

# WEEKLY MERCURY

AND

## Hawke's Bay Advertiser,

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

VOL. II.—No. 95.

NAPIER, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1877.

PRICE SIXPENCE

### PROPERTIES FOR SALE.

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 Tolaga 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, Tolaga Bay, with 3,000 Sheep and good improvements  
3,000 acres Freehold, Southern Seaboard, improved  
1,220 acres Freehold, Southern Seaboard, improved  
406 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.

### RURAL SECTIONS, WOODVILLE On Deferred Payments.

For particulars, apply to  
M. R. MILLER.

### M. R. MILLER, STOCK AND STATION AGENT

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

### RAMS FOR SALE.



### LINCOLN

Lincoln-Leicester  
Leicester  
Otswoold  
Merinoes,  
All First-class Flocks.

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

### E. PRICE & CO., (LATE CAMPBELL & CO.), HAWKE'S BAY HOUSE.

WE HAVE OPENED OUR SAMPLES

### LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S STRAW HATS

For the Spring, in 291 different shapes.

Also, Pattern Cards of 2 cases  
FRENCH CAMBRICS.

The style of these goods is exceedingly  
elegant.  
The firm have very great pleasure in  
inviting ladies to select from the first show  
for the coming season.

E. PRICE & CO.

### PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

#### WAIPIKURAU.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1877.

#### MR. J. J. TYE'S SECOND HALF-YEARLY SALE

OF  
**CATTLE AND HORSES,**  
including a draft of Messrs. Nairn  
Bros., well-bred Cattle and Draught  
Stock, will take place at the Railway Sale  
Yards on

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1877.

Also,  
At the request of a number of the leading  
settlers in the Southern portion of the Pro-  
vince, he is making arrangements for hold-  
ing a

#### RAM FAIR

On the same date, when a large assortment  
of Longwools and Merinos from the best  
breeders will be offered for sale UN-  
SHORN, thus giving purchasers better  
facilities for judging the Stock. Suitable  
paddock and other necessary conven-  
iences will be provided.

Stockowners desirous of sending Stock  
to the above sale are respectfully invited  
to communicate with the undersigned as  
early as possible.

J. J. TYE,

Stock and Station Agent.

Waipawa.

Or to H. MONTEITH,  
Commission Agent,  
Waipukurau.

August 25, 1877.

### PROPERTIES FOR SALE.

**16,000 ACRES LEASEHOLD,**  
(with improvement clause)  
well fenced and sub-divided. Dwell-  
ing-house, Woolshed, &c., with  
5,000 Sheep  
3,000 Acres Freehold rich Agricultural and  
Pastoral Land, Southern Seaboard  
105 Acres Freehold near Waipawa

Also,  
Sections at Woodville, Richmond Park,  
Waipawa Bush, and Waipawa.

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

### SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL FUND

THE Undersigned agree to subscribe to  
amounts undernoted:—

	£	s.	d.
To amount as per advertised list	227	11	0
J. Robertson	2	2	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.

**ROYAL MAIL COACHES** between  
PETANE and the WESTERN SPIT  
will run Daily on and after this date—

Leaving Petane at 8 o'clock a.m. and  
1 p.m.

Leaving Ferry Hotel, Spit, at 11 o'clock  
a.m. and 4 p.m.

Fares, 2s 6d each way.

W. VILLERS,

Proprietor.

August 30, 1877.

### ROUTLEDGE, KENNEDY & CO HAVE FOR SALE,

Ex "Annie Hill," from Dunedin, and later

Arrivals—  
**12 TONS FENCING WIRE,** Nos. 6,  
7, and 8.

10 tons superior Flour (Wilson & Co's)  
2 tons Pollard  
2 tons Oatmeal  
5 tons Bran  
25 kegs Canterbury Butter  
3 cases Wax Vestas in tins  
1 case American Brooms  
1 Pianoforte, by Kirkman.  
1 ditto German  
25 cases Hobarttown Jams (Knight's)  
45 ditto ditto (Peak's)  
3 cases Cheese (New Zealand)  
2 cases Cigars  
9 cases Tobacco  
etc., etc., etc.

C. LINDSAY MARGOLIOUTH,  
HAVING now completed the necessary  
arrangements, is prepared to trans-  
act business as under.

### STOCK and GENERAL AUCTIONEER.

Auctions held in town and country.  
Liberal advances made on consignments  
sent for auction, on stock of every descrip-  
tion, on shares, bills of lading, or other  
security.

### ACCOUNTANT.

The services of a professional Account-  
ant of large experience having been se-  
cured, books audited, abstracts furnished,  
balance-sheets prepared, partnership ac-  
counts adjusted, bankrupts estates wound-  
up, assets realised, advances on same when  
required. Dividends paid or guaranteed.

### RENTS and DEBTS COLLECTED.

Advances made on same. Responsible  
agents having been appointed in every  
town of importance throughout the colony,  
reliable information afforded on every mat-  
ter of importance.  
N.B.—Strict confidence observed.

### LAW WRITER

Licensed Broker under Lands Transfer Act.  
Having had several years experience in  
the above Act, all business connected therewith  
promptly transacted. Titles investi-  
gated and reported upon.

### CUSTOM-HOUSE & SHIPPING AGENT

Entries passed, goods forwarded, stores,  
and bonded.

HASTINGS-STREET,  
(Opposite the Repository.)

### TO PERSONS INDEBTED TO ADOLF BREWER.

**NOTICE** is hereby given that by a Deed  
of Assignment, dated the 15th day  
of August, 1877, and made between Adolf  
Brewer, of Sherwood, near Makareta.  
Storekeeper, of the one part, and  
Edward Tucker of the same place,  
Farmer, of the other part, did assign all  
Book and other Debts, due to the said  
Adolf Brewer, from any person or persons  
resident within the Colony of New Zealand,  
unto the said Edward Tucker, who is  
now legally authorised to receive the same  
and whose receipt will be a sufficient dis-  
charge.

Dated this 23rd day of August, 1877.

WILSON & COTTERILL,

Solicitors for Edward Tucker.

I HAVE This Day authorised Mr. C.  
Lindsay Margoliouth to receive and  
collect all monies due to me either as book  
debts or otherwise, and he is also authorised  
to sue for (if necessary) in his own name  
for the recovery of any remaining unpaid  
after three weeks from this date.

All accounts against me are requested to  
be sent into Mr Margoliouth without delay.  
(Signed)

JOHN HAGUE.

August 31, 1877.

In reference to the above notice I have  
to request that all accounts against Mr.  
Hague be immediately forwarded.

C. L. MARGOLIOUTH,

### MURRAY, COMMON AND CO., WOOL MERCHANTS, &c.

ARE prepared to receive Wool, Tallow,  
and General Produce, during the

coming season for direct shipment from

Napier to London by Shaw, Savill and Co.'s  
fine line of vessels. From the favorable

position and large size of their stores at the  
Spit, now replete with every appliance,

they are enabled to ensure thorough atten-  
tion to all produce entrusted to their care,

and quick despatch to the Home market.

Charges the same as last season, viz. 1s 9d  
per bale, including wharfage. Shipment

to grower's own agents, or to Murray, Com-  
mon & Co.'s own correspondent, Sanderson,

Murray & Co., London, who being solely  
and largely interested in the Wool Trade

are consequently in a position to watch and  
further the interests of all clients whose

produce may be consigned to them.

**ADVANCES** against the growing Clip and  
all kinds of Produce. Cash purchasers  
at full Napier market value.

**WAREHOUSING.**—All descriptions of  
Goods received for Warehousing, and  
covered against Fire, under open poli-  
cies if required. Charges at lowest  
possible rates.

**FLOUR.**—Duncan's Dunedin Silk-dressed,  
quality guaranteed. Oatmeal, Pearl  
and Feed Barley, Bran, Oats, &c., &c.,  
always for Sale, at the lowest prices,  
by Murray, Common, and Co., sole  
agents in Hawke's Bay for Roysse,  
Stead and Co.

**GRASS SEEDS.**—English, imported direct,  
All kinds always on hand—Clovers,  
Fescues, Poas, Rye, Cocksfoot, Timothy  
Rape, etc., etc.

**WIRE.**—Best brands Fencing Wire and  
Staples, direct importation, at low  
prices.

**STATION STORES and GENERAL  
GOODS** of all kinds supplied. Wines  
and Spirits of the best Brands only  
kept. Superior Whiskeys in stock.

MURRAY, COMMON & CO.,  
Port Ahuriri.

**WANTED KNOWN.**—That in all  
Orders for GENERAL PRINTING  
executed at the DAILY TELEGRAPH OFFICE,  
FULL NUMBERS are guaranteed.

**DIRECT TELEGRAM FROM EUROPE.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The Czar is seriously ill at Ploiesti. His mind has been affected owing to the reverses his troops have received both in Asia and Europe.

The Turkish army under Suleiman Pasha, has received large reinforcements, and are now 75,000 strong. They renewed their attack on the Russians holding the Shipka Pass yesterday, but up to the present time have failed in driving the Russians from their entrenched position.

There was fearful carnage on both sides.

A telegram received in London from New York announces the death of Brigham Young, the Mormon prophet and leader. His death has caused great confusion at Salt Lake City, and Mormonism is considered in jeopardy.

Saturday night.

The reported defeat of the Russians by Mehmet Ali at Eske D'Juma awaits confirmation.

Notwithstanding rumors in London to the contrary, the Russians still hold their entrenched position in the Shipka Pass.

The engagements between the Russians and Turks in the Bulgarian Provinces have been severe, with varying success.

It is estimated the losses on both sides during the past fortnight amount to 40,000 in killed and wounded.

**WAR NEWS.**

(AGENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE)

LONDON.

August 31, 6.40 p.m.

After furious fighting at Shipka Pass and immense losses on both sides, the Russians still retain possession.

Suleiman Pasha is trying to surround the Russians to destroy their line of communication and to prevent their retreat to Gabiova.

Both sides have received large reinforcements, and Serbia is expected to take part in the war.

Greece is holding back. Germany supported by other powers complained to Turkey of the treatment of prisoners.

The Bank rates are raised to three per cent.

The present is commonly regarded as a period of suspense, but decisive action is shortly anticipated.

**CABLEGRAM.**

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.]

LONDON.

August 31.

A Turkish force from Eski Djuma crossed the Lom near Jaslar. The Russians were defeated and compelled to fall back from the Lom.

The Turks from Rasgrad advanced to Ralk and repulsed the Russians, capturing two guns.

A great battle is imminent. The Turks have assumed the offensive along the whole line.

September 1.

Mehemet Ali telegraphs having had nine hours' desperate fighting on the 30th August. Karrabasanter, on the right bank of the Lom, was repeatedly taken and retaken. It was finally retained in the possession of the Turks. The Russians retreated in disorder, hotly pursued. They were compelled to abandon Hardargase with a loss of 4000 men; the booty was immense. The Turkish loss was 3000.

September 1.

Discount three per cent. Reserve in Bank of England twelve millions.

The export trade is renewing. There is a slight fall in colonial stocks. Consols ninety-five and a quarter.

The price for wool is maintained for good quality; inferior is lower. One hundred and six thousand bales are catalogued. Ten thousand withdrawn. The French buyers are operating cautiously and the demand is somewhat abated. The market has a quieter tone.

Wheat is firm, weather is unfavorable for harvesting. Imports continue large. The Herald's special says, Mehmet reports Colonel Baker greatly distinguished himself, but is reported missing. Two horses were shot dead under him.

Lieut-General Rodetzky commanding at Shipka Pass, is in danger of being sur-

rounded, and of water and food failing.

Turkish reinforcements are arriving from Adrianople.

The Russian Imperial Guards are arriving at Bucharest.

Prince Charles of Roumania has taken command of the Russo-Roumanian corps with General Sotoff as chief of the staff.

September 2.

Mehemet Ali's victory is fully confirmed.

There is a great movement of Turks towards Papkoi Kediski.

A despatch from Isman, dated August 31, states that he made reconnaissance of the Russian position at East Plevna. He attacked and routed the enemy, who were 30,000 strong. After severe fighting, he carried three redoubts by assault.

**BOMBAY.**

August 29.

The Porte complained to England of Greek armaments, and threatened to send troops to Athens in the event of a rising in Thessaly. England remonstrated with Greece, who sent the Porte a pacific note.

August 30.

A despatch from Suleiman Pasha states that the Turkish entrenchment is 150 paces from the Russian positions.

The Roumanian division is ordered to operate in the rear of Plevna.

August 31.

Russian wounded amount to 2480, including 95 officers, at Shipka; killed, unknown.

The Turkish loss at Plevna is 755 and 200 guns.

**MELBOURNE.**

September 3.

Arrived — Arawata. Sailed — Lusitana.

**INTERPROVINCIAL.**

WAIROA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

August 31.

The Result started this morning, but put back, not liking the look of the weather. She will start to-morrow.

The weather is now settled again.

**DUNEDIN.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

September 1.

Mrs Burns declined to carry out an arrangement with the Education Board, and yesterday the whole of the teachers in the Girl's High School forwarded their resignations.

The Licensed Victuallers send S. Isaac, their President, to Wellington to watch their interests.

September 4.

Reports of gold yields continue to come from Doctor's Point, Dunstan. £600 worth of gold was got last week from the prospector's claim.

It is reported that a criminal information for forgery has been laid against a late member of a large business firm in the town. The firm, on starting business on its own account, which they had previously managed, bought the stock at a valuation, agreeing to give bills for the same. Subsequently, this arrangement was broken, but the bills, which were signed, were to be destroyed, and instead of that they were altered, and one for £600 was negotiated since those proceedings.

At the Standard Insurance Company's meeting a very satisfactory report was adopted without discussion. The chairman said the dividend and bonus to shareholders, the directors recommend to be carried to the credit and capital account, which would then stand at £37,500 (or 15s per share,) while the reserve fund will amount to £9,143 (or equal to 3s 8d per share nearly), making in all about 18s 8d per share, or nearly double the original capital. After having made ample provision for losses likely to arise on existing policies. This result during the period almost unprecedented for storms and consequent marine disasters, is certainly very gratifying. As a matter of course, the bonus to insurers will not be made payable until such time as the risks run safely off. It has all along been the policy of the directors to get the shares of the company to 15s paid up by capitalising the dividends, thus avoiding the trouble and expense of making and collecting calls. On the adoption of the report, this object will then have been accomplished, and in future the directors will be in a position to recommend the dividends to be paid in cash.

**AUCKLAND.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

September 3.

The New Zealand Herald publishes,

in a leading article on Saturday, an account of the transactions on the purchase of 250,000 acres in the Waikato referred to by the Oamaru Mail. It says:—"The company who were in negotiation for the land were Thomas Russell, T. Morrin, Tohill, William Buckland, Brissenden, and J. C. Macfarlane. That, after Sullivan's murder, the purchase was stopped, and £3,600 compensation was paid into Mr. Whitaker's hands for division among the company, of which Mr. Whitaker was not a partner. It quotes Brissenden's evidence before the Tairua Investigation Committee of 1875 in proof.

The Herald, both on Friday and Saturday, attacked the Ministry for their action in Jones' case, and says:—"Mr. Whitaker might have contented himself with making an explanation. The above are the simple facts of the case, and probably an investigation by the Supreme Court will disclose nothing further. We cannot close this article without again expressing our regret at the course which the House of Representatives on the motion of Mr. Whitaker, has seen fit to adopt. The matter is a very serious one. If a Minister of the Crown can proceed for criminal libel against a man who has written against him in a newspaper, and can do so through the Attorney-General and at the public expense, then we are liable to a very dangerous form of State prosecution. The House of Representatives would never have sanctioned such a thing, but that the members got it into their heads that the article was an offence against each of them as a "Breach of Privilege." But instead of dealing with the case as one of privilege, and leaving Mr. Whitaker to adopt any course he chose to vindicate his character, they virtually direct that the Breach of Privilege shall be punished by prosecution for a libel on Mr. Whitaker, being instituted by the Attorney-General. It has always been considered that the Press was more free to criticisms of public men, than of those who did not take part in politics, but it would appear that the maxim must now be reversed, at all events when Parliament is sitting, and the person criticised is a Minister who can command a majority. The ludicrous part of the affair is, that the statements of the Oamaru Mail, as they can be easily shown to be founded on a mistake, are not nearly so damaging to Ministers as those daily made in Parliament by those who have ordered the prosecution, which statements are circulated through the country by newspapers, and in Hansard, and at the public expense."

September 4. The Southern Cross sailed for Napier at half-past seven last night. Passengers—Miss Hansen, Mesdames Turner and Dryland, Messrs Meinertzhagen and Carter.

Miserable weather is prevailing at present.

**GISBORNE.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

September 3.

The very heavy morning frosts have greatly injured vegetation.

Mr G. E. Read lends £50,000 to the borough for the improvement of the port.

Mr James Browne (Snyder) is slowly recovering from his late severe accident. He appeared in town to-day on crutches for the first time.

[FROM THE PRESS AGENCY.]

**AUCKLAND.**

August 30.

Mr. Binney reports:—Adelaide flour, £23; Melbourne flour, £21; Southern flour, £18; sharps, £8 10s; bran, £5 10s; oats, 3s 9d; potatoes, £3 5s to £3 10s; oatmeal, £20 to £21; pearl barley, £24; onions, 11s 2d; butter, 1s 6d; cheese, 6d to 7d; bacon, 7½d.

Sellers: Bank of New Zealand, £22; South British Insurance, 80s (new). Buyers: Standard, 16s 6d; Thames Gas, 28s 6d; Moanatairi, £7; Alburnia, £5 15s; Kuranui, 20s; Piako, 15s 8d.

Samoa advices state that the war is over. The victorious party, which now forms the present Government, are those who sided with Steinberger. The chiefs of the defeated tribes took refuge in the British Consulate. The victors demanded their surrender, guaranteeing that they should not be injured. The Consul refused to deliver them up, and called upon the captain of the schooner John Wesley to take his despatches to the Governor at Fiji, which he reluctantly complied with, being bound elsewhere on missionary work.

September 1.

Mr Grey, of the Customs, has arrived at Russell. He reports that he landed at Kirikiri and the adjacent islands and searched thoroughly, but found no trace of wreckage. The fires seen by Captain Savoy were Maori fires on Cape Kirikiri.

The Roman Catholic petition, asking that the religious clauses be struck out of the Education Bill, has received over 2000 signatures.

Mr Buckland reports fat cattle in good supply, prices advanced 2s 6d per 100lbs, sales 40s; fat sheep, considerable advance, now selling at 4d per pound.

**DUNEDIN.**

August 30.

Sbates: Bank of New Zealand, £22 10s; Colonial, 43s; Insurance National, 32s 6d; Standard, 19s; South British, 80s; New Zealand, 92s 6d; Union, 5s premium.

**KUMARA.**

August 31.

N. M. Hogg, late agent in charge of the Bank of New South Wales, was examined before the Magistrate yesterday. The evidence showed that the prisoner had confessed to the police that he alone had concocted the robbery. He was thereupon committed to take his trial at the next criminal sittings of the Supreme Court at Hokitika.

**LAWRENCE.**

August 31.

The Town Clerk, who defrauded the Corporation of a considerable amount, has levanted. The Council intend proceeding against his bondsmen.

**TAUPO.**

September 1.

The natives are dispersing to their settlements around the lake, anathematising the powers that be and the pakehas generally because their back rentals have not been paid to them. They say that three years' rents are due.

**WELLINGTON.**

August 31.

In the Vice-Admiralty Court to-day, Mr Justice Richmond gave Judgment in the suit of Captain Williams, owner of the hulk Eli Witney, against the owners of the Taupo, to recover £3000 damages for the loss of the hulk, which was run down by the Taupo and sunk. He condemned the Taupo in one half of the damage; each party to pay his own costs, it being further understood that the costs of a reference as to damages, if one became necessary, should be borne in like manner, unless the Court should hereafter order to the contrary.

In the R.M. Court to-day, the Corporation sued a grocer named Jameison, for having too much kerosene upon his premises, but the Magistrate held that according to the terms of the Act it only applied to oils which gave off an inflammable vapor at 110 degrees Fahrenheit. The Corporation were therefore non-suited.

September 4.

The Loan and Mercantile Agency report, under date London, August 29, that wool competition is decreasing, and the market is weaker. Home buyers are purchasing freely, but the Continental demand is limited.

**WANGANUI.**

September 4.

Some wreckage from the Queen Bee has been picked up on the beach near Wanganui Heads, and a chest containing wearing apparel marked Hilliard has come ashore.

At a special meeting of the Harbor Board, it was resolved that authority be asked to borrow £100,000 for harbor improvements. The estimated revenue of the Board in five years time will be £10,600.

The Herald advocates that Pictou should be fixed up permanently as the place for the annual prize firing. The cost of annually preparing ranges would thus be saved, and the amount added to the prize list, making the champion belt carry a money prize of £200, and other prizes increased in proportion.

**BALCLUTHA.**

September 4.

The School Committee meeting last night passed resolutions approving of the principles and provisions in the new Education Bill.

**OAMARU.**

September 4.

At the Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday, John Chalker was convicted of having in his possession a still and other apparatus suitable for distilling purposes, and sentenced to eight months imprisonment. The plant was discovered by the police and the Sub-Collector of Customs in Chalker's house, situated on a farm leased by him at Inch Olmer from the Hon. M. Holmes. Mr O'Meagher defended him, and gave notice of appeal on the ground that the Magistrate sug-

gested and allowed evidence to be adduced to prove Chalker's occupation of the house after Mr Balmer, the prosecuting counsel, had closed his case.

**PARLIAMENTARY.**

[PRESS AGENCY.]

**WELLINGTON.**

August 30.

The debate on Mr Barton's petition was resumed.

Mr Curtis moved an addition to Mr Whitaker's motion to the effect that the House decline to receive the petition, because its allegations were not specific, or such as if proved would justify the House in removing the Judges referred to in it.

Messrs. Fox, Reynolds, and Rees strongly condemned the conduct of the Wellington Bar in presenting an address to the Judges, and also the conduct of the Judges in permitting it.

Messrs. Moorhouse and Travers defended their action in the matter.

Mr Button admitted that he had acted indiscreetly, and without considering his position as a member of the House when taking part in the demonstration.

Mr Gisborne, Sir George Grey, and Mr Montgomery, while agreeing that the petition showed no sufficient grounds for removing the Judges, thought that a dangerous precedent would be established in refusing to receive the petition.

Mr Bowen thought that the motion, if not altogether satisfactory, even as amended, was the best course the House could adopt under its present standing orders.

Mr Stafford supported the motion, as he considered the petition frivolous and vexatious.

The motion, as amended by Mr Curtis, was agreed to on the voices.

The Government promised to consider the question of giving compensation for long service special pay to certain members of the police force, who had lost it when they ceased to be provincial servants.—Mr Pyke accordingly postponed his resolution on the subject.

Mr Travers's motion that pending legislative action, no purchases or negotiations for the purchase of native lands made or entered into since the withdrawal of the Native Lands Bill shall be valid unless sanctioned by a measure introduced in the House, was passed; Major Atkinson stating that the Government were making enquiries, and intended to introduce a Bill for that purpose.

The House then adjourned for dinner.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

August 31.

In the House last night, on the Napier Borough Endowment Bill, the adjourned debate was resumed.

Mr Sutton was absent, and a messenger brought him in.

Mr. Rees said he had received representations from Napier stating the endowment was the property of the Harbor Board, and it was never intended to best the Borough.

Mr. Travers quoted the preamble of the Bill, whereas the endowment was granted to the Superintendent in trust for the improvement of the harbor at Napier, it was not right to transfer it to the Municipality.

Mr. Russell opposed the Bill. He said the endowment was dedicated for the construction and improvement of docks, piers, and quays for the improvement of the trade of the harbor.

Mr. Gisborne considered the transfer would be spoliation. They might soon be transferring private property, as well as trust.

Mr. Ormond said the land was not valuable without reclamation, but as the property was granted to the Harbor Board it would be wrong to transfer it. He said the power to alter trusts was given to the Provincial Councils by the Public Reserves Act.

Mr. Gisborne: This was a transfer, not alteration.

Mr. Montgomery said it was an attempt to give the town what belonged to Hawke's Bay at large.

Mr Sutton replied. The second reading was negatived on the voices.

Mr Sutton then went out, and drowned his sorrows.

Mr Reynolds moved that the second reading of the Medical Practitioners Bill take place that day six months, which was carried on the voices.

The Crown Grants Amendment Bill was read a second time.

In the discussion on the second reading of the New Plymouth Harbor Board Endowment Bill it transpired that Major Atkinson had been nursing Taranaki with Treasury Bills against the distinct vote

of the House last session. The present Bill proposed to borrow £200,000.

Mr. Fitzroy shewed that the ratable value of the whole of the property in New Plymouth was only £5000 per year.

Messrs Travers and Rees showed one clause cunningly concealed in the Bill, the object of which was to allocate twenty-five per cent of the land fund permanently to New Plymouth free of deduction.

The Bill was immediately jumped on from all sides of the House, and it was postponed for a fortnight to give time for a counter-petition.

Major Atkinson looked saturnine, Carrington grief-stricken, and Kelly savage.

Fifteen Auckland and Otago members scored one against Reid and McLean last night on the Dunedin Wharves and Quays Reserves Bill.

Messrs Reid and McLean strongly resisted the second reading.

Messrs. Reynolds and Pyke strongly denounced their action in filing the reserve for the town for the harbor.

On a division the second reading was carried by 15 to 12.

Mr Pyke asked if the Government would consider their position.

Mr Reynolds to the Premier: Ah! you see what all your boasted strength is.

The House adjourned after midnight.

September 1.

