain Doile, hence, on Sunday at 12 o'clock, arrived at Wellington, at 4 o'clock on Monday afternoon.

The s.s. Jane Douglas, Captain Fraser which left here at 2 p.m. on Sunday last, arrived at Wellington on Monday at half-past five. It will thus be seen that the latter steamer gained on the Storm Bird half-an-hour on the passage. Both steamers were no doubt doing their level best. Money changed hands on the event.

A schooner called the Ann Hill has left Dunedin for Napier, with a full cargo of Colonial produce.

H.M.S.S. Sappho, Captain Digby, may shortly be expected to pay a visit to Hawke's Bay, en route for Auckland.

The Result on Tuesday towed out the ketch Jannett, bound to the Sound for a load of timber for Lyttelton. She also towed out the schooners Lætitia and Albatross, the latter bound to Whangapoua, and the former to Auckland.

The Lætitia, soon after the pilot left her, brought up, and the captain ran up the ensign as a signal for the pilot, who immediately went to see what was the matter. The captain informed him one of the crew had stolen from him some money. As the Lætitia was anchored in a dangerous position, the pilot got her underweigh, and the captain determined to give the man in charge as soon as he got to Auckland.

The s.s. Southern Cross, Captain Holmes, left Auckland at 4.30 p.m., last Monday, and has made a good run down, arriving at the anchorage on Wednesday at 1 p.m., having experienced fine weather throughout. We are glad to see Captain Holmes has again assumed command of the steamer, having entirely recovered from his late indisposition. She brought 20 immigrants transhipped from the barque Columbus. The latter vessel was the first wool ship that loaded here last season. The Cross had not much cargo for Napier. She will load cattle and sheep for Auckland.

Capt. Holmes, in company with the Pilot, sounded the bar at the westward channel at high water on Wednesday, and found eight feet three inches only, and a very hard bottom on the bar, but on each side of the bar they found about nine feet and a soft bottom. Captain Holmes therefore decided not to run the risk of bringing his vessel in till the bar improves. We are glad to report that a practical man like Captain Holmes sounded the bar himself, as it proves that the Pilot's soundings are to be relied on. The bar is not improving. At 6.30 a.m. on Thursday, at high water slack, there were only seven feet six inches of water.

The s.s. Storm Bird, Captain Doile, left Wellington at midnight on Wednesday; rounded Cape Palliser at 2.45 a.m., with a N.E. wind; passed Castle Point at 2 p.m., and Cape Turnagain at 7.30 p.m.; sighted the s.s. Kiwi off Blackhead at anchor; rounded the Kidnappers at 4 o'clock this morning, and arrived at anchor at 6.30 a.m. She has experienced strong head winds throughout the passage. She has a full general cargo, principally transshipments from the Endymion from London, and the Albion from Melbourne. The Lydia Howard Troupe were passengers to Napier. We are indebted to the purser, Mr. Dugdale, for prompt delivery of files and report.

The Silver Cloud is still detained in harbor, not being able to cross the bar. It has been suggested that Mr. Vautier should dismantle her and lay her up, and have her fitted with offices for the Harbor Board.

QUEEN BEE WRECK.—JUDGMENT OF THE COURT.

The Queen Bee wreck inquiry concluded on Wednesday, judgment was given to the following effect:—(1.) That there had been want of proper navigation between the time of sighting the Spit light and the ship striking. (2.) That there was culpable neglect in not using the lead. (3.) That a bad look out was kept. The captain's certificate was suspended for three years, and the second mate's six months. The Court considered that the first mate erred in judgment as much as the captain, but the responsibility rested with the latter and the second mate, who was the officer of the watch at the time of the wreck.

WRECK OF A STEAM BOAT.

A Press Agency telegram from Auckland, dated on Tuesday says:—“The steamship Lionel was wrecked while entering Whangape harbor; five men were drowned. There was a heavy break on at the time, and on crossing the breakers the first one broached the vessel to, and the second breakers turned her over. All hands aboard were drowned. One man stuck to the wreck till after sunset, strenuous efforts being made by those ashore to save him, but unavailingly. A boat was manned from the shore three times, and was swamped each time. Five hands were on board at the time of the wreck.”

THE LUSTITANIA.

This is the name of a new steamship of which descriptions have lately appeared in these columns, and of which high expectations were formed, as being a vessel which was likely to inaugurate a new era in the steam trade between the home country and the colonies. She has fully realised these expectations and the descriptions given of her, by having made the passage from London to Melbourne in forty days. Her build is such as to enable her to make the passage by the Suez Canal, and it is intended that she should proceed home by that route. Judging by her outward passage, she ought to make the home passage in shorter time than has ever been accomplished, and thereby prove to be the first of a fleet of steamers such as has never been in these waters.—Canterbury Press.

Commercial.

WOOL.

Messrs. Murray, Common and Co. report as follows:—Advice from home shew a rather firmer feeling in this industry generally, and the prospect for the auctions commencing this month is slightly more encouraging. It seems probable that if political influences do not disturb more than at present, the closing rates of last series will be firmly sustained. Cross-breds have not improved so much as other sorts, owing doubtless to the English wools keeping still low, but the fairs of the new clip have shewn some little improvement, which will probably increase.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

MAILS CLOSE
For Fiji, Sandwich Islands, America, United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, West Indies, via San Francisco, per Rotorua, on Saturday, 25th instant, at 9 p.m.
Money Orders and Registered Letters will close at 5 p.m. Book Packets and Newspapers at 8 p.m. on 25th instant.
For the undermentioned places every Monday, and Thursday, at 5.30 a.m.—Clive, Hastings, Havelock, Te Aute, Kaikora, Waipawa, Waipukurau, Danevirke, Norsewood, Tahorite, Woodville, Foxton, Palmerston, Wanganui, Taranaki, Wellington and Southern Provinces, &c., Wallingford, Porangahau, Wanui, and Castle Point.
On the other days of the week, mails close as usual, at 6.30 a.m.
J. GRUBB,
Chief Postmaster.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENT.

J. L.—Clause 22 of the Rating Act was compiled with, as was also Clause 28. See DAILY TELEGRAPH of March 6, and April 5, 1877.

CHRONOLOGICAL MEMORANDA.

FROM AUGUST 26 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1877.

PHASES OF THE MOON.

Last Quarter.....1st Sept.

Week Day and month	Anniversaries, &c.	Sun				High Water
		R.	S.	A.M.	P.M.	
26 S	13th Sun. a. Trinity	6 39	5 25	6 58	7 18	
27 M		6 37	5 25	7 40	8 0	
28 T	Goethe born, 1749	6 36	5 26	8 20	8 41	
29 W	Royal George s., 1782	6 34	5 28	9 4	9 26	
30 T	Torres Straits d., 1606	6 32	5 28	9 53	10 16	
31 F	Henry V. died, 1422	6 31	5 29	10 45	11 10	
1 S	St. Giles	6 30	5 31	11 38	— 8	

BIRTHS.

- MURROW.—At Napier, on August 3rd, the wife of W. H. Murrow, of a son.
- ALLARDICE.—At Danevirke, on August 3, the wife of J. Allardice, of a son.
- TYLER.—At Waipawa, on August 4, the wife of Mr W. Tyler, of a son.
- BISHOP.—On the 17th August, at Hastings, the wife of Thomas Bishop, of a son.
- JONES.—At Napier, on the 19th August, the wife of Mr J. S. Jones, of a son.
- M'LEOD.—At Napier, on the 23rd August, the wife of Mr John M'Leod, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

- TUPPER.—MORDAQUE.—On the 29th May last, at the church of St. Peter, Port Guernsey, by the Rev. R. J. Oxanne, M.A., Rector, uncle of the bridegroom, Henry De Lisle, youngest son of the late Henry Tupper (of Les Cotils), Esq., to Florence Harriet, sixth daughter of the late Rev. H. L. Mordaque, Rector of Hastings, Lancashire.
- 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 Riddiford, eldest daughter of Mr John M'Kenzie, of Tamumu.
- MILLER—EDSER.—At Napier, on 28th July, R. M. Miller, late Lieut. 33rd (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment, to Mary J., youngest daughter of Mr. A. Edser.
- VILLERS—M'KAIN.—At Petane, on the 2nd August, at the residence of the bride's mother, by the Rev. Father Reigner Mr. Charles Villers, of Petane, to Robina, fourth daughter of the late Mr. James Buchanan M'Kain.
- NEWMAN—BOSWELL.—At Onga Onga, Ruataniwha, on the 9th August, by the Rev. J. C. Eccles, Mr James M. Newman, to Adelaide Caroline, second daughter of Henry Boswell, Esq., of London.
- LOVE—MERRYMAN.—At St. John's Church, Napier, on the 11th August, by the Rev. D'Arcy Irvine, Mr George Love, of Hastings, to Emma, eldest daughter of the late Mr William Merryman, of Gloucestershire, England.
- BROWN—BUCKINGHAM.—At the residence of the bride, on 21st August, by the Rev. D. Sidey, Mr Henry Brown, Gas Manager, to Sarah Ann Georgiana, only daughter of Mr. George Buckingham, Napier.

DEATHS.

- TRASK.—At Wellington, on July 25, Thomas Trask, aged 86 years, father of J. H. 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. MONTETH,

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

Mr. Weevil having been out to a late tea-party with a few friends, upon getting into bed at 1 A.M. hoists his umbrella. Mrs. Weevil pleasantly wants to know "Why he is making such a ridiculous ass of himself." Mr. Weevil—"Well, you see, my dear, I expected a storm, and I came prepared."

The Weekly Mercury

AND
HAWKE'S BAY ADVERTISER.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1877.

The discussion in the House on Thursday on Mr. Murray's motion appears to have been both bitter and acrimonious. Mr. Murray moved that the House give effect to the recommendations of the Public Petitions Committee in the matter of the prayer of the Hon. H. R. Russell that a right of road be granted him through certain lands the freehold of J. G. Kinross, Esq. In making his motion, Mr. Murray appears to have been under the impression that the Hon. Mr. Russell had a right to claim the road in question, and that if it had not been for the neglect of the late Provincial Government of Hawke's Bay, this road would have been laid off many years ago. In justice to Mr. Murray, we are inclined to think that he would not have moved in the matter had he not been profoundly ignorant of the circumstances of the case. The land through which the road is wanted is situated at Motuotaraia in the Porangahau district. About seventeen years ago, Mr. FitzGerald then Superintendent of Hawke's Bay, caused the Crown land on either side of the road from the top of the Motuotaraia valley to Porangahau to be set apart as a reserve. On the eastern side of the valley (Mr. Kinross) the first occupier of the property, Mr. Snodgrass, purchased a strip of land running along the back of the reserve. This purchase was much increased in depth by Mr. Joseph Tanner, to whom Mr. Snodgrass sold out. Subsequently, under Mr. Ormond's Superintendency the greater portion of the reserve itself was cut up into sections and sold, Mr. J. Tanner being the buyer. Mr. Tanner sold out to Messrs A. H. and R. Price, and after some years the estate fell into the hands of the present owner, Mr. Kinross. It will thus be seen that from the road to a considerable distance back the freehold had been purchased, and no roads through that freehold leading from the main Porangahau highway to the Crown lands at the rear had been laid off. That this omission was an evidence of gross mismanagement of the public estates by the Provincial Government, we are quite prepared to admit. At the same time, that particular omission was not exceptional; it was the policy of Hawke's Bay Superintendents to encourage the wool-growing interests, and this could not be more effectually done than by offering sheep-farmers peculiar facilities for the security of their runs against "interlopers" who might be anxious to acquire from the Crown small freeholds. By omitting to lay off roads through the strips of land that a sheepfarmer would buy in order to enclose a large area of Crown land, the Government virtually made that Crown land valueless, because inaccessible, to any but the occupier of the run. It is true that a purchaser from the Crown was allowed five acres in every one 100 bought, which grant was supposed to be made as compensation for roadways that might be taken at any future time, but the Crown Grants Act limited the time to six years during which a right of way could be applied for. In the Motuotaraia case, no application was made for a right of way through Mr. Kinross' freehold until long after the six years had expired. In those days, the Hon. H. R. Russell had not cast longing eyes on his neighbor's run, and it was not till Mr. Kinross had acquired possession of the Motuotaraia property that Mr. Russell stepped across his original boundary, and bought some 7000 acres of Crown land that formerly was included in the Motuotaraia run. Having purchased this land, Mr. Russell then asked for a right of way through Mr. Kinross' freehold to obtain access to the Porangahau road, but by the Crown Grants Act the application could be, and indeed was refused. It is fair to state also that by a slight detour, an excellent road can be made from Mr. Russell's Motuotaraia purchases through his own original freehold to the Porangahau highroad. That was the position of the case, when Mr. Russell, failing to persuade Mr. Kinross to give him a right of way, petitioned the House last year. The petition was favorably received by the Committee, but the House, as we think very properly, did not act on its recommendations. Our reason for thinking that the House acted rightly in the matter is that Mr. Russell's case is not a solitary one. There are hundreds of settlers—poor men—who, under the operation of the Crown Grants Act, are placed in the most disadvantageous circumstances through the want of a direct right of way to their properties. We do not see why Mr

Russell's wealth and personal friendship with members of the General Assembly should give him advantages that are denied to the poor man. Many years ago we strenuously advocated the repeal of the Crown Grants Act, and it is only common justice to Mr. Ormond to say that, on two occasions, he urged that course in the House. We would go very much further than merely repealing that most unfair measure; we would be in favor of an Act being passed that would enable rights of way to be obtained at any time on a just application through any estate to the full extent of the five per cent allowance for roads.

DR MORAN, in the interests of the Catholic faith and Church in New Zealand, has denounced the new Education Bill in unmeasured terms. The proposed Act has been described by him as atrociously unjust and tyrannical, and as a measure under which there can be no security for freedom of conscience, or for the existence of any private or denominational school. Accepting the New Zealand Tablet as the mouthpiece of the Catholic Bishop of Dunedin, we may from that journal presumably ascertain the grounds on which Dr. Moran bases his condemnation of the Education Bill. The Tablet quotes from the Bill:—

Part IV., clause 85, sub-sec. 3, viz., "The school shall be opened every morning with the reading of the Lord's Prayer and a portion of the Holy Scriptures. With this exception the teaching shall be entirely of a secular character; and no child shall attend at the reading herein provided for if his or her parents or guardians inform the committee or teacher in writing that they object to such attendance."