The Committee appointed to consider the question of the time for meeting of Parliament report, that an earlier period of meeting could be arranged without detriment to the public service.

The House was mainly occupied all afternoon in discussing the Education Bill.

In the House last night, Mr Lust, in an excellent speech, condemned the Education Bill, especially its centralising tendency. The attempt to create absolute uniformity would emasculate the Bill and reduce everything to official routine.

Dr Wallis made a strong speech against the Bill. He advocated subsidising denominations. Secularists were more afraid of the Bill than the devil was of holy water. In that respect they beat the devil, because even he could quote scripture. Dr Wallis excited great sensation at another stage of his speech, when drawing an allegorical picture of a secular school at the door of which various heathens stood shouting for admission—the Turk with one arm round the waist of Hourai; a Servian red with war. The answer to the Servian would be, "Go hence, you bloody murderer."

Mr Macfarlane quoted an article from the Auckland Star to show that it cost £1,400 to collect £1,000.

Mr De Latour condemned the Bill, especially the religious clause.

Mr Hodgkinson opposed the Bill.

At midnight, Mr Pyke moved the adjournment.

Several times during the discussion, there was the greatest apathy. There was never more than a bare quorum of members present, and twice not that. No one drew attention to the fact.

September 4.

All the afternoon the House has been discussing the Education Bill. Captain Russell, Messrs Pyke, Seymour, Bunny, Montgomery, Gibbs, Mander, and Tole spoke on the merits of the Bill. Captain Russell opposed the reading of the Bible in the schools, looking on it as a farce, and promised to support Mr Curtis' amendment.

In the House last night, Sir G. Grey followed Mr Tole, and generally attacked the Bill as being deficient in the higher classes of education, and shutting out 80,000 Catholics from participation in the system. He dreaded the frightful picture of possible kidnapping under the Charitable Institutions Bill, and said in England, when managers of institutions were permitted to apprentice children at any age, and pay a premium, the children were taken out, and made away with for the sake of the premium. This was what the Government meant to bring this country to. Speaking of the progress of education, he said that, at the beginning of the present century, children ten years of age were executed for an offence for which the law would now only inflict a short imprisonment, and forty persons were executed in England on one day. When the Bill went to the House of Lords to repeal the law which made stealing an article worth 5s from a shop a capital offence, they threw out the Bill by ten of a majority, and amongst the ten were the Archbishop of Canterbury and six Bishops. That showed the progress of public opinion at the present day.

Mr. Fisher supported the Bill.

Mr. Sheehan would vote against the second reading unless the religious clauses were eliminated.

Mr. Fox supported the Bill. Sunday schools would compensate for the absence of religious teaching in schools.

Mr. Bowen replied.

The House divided, and the second reading was carried by 41 to 6.

The following Bills were read a second time without debate:—Census Bill, Friendly Societies Bill, Industrial Bill, and Provident Societies Bill.

The division list on the second reading of the Education Bill was as follows:—

Ayes 41—Messrs Atkinson, Baigent, Bowen, Brandon, J. E. Brown, Bryce, Fox, De Latour, Fisher, Fitzroy, Gibbs (teller), Gisborne, Hamlin, Harper, Henry, Hodgkinson, Hunter, Hursthouse, Lumsden, Macandrew, McLean, Montgomery, Moorhouse, Morris (teller), O'Rorke, Reid, Reynolds, Rolleston, Rowe, Seymour, Shrimski, Stevens, Sutton, Swanson, Tawiti, Travers, Wallis, Wason, Whitaker, and Woolcock.

Noes, 6—Messrs Barff (teller), J. C. Brown, Dignan, Joyce, Tole (teller), and W. Wood.

**Latest Political News.**

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

**WELLINGTON.**

September 3.

George Jones junr, was brought up at the Resident Magistrate's Court this morning *re* libel action. He was represented by Messrs Rees and Hislop, Mr. Izard who appeared for the prosecution asked for an adjournment to Thursday next, not being ready to proceed. The defendant's counsel not objecting, the case has adjourned accordingly.

There is a powerful middle party being formed in the House of which Mr Montgomery will probably be the leader. They met at eleven o'clock to draw up a programme of action. Several Government supporters have promised to join the party. Sir George Grey and Rees have not joined the party, but promise not to obstruct it. They will watch its progress. Two of Mr Staffords tail will join the party.

September 4.

The Opposition caucus was not held yesterday, but came off to-day. Mr. Macandrew will not join the new party, but will act with Sir G. Grey. Yesterday he gave notice of resolution that the next session of Parliament should be held at Christchurch. The Opposition are thus split into two parts. Several of the middle party are much offended at Mr. Macandrew's resolution. In the meantime the Government holds the whip in its hand.

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3.

The Council met at 7.30 p.m.

Present—His Worship the Mayor (in the chair), Councillors Holder, Vautier, Neal, Lyndon, Tuxford, Swan, Williams, and Lee.

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

A petition was presented by Cr. Neal, from the ratepayers of the western end of the town, praying that the Hyderabad-road be repaired.

The Public Works Committee's report was read as follows:—

That no tenders for making of street crossings be accepted, but that information be obtained from Auckland relative to the cost and durability of asphalt crossings, and that Mr. Waterworth, of Napier, having requested permission to make one in the town that permission be granted him to do so between the Masonic Hotel and Messrs. Boylan's corner.

That the tender of Messrs. Cox and Svdford for fencing portion of Section No. 364, for the sum of £10, be accepted.

That the salary of Mr. G. F. Morley, messenger, be raised to £1 per week.

That in the particular instance of Messrs. Mills and Oxenham's contract, it being an annual one, their deposit be returned to them.

That the application of Messrs. Boylan and Co., relative to their footpath, cannot at present be entertained, and that the same reply be forwarded to the manager of the National Bank, with reference to his request as to the footpath in Emerson-street.

That with reference to the Recommendation Report of the engineer the kerbing and channelling of Tennyson-street be proceeded with forthwith.

That tenders be called for forming and metalling the Hyderabad-road in terms of the recommendation of the engineer.

That four lamp-posts be erected in the Milton-road, and one at the junction of the Fitzroy-road with the Roslyn-road.

That the vouchers for expenditure in August, on account of the Borough Fund Account, Waterworks Account, and Swamp Reclamation Account, be passed and ordered to be paid.

The report was adopted.

The Engineer's progress report, and recommendation, were read.

On the motion of Cr. Neal, it was resolved that no works should be undertaken except those recommended by the Public Works Committee, and which might be approved of by the Council.

The attention of the Council was drawn by Cr. Lee to the state of Cameron-road.

In reference to the endowment of the Municipality, a letter was read from the General Crown Lands Office stating that the land selected by the Corporation, not being proclaimed Waste Lands of the Crown, the Government could not grant the application.

After some remarks from his Worship the Mayor, Cr. Swan moved that the Committee, originally appointed to make enquiries respecting lands available for the endowment of the Borough, should proceed to work again, and report to a special meeting of the Council to be held on Monday next.

The motion was seconded by Cr. Tuxford and carried.

A letter was read from Mr. E. W. Knowles, Chairman of the Fire Engine Fund Committee, in which application was made for an annual subsidy for the maintenance of the Fire Brigade of £200. Cr. Williams strongly supported the application, and moved that the sum asked for be granted.

The motion was seconded by Cr. Tuxford.

Crs. Swan, Lee, Vautier, and His Worship the Mayor supported the motion.

Cr. Holder thought the Council should grant £150, leaving to other bodies an opportunity of supplying the Brigade with what it might require for its maintenance. He merely, however, threw this out as a suggestion.

The motion was then put and carried on the voices.

The accounts were passed, and the Council adjourned.

**LICENSING COURT.**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

(Before R. Stuart Esq., Chairman, J. Rhodes Esq., and J. A. Smith Commissioners.)

**ADELPHI HOTEL.**

Mr Sainsbury appeared in support of the application of Mr Levi White for an hotel at the corner of Shakespeare and Coote road to be called the Adelphi Hotel.

Mr Cornford appeared against the application.

Mr Sainsbury in a lengthy speech pointed out the advantages of an hotel in the locality, and shewed that the only opposition came from the Good Templars.

Mr Cornford replied to the arguments of Mr Sainsbury, and pointed out that if the license were granted it would injure the application of Mr Lane for the Shakespeare Hotel.

**SHAKESPEARE HOTEL.**

Mr. Cornford applied on behalf of Mr. Lane for a license for the above hotel, which was formerly kept by Mr. Edwards. He said if the license were refused, the Commissioners would inflict a great hardship on Mr Edwards, who had hitherto kept it, and no complaint had been made against him until he got too entangled to properly attend to it. The house was let for £150 per annum, and this sum was a material part of Mr Edwards' income. If the license were refused, Mr Edwards would be doubly, trebly, quintuply punished. He thought the Court could hardly with reason refuse.

Mr Peddie's application for an hotel at the corner of Hastings and Dicken's-streets was withdrawn.

The Bench then retired for a short time to consider the applications, and on returning to Court the Chairman stated that the Commissioners had decided to refuse Mr. White's application, and grant Mr. Lane's.

**KONINI HOTEL.**

Mr. Cornford appeared in support of an application made by Mr. O'Brien for a license for an hotel. Mr. Cornford, in a lengthy address, pointed out the hardships which would be inflicted on the applicant if it were now refused, after the Bench had virtually granted the license.

Mr. Cotterill opposed on behalf of Mr. Kinross and others on the ground that it was within a few miles of their stations.

**WAVERLEY HOTEL.**

Mr. Cornford, on behalf of Mr. George Bradley, applied for a license for an hotel, situate a mile and a half from Taradale on the new road, and presented petitions from a number of settlers in its favor.

The Bench, after a short consultation, decided to grant both Mr O'Brien's and Mr Bradley's applications.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

We received by the mail per Taranaki, a long letter from Mr Douslin, of Marlborough, defending his Patent Log Dam scheme from the attacks made upon it by Mr Dodson, of Marlborough, a copy of whose letter appeared in the Herald. Mr Douslin also forwards us a copy of the Marlborough Times, of April 21, 1876, which contains a letter from Mr Dodson, expressing a favorable opinion of the invention for the protection of rivers. As the Taradale Board of Conservators have been obliged to place the scheme on one side, and as also in fairness to Mr Dodson, we should feel obliged, if we printed Mr Douslin's letter, to reprint Mr Dodson's last letter to the Marlborough Express, in which he explains the circumstances under which he wrote to the Marlborough Times, we decline to open our columns to the controversy. We should only be filling our columns with a subject in which our readers are not interested.

The second performance of Chilperic drew a larger house than did its previous production, and altogether was a greater success.

Another week has been frittered away by Parliament, the only business done by the House, if it deserves the name of business, being the disposal of two cases of breach of privilege. On the Order Paper for last Tuesday there are thirty-four notices of motion, nineteen Bills entered for second reading, and six for committal, besides a quantity of other work.

The girl Mary Ann M'Namara was captured on Thursday in a house at Meanee by Constable Shaw. After leaving the gaol, the girl appears to have made her way to Taradale, and played hide and seek with those searching for her until Thursday afternoon, when she made her way to Meanee. She is not considered altogether *compos mentis*. She was lodged in her old quarters the same afternoon, and was on Friday brought before the Visiting Justices of the gaol. We believe arrangements are being made to send the girl back to her friends in Ireland, as soon as her present sentence has expired.

The Hon. W. Fox appears to have slated those members of the legal profession in the House, who publicly sympathized with the Judges of the Supreme Court on account of Mr. Barton's petition. Mr. Fox in the early days of the colony, and when he first plodded at the New Zealand bar, got at loggerheads with the then Chief Justice, and at the time expressed a regret there was no popular Assembly in existence to which he could submit his case. It was no doubt reminiscences of the past that induced Mr. Fox in some measure to sympathize with Mr. Barton on Thursday.

The sparkling extravaganza Chilperic was produced on Thursday at the Oddfellows' Hall, on which occasion Miss Lydia Howarde, Miss Jenny Nye, and Miss Solange Navaro had a more than usually arduous task to perform. In the first scene of the last act, the audience had a rare treat, when the piece allowed those three ladies to have the stage to themselves. The scene opened with a charming piece of acting between Miss Jenny Nye and Miss Solange Navaro, which was followed by an exquisite song by the latter lady, which fairly took the house by storm, and had to be repeated. Then came a scene between Miss Lydia Howarde and Miss Nye, with a song from each, both of which were thoroughly enjoyed and heartily applauded.

An amusing anecdote (says the Post) comes from the East Coast, showing the contempt the natives there have for the Magistrate's judgments, and the Queen's authority. It appears that one Ahiwera to Hau was recently sentenced by Mr Campbell to six months imprisonment for breaking into Mr Jones' store at Tokomaru. The sentence was evaded and a warrant issued for his apprehension, was disregarded, the prisoner's brother, Herewini, stating his readiness to undertake the kindly office of shooting any one who offered to take the prisoner. Capt. Porter being at Tokomaru at the time, heard of this, obtained the warrant, and, happening to meet with Mr Ahiwera, told him that he must consider himself his prisoner, shoot or no shoot. Immediate possession was requested and politely granted, one brother, the shootist, being told off to keep the other in custody, which it appears, he did faithfully for four days. When Captain Porter returned to Gisborne he undertook the safe delivery of Ahiwera, and handed him over to the police yesterday. Captain Porter says his prisoner came with him like a lamb; attending to his horse, sleeping unguarded, and otherwise submissive. This episode confirms our belief that while the natives refuse allegiance to a piece of paper, they are generally susceptible to a little reason, backed by the quiet determination of a man like Captain Porter.

At the dinner recently given at the Melbourne Athenaeum to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the introduction of printing into England by William Caxton, a curious oversight occurred. The chairman, Mr. David Blair, proposed the toast of the evening, "The Memory of William Caxton," in a long and eloquent speech, which was enthusiastically received, but, strange to say, on the conclusion of the speech everybody forgot to drink the toast, which remained neither drunk nor acknowledged.

In another column we publish Mr Sutton's speech on the incidence of taxation, by which it will be seen that the member for Napier takes the popular view of the question, and regards it as the one upon which the next elections will turn.

The Auckland correspondent of the Otago Daily Times, writing on the working of the Education Act in that province, remarks:—"The Roman Catholics, as a body, hold aloof from the Government schools. They cannot do so in the country districts, where they are not in sufficient numbers to provide their own. They also send their children to the Grammar School in town, where the education is strictly secular. But in all the centres of population they have schools of their own. Among the most active and earnest of the promoters of these schools is the Rev. Father Paul, who is held in high estimation by all sects, and regarded with affection by those who have the happiness of personally knowing him. Father Paul has set up the Onehunga schools largely by his active collections, but as largely from his own pocket. Lately he bought a disused set of telegraph apparatus from the Government and has fixed it with wires in the school, and in full working order, to instruct the children in telegraphy. On his birthday, last week, the children of all the Roman Catholic schools were assembled to do him honour, and the proceedings were conducted with a degree of taste worthy of note and imitation. Each school had its present—an inkstand, a fern book, or some small trifle—but the most pleasing attention was the last, when many of the children presented a flower or bouquet of flowers with wishes for the health and happiness of their pastor. One of the little ones wished he might live "as long as Methuselah," another that "the angels might take him up to heaven," and so on. The hearty feeling exhibited on no sides showed that it was no mere ceremony, no mere lip service, in which they were engaged, and Father Paul, with his massive head and thoughtful, benevolent face, seemed a proud happy man that day. But "Father Pauls" are scarce in all churches. If they were not, we should hear little of fights about denominational or secular education. People would be only too happy to leave the education of the people to their clerical pastors. But in the nature of things that cannot be, and the State, for its own safety, must do that which would otherwise be very ill done or not done at all.

The sum R. W. Ind Carver was adjudged to pay altogether in the affiliation case of Pitt v Carver was £30. This sum was subscribed for him by the Masterton people, and the matter is now finally settled.

We (Wairoa Free Press) regret to hear that yet another family is leaving our sufficiently small settlement for Napier. We are informed that both Mr Atward and Mrs Taylor desire to have a higher class of education imparted to their children than that afforded by the local school. Until very recently we fancied that local requirements were amply fulfilled by the Wairoa school, but when we find two of the largest families taking their departure on that account our belief received a rude awakening. Several gentlemen have expressed their opinions to us that a competent certificated master is required, and we believe it was intended to represent this to the Inspector of Schools when he came; in the meantime, however, this exodus means a loss of so much money to the district, and a falling off of so many children to the school. To prevent any further loss we fancy the Board of Education should take this matter into consideration; from the number of children in the district there should be funds enough forthcoming for the support of a good master.

Parliament (remarks the Wellington Post) somehow always makes a mess of it when it gets hold of an unhappy printer charged with breach of privilege. The last previous instance of one being so brought up was that of Mr. Thomas M'Kenzie, of the Independent, some ten years ago. A sleepy reporter wrote a stupid paragraph at two o'clock in the morning about the hon. member for Caversham, Mr. A. J. Burns, unduly occupying the time of the House. Mr. Burns made a dreadful row about the matter next day—being an inexperienced and indeed not over-wise member. So poor Mr. M'Kenzie was duly brought up for "breach of privilege." Somebody, however, wrote a curious sort of apology for him, which Mr. M'Kenzie duly read at the bar of the House. The House thereupon, being eager to be done with the absurd farce, accepted the apology and discharged the trembling culprit. The best of the joke was that the so-called apology simply amounted to an expression of regret that the House could not understand the meaning of the peccant paragraph.

Miss Alice May has been making a triumphant tour through the large towns of Scotland. In the Grand Duchess she was warmly welcomed at Edinburgh, "and gave a brilliantly effective performance of this celebrated role; her piquant acting and delightful singing being received with most enthusiastic demonstrations of approval." The same critic has a word of commendation for Mr. Allen. "The operas," says he, "have been handsomely mounted, an augmented band under the skillful baton of Mr. G. B. Allen doing every justice to the music." From Edinburgh the Company went to Glasgow, where by latest advices they were equally successful.

Speaking of neglected industries in this colony, Captain Campbell Walker, Conservator of State Forests, says:—"Although thousands of acres of forest land are cleared annually in this colony, it does not appear that any attempt has been made to utilise the ashes of the burnt timber for the manufacture of potash—an important article of commerce constantly in demand, and requiring scarcely any expenditure in its manufacture beyond the labor required in burning the timber, saturating the ashes with water, and watching the final evaporation. The utilisation of the waste tops, branches, leaves, and stumps of trees for conversion into potash, while proving a source of profit, would at once greatly reduce the risk of fire in standing forest—one of our greatest dangers under the present want of system. The waste tops and roots of New Zealand pines might also be utilised in the manufacture of tar and pitch, which are imported at present to a considerable amount. Under suitable arrangements the manufacture of charcoal and extraction of tar could be carried on conjointly. Valuable oils could be extracted from several forest trees, notably from the different species of rata, which are found in all New Zealand forests to a greater or lesser extent."

An amusing battle is going on in Melbourne between the Georgia Minstrels who recently passed through New Zealand, and Corby's Minstrel band who have been located in the Victorian capital for some months past. They each advertise themselves as the only original Georgians, and appear to thoroughly perplex the Melbourneites as to the genuineness of either company. Mr De Lias' troupe stole a march on the others by publishing a long and not unreadable account of their origin and progress, sufficiently interesting to make the public flock to their opening performance. It is a question whether, with the novelty thoroughly worn off, and the bad reputation as minstrels acquired by their antagonists, the speculation will be quite as remunerative for the New Zealand impresario as it has been hitherto.

We have learnt from a contemporary that a curious little *fracas* occurred at a certain Wellington auction room last Saturday afternoon. A gentleman distantly connected with the Civil Service, and a lady remotely interested in hotelkeeping, were standing side by side in the crowd. The former, being obviously in a cheerful frame of mind, amused himself by jostling his fair neighbor, occasionally giving her a good hard shove. The lady, not unaturally, resented these proceedings, and, after several ineffectual remonstrances, "went for" her persecutor, and first giving him a couple of resounding boxes on the ear, followed them up with a vigorous thrashing, administered with a gigantic umbrella of the Sairey Gamp pattern. The bystanders suggested that the combatants should "come outside and have it out," but at length a separation was effected and peace once more reigned in that auction room.

Under the alarming heading of "Bad news for old maids," the Southland News reports:—"Mr John Hare advertises for 500 cats. The boys are bound to have them, for shillings are scarce just now, but those who lose "the finest tom" or the "loveliest tabby" will have the consolation of knowing that their destination is not the "rabbit pie," but an up-country station, where they are to be turned out with a view of keeping the real rabbit in check."

At a meeting of ladies on Friday afternoon, in the Supreme Court chamber, it was resolved to form a Ladies Benevolent Society, for the relief of the sick and the poor. Mrs. Stuart was elected President, Mrs. Brandon, Treasurer, and Mrs. Spencer, Secretary. A committee of sixteen ladies was also appointed. It was further resolved that the annual subscription of members should be one guinea. The Ladies Benevolent Society will be an invaluable aid to the charitable institutions of this town.

It is stated, on what we believe to be good authority, that Sergeant-Major Baker of the A.C., who was formerly stationed in Napier, has been offered the appointment of Police Sergeant at Napier, and that he is likely to accept the post.

We need hardly inform our readers that the war news, which appeared in the Wellington Argus purporting to be telegraphed from its London correspondent, never found its way across the New Zealand-Australian cable, but was concocted not far from the Argus office. How the writer will chuckle when he reads how he has sold the Herald's Wellington simple "special."

In another column we publish, for the edification of admirers of the Maine Liquor Law, a few statistics relating to the City of Portland. These statistics do not in the least bear out Mr. Harding's observations when visiting that city.

By the overland mail we received on Friday, from Wellington, a voluminous document, extending over seventy-six pages of printed matter, on the Native Land Purchases in Poverty Bay. It contains the whole of the evidence given before the Commission appointed to enquire into the allegations made by Mr. J. A. Wilson, formerly Land Purchase Officer on the East Coast, and the report of the Commissioner thereon. Also, Mr. Wilson's letter in defence, and Secretary Giles' comments on the letter.

The charge-sheet in the Resident Magistrate's Court on Saturday was blank.

In reply to the query put to us last week by our correspondent "X.Y.Z.," we publish the following two clauses of the Cattle Tresspass Act:—"In case of cattle trespass where the ownership is known, the landowner may either detain the cattle on his own premises, giving them proper food and water, or impound them in the nearest pound, if any, within 20 miles from the place of trespass; provided that, if he detain the same on his own premises, he shall forthwith give notice to the owner or release them upon payment of damages and expenses, subject as to any disputed charges to the decision of two Justices of the Peace: provided always, that if cattle so detained shall not be released within three days after such notice, they shall be transmitted to the nearest pound. The owner of cattle detained or impounded under this Act shall be liable to pay to the landowner the damages specified in Schedule A, together with such special damages, costs, and expenses as the landowner may claim, subject, nevertheless, as to such claims, to an appeal to two Justices of the Peace."

It will be seen by advertisement that the application made by Mr Thomas Peddie, the late popular boniface of the Taradale Hotel, for a license for a handsome and commodious hotel, which he contemplated erecting at the corner of Hastings and Dickens-street, has been withdrawn by him, owing to the shape of the land under offer being unsuitable for the purpose. Mr Peddie has had two sets of plans drawn, and had everything gone smoothly, and the last plan chosen, the hotel when built would have been a handsome addition to our hotel edifices.

We have been shown the plans and front elevation of the building erected as an hotel at Konini, for which Mr O'Brien has applied for a license, and which will be considered by the Licensing Commissioners on Tuesday next. The building contains thirteen rooms besides the bar-room, and has every convenience for travellers, who will be its chief supporters, it being situated on the road to Patea, where considerable traffic has lately sprung up with Napier. The want of such an hotel has for some time been keenly felt by those whom business or pleasure takes them by that route, and should the Commissioners decide to give Mr O'Brien the license asked for, we may be sure that he will do his utmost to make his visitors comfortable.

Late telegrams state that the Roumanian army has crossed the Danube, and is now to assist the Russians at Plevna. With reference to the Roumanians, the Argus correspondent at the seat of war writes:—"The Turkish Darmbrai flotilla, of which so much was expected, has till now been a conspicuous failure, and it is probable that its exploits will be of a circumscribed description. The gun-boats of the Turks are paralysed by the torpedoes of the Russians. Already one Turkish corvette and two gun boats have been exploded, the former by a Russian shell, the latter by Russian torpedoes. The river now swarms with Russian steam launches, which are used as torpedo boats, and in mortal terror of these the Turkish gun-boats harbor at their moorings close under the guns of the batteries. The Roumanians are very anxious to take a hand in the game—at least, the Roumanian Court party is, at the instigation of Prince Charles, who is a Hokencher, and therefore a fighting man, but he is a poor soldier. The Russians have no confidence in his army, although he has some 50,000 men in the field, whose appearance and equipment are creditable enough. The Russians are restricting themselves to that part of the Danubian front which is to the east of Aluta River, whether in virtue of a compact with the Roumanians, or a part of the price which Austria exacts for her complaisance, is not quite apparent."

It will be seen by advertisement that a splendid opportunity is offered to those who intend going to the fancy dress ball of providing themselves with costumes. Miss Lydia Howarde announces that she has a large wardrobe from which selections can be made.

The Parliamentary correspondent of the Taranaki News, who has always been a strong supporter to the Government writes:—"There are a great many who are sick and tired of following the present Government and are disgusted at their helplessness and want of ability—for there is not a man among them who can come out of a debate any way respectably—but they prefer following them than join Sir G. Grey, Mr Rees, and Co., who by their own indiscretions have rendered themselves odious. If I were to offer an opinion, it would be that Sir G. Grey, Mr Rees, and Co. are the only men who are keeping the Ministry in office. The confidence of the House is very much shaken in the present Ministry. They lack tact, discretion, and ability, and they try to make up for these deficiencies by hard work and a submissiveness to the wishes of the majority. In this respect it is only the contempt in which many members hold the Opposition for their obtrusiveness and obnoxious ways which make them stick to the Government."