The italics are the Tablet's and are meant to lay stress on the monstrous hardships inflicted on a parent by having to write a letter to a school teacher. "Consequently," says our irate southern contemporary,

"If there be no objection in writing, Catholic children shall be compelled to join in Protestant prayer, and learn Protestant principles. This is a tyrannous usurpation over conscience with a vengeance! The rights of conscience and of parents are to be trampled on if poor people who are ignorant of this provision, or who are unable to write, or who cannot see what right a Government has to step in between themselves and their children in the most domestic and sacred of all things, refuse or neglect to write to a school committee or teacher, asking an exemption for their children from insult and insolent intermeddling."

The reading of the Lord's Prayer being deemed an insult to Catholic conscience, and being a Protestant prayer, its compulsory reading at the opening of a school might be done away with. The second ground for complaint is that the reading of the Lord's Prayer and a portion of the Holy Scriptures excludes all Catholic teachers from these schools which are

"built and maintained at the public expense—that is, in part by Catholic money. This is adding insult to injury. Catholics are to be compelled to pay money to enable the Government to destroy the faith of their children, to trample on parental rights and duties, and to put a ban of exclusion and inferiority on all Catholic teachers and deprive them of the right of competing on equal terms with their fellow citizens. This is a gross injustice and an insolent assumption of ascendancy over a section of the community."

Dr. Moran, threw some light on this objection in his lecture, the other day in St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin, which otherwise might be unintelligible to Protestants. In reference to the recital of the Lord's Prayer and the reading of the Bible, he

"agreed with the statement that such a mode of religious instruction amounted to a farce; but complying with it was a recognition of Protestant principles, and for Catholics to adopt it would amount to a denial of their faith, because it would be equivalent to saying that the Government and others besides the Church had the right to give religious instruction. It also involved the further principle that each had a right to read the Scriptures and judge for himself. That was a recognition of a heretical principle destructive of the faith, and if accepted by Catholics would be tantamount to an act of apostasy."

The third ground for complaint is that the Bill "renders the existence of private and denominational schools an utter impossibility. And this not merely because under its operation private and denominational schools will be so unfairly weighted that it will become impossible for them to subsist, but because the clear and direct intent of the measure is to destroy them." This is simply a gratuitous assumption based on that portion of the Bill which provides for the compulsory attendance at a Government

school of all children, between the ages of seven and thirteen years, residing within two miles of such school, unless holding an "exemption certificate." These exemption certificates can be obtained in writing from the district School Committee, and would of course be granted on proof that a child was being as well educated as if sent to the Government school. The intention of the Bill is to make education compulsory, and without some such provision as the Bill contains parents could keep their children altogether from school. The Tablet, however fears, or rather boldly states, that the power placed in the hands of a school committee of granting or withholding exemption certificates would be abused for the purpose of ruining private schools. This is not likely to be the case, and any such insinuation could only emanate from a writer who had allowed his prejudices to run away with his judgment. We regret that our space will not allow us to do more than refer to the main features of the Bill which have called forth Dr. Moran's fierce denunciation. We are not at all sure, however, that we should have entered into the subject had not Dr. Moran accused the Press of studiously avoiding the least allusion to the "injustices" of the Bill. The reverend gentleman is reported to have said that "he as one of the public, had right to complain of this as being unfair and partial conduct on the part of the Press."

At a public meeting recently held at Greytown, Wairarapa, it was resolved to forward the following petition to the General Assembly:—

That your petitioners, who reside in close proximity to one of the most extensive tracts of bush country in the Provincial District of Wellington, have become strongly impressed with the conviction that the present Land Regulations are inadequate for bona fide settlement on that particular class of land, and that in view of a new Waste Lands Bill being passed through Parliament the following resolutions, passed at public meetings held throughout the district, are conditions better suited to the requirements of the case.

1. That so soon as at least fifty persons apply for bush land in any one block of waste land the Waste Lands Board shall cause at least fifty sections to be surveyed preparatory to selling the same on deferred payments.
2. That every two such sections shall be intersected by one section to be sold for cash payment.
3. That should the Waste Lands Board think proper to cause more sections to be surveyed than they have received applications for, the same to be thrown open for sale to the general public on the same terms and conditions as to the original applicants.
4. That such purchaser or purchasers be not compelled to reside upon the land during the first five years of purchase.
5. That each purchaser be compelled in each and every year during the first five years to fell the timber, burn the same, and sow the land with English grass to the extent of at least five per centum of the land held by him, or make such other improvement as shall by an inspector be reported as being of equal value.
6. That the purchase price of the land so required be paid by twenty half yearly instalments.
7. That all cost of survey and roads be paid by Government, and that all surveys be completed before the land is sold.

Your petitioners would therefore respectfully request that you would be pleased to take their suggestions into your favorable consideration, and on approving thereof cause them to be incorporated as provisions in the Bill now before your Honorable House.

One of the most interesting questions of the day is that relating to the settlement of the people on the land, and special inducement being necessary to secure the occupation of forest country, the suggestions contained in the above petition are valuable. This provincial district is as much interested in the settlement of bush lands as is that of Wellington. The experiment of settling these lands on the deferred payment system, though successful in many respects, is capable of improvement. The terms to which a settler under that system has to subscribe press heavily on a man of very small means, and an infraction of the agreement leads to the loss of his land, and the fruits of his labor. A speaker at the Greytown meeting pointed out that under the present system it was impossible for a working man to settle on the land without he possessed capital. Supposing a dozen men took up land under the present system, each worth a capital of £100, before two years were over they would spend every sixpence they had, and their lands would not be sufficiently improved to be reproductive or to enable them to make a living off it. They must then either abandon it, or go elsewhere. Another method of selling bush land was

adopted by the Government, in bringing out foreign immigrants and placing them on it. It was evident that when men like those, unfitted for bush life made a successful settlement, they did so at the expense of the colony at large. The Government to keep them on the land had to find them occupation on public works. The suggestion contained in the petition, if carried out, would enable a working man to take up land in the bush, and while earning wages at his employment, put money by for the improvement of his section. Again, the suggestion to cut up blocks of land so that it could be bought both on the cash and deferred payment systems is a good one, as the capitalist who paid ready money for his land would be an employer of those who had bought on the credit system. The existing system, by compelling a man to reside on his land, almost prevents him from earning a living, or even the means of carrying out those improvements which if not made, subject him to the loss of his section. The Waste Lands Board has little or no discretionary power in the matter; if the terms of settlement are not complied with the land is forfeited to the Crown. We should like to see this question taken up in Hawke's Bay with the view to strengthen the position of the Wairarapa petition.

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Napier do not appear to have friends at Court. On the other hand they can boast of not a few enemies. Our readers are aware that, some weeks back, the Corporation petitioned the Government in the matter of the endowment of the Borough, and also secured the good offices of our representative Mr. Sutton, for the introduction of a short Bill to the House for the purpose of adding to the reserves of the town the two acres of mud and water, lying between the Royal Hotel and the railway line. As soon as it was announced that this Bill had been read a first time, the Napier Harbor Board communicated with Captain Russell, the other member for Napier, and he, taking his instructions from that body opposed the Bill. Whether Captain Russell is under the impression he was sent to the General Assembly more to represent the Harbor Board, than the town of Napier, we do not know, but at all events his opposition to the Bill was enough to get its consideration postponed. The Government then manifested an extraordinary interest in the question between the Board and the Corporation, and the Colonial Under-Secretary was instructed by his chief to ascertain the views of the Board with regard to the matter. It was not thought necessary apparently, to discover the views of the Mayor and his Council. The Chairman of the Board, in reply to the Colonial Secretary, admits that the land applied for by the Corporation had not been included in the Harbor endowments, but nevertheless, the Board would strenuously oppose the application. That letter was written on the 15th instant and we have heard nothing more of the matter, but as Mr. Ormond is a member of the Board, and as Captain Russell appears to follow the directions of that body, it is just possible the miserable two acres on the Hyderabad Road will never become the property of the Borough.

We now come to the other application of the Corporation, viz., that for a grant of 2000 acres for the endowment of the Borough. It will be recollected that the title to the first block of land recommended to the Corporation to apply for, was in such an undefined state as to make it extremely unlikely the Government would deal with it. Mr. J. Turley was then employed to mark off 2000 acres in the Puketoi block, and this being done, application was made for the land. It is now reported that the Corporation will not get the grant, as the native title to the land not having been extinguished, the block has not been declared Crown land. In its dealings with the Corporation of Napier, the Government appears to be extremely cautious. This cautiousness is the more remarkable as, in the past, it was not observable when a land sale was the only means of raising money. It was only the other day that the Ahuranga block was gazetted waste land of the Crown, although the township of Woodville, which is situated within it, was sold more than two years and a half ago. If there had been any desire to meet the wishes of the Corporation the Government might have granted the application subject to the extinguishment of the native title. It is not likely the Corporation would desire to make use of any portion of an endowment situated in that district for many years to come. The unconditional refusal of the application, under the circumstances, adds another link to the chain of evidence of the enmity that is borne in certain quarters to

a borough that has sacrificed a good deal in always returning Government supporters to the House.

Latest Political News.

WELLINGTON.

August 20.

The Government supporters reckon confidentially on a majority of seven on Sir G. Grey's amendment *re* incidence of taxation. Some enthusiastic supporters say, they will have thirteen, but evidently there is a difference of opinion, and varying estimates shew there is considerable uncertainty, several members being still on the rail.

The Opposition are not sure of a majority, and from present appearances the chances are against them.

On Saturday, attempts were made to reconcile conflicting differences, and obtain an Opposition majority, but their efforts failed. Another attempt in the same direction will be made to-day.

Great preparations are being made for the Waka Maori libel action. A great number of natives witnesses are here in readiness for the trial on the 27th.

August 21.

It is considered probable, if the Government have a small majority on Sir G. Grey's amendment on Mr Woolcock's resolution, the Government will afterwards table another amendment pledging them to introduce a Budget with the altered incidence of Taxation next session.

Mr Woolcock, and those who support him, will endeavor to force the Government to pass a measure this session, to come into force some date next session.

August 22.

The Opposition threaten a want of confidence motion if the amendment on the incidence of taxation is lost.

The motion will probably take the shape, "That the financial proposals of the Government are unsatisfactory."

The Committee on Mr. Barton's petition resolved to-day to recommend that the matter be enquired into by the following Committee of the House:—Sir G. Grey, Messrs Bowen, Stafford, Fox, and Stevens. This will bring the matter on the floor of the House.

August 24.

On dit another amendment is being prepared on the Premier's motion for going into Committee of Supply. It is doubtful whether the question will be settled to-day.

The old members of the House think the speaker has muddled things, by permitting an amendment to be moved on an amendment.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22.

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

BREACHES OF THE STAMP ACT.

Robert France appeared to answer an information laid by J. B. Fielder, Deputy Commissioner of Stamps, with having given a receipt to Messrs. Fortune and Black on the 20th of April, 1876, for the sum of £53 10s, and not placing a duty stamp thereon in accordance with the Stamp Act.

Mr Wilson appeared for the Government and Mr Lee for the defendant.

Mr Wilson explained that the action was taken under the sub section of the 95th clause of the Stamp Act of 1875.

J. B. Fielder deposed: He was Deputy-Commissioner of Stamps and laid the information. He then produced a paper signed Robert France, purporting to be a receipt for money from Fortune and Black.

Robert Black said, he had never paid Mr France money. His partner, Mr Fortune, conducted the monetary portion of the business. He had placed the receipts in Mr Lascelles hands, and did not know what had since been done with them.

Cross-examined by Mr Lee:—He had not initiated the present proceedings.

Mr Wilson: Of course not. The Government has taken the action.

Mr Lee: I only put the question to relieve the firm, as it had a civil case with Mr France last week, and it was well to know that this action did not rise out of revenge.

James Fortune gave evidence to the effect that he paid Mr France money by cheque, and that Mr France had given him the receipt produced. It was not stamped. He could swear that the receipt was in Mr France's handwriting.

After a short discussion between the counsel, it was arranged that two similar cases should be heard prior to judgment being given.

Two other documents were then put in, purporting to be receipts given by Robert France to Messrs. Fortune and Black for rent, each amounting to £16 5s. Mr Wilson said he had been requested

by the Government to ask for a substantial penalty. His Worship had power to inflict a fine not exceeding £10, or could reduce it as low as one-tenth the sum.

His Worship fined the defendant £5 in each case, costs of Court amounting to £1 7s and Solicitor's fee of one guinea in each case, making in all the sum of £19 10s, to be paid forthwith.

A cheque was at once handed in by the defendant for the amount.

BREACH OF MUNICIPAL LAWS.

Henry Cohen appeared in answer to an information laid by the Inspector of Nuisances for obstructing the footpath on Saturday last by leaving goods thereon.

Richard Williams deposed: He was Inspector of Nuisances. On Saturday last, about half-past ten, the defendant put a number of chairs in the centre of the footpath opposite his shop, and left them there two hours. The defendant had been often warned by both himself and the Sergeant of Police.

Nathaniel Bishop: I am subpoenaed here. Will I be paid expenses?

His Worship: Yes. Go on.

This witness deposed that he was engaged by Mr. Cohen to remove some chairs on Saturday at half-past ten, and promised to take them away after the train left. He did so about noon.

Mr Cohen, in his defence, said it was raining at the time, or he would have put them on the curbing, and thought it hard if he could not do so.

His Worship said he had no right to obstruct the thoroughfare. The Corporation was liable if, in consequence of there being obstructions on the footpath, a man broke his legs. He would fine the defendant £1, and costs, 19s, but if he came up again he would be differently dealt with.

This concluded the business.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23.

A YOUNG MAN FROM THE COUNTRY.

James Machin was charged by Constable Harvey with being drunk yesterday. He admitted the offence. He had come from the country on a visit to town, but when he arrived at the port the look of the bars was too much for him, and he was overcome.

His Worship fined the delinquent 5s, or the usual alternative of 24 hours solitary thought.

NAPIER DRAINAGE.

Robert Henry Robinson appeared in answer to an information laid by the Inspector of Nuisances for permitting water to flow from his premises.

The defendant stated that the complaint arose because he had no proper drainage.

Mr John Dinwiddie, the landlord of the defendant, stated to the Bench that there was no drainage from the premises, and that he had called the attention of the Municipal Engineer to the matter, who after inspecting the place had said that nothing could be done to obviate the nuisance until a deep drain was made in the neighborhood. He would warn his tenants and do all he could to lessen the nuisance.