Mr. Gush, schoolmaster, declares his inability to pay his creditors, and therefore invites them to a meeting on Monday, at 2 p.m., in the Supreme Court-house.

Never since the days when the Provincial Council used to hold its meetings in the Government Buildings has the Council-room seen so many "strangers in the Gallery" as were present during the discussion in the Municipal Council on Monday on the vote to grant a subsidy of £200 per annum to the maintenance fund of the Fire Brigade. The listeners were more than strangers, however, they had a deep interest in the result of the vote, being, with few exceptions, all members of the Fire Brigade, and more, the majority were free and enlightened bourgeois of the city of Napier. Although they made no show of intimidation to the Council; they heartily cheered Councillors Lee, Williams, Tafford, Vautier, and His Worship the Mayor, who all strongly supported the passing of the vote immediately, and passed eulogiums on the members of the Brigade. Councillors Swan and Holder expressed themselves in favor of voting £150, believing that the Insurance Companies, who derived such a large revenue from the bourgeois, should contribute their quota of the expense for the support of the Brigade. Councillor Vautier, however, explained that the sum of £200 was only asked for the maintenance fund, and that a request would be made to the Insurance Companies for further assistance. The explanation appeared satisfactory to Councillor Swan, who then voted for the resolution, which was carried amidst loud cheers from the Stranger's Gallery.

On Monday afternoon, the captain of the steamer Sir Donald returned from Havelock, where he recognised the body of the man found on the beach near Waimarama as John Field, the late mate of the Sir Donald. The body was afterwards brought into town, and a coroner's inquest was held on Tuesday at the Exchange Hotel, when a verdict of "accidentally drowned" was returned.

A special meeting of the Municipal Council was held on Monday, at 7 o'clock in the Council Chamber. The Mayor, proposed that the By-Laws, advertised in the DAILY TELEGRAPH, be confirmed, and forwarded to the Governor for his approval, and that they be brought into operation on the 1st of November next. This was agreed to, and the special meeting then adjourned.

Practical jokers who find amusement in the removal, or destruction of other people's property, may, perhaps, not be aware of the very serious risk they run of spending a few months in goal, should they be detected in carrying out their peculiar ideas of fun. On Monday, the entrance gate to Mr Holder's garden was taken off its hinges, carried up the road, and thrown into the gully. It is almost a pity that persons so evidently in want of employment as those practical jokers must have been, should not have the opportunity of doing a little prison labor for the good of the community at large.

Mr Travers (says the Argus) does not believe in treating everybody alike. No man probably is less temperate in speech, less careful of accuracy in statement, or more inclined to be spiteful in action, than Mr Travers, yet no member of the House last night was so bitter against George Jones. His speech, even more in its expression than its words, would have done no discredit to Jeffries or any other past or present lawyer, who may have taken up the self-comforting doctrine that law in unscrupulous hands is an excellent engine of oppression, and should be applied in that particular direction. Mr Travers does not like newspapers, but he should not show his hand so openly. Mr Stout very effectually disposed of his statements last night, and Mr Travers, we should think, must have felt rather small after his well-merited castigation.

A Waipawa correspondent writes:—"There is very little news here at present. Some amusement was caused the other day by a Scandanavian who was seen to come out of a blacksmith's shop, with a bundle under one of his arms. He was supposed to be an itinerant pedlar. He made his way to the railway station, but on the road exposed his stock-in-trade to some of our settlers, one of whom purchased from him a pair of trousers. He then went further on, and sold at the railway station a macintosh, and at an hotel other goods. You may be sure he sold cheap, when I tell you that the articles were all previously stolen by him out of the blacksmith's residence. The last heard of the pedlar was at Kaikora, where he was disposing of a blanket. The police know the fellow, and are following in his track. It will therefore not be long before he takes up his residence in the lock-up. The blacksmith from whom the goods are stolen is not lost in admiration at the thief's impudence. In the Court of Petty Sessions held here the other day, Mr Poyzer the landlord of the Sawyer's Arms was summoned for using insulting and abusive language to Mr Tye our local auctioneer. Colonel Herrick and Mr Harding occupied the Bench. Mr Poyzer expressed regret at his conduct, but was nevertheless fined £5, each party having to pay his own costs. The same person was also summoned by Mr Tye for not paying for the valuation of his stock-in-trade. Poyzer disputed the claim on the ground that the charges were more than agreed upon. It was arranged that the dispute should be referred to Mr E. Lyndon for arbitration. Several cases were heard, of no interest, and others were settled out of Court.

Mr A. Peters entered into possession of the Clarendon Hotel on Saturday.

The Education reserve, at the corner of Raffles and Hastings streets, was offered for lease on Tuesday by Mr J. Turley. The bidding not reaching the upset price, the section was withdrawn.

Last week we published a paragraph from the Wairoa Free Press, in which it was stated that Mr. Atward and Mr. Taylor were both leaving the Wairoa district to settle in Napier, because they were unable to get their children properly educated in the district. Mrs. Taylor in a letter to the Press on Saturday, denies this statement, and remarks:—"I am perfectly satisfied with the progress my children have made while attending the Wairoa school, and think that both Mr. and Mrs. Gossell deserve a great deal of credit for the energy and perseverance they have shown."

From information received, Constable Mitchel, proceeded last week to Waimarama, and on the beach at Morokoti, distant about eight miles from Mr. Meinertzhagen's homestead, he found, lying between the rocks, the body of a man which was much decomposed. The man appeared to have been about thirty years of age, and in height 5 ft. 8 in., broad shouldered. The skull was bare, and the lower jaw detached. The corpse is supposed to be that of the mate of the Sir Donald, who it will be remembered was drowned off Waimarama, when attempting to land grass seed about six months ago. The constable brought the body to Havelock on Sunday on a pack horse, and lodged it at the Havelock Hotel. The master of the Sir Donald left town for Havelock on Monday, to see whether he could identify the body.

The Education Board met on Monday at 11 o'clock. Present: Messrs Rhodes (Chairman), Newton, Chambers, and Lee. A letter was read from the Inspector of Schools asking that a sum of money be granted for the purchase of school prizes. The Board voted £50 for that object. A circular was received from the Government directing the mode of sending in vouchers, and also directing that no further money be expended on school buildings (under new engagements), except for necessary repairs, without reference to the Government. An account was passed for the payment of the Crown Grant fees, the Government having declined to forgo the fees for grants and registration. The Inspector's salary and travelling expenses and the Secretary's salary were passed, and the Board then adjourned till the first Monday in October.

It will be seen by our report of the Harbor Board meeting, that Mr. Vautier has given notice of motion to recommend the stoppage of the harbor works. This motion will be discussed at a special meeting to be held next Tuesday.

In the Resident Magistrate's Court on Monday, a man named McLean, who has been engaged for some time on Mr Tanner's station, was brought before His Worship charged with larceny. After hearing a statement from Mr. Brathwaite, respecting the eccentricities of the man, and other evidence. His Worship remanded the man until Thursday next, and during the interim to be subjected to a medical examination. John Morpy, was charged, on the information of Constable Motley, with provoking a breach of the peace, and creating a disturbance on Saturday evening last. Constable Motley informed the Court that Morpy was in an excited state in Hastings-street on Saturday night, and owing to his conduct he arrested him. An attempt was made to rescue him by some of his friends, but the constable, after considerable difficulty and with the aid of another peace officer, succeeded in landing him in the lock-up. His Worship bound Morpy over to keep the peace to all Her Majesty's subjects for six months, himself in the sum of £10, and two sureties of £5 each. This was all the business.

An interesting discussion took place on Monday in the Municipal Council on the matter of the land asked for by the Corporation as a reserve, and which Under-Secretary Giles has informed the Council is not yet vested in the Waste Lands Board. Councillor Swan suggested immediate action, and proposed a resolution to the effect that the Committee who made the last selection should again make a recommendation, and a special meeting of the Council should be held on Monday next to consider it. His Worship looked upon the Council as composed of "dead men," and at first suggested that the matter should be left to their successors. Councillor Lyndon (whose views on the management of the Waste Lands Office has recently undergone a change) pool poohed the idea of being able to get any satisfactory information at the Crown Lands Office. The officials, he said, "knew no more what land was open for selection than the man in the moon." If the Committee asked for information they would be shown the wilds of the Ruahine ranges. The motion was carried, Councillor Swan believing that this special meeting would be the last before their successors took office, they could all join in the dying Swan's mournful melody.

We regret to report the total destruction by fire, on Sunday night, of Mr F. W. C. Sturm's hot-house, at that gentleman's nursery, West Clive. The hot-house at the time was full of valuable plants, the whole of which was of course destroyed. Mr Sturm estimates his loss at £400.

On Saturday evening, the Lydia Howards troupe gave a performance of a varied character that brought out the special talents of each individual member of the company. The entertainment was a decided success.

The bar has not improved the last two days. On Tuesday at the eastward outlet, there were seven feet six inches as against nine feet on Monday. On Wednesday the shingle on the eastward end is forming a very large bank, and extending towards the centre. At the westward channel on Tuesday eight feet nine inches was the depth of water. The shingle that is being deposited near the eastward Harbor works appears to come from that part of the beach opposite the mill. On Tuesday one of the groins that was laid down some two years ago was entirely buried in shingle. On Wednesday it was high and dry three feet high and yet its actual position had not been altered.

News reached town on Wednesday of the sudden death of the unfortunate man George Sinclair, who has so often appeared before the Magistrates on charges of vagrancy. From what we learn, Sinclair arrived in an inebriated state at the West Clive Hotel last night, and slept in the kitchen of the hotel, on Wednesday he was told to try and look for work, but refused. He sat down to the breakfast table, and while eating he was noticed to get black in the face. He was assisted out in the yard, where he died. Sinclair was a painter by trade, and was considered a first-class hand. He was a well-educated man, but his unfortunate drinking habits, which have now brought him to an untimely end, prevented him from attaining such a position as he otherwise might have done. A *post mortem* examination of the body has been ordered, after which an inquest was held.

We clip the following from the New Zealand Herald of the 27th ultimo:—"A very valuable acquisition to the New Zealand thorough-bred stud horses has been made in the importation of a fine-looking black horse, named Javelin, for Mr. M'Lean, of Hawke's Bay. The horse was landed from the s.s. Hero in excellent condition, and during Saturday he was generally admired by numerous visitors to Somerville's stables, Queen-street, where he was accommodated with a loose box until opportunity offers for sending him to Napier. Javelin is a fine dark brown—almost black—horse by Yattendon, out of Lilla. The latter was a brown mare bred by Mr. Lee, at Woodlands, Bathurst. She was got by New Chum out of Eva, by Young Marquis out of the imported mare Loss. Javelin was foaled in 1868, and is consequently nearly 10 years of age. He competed in many races in New South Wales, but with inconsiderable success, for he was invariably placed in warm company. Javelin with 9st. 10 lbs. ran fourth for the Tattersall Club Cup of £500 in January, 1876. The race was won by Viva, by Yattendon, with 7st. 4lbs.; the Duke ran second with 6st. 2lbs., and Wrangler, another Yattendon colt, ran third. He won the Australian Jockey Club Derby in 1871, in 2 minutes 47 seconds, when six started, and this appears to have been the only race of any consequence which he carried off notwithstanding his pedigree." This fine horse will arrive this evening in the Southern Cross, and taken to the stables of Mr C. Palmer, where he will no doubt attract a number of visitors.

The "Winter Reading," on Tuesday at the Athenaeum, attracted a crowded audience. The programme, which was an unusually good one, was admirably carried out by the ladies and gentlemen who kindly assisted to make the entertainment a success.

According to advertisement, a meeting of the Union Rowing Club was held on Tuesday at the Provincial Hotel. The meeting was largely attended. Mr. S. E. Cooper was voted to the chair. The following officers for the ensuing year were elected:—President, R. D. Maney, Esq.; Vice-President, Ben Johnson, Esq. Port Ahuriri; Captain, Mr John North; Secretary and Treasurer, Ben B. Johnson; auditors, Messrs S. E. Cooper and E. Ashton; the old committee was re-elected. The question of the amalgamation with the Ahuriri Club was then discussed: It was eventually resolved to leave the matter open. Several new members were proposed, and we are glad to learn that the Club is in a most flourishing condition.

Mr John Garner, one of the oldest Wanganui residents, died on Thursday, at the advanced age of 78.

The Seldene Opera Company are playing to capital houses in Auckland. It is spoken of as the best Opera Company that has yet appeared in New Zealand.

A correspondent writing to a Southern Journal respecting the Lake Taupo district, says:—"The attractions of the lake districts of New Zealand to the tourist, whether hailing from the colonies, India, or Europe, are (it is asserted by all tourists themselves) unequalled anywhere in the world, and the attention of hotel-keepers with capital is accordingly being turned in this direction. Taupo, from its central position in the lake country, its clear, bracing climate, its wide moorlands one day to team with game, its great inland sea, and curative thermal springs offer, perhaps, the best site for a complete sanatorium, combined with a first-class hotel, and no doubt this will be taken advantage of as the colony grows in wealth and population."

In the passenger list of the Ringarooma, which arrived at Wellington last Thursday, we notice the name of Mr R. S. Smythe, described by the American Press as "the most travelled manager in the world." Mr Smythe, who accompanied the Rev Charles Clark to the Centennial and through the United States and Canada, has returned to the colonies to arrange another tour for the eminent lecturer. It was in New Zealand about three years ago that Mr Clark commenced that brilliant platform career which induced him to abstain from pulpit ministrations, except in aid of some charitable object; and during the interval, in Australia, America, and England, according to the Christian World, his reception has been equally enthusiastic with that accorded to him in this country. Since he was last here, Mr Clark has made several additions to his list of entertainments which now include lectures on the Tower of London, Charles Dickens (two lectures), Oliver Goldsmith, Christians in Old England, Thackeray, Oliver Cromwell, Westminster Abbey, the Marrie Monarch, and Macaulay. The last five lectures have never before been delivered in New Zealand. Mr Clark is expected at Auckland by the next Californian mail steamer, so that he may be looked for in Napier in about a month.

Previous to Mr Emmett leaving Sydney, he gave Mr Hagar, the lessee of the Sydney Prince of Wales Theatre, a benefit in consideration of the kindness shown to him by that gentleman when in Wellington.

There was only one unimportant civil case called on Wednesday in the Resident Magistrate's Court, in which some natives were interested.

We understand that the Postal authorities have decided to open a receiving office at Mr M'Aneny's shop on the White Road. This will be a great boon to the residents in that portion of the town.

We learn that Sergeant-Major Baker of the Armed Constabulary, has not accepted the position of Sergeant in the Napier police, and that Sergeant Robinson's successor will shortly arrive from Wellington.

Mr G. Bradley, who obtained on Tuesday a license for an hotel on the road between Taranaki and Napier, to be called the Waverley Hotel, purposes laying out about five acres of the land in gardens similar, if not superior, to those on the North Shore of Auckland, and which are such a great attraction to Sunday visitors. The gardens when opened will be within an easy distance from Napier, and will doubtless be well patronised.

There has been a great agitation at Taranaki about the proposed harbor works. Two sets of plans are before the public, one submitted by the late Mr Balfour, and the other by Mr Carruthers. A public meeting was held last week, to consider the action of the Harbor Board in deciding on Carruthers' plan in preference to those of the late Mr Balfour. The conveners of the meeting were however sold, as the meeting upheld the decision of the Board, instead of protesting against it. The meeting was a stormy one, as only those holding the popular view of the subject, in getting the money raised spent as quickly as possible, could get a hearing. Archdeacon Govett, and several other respectable persons were all hissed down. From late Parliamentary telegrams, it would however appear that Mr Kelly and his clique will not be permitted to have it all their own way.

The many friends made by Mademoiselle Jenny Claus during her tour through Australia and New Zealand will be glad to learn that the admirable young and charming violinist was married in Paris, on the 5th June, to Monsieur Charles Pernet, Chancellor de Legation.

The Rev. Dr Somerville, the Presbyterian revivalist, appears to be growing very popular in Victoria, where he is at present working. At one meeting (a special service for females), recently held in Melbourne, 2,400 women were present, and many were unable to obtain admission. Dr Somerville will, in all probability, shortly visit New Zealand.

A Maori named Wiremu Puna called a meeting of his creditors together at Wanganui last week. His debts amounted to £700, and his assets to £1500, which however, were considered to be worthless. The creditors believed Wiremu would shortly be able to pay, and suggested that other proceedings be instituted to make him pay up in full.

Cr. Lyndon, on Monday, prior to the passing of the monthly vouchers, asked for information as to one item of £5 7s for repairing a waggonette. His Worship explained that this item had to be paid through the neglect of some of the Municipal officials in not placing a lamp where a heap of stones had been placed, and the driver of the waggonette had driven "squash" into the heap, thereby injuring his vehicle. The Public Works Committee had thought it better to pay for the damage done than defend an action at law. The Committee, we think, might further have suggested that the amount should be stopped from the pay of the negligent official, which would have served as a warning to the man and other careless officials in future.

Some fine sheep have lately been boiled down at Mr. R. P. Williams' establishment, West Clive, the heaviest of which came from Mr. Tanner's station, Heretaunga. Some Lincoln wethers weighed, after dressing, without inside fat, 190 lbs. each, and ewes of the same breed from 120 lbs. to 170lbs.

Another case of sudden death occurred on Thursday. A young woman named Sarah Anderson was found dead in her bed at six o'clock. She was residing with a Mrs Doherty in the White Road. The deceased was in the Napier Hospital about two months ago, and since she came out has been in a very weak condition. She came to Hawke's Bay as an emigrant from England in the Helen Denny two years ago, and was about 18 years of age. She was weak, helpless, and almost friendless, and had it not been for the temporary home provided her by Mrs Doherty, she might have been left to die in her streets. If we are to credit general rumor, there is a sad tale to be told in connection with this poor unfortunate girl.

The total Customs revenue, collected at Port Ahuriri during the month of August, was £2824 19s 7d, as against £3365 19s 6d for the corresponding month last year.

Although the weather was very unfavorable, there was a crowded house on Wednesday at the benefit of Miss J. Nye. The performance began with the love scene, out of the Hunchback, between Modus and his "fair cousin Helen," which was enacted by Mr Swan and Miss Jenny Nye, and it was a most enjoyable piece of acting. A comic song by Mr Margetts next succeeded in calling forth the applause of the audience. Then followed the extravaganza of "Once Upon a Time there were Two Kings," the principal characters which were cast as follows—Queen Dominata, Miss Lydia Howarde; Princess Capillona, Mdlle Solango Navaro; Corin, Miss Jenny Nye; the King, Mr Britten; Brutus, Mr Bell; Perfidius, Mr Poole. The piece was capably put upon the stage, and was acted throughout in a most spirited manner. The songs, duets, and choruses, that were introduced, were charmingly sung, and many of them had to be repeated. Altogether, Wednesday's entertainment was the best and most successful of any that has been given by the Lydie Howarde troupe during their present visit.

Finishing up a narrative of his adventures in a Hawke's Bay "hotel," Mr Fox said "As for the fleas, I could have swept them up with a broom." We don't strain at a gnat, William—but we can't swallow so many fleas. Could you not reduce them by half-a-dozen.—Post.

We learn that the man George Sinclair, who died suddenly at Clive on Wednesday had money to his credit in one of the banks in Napier sent out by his relatives.

The man M'Lean, who is charged with lunacy, was brought before the Magistrate's Court on Thursday, and a further remand was granted. There was no other business.

The Waste Lands Board met on Wednesday. In reference to the section of land at Makaretu, occupied by Karl Johansen, but which when owned by Fredk. Nyobriksen was forfeited, owing to non-payment of the second instalment of the purchase money, the Board decided to ask Mr Friberg to enquire into the matter, with a view of preventing any hardship to Mr Johansen. With respect to the application of Mr Treacott for the occupation of certain land on the banks of the Tuki-Tuki river, the Board decided to put the lease of the land in question to auction. The Board agreed to recommend the reservation of five acres of land at Ormondville for a burying ground, and as a site for a school. After some further business of no public interest had been transacted, the Board adjourned.

Mr. John M'Vay has written to the Secretary of the Hawke's Bay Agricultural Society, offering as a special prize for the best back shown at the next Show a hog skin saddle manufactured at his own establishment. Last year, it will be remembered, Mr. M'Vay also gave a valuable special prize, and we hope his example will be again followed by other tradesmen in Napier.

An exchange states that the once celebrated Alex. O'Brien, better known as Gutta Percha India Rubber Salamander Sam, died the other day of *delirium tremens*. Alas! another victim.

Mr Bunny has presented a petition to the House of Representatives from Dr Biller praying that a sum of £500 be awarded him as compensation for his past services in connection with the purchase of the Rangitiki-Manawatu Block.

A bolt occurred at an early hour on Thursday. Mr M'Cormick drove his landau and two horses up to St. Joseph's Presbytery for the purpose of taking his Lordship Bishop Redwood to the railway station. While putting the Bishop's luggage into the vehicle, the horses took a bolt down the hill, passed through the Shakespeare Road, Hastings-street, and the White Road. In their career, they broke a telegraph pole, and injured the verandah of Mr. Pocock. The landau was also much injured. Owing to the accident, Bishop Redwood was unable to reach the station in time to catch the train. This will be a great disappointment to the Catholics resident in the southern portion of the district, many having travelled several miles to be present at the Waipawa Chapel to attend the special services.

Our Porangahau correspondent writes:—"The weather during the past fortnight has been very cold here. Preparations are being made for the shearing season. I have very little news to forward you, but all here wish you would stir up the Waipawa County Council to look after our roads, which are in anything but good condition. Constable Robinson arrived on Tuesday. There is no accommodation here for a policeman, no house, no lock-up, nor has he even a horse allowed him, but will have to travel when on duty in this widely scattered district on 'Shank's Pony.' He is now obliged to take up his quarters with his wife in the hotel. This is certainly a disgraceful state of affairs, and ought to be remedied at once." [We learn that arrangements are being made to have a Court House and lock-up erected at Porangahau, and that the buildings are shortly to be commenced.—Ed. D. T.]

Owing to the smallness of the attendance at the annual general meeting of the Musical Society on Wednesday, the formal business alone was gone through, and the meeting was adjourned till Monday evening next.

We regret to learn that, in consequence of the continued indisposition of Captain Edwin, now having lasted one month, the advices as to storm warnings and other reports have been neglected, as no assistance is allowed by the Government. The absence of such information as Captain Edwin invariably gives is much felt by the coasting captains. We shall refer to the subject again.

The Wellington Post says:—No more genuine roar of laughter has this session made the walls of the House resound again than that raised last night by Mr Fox, at the expense of the hon member for Wakatipu. Mr. Manders objects to females having the right to vote under the Local Option Bill, and upon that peg Mr. Fox hung a tale. A certain Welsh minister—a clever fellow, and with a good deal of dry humor in his composition—was once discoursing of Heaven. "There is no marriage, nor giving in marriage, in Heaven," said the preacher. "Amen," fervently responded an old man below the pulpit. Pushing his spectacles a little higher on his nose, the good minister regarded the old man with pitying eye, as he said "Ah, John, you've had enough of it." Mr. Manders sat with folded arms, his hat pressed over his manly brow, contemptuously examining the tale to find out where the joke was. He was the only man in the House who couldn't find it. "The hon member for Wakatipu seems afraid of the grey mare," continued Mr. Fox. Those unfeeling legislators laughed again. It was about this time that Mr. Manders found the debate wearisome, and left the house.

As we have heard so much lately about the Shipka Pass, it may not be uninteresting to give a few details about this now celebrated spot in the present struggle. Shipka Pass is the mountain road from Tirnova. It is one of the most practicable of the Balkan passes, a road having been made through in 1836. Naturally the Pass is not difficult or steep, and it was considered one which the Russians in their march southwards might force most easily. Colonel Baker crossed the Balkans by the Shipka Pass, and describes it as accessible from the north by several routes leading up the spurs, so that an army occupying one spur could easily be turned by an enemy passing up another. "Arrived at the watershed (about 4,000 feet above the sea) the descent begins to the south, and continues down a moderately steep incline on pasture and rock for about two miles along a southern spur. It then comes to brushwood, and commences a steep descent down a zigzag path for another two miles, until, it arrives at Tokke, at the foot of the mountains, and on the verge of the plain. From the top ridge there are several paths, which make their way down other spurs to other parts of the plain. The nature of the soil is that of loose stones mixed with earthy gravel, and it could with ease be formed into a road passable by artillery."

A love romance has been enacted in a Dunedin labor office. A tall and somewhat good-looking young lady, dressed in weeds, registered herself for a house-keeper's situation. She was in the interesting position of a young widow with an only child, and the register was not long in finding her a suitable place, in which it was suggested she might possibly find a suitable husband. "Ah no!" was the soft but sad reply; "it is too difficult to forget the past," and something resembling a tear to the memory of the departed stole down the cheek of the fair one. She left, but not long afterwards returned to express her regret that she could not accept the new situation, as she had accepted the hand of her former employer instead. He was a widower, in comfortable circumstances, with two children. She was a widow, with one, and when she went to give him notice he hesitated, scratched his head, and finally proposed to amalgamate the families. Everything was arranged, the housekeeper consented to become a wife once more, and the happy bridegroom has affected a saving of £50 a year in wages.

Advices from the West Coast of Africa state that the King of Dahomey had ordered his headman at Whydah to be beheaded, because it was he who flogged and insulted Mr Turabull, and because this was the cause of the fine being inflicted and the port being blockaded.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

DIRECT TELEGRAM FROM EUROPE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON.

Tuesday Night.

Suliman Pasha has met with a defeat. After receiving reinforcements, he engaged the Russian army stationed fronting Plevna on the Gabrova road. His object was to prevent the Russians in the Shipka Pass being reinforced, or further provisions being thrown in. His success would have destroyed the Russian line of communication. Twenty thousand men, it is estimated, were engaged on both sides.

The Turks were repulsed after desperate fighting, and left 2,000 men dead on the field.

Thiers's sudden death from apoplexy has caused great consternation and profound grief throughout France, and in consequence the crisis is considered more alarming.

CABLEGRAM.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.)

BOMBAY.

September 4.

M. Thiers has died from apoplexy. Suliman Pasha telegraphs as follows:—Strongly reinforced on the road to Gabrova. Dislodged the enemy near Gochilago.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY.

September 5.

The Hero arrived two and a half hours before the Rotorua. [Both these vessels left Auckland for Sydney within a quarter of an hour of each other, and great interest was taken in the result of the race.

WAR NEWS.

(AGENT-GENERAL'S MESSAGE)

LONDON.

September 3.

Mehemet Ali attacked the Russians in force on the 30th at Poskoj, and drove them back beyond the Liru Lom (river Lom) with heavy loss.

Osman Pasha attacked the Russians on the 31st in front of Plevna, and captured several Russian positions commanding the road to Loftcha.

The Shipka situation is unchanged.

INTERPROVINCIAL.

DUNEDIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

September 5.

The proposed sweeping reduction of the pay in the gaoi, it is feared is likely to lead to the resignation of all the old efficient officers, many of whom have seen nearly 20 years service. The Star asks the House to consider their laborious hours, which are longer than any other branch in the service.

Another railway section of the Clutha and Invercargill line will be ready for opening on the 1st proximo.

The case mentioned yesterday comes before the Police Court on Thursday.

September 6.

A firm offers to construct a railway from Waipaba to Tapanui if the district takes up £4000 in work or shares.

Judge Williams decides that the Land Boards have power to levy an acreage rate in addition to the assessment on runs. The Board has been acting for some time in the same interpretation of the Act, and dealt with all runs as they fall in on that principle. When the Hon. Mr. Campbell's run came to be considered, the question was raised as to their power to charge more than the assessment. The Crown Solicitor's opinion supported the latter, in spite of Judge Williams' opinion. The Board, by the casting vote of the Chairman, guided by Mr. Haggitt's opinion, and in respect to run 415 decided to charge the assessment only, and the Board determined not to release runs 414A. and 414B. of very small acreage.

There was a great rush yesterday for land on the Chaton-Otamta hundreds in the Mataewa district, the officers here and at Invercargill being fairly besieged with applicants.

Longuet has been committed for trial on two further charges of embezzlement of premiums paid for life insurance. Four other charges are to be heard.

WELLINGTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

September 5.

George Jones has been bitten. He telegraphed to Moon at Cambridge, asking for evidence against Whitaker. Moon replies that he intends to proceed against Jones for libel, and that Jones, impertinencies are only exceeded by his ignorance. Moon telegraphs both telegrams to the Editor of the New Zealand Times, and they appear in that paper to-day. Evidently Jones has been moonstruck.

[FROM THE PRESS AGENCY.]

WELLINGTON.

September 6.

George Jones was brought up at the Resident Magistrate's Court this morning, before three Justices of the Peace. The Bench wanted an adjournment till tomorrow, when the Resident Magistrate would be present.

Mr Rees pressed for a hearing at once, as he wanted to get away that afternoon. Mr. Izard having stated the case by reading a portion of the article.

Mr. Rees considered this not libellous, as it only stated that Mr. Whitaker sought to pass an Act so as to acquire a great quantity of land "by law," which was open to every one else, and that his action was not stated to be wrong, only unpopular. After a good deal of argument the Bench ruled that a prima facie case was made out. The whole tendency of the article was to the effect that the Land Bill ought to be called a Bill to enrich Mr. Whitaker and his friends at the expense of the public.

Mr Rees then wanted to place Mr Whitaker in the box to examine him, but Mr Izard raised a legal objection, that he could not be examined to prove the libel at a preliminary investigation.

Mr Jones reserved his defence. Mr Jones was then committed to take his trial at the Supreme Court of Otago. Bail was allowed, the accused in £100, and two sureties of £500 each.

AUCKLAND.

September 5.

Sailed—Taranaki, at 5 p.m. Passengers—For Gisborne: Mr. Lamb. For Napier: Mrs Williams, Miss Williams (2) Reeves (2), Mr and Mrs Walsh, Messrs Levinshon, Owen, Strong, Hirst, Strachan Mackay.

PORT CHALMERS.

September 6.

Scarlet fever appears to have assumed a malignant type. Three deaths are reported this morning.

DUNEDIN.

September 6.

George Proudfoot, a brother of the well-known contractor, was charged at the Police Court this morning, with rape on a girl in his employment as a servant. The case is proceeding.

At a meeting of the Presbyterian Synod yesterday, the present Education Bill was approved, and the denominational system condemned.

PARLIAMENTARY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WELLINGTON.

September 5.

In reply to Mr Fox, the Minister of Justice stated that the Government did not intend to introduce a bill to forbid lotteries, &c., as they were already illegal in the eyes of the law.

The Minister of Justice, in reply to Mr Rees, said that Jones will be tried at Dunedin for libel on the Attorney-General.

Steward's mantle has fallen on Dr Hodgkinson, of Southland, who has introduced a Deceased Wife's Sister Marriage Bill. It may pass the Lower, but the old ladies in the Upper House will throw it out.

Mr Reid, in a long and prosy speech, moved the second reading of the Waste Land's Bill. There was no opposition to the motion, and it was carried. The fight over its clauses will take place in Committee.

The proceedings in the House last night were stale, flat, and unprofitable.

The House was in Committee on the Education Bill to 12.20. The Clause relating to the extension of the Bill to Maoris excited considerable discussion. The general objection to the clause was that it would render the system expensive by necessitating Maori teachers in schools. Clause seven was amended so as to read, "the Governor may from time to time appoint and remove a secretary to the Department, and

such General Inspector of Schools, clerks, and other officers as may be deemed necessary." The discussion on clauses eight, nine, ten, and twenty-four were postponed. Several unimportant amendments were made in Committee.

September 6.

Yesterday the House disposed of several notices of motion, amongst which was Mr. Sheehan's motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to enquire as to the reason of the dismissal of J. A. Wilson, the Land Purchase Commissioner.

Sir Robert Douglas' motion to have the debate on the Native Lands Bill printed in Maori was carried without discussion.

Mr. Fox moved for a return with respect to instructions issued to the police with reference to lotteries, &c. He urged on the Government the necessity of enforcing the law on these matters.

Mr. Bowen gave a quiet smile, and promised to make the police enforce the law.

The House then adjourned.

When the House was considering the Auckland Grammar School Reserves Bill, Mr. Stout expressed a hope that the Government would add a clause to the Education Bill to deal with all similar reserves, so as to prevent endless obstruction of Local Bills.

In the House last night in Committee on the Local Option Bill there was some fun when Mr Travers pointed out that clause four allowed only persons of twenty-one years of age, neither under nor over, to vote. On clause two being amended in a former Committee by substituting "fifty for twenty to set the Act in operation" was struck out. This makes room for a new clause to define districts. In the new clause which will probably be passed, any political district, whether School Board or Highway District, will be a district under the Act. In all cases the smallest organised political districts will be recognised for the purposes of the Act. This will be done to prevent the creation of new districts. Clause four was amended; six seven, and eight struck out, and progress was reported.

When the House was in Committee last night on the Goldfields Committee resolution, one of the best jokes of the session was solemnly perpetrated by Mr Gisborne. He was explaining the resolution, and said "The Government reserve the right of making tracks." The House went into convulsions of laughter. Ministers looked funeral. The best of the joke was Mr. Gisborne's lugubrious face. He was the only one in the House who did not see the joke.

This morning Mr. Manders was endeavoring to let the light into Mr. Gisborne's mind on the subject. Mr. Gisborne was just replying with reference to some point of English Parliamentary practice on the subject of jokes when your reporter left.

### Latest Political News.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WELLINGTON.

September 5.

Messrs Stout and Macandrew absolutely refuse to join the new Middle party, and will adhere to Sir G. Grey, who has still twenty-three followers. These with the new party are said to number forty-six. The main programme of the new party is not to indiate any policy, but attack the Government measures. Probably the result will be that the Ministry will experience great difficulty in carrying the most important measures, and some are certain to be thrown out or emasculated.

Later.

Competent judges believe the Middle party in the House to be very strong, and likely to increase rapidly. The party has been formed to combine under one leader, as a large number of members in the House of moderate views, who, though opposed to the Government, would not support Sir George Grey. The latter, with Mr Macandrew, will probably maintain an independent attitude, but if an opportunity arises of turning out the Ministry, will vote with the middle party. The Opposition will really be in two wings under separate commanders. It is believed that a majority will be formed against Ministers. One of the first stand points will be on the religious clause of the Education Bill, on which the Government supporters are shaky. The only weakness of the new party appears the number of men who aspire to the position of leaders. It is also doubtful if the party can find a common platform with Sir George Grey's party. Small caucuses have been held of the promoters of the new party, but no general meeting. Attempts are now being made to bring the elements together some day during the present

week to arrange a basis of action. One of the proposals of the new party is to definitely localize the land fund, and to shelve the question of Separation. It is believed this will win the confidence of a large number of the Otago and Canterbury members. The real secret of opposition of the party is the Government vacillation. In the meantime, ardent Ministerial supporters are sanguine, and it is said the Middle party means the entire destruction of the Opposition, and a vain attempt to reconstruct a new party out of the shattered elements.

Latest.

A caucus of the Middle Party was held at eleven o'clock to-day. About twenty members attended, and unanimity prevailed. The arrangement has not yet transpired.

The petition of Colonel McDonnell, for claim to compensation by non-fulfilment of a promise by General Government of permanent employment, has been under the consideration of the Petitions Committee to-day. Mr Ormond strongly recommended the petitioner's claim. Colonel McDonnell will probably receive a grant of land.

September 6.

A meeting of the Middle Party was held yesterday in the Parliamentary buildings. Nineteen attended, seven others sent apologies, and two others who did not attend are known to sympathise. After a discussion, which lasted fully an hour, an Executive Committee was appointed to take action. The party was entirely unanimous in its views as to the necessity of taking steps to form an organized Opposition to the present Government. Most of the principal members present made speeches, but no leader of the party was appointed, the work of direction and control being left to the Executive Committee, which is small in number.

Sir G. Grey still retains seventeen followers, including Messrs, Dignan, Tole, Rees, Wood, Sheehan, Stout, Macandrew, and others. Only three Auckland members attended yesterday's caucus, and five members attended from Otago. The attendance from the Middle Island was about equal. Mr Wakefield was present, and this is regarded as significant of Mr Stafford's predilection. It is understood that the two main points of the new party are the localization of the land fund, and shelving the question of Separation for some time. Mr Rowe sent an apology, being engaged on a committee.

Mr Wakefield's resolutions are to be moved on going into Committee of Supply, and they are generally understood to have been drafted by Mr. Stafford.

The Middle Party attempt to preserve the most impenetrable silence about yesterday's proceedings, and when applied to by the reporters state that to divulge the particulars would frustrate their object. It is understood that at the meeting yesterday each member pledged himself to the strictest secrecy.

Most blackguard attempts are being made in the New Zealand Times to prejudice Jones' case, which is now *sub judice*. Persons like Moon and Drummond Hay, tools of the land jobbers, are sending disgraceful telegrams to the Times for publication, and the editor disgraces his cloth by admitting them. One this morning is so utterly blackguardly and cruel to Jones that it excites general indignation. The wires are being pulled by Ministers, and the puppets dance.

### An Ex-Constable Arrested for Bigamy.

On Thursday, Patrick Coghlan, who was for five years in the Napier police, and has been latterly employed on the Corporation works, was arrested on a charge of bigamy. It appears from what we can learn that Coghlan married thirteen years ago a girl named Catherine Casey, at Ennis, in Ireland by whom he had three children. He emigrated to New Zealand with his wife's brother, and came by himself to Napier. He joined the Napier police force, and on the fifth of October, 1871, he again married Margaret a sister of Mr Cosgrove, the well-known saddler, by whom he has also had three children. The brother of Coghlan's first wife has been living at Outram, near Dunedin, with whom Coghlan corresponded for some time after coming to Napier. In his letters Coghlan stated he was carrying the mails to Porangahau, but Casey not hearing from him for some years, believed something had happened to Coghlan, and came to Napier by the Storm Bird on Wednesday to see after his welfare. He then learnt that Coghlan was in Napier and had married again. Accompanied by a policeman, who was armed with a warrant, Mr Casey proceeded to the Corporation works

in Tennyson-street on Thursday. Mr Casey went up to Coghlan, and said "How are you getting on?" Coghlan made no reply. Mr Casey then said "Don't you know me," and turning to the policeman said, "This is the man." Coghlan was brought before the Magistrate yesterday morning. He at present pleads innocent of the charge.

### Parliamentary Papers.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WELLINGTON.

September 6.

The following is a summary of the Crown lands absolutely disposed of for cash, scrip, or under native or other grants, from the date of the first sales to June 30, 1876:—Hawke's Bay lands sold: town 812 acres; suburban 18,904; country 881,079; rate per acre, town £27 2s 3d; suburban £1 9s 10d; country 8s 7d; consideration cash £402,202; scrip £27,529. Land disposed of without sale to naval and military settlers under the New Zealand Settlement Act was 6,300 acres; reserves for public purposes, 12,632; to Europeans or natives under the Waste Lands Act, 1858, 4,626 acres; to natives by grants under the Native Lands Act, 1855, 427,047; in satisfaction of land scrip, 11,245. Ditto from June 30, 1876, to June 30, 1877:—Hawke's Bay lands sold, town 8 acres, suburban 192, country 11,830; rate per acre, town £218, suburban £2, country 17s 9d; in consideration of cash £10,083. Summary of land selected up to 30th June, 1876, in Hawke's Bay, under the deferred payment system: number of applications 177, approved 92, selected 17,175, average to each selection 109 acres. For the year ending June 30, 1877, under the Hawke's Bay deferred payment system: applications 16, approved 15, area 1,910 acres, average areas 119, yearly fees payable £191, rents £1,632. Land forfeited for breach of conditions, 850 acres. Summary of lands held under pastoral licenses or lease on June 30, 1877: holders 15, approximate area 147,900 acres, average area of each 19,900 acres; sheep depastured 35,700; rent paid £414, average per acre 3d.

### The Waka Maori Case.

A SCANDAL.

There is another scandal, which will, of course, bring up sundry members to ask questions, and to move motions. The story is thus told by the Post, and has reference to the Waka Maori libel case, now being tried at the instance of the Hon. H. Russell against the Government Printer. Mr J. N. Wilson, solicitor, of Napier, was being examined, and Mr Macassey was eliciting from him the history of certain deeds containing the so-called "Hori Niani swindle." Mr Wilson's demeanour bespoke the high-minded solicitor who would be no party to anything shady or questionable. He had to explain why, in a certain transaction between the plaintiff and some natives, the consideration being £500, two deeds had been executed instead of a simple conveyance, namely, a mortgage for £400, and a conveyance of the equity of redemption for £10. Mr Wilson said very bluntly, "I prepared a conveyance expressing the true consideration, but Mr Russell, acting at the suggestion of a gentleman well-known in the profession, adopted a rather ingenious device for evading the duty under the Native Lands Act to the amount of £50, and a fresh conveyance was engrossed by Mr Russell's clerk in lieu of the one I had sent." The witness added that he entirely disapproved of this clever device. In cross-examination, Mr Conolly elicited that the gentleman well known in the profession was Mr Dudley Ward. Mr Conolly quietly remarked, "For the credit of the profession, I am glad you mentioned the name." His Honor said:—"I presume, Mr Wilson, the duty under the Stamp Act was likewise evaded?" To which the witness replied in the affirmative. His Honor:—"Was Mr Ward in practice at the time?" Mr Wilson:—"No, your Honor; he occupied then the distinguished position he still fills—that of District Judge." The members of the Bar exchanged significant looks, and there was an expression of blank astonishment on the faces of many in Court.

A CORRECTION.

The New Zealand Times makes the following important correction as to the evidence of Under-Secretary Clarke in the Waka Maori libel case:—"Our reports of the Waka Maori trial, as it is called, are necessarily condensed, the evidence being so voluminous. In conse-

quence of this inevitable condensation, the evidence taken on the first day in relation to the letters which appeared in the Waka Maori, addressed to that journal by Arihi and Mangai, were made to bear a construction which was unfavorable to the late Sir Donald M'Lean. We desire, therefore, to correct the false impression calculated to have been made upon the minds of readers. Sir Donald M'Lean, who was Native Minister at the time in question, never saw those letters. The evidence of Mr Henry Tracey Clarke on this point was *verbatim et literatim* as follows:—Referring to Arihi's (or Alice's) letter counsel said: "After reading the letter you told Mr. Grindell not to publish it, but to furnish you with a translation?—A. Yes. Q. What was done with it then?—A. He did not take Arihi's letter away, but left it in my custody. Q. Did he furnish you with a translation?—A. He did. Q. How long after?—It was a day or two after, I am not quite sure. Q. What was done with the original and the translation?—A. He brought them to me, and I kept them. Q. What did you do with them?—A. Put them in my pigeon-hole, and allowed them to remain there more than a month. Q. After that what did you do with them?—A. I gave them to Mr. Grindell at the request of the Native Minister, who said the natives were complaining. After other evidence, not precisely bearing on the point which it is desired to make clear, the question was asked, Did you refer the letter to the Native Minister at all?—A. No, I simply told him of its purport. It will therefore be seen that, so far as the evidence was concerned, the late Native Minister did not see the letter or letters; for there was nothing in the course of Mr. Clarke's examination to show that the Native Minister had been shown either of the letters, or was personally aware of their contents."

### MEETING OF THE WAIPAWA COUNTY COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1877.

PRESENT:—Councillor Mackersey (chairman), Councillors Levy, Rathbone, Monteith, and Smith.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A motion for the establishment of a public pound at Porangahau lapsed as there was no seconder.

The expenditure for salaries, material, and labor for the month of August was shewn to be £219 13s 1d.

Moved by Cr Rathbone, seconded by Cr Monteith, and carried, that the consideration of the application of Thomas Poole for the appointment as Pound-keeper at Porangahau be postponed till next meeting.

Moved by Cr Monteith, and seconded by Cr Levy, that the Road Overseer be instructed to make out specifications for metalling the worst portions of the Seventy Mile Bush road, and that tenders be called for this work; tenders to be sent in to the Chairman before the 2nd October.

Moved by Cr Rathbone, and seconded by Cr Levy, that the request of Mr Tye re Messrs Nairn's valuation be postponed till next meeting. Mr Davidson was desired to instruct the Overseer to make necessary improvements on the Porangahau road in the vicinity of Mr Ormond's house.

Moved by Cr Monteith, and seconded by Cr Levy, that the next ordinary meeting on 2nd October be appointed as the date for making the rate.

A SENSIBLE SPEECH.

Nor the least sensible speech that was made during the debate on the Local Option Bill was that of Mr. Tairora, the member for the Southern Maori District. His speech only occupies ten and a half lines in the Hansard report, and concluded with these words:—"It is not necessary for me to say much; my vote is of greater consequence than anything I may say." Mr. Tairora is a supporter of the Bill; and though he does not believe a measure of that character will altogether put down the sale of spirituous liquor, it at all events will give a majority of the people the power to decide to what extent they will allow it in their districts. He voted for Mr. Fox when that gentleman brought this matter before the House on a previous occasion, and he consistently intends to support the present measure. If each member would make himself acquainted with every subject brought before the House as Mr. Tairora has done with regard to the Local Option Bill, and say as little, and as much to the point as he did, the business of the session would be wonderfully expedited. A speech very rarely influences a single vote, and a vote is of far more consequence than a waste of idle words.

**Shipping Intelligence.**

**PORT AHURIRI.**

**ARRIVALS.**

August

- 30—Venus, ketch, from Mercury Bay
- 30—Mannia, p.s., from Wairoa. Passengers—Mrs Taylor, Mr and Mrs Ederton, Misses Taylor (2), Misses Piper (2), Messrs Miller, Common, Stead, Sturm, M'Lennan, Ingram, and three natives
- 31—Annie Hill, schooner, from Dunedin

September

- 1—Result, s.s., from Whakaki and Wairoa. Passengers—Miss Keys, Messrs Shaw and Moloney.
- 2—Fairy, s.s., from Portland Island, Nuhaka, and Mahia. Passengers—Messrs Lloyd and Shepherd.
- 5—Southern Cross, s.s., from Auckland. Passengers—Mrs Dryland, Messrs Meinertzhagen, Hansein, Carter, and Turner.
- 6—Storm Bird, s.s., from Wellington.

**DEPARTURE.**

August

- 30—Taranaki, s.s., for Gisborne and Northern Ports. Passengers—Mr and Mrs Climo, Misses Brunskill, and Clark, Messrs Leamons, Layton, Ryan, Nicholls (2), Stuart, Blake, Beal (2), Butterworth, Snodgrass, Stace, Phillips, Jobberns, Tully, and Harris

September

- 3—Sir Donald, s.s., for Gisborne. Passengers—Judge Rogan, his Secretary, and Honi Peti, Native Assessor
- 4—Opotiki, schooner, for Poverty Bay
- 4—Columbia, schooner, for Lyttelton. Passengers—Mrs Conway, child and servant
- 6—Result, s.s., for Wairoa. Passengers—Messrs Duff, Shaw, and Moloney.

The p.s. Mannia, Captain Smith, returned from Wairoa on Thursday, with a part cargo of maize, and a fair complement of passengers. She called off Mohaka to land passengers.

The s.s. Taranaki discharged her cargo to the Sir Donald and Three Brothers on Thursday, and left for Poverty Bay about 6 p.m.

The ketch Venus is from Mercury Bay, with a cargo of sawn timber for Mr R. Holt.

The schooner Annie Hill, Capt. Myers, left Dunedin on the 23rd August, with a light S.E. wind; cleared the heads the same night; thence had light northerly weather up to Cape Palliser which was passed on the night of August 29, accompanied by a light westerly breeze, which gradually increased until the vessel anchored at 6 on Friday. She was towed inside by the Sir Donald at noon, and made fast to the breastwork, where she discharged her cargo, consisting of Colonial produce, the principal consignees being Messrs Drower, Duncan, Kinross, Smith, and Routledge, Kennedy and Co.

The barquentine Falcon was towed inside on Saturday by the s.s. Sir Donald. In coming into the breastwork the pilot-boat, in running a rope from the vessel to the breastwork, got foul of the bow of the vessel, and was capized. The crew were safely landed on the deck by means of ropes immediately thrown over from the vessel. Fortunately none of the pilot crew were hurt. They escaped with a partial ducking. The boat itself was smashed to pieces, and was picked up by the ferry boat and taken over to the Western Spit. The oars were picked up by the Harbor Works boat.

The s.s. Result returned to Napier on Saturday evening from Whakaki and Wairoa, with a full cargo of maize, the consignees being Messrs Watt Brothers and Kinross and Co. Capt. Baxter reports having to steam against a head-wind the whole way.

The s.s. Fairy returned from a trip in the Bay on Sunday morning. She went to Portland Island, thence to Mahia to land cargo, thence to Nuhaka, and took in another cargo for Mahia, which was duly landed. She then proceeded to Portland Island again, and embarked the lighthouse contractor, Mr Shepherd, and returned to Napier. We hear the lighthouse is nearly completed, and will be ready to receive the lamp and other apparatus in about a month. When completed, this will be a great boon to seafaring men up and down the coast.

The Pilot informed us there was about nine feet on the Bar at high water on Monday in the eastward channel. The bank on the bar that is now forming is gradually extending in length and breadth towards the old westward channel.

The damages sustained by the Pilot boat on Saturday are such as to induce the pilot to recommend her not being repaired. She is an old boat, and her timbers are in very bad order.

We are very much pleased to report that the steam winch fitted on the barquentine Falcon has proved itself to be a perfect success, and works admirably, saving in labor the work of at least three men when discharging cargo, or heaving up the anchors. The winch has been so fixed to the deck beam, that the deck itself is not affected by the motion of the engine.

From a private cablegram from Newcastle, N.S.W., we learn that the three-masted schooner Mary Wadley will leave the above Port for Napier to-day.

The s.s. Sir Donald steamed for Poverty Bay, at 10 o'clock on Monday.

The Ocean, one of those large China tea steamers, arrived in Sydney the other day with a full cargo of new season teas, some of which are to the order of Messrs. Watt Brothers, and will be brought down by the Rotorua now in Sydney.

The s.s. Storm Bird, Capt. Doile, left Wellington on Tuesday night; rounded Cape Palliser at 3 o'clock the following morning, with a N.E. wind and a high sea running; Castle Point was passed at 12.15, the wind S.W.; 4.30 p.m. was abreast of Cape Turnagain; passed the Kidnappers at midnight, anchoring in the roadstead at 2 o'clock on Thursday. The steamer is full of cargo, consisting chiefly of groceries and kerosene. Since last in Napier the Storm Bird has taken a quantity of ironwork to Whanganui for the Rangitikei bridge. Mr Dugdale, the purser, kindly furnished report and files.