His Worship said he would dismiss the present case, and see what could be done. Nuisances such as that must be abated and the Municipal Bye-laws carried out. This concluded the business.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE PRESBYTERIAN CONFESSION AND MONTAMUS.

SIR,—Permit me to tender you my sincerest apologies for being the cause of subjecting you and your readers to the infliction of wading through the two wearisome tirades signed "Montamus." I little imagined that the few lines I wrote on the subject of the Confession would have raised so terrific a champion in its defence. Truly the cause must be good to evoke such an advocacy!

"Montamus," like all the rest of his kindred, imagines that dirt-throwing and diatribe will dispose of Mr Macrae. There were a good many hard words thrown at this daring speaker in Scotland by those whose interests lie in keeping up obsolete superstitions; but all honor be to the man who braved the ire of his fanatical brethren by boldly expressing his convictions—the convictions of all but those few of whom "Montamus" may be considered a fair representative.

If I might be permitted to give a word of advice to "Montamus," I should implore him not to waste his time, valuable as it doubtless is, by writing any more scurrilous letters. They evidently cause him great labor from the time they take to compose, and the results are sadly inadequate. Let the "weak, washy, everlasting flow" of his

words take the form of a sermon to the "elect" of his appreciative family circle. He must surely belong to the cloth from the style of his composition, and will therefore feel it a kindness to be told that he is wasting his strength on the air. Let the mountain labor no more until it can be delivered of something better than an attenuated mouse.—I am, &c.,

EX-PRESBYTERIAN.

Napier, August 21, 1877.

PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGY.

SIR,—“Ex-Presbyterian” has evidently got himself into very deep water. The lachrymose wail of his last epistle is in very marked contrast with the somewhat foolish air of bravado with which he embarked on his crusade against the Calvinistic creed, the only result of which has been to expose his own profound ignorance of the subject which he somewhat rashly rushed forward to take up.

I think I can now afford to return him a little of his superfluous compassion which he so needlessly wasted upon your humble servant before he had waited to see whether he could not have made a better use of it on his own account. For he will evidently come to grief in this discussion, except some chivalrous member of that company described by him in his last effusion as, “all but those few, of whom ‘Montamus’ may be considered a fair representative,” will gallantly step in to fill the breach in his position, which poor “Ex-Presbyterian” is evidently helpless to repair, and which, notwithstanding all his efforts, he can even do nothing to conceal.

Surely, from all that numerous company, one individual will be forthcoming, ready to break the metaphorical lance in behalf of this courageous and well-meaning though somewhat unskilful champion of this all but universal faith. Some one, like M.N. might at least show his good-will, if he can do nothing more, and make it appear that such a good cause does not utterly lack arguments in its behalf. It does not do for the advocates of such a powerful cause to be for ever dancing the war-dance; and if they do not give us some argument, or some show of reason for their belief, they may leave us poor benighted Calvinists to wonder whether it is really true, that faith or belief is a good thing, but that a dogma or thing to be believed is a wicked invention of weak and Calvinistic minds.

Now, I do think it is particularly uncharitable to leave us in such deplorable ignorance, when the people who could help us out of the difficulty are so numerous and so confident. Some weak Calvinists may even think that, if something is not said, in behalf of this much belauded faith that is opposed to Calvinism, it is nothing better than shallow superficial thinking, or rank and decided bigotry. This, no doubt, would be a most surprising transformation of reputed character: and it would really be advisable to try and get some one, by hook or by crook, that would do something to save the character of the majority; for, although “Ex-Presbyterian” now speaks of the subject, which he himself introduced, in a somewhat contemptuous tone, I think more people are interested in this discussion than his modesty will allow him the credit of imagining.—I am, &c.,

FAIR PLAY.

Napier, August 22, 1877.

A REPORTER “HAD.”

SIR,—I was, with many others, pleased and also enlightened on reading the report in the Herald on the build, masts, yards, sails, and also the rigging and gear of that fine brigantine, with three masts, called the Silver Cloud; also, the late improvements she has on board which have only been used till lately, viz., forty-five gears, that is double topsail yards, wire and chain, &c. The grafted ring-bolts, and cross-pointed shear poles are something new decidedly, and the gaff topsails furling aloft not being so dangerous as the flying ones. If the writer of the report had to ride one down in a strong breeze he would not write such bunkum, and I notice the crew have been parbuckling ballast. I wonder if the writer assisted them. He also says that one man can handle her so easily by giving her a spoke or two each way. It is a pity the owner employs so many men, when one man can handle her easily. Sheep-shanks and Irish pennants are no doubt great ornaments in any ship's rigging.—I am, &c.,

PARBUCKLER.

Port Ahuriri, August 23, 1877.

THE NOVELIST.

LADY TREVOR'S SECRET;

OR, THE

Mystery of Cecil Rosse.

BY MRS. HARRIET LEWIS.

CHAPTER XLII.

CONDITIONAL PROTECTION.

The master of the farm-house, a stout and rugged Highlander, sprang forward and caught Cecil as her slight figure swayed forward, and she lay white and swooning in his arms. Motioning the bystanders aside, he carried her into the house.

The Highland woman compassionate and wondering, struck by the girl's marvellous beauty and her helplessness, hurried after him. Old Gretchen followed, limping, groaning, and lamenting.

The farmer entered the great kitchen of the dwelling and laid Cecil upon a low and homely couch near a window. Her head fell back upon the pillow, her eyes were closed, her features were sharply outlined; she looked as if she were dead.

Gretchen, with a great cry, forgetting her own weariness, bent over the form of her young mistress, calling her name, and chafing her thin hands. The farmer and his sons retired to the door-yard, to look after the exhausted ponies. The farmer's wife burned feathers under Cecil's nose; the farmer's daughters brought cold water, Scotch whiskey, and such other simple remedies as they deemed appropriate or useful.

Under these efficient ministrations Cecil presently uttered a low, sobbing sigh, and opened her dusky eyes in a slow, wondering expression, to be exchanged for one of recognition.

The girl was too weary and spent to move a limb or muscle. The softness of the couch was delicious to her. She did not speak, except to answer interrogations showered upon her, but Gretchen hastened to ask the housewife for shelter for the night.

“The MacDougals never turned even a beggar from their door?” was the answer, given with a sort of pride. “Ye are welcome to stay as long as ye like, woman, both you and the poor lassie there, who will not be fit to travel for a week.”

The farmer's wife waited to ask no questions as to her visitors, who they were, whence they came, or whether they were going, but ordered a maid to prepare the “spare chamber” at once for their occupancy.

Then the farmer's daughters set to work at the evening meal, which had been in course of preparation at the moment of the visitor's arrival. Gretchen talked with Mrs Mac Dougal, while Miss Rosse, lying back upon the chintz pillow, in a delicious restfulness, her gaze wandering from object to object, took in all the room.

It reminded her of the great living rooms of Zorlitz. It had the same quaint air, the low ceiling with smoke blackened beams, the stone floor, the immense chimney with swinging kettles and blazing wood fire, but the Highland kitchen lacked certain picturesque features for which those of the Black Forest had been distinguished. To Cecil the room was more beautiful than any ideal palace. Its warmth and shelter, the friendly faces and kindly voices within it, thrilled her soul with joy and rest.

A large table in the centre of the big room had been laid for supper. Mrs MacDougal and her daughters dished up the meal and summoned the men. The family sat down to dinner, giving Gretchen a place of honour. Cecil did not rise, and Miss MacDougal, a buxom young woman with a coarse face and heavy tread, but with kindly, admiring eyes, waited upon her with assiduous care.

The family meal of porridge, oatcakes, brawn, and milk, was shared

by Gretchen, with relish. For Cecil Miss MacDougal prepared a tray of more delicate food, a pot of fragrant tea—a beverage used in that household only upon rare occasions—a dish of toast and poached eggs, and some orange marmalade.

Miss Rosse sipped her tea and ate her toast at her leisure. When the family had finished, the servants, who had sat also at the table, departed to their tasks, the farmer's sons and daughters accompanying them.

The Highlander and his wife, with Gretchen, drew near the girl's couch.

"You ponies are clean knockit up, Miss," said MacDougal, politely. "They won't be able to travel the morrow, if ever. The pair besties seemed to have been hard pushed—like yerselves. Hae ye travelled far?"

"For three or four days," replied Cecil, wearily.

"So long as that? Had ye no mon with ye, Miss?"

No, we were quite alone, Gretchen and I. We came from the seacoast—from an old house known as Black Rock."

The farmer and his wife exchanged incredulous glances.

"Black Rock, the seat of the Cathcairns, ye dinna mean, Miss? asked the farmer.

Cecil replied in the affirmative, "That is a far distance by mountain passes an' lonely valleys," said Mr MacDougal. "I've heard the story of the Cathcairns—every one in the Northern Hiellan's kens it well. We tell it winter nights about the fires, Miss. Miss, an' it's a tale to send ye to bed timorsome and fu' o' terrors. It's a long, hard journey frae the Nor'west coast to this place—a terrible journey. And ye say ye cam' on them twa ponies, without saddle, and all alane?"

"All alone—we twa!" said Cecil.

"But ye dinna mean, o' coorse, that ye cam' frae Black Rock House, Miss? That hae been shuttit up a lifetime. The ghosts of the twin brithers walk there, they say."

"We have spent the winter at Black Rock House," said Cecil. "We did not know the traditions connected with the place."

Again the farmer and his wife exchanged glances.

Cecil hesitated about telling her story. After the manner in which it had been received by the two shepherds, she did not like to rehearse a tale which must seem so improbable. But Gretchen, relying upon the truthfulness of her statements, and desirous of securing the friendship and championship of these new acquaintances before the possible arrival of Jarvis in pursuit, determined to tell everything boldly.

"I don't know how we can explain the matter to you so that you will fully understand them," she said, in a perplexed voice. "What we cannot understand ourselves must seem strange indeed to you, but I'll tell the whole thing straightforward."

"Ay, woman," said MacDougal. "Do that!"

"My young mistress is a lady by birth and education," said Gretchen, "but, through the death of her uncle she is obliged to earn her own living. So we went to London. My young lady could teach in a school or family, she has all the accomplishments that noble ladies learn, but she knew no one in England who could recommend her, and besides she would not be separated from me, the pastor's old servant who cared for her in her pretty childhood and who actually worships her to-day. We would not be separated, so my young lady procured embroidery-work to do at home."

"Well?" said Mr MacDougal, as Gretchen paused and glanced at the thin and shadowy young face on the pillow, with a tender yearning in her gaze. "That dinna explain you appearance here, woman."

"A rich lady saw Miss Cecil's

work, and hired her to go her country-house in Yorkshire to repair some valuable tapestry," continued Gretchen. "The lady advised us to sail in her yacht, and save our travelling expenses, as the yacht was ordered to go to her country place and must sail in any case immediately. We drove to Gravesend and embarked on the yacht. We were at sea several days, and were landed at Black Rock, where we have remained ever since—a period of seven months or so."

"This is very strange. Black Rock does not belong to a lady. The present owners, distant relatives of the Cathcairns, never visit the spot. They have left the auld house to fa' to ruin."

"There is some mystery in the affair that we cannot attempt to solve," replied Cecil, gently. "We do not believe that Lady Trevor, the lady who employed me, knows that we were brought to Scotland."

"My young lady has an enemy," said Gretchen, "a terrible and secret enemy. The enemy contrived to know of her engagement to Lady Trevor, and to take advantage of it. We were put on board the wrong yacht, or else Miss Cecil's enemy bought over the captain of Lady Trevor's yacht to aid his own wicked purposes. We were brought to Black Rock, where a man and woman were in charge. So well had Miss Cecil's enemy understood her engagement to Lady Trevor, and so well had he contrived affairs, that we found a room at Black Rock hung with tapestry, just as we expected, and my young lady went to work to repair it, supposing that we were at Lady Trevor's house."

"Curious—vera curious," commented MacDougal, eyeing both the strangers sharply.

"We never suspected our terrible mistake, or the awful conspiracy against us," continued Gretchen, "till a few weeks ago, when I heard the man Jarvis and his wife and a Portuguese woman with them, plotting to kill my young lady and me. They discovered us listening, and would have killed us on the spot, but that they were compelled to remain at Black Rock longer, and feared our ghosts would haunt them. They shut us up as prisoners in the old tower, and waited for warmer weather. The other night they crept up to our rooms to complete their evil work—to stab us to death in our sleep."

MacDougal expressed his amazement, and Gretchen, warming with indignant sense of her own and Miss Cecil's wrongs, told in a graphic and spirited manner the incidents of that fearful night on which they had escaped from their enemies. She described the steps upon the old stairs, the stealthy sound at the doors, the refuge in the old chimney recess, the silent entrance of the intended assassins, the outcry, the alarm, the escape.

And then she described their flight its terrors and adventures, the shepherd's hut, and the second escape from Jarvis, the loss of the pony in a mountain pass, and her own narrow escape from death, and concluded by imploring MacDougal to befriend her young mistress and herself.

"I know that Jarvis is hurrying after us," she exclaimed. "Miss Cecil cannot go on to-morrow. He may find us here. Tell us that he shall not harm us, Mr MacDougal, that you will protect us. In the name of heaven, befriend two helpless beings who are cast upon your mercy."

"It's a vera strange story," said the Highlander, cautiously, his face wearing a puzzled expression. "I never heard the like. But as you say, you'll not be able to travel for some days to coom. The young lady is tired out, and ye look the same. Ye shall have food an' shelter; make yersels comfortable on that."

"And protection, too?" asked

Gretchen, eagerly. "If Jarvis comes will you protect us?"

The Highlander scratched his head. "Wull, ye see, woman," he said, "there's always twa sides to a story. I maun hear the ither side afore I promise!"

Gretchen wrung her hands together. Cecil's pale thin face grew paler, and she made a feeble attempt to rise.

"Dinna ye fash yersels!" exclaimed MacDougal. "Ye can stay an' welcome. But I'll tell ye freely, your story does not sound well. People do na murders in this country an' age o' the worl', or if they do, it's in wicked Lun'non and the South and not in the Hiellan's. I doot but the young lady has rin awa' frae her hame. I doot but there's a fause lover somewhere, or that she rebels against law an' authority contrary to the Holy Scriptures, an' that ye aid an' abet her. So I maun hear the ither side."

"Jarvis will tell you that he is a mad-house keeper, and that we are escaped patients," said Cecil, bitterly.