The Southern Cross, Capt. Holmes, arrived at 7 p.m. on Wednesday from Auckland. She has 150 tons of cargo for here, besides the thorough-bred horse Javelin, the property of Allan McLean, Esq., of Tuki Tuki.

The s.s. Result left at 5.30 a.m. on Thursday, with a full cargo of general merchandise, and a fair complement of passengers. She may be expected back on Saturday.

The C.G. s.s. Stella, Captain Fairchild, has been visiting the Lighthouses in and near Cook's Straits. After leaving French Pass, she encountered a heavy gale, which compelled Captain Fairchild to seek the shelter of Guard Bay for three days. In coming on to Wellington, the Stella passed by the wreck of the ill-fated Queen Bee. Captain Fairchild reports her as being greatly broken up, and a great quantity of cargo and timber being strewn about the beach.

**Commercial.**

**TURLEY & BRAITHWAITE'S STOCK AND STATION REPORT FOR AUGUST 1877.**

We have to report but a small amount of business in Store Stock during the past month. Till within the last fortnight, very little rain had fallen during the winter, and feed has been in consequence unusually scarce. Lambing, on the flats in the districts liable to be affected by floods (from the recent rains) will not be so productive as in previous years; while in the hilly districts they are healthy and strong, and will yield a good percentage.

A large quantity of land on the Homewood Estate is being ploughed and laid down in grass, both at Waipawa and Kaikoura; and we anticipate a prosperous future for both of these rising townships. Land that only three years ago was sold at £4.5s per acre is, with little improvement except fencing, now realizing from £7 to £8—two blocks, one of 166 acres and another of 613 acres, having lately been disposed of at the latter price.

For cattle, we have to quote—Fat, from 20s to 22s 6d per 100lbs; dairy cows, from £11. Stores—We have sold one small lot of yearlings at £2 15s, and have inquiries for 350 more, which could be placed at about same rates. Two, three, and four-year-old Steers of good quality, £5 £6, £7.

Horses—We have on our books a good number of draught, at from £22 10s to £30. We have sold at good figures. Light hacks, from £7 to £12; harness horses, from £15 to £30.

Sheep—Few sheep will be offered until after shearing, except for the butcher. We anticipate a good demand for Merino and half-bred ewes, delivery in December.

**POST OFFICE NOTICE.**

**MAILS CLOSE**

For Wellington, Southern Provinces, and Australian Colonies, per Taranaki, on Saturday, at 10 a.m.

For Auckland, per Southern Cross, on Saturday, at 4 p.m.

For the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, &c., via Suez and Brindisi, by every opportunity to Wellington, where these mails close on the 23rd instant.

For Fiji, Sandwich Islands, America, West Indies, the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, &c., via San Francisco, per Rotorua, on Saturday, 22nd September, at 9 p.m.

Money Orders, and Registered Letters will close at 5 p.m. Book Packets and Newspapers will close at 8 p.m., on the 22nd instant.

For the undermentioned places every Monday, and Thursday, at 5.30 a.m.—Clive, Hastings, Havelock, Te Aute, Kaikora, Waipawa, Waipukurau, Danevirik, Norsewood, Tahourite, 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.

A number of Dutch carpenters have been set to work in one of the Clyde shipbuilding yards. They are at work from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. for 7s a day.



**Government Notifications.**

RETURN SHOWING THE LAND SOLD, AND RENTS AND ASSESSMENTS RECEIVED AT THE CROWN LANDS OFFICE, NAPIER, DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1877.

Date.	Mode of Sale.	NAME.	PARTICULARS.		AREA OF LAND SOLD.		CASH.		REMARKS.			
			Town.	Suburban.	Town.	Suburban.	Town.	Suburban.				
										Country.	Country.	
1877 Aug 29	Application	William Rorise James Hallett	A. R. P. A. H. P.		A. R. P. B. P.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
		Rural land on Wm. Lyon's run, Manakakahu District Six months rent, Rangoo Tawhao Block	1743	0	0		871	10	0	7	5	10
		TOTAL ..	1743	0	0		871	10	0	7	5	10

**RECAPITULATION.**

£ s. d.  
871 10 0  
7 5 10  
£878 15 10

Land Sales ..  
Rents and Assessments ..

J. T. TYLLEE,  
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Crown Lands Office,  
Napier, September 3rd, 1877

**NEW BOOKS**

**AND NEW SUPPLIES**

**COLLEDGE & CRAIG'S,**  
HASTINGS-STREET, NAPIER.

THE British Expedition to the Crimea, W. H. Russell

The Invasion of the Crimea, Kinglake, new edition

The Modern Egyptians, Lane, 2 Vols. Japan, China, and India, Fowler

Sport in Many Lands, by the Old Sherry, 2 Vols.

Life of a Scottish Naturalist, Smiles Darwiniana, Professor Gray

Expression of the Emotions, Darwin Origin of Species, Darwin

Current Coin, Rev. H. R. Haweis Essential Elements of Practical Mechanics, Byrne

The Amateur House Carpenter, Hatfield Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs, Loudon

Memoir of R. and W. Chambers Davies' Other Men's Minds

Southgate's Many Thoughts of Many Minds

Kingsley's Westminster Sermons Selections from the Talmud

Heroes of Ancient Greece Comic History of Rome

The Leopard Shakespeare Half Hours with the best Authors

Chambers' Information for the People Ayesha, The Maid of Kara

Dame Europa's Remonstrance, and her Ultimatum

The Golden Yankee Dowsing's Timber Merchant's and Builder's Companion

The Henwife, by Hon. Mrs. Arbuthnot Dr. Willoughby and his Wine.

**KONINI HOTEL.**

THE Undersigned begs to inform his friends and the public that he will open the above Hotel on MONDAY, the 17th instant, which is situated on the direct road to Patea, and hopes by attention to the comfort of his visitors to merit their support. The Hotel has recently been built for the special accommodation of the travelling public, and no effort or expense will be spared to make the Hotel one of the most comfortable and attractive in the County.

None but the very best brands of Beers, Wines, and Spirits will be kept in stock.

Splendid Stables, Grass Paddocks, and every accommodation for persons travelling.

The Proprietor is also erecting a new Store, where goods of the very best quality will always be on sale.

J. W. O'BRIEN, Konini, Sept. 5th, 1877.

**JOHN M'VAY,**

**SADDLER & HARNESSMAKER**

Hastings-street.

The Cheapest House in the Trade.



ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

**MR. R. C. WILSON,**  
SURGEON AND MECHANICAL DENTIST.

**ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENTS.**  
**JOHN HARDING (Mount Vernon).**—Your letter is far too lengthy for insertion in our columns. We have already a long letter awaiting publication, signed R. C. Harding, which travels over the same ground as that of yours. It is unnecessary to publish both. We again take this opportunity of requesting our correspondents to make their communications as brief as possible, to ensure insertion, as our space is necessarily largely taken up by Parliamentary news and telegrams.

**BIRTHS.**

**BRADLEY.**—At Taradale, on September 2nd, the wife of Mr. George Bradley, of a son.

**LAMBERT.**—At West Clive, on September 5, the wife of Mr. G. Lambert, of a son.

**MARRIAGE.**

**ALLANACH—O'HANLIN.**—On the 5th June at Napier, by the Rev. D. Sidey, Alexander Allanach, to Annie O'Hanlin, both of Taradale.

**DEATHS.**

**WINDUSS.**—At Shakespeare Terrace, Napier, on September 2, Mary Ann Winduss, second daughter of George and Elizabeth Winduss.

**SINCLAIR.**—At West Clive, on September 5, Mr. George Sinclair.

**CHRONOLOGICAL MEMORANDA**

FROM SEPT. 9 TO SEPT. 15, 1877.

**PHASES OF THE MOON.**

First Quarter.....14th Sept.

Week Day and month	Anniversaries, &c.	Sun		High Water	
		R.	S.	A.M.	P.M.
9 S	15th Sun. a. Trinity	6 14	5 29	6 47	7 12
10 M		6 13	5 41	7 37	7 57
11 T	America dis., 1492	6 10	5 42	8 18	8 46
12 W	Blutcher d., 1819	6 9	5 43	9 12	9 40
13 T	N. Z. dis., 1642	6 8	5 44	10 8	10 36
14 F	Holy Cross	6 7	5 45	11 4	11 39
15 S		6 5	5 45	11 45	— 10

**The Weekly Mercury**  
AND  
**HAWKE'S BAY ADVERTISER.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1877.

THE Wananga attributes the election of Mr Sutton to the seat in the House of Representatives, rendered vacant by the death of Sir Donald McLean, to the indiscriminating action of the Good Templars. Our Maori contemporary says that the Good Templars "simply committed voluntary disfranchisement," at the last election, "and by their action caused the return to Parliament of a gentleman who by his recent speech, has openly shown they have no more inveterate foe." We do not think the Good Templars of Napier will endorse this view of the question; we do not think that the Wananga has a very clear recollection of the principles at issue between the rival candidates at the last election. Mr Sutton did not owe his return so much to the united action of the Good Templars, as to the principles of which he was the advocate, and to the conviction felt by the electors that he could be relied upon. As far as Mr Sutton's views on temperance were concerned, they were no more satisfactory to the Good Templars than were those of his opponent, and such being the case, if the members of that body gave a block vote to Mr Sutton, it was because they were not so unreflecting as to ignore those other grave political questions that are unconnected with the particular object for the attainment of which they are bound to press. At this distance of time from the election, we can look back to the circumstances that surrounded the contest with a freedom from that feeling of partisanship which is almost necessarily inseparable from an occurrence of that nature. The real political issue at stake between Mr Sutton and Mr. Buchanan was entirely outside any question relating to that of Local Option, and that which the electors had to decide was, whether they would send to Parliament a representative pledged to support the Government, and to work in harmony with his own colleague, or to return a gentleman who, glorying in his independence, would as often be found voting with Sir George Grey and Mr. Rees as with the Ministry. Mr. Buchanan was unfortunate in his supporters; and his presentation to the electorate by the representatives of a

party in acknowledged opposition to the Government offered ample reason for believing that his candidature was due to the hope he would prove in the House an uncompromising opponent of the Ministry. The result of the polling took every one by surprise; and so closely did Mr Buchanan run the successful candidate that, it may well be supposed, if it had not been for his connection with the Auckland party, he would have been returned. Fortunately such an event was averted, in spite of the obstinacy of those who persisted in thinking that the third candidate, Mr Tiffen, had a chance of heading the poll. If Mr Tiffen had followed the very sensible example of Mr Rhodes, and withdrawn early from the contest, Sir George Grey's lieutenants would have less cause for congratulation in the success they met with in their nomination of a candidate for Napier. The Parliamentary proceedings of this present session unmistakably show how great a mistake this constituency would have committed in returning a representative who would have owed his election to the agency of Sir George Grey's party—a party, the members of which have nothing in common but feelings of personal hostility to the Ministry. Weak and vacillating as the Government have proved themselves to be, neither a majority in the House, or in the country, would care to see their places occupied by Sir George Grey and his followers. It is to this feeling alone that the Government owe the position they occupy in always being able to command a majority when questions affecting their stability are before the House. Up to the present time of the session Napier has had good cause to be well satisfied with Mr Sutton, and not the less so because there is not the slightest probability that he will assist those who merely oppose the Government for opposition's sake.

WE have received amongst other Parliamentary papers a copy of the new Lands Bill, that has been introduced to the House by the Hon. D. Reid. The Bill consists of 169 clauses, which are divided into eight parts, and these are followed by ten appendices each one dealing with the sale and leasing of land within the boundaries of the ten provincial districts of the colony. As the provisions of the Bill are too voluminous to be fully explained in one article, we shall in this issue lay before our readers the provisions of the appendix relating to Hawke's Bay. These are as follows:—No lands, whether town, suburban, or rural, shall be offered for sale by auction unless the same shall have been previously surveyed and distinguished by a sufficient mark or number upon a plan to be deposited and exhibited in the Principal Land Office. All such rural lands as have already been proclaimed as open for selection and purchase under the Land Regulations heretofore in force and known as the General Land Regulations of the Province of Wellington, and dated the fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, and the additional Regulations of the said province, dated the sixteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, shall remain open for sale at the fixed price of ten shillings per acre. An intending purchaser of such last-mentioned lands shall make an application in writing to the Board for the purchase of the land which he may desire to purchase. Such application must contain the name and description of the intending purchaser, and must be signed by him or his agent, and contain as accurate a description of the land applied for as may be reasonably possible. All such applications for the purchase of land shall be lodged at the office of the Board between the hours of ten a.m. and three p.m. on all week-days other than Saturday; and on Saturday between the hours of ten a.m. and one p.m. All applications shall have priority according to the time at which they are received, and it shall be the duty of the Chief Commissioner, at the time of receiving any application, to mark thereon the hour and minute at which the same was received. In case the Chief Commissioner shall be personally absent from his office at the time when any application shall be tendered, such application shall be provisionally received by the Clerk in the Land Office, who shall issue a provisional order or authority to the Receiver of Land Revenue to receive the purchase money, and such application followed by payment, shall give the applicant priority; but if the Board, on subsequent examination, shall discover that the said application, for some lawful reason, should not have been received, it shall be the duty of the said Board to reject the said application, and give the applicant notice thereof; and thereupon the purchase money paid by the applicant

shall be returned. All applications for the purchase of land shall be forthwith entered in a book to be kept in the Principal Land Office, and to be called the "General Register of Applications for Land;" and such book shall be open to the inspection of the public during the regular office hours, and any person may take a copy of or extract from such register. All lands not being lands reserved as open for selection at the fixed price of ten shillings an acre, shall be sold and disposed of by public auction at an upset price of not less than ten shillings per acre, at such times, in such allotments, and at such an upset price as the Board, with the assent of the Governor, shall from time to time publicly notify.

MR. SHEEHAN recently asked the Attorney-General in the House, whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill dealing with the question of Maori representation, and, if so, when the Bill was likely to be brought down? Our readers will remember that, last year, the Government promised to bring down such a measure this session. The reply Mr. Whitaker gave Mr. Sheehan was that the matter had been carefully considered in connection, generally, with the question of Parliamentary representation. It was the intention of the Government during the present session to bring in a Bill for the purpose of registering Maori electors. It was also intended to bring in a Bill for the purpose of adopting a new plan for registering other electors. It was also intended to take a census of the European inhabitants, and a census of the Maori population, and then to confer on the latter a representation in proportion to that of the former. From this it may be gathered that it is not intended to register European and Maori electors on the same roll, nor to continue the very objectionable privileges hitherto allowed the natives of having double representation. We imagine the new Bill will confine the natives and Europeans to voting for their respective representatives. This will be a very great improvement upon the existing Act, which can now be so worked as to allow the Maoris to swamp the votes of colonists. Some such attempt has already been commenced in the districts of Napier and Clive, where we have seen the electoral rolls largely increased by the names of Maoris. It is not, nor can it be, pretended that the privileges the natives enjoy under the present Act are of any benefit to them; while on the contrary they may have a most mischievous tendency. The only object the bulk of the natives can possibly have in registering themselves as electors, is to oblige a pakeha friend, who, having induced them to register would have little trouble in making use of their votes at an election for his own personal ends. Ignorant alike of the wants of the country, and of their own race, it is simply preposterous that the natives should hold the representation of a district in their hands. So much is this the case now that a few active agents could flood the electoral rolls with native names, and say the Repudiation party, driving the Maori voters to the poll at an election, secure the return of the nominee of an Auckland faction. The last election for a Napier representative offered an example of what can be done in this direction, and since then the Maoris on the roll have been more than doubled. The Bill to be brought in by the Government, if it protects the electoral privileges and liberties of colonists without interfering with what it is just the natives should possess, will be hailed as a boon to the country.

WE do not think that Mr. Vautier will gain much by his motion when it comes to be discussed at the next Harbor Board meeting. We are rather under the impression that a majority of the members will listen with impatience to what he may have to say in support of his proposal to stop the present harbor works, and will dispose of his motion in double quick time. While Mr. Vautier's fears respecting the utility of the works now being carried on enlist the sympathy of a very large number of persons, it must be admitted that, until the scheme is fully completed, no verdict can be passed upon it. But it should be borne in mind that it is as absurd to say the works will accomplish all they were designed for, as to affirm that they will prove a failure. We ourselves have more than once expressed a want of faith in them, and our confidence has not been increased as the works have progressed. At the same time, we should not advocate the adoption of Mr. Vautier's motion; we can hope to gain nothing by leaving a work half finished. Let the Board complete what it has begun, and should the work prove a

success, let Mr. Carruthers have the credit; if, on the other hand, the scheme proves a failure, the Board will only have itself to blame for rejecting a plan for an artificial harbor that was prepared by one of the best marine engineers ever in New Zealand.

OUR readers are generally aware that a land ring is in existence for the purchase of the Murimotu Block. The land is described as the richest on the West Coast, and specially fitted for a Small Farm settlement. The Wanganui Herald of Friday last gives the following news regarding the movements of the Ring:—"Another phase of the Murimotu land transaction is opened up. The indefatigable gentlemen in Wanganui at present engaged in the delicate task of "engineering" the block have made another move, and this time an important one. On Thursday evening they paid over £1,600 as rent for the block for three years, reckoning one year back and two years, in advance. About one third of the names to the memorial of ownership (209) have been obtained, and it becomes a struggle on the part of the remainder between need and the sacrifice of their land. It is an unequal contest. On the one side there is a heap of sovereigns "bright and yellow," meaning food, clothing, and waipero in abundance for the time being, and on the other, a return to their settlements empty handed. Of course the principle of "no signature, no money" will be strictly carried out, and several of the leading rangatiras, to their shame be it said, having accepted the pay of the spoiler, will lend their influence in persuading the wretched owners to sign away their birthright. We have heard so much of the failure of the Government in the matter of purchasing native lands. Here is an opportunity for the Government. Let them purchase the block at a fair price, and put a stop to the present negotiations which savor so strongly of monopoly. The resolution carried in the House on Thursday is one of the most sensible acts of the present session. We only hope that it will apply to the Murimotu block, and the negotiations now pending. The Native Land Court Bill was withdrawn on the 17th August, and the money paid by the Ring for rent was on the 30th August. Surely the motion applies, and if it does, we know how the House will regard the transaction. We cannot conceive a member standing up in his place and defending the negotiations, the progress of which are unhappily before our eyes, and which on public grounds we condemn in the strongest possible terms."

THE announcement of the death of M. Thiers will serve to recall to the minds of our readers many of the most remarkable events that have occurred in the history of France during the past forty years. Born in 1797, of humble parentage, M. Thiers rose, in the course of his long life, to the highest position that could be offered him by his countrymen, and has died full of years and of honors. M. Thiers commenced life as a lawyer in which profession he was a failure; he then earned a living by writing political articles for the Paris newspapers, and during the ten or fifteen years in which he was so engaged, he found time to write his celebrated "History of the French Revolution," that ran into ten volumes. Elected representative of Aix in the Chamber of Deputies, M. Thiers rapidly distinguished himself as a statesman; in 1832 he accepted the portfolio of Minister of the Interior, and four years afterwards, he was Minister for Foreign Affairs. In 1840 he fell under the displeasure of his king, and retired into private life, but in 1848, the revolution placed him in the National Assembly. In 1851, Louis Napoleon banished him, and not till twelve years after did M. Thiers re-enter the Chamber of Deputies. It was then to his taunts and sneers at the foreign policy of the Empire that many attribute the rash act of Napoleon in declaring war against Germany, in 1870. On the downfall of the Empire, Thiers was appointed to negotiate terms of peace with the enemy, in which, however, he failed, but his endeavors to save the honor of his country, and his voluntary journeys to the Courts of England, Russia, Italy, and Austria, where he implored aid for France, endeared him to the nation. He was elected to the National Assembly, and in 1871 the Chamber conferred upon him the dignity of Chief of the Executive Power, and a few months afterwards he received the title of President of the French Republic. This office he resigned in 1873, since when, though retaining his seat in the Chamber of Deputies, very little has been heard of him.

THE report that an Opposition party is being formed under the leadership of Mr Montgomery will take no one by surprise who has watched the Parliamentary proceedings of the present session. Hitherto, the only semblance of an Opposition with which the Government have had to contend has been that which is known as Sir George Grey's party. That party, since the abolition question was fought out, has dwindled down to a few gentlemen whose reckless charges made against individual members of the Ministry, have entirely lost for them the confidence of the House. The object of that party appeared to be to bring certain members of the Government into contempt, but their line of action has had such a contrary effect that the mere presence of Sir George Grey and Mr Rees, in prominent positions on the Opposition benches assured the Ministry of support they otherwise would not have received. Indeed, the main strength of the Government, as we have pointed out on former occasions, was to be found in the opposition of the Auckland party, and the fiercer that party became, the firmer was the stability of the Ministry. The only thing which the Government have had in the least to apprehend was the formation of an Opposition in which neither Sir George nor Mr Rees would be included. We have seen the Government measures withdrawn, one after the other, at the behest of the House; we have seen their financial statement pulled to pieces, and their fiscal proposals treated with contempt; and we have seen the House assenting to the Government holding such a humiliating position, rather than that Sir George Grey should have a chance of sitting on the Treasury benches. This is now likely to be changed; the Ministry will no longer have to reply to wild and unsupported charges of jobbery and corruption, from men like Mr. Rees, but will have to show the House and the country that their policy, and their measures, and their administration, can be defended against the attacks of the Opposition. In this we imagine, they will have a hard struggle, for, although we do not suppose that Mr. Montgomery can as yet secure a very large following, we do think that the time is not far distant when the House will insist upon something more than a hand to mouth policy. It will be seen from our special telegrams that Mr. Macandrew will not join the new party, preferring to act with Sir George Grey. The Opposition is thus still split into two parties, and while that is the case the Government can rely on sufficient support to retain their position.

THE House has thrown out the Napier Borough Endowment Bill, and the Harbor Board is once more safe in the possession of the few square yards of mud of which it was sought to relieve it. And the fact of the Bill being thrown out goes to show how chary the House is of dealing with matters which, in the days of provincialism, a Superintendent would play pitch and toss with. But Mr Ormond as Superintendent, and Mr Ormond as Minister of the Crown, are two different persons. In the one capacity he was irresponsible, and could, and did, do that which was right in his own eyes; in his present position the restraint of office bears heavily, and the public service has to be considered. Mr Ormond as Minister felt constrained to oppose a Bill that gave to the Borough what had once been given for harbor purposes. Mr Ormond, as Superintendent, did not see any harm in giving the Borough a much more valuable slice out of the same original harbor endowment, and selling for the good of the province ever so much more. We presume that now the piece of ground in question will remain the horrible nuisance it has been since the railway has been constructed.

A correspondent who is described as trustworthy by the Globe states that the Russian Government is engaging a number of steam launches and floating cranes for the purpose of placing torpedoes in the waters surrounding Cronstadt. Nothing will be done to interfere with the navigation in the main channel, but arrangements are being made so that the passage can be stopped at a moment's notice. The forts at Cronstadt, most of the guns of which during the winter were despatched to Odessa, are being re-armed with cannon from the Government foundry at Petrazovodsk. It is not anticipated that any Turkish vessel will appear in Russian waters, the preparations of the Government for the defence being occasioned solely by the belief that, in the event of hostilities with England, our fleet would display greater energy in attack than was the case during the Crimean war.

## Waka Maori Libel Case.

[PRESS AGENCY.]

WELLINGTON.

September 4.

The Court was all morning examining Mr Sheehan, who said he was largely concerned in native complaints before the Commission, in fact Judge Richmond called him the "Attorney-General for the natives." He had conversations with Hori Niania respecting the Waipukurau leases and the reserve of twenty acres said to be promised by Mr Russell. Hori told witness Mr Russell made no such promise, and declined to do so. It was Mr Locke who moved him in the matter through Mr Drower, but he did intend going to Napier again about it. He was Arihi's solicitor since 1873. Lately it was advertised Mr Lascelles was, but no formal intimation had been given him. His name was still on the record for several of Arihi's cases. He valued Alice's property between £30,000 and £40,000. The latest and best offer made to Alice was £3,000 for herself and £1,000 for herself. The offer was by telegram, and was now with his papers in Napier. When he found Alice made a deed of conveyance, while in her minority, he advised her not to touch the principal or interest, as that would be confirmation of the conveyance to Tanner and party. No more eligible persons could be found in Hawke's Bay as trustees than Messrs Purvis Russell and Wilson. He showed Alice her trust fund was all right, and went to the Bank and got a pass book and interpreted its contents to show the position of her affairs. This was shortly before her letters appeared in the Waka Maori. She once wanted £35 from him. When he refused, and said he would advise Mr. Russell not to give it to her, she said she would go over to the Government. Witness detailed at considerable length the mode of procedure at the meeting at Renata's, regarding the Wai-kariou block. The only reason the leases were not completed then was that he had to go to Parliament, and the natives required he should be present at their arrangements, although all were agreed then as to terms. They asked more next year, chiefly he believed because their debts were then greater. He denied all the allegations as to Mr Russell threatening the natives, if they refused the lease to him. It was intimated if they leased to others, they had better pay him. He would have been no party to threats or coercion. He denied the alleged promises made by Jemima or Hone Ta Tohinga. Mr Russell's terms to the natives re leases were more liberal than were usually given.

Cross-examined by Mr. Conolly: Mr Russell it was who paid witness. The Heretaunga was acquired for about one-fifth of its value. He did not cross-examine Alice about the £35 she asked him for. It was not worth it. At the Commission she got sulky, and went over to the fire and gave only one answer to the last questions, viz., "I'll tell you when you let me have my money you robbed me of." Hawke's Bay public opinion might be said to be divided between the Ring and the Repudiationists. Mangai only declined to lease the lands on the terms then offered. He was solicitor for Arihi to set aside the Heretaunga Block Purchase. She had been for 18 months negotiating. He had recently issued 40 or 50 writs. Since 1875 there had been several actions in type. The cases had not developed into the usual professional instint in going in against everyone.