MacDougal regarded the visitors suspiciously. It seemed to him that such a statement would certainly have a strong air of probability. He began to think it might be the true solution of this strange affair. There certainly was a "daft" appearance about the old "foreign woman."

"I resairve my joodgment until the mon Jarvis appears," he announced. "An' when I hae heard bath sides o' the case, I maun gie my decision. Whichever seems most probable I shall favor."

Mrs. MacDougal, a strong-featured sandy-haired woman, with a decided spirit of her own, who had listened to the story with keen and vivid interest, watching the beautiful young girl on the couch with a gaze of rapt admiration, now interposed:

"Dinna ye fash yersel," she exclaimed. "I believe ye bath. In ony man, Jarvis, or what ither name he maun ca' hisself, cooms here, he shall be walkit off wi' a flea in his lug. Mind that, Willum! Jean MacDougal tak's these pair women under her own protection, an' they shall bide safe in this hoose, an' gae safe awa' when they hae restid. Mind that, Willum!"

Mrs MacDougal appeared like an angel of mercy to the worn-out fugitives, her light-gray eyes flashing her strong features working in excess of indignant feeling.

"We'll see, we'll see," said the master of the house, all the more set in his resolve because his wife had espoused the cause of these strangers. "Dinna ye bind yersel' wi' a fulish promise, Jean. We maun hear the ither side—"

"The ither side!" repeated Mrs MacDougal, scornfully. "I'll stand by my ain sect, Willum. These are women so am I, an' I'll na men-folk rin on 'em. This hoose is their sanctuary. They shall stay or gae, as they will."

A maid entered and whispered in her mistress's ear.

Mrs MacDougal arose.

"The prophet's chamber is ready," she announced, employing the ancient phrase by which the spare chamber is still often known in country places, in allusion to the occasional visits of some minister who is invited to occupy it. "I'll tak' ye to it mysel'."

Gretchen arose, but paused, picking at her gown nervously.

"I cannot sleep if I am to have the terror of that man Jarvis before my eyes," she exclaimed. "Mr MacDougal, can I say nothing to convince you that I have told the truth? If you would only believe us, and promise to protect us, we would bless you for your goodness. But if you resolve to listen to Jarvis, we are lost!"

"If ye speak truth," said the farmer, "ye can prove it. Is not this sae? An' if ye prove it, I'll be yer ither."

"But how can I prove it?" asked Gretchen, despairingly. "You won't take our word."

"Ye say the mon Jarvis ha' but a lame pony. He'll be a day or more in cooming here. I can keep him waitin' a few days an' ye like. The young lady is na fit to travel at present. Ye hae friends belike. Write to them, an' wait here till you get an answer. If they corroborate your words well and guid. If not, let the man Jarvis be believeit."

Cecil's face showed her despair. She thought of her landlady, Mrs Thomas, of Queen's Crescent, Bayswater, but, although Mrs Thomas might write in response to a letter, she certainly would not come to Scotland. And after her months of absence from London, Cecil feared that she could not make her long silence intelligible to Mrs Thomas in a letter, and that her missive might meet with no response.

She thought of Lady Trevor, but she believed that the widow had become long since the wife of Lord Glenham, and she shrunk from an appeal to the supposed wife of the man she still loved with all her soul.

To whom else could she write? Her heart sunk within her.

Old Gretchen went over the same ground in her own mind. She thought of Mrs Thomas, of Lady Trevor, and of Mr Pulford. And then, with a great sigh of relief, she thought of Maldred Crafton.

He loved her young mistress; he would hasten to her relief and protection. Her face glowed; her eyes shone.

"I have thought of a friend who will corroborate our words," she exclaimed, "and, more than that who will come here and take us away. Give me pen and paper and I'll write the letter now."

"It shall be sent to post i' the mornin'," said MacDougal. "The weekly post leaves here the morrow."

Mrs MacDougal brought writing materials, and Gretchen sat down to engage in the laborious task of writing her letter.

"Are you writing to Lord Glenham, Gretchen?" asked Cecil, in German, her face flushing.

"No, indeed. I would not write to the false lover," responded the old woman, indignantly, "but to the true lover who stood by us in sorrow and trouble, and offered you an honorable marriage and a splendid home when you were alone and friendless. I will write to Mr Crafton!"

Cecil made no objection, and Gretchen spelled out her words carefully, writing in her own language, and giving an account of their adventures since leaving their lodgings in London. She begged Mr Crafton to hasten to the rescue of her young mistress, stating her fears lest Mr MacDougal should be won to deliver them up to Jarvis, in case of any delay. The letter finished, she signed, sealed, and addressed it.

MacDougal deposited the letter on a wooden shelf, repeating the assurance that it should go on the morrow by the weekly post.

"An' now," said Mrs MacDougal, "ye are quite safe till ye can hear frae yer ain friends. The man Jarvis, if he come, will be obliged to wait. Ye hae Willum's word. Now, coom to your chamber. The bed is ready, and the young lady is vera weak an' ill!"

She took up a chandle, and moved towards the door. Cecil attempted to rise, but her head swam with sudden giddiness, and a faintness seized upon her, compelling her to fall back on her pillow. The farmer, seeing her weakness, picked her up in his arms as if she had been a child, and followed in the wake of his wife and Gretchen.

They ascended a bare, wooden flight of steps to the second floor. Mrs MacDougal led the way to the front chamber.

It was large with a sloping roof,

and with two dormer windows. The floor ware bare, but spotlessly clean. A great, four-post bedstead, with a home-made rug on each side of it, occupied the centre of the room. A fire of pine cones and branches on the hearth diffused a delightful warmth and fragrance through the chamber, the night being chilly enough to require it.

Mrs MacDougal officiated as tiring woman to her exhausted chief guest. She unfastened the heavy garments Cecil had not laid aside for days, and brought her a night robe of homespun linen which smelled of lavender, and helped her into the high bed with its snowy, lavendered sheets, above billows of sweet and elastic feathers. Gretchen undressed herself and crept into the same bed, at the desire of her young mistress.

Then the farmer's wife brought to them two bowls of wine posset, steaming hot, and urged them to drink. They obeyed, draining the bowls, and she stole out with soft step, leaving them to their slumbers.

"One thing I'm sure of," was Gretchen's last thought, as she drifted into sleep, "and that is that Mr Craffon will come to us—and that Miss Cecil will marry him! After all this trouble, with a deadly enemy seeking her destruction, she will marry him in very gratitude and to assure her safety!"

CHAPTER XLII.

MRS. PETERS GAINS A CLUE.

Lady Trevor returned home from her drive in the park in a sullen rage. Her hatred of Mr Pulford was intensified to positive abhorrence. She hurried up the steps of her house, disdaining his assistance, and he, cool and smiling, followed after her, quite with the air of master of the house.

"You will have to excuse me," she said, pausing in the hall. "I must dress for dinner."

"No apologies are necessary between you and me, Edith," responded Mr Pulford, in his blandest tones. "But, as you remind me, I will go and dress for dinner also, and return by the time you are ready."

He raised his hat, and tripped lightly down the steps again into the street.

Lady Trevor gazed after him with a malevolence in which was expressed all the evil of which her soul was capable. Then, her hand clutching the phials in her bosom, she slowly ascended the stair to her own rooms.

"He will dine with me to-day," she thought, as she entered the boudoir. "Oh, if I dared administer this poison in his wine! If opportunities offer I will do it. I will free myself from his claims at the earliest possible moment. I will never marry him, placing myself and my fortune in his hands. I shall watch my opportunity—if that opportunity comes to day, so much the worse for him and the better for me!"

Her maid came from an inner room to attend upon her. Lady Trevor flung off her bonnet and lay down upon a sofa, dismissing her servant. Her thoughts were very dark and sullen.

"I've had my own way all my life," she said to herself, "regardless of every one, and I'll have it still. I married Sir Albert Trevor in defiance of the wishes of my father and grandfather. With Sir Albert's help, I won the great wealth of my step-mother. I have swept this Cecil Rosse from my path. I shall sweep Horace Pulford aside just as easily."

Her thoughts settled upon Cecil Rosse.

"If only the girl were dead all would be safe!" she mused. "Pulford says that she can be kept up in that old haunted house in perfect safety until she dies of old age. While she lives I may have need of him. Perhaps I had better urge Pulford to destroy her before our marriage, and when that destruction is safely accomplished, and she no longer lives, I can get rid of him. I have need to be prudent. If I give him this poison to-day, I may have need of his services to-morrow. I must not be to precipitate or rash. With this subtle weapon in my hands, I can put him out of my way at almost any moment."

As she thus reflected, she decided to bear all the annoyances consequent upon her engagement of marriage a little longer before depriving herself for ever of Pulford's valuable services.

Her cheeks burned as her thoughts turned to Lord Glenham, but she had by no means given up all hope of becoming his wife. If Pulford were dead, she

could make such excuses for her engagement to him to the Countess of Glenham as would go far to reinstate her in that lady's confidence and good graces.

"I shall win, yet!" she assured herself. "The prospect looks a little dark now, I admit, but with Cecil Rosse and Pulford dead, with Lady Glenham on my side, with the memory of my avowal in his generous heart, Gordon will yet turn to me with affection and ask me to become his wife. I can wait. All will come out right yet."

With recovered spirits she arose and passed into her dressing-room. She had decided not to put her murderous plans against Pulford into action just yet, but to carry matters with a high hand, to show herself in society as heretofore, and even, if necessary, to acknowledge her engagement.

"I shall go to the theatre to-night, Cerise," she exclaimed. "I shall require one of my prettiest toilets."

The Frenchwoman attired her mistress with scrupulous skill and care in a robe of pearl colored silk and maroon velvet—a French creation—with a heart-shaped bodice filled in with point lace, and with elbow-sleeves, edged with lace frills. With a costly parure of diamonds, with an artificial rose-flush on her cheeks and lips, an artificial shadow under her hard black eyes, with an animation born of new schemes and reviving hopes, Lady Trevor looked unusually handsome as she descended, at length, to the drawing-room.

Mr Pulford was there in waiting for her.

He arose and stepped forward to greet her. He knew her hardness, her unscrupulous nature, her capabilities for wickedness: he delighted to humble her pride, to sting her soul in the ways he so well knew, in return for her treatment of him, but nevertheless, as much as he was capable of loving, he loved her. He admired her; he sympathized with her boldness and hardness; yet, after all, what he most admired and longed to possess was her immense fortune. Next to that, he coveted her position in society; he desired to ally himself through her to a great and powerful family. His avarice and ambition alike interested, he was glad to see that she had changed her mood, and was now as smiling and pleasant as she had been before bitter and defiant.

He suited his mood to hers. "Your drive did you good, Edith," he said, pleasantly. "Have you remembered my invitation for this evening? I have a box at the Prince of Wales theatre."

"I have remembered. I will go!" was the gracious response.

Her aimability struck her suitor as treacherous. He watched her narrowly thereafter throughout the evening.

Dinner was announced. Mr Pulford gave Lady Trevor his arm and led her in to dinner. They lingered at the table over the dessert, and finally returned to the drawing-room.

"The carriage is waiting," said Mr Pulford. "We shall arrive at the beginning of the second act; early enough, I dare say; yet I think we ought now to be going."

The widow assented, and ordered her opera cloak—the one poor Cecil had wrought—and followed her suitor to the carriage.

As they went down the marble steps they met a woman ascending them.

This woman was Sarah Peters. In the light that streamed through the open doorway, Lady Trevor saw that the woman had a sickly countenance and a shabby gown, and that she had the look of one upon a begging excursion. The lady did not recognize her, and drew her silken train aside as if she feared contamination, and swept on.

Mrs Peters turned and followed her to the carriage.

"Lady Trevor," she began, in a whining sort of voice. "My lady—"

Mr Pulford pushed the woman aside rudely.

"Off with you, you beggar," he exclaimed, "or I'll have you arrested!"

"Lady Trevor!" repeated the woman desperately. "I must speak to you—"

Mr Pulford slammed the door, and the carriage rolled swiftly away.

"I ought to have waited till morning," the woman muttered, gazing after it. "But I was too impatient. I'll come again to-morrow, and I won't be pushed aside then, I'll warrant. Being I'm here, I might as well find out what I can."

She hurried up the steps just as the hall-porter was about to close the door.

"If you please, sir," said she, respectfully, interposing her person in the doorway, "was that Lady Trevor who just went out?"

"It was," was the response. "You'd better be off, my good woman. No beg-

gars allowed at this door."

"I am not beggar. I was a respectable servant once, and am a seamstress now," replied Mrs Peters. "I thought perhaps I could get a place in this great house."

"No servants are engaged here except through the usual channels," said the hall-porter, pompously. "You'd better apply in some tradesmen's family."

Mrs Peters did not offer to retreat. The man through sheer love of gossip allowed her to remain on the threshold, and quite enjoyed her amazement as her gaze took in the magnificence of the hall and its adornments.

"This Lady Trevor must be immensely rich," she ejaculated.

"Immensely," was the answer, given with a pride that showed that the hall-porter even felt the reflected glory of his mistress's grandeur. "You see I was right. You ought to try for a place out of the aristocracy."

"And Lady Trevor has only one child to inherit all this wealth?" asked Mrs Peters.

"She has none. She never had one. You are mistaken—"

The butler's gruff voice was heard at this juncture ordering the hall-porter to close the door. Mrs Peters retreated abruptly, and the door was closed.

"She had no child," mused the woman, slowly descending the steps. "That I can understand. She never had one? That is singular. What did she do with the one she had in Germany? There's some mystery in this. Didn't she adopt the one, after all? I intend to know, and I ought to make inquiries before I call again."

She paused before the area-way, half tempted to descend. Then she walked slowly on.

She had not gone more than a few yards when she suddenly encountered the nurse she had seen in Hyde Park that afternoon. The nurse uttered a cry of surprise at this second encounter.

"Whatever are you doing here at the West End, Sarah Peters?" she demanded.

"And what are you doing out at this hour?" retorted the seamstress.

"I live near here. I've been out for an hour or two, as it's my evening out. But you don't belong in this direction, Sarah Peters. I do believe as you're looking up Lady Trevor, after all I said to you too. Look out you don't get into some trouble."

"I shan't do that. I don't want nothing of Lady Trevor, especially as you say she never had a child," said Mrs Peters, artfully. "You know all about the aristocracy—I wish I did. Next to being one on 'em is to know all about 'em."

"That is so!" assented the nurse.

"All these great families have their troubles like poorer ones. Why even this great Marquis of St. Leonards, Lady Trevor's grandfather, has had his share of grief, and plenty of it came through Lady Trevor, they say."

"How?" asked Mrs Peters eagerly.

"I don't mind telling," said the nurse, as they walked slowly on together, arm in arm, "especially as it's no secret. The Marquis of St. Leonards had a son he loved to distraction. His son was called Lord Harry Ravendale. He, the son, fell in love with a low sort of woman and his father cast him off. The low wife, a regular scheming creature, lived only a year after the marriage and died, leaving one child, Lady Edith Ravendale, now Lady Trevor!"

"How interesting it sounds!" said Mrs Peters.

"Especially as you tell it!"

The nurse, flattered, continued:

"When Lady Edith was nearly a young lady, Lord Harry Ravendale married a second time. His wife was an orphan, of a great family, and one of the biggest heiresses of the day. The marquis loved her as if she'd been his daughter. From this second marriage one child was born, a girl, who was called the Lady Alba. This child became the marquis's idol. About that time Lady Edith took it into her head to elope with Sir Albert Trevor, one of the worst men that ever lived. After that, Lord Harry and his young wife and little child, went to Italy for the wife's health. She had consumption, I believe. And Lord Harry took the Roman fever, or some other disease, and died there."

"I don't see how this concerns Lady Trevor," said Mrs Peters.

"You don't? Well, I'll tell you. After Lord Harry died his widow sent for Lady Trevor to come to her. And Lady Trevor and her husband went. Lord Harry's wife died of consumption abroad and left her child to Lady Trevor's care, telling her to bring the child back to its grandfather. But she did not do that. She stayed away for months. And when the marquis sent after the child they found it was dying. They brought the little body home and buried it, and

for fifteen years Lord St. Leonards never forgave nor spoke to his granddaughter, Lor', every one knows of the estrangement between them."

"How long ago did this happen?"

"Fifteen years."

"And the little step-sister, Lady Alba, died?"

"Yes. She was three years old at the time. They say that when her body was brought home, the doctors said the child had died of marasmus!"

Mrs Peters started.

"Some folks said that the little Lady Alba had been ill-treated, and had died neglect," said the gossiping nurse. "People will talk, you know, when a million of money is involved."

"A million of money?"

"Yes. The little Lady Alba inherited that amount from her mother, and by the mother's will the money went to Lady Trevor at the child's death. That's where she got all her wealth. Sir Albert was as poor as a church mouse, having wasted his own inheritance. You see, I know a great deal about these noble families, Sarah Peters. I could tell you things—but my time's up. I must go in, or I'll catch it from the head-nurse. Good-night!"

She darted away as a clock somewhere in the vicinity struck the hour, and Mrs Peters was left to herself.

"Let me think it out," the woman muttered. "I've got a clew at last to the mystery that puzzled me. I think I see my way to make my fortune!"

To be continued.

Mr Fox, in his speech on the Native Land's Bill, congratulated the country that the speculators who attempted to get a hold of the Muriotua country had failed in their object. The Wanganui Herald furnishes the following particulars:—"The Muriotua land speculation has not ended happily for the parties interested, and we rejoice that the 'ring' has been foiled in its attempt to rush the block through the Native Land Court. The application has been dismissed, and no title can therefore be granted. A smaller block of about 12,000 acres, which before survey was supposed to contain 40,000 acres, has gone through the Court swimmingly, the names of thirty grantees being attached to the certificate. This little spot has been taken at a mouthful by an Auckland gentleman, Mr James Russell, who has been present in Wanganui in company with some friends, engaged in the delicate task of 'engineering' the block through the tortuous paths that led to a Native Court. The Muriotua, the great prize, is yet beyond the reach. There are some curious stories connected with this transaction. Agents, secretaries, and rangatiras are mixed up in a delightful confusion, and the complications and antagonistic influences at work have so far defied a settlement."

A truly ingenious plea was set up (says a Poverty Bay journal) in the Police Court recently, by an hilarious individual who was brought before his Worship the Mayor both on Wednesday and yesterday. On Wednesday he appeared in company with a native toper. He was fined 5s and costs, and paid his money like a man. Yesterday he was brought up *solo*. "Why, you were brought before me yesterday! And here you are again. What have you to say for yourself?" sternly enquired his Worship. "Well, your honor, you ought not to fine me twice for one offence," meekly expostulated the delinquent who still showed traces of liquor. "This is the second time, remember, you were brought before me yesterday," repeated the Mayor. "Aye, but your honor, it's the same old drunk for all that." He had to pay 10s.

The affectation of using ancient phrases when modern ones may be sufficient has been rebuked by a simple resident of Grey-mouth or thereabouts. A writer of odd things in the Argus quotes the following as an illustration of his assumption that the schoolmaster is abroad:—"At the recent meeting of a public body not a thousand miles from Grey-mouth the question arose as to what date the next meeting should take place. It was suggested by one member that as there did not appear to be a probability of any important business requiring their attention for some time, it would be well to adjourn until the Chairman had occasion to call them together. This sensible suggestion was accepted by the Chairman, who said 'Well, then, we'll adjourn *sine die*.'" Upon this a florid and genial representative from the far country innocently asked—"And what day of the month is that on?"

As a mob of fat cattle was being driven through Foxton by Mr. Crosbie, as usual, a large number of the inhabitants turned out to have a look at them. One little boy got into the road, when an immense bullock, from off the station of the Hon. J. Johnston, rushed at the child, and carried him on his head for some distance between his two horns. In tense excitement prevailed, the mother thinking her child would be crushed to death, and others looking on in fear, not knowing what to do. At this moment Mr. R. Stevens galloped up to the bullock, when the child fell to the ground uninjured, and was picked up.

WAR ITEMS.

THE CROSSING AT SIMNITZA.

LONDON, June 29.—The following account of the crossing of the Danube is from a correspondent who was an eyewitness: With the darkness General Dragomiroff began. His first work was to plant in made emplacements a row of field guns, all along the edge of the flats, to sweep the opposite banks. This was while the infantry was being marched over the flats to a cover on the willows. The darkness and obstructions were so great that all was not ready until the first glimmer of dawn. There was no bridge, but a number of river boats, capable of holding from fifteen to twenty men each. These were dragged on carriages through the mud and launched in the darkness. These boats put off singly, rowing across, and later a little steam tug was brought into requisition. The Turks immediately opened a smart fire, both on the boats and on the troops, who were waiting to cross. The leading boat contained Major General Yolchine. Turkish riflemen were in position about fifty yards from shore. He landed his handful of men, and bade them lie down in the mud, and then opened a skirmishing fire, to cover the landing of boats that followed, one by one. These landed their freights, who followed the example of the first boat, and at length enough had accumulated. Among them was General Shobaloff and his son. General Yolchine bade his men fix bayonet, stand up and follow their officers. There was a rush and cheer. The Turks fired an effective volley, but did not await General Yolchine's skirmishers, who followed them some distance up the slope, but for a time could not press on from their base. Meanwhile, the Russian guns from across the river and the Turkish artillery were firing briskly. Turkish shells kept falling in the water, whistling through the willows and bursting among the columns on the flat. One shell from a mountain gun fell into a boat containing two guns. The gunners and the Commandant of the battery boat were swamped and all on board perished. This was the only serious casualty in crossing, but many Russian soldiers were falling on both sides of the river. The Turkish gunners clung to their guns with wonderful staunchness, amid the clouds of dust thrown up by the shells which burst around them.

A Turkish monitor had been hemmed in by a cordon of torpedoes within the channel of the Island opposite Vardin, and a Russian battery on the Roumanian side shelled her.

After their first repulse from the landing place, the Turks rallied and concentrated on the upper slopes in front of their battery, and then came down on the pickets of Yolchine's brigade, and made some headway, but only for a moment. Soon after noon, the Russian infantry had crowded the heights. A Turkish infantry detachment tried to work around and down upon Sistova, but was thwarted by intercepting skirmish forces.

TORPEDOES IN THE DANUBE.

The Turks appear to have devised a tolerably effective protection for the monitors in the Danube against the torpedo-boats which were so successful on their first attack. Some Russian launches in the Kili mouth of the Danube attempted the same sort of enterprise as that which was so successful against two Turkish monitors in the Sulina mouth of the river. But by Hobart Pasha's order the monitors were surrounded by boats fastened together by chains, and the Russian launches struck the chains, and so gave warning of their attempt, without having got near enough to the monitors to injure them severely by their torpedoes; nevertheless one of the monitors was slightly injured. On the other hand, the grape fired into the Russian launches injured them severely, and some of the party were drowned, and six, it is said, taken prisoners. The device of thus surrounding an ironclad with small boats connected by a chain seems, therefore, a useful one, but it is obviously inapplicable except to a vessel at anchor, as it would be impossible to move surrounded by such appendages. For a blockading or cruising squadron, this expedient would be useless.

THE CZAR.

An English paper, after recording the arrival of the Czar at Ploiesti, says:—The Emperor appears to be suffering from an increase in his habitual melancholy, or rather hypochondria. The most extensive and elaborate precautions have been taken to protect him from assassins, the Russian secret police having been sent forward in hundreds, and a demand made on the Roumanian Government to allow them an unlimited right of arrest, a demand which was refused. An incident, too, which occurred on his

arrival has probably increased his gloom. A Russian officer of Irregulars, who had entered Servia without leave, and had been dismissed from the service in consequence, applied to his Majesty for pardon, and was refused. He immediately shot himself in the Czar's presence, partly, as we suppose, from despair, and partly as a sort of Oriental protest against injustice.

A SEVERE FIGHT IN THE BALKANS.

NEW YORK, July 17.—The Herald's correspondent at Yeni-Saghra reports that on Monday afternoon, the Turks, under command of Leman Bey had an engagement with the Russians, defeating them and driving them back into the Balkans, with heavy loss. The battle ground was at Febitch, twelve miles from Yeni-Saghra. At first the Russians seemed to be successful, but the determined fighting of the Turks afterwards appeared to promise a Turkish victory. The Russian forces consisted of infantry and cavalry, outnumbering the Turks, whose first attack was repulsed, and the flanking column of a force of dismounted dragoons greatly imperilled the Turkish position. The Turkish artillery was splendidly handled, raking the columns of Russians and thinning them at every discharge. Perceiving the terrible havoc caused by the Turkish fire, General Gourka ordered the Russians to charge. A fearful hand-to-hand conflict ensued. The Turks formed a hollow square. After losing several guns, the Russians attacked desperately, and a fearful carnage followed on both sides. The Russian flanking movement and its desperate onslaught threatened to exterminate the Turks, when suddenly brisk firing on the left announced the arrival of Turkish reinforcements, under command of Raouf Pasha. The Russians had no artillery, and the rapid advance of the Turkish reinforcements compelled them to face the new enemy, thus affording the opponents an opportunity to abandon their hollow square and throw forward their flanks, and renew the attack vigorously. The Russian line, thus held between two rows of bayonets, was completely overwhelmed. The Cossacks made a splendid resistance, fighting with the utmost but unavailing bravery. A Turkish charge was made over heaps of dead bodies, driving the Russians back into the mountains. The flight was precipitate. The Turks pursued the flying Russians until the mountain pass was recovered. This Russian advance column consisted of Circassians and Cossacks, commanded by Colonel Judomin. The main body was commanded by General Gourka. They were in light, flying order, without wagon transports or artillery. It is impossible to estimate the loss. The Russian main body intend to cross the Balkans at this point, the eight corps leading. It is not known what effect this repulse of Gourka's flying column will have on the main advance.

THE ASSAULT UPON NICOPOLIS.

CHICAGO, July 17.—A New York special, giving an account of the capture of Nicopolis, says: As soon as the Russians came within effective range of the Turkish position they were met by a severe artillery fire which, however, did not check the advance, and to which they replied with a still more formidable fire. The Turks being posted on a commanding position, had considerable advantage, and as the Russians approached, frightful gaps were made in their ranks by the Turkish artillery. With surprising valour, however, they continued to approach the heights, and as soon as they came within rifle range they opened a terrible fire on the Turks. For half an hour this military duel was continued with unabated vigour. About midday on Sunday the order for the assault was given, and the whole Russian line, supported by several batteries of artillery, stormed the heights occupied by the Turks. During the awful climb in the face of the deadly fire, the Russians suffered terribly, while the Turks, stubbornly defending their position, sustained an equal loss. After obtaining possession of the heights commanding the town at a terrible cost, the Russians virtually had Nicopolis at their mercy. The Turks, finding their line of retreat threatened, abandoned the town, which was filled with Turkish dead. Many wounded were found in the streets and in the houses, where they had been abandoned by the Turks in the haste of their retreat.

DISTRESS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

Letters from Constantinople give alarming pictures of distress prevailing there. The government has wrung from the people their last piastre, and it is still penniless. The streets are full of respectable people begging for food. Thousands are subsisting on scant supplies of dry bread, and absolute starvation stares

multitudes of Christians in the face, as well as the families of Turkish conscripts gone to the war. Unless speedy relief comes from some quarter a pestilence such as the world has seldom witnessed may be expected to add its horrors to the existing situation.

WAIPAWA COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Council met in the Court-house, Waipawa, at 11.30 a.m. on Friday.

Present:—Messrs Mackersey (Chairman), Monteith, Levy, Johnston, Herrick, and Rathbone.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

WAYS AND MEANS.

The report of the Committee of Ways and Means was laid before the meeting. It was as follows:—

Estimates of Receipts and Expenditure of the Waipawa County Council from 1st August, 1877, to March 31st, 1878.

The Committee of the Waipawa County Council on Ways and Means having met on the 16th instant, and having taken into consideration the approximate outlay for the next eight months, beg to suggest that a rate of sixpence in the pound be levied. The attached table shows the average expenses incurred for supervision, clerical labor, material, and probable and incidental expenditure. To meet this expenditure it will be necessary to raise a sum of £2,750. An approximate valuation of ratable property in the county shows £107,364. If a rate of sixpence in the pound is struck it will in all probability be found sufficient, with the Government subsidy, to cover the estimated expenditure.

SYDNEY JOHNSTON,
Chairman.

August 16, 1877.

Approximate estimate of receipts	Nil.
Total ratable value, £107,364 at 6d in the £	£2,684
Estimate of expenditure—	
Salaries	£550
Contingencies	200
Roads and bridges	2,000
	£2,750

The report was adopted.