Re-examined by Mr. Macassey: On the trial, he would settle all the cases. He proposed to take a few cases, but defendants would not agree; they returned good for evil to such an extent that he did not feel inclined to be merciful any longer. After reading some documents, Mr. Macassey said the plaintiff's case was closed.

At 2 o'clock Mr. Conolly proceeded to address the Court for the defence, going carefully over all such portions of the evidence, taken either here or in Napier, as would tell against the plaintiff and would favor his clients. The learned gentleman went a considerable length in analysing the evidence relating to the contract for sleepers, keenly criticising Mr. Russell's letter to the Minister of Public Works as to the sleepers, and the royalty for which had not been paid to the natives to this day. The learned counsel spoke up till 5 p.m.

September 5.

Mr [Conolly] resumed at 10 this morning and continued till 12.45, when the Court rose for an hour. The gist of his argument was to show that there was only Mr Russell's evidence to rebut that of six or seven natives. As for Messrs

Sheehan and White's corroborative evidence, it was not worth much, when the jury considered the way both were mixed up with Mr Russell, for although Mr. Sheehan was called, the Attorney-General for the Maoris, Mr Russell was his real employer. He contrasted Mr. Russell's evidence with Messrs Hamlin's and Locke's, neither of whom was in the slightest degree interested, and had no connection with any of the parties. Not a breath of suspicion could be alleged against the character of either. Besides, both were on friendly terms with Mr Russell. That being so, Mr Hamlin's evidence, which was flatly contradicted by Mr. Russell, must have been pure invention from the first word to the last, or Mr. Russell, who was a deeply interested person, must have wilfully stated what was false. Both Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Locke swore that 15 or 20 acres were promised Hori. He also keenly criticised the plaintiff's statement with regard to his entering into a written agreement with Hori, asking, how it was possible for Mr. Russell, who could not speak Maori, to explain a document to Hori, who did not understand English? He argued that if the plaintiff's evidence was unreliable in that particular, was it not to be distrusted throughout the whole case, whenever it came into collision with the evidence for the defence? It was not the exalted position, nor the large possessions of the plaintiff they should look at, but at the credibility of his evidence, as against so many others, always remembering what an interested party he was. He thought, although there were six issues, the jury really would have to deal with only two. He also commented upon the suspicious appearance of the fact that Mr Russell was constantly allowing the natives to get into his debt, and, he argued, consequently into his power. He maintained that the allegations in the letters had been proved true, and therefore no libel, and confidently expected the jury to return a verdict accordingly.

Mr Macassey commenced to address the jury about 2 o'clock this afternoon, and continued until 5.20. The Court was crowded the whole time. Referring to land transactions as far back as 1872, he said they were of such a nature that the colonial Legislature had to interfere on behalf of the natives, but Mr Russell was the person who pressed the matter home until the Government did take action. Touching the Te Aute meeting, he said that Mr Hamlin's brother was there as "Paul Pry" on behalf of the Government. He commented on the singular coincidence of Mr Locke not going to the Te Aute meeting as he intended, and as he went to other meetings and accounted for it on the ground that those superior to Mr Locke were hostile to Mr Russell, and wished to annoy and irritate him. It was clear, from the way the case was conducted, re supplying sleepers which had nothing to do with the case, that there was a strong animus against the plaintiff. He complained of the way the witnesses were led in the examination before the Commission as unfair. [The Judge agreed that the mode of examination was open to some objection.] He ridiculed the idea of accepting Mangai's evidence as to Mr Russell using threats, and he analysed Mangai's printed evidence. He argued that the whole tenor of the evidence went to show Mr Russell to be the disinterested adviser, patron, and protector of the natives, being more liberal to them in his dealings than any one else would be; that he was in fact, quite Quixotic. Touching the sleeper transaction, he said there was nothing to show that Mr Russell benefited a farthing, or that any of the profit was not devoted to the sole benefit of the natives. One of the letters accused Mr Russell of leaving Hori Niania landless and destitute, but he had adduced evidence showing Hori still possessed considerable land. Mr Macassey then examined Mr Locke's evidence at considerable length, to show that Mr Locke's memory failed him, as was quite natural in a period of ten or eleven years. He contrasted Mr Russell's evidence, to show that if Mr Locke's was astray in one thing why not as to the alleged promise to give Hori 20 acres of land. Mr Locke's letter to Mr Russell about the Waipukurau purchase made no reference to such a promise, and so that sent Mr Locke's evidence by the board. Coming to Mr Hamlin, Mr Macassey called him "that man with the memory," who, without written memorandum of any kind, recollected the minutest details of sayings and doings having cherished them in his memory ten or eleven years. Mr Hamlin, he thought, proved too much altogether. Mr Macassey commented on the enormity of sending a libel broadcast from one end of the colony to the other, and even to London, where Mr

Russell got a copy addressed to him. Even Tairaro got one at Otago Heads. If the jury thought the allegations true, let them say so, and his client should be stripped of land and honor, and of the position he now held in the legislature. If not, let them mark their sense of the great wrong done him, and remove from his troubled heart the sorrow that had known it so long.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

September 6.

The Waka Maori case will close tonight. The Judge is summing up since 10 a.m., and will probably close about six p.m. Opinion is divided, as many hold there will be no verdict. The Judge has referred in damaging terms to the plaintiff's agreements for the lease of the Te Aute lands, pointing out they do not agree with the leases subsequently issued, the conditions inserted in the lease being more favorable to Mr Russell than the agreement.

## Russell Wins the Day!

£500 and Costs.

The libel case has just concluded. The jury has returned a verdict, giving Mr. Russell £500 damages and costs, besides a guinea on each issue. There is weeping and wailing among the Government supporters. The costs altogether amount close on £5,000.

## WEST CLIVE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

September 2, 1877.

I am given to understand that the erection of a new bridge across the Ngaruroro is in contemplation, and that Mr Bold is preparing plans and specifications for the same. This is decidedly a step in the right direction, for the rickety old structure which some people facetiously call a bridge is, notwithstanding all its numerous repairs, in a dilapidated condition, and its many spans only tend to retard the free egress of timber and roots which are floated down the river during flood time, seriously jeopardising the bridge and those who might happen to be upon it at the time. Doubtless, if Mr Bold is not cramped for necessary funds, we shall have a bridge both substantial and ornamental, and well worthy the designers.

Large quantities of timber arrived at the Farndon station last week, and a great number of Maoris with their teams were busily engaged carting the same to Waiowhiki. At this place a church is to be erected which is to cost £2,000, and the timber alluded to is to be used in the erection of the same. This, certainly, is much to the credit of the Maoris in that district, and not only contrasts favorably with Europeans in such matters, but goes far to show the rapid strides they are making both in morality and Christianity.

At Farndon there is not only to be a telegraph office, but a Post Office is to be erected in connection with the same. I have heard that the residents across the bridge, that is, at Clive proper, do not approve of the Post Office being removed from the last-mentioned township; but I fear they are taking a narrow-minded line, and only looking at the immediate present, and not at the distant future when in all probability, from the Waitangi to the Ngaruroro, will be built upon, and the site for the Post Office be almost central between the extremities of West Clive and the Waitangi bridge. Judging from this view, I am under the impression that the authorities are to be complimented for the steps they are taking.

There is a statement going the rounds of Clive that a certain individual (who for the present shall be nameless), is in the habit of impounding cattle off his property in a sort of private pound at East Clive, and charging certain fees before he will release the cattle to their owners. Now to my mind this is clearly in opposition to the Impounding Ordinance, and a direct infringement of the same, and that the said person is liable to punishment for so doing. But perhaps it is done in ignorance.

The constant stream of traps that continually pass up and down this road is something surprising. I remember before the railway started that horse teams were to be seen in any quantity daily passing through the township, but a trap was a decided rarity. Now the horse teams have almost become a rarity, and trap-hunters have become the order of the day. They are numerous enough on working days, but on Sundays, traps and equestrians, both male and female from little after sunrise till long after sundown, are speeding away both up and down the road.

## THE NOVELIST.

LADY TREVOR'S SECRET;  
OR, THE  
Mystery of Cecil Rosse.

BY MRS. HARRIET LEWIS.

## CHAPTER XLV.

## THE PLOT WORKS.

The amazement of Pulford at the reconte, which was as startling as it was unexpected, fully equalled that of Jarvis. He uttered an ejaculation expressive of utter bewilderment, and leaned from his horse, peering into the face of the ruffian with alarmed recognition.

"You here?" he exclaimed. "You?"

"It's really me, Guv'nor!" exclaimed Jarvis. "And I never was so glad to see any one in my life as I am to set eyes on you. The old Nick himself must have sent you. And it's the first streak of luck I've had these two weeks."

"Has anything happened?"

"Everything has happened. The fat is all in the fire. If you're on your way to Black Rock, you needn't go no further. I am here, and the gal is here—"

Mr Pulford interrupted him by a malediction that would have startled any man less hardened than the scoundrel who listened to him. Then he hastily slipped from his saddle, demanding again what had happened.

"The girl here!" he exclaimed. "What do you mean? Speak out, man!"

"That's what I am trying to do, sir. Miss Rosse and the old woman escaped from Black Rock. They are as cunning as Lucifer, that's what they are. And the trick they played on us, a-letting themselves down out of a three-story winder, was total unexpected, the dogs being hitched under the wagon at the time ready for travel, and not therefore being around to hinder—"

"Escaped? The girl and her servant escaped? And here?"

"In that house over yonder," declared Jarvis, pointing towards the low, thatched farm-house of MacDougal. "She came here, and I came in pursuit. She's been here a week or more. I've tried every earthly means to get hold on 'em."

Mr Pulford uttered another fierce oath.

Then he questioned his confederate sharply and keenly. Jarvis replied by giving a full narrative of the occurrences of the past few weeks.

"I was just gettin' desprit, Guv'nor," he continued. "The gal has writ to some friend in London to look after her, and her friend is expected here to-morrow. What I was to do I didn't know, only I meant to make a bold strike to-night."

"She expects a friend to-morrow! What friend?"

"You ought to know that better'n me. The friend is a man, of course, that's all I know."

Mr Pulford reflected. He knew well that Miss Rosse had few acquaintances in London, and that Gretchen must have appealed for help either to Lord Glenham or Maudred Crafton.

"You are right, Jarvis," he exclaimed. "The old Nick himself must have sent me up here at this particular time. We must make a bold strike to-night. To-morrow will be too late. I stopped over a day at Inverness, and Miss Rosse's friend may have been close upon my track. He may even arrive here to-night."

"He may, Guv'nor. Calculating close, he ought to have been here to-day."

Mr Pulford again gave himself up to thought. His fertile brain presently originated a striking idea, which he hastened to impart to his companion.

"I'll ride on to the farm-house," he said, "and present myself to the

worthy MacDougal as Miss Rosse's expected friend from London."

"You, Guv'nor?"

"I. And I'll corroborate all your statements, Jarvis. The girl must be delivered up into your keeping."

Jarvis expressed assent.

"I came up here on purpose to put her out of the way altogether," said Pulford, in a lower tone. "As long as the girl lives she will be a source of danger and trouble to us. Even all your vigilance has not availed to keep her in the prison we provided for her. Now, suppose that she were to die to-night? I should hand you in the morning a roll of money, the reward I promised you, and you could go where you will, independent and well provided for."

"It'd be a good job for me, that's so. Only, how's the thing to be did?"

Pulford replied by unfolding a diabolical plan, which met the full approval of his villainous ally.

"You've got a head for business, Guv'nor," said Jarvis, admiringly. "Jest make the thing a little plainer and I'll undertake to carry it through."

They talked for some time further, developing Pulford's scheme in all its hideous details. Then Pulford remounted and rode on toward the farm house, leaving Jarvis to follow later.

The MacDougal family was gathered in the great kitchen. A big fire blazed on the hearth, the night being chilly. Mrs MacDougal sat at her spinning wheel, hard at work. Elspeth was winding yarn from a reel. The younger daughter was sewing, while the buxom housemaid was knitting stockings. Even the men were employed, in repairing harness and farm implements and all these employments were carried on by the firelight, aided by the glimmer of one tallow candle.

Mr Pulford rode into the yard, dismounted, and knocked upon the door with the handle of his riding-whip. The farmer bade him enter, and he opened the door and stepped over the threshold.

His appearance declared him a gentleman. As he removed his hat, bowing, MacDougal and his family arose, greeting him respectfully.

"Is this the house of Mr MacDougal?" asked Pulford.

MacDougal replied in the affirmative.

"I received a letter from Miss Rosse's servant," said Pulford, easily, "begging me to come to them—"

"An' ye're welcome, sir, right welcome," interrupted Mrs MacDougal, impulsively. "We expected ye the day, sir. Elspeth, place a chair. Coom up to the fire, sir. Dinna stan' there by the dure."

"We're glad to see ye, sir," said the farmer. "The young lady were getting troubled wi' the waiting. This be gude news for her, pur young creetur."

The family entertaining no doubt that this was the "friend" so anxiously expected by Miss Rosse, pressed their hospitalities upon the stranger. One of the men went out to care for his horse. Mr Pulford sat down in a high-backed, rush-bottomed chair at the corner of the hearth, declining politely the offers of refreshment urged upon him.

"I had my supper at a farm-house a few miles back," he declared. "I am too anxious about Miss Rosse to think of anything beside her. Is she well?"

"She has been vera ill!" said Mrs MacDougal. "Vera ill, sir, but thanks to a mercifu' Providence, she's aboot well now. I will tell her you've coom—"

"Not yet, if you please. I wish to ask you a few questions, first, madam—"

"And I hae something to say also," said the farmer, respectfully. "The young lady cam' her' wi' her servant, without any attendant what-

ever. The twa were mounted on ponies that were exhausted wi' fatigue. The young lady fainted, an' I carried her intil the hoose in my arms. They had travelled lang an' far, pur souls. We made them comfortable, sir, an' welcome."

"Ay, that we did," said Mrs MacDougal. "An' a gentler, sweeter lady never lived than Miss Rosse."

"She told us," continued the farmer, "that she hae been confined for months in a auld haunted hoose ca'ed the Black Rock Hoose, whilk belonged to the last o' the Cathcains. An' she said that she had an enemy whilk was on her track. Sure enoo, the next day a mon appeared, saying his name was Dochther Graham, and the twa pur women were loony-patients escaped from his mad-house at Incedon. Sae I hae listened to bath sides, an' not being able to jodge between the twa stories, I bade Dochther Graham wait until I could hear fra' Miss Rosse's friends. Miss Kosse says that the dochther is no dochther, but a mon named Jairvis. He has behavit vera well. We hae seen naething wrang in him."

"And we hae seen nae madness in her," said Mrs MacDougal.

"Yet the man's story is the true one," said Mr Pulford, with a long-drawn sigh. "He must be Doctor Graham of Incedon, a peculiar but most estimable person."

"Then he is nae the mon Jairvis."

"I never heard that name," said Mr Pulford. "I know no such person. Miss Rosse is really insane. She was disappointed in love and went melancholy mad, and her friend sent her to Incedon, thinking that the bracing air, the solitude, and excellent treatment for which that retreat is celebrated, might restore her to health. As to the woman Gretchen, who shares her delusions, I know nothing about her. She is probably some patient who has attached herself to my poor niece—"

"Then the young lady is your niece, sir?"

Mr Pulford bowed gravely.

"Of course," said he, "I was surprised to receive a letter from the German woman in regard to my young relative, but as I had heard from the senior doctor of the Incedon retreat that Miss Rosse had escaped, I came on at once."

The MacDougals expressed their wonder and surprise at Pulford's declarations. Every member of the family had been so deeply impressed with the beauty and sweetness of Miss Rosse that they had instinctively espoused her cause against Jarvis. They did not dream of doubting Pulford's word. They believed him to be the friend Gretchen had summoned, and considered his testimony decisive.

They had not overcome the stupor produced by the stranger's unwelcome declarations when Jarvis came swaggering in.

He started at sight of Pulford, counterfeiting amazement. His employer arose and advanced toward him, stretching out his hand and exclaiming:

"Ah, Doctor, it is you, then? How do you do, sir? This is a most unpleasant surprise, seeing you here?"

"An unpleasant surprise to me, sir," said Jarvis, shaking the hand extended to him. "I fear you will deem me neglectful, sir, for allowin' the gal to get the start o' me in this here fashion."

"We certainly owe a great deal of gratitude to this worthy family, Doctor," said Pulford, "for their care of my poor niece, and their hospitality to yourself."

"Miss Rosse is oop an' dressed," said Mrs MacDougal, completely bewildered. "Shall I ca' her, sir? Wad ye like to see her?"

"Not to-night, madam," said Pulford, who did not wish to see either Cecil or Gretchen at all. "I am fatigued, and would like to be spared

the trial. But if you can kindly accommodate me for the night, I will see my poor niece in the morning, and then remove her from your hospitable roof."

"He is right," said the farmer, "Let the young lady pass a quiet night. An' i' the morning let her gae away peaceable. That is the best plan, wife. Ye can mak' oop a bed for the gentleman, nae doot?"

The housewife assented. She had already planned in her own mind to give up the chamber of her daughters to this stranger, and compel them to resort to a "shake-down" upon the kitchen-floor. She was about to take Elspeth aside to communicate this decision, when old Gretchen entered the kitchen.

She had heard of Pulford's arrival, and had waited impatiently with her young mistress in the hope of a speedy summons to the kitchen. The idea of both the fugitives was that Crafton had come in obedience to Gretchen's appeal. At last, unable to bear the suspense longer, the old woman had come below upon a visit of investigation.

She halted upon the threshold, her heart beating wildly. The light in the kitchen blinded her after the darkness of the passage. She saw a group of persons, but could not make out one face or figure distinctly, owing to the blur that suddenly obscured her vision.

"It is nae longer possible to keep the matter till morning frae these pur women," said the younger Miss MacDougal. "Gretchen, come this way. He is the frien' wha ye writ yer letter to. He is just coom!"

Gretchen put her hand to her heart. Her rugged old face was transfigured with her great joy and relief.

"Mr Crafton!" she gasped.

Pulford set his face in a stern and rigid expression. He arose and moved a step toward the old woman, and the light fell full upon his florid face and long sandy beard and full, heavy features. Gretchen turned pale. She had expected to behold the dark, thin visage of Crafton. She recognized Pulford at the first glance, and a thrill of terror, unaccountable to herself, since she did not suspect him of being the secret enemy of Miss Rosse, went through her at the recognition.

"Is this the companion of my poor niece?" asked Pulford, coolly.

"This is she!" replied MacDougal. "She ca's hersel' the servant of Miss Rosse. The twa seem to think the worl' o' each ither!"

"They did at the retreat," said Jarvis. "It was a singular attachment for twa as never met till they met in my asylum, when Miss Rosse was brought there. The old woman had been there many years—a charity patient."

Gretchen looked from Jarvis to Mr Pulford with a wild appeal.

Pulford's face was a study at that moment. He had schooled himself to the task he had in hand. The sternness and rigidity had deserted his features: he looked compassionate, kindly, wondering. He regarded the poor old woman as if she had been an utter stranger to him, and shrank slightly from her as if she considered her a dangerous maniac.

Gretchen was bewildered by the mixed expression of Pulford's countenance, but more than all, by his unlooked for presence in that lonely Highland farm-house.

"Mr Pulford!" she exclaimed. "It don't seem possible! You here, sir! Oh, sir, I don't know how it happens that you are here, unless you have discovered the treachery that was practised upon my young mistress! I was sure that you and Lady Trevor would make some inquiry after my poor Miss Cecil—"

"I don't understand you my good woman," interrupted Pulford. "You have mistaken my name. I am Mr Crafton!"

Gretchen staggered back a pace.

"Do you deny that you are the gentleman we saw at Lady Trevor's house?" she exclaimed sharply. "Do you deny that you are Mr Pulford, and that you met us at Gravesend and put us on board the yacht? Do you deny—"

Pulford put up his hand in a gesture that silenced her.

"My good woman," he said, coolly, "I never saw you before in my life!"

Gretchen put one hand to her head and stood amazed.

"Poor creature!" said Pulford. "She's mad, doctor—mad as a March hare!"

Gretchen stood for one moment, wild and incredulous, her face white, her breath gasping. Pulford's denial of ever having seen her before overwhelmed her with amazement and consternation. She saw that the MacDougals began to regard her askance. She comprehended her own peril and that of her young mistress, now that Pulford had espoused the cause of Jarvis, but she gave no thought to it.

A flood of suspicion poured suddenly in upon the old woman's soul. She drew up her heavy old figure; her withered face kindled; her gray old eyes flashed like drawn steel in the sunlight; a mighty indignation took possession of her.

"I see!" she cried, her voice ringing through the old kitchen, pointing her long and bony forefinger at Pulford with stern accusing. "You are in league with Jarvis. You are his employer! It is you, Mr Pulford, who are the secret enemy of my young mistress. It is you who caused her to be taken to Black Rock—you who bribed this wretch to kill her! Coward! Murderer! Assassin! I have found you out at last!"

#### CHAPTER XLVI.

##### MRS. PETERS' VISIT.

Lady Trevor sat alone in her morning-room. It was the morning after her visit to the theatre. Mr Pulford had already started for Scotland, and the widow was meditating darkly upon the probable success of his nefarious scheme, and the reward she meant to bestow upon him in lieu of her hand in marriage.

She was thus engaged, when a servant entered with the announcement that a poor woman named Peters wished to see her.

"I don't see beggars!" said Lady Trevor, haughtily. "You ought to know better than to bring such a message to me, Tompkins."

The servant retreated in confusion, but presently returned, deprecating and humble, but bearing a salver on which lay a soiled card.

"If you please, my lady," he said, "the woman says as her business is most important, and as you'd see her if you knew who she was. This is her card."

"Some servant I once employed, perhaps," said Lady Trevor. "I can't see her, Tompkins. I won't be disturbed. Stay—let me see the card."

Her jewelled fingers daintily touched the scrap of pasteboard, and her ladyship put up her gold mounted eye-glass to survey it. She read simply these words:—

Mrs Sarah Peters, of Baden-Baden, wishes to speak about "Mrs Nelson."

The card dropped to the floor. Lady Trevor's hand fell to her side. The servant did not see the frightened, startled, desperate look that leaped to her eyes. There was a brief silence. He retreated, trembling, toward the door, anticipating a storm of anger. But Lady Trevor said very quietly, and he did not notice that her voice was strangely hoarse.

"Is it an old servant, as I surmised. Show her up, Tompkins. And see that I am not interrupted while she is here."

Tompkins withdrew and ushered in the visitor. Then he retreated, closing the door behind him.

Lady Trevor arose slowly, confronting Mrs Peters. The visitor was shabbily dressed, as on the previous day. Her gait was shambling, but she advanced boldly, her sickly face flushed with a sort of exultation which her ladyship did not fail to mark.

"You wished to see me, Mrs—ah—Mrs Peters," said Lady Trevor, pushing the card into view with the toe of a rosetted slipper, and regarded it again with her eye-glass.

"I wish to see you, Mrs Nelson, otherwise Lady Trevor," said Mrs Peters.

Lady Trevor started. "What do you mean by calling me Mrs Nelson," she demanded.

"That was the name I knew you by, in Germany, fifteen years ago. You seem to have forgotten me, madam."

"You are labouring under some strange mistake. You have taken me for some one else, Mrs Peters."

"No, I haven't. I could never forget them eyes. You look hardly a year older than you did then, Mrs Nelson—"

"I am Lady Trevor—be good enough to remember that!" said her ladyship, imperiously.

"It's natural for me to call you by the name you told me was your'n," said Mrs Peters, seating herself upon a large, marquise chair, and stretching out her large, ill-shod feet upon the polished silver fender, with the air of one very much at home. "I saw you in the park, yesterday, a-riding in your carriage, and dressed to kill, looking like a doll that's made to wear fine clothes and be carried about. And I sat there on a bench in these here clothes, a-looking on at the fine folks, just as if I was made of some dreadful inferior clay."

"You saw me?" said Lady Trevor, forcing herself to speak calmly. "And so you resolved to come and ask me for help? Is that what you want to say?"

"That is what I thought yesterday," replied Mrs Peters, a little sullenly. "But since then I've got more light. Do you suppose that, because I'm poor, I've got no natural feeling? I want to ask you about the child. Don't ask what child. It you try to play off ignorant, and that you are not the woman I knew at Baden-Baden as Mrs Nelson, I'll go to Lord St. Leonards, as is your grandfather, and ask him where the child is."

Lady Trevor sank down in her chair suddenly, as if deprived of strength. Her hard and desperate eyes were turned away from Mrs Peters' inquisitive gaze, but the visitor saw that the lady's lips set themselves together in a fierce, tense line, and that the lady's brows contracted in an ominous frown.

There was a long silence between the pair. Mrs Peters toasted her feet on the fender and watched the steam arising from her wet shoes, and now and then fixed a curious glance upon Lady Trevor, who sat like a statue, with that fixed frown on her brows, and her set lips strangely silent and motionless.

In truth, she was struggling with emotions such as the visitor could never have understood. Her soul was the scene of conflicting passions, terror, anxiety, fear, and despair. She was trying to consider how best to deal with this new trouble assailing her—how to rid herself of this woman, whose tongue must be silenced.

"I say," said Mrs Peters at length, tiring of the stillness, "where is the child?"

"It's dead!" said her ladyship, huskily, not moving.

"Dead?" repeated Mrs Peters.

"Did you think it promised a long life?" said Lady Trevor, with a sneer. "Was it so healthy that you anticipated for it a good old age?"

"Why, no. The child was sickly from its birth. The doctor said it had marasmus. It sort o'pined and wasted away from the very beginning, but then you said that good living and good doctoring might bring it out, after all."

"Well, they didn't."

"I've often wondered," said Mrs Peters, "why a rich lady, newly married as you seemed to be, not above twenty years old, should have wished to adopt a little sickly child like mine. To be sure, the child was pretty, if I do say it, with her little fair face and brown curls and bright, soft eyes, so uncomplaining and gentle always, and at the time I believed you had took a fancy to her, you and Mr Nelson, which was Sir Albert Trevor, I suppose. I thought that perhaps you could do more for her than I could, and perhaps some of the great doctors might cure her."

Lady Trevor moved uneasily, but did not answer. "I should never have let her go if I hadn't been situated just as I was, and if I hadn't believed I was acting for the child's good," continued Mrs Peters. "My husband was valet to English gentlemen as had took up his residence at Baden. By husband wrote to me to come to him, as the change of air might help the child, and as his mistress wanted a lady's maid, and he thought she might take me. But when I arrived, my husband said I must put the child out in some cheap farm-house, with one of them German women as can't speak English. Of course I refused. Then we quarrelled terrible. The child was in our way. What to do I didn't know. I was as near desperate in them days as ever I was in my life. I wanted the situation offered me, but I couldn't part with the

child to her detriment. I used to wish that she and I could die together and slip out of all the trouble!" added Mrs Peters, with a sigh. "And it was then that Providence as I thought, came to my relief!"

Lady Trevor opened her lips to speak, but her voice did not issue from them.

"I was sitting on a bench in the avenue leading to the Conversation Haus, with the child in my arms, a listening to the band one afternoon, continued Mrs. Peters, "in that despair as I wished I was dead, when an English gentleman stopped and spoke to me and asked about the child. I remember him perfectly. He had a squint-like in one eye, and a mole on one cheek, and was fair, and looked as if he were rich. He asked particular about the child's age, and had her stand up while he questioned me about her height and the color of her eyes and hair. Then, the first I knew, I was telling him all my trouble, that my husband was angry because I wouldn't send little Fanny away to die among strangers, and that I had no money for doctors. The gentlemen listened and asked me to bring the child to his lodgings that evening, and to ask for Mr. Nelson."

"I know—I know—"

"I went, not knowing but his lady might take me for her servant and allow me to keep the child with me. I found the lodgings very quiet and respectable. You were there in the parlor, and the gentleman called you Mrs. Nelson. He offered to adopt the child as his own. You told me that she should have the best care and doctoring money could buy. It seemed to me as the whole thing was providential. I never stopped to ask any questions, nor to consult my husband, but accepted all your statements as truth, and consented to give you my child. When I went away that night, I left little Fanny with you."

"It is not necessary to repeat all this."

"I went back to my lodgings that night, rejoicing over little Fanny's good fortune," said Mrs. Peters, unheeding the impatient interruption. "The next morning I went and told my husband, and applied for the place of lady's maid, as was still vacant. My husband questioned me, and finally went with me to the house where I had seen you. You were gone, and the child was gone too. The landlady said that Mr Nelson had hired the rooms on the previous day, paying a week in advance, that neither he nor his lady had brought any luggage, and that they had gone out late in the evening, soon after I left them, and taken the child with them, saying that they would set out for England that very night. Thomas, my husband, could find no trace of the Nelsons or the child. The thing grew to be a terrible mystery to us. I got my situation, we lived abroad for years, and then came back to England. Other children were born to us, and last year my husband died, but in all these years I never forgot little Fanny, nor lost all hope of seeing you again. And now we have met at last."

"What can you have to say to me, now that we have met?" demanded Lady Trevor. "I neither deny nor acknowledge in so many words that I am the woman you knew as Mrs Nelson. But if I am, you can have no claim upon me—the child being dead."

"Can I not have? When and where did she die?"

"On the Continent."

"Did she die in Paris?"

Lady Trevor did not answer.

"I have heard how you came into your great fortune through the death of your little step-sister, the Lady Alba Ravendale," said Mrs Peters. "I can't prove nothing, but I suspect a most stupendous fraud—"

"Woman!"

"I suspect," said Mrs Peters calmly, "that you took my poor, little, sickly child and past her off as the little Lady Alba. I suspect that the child who died in Paris, and was brought to England and buried in the vault of the Marquis of St. Leonards, was my own sickly little Fanny. Perhaps the real Lady Alba is alive to day—"

"Woman! how dare you speak such words to me?"

"I think all these things, but I can't prove 'em—"

"I should think you could not. If you dared charge me with such a crime in the hearing of other people I'd have you sent to prison. Do you know what rank and wealth and influence can do? I can crush you as I would a worm!"

"Perhaps so," said the seamstress; "but if I could prove what I suspect, I'd defy you, and go to Lord St. Leonards this very morning with my story. I'm an honest woman, although I'm poor. I would be no party to a fraud, my Lady Trevor. But I cannot be certain. If

Lord St. Leonards were to ask me for proofs, I could not give them. In telling him all I suspect, I should only be getting myself into trouble that I couldn't prove, I should be put in prison for libel, because suspicions go for nothing for the law. And so, madam, against my will I am forced to be silent."

"You have wronged me by your vile suspicions, Mrs Peters. My little step-sister, the Lady Alba Ravendale, died—"

"In Paris? At the same time with my Fanny? The Lady Alba was in your charge. Did you have the two children together?"

"Yes, they were together. Your little Fanny was procured as a playmate for the little Lady Alba—"

"Who died of marasmus, like my Fanny. Where is my child buried?"

"In Paris," said Lady Trevor desperately. "At Montmartre."

"I shall visit her grave. You may think because I gave her up so readily to strangers that I did not love the child. I did love her. The mystery of her fate has always weighed upon me. I have looked for you for years, Lady Trevor, knowing, that, if I could get at the truth, I should have you in my power. I am not very sharp-witted; I cannot see through this mystery yet. It may all be as you say—"

"You waste words. You came here for money. How much do you want to ensure your silence?"

"I am a widow and poor, with three sons to support. I have done sewing for a living, but am not able to work longer."

"I want an annuity sufficient to keep me in comfort and to educate my boys."

"Say a hundred pounds a year?"

The seamstress's eyes sparkled. The amount named appeared to be a fortune. "Yes," she declared, "for that sum I will agree to keep silent."

"You must not come to this house again for a year," said Lady Trevor, drawing from her pocket her silver portmonnaie. "Stay. You have three boys. Why don't you emigrate to one of the colonies?"

"I have wished to do so. I have a brother who is a farmer in Tasmania. With a hundred pounds a year, I could buy me a farm, and bring up my sons to work on it. But I should have to have my passage-money extra—"

"Come and see me one week from to-night, and I will place the tickets for a cabin passage to Tasmania in your hands," said her ladyship. "Here can buy your outfit before you come to me again. When you arrive in Tasmania, I will arrange that you shall find there an extra sum of one hundred pounds, so that you can make a good payment on your farm."

She extracted several bank notes from her purse, and placed them in Mrs Peters' hand. The seamstress counted them, stuffed them in her bosom, and arose with a flush of exultation on her sickly face.

"I'll be here a week from to-night, madam," she declared, "and all ready for the voyage."

She retreated to the door, with a last glance of triumph at the baronet's widow, and then made her way into the hall.

As the house door closed behind her, Lady Trevor muttered:

"That difficulty, which threatened to destroy me, is met and conquered. Pulford shall get her tickets and see her off."

Mrs Peters cautiously descended the slippery steps and paused a moment on the pavement, saying to herself:

"That money came easy. I might have got more. I'd like to emigrate well enough, but I'd like more money to go with. I'm not sure but the marquis would pay handsome for the information about Fanny, and not let me be prosecuted because I couldn't prove it. There's a risk, to be sure, in telling him. I must think the matter over. Anyhow, the first thing to be done with this here money will be to get a decent outfit of clothes. And, the second thing I'll do will be to go to Paris, and find out if two children died there at the same time, of the same disease, in the same family. And then I'll look for little Fanny's grave. I may be sharp enough, knowing what I know to start on, to clear up this mystery to my satisfaction and to prove my suspicions! And if I prove Lady Trevor guilty of the fraud and wickedness I suspect her of, the knowledge will make my fortune!"

To be continued.

We notice that Mr A. Bryson has called for tenders for the erection of a hotel at the corner of Dickens' and Hastings' streets. The position is the same for which Mr Peddie put in an application to the bench for a license, and afterwards withdrew it.

We notice, in our advertising columns, an announcement that Mr. W. L. Coward has commenced business at Waipawa as auctioneer, accountant, and general stock and station agent.

## MR SUTTON ON TAXATION.

Mr Sutton: I shall not detain the House at any length in expressing my opinions upon the question now under consideration. I shall have great pleasure in supporting the motion of the honorable member for Grey Valley. I think it is a course of action which this country should have taken years ago. I think, if, on the coming into operation of the Public Works policy, the principle of taxation and the raising of revenues to some extent in the way this resolution indicates had been adopted, the colony would have been very much better off than it is now. It would have been found that the burdens on the colony would have been felt very much less by the middle and laboring classes than they have hitherto been. I think it cannot admit of argument that the carrying out of railway works and other works under the Public Works Act has very much improved the value of property—in some instances from £100 to the value of £1,000. Nor can it, I presume, be denied that there is nothing wrong in asking that such properties should contribute something towards the expenditure which has enhanced their value so much. I submit that this question is one bristling with difficulty, and that it cannot be taken up and dealt with hurriedly. It would be impossible for the Government to undertake it and carry it into effect in one financial year. Supposing this motion of the honorable member for Grey Valley were adopted, it would be perfectly impossible for any Government to give effect to it, at all events for the next twelve months. A very large amount of machinery would have to be provided, and the principle would have to be carefully considered—the principle of having such a measure of direct taxation as would be as fair and equitable as possible. For instance, I think that probably it would be unfair to tax property which has not benefited by railways and public works to anything like the same extent as that which has. There are, as I said before, a great many ways in which this must be met; but I think that the country will not support the raising of the whole of its revenues in the way it has done hitherto. The Government should take a lesson from the events which have taken place in Victoria, where a large and overwhelming majority was returned to Parliament upon, as I understand it, the "ticket" of direct taxation. Taxation upon property was the great cry in the Victorian elections. I am certain, if it is not brought about by this House during this session or next session, it will not be long delayed. The next general elections will settle the matter, and it will be the platform upon which the elections will be conducted. It is all very well to say that we should leave to the Road Boards and counties the duty of levying taxation upon properties. I admit that to a certain extent the argument is correct; but it is impossible that Road Boards can raise anything like the amount that would be necessary in order to affect the taxation of the country, or in order to affect the general revenues of the country. The Road Boards have very small taxing powers; and, even supposing those powers were increased, still they would be able to effect very little in the matter of taxation. I am one of those who think that the subsidies which are given to Road Boards are a mistake. Although I have been connected with Road Boards for some years, I have always looked upon the principle as one which might be very well as a temporary thing, but as one which should not be continued. I think it would be much better to do away with it; and I should have been very much better satisfied with the Financial Statement of the Government if they had proposed to do away altogether with the system of subsidies to Road Boards and counties to raise sufficient rates for their own works. As I said before, I shall support the amendment of the honorable member for Grey Valley, and I shall also support any motion, if such a motion is brought forward at a subsequent period, affirming the necessity of bringing this amendment into operation during the present financial year, as a direction to any Government that may be in power next year to shape their financial policy accordingly.

Young lady coming out of church, in tones of deep disappointment—"There, now, wasn't it too bad. I felt so very good to-day. I was in time for church, had my Prayer-book and a fourpenny piece, and when the bag came round I could not find the fourpenny." Rude boy brother—"Next time you feel very good, Emily, put a bob in your pocket, you will find it very much easier."

## BISHOP REDWOOD.

Bishop Redwood, whose arrival and reception in Napier we have already recorded, preached on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings last week, his sermon on each occasion being followed by Benediction of the Holy Sacrament. On Sunday, His Lordship celebrated Mass and preached at eight o'clock. At 11 o'clock, at the High Mass (celebrated by the Rev. Father Kerrigan) Mozart's 12th was performed, with the exception of the "Credo" which was taken from Haydn's 1st Mass in B flat. The offertory piece was the "Ave Maria" of Cherubini, the singing being on the whole creditable to the small choir. The sermon was again preached by His Lordship, the subject being an explanation of the Rite of Confirmation and the ceremonies attending it, with an earnest address to the young people about to receive it. After the sermon Confirmation was administered to about 100 persons, mainly children, nearly two-thirds being females, whose wreaths and white veils invested the scene with much picturesqueness. In this ceremony, the Bishop was assisted by the Very Rev. Father Forest, H.V.G., and by Father Kerrigan, the choir during its progress singing the "Veni Creator," and the proceedings terminating with the Pontifical blessing. After Vespers in the evening, His Lordship again preached, delivering a most striking and emphatic address. Speaking to the newly confirmed, he urged them to be true to the Baptismal vows they had now taken upon themselves, and warned them earnestly against the besetting sins of unbelief, impurity, and the dissemination of scandal against one's neighbour. They would find themselves surrounded on all sides by dangers to their faith as Catholics and Christians, not the least of which dangers was to be found in the prevailing tone of the Press, for although such things might not produce in their minds actual unbelief, yet indifference would be created, and they ran the risk of becoming Catholics only in name. In Confirmation they received sanctifying grace, the meaning and effect of which His Lordship illustrated by a number of striking analogies drawn from the natural world. Addressing those who years ago had been confirmed, he asked how had they kept their vows. Those vows and their holy faith remained the same and unchanged, they themselves alone could change. At the conclusion of an able and practical sermon, the Bishop urged all the Catholics present to remain steadfast to their religion, that they might one day meet with the promised heavenly reward. At the conclusion of the sermon, the newly confirmed renewed their Baptismal vows, a ceremony of great solemnity; His Lordship then gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; the services concluding with hymns sung by the children of the Convent Schools. There were very large congregations at all services yesterday, the Church being so full in the evening that some persons were unable to obtain admission. The annual collection for the Bishop of the Diocese was made.

## VOLUNTEER LAND CERTIFICATES.

We publish the following circular from the Under-Secretary of defence, for the information of those volunteers in Hawke's Bay who are entitled to a land certificate. We should mention that all claims must be sent in before the 31st October next:—

Militia and Volunteer Office.

Wellington, 9th August, 1877.

SIR—In reference to the application from Volunteers for remission certificates under "The Volunteer Land Act 1865," I am instructed by the Hon. Native Minister to call your special attention to Clause 3 of the "Waste Lands Administration Act, 1876," whereby you will see that a Volunteer to become entitled to the Certificate, must have served three years prior to that Act coming into operation.

In forwarding applications for the Certificates you will be good enough to see.

- (1) That each applicant has been an efficient Volunteer at least three years prior to 31st October, 1876.
- (2) That his claim is not barred under Sub-sections 1 and 2 of Section 3 of the Act of 1876.
- (3) That in the case of each applicant his names are given in full. The Corps to which he belonged. The date of enrollment, and whether the applicant has previously received land for services as a Volunteer.
- (4) In all cases where the applicant has been serving in more than one Volunteer Corps, the fullest information

must be furnished as to dates of joining and leaving each Corps, showing in that manner how the period of five (5) years service is made up.

(Sd.) Wm MOULE Lt. Col.  
Acting Under Secretary Defence.

## RAILWAY RIOTS IN AMERICA.

The following telegrams regarding the great railway riots appear in the San Francisco papers:—

Baltimore, July 17.—A special to the Evening News from Martinsburg, West Virginia, dated 12.30 says:—The rioters are still firm and determined, and the presence of the military only serves to further exasperate them. The town is wild with excitement, and the strikers and their friends, numbering at this time fully 1000 men, are marching about bidding defiance to the military and the authorities. Some 75 or 80 engines are congregated here, and none are allowed to depart. A Committee from the striking firemen have notified the engineers that in case an engineer shall attempt to take a train out of town he will be immediately shot. At noon a cattle train bound for Baltimore attempted to start, whereupon the rioters flocked on board, and with drawn revolvers placed at the heads of the engineer and fireman, compelled them to run the trains into the stock yards, where the cattle were unloaded. Passenger trains are not interfered with, as the strike is entirely confined to transportation men. So far the strikers have everything their own way, and the military are passive and awaiting further orders from the Governor, which up to this time have not come.

Colonel Faulkner with seventy-five men of the Berkeley Light Infantry Guard arrived with loaded muskets and took charge of a west-bound freight train, and placing his men on board attempted to move the train. The strikers and their friends had gathered in strong force, not less than 400 being on the scene. They were armed with every conceivable weapon, and as the train was about to start they rushed upon it and uncoupled the cars. Colonel Faulkner called upon them to disperse, but his orders were met with jeers and threats. The Colonel then threatened that he would order the soldiers to fire on them if they did not immediately desist. Scarcely had the words fallen from his lips when a perfect fusillade of small arms was opened on the soldiers by the rioters, and one soldier was wounded by a pistol shot. The commanding officer immediately gave an order to his men to return the fire. The soldiers obeyed orders, the fire was returned, and one rioter killed outright, and others were supposed to be wounded, as several were seen to be carried off the ground by their comrades. This firing caused a scene of the wildest confusion, and several times the mob charged, but the military reloaded and stood firm, and the rioters were repulsed.

Later.—The rioters are still firm and determined. The presence of the military only serves to further exasperate them. The town is wild with excitement.

The situation along the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to-night is as follows:—Between this city and Martinsburg there is no disturbance. At Martinsburg the strikers have absolute control, and refuse to allow any freight trains to move from Martinsburg. The strike has extended west to Wheeling on the main stem, and also on the Parkersburg branch, numbering a total of five hundred men. At Grafton violence was attempted, but promptly checked by the civil authorities. At Keisen the new men were forced from the trains by the strikers, who threatened to shoot any one attempting to move them. At Martinsburg 75 trains, consisting of 1200 freight cars loaded, and of which two-thirds are bound East and one-third West, are held by the strikers. Between five and six hundred head of cattle were on the eastward bound trains, a large portion of which have been turned into the backyards or adjacent pastures. Many of the cars are laden with grain. Governor Matthews is now at Grafton with the Matthews Guard, numbering 60 men. It is probable no trains will leave Baltimore until the blockade at Martinsburg is removed. The wildest rumors are afloat of a general strike. Latest Martinsburg despatches state that the strikers absolutely control everything. The passenger trains alone run regularly.

An inquisitive rat got his physical economy considerably transposed the other day in Dunedin. He walked in among the cog-wheels of a newspaper machine; when he emerged he might have been mistaken for a fathom of badly-spun rope-yarn.—Dunedin N. Z. Press News.

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

THE following gentlemen were nominated to fill the nine vacant seats in the Municipal Council of Napier:—Messrs Joshua Bennett, S. Carnell, John Dinwiddie, W. A. Dugleby, George Ellis, G. Faulkner, G. E. Lee, J. W. Neal, James Pocock, James Rochefort, G. H. Swan, F. Tuxford, John H. Vautier, H. H. Wall, and Henry Williams. This makes fifteen candidates for the nine seats, and the election will take place on Thursday next, commencing at nine o'clock, and the poll will not close until six o'clock in the evening, thus giving the working classes an opportunity of recording their votes, after the day's labor is over. Under present circumstances, as Mr Stuart explains in his address it was impossible for him to be nominated, of the old Councillors both Mr E. Lyndon and Mr H. E. Holder declined to be nominated. There is a rumor afloat, but we can hardly credit it, that both these burgesses purpose running Mr Stuart for the Mayor's chair.

## THE GREAT SEA SERPENT AGAIN.

This monster will always have an interest for the curious. Commander Hugo L. Pearson, of the Osborne, Royal yacht, which arrived at Portsmouth from the Mediterranean on the 11th June, has forwarded to the Admiralty, through Admiral Sir George Elliot, the Commander-in-Chief, a report respecting a sea monster the yacht encountered during her homeward voyage. The report states that on the 2nd June, while the yacht was proceeding round the north coast of Sicily towards Cape Vito, the officer on watch observed a long ridge of fins, each about six feet long, moving slowly along, the sea being very calm at the time. He called for a telescope, and was at once joined by other officers. The Osborne was steaming westward at a speed of about 10½ knots an hour, and the fins were progressing in an eastward direction. As the yacht met the fins those on board noticed the foremost part of a gigantic sea monster. Its skin was apparently devoid of scales, and was almost as sleek as a seal. The head was bullet-shaped, with an elongated termination, being somewhat like that of a seal, and about six feet in diameter. Its features were only seen by one officer, who described them as like those of an alligator. The neck appeared to be narrow and the body was somewhat like that of a turtle, a fin about 15 feet long extending from either side. The appearance of the monster is accounted for by a submarine volcano which occurred north of Galita, in the Gulf of Sunice, about the middle of May. The spot in question is about 100 miles distant from where the monster is reported to have been seen.

## A FACTORY GIRL BECOMES AN HEIRESS.

A London correspondent, writing on the 24th, gives the particulars of a very romantic story as follows: Some years ago Mr. Gardner, a well-to-do farmer at Melrose, Scotland, married a young lady of the neighborhood, and in a very few weeks after the marriage his wife presented him with a daughter. He hired a discreet nurse to take charge of the child. The daughter, Margaret Gardner, became a mill-hand in a factory, and at the age of twenty-one discovered by some means the story of her birth and parentage. She at once sought out her parents and demanded recognition, but Mr. Gardner declared that her father was a shepherd named Laidlaw. The girl, however, declining an offer of £1000 to hold her tongue, brought an action in the Scotch courts to compel her recognition as a legitimate daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner. The case was decided against her by the Judge Ordinary, whereupon she appealed to the full Court of Session, who gave judgment in her favor. Against this her parents appealed, and the case found its way to the House of Lords. This court of ultimate appeal decided at the lower court has done—in her favor. The girl becomes the natural heiress of her father's wealth, which is considerable.

A sample of farmers' grumbling:—"No rain of any consequence had fallen for nearly a month, and everything was almost parched up from the prolonged drought; so I cut a piece of clover for hay, and it rained fast enough then!"

A witty French lady who was an "adopted" member of a famous military corps, when a cigar was lighted in her presence with the remark, "I suppose they smoke in your regiment," said "Yes, but not in my company."

## Waka Maori Libel Case.

[PRESS AGENCY.]

## WELLINGTON.

August 30.

Mr Hamlin was being examined all the afternoon as to the purchase of the Waipukurau reserve, and was cross-examined by Mr Macassey after Mr Buller's examination. He testified to being present when the balance of the purchase money was paid over, which was more than ten pounds in fifty. He said the whole transaction was completed without any objection being raised as to the reserve at the Waipukurau pa, which Mr Locke told him was about twenty acres. He said he told the natives nothing about the matter. He looked upon it as an arrangement among themselves. When asked by Mr Macassey why he had not mentioned the fact that Hori had a private agreement as to a reserve for his own personal benefit, Mr Hamlin said it did not seem surprising to him as Hori had, before the passing of the land through the Native Land Court, been the most influential chief and largest land holder about there.

The next witness after Mr Hamlin was Kingi Ta Tohunga, who deposed to the leasing of Waikereao and Whakauranga blocks to Mr Russell, and that Mr Russell made use of no threats of Supreme Court proceedings, or of making the natives pay off what they owed at the rate of £50 per month, or otherwise, to induce the natives to sign the lease. He said that Mangai was a grantee of Whakauranga, and that the lease of Waipapa was discussed, but not concluded. He signed them all at the same time at the office of the Wananga.

Mr Conolly then asked that the lease for Waipapa should be produced, but Mr Macassey said he had assured the Court, as he did before, that there was no such lease; at least, Mr Russell knew nothing of any such lease.

The next witness was Parawhera, who said that he was angry with Mangai when he read the letter in the Waka Maori relating to Mr Russell. He admitted to receiving money from Mr Russell for timber cut upon certain lands. He did not hear Mr Russell make use of threats of any kind to induce the natives to sign the leases. Mr Russell also agreed to pay back rent for cattle upon Maori lands.

Mr Olivier, solicitor, was examined as to a deed of charge entered into at Wellington on the 16th November, 1872. It was drawn up in his office, and he was the attestator, though only accidentally, as he did not draw up the deed. Arihi had been at his office in company with Mr Russell several times before the deed was signed. As to the Rankawa block, he told Mr Russell that he had already sold that to Mr Kinross, but Mr Russell said, "Who cares for that sale."

It being close to 5 p.m., the Court decided to adjourn, before calling any fresh witnesses, till 10 o'clock next morning.

September 1.

Mr Locke was re-called and examined by Mr Macassey in reference to a certain letter purporting to be a receipt by him for money obtained from Mr Russell in 1867, and a great deal of evidence was taken as to the signatures of natives to certain deeds on behalf of the plaintiff.

The remainder of the forenoon, and until the mid-day adjournment, was occupied in the examination of Mr J. N. Wilson, of Napier, who gave the history of the manner in which he and Mr Purvis Russell became trustees of (a share in the) Heretaunga block for Arihi. He said the block had been purchased by Mr Watt and afterwards sold at an advance of a thousand pounds, of which (H.R.) Russell received half; but he (H.R. Russell) never had anything to do with the trust of the Heretaunga block. He also gave evidence that Alice disputed the trust settlement, and did so by advice.