The following resolution was then moved and carried:—"That this Council is of opinion that the cost of maintaining the Seventy-Mile Bush road is a very heavy charge, and presses most unfairly upon the Waipawa County; that, taking into consideration the fact that this road is the main trunk line across and through the North Island, and is of equal benefit to the whole Provincial Districts of Napier and Wellington, this Council is of opinion that those portions of the colony should be compelled to contribute towards its maintenance, or that the General Government should either maintain the road at its own cost, or give to the Waipawa County a substantial subsidy towards its maintenance."

The Council then adjourned.

EXCITING CHASE AND CAPTURE OF A MAORI PRISONER.

HOROPAPERA, son of the late celebrated chief Hapurona, who successfully opposed the British troops under General Pratt in the first Waitara, campaign, was convicted at the Taranaki District Court of a murderous assault on an aged female at Pekatu, Waitara, and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. He escaped from jail in January last, and the Government offered £100 for his apprehension.

HIS CAPTURE.

It appears that Constable Hughes, who is stationed at Inglewood, and who had made two previous attempts to take the Maori had reason to believe that his man had secreted himself some eight or nine miles back in the bush, so he selected a trustworthy young fellow named John Stagpoole, and they started off on Saturday morning last in pursuit, previously arming themselves with a loaded revolver each. After travelling three miles on the Mountain Road they struck into a narrow track, and, crossing numerous gullies and creeks, also two rivers, got to the expected retreat—a small native village in a clearing—a distance from the road of about six miles. They took the precaution of concealing themselves by lying down as well to elude the dogs, which began barking, as to scan the country round in search of their man. After creeping on hands and knees for some distance, they spied the object of their search near a *whare*. Then came the anxiety, for it was known that Horopapera was well armed. With a little manrvring, however, Stagpoole and the policeman pounced on him quite unaware, and after a short struggle the Maori's hands were placed behind his back and the handcuffs put on. Fortunately there were no weapons about him, he having left them in the hut.

He turned quite sulky and would not walk, so the men improvised a stretcher, placed him on it, and carried him for some distance, until the stretcher having repeatedly broken, it was thrown aside, and the prisoner was partly dragged and carried through the rivers and gullies above mentioned, till they got him out on the road. Then, with coaxing and threatening, he was induced to walk to Inglewood, which was reached the same night. Horopapera was placed in one of the Government houses, and both men kept guard over him all night, and on Sunday he was marched into town and placed once more in charge of the gaoler. We should imagine from the great size of the prisoner, who is about six feet two or three inches in height, and something like fifteen or sixteen stone weight, that Constable Hughes and Mr. Stagpoole must have had a most fatiguing job in capturing him and bringing him into town.—Taranaki papers.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

The following letter, addressed by the Catholic Bishop of Wellington to the New Zealand Times, is republished by request:—

"Sir,—I wish to publish in your columns some brief observations on the Education Bill which is now before Parliament.

In the event of that Bill becoming law in its present shape, what will be the condition of Catholics? Besides the unfair treatment of Catholic schoolmasters, who will be effectually excluded by the Bible clause from the public schools, Catholics as a body will be debarred, by strictly conscientious motives, from availing themselves of the education given in the State schools. On the one hand, they will be obliged to support their own schools, in which alone the religion of their children will be safe; and, on the other hand, they will be compelled indirectly, as contributors to the public funds, to support the State system which their conscience rejects. This will be a great grievance. Now, what necessity is there for the infliction of such a grievance on a large portion of the community?

Nothing can be more fair and moderate than their claim. They are prepared, on the one hand, to educate in their own schools up to the same standard of secular instruction, under Government inspection, as that of the State schools; and on the other hand, they ask as a matter of justice that the same remuneration be given for the quantity of educational work produced in their schools as shall be given in the State schools for a corresponding amount of work. And moreover they are ready to build their own schools without assistance from Government, thus largely benefiting the public purse.

What valid reason can be brought against so fair a claim from an important section of the community? In case the Bill passes, the Government may say that it is only bound to satisfy the majority of the people. This is no answer. For, the Legislature, as a representative body, is bound to consult for the reasonable wishes of all, when all are to be seriously affected by the legislation. In many instances, of course, to satisfy all would be an impossibility; and then the best that can be done is the most that can be done. But such is not the present case. All can be satisfied in the matter of education, and with comparative facility. Why then not satisfy all, and in a wise, broad, and truly liberal manner, remove for ever the cause of heart-burning and dissension?

Again, if the Bill passes, it may perhaps be said that the great majority of the people are in favor of the secular system. Well, if such be their disposition, no one wants to interfere with them or their schools. Why not then, by supplementary legislation, give Catholics grants in aid of schools on the principle of results and numbers? Then all will be satisfied, and the State will be consistent, because it will be paying only for secular education.

But, it is argued, if we give Catholics what they want, others will demand a similar arrangement. The answer is plain and obvious. Either the majority is in favor of the State system, or it is not. If the majority be in favor of it, then there is no fear of such a demand being made; and if it be not, then the Education Bill does not reflect the wishes of the community at large, and ought to be modified.

We respectfully commend these considerations to all who love fair play, and sincerely desire the peace and concord of every section of the community.—I am, &c.,

† FRANCIS REDWOOD,
Bishop of Wellington.

Wellington, August 9.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EX-PRESBYTERIAN AND SCEPTICISM AND FREE THOUGHT.

Sir,—My former letter on this subject left off where "Ex-Presbyterian" opens his battery against the Confession of Faith. His indictment consists of twelve counts. We are told that they are selections from the speech of the Rev. D. Macrae before the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church; but as "Ex-Presbyterian" has served himself sponsor to them, he is responsible for their truth or falsity. To these charges I would now advert. And on reading this part of "Ex-Presbyterian's" remarkable diatribe, I was forcibly reminded of the fable of the "Ass and lion's skin." Of an aspiring disposition, the ass assumed the cast-off skin of the lion, and thought to terrify all the beasts of the forest, and thus make himself famous; but his ears and voice spoiled his sport, and brought him into contempt. And by donning the cast-off arguments of Mr Macrae, with certain original annotations of his own, "Ex-Presbyterian" wished to play the role of the lion, and "flutter the doves" of Presbyterianism. His intentions were generous and well meant; but alas!—

"The best laid schemes of mice and men, Gang aft a'glee."

We certainly have the lion's skin, but once again, it is evident from the voice and ears, that the wearer is the harmless jackass after all. "Fair Play" accuses "Ex-Presbyterian" of ignorance of the literature of the question; but some of his wild and extravagant statements prove him equally ignorant of the facts of the case.

Reasoning and argument are out of the question. The columns of a newspaper are scarcely a place for a discussion of such a question as has been stirred up. Besides, to reason with "Ex-Presbyterian" to any advantage would, I fear, entail the necessity of providing him not only with arguments, but also with brains to understand them. There are, however, three things I would say to "Ex-Presbyterian":—

1. He might have told those for whose benefit his letter was written, that the Rev. D. Macrae was so completely answered and refuted in the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, that he had no other reply to make, than that being

"Convinced against his will, He was of his own opinion still."

2. Before getting rid of the hard Calvinism of the Confession, "Ex-Presbyterian" must first get rid of the Bible. For his comfort let me here adduce the words of Mr Gilfillan of Dundee, a man as "violently" if not as "blindly" opposed to the Confession, as "Ex-Presbyterian" himself. He says, "We in our revision will sweep away what the Confession says about God's decrees, about a limited atonement, about the creation of the world in six days, about elect infants, and so forth; still we hold now and shall continue to hold them, that it (the Confession) contains the system of doctrine that is in the Holy Scriptures." This admission speaks for itself, and coming from the quarter it does, is of no little importance. And 3, "Ex-Presbyterian" may console himself with the reflection that the Calvinistic doctrines will be taught, and that the Westminster Confession will hold its place as a Standard in the Churches of the world, long after he and others of that ilk have become "Ex-nothings."

4. "Ex-Presbyterian's" statement of the four doctrines of the Confession is not merely a caricature, it is in many respects a down-right perversion and misrepresentation of them. The thoughtlessness with which the most momentous doctrines are treated, shows clearly how Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread.

Some of the "strongest assertions have no existence in the Confession; others "are garbled and misquoted; others seem to have been got up for the nonce;" and scarcely one of them is an accurate reproduction of the original. In some cases, the original meaning is altered by the addition of wild sentences, and in others, by the omission of important qualifying clauses. Again, we have statements put together which have no connection in the document from which they purport to be taken. And lastly, we have those statements which "Ex-Presbyterian" in his simplicity gives as examples of the odious teaching of the Confession, but which unfortunately for his "argument and controversial honesty" have no place there.

The first doctrines which challenge Ex-Presbyterian's opposition, are those of "Election," and "Men's total depravity." Well! These doctrines are in the

Confession. But they pertain not to the Westminster Standard's alone; they are also in the Articles of the Church of England. They are held and taught by all Evangelical Christendom, and what is more important still, they are expressly taught in the Bible. This is not a question between "Ex-Presbyterian" and the Confession, or Presbyterian Church, it is a question between Ex-Presbyterian and the Word of God. The Confession is right, and "Ex-Presbyterian" is wrong; or else "Ex-Presbyterian" is right and the Scriptures wrong. "Ex-Presbyterian" can choose whichever alternative suits him best, and perhaps he will kindly tell us what his choice is.

The next doctrine questioned is that of future punishments. I must again refer to "Ex-Presbyterian" to the "law and to the testimony." He must settle this point with Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul. By the time he disposes of these five champions of orthodoxy, there will be very little for any one else to do.

I must now trouble "Ex-Presbyterian" for some definite information on the following points:—Where does the Confession once refer to non-elect infants, or make any allusion direct or indirect, to the heathen? Where does it teach that "countless myriads who have died in infancy" have perished; and, that for "non-elect young there is no other fate than that of never-ending and unspeakable torments in Hell?" Where does it teach that those who obey and disobey God's law, are alike guilty of sin, and perish all the same? Where does it teach that the heathen who have never heard the Gospel, and had no opportunity of accepting it, cannot be saved, no matter how earnestly they may frame their lives according to the light of nature, or the laws of that religion which they profess? Where does it teach that any one is held responsible for the sin of our first parents, and because of a sin they could not help, are bound helplessly over to the wrath of God, and curse of the land, and eternal death? Where does it teach that Christ has not the power to save any but the elect? I have to request "Ex-Presbyterian" to be accurate for once, and to mention the page, chapter, and paragraph, in the Confession where these respective statements are to be found. One so assured of his ground and thoroughly conversant with this subject, as "Ex-Presbyterian" seems to be, will, doubtless, be readily able to lay his finger on the necessary proofs, and thus make good his position.

"Ex-Presbyterian" concludes his remarkable effusion with what is intended to be a sarcastic allusion to the religion of love. It may not, however, be out of place to remind him that, good as this religion of love is, the religion of truth is a good deal better. But what is this religion of love, as expounded by "Ex-Presbyterian?" It is the religion of ignorance, misrepresentation, perversion of truth, and self-conceit. The first principle of the religion of truth and charity is, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." The second is, "Speak the truth in love." The third is, "Follow after those things which make for peace." It therefore ill becomes any one to prate of charity, who has wantonly and causelessly been stirring up strife, maligning his neighbors, and by means of false issues, trying to excite prejudice against them. He would do well to get the beam out of his own eye, before he even attempt to pluck the mote from his brother's. The most searching microscopic examination would fail to detect the presence of charity in anything that has yet dropped from his pen. And before we hear more about this religion of love from the same quarter, "Ex-Presbyterian" would do well to remember that "Charity covereth a multitude of sins." Instead of concocting special ones it conceals such as really exist. When "Ex-Presbyterian" has learned the A.B.C. of this charity he will see fewer faults and flaws in the creeds and characters of others.

In conclusion, "Ex-Presbyterian" had better leave creeds and confessions alone. It is not by his puny whistles and pop-guns these modern Jerichos are to be overthrown. They will need ordinance of a much heavier calibre than "Ex-Presbyterian" can command, to batter down their grey and hoary walls. Artemus Ward tells us that he once tried being a "hoss," but on experiment, found that being a "hoss" was not his forte; and so far, experience clearly demonstrates that it is no more "Ex-Presbyterian's" forte to be a theologian, than it was Artemus Ward's to be a "hoss."—I am, &c.,

MONTAMUS.

NEW INDUSTRIES.

Sir,—I have often wondered and do still wonder that something has not been done by capitalists, or even men of moderate means, by forming themselves into companies for the purpose of opening up new industries. At the present time, whichever way we turn, we find nothing but sheep, wool, and tallow, occupying the thoughts of the leading, and I suppose, the richest men in Hawke's Bay, while other industries which doubtless would prove not only highly remunerative to the promoters, but be a great source of prosperity to the community, and highly beneficial to the provincial district in general, are left neglected, or, perhaps, never thought of. In saying this I do not wish it to be understood that I am striving to underrate the great wool growing interests of Hawke's Bay; on the contrary, I say this is one of the principal sources from which one of our greatest industries must sooner or later spring up—by the opening of woollen factories. True, upon this point I may be told that Mr Thomas Tanner has taken the matter in hand, and is now in England with a view of establishing such a factory at Hastings; still, without the slightest intention of casting any disrespect upon that gentleman's capacity for carrying out his intentions, I would ask,—are there not men amongst us with equal ability and capital? And I would further ask would it not be possible to inaugurate a company for the above named purpose in Hawke's Bay? I am under the impression it would without any difficulty. But for the present, leaving this portion of my subject, I believe it is a well ascertained fact that we have plenty of paper-producing material in Hawke's Bay. Therefore, if such is the case, why not form a company for the manufacture of paper? Perhaps in this instance I may be told that I am a little visionary; yet I do not think so, for the consumption of paper in New Zealand is something considerable, and my impression is that it would be a paying undertaking if a company was started upon a true basis, and save the country from parting with a large amount of capital that is annually taken out of it for the purchase of this material, besides giving employment to a number of men.

Again, a company could be started for articles that have now become a necessity, and which necessity must increase with the growth of Hawke's Bay. The articles I allude to are—drain-pipes, flower-pots, tiles, and every description of rough pottery, bricks, &c. That we have the material, and of the best quality, there cannot be a doubt. This company could be started with a very small capital, in fact any private individual, with sufficient enterprise and capital, might start it and make a remarkably handsome thing out of it, at the same time affording an amount of labor and prosperity in the district in which it happened to be started. At the present we are dependent upon Dunedin and Auckland for the whole of the above-named articles, with the exception of bricks, and must continue to be so until something of the kind is established.

I have briefly touched upon these three industries knowing the limited amount of space at your command at the present time; but in a future communication may amplify them, and point to other industries which, if only entered into, would do much to better the present and future prospects of Hawke's Bay.—I am, &c.,

SCRUTATOR.

August 21, 1877.

SHIP'S HANDLES.

Sir,—I was very sorry to read this morning in the Herald of the accident at the Port on Saturday last, when the Pilot got severely hurt by the handles of the wheel of the *Minnie Hare*; also of the said handles catching his vest, when the seams luckily gave way, otherwise he would probably have lost the number of his mess. I wonder if the writer of the local can give an old salt the definition of the word handles of a ship's wheel.—I am, &c.,

OLD SALT

Port Ahuriri, August 20.

An enormous wild boar was killed on Mr Piper's run, Duvauchelle's Bay, in the Canterbury district, recently. Mr Piper and a party of three had been out for the last few days pig-hunting with tolerable success, when they came across a regular old warrior, but a single shot from the rifle put an end to his existence. The animal, which is a black one, measures 6ft. 6in. from the snout to the end of the tail, and is estimated to weigh 5 cwt. Mr Piper has taken the trouble of sending the hide to Dr Haast to be set up and put in the Museum.

MELBOURNE CUP.

MELBOURNE, August 9.

The following are the acceptances and weights for the Melbourne Cup:—

	st. lb.
The Barb	9 3
The Diver	9 2
Pride of the Hills	9 0
Sterling	8 12
Wollomai	8 12
Imperial Crusoe	8 10
Robinson	8 5
Newminster	8 3
Kingfisher	8 1
The Painter	8 0
Adelaide	8 0
Dilke	7 10
Janitor	7 10
Tocal	7 10
Aldinga	7 10
Haricot	7 7
Star	7 7
Defiance	7 7
Volo	7 5
The Hook	7 5
Irish Stew	7 5
Coquette	7 5
Killarney	7 4
Tom Kirk	7 4
Jupiter	7 4
Filibuster	7 3
The King	7 2
First King	7 1
Nekersgat	7 0
King Winter	7 0
Chester	6 12
Meteor	6 12
Artful Joe	6 12
Fisherman	6 12
Lockleys	6 11
Don Silvia	6 10
Glengarry	6 10
Don Alphonso	6 10
Rangatira	6 10
Venus	6 10
Peerless	6 9
Ralph Leigh	6 9
The Vagabond	6 9
Waterford	6 9
The Deacon	6 8
Fernhill	6 8
Rapid	6 7
Royalty	6 7
Lord Harry	6 6
Cap-a-pie	6 4
Gas	6 4
Nightingale	6 4
Columbine	6 4
Salisbury	6 3
Devise	6 3
Black Eagle	6 2
The Dean	6 2
Savanska	6 2
Everlight	6 2
Breadalbane	6 2
Jocko	6 2
Tim Whistler	6 2
Orator	6 2
Kaled colt	6 2
Waxy	6 2
Lorton	6 0
Sefton	6 0
Devilshoof	5 12
Glenormiston	5 12
Perth	5 11
Idalia	5 11
Sunrise	5 11
Hawkesbury	5 9
Fitzroy	5 9
Needle	5 8
Terriok	5 7
Amendment	5 7
Woodlands	5 7
Hotspr	5 7
Moirs	5 7
Parion	5 7
Explosion	5 7
B Sharp	5 7
Portrait	5 7
Ceyx	5 7
Nudeafilly	5 7
Hippona	5 7

Total acceptances, 87.

NON-ACCEPTANCES.

Richmond, Spark, Briseis, Sultan, Priam, Rataplan, Cardinal, Bill Sykes, Aconite, Burwood, Maude, Ivory's Sultan, Lady filly, Ginger, Bella, Rookwood, Expectation, Sour Grapes filly, Starlight colt, Knight Templar, Spring Jack, Ingomar, Charity, Jack of Trumps, Quambone.

HARBOR BOARD.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21.

The Harbor Board met this morning at 11 o'clock.

Present:—Messrs Kinross (Chairman), Smith, Kennedy, Chambers, Vautier, Williams, Rhodes, and Newman.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Some correspondence between the Board and the Under Colonial Secretary relative to the application of the Municipality for about two acres of the Ahuriri lagoon, was read.

The Board's Engineer's report on the state of the bar was read, which showed a depth for the past fortnight of nine feet in both channels.

The Engineer's report on the reclamation of the Whareomarani was read and adopted, so far as that the Board

authorised the expenditure of £100 for wall work.

Accounts were laid on the table and ordered to be paid.

Tenders for the raising of Customs Examination Shed C were opened, and that of Messrs. Oxenham and Mills was accepted subject to the Engineer's approval.

The Board then adjourned.

WEST CLIVE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

August 20, 1877.

Notwithstanding the heavy rains during last week, I am glad to say that no flood took place, although great anxiety prevailed, and every precaution taken to guard the young lambs in particular, as well as all other stock, from the much dreaded enemy. The highest the Ngaruroro rose was on Saturday afternoon, at about 4 p.m., when I think it attained its maximum, which was about 3ft. from the top of the centre piles of the Ngaruroro bridge, causing a serious strain and very perceptible vibration in this prematurely aged structure; and if any heavy timber had happened to come against this acknowledged impediment to the free course of the river, there cannot be a question that its remains would have been found somewhere near McMurray's beach.

The Tuki Tuki has swollen to a great extent, still I hear of no absolute damage or loss. However, should I hear of anything during the day, I will forward it at once.

During Saturday, Mr Tracey, the Road Inspector to the Napier County Council, was particularly vigilant between the Ngaruroro bridge and Hamlin's corner, making necessary arrangements against danger of disaster. I should think, with the salary Mr Tracey receives, his billet is no insecure.

A special engine went up the line on Saturday with Mr Bold and Mr Miller, I presume to see if any damage had been done. I am informed that they were well satisfied with their inspection.

The stealing of saddles still continues, one having been stolen on Thursday night last. The sooner this is prevented and the delinquents brought to justice the better it will be for the community, and the more it will redound to the credit of the police.

Mr Gifford, prior to his departure for Europe, has proceeded to Wellington for the purpose of seeing if it is possible to obtain compensation from the Government for the loss he has sustained by the railway passing through his property. Should he fail in this, legal proceedings, I am informed, are to be instituted forthwith.

The approach of spring is indicated not only by the budding of the willow, but the song of the lark, which now resounds across the plains from sunrise to sunset.

The boiling-down establishment is now in full swing, affording employment to a number of hands, which appears to have put fresh life into the place.

The telegraph to this place will soon be an accomplished fact, but certainly not one moment before it is required.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17.

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

LUNACY.

A female who was charged with lunacy was discharged, the Police Inspector stating that it had been a case of delirium tremens.

A PECULIAR CASE.

A respectable-looking man named Dennis Daly was put in the dock charged with vagrancy. The Inspector of Police informed the Bench that the man had been out of employment for the past three months, and was in fact unable and unfit for work. He was not fitted to be an inmate of the Lunatic Asylum, and he wanted to be sent to gaol—in fact, it was at his own request the present proceedings were taken. The Inspector further stated he had assisted the man at various times.

The Bench to Daly: What have you got to say?

Daly: I would prefer not going to gaol if it can be avoided.

The Inspector: Your Worship; The man's memory is completely gone. He forgets what he says in a few minutes. I do not know what to do with him good, bad or indifferent.

His Worship: Daly, I will sentence you to be imprisoned in the Common Gaol at Napier for a period of three months.

DRUNK ON SUNDAY.

George Brown was charged by Con-

stable Irvine with being in an intoxicated state on Sunday last. Brown pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s and costs 6s 6d.

CIVIL CASES.

Thirteen debt summonses were down for hearing, but only the following came before the Court:—

Beukers v. Tracey.—Claim £8 15s. Judgment for plaintiff, and order made that defendant pay £2 per month, commencing on September 17. Costs 16s.

Rochfort v. Kisslow.—Claim £2. Plaintiff having received £1 on account, judgment was given (by default) for £1, and 12s costs.

Same v. Shirley.—Claim £4 0s 6d. Judgment (by default) for amount claimed and 9s costs.

Tuke v. Miles.—£57, rent. Adjourned by the Court until next sitting day.

Highley v. Snell.—Claim £1 10s. Judgment for plaintiff with 12s costs, and order made that defendant pay 5s per month.

JUDGMENT SUMMONS.

Tuckwell v. Planagan.—£2 6s 3d. Ordered that defendant pay 5s per week, first payment to be made on August 24. In default of any single payment imprisonment for one month.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17.

SUNDAY DRINKING.

A man named Golding, was charged with being drunk and incapable yesterday. He was fined 10s or 24 hours imprisonment. He accepted the latter alternative.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.

John Munday was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and assaulting Constable Motley on Saturday night. He was sent to gaol for three months to ruminate over his conduct, and during his leisure hours amuse himself with breaking stones.

ATTEMPTING TO DO A SWINDLE.

William Bennett was charged by the Havelock Constable with attempting to defraud Charles Stuart, the landlord of the Havelock Hotel, of the sum of £1. The police stated that the prisoner was a well-known character, having only lately come out of gaol.

The evidence shewed that Bennett last evening waited on Mr Stuart, and said he had been sent by Mr Bethell the saddler, to borrow £1 from Mr Stuart, and that Mr Bethell would return the amount in the morning. Knowing the character of the man, and believing he could relieve Havelock from the presence of a loafer, he called in the aid of the constable, who placed him in durance vile. Mr Bethell denied giving the authority, and further stated that to get rid of the fellow from his house, where he had been asking for money, he had given him 2s.

His Worship sent him to pound stones in his old quarters at the gaol for one month.

SOLICITING ALMS.

Christian Johansen was charged with having solicited money from various people on a Sabbath about four weeks ago.

The prisoner who was a Scandinavian denied the charge, and said there were a good many people the same name as himself trying to get money out of people, but it was not him.

Several respectable witnesses swore to his identity, and His Worship gave him free board and lodging in the Napier gaol for one month.

THE WHITE ROAD ROW.

A man was charged with being drunk on Thursday evening on the White Road, and "larking" around to the annoyance of his neighbors. He pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined 10s and 6s 6d costs. The money was immediately paid. This concluded the business.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21.

(Before T. K. Newton and E. Lyndon, Esqs., J.Ps.)

LUNACY.

The female Gallagher who had been remanded for medical examination was brought up and discharged, it being stated that the woman had been suffering from the effects of alcohol.

AN INCOERCIBLE.

John Golding was charged with being drunk.

Police Sergeant Robinson stated that Golding on the 20th June last, had been sentenced to two months imprisonment for habitual drunkenness, but promised if the Bench would permit him this time to go free, he would go to work in the country.

In reply to the Court, Golding stated, he only came out of gaol yesterday and being weak in the head, a few glasses of beer he had partaken of had quite upset him.

The Court recommended him to go out of town, and get work at once, else if he

was again brought up he would be severely punished.

A CURIOUS CHARGE.

John Ray, a Havelock settler, was charged by one of the railway guards, Mr Andrews, with not producing his railway ticket, when asked, on Monday.

Mr Lascelles who appeared for the defendant pleaded not guilty. The learned counsel stated that the case showed gross irregularity on the parts of the railway authorities. His client was now charged under the 11th section of the bye-laws, but he had been given into custody to the police by the guard as having broken the 3rd section, which certainly gave the power. Under the 11th section under which the defendant was now charged, the railway authorities had no power to act in the manner they had. Mr Lascelles in a long speech, commented in strong terms on what he termed the extraordinary straining of powers by the railway authorities.

Andrews deposed: I am a railway guard. While coming through yesterday, I asked the defendant to produce his ticket. He refused. He told me he had thrown it out of the window, I then gave him into custody of the Havelock constable.

Cross-examined by Mr Lascelles: I was not aware that he held a Saturday return ticket. He told me he had paid his fare. Smith, the ticket clerk, told me that the defendant had given him 2s for his fare, and that he had given him a duplicate ticket. I asked defendant for the duplicate. I was in doubt whether defendant had given me his right name, and asked Mr. Stuart of Havelock, who gave me a reply in the affirmative. I have a right to use my own judgment in cases like this. I knew I was doing my duty. I gave defendant into custody, but I don't know what authority I had for so doing. I gave him into custody six or seven minutes after he had purchased the duplicate ticket from Mr Smith.

Smith deposed: I am a travelling ticket seller on the railway line. Finding that defendant had not his Saturday return ticket re-dated, I sold him a duplicate for 2s. I saw him tear the duplicate up. Previous to his tearing it up I did not tell him he would be required to show it to the guard. He did not know anything about the bye-laws.

Mr Andrews: This is a new bye-law, and has been in force since the 1st of June, requiring persons to have their Saturday return tickets re-dated.

Mr Lascelles then addressed the Bench pointing out how improperly his client had been treated, and asked the Bench to dismiss the case.

After a short consultation, Mr Newton said, the Bench had decided to dismiss the case, and they thought it would be wiser for the railway officials to take more precaution before resorting to the arbitrary measures it had been shewn, they had taken in this case.

CIVIL CASES.

Peters v. Young.—Claim £75 1s 3d. In this case, defendant having applied to have his evidence taken at Wellington under the provisions of the R. M.'s Evidence Act, 1870, the hearing was adjourned until the 11th September prox.

Trustees of C. Tuke v. Miles.—Claim £57 for rent, an adjourned case. Further adjourned to the 24th instant.

Black v. Gilberd.—Claim £10, an action for detinue of a white poodle dog. This was a long uninteresting case, a large number of witnesses giving evidence. The result was a nonsuit, with witnesses costs allowed amounting to £2 19s.

Several other civil cases were settled out of Court.

INDIAN RAIDS IN AMERICA.

Intelligence reached the Oregon frontier post, Nez Percé, that the Indians, heretofore friendly, were massacring the settlers in Idaho. General Howard, commanding the Department, immediately started for Fort Lapwai, Idaho, ordering forward all available troops. Nez Percé is in Western Idaho, on the Salmon River, an affluent of the Columbia. Later intelligence confirmed the reports. A white man who had killed an Indian was, with three others, murdered in revenge, and this caused both the Indians and the settlers to arm for the conflict. The settlers being few, the Indians swooped along the valley, burning and destroying everything, killing twenty-nine, and causing a general flight to Mount Idaho village.

AT FIRST 200 SAVAGES ONLY WERE ENGAGED, but neighbouring bands joined them until the number was estimated at 1500. The settlers killed White Bird, a prominent Indian chief, with his family. When the reports reached Fort Lapwai, on June 15, Colonel Perry, with 100 cavalry, his entire available force, started from Mount

Idaho, and on arriving he found the Indians were retreating southward along the Salmon River. From fugitives who came into the village a force of 150 settlers was made up, who, with Colonel Perry's troops, started in pursuit, marching south to White Bird River. The Indians made a stand at a cannon of that stream, and the cavalry dismounted to attack, leaving their horses in charge of a few soldiers and twenty friendly Indians. The cavalry with the settlers, entered the canon, when

THEY FELL INTO AN AMBUSH,

their foes starting up on every side; and in a few minutes Colonel Perry, with half of his force, was slain, the others retreating. The men in charge of the horses saw this, and the entire horse guard broke and fled, the animals scattering over the prairie. Here the authentic account ends. The frightened fugitives came into Fort Lapwai, reporting terrible slaughter. According to the latest accounts, however, the survivors, surrounded in the canon, were making a gallant hand-to-hand resistance. The news of this disaster has

EXCITED THE ENTIRE PACIFIC COAST.

General Howard has only 800 troops in the department, but all available forces are ordered to the scene. Aid is also asked of General M'Dowel, at San Francisco, who is making arrangements to forward all men he can spare. Military telegrams to General Sheridan, at Chicago, ask that warning should be given to the frontier posts in Montana and Eastern Idaho, and 400 additional troops are probably now on the scene. General Howard, telegraphing, says he thinks short work will be made of the Indians. Later intelligence of the Indian war reports that Patterson's force in the White Bird Canon

LOST SIXTY MEN AND THEN RETREATED

sixteen miles, constantly fighting with the pursuing savages. Patterson is safe, but the captains of both the companies under him are slain. The Indians abandoned the pursuit, turning southwards towards the Salmon River mountains, where a fight occurred on June 17. Washington telegrams state that the Indian outbreak originated in the unjust conduct of the Indian agent and the white settlers at Reservation, for several years, against whom charges have been filed in the department, but without effect. Troops are hurrying forward to Fort Lapwai, whence General Howard will start with an expedition in pursuit.

WRECK OF THE ROBINA DUNLOP.

STRANGE CONDUCT OF THE CAPTAIN.

The Evening Post has the following:—It is difficult to understand how a vessel could have got into such a place unless there had been great carelessness, for with either a northerly or southerly wind, a vessel could keep clear of the ~~de~~ bight in which the scene of the shipwreck is situated; in fact, the vessel had no business to be anywhere near there at all. The spot where she was wrecked is eighteen miles north of Manawatu and nineteen miles south of Wanganui. Capt. Rose telegraphed to Captain Graham this morning to guard the wreck carefully until it was decided what was to be done with her; but a Press Agency telegram this afternoon states that Captain Graham, with surprising generosity, has presented the vessel to Reuben, the Maori, by formal deed of gift, in return for the hospitality that chief showed on the previous night when he and his crew were cast ashore. This singular transaction loses some of its lustre by the fact that the vessel did not belong to the liberal donor, and it is possible that some considerable complications may ensue.

MARTON, 15th August.

The captain and crew of the Robina Dunlop, which was wrecked of Turakina River, reached Reuben's pa on Monday evening, and were kindly treated by the natives, in return for which Captain Graham, by deed of gift, gave Reuben the wreck as she lies on the beach.

WANGANUI, 15th August.

The Turakina correspondent of the Wanganui Herald, in writing of the wreck of the Robina Dunlop, gives the following further particulars:—About 8 o'clock on the night of the 13th the weather became very dirty, and the vessel was driven on shore near Turakina River. The crew got off at 6 o'clock next morning by means of ropes, all safe, though much distressed. They were all hospitably received by Reupena Kewetone at the native pa, and will arrive at Wanganui to-day.

A WEEK'S WAR NEWS.

On Monday morn the news arrived, There had been bloody work, But no one knew who lied the most— The Christian or the Turk.
On Tuesday morning Russia claimed A victory for her side;
On Wednesday, from a Turkish source, The victory was denied.
On Thursday each side swore it had The other put to rout,
And Friday's news the fight confirmed Without the slightest doubt,
On Saturday 'was whispered 'round The whole affair was small,
And Sunday's cable news declared There'd been no fight at all!

CHINESE WOOL TRADE.

A VERY important piece of news is contained in our telegraphic columns to-day. It reads as follows:—"A satisfactory report has been received of the arrival at Shanghai of the first shipments of Australian wool. Arrangements have been made for the manufacture of cloth, woollen and cotton mixture, by the Chinese, with a view to opening up a new market for Australian wools." It will be remembered by those of our readers who take an interest in such matters, that some twelve months ago we published from the columns of the Melbourne Argus some correspondence and comments which had then taken place upon the attempt of Mr Monckton Synnot, the well-known Victorian woolbroker, to open up a wool trade with China. It would now appear from the tenor of the extract above quoted that those efforts have been crowned with success, and that at no very distant date we may look forward to having a competing market in China for our wool, and the consequent result of an increase in the market rates for that staple. This is a matter of the greatest interest to us. At one time we had to look forward to the prospect of America becoming a competing market, and again to Germany opening up a new channel for the absorption of our wool clips; but Protection has barred the doors of the American manufacturers against us, and the cost of freight and charges at present render it impossible for us to do business with Continental firms. If, however, woollen manufacturers can be established in China, we shall have a near market for our wool, and the extremely low rates of wages for which the sons of the "Flowery Land" will work will ensure the success of the factories established. Competition will improve the price of wool, and the advance of a penny per pound, from any cause arising, means an additional quarter of a million sterling added to the wealth of our Colony in twelve months, or more than a million per annum to the Australasian Colonies. Looked at in this light, we have every reason to hope that the Chinese may be enabled to establish and develop woollen manufacturers in their midst. They would find profitable labor for many thousands of their population, as well as consume the greater portion, if not the whole, of our wool clip annually.—Otago Guardian.

THE LATE NAVAL BATTLE.

From files of the Panama Star and Herald to June 23rd, we take the following:
Her Majesty's frigate Shah, Rear-Admiral DeHorsey, arrived in Panama Bay on the evening of the 20th inst., from Payta, Peru. From the officers of the Shah we learn that the battle with the Huascar was substantially as reported by the Lima correspondent. After the battle and the surrender of the Huascar to the Government, the Shah and Amethyst visited Iquiqui and held some intercourse with the Peruvian fleet, which still remained at that port. The reason stated for not capturing the Huascar is, that the Shah and Amethyst could not follow her into the shoal water near the shore. Neither of the English ships was injured during the combat. The Huascar, our informant says, was hit no less than seventy times during the engagement. One shell from the Shah penetrated her ward-room, where it exploded, killing one man and making general havoc. The Shah would have entered Callao Bay on her way north, but was met by a steamer with the British Consul on board, outside the harbor, who advised her to keep on her voyage, and thereby avoid any collision with the Peruvians, who, it is said, were prepared to give her a hot reception in case she came into Callao. We learn that the Shah will proceed to San Francisco after the arrival of the mails from Europe.

INTERPRETING WAR TELEGRAMS.

We can sympathise sincerely with our Timaru morning contemporary. Writing upon the subject of the Eastern War and the telegrams which record its progress, the editor says:—"For some time we tried to fix up a reliable map for ourselves by altering the names and positions of places, but at the end of a week we were a little more confused in Eastern geography than when we began. Since then, when we have received a name about which we are doubtful, we take all the names on the different maps which afford the nearest resemblance to it, and strike a general average. No one is any the wiser for it. Let us recall an instance or two of the trouble we are put to in this respect. On one occasion we received a telegram stating the Russians were marching on 'Abraham.' At first we felt sorry for Abraham, and set to work to hunt him up; but eventually we came to the conclusion that the Russians would have warm work to reach the old fellow, and decided to let them march. We have not heard yet how many of them have joined his company, or what reception they received. Another message informed us that the Muscovites were at 'Gumboils.' This, however, was rather too much for us to believe. We could swallow the 'Abraham' story with a few grains of salt, but found it an utter impossibility, even with the help of a whole sack of salt, to bolt 'Gumboils.' It turned out, however, that through a slight error the word had been telegraphed 'Gumboils' instead of 'Jumboli.' Jam is certainly preferable to gum in more ways than one. We might fill columns with descriptions of other equally ridiculous mistakes made in the messages. We have seen 'Kats' written for 'Kars'; 'Suekhum' for Soukougum; 'Bottom' for Batoum; 'Wedding' for Widdin; 'Mustar' for Mostar; 'Stumble' for Stamboul, &c., &c.; not apparently through any fault of the Telegraph Department in the Colony, but through careless transmission between Bombay and Adelaide."

LAUGHABLE INCIDENT.

A laughable incident occurred recently, which caused much sport, and the circumstances of which are as follows:—An old gentleman, who had two handsome daughters, was so cautious of his charge that he would not permit them to keep the company of young men. However, they adopted the following expedient to enjoy the company of their lovers: After the old man had retired to rest, the girls would hang a sheet out of the second-story window, and Jim and Charley would seize hold of it, and with the assistance of the girls would thus gain entrance. It so happened last Sunday evening that the girls hung out the sheet ladder too early, for the old man, by some ill-wind, was accidentally out of doors, and happening to come around the corner of the house, and spying the sheet dangling from the window could not conjecture the meaning of its being there. So he caught hold and endeavored to bring it down, the girls above supposing it to be the boys began to hoist and did not discover the mistake until the old man's bald head was level with the sill, when one of them exclaimed, "Lord, it's dad!" and let go her hold, which frightened her sister, and she let go the sheet, and down came the old man on the stone walk, breaking his wrist and tearing his unmentionables. His cries brought out the household and several neighbors, and they removed him into the house. He is now busily cogitating whether to let the girls have their beaux in the parlor or to sue the young men for damages. The boys have not been around to offer any sympathy, and probably won't until the old gent feels easier.

CONTRACTING AND EXPANDING.

[From Danbury News.]
John Henry was with Julia the other evening when she observed, "John, dear, what is all this talk about contracting and expanding the currency, and which do you believe in?" "Well, my sweet," said John, pulling up his collar, "that depends upon circumstances. In some cases I should advocate contraction of the currency, and in others an expansion of it. It is according to the circumstances—that is, the condition of things." "But what is the difference between the two, and how do circumstances affect them?" That's what I want to know, John." "Oh, that's easily explained," said John, in a tone of great cheerfulness. "For instance, when we are alone we sit on one chair, don't we?" "Yes."

"Well, that's contraction. But when we hear your pa or ma coming we get on two chairs, don't we?" "I should say we did." "Well, my love, that is expansion. So you see it is according to circumstances." "John," said she, very softly, burrowing under his left ear, "we are contracting now, ain't we?" "You bet!" said John with increased cheerfulness.

It will be noticed that Messrs Devery and Sutton have entered into partnership in the butchering line, and have opened shops in the progressive townships of Kaikora and at Te Aute. We hope to see the new firm prosper.

A New York telegram to a San Francisco paper says:—"Six Russian vessels have been transferred to American owners, on account of apprehensions of Turkish men-of-war."

A correspondent writes, *apropos* of Lincolnshire sheep, to the London Times:—"Mr. Turner, of The Grange, Ulechy, has this spring clipped 125 ram hogs under 14 months old, which produced 2257lb. of wool, 60 of their fleeces weighed 1201lb., and four weighed 23, 24, 25, and 30lb. respectively, the latter being most probably the heaviest fleece on record."

Considering (says the Wellington Argus) the useless twaddle which was indulged in by some members on Tuesday night, when speaking to Mr. Ballance's amendment, probably the speech made by Mr Karaitiana was most appreciated by the reporters. The hon. gentleman rose a quarter to one on Wednesday morning and said, "I have much to say on this subject; I move the adjournment of the House,"—a very neat little speech, which was welcomed with cheers.

From a paragraph in the last Home News, it appears that the eldest son of Mr. R. S. Cheesman of Wellington, has come in for a handsome fortune. After stating that the will and codicil of Mr. James Graham, late of Cornwall-terrace, Regent's park, have been proved under £250,000 and mentioning a number of bequests, charitable and otherwise, the Home News says, "The rest of his personal estate not applicable by law to charitable purposes, and all his real estate, he leaves to his grand-nephew, the only son of his nephew, Robert Suckling Cheesman, by his first marriage." The fortunate legatee was at one time in the General Government service, but is now at St Vincent.



NAPIER—TAKAPAU.

TIME TABLE.

	DOWN.				SUN-DAYS.
	WEEK DAYS.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	
Spt, depart ..	7.40	11.0	3.40		
Napier { arrive!..	7.50	11.10	3.50		
{ depart..	6.45	7.55	11.30	4.10	2.30
Farndon depart	7.10	8.20	11.55	4.35	2.55
					p.m.
Hastings, depart	7.55	8.45	12.20	5.0	
Pak Paki { arrive ..	9.5		5.15		
{ depart	7.55	9.13		5.20	
Te Aute, { arrive	8.32		5.5		
{ depart	8.35	9.55		6.5	
Kaikora, depart	9.15	10.35		6.45	
Waipawa, depart	9.35	10.55		7.5	
Waipuku- { arrive	9.55	11.15		7.25	
rau { depart	10.0	11.30			
					p.m.
Takapau, arrive	10.50	12.20			

* On Monday and Thursday only.
† On Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

UP.

	WEEK DAYS.				SUN-DAYS.
	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	
Takapau, depart				2.20	
Waipuku, dep.		7.10		3.15	
Waipawa, depart		7.30		3.35	
Kaikora, depart		7.50		3.55	
Te Aute, { arrive		8.31		4.35	
{ depart		8.35		4.40	
Pak Paki { arrive		9.10		5.15	
{ depart		9.12		5.22	
Hastings, depart		9.32	1.0	5.43	5.20
Farndon, depart		9.57	1.25	6.7	5.45
Napier { arrive		10.22	1.50	6.32	6.10
{ depart		7.20	10.25	3.0	
Spt, arrive		7.30	10.35	3.10	

* Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday only

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To ensure despatch, Parcels should be booked fifteen minutes before the starting of the Train
W. J. MILLER,
General Manager.
Napier, March 8, 1877.

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Printed and published by EDWARD HENDERSON GRIGG, for the Proprietors, at the Mercury Office, Tennyson-street, Napier, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand. SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1877.