Mr John White, native interpreter, deposed to being at Te Aute when the natives were there about signing arrangements regarding accounts, &c. No inducements were held out or threats made to the natives by Mr Russell to get them to sign. He was engaged at Te Wananga office. He had heard it called the Repudiation office. The sense in which he understood the term was this, that those who were endeavoring to obtain for the Maori lands of which they had been wrongfully dispossessed. Taking the prices paid by Mr Russell for Maori lands and comparing them with the prices paid by other people, he (Mr Russell) gave them a perfectly fair price, notwithstanding that they had a high opinion of the Te Aute block.

The Court has been since reading and commenting on the printed evidence.

The Court will adjourn at 2 to-day.

LATER.

Mr Locke was recalled again and re-examined as to a certain letter between him and Mr Russell. The examination went to show that the amount of indebtedness of Russell to Locke, regarding survey of the Waipukurau block, was very trifling.

Col. Whitmore deposed that 2s per acre was a very fair price for the Waipukurau land bought by Mr Russell. He (Col. Whitmore) was well acquainted with the block, and knew there was a good deal of land in Hawke's Bay of equal value, which was leased for 21 years at a less rental.

Three chiefs—Urupene Puharu, Karaitiana, and Te Koura—were called to prove that Mr Russell had used neither coercion or threats to induce the Maoris to sign.

The Court adjourned at 2 o'clock until Monday.

September 3.

The examination of Mr Russell occupied the Court all morning. He was called by Mr Macassey. The substance of his evidence was that all Mr Locke said about him being in Lock's office, when the agreement was made with the Maoris, was quite inaccurate. He denied he ever agreed to make reserve for Hori Nia Nia, though asked to do so. He said he would see that the graves of his ancestors were not desecrated, and accordingly fenced them in. He planted them with cypresses and other suitable trees. He denied all Hamlin's evidence as to the deed being first explained to some of the grantees, before the others were brought, and then explained to all the assembly. He also denied Hamlin's statement that the amount paid over was under £50. He paid over £125. He also denied Hamlin's statement, that he promised Hori he would make a reserve of 20 acres for his personal benefit. Mr Hamlin never had any communication with him on the matter since its final settlement. He was never challenged by the natives with having made such a promise, nor by Mr Locke. Very warm feelings were aroused at the time of the Commission in 1873, and time did not seem to soften them. After the Commission, he asked Hori why he did not apply to have his claim investigated, and he said that it was none of his doings. He had been induced to complain by Mr Drower and Mr Locke. Mr Drower had been in his employ for years, but they were not upon speaking terms now. Hori's complaint was called, but he made no appearance. He had supplied Hori with 500 breeding ewes. He thought he had means of payment. Hori besides that owed him £200. He denied he made any of the promises to natives at Arihi's house such as were attributed to him in Mangai's letter.

Cross-examined by Mr Conolly:—The deed was read and explained to all the Maoris interested at the same time, and only once. He denied the statement that Hori refused to sign unless the reserve was included. He entirely denied promising Hori 20 acres, or that he would get it surveyed. Hori thought a chief, had of late years lost most of his influence. In reply to the claims made by the Maoris for cutting timber and allowing cattle to stray upon their land, he said they were largely indebted to him for advances, and their cattle also grazed on his land. The Te Aute meeting lasted four or five weeks. It was delayed partly through some grantees and Mr Locke not arriving at the time promised. He never threatened to sue the natives and make them pay £50 per month, if they did not sell to him, and the witnesses who swore he did so, swore falsely. He did, however, intimate to them that if they were going to sell to other pakehas they had better get the money from them, and pay him off. He heard Josiah Hamlin was there ready to buy for Mr Campbell of Pukawa certain lands he had leased from the Maoris at £70 yearly. He had heard they could get £200 yearly from others. He denied all the allegations of Mangai and Jeniema regarding to £50 and £20. They never said to him they would not sign unless they were paid money. Mr Russell went minutely into his arrangements with the Maoris as to the cutting of sleepers, and was being examined on this point when the Court rose for dinner.

The Court was occupied all the afternoon examining the Hon. H. R. Russell. Before the Court rising he was being cross-examined by Mr Conolly as to certain tenders for sleepers entered into with the Government by Mr Russell. The contract was for 3s 3d per sleeper. Mr Conolly produced a letter from Mr Russell to the Minister, setting forth that being aware the Government were in want of sleepers he thought he could arrange on behalf of natives that they

would supply Government with ten thousand sleepers at 3s 3d per sleeper. Mr Conolly also produced an agreement in Maori (translated by Mr Grace), which went to show that Mr Russell agreed with the Maoris to supply these sleepers at 2s a-piece. There were in all vouchers for £1980 paid to Mr Russell on behalf of natives.

Mr Conolly then questioned Mr Russell further as to the sleepers, and his position in connection with the Heretaunga Block. During the witness's evidence he said that Arihi owed him £1700 in 1870. Since then she had been increasing her debt. After the Heretaunga sale she launched into all sorts of extravagance. She bought a steam engine, which he very reluctantly had to pay for. She also bought a house—together his debt had since worked up to £3500. He was examined by commission as to number of cases the natives had against Europeans, and his evidence went to show that instead of there being over 300 claims entered there were only 80, and not more than 20 of those were against Europeans in the Hawke's Bay district, of whom the great majority belonged to the "ring." He admitted the existence of what was facetiously called the "repudiation party," and of which he was considered the "head centre."

The Court adjourned at five till ten to-morrow.

LATEST.

Mr Sheehan's evidence has occupied the Court all morning. He narrated at full length the particulars of his transactions with Arihi as her solicitor.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## LAST NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE OF "CHILPERIC."

SIR,—As an occupier of a front seat at the performance last night, and as not being "a deadhead," I may be permitted to express an unbiassed opinion of "Chilperic." In the first place, not a single member of the audience present at "Chilperic" but went away with feelings of mingled anger and disappointment:—anger at the execrable management, disappointment at the entertainment having been completely spoiled by the poverty of the support that the principal artistes received from the minor members of the troupe. I will deal with the management first. Neither stage management nor hall management has been discernible from the first opening night till last evening. A stamping roaring lot of boys are permitted to disturb the audience as they like, to the annoyance of every respectable person. A policeman, or any one in authority, would be sufficient to put a stop to this nuisance. Last night, certain individuals, prominent by their uniform, were the leaders of the rowdy gang. (I send you their names, in the hope that they will make a public apology for their conduct.) The want of stage management is shown in the fact that the inferior members of the company are never kept up to the mark; they do not know their parts, and the only business they appear to do, and for which they are apparently put on the stage, is to spoil and to kill the four ladies of the troupe. In "Ivanhoe," as in "Chilperic," the conduct of the "supers" was a gross exhibition of a want of knowledge of duty, and was a gross evidence of a want of management. It is a pity, and a crying shame, that Miss Lydia Howarde, Miss Jenny Nye, and Mdlle. Navaro should, night after night, be insulted by this conduct. It is a shame that people who are willing to patronise the theatre are debarred from enjoyment by an utter absence of that management without which the veriest tyro of an amateur company would be bisped off the stage.

—I am, &amp;c.,

PLAYGOER.

Napier, August 31, 1877.

## HARBOR WORKS.

SIR,—I saw in your paper a few days ago that Mr Vautier purposed making some proposal to the Harbor Committee, re abandoning their present efforts to improve the harbour.

The sooner some alteration is made the better, as if things continue with the said Harbour Works in the way they have been going of late, coupled with the prospect of railway communication with Wellington, the value of Napier town property will soon be down to a mere song, and sections in such places as the White Road, which owners at present value at about twelve to fifteen hundred pounds will be unseizable at a ten pound note each.

Anything that can be done with the harbour should be done before the railway is through to Wellington, or in a

great measure it will be too late.—I am, &c.,

OBSERVER.

## CATTLE TRESSPASSING.

SIR,—You would greatly oblige myself and a number of others if you would kindly inform me, through the medium of your widely circulated journal, if it is legal, where cattle trespass upon property, for the owner of the said property to constitute a sort of private pound, and charge damages before delivering the cattle trespassing to their owners, there being a public pound in the district, and, if so, is not the poundkeeper entitled to his fees.—I am, &c.,

X. Y. Z.

August 31, 1877.

## CATTLE IMPOUNDING.

SIR,—Since reading your reply to the query put to you by "X.Y.Z.," I have gone carefully through the Impounding Act, and I find the following:—"In case of cattle trespass where the owner is unknown, the landowner may impound the cattle in the nearest pound, provided that any cattle pound exists within 20 miles of the place of trespass." I also find that where the landowner distrain the cattle on his own premises he shall forthwith give notice to the owner of such cattle; and in the interpretation clause, the term "notice" shall mean written notice delivered personally to or at the residence or homestead of the person sought thereby to be affected. Such is the law, and in the face of this, one or two persons have been in the habit of distraining upon cattle on their own premises, or removing them to the old pound at East Clive, where there is no poundkeeper, be the owners known or unknown, and in no instance giving the necessary notice required by the Act, and as I am informed, neither providing the cattle with food and water, as required by the by-law. This is certainly a direct violation of the impounding ordinance, and one that should immediately be put a stop to; and I have no doubt if the persons whose cattle have been thus treated were to seek redress in a court of law they would recover ample damages, and deter those self-constituted poundkeepers from acting so illegally for the future. Again, if a person loses his cattle, and after search cannot find them, he naturally goes to the nearest pound as being the most likely place to obtain the necessary information; but under existing circumstances, the unfortunate owner may wander for days and days without hearing any tidings of them, while they, poor creatures, are shut up starving for want of food, and famished with thirst, for which he has to pay before they can be released; this, taken altogether with his loss of time, amounts to a serious item. Therefore I again reiterate that something should be done to rectify this growing evil, and to teach cockatoos that they cannot infringe the law with impunity.—I am, &c.,

SCRUTATOR.

West Clive, September 3, 1877.

## THE SKYLARK.

SIR,—I was informed some time ago that the English skylark (*abunda vulgaris*) was in the district, and had been heard singing, (thanks to the Acclimatisation Society), and may the blackbird and song-thrush, with many others, soon put in an appearance. As the above observation confirms Washington Irving's words, viz., "Those who pass the winter in the country, are sensible of the delightful influences of spring; and of these, none are more delightful than the first notes of the birds," I directed my attention to it, and have on several occasions heard it sing during the present month. It is to be hoped we may look forward with pleasure to the time when we may exclaim in the words of a British poet,—

The daisy shy is peeping up from the fresh green sod,  
The lark on high is singing, a hymn of praise to God.

The month of August being proverbial for rain, it has been fully verified in the one just past; in addition to having six rainy days, there were many in which passing showers were frequent, and very few days that could be called dry. The frost *per contra* being but slight, and only occurring four nights—on the 4th, 5th, 9th, and 10th—with another last night, a shower of rain at daybreak. September, commencing mild and warm, at 12.30 p.m. it rained heavily, and the wind blew cold from the S.W.—I am, &c.,

WILLIAM SCOTT.

Waipawa, September 1, 1877.

LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—I see by a local in the Herald this morning that the usual meeting of the Literary Association is postponed until Friday next. This is the second time since the Association has been formed, which is but a few weeks since; and I, as a member, think such proceedings will not further its interest.—I am, &c.,  
A MEMBER.

September 4, 1877.

HARBOR BOARD.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

THE Board met at 11 o'clock.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Messrs. Murray, Common and Co., applying for material to fill in their section, rendered necessary by the works now proceeding at the new quay.

After some discussion, the Board decided to postpone the consideration of the application pending information required from the Engineer as to the amount of material wanted for reclamation purposes.

A circular was read from the Customs Department in reference to Pilot's duties towards war vessels belonging to nations engaged in war.

A letter from the Pilot was read, reporting the destruction of the pilot boat.

The Chairman was authorised to replace it.

The Engineer's progress report was read. It stated that the single work of the eastern pier is now completed, leaving only 400 feet of double work to do. On the western pier 276 feet have been finished, and the main piles have been set for 184 feet more.

Accounts were read, passed, and ordered to be paid.

Mr Kennedy called the attention of the Board to the fact that the contractor employed his men on Sunday in the prosecution of the works, and he desired to know whether the Inspector's services were required on that day.

The Board came to the conclusion that Sunday labor was necessary to keep the chain of the steam punt from being silted over.

Mr Vautier gave notice of motion:—"That in consequence of the late easterly sea taking place from the 19th to 26th August, and setting direct into the bay, the new channel lately opened to the eastward was completely closed at low water, showing clearly that the ebb-tide cannot resist the force of the easterly sea in a northerly direction, thereby proving that the harbor improvements will not realise the expectations contemplated by the Board. \* \* \* Under the present circumstances the harbor improvements will prove inadequate for the requirements of the increasing trade of the port, thereby requiring to retain the remaining balance of the loan for future and permanent useful works: I beg to recommend the Board to give effect to the undermentioned clauses:—1. That arrangements be made with the contractor to complete the works in its progressive state, and to make arrangements for final settlement. 2. That the contractors for the supply of timber be communicated with, with a view to determine their contracts. 3. That the remaining unexpended balance of £75,000 loan be placed at current rate of interest pending the commencement of permanent works."

The Chairman desired to know whether it was not competent for the Board to refuse this notice of motion. He (the Chairman) did not know whether he should be present at the next ordinary meeting, and he thought that advantage might be taken of the absence of other members to carry a resolution that would make the Board the laughing-stock of the colony.

Messrs Kennedy, Rhodes, Newman, and Smith pointed out the impossibility of the Board refusing to accept a notice of motion.

After some further discussion, on the motion of Mr Kennedy, it was resolved to hold a special meeting on Tuesday next for the consideration of Mr Vautier's proposal.

The Board then adjourned.

THE MAINE LAW.

A communication in the Portland Argus gives a very unsatisfactory account of the results of the Maine Law in the city of Portland. In 1852 there were 250 arrests for drunkenness; population 25,000. In 1856 after four years of Maine Law, there were 650 arrests; population 27,000. Since that time the city

has ceased to grow, and the State likewise has stood still; but the arrests for drunkenness have increased. In 1870 there were 1,850 arrests; population 35,000. Neal Dow, in his report of 1852, predicts that the office of State Prison Inspector will go begging, because "the emoluments depend on the number of prisoners" and also that the gaols of the city and State "will need no enlargement for many years;" yet the State prison has been enlarged four times since, and they still lack room. Twenty-five amendments in the meantime have been made to the law, all intended for its better enforcement; yet crime has never been so rampant as at present in the history of this State.

THE MONTENEGRIN DEFEAT.

Montenegro has also suffered severely. Prince Nikita, on the resumption of hostilities, found himself assailed from three quarters at once by an overwhelming force. The Porte having resolved to strike, seized the moment for what seemed a decisive blow. Sulieman Pasha first obtained a victory on the Duga Pass, capturing the fort of Kaistatch. One portion of the Montenegrin army retired to Ostrog; another portion defended the Valley of the Spuz. The Turks, in numbers of nearly three to one, attacked a body posted at Rasino, but the natives on their mountains drove them back with great loss. The Ostrog Pass was finally carried by Sulieman Pasha. It is said that even in Montenegro there has been no such fighting as in this campaign. The Montenegrins have been beaten, but the Turks have suffered immense losses, quite disproportionate to their gain. It took Sulieman Pasha three weeks to advance 23 miles. The Turkish forces effected a junction, and the little capital of Attingi was for a brief space threatened with destruction, while the inhabitants withdrew to their mountains, but the spirit of Prince Nikita is not quelled, and his subjects are as little disposed to yield. Sulieman Pasha, obedient to some occult influence, has since withdrawn. The campaign, therefore, while disastrous to Montenegro, has as yet brought no positive result to the Porte.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

FRIDAY AUGUST 31.

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

A SPIT INEBRIATE.

George Jackson was charged by Constable Harvey with being yesterday in an intoxicated condition. Jackson pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s, or 24 hours imprisonment.

A ROWDY CHARACTER.

James M'Bride was charged by Constable Harvey with being drunk yesterday evening, and when taking him under his kind protection, the prisoner resisted and struck the constable several blows on the neck and about the face.

Inspector Scully said M'Bride was a most violent man when under the influence of drink. He had only escaped being sent to gaol three weeks ago, through a witness not desiring to press a case against him.

His Worship fined M'Bride £5, or in default of paying the same to be imprisoned for one month.

ILLEGALLY ON PREMISES.

Henry Hudson, a wretched looking man, was charged with being illegally on the premises of Mr. Ben Johnson, of Port Ahuriri, on Monday night. Inspector Scully said the man had lately been discharged from the Lunatic Asylum, and he did not know what to do with him. He could not work, being demented. He would suggest to send him to prison, but not to do hard labor.

His Worship said he could adopt no other course, but send him to prison for one month.

CIVIL CASES.

Newton Irvine and Co. v. A. Monro.—Claim £10. The defendant having applied to have his evidence taken in Wellington under the Act of 1873, the case was adjourned, to a future day.

O'Brien v. Dillon.—Claim £2 10s. Judgment for amount claimed and costs.

Cohen v. John Allanach junior.—Claim £2. Judgment for amount and costs.

Grant v. G. Martin.—Claim £14 5s. Defendant admitted the debt, but said he was not in a position to pay. Judgment for amount and costs 19s.

D. Guy v. R. Willis.—Claim £5 for a colt, and £2 for grazing. Judgment for amount and costs 12s.

JUDGMENT SUMMONS.

Rochfort v. Shirley.—Claim £. Mr Lascelles appeared for the plaintiff, and

examined the defendant, who said he had been out of work, but was now getting 15s per week. The original debt was for board and lodging. The defendant was ultimately ordered to pay 7s 6d per week from the 1st of September, or in default one month's imprisonment.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

PORT AHURIRI DRUNKS.

James Ferguson and Peter Bray were both charged by Constable Harvey with being drunk yesterday at Port Ahuriri. Both had been let out on bail, but only Ferguson made his bow to the Court, but he appeared as if his face had seen troublesome times. He was fined 5s, or in default, 24 hours' imprisonment. Bray's bail money was ordered to be forfeited.

CIVIL CASES.

Cartwright v. Bagley (adjourned case).—Claim £15 8s for labor. Judgment for amount, and costs £3 10s.

J. H. Gilligan v. R. Kirkpatrick.—Claim £4 10s for hay delivered. There was no appearance of the defendant, and judgment was given for the amount and costs.

THE HOPPER SYSTEM OF DREDGING.

The following important letter on the new system of dredging appears in a recent issue of the Otago Daily Times:—

SIR,—As you gave prominence in your shipping columns to the launch of the hopper dredger Willunga, for Adelaide, will you be good enough to find a place for the enclosed, shewing her actual working, in an early issue. You will see that the actual cost of deepening the channel in an exposed situation by hopper dredging is only 8d per cubic yard, while by their old plan it cost them 3s. There should be no bar harbor on the New Zealand coast, when they have got such an effective and cheap remover of bars.

The following is the extract relating to the Willunga hopper dredger, of 1000 tons burden, of Adelaide:—

"The report of the first month's work of the hopper dredger Willunga was considered by the Marine Board as being more satisfactory than it was perhaps expected it would have been. During a period of 26 days, representing 265 hours, 24,247 cubic yards of silt had been raised at the outer bar and deposited in the sea. The time employed in raising was 189 hours, against 76 hours in discharging. The average amount of stuff raised during each of the 189 hours was 171 tons, and the discharge into the sea was at the rate of 425 tons for each of the 76 hours. The hopper dredger, including the raising and discharging operations, was thus shewn to have cleared the channel of 122 tons per hour, and 1820 tons per day. The total cost of the month's work was £709 11s 9d, made up of £559 14s 4d for raising stuff, and £239 17s 5d for discharging the same. The expense per cubic yard or a ton and a third was 5½d for raising, and 2½d for discharging. 8d per cubic yard for deepening bears a marked difference on the price usually paid in this Colony. The cost of dredging per cubic yard at Port Pirie, for instance, for the same month was 1s 5½d, while by No. 1 dredge, at the inner bar, it was 3s per cubic yard, 9½d of which was for bringing the silt to the wharves."

The Willunga must be notified is working at considerable disadvantage, having been sunk by one of the Melbourne steamers, and was under water for nearly two months. This occurred immediately after arrival, via Suez Canal, from the Clyde. The machinery necessarily being stiff, also the dredging being often done on the outer bar, with a considerable roll of the sea to contend with. Under more favorable circumstances, no doubt the dredging and depositing will be done for 6d per cubic yard. The Greenock, a duplicate constructed since the launch of the Willunga, is dredging and depositing for the Greenock Harbor Trust at 4d per cubic yard, which under the old style, with stationary dredgers and punts, cost them 1s 8d per cubic yard. I would recommend the hopper dredger to the especial notice of the people of Temuka in opening the mouth of the Opihi River, and the Christchurch people for rendering the Heathcote navigable, at a very low cost.

I am, &c.,

W. G. JENKINS.

August 4, 1877.

The question of a working man's Club (says a contemporary) has been talked over for the last few days in Greytown. We think that if working men take up the matter themselves, and carry it out their own way that such a Club will be a success. We do not see why the working men of Greytown should not raise a capital of say £500 by shares for such a purpose. They would have a manifest right to ask employers of labor to co-operate with them by taking up a portion of the shares, but the management and organisation of such a movement would be best left in their own hands. If half-a-dozen intelligent working men in the township take the matter up boldly, there need be no fear of the result of the enterprise.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

OUR special London correspondent announces the death of Brigham Young, the leader, prophet, and ruler of the Mormons, in the 76th year of his age. He was born (we quote from Men of the Time) at Whittingham, Vermont, June 1, 1801. "He was the son of a farmer, and acquired education enough to give him a plausible address. He at first connected himself with the Baptists, and for a time preached in that connection, though he was never ordained. In 1831 or 1832 he removed to Ohio, and joined the Mormons at Kirtland, then under the leadership of Joseph Smith. His shrewdness and energy soon gave him influence with them, and he was chosen one of the twelve apostles in 1835, soon after made their president, and was sent out to make converts to the faith. He was with the Mormons in all their early troubles, and became their leader when Smith was killed. He abandoned Nauvoo with most of the Mormons in the spring of 1846; persuaded his followers that the Salt Lake Valley was the Promised Land, and after enduring severe hardships in the passage over the plains in the winter of 1846-7, arrived at the present site of the Great Salt Lake City in July, 1847, and founded a settlement there. Of this colony, and the subsequent additions to it by immigration, Young became the absolute ruler. In the spring of 1849 the colonists organised themselves into a State, with the title of 'The State of Deseret,' and applied to Congress for admission into the Union; this was refused, but the territory of Utah was organised, and Brigham Young appointed governor. He remained in authority from 1850 to 1854. At this time, from the very considerable immigration and their isolated position, Young felt strong enough to defy the United States Government. In 1857 a governor who was not a Mormon having been appointed, and his life being threatened, President Buchanan sent a large body of troops there to enforce his authority; a compromise followed, and the Mormons remained peaceful. Polygamy was openly proclaimed in Utah in 1852, and Brigham Young has several wives, besides many others 'sealed to him' as 'spiritual wives.' One of his wives, the fifteenth in order, left him in 1874, and soon after petitioned for a divorce from the United States courts. Pending the suit, the Judge decided that Young should pay her 3,000 dollars for counsel fees, and make her an allowance of 900 dollars a month." The divorce was afterwards granted. The Mountain Meadows massacre, for which Lee was recently executed, was said to have been ordered by Brigham Young, and from recent American papers we learn that it was the intention of the United States Government to have caused a strict enquiry so as to be able to gather whether Young was really implicated. The threat of these investigations has troubled the Mormon prophet, and doubtless hastened his end.

The editor of the Wairarapa Standard in the following remarks expresses views which, we believe, are coincided in by three-fourths of the colonists of New Zealand. He says:—"A weaker Ministry never held office. It is verily a rope of sand. It is only held together by the forces which the Opposition bring to bear upon it. Were it not for the cohesion which these induce it would, by its own weight, tumble to pieces. But conflicting as are the views, objects, and interests of the Ministry, those of the Opposition are, we regret to say, much more so. There is, in truth, no Opposition in the true sense of that word. We know for a fact that there are many members of the Opposition who have a greater confidence in some of the members of the present Ministry than they have in some of their own colleagues. On the other hand there are members sitting on the Ministerial benches who hold views more in harmony with the views held by the avowed opponents of the Government than with those held by some of the Government itself. Party Government, under such circumstances, is wholly out of the question. If it did not answer the purpose of those who play at it to disguise the fact as much as possible the truth long ere this would have been recognised. To the absence of a real organised Opposition the Ministry are indebted for their seats, and the country to that flood of talk with which the House has been inundated. The House has sunk into a mere debating society, not from any fault of its own, but partly because there are almost as many parties within its walls as there are members opposed to the Government, and partly because the policy of the Ministry is not in harmony with the views held by a large section of their own supporters. If the Ministry were not so weak the debates would not be quite so windy."

The well-known "cabby," Robert Kirkpatrick, has added his name to the list of bankrupts, who are seeking to be relieved of their past debts.

Garden & Farming Calendar.  
SEPTEMBER.

**FLOWER GARDEN.**—Propagate herbaceous plants by division of the root. Sow annuals in the borders; propagate tea-scented noisette and Chinese roses by cuttings. Plant out pansies, pinks, verbenas, and bedding and border plants generally. Sow seeds of fine growing grasses on bare places in lawns. Newly-made lawns should be mown once a week for some time until a good bottom is obtained. Attend to all matters of routine.

**KITCHEN AND FRUIT GARDEN.**—Earth up potatoes already out of the ground and plant others. If onions have failed make fresh sowings without loss of time. Sow cauliflower, cabbage, brocoli, savoy Brussels sprout, feathered, asparagus, kale radish, lettuce, peas, beans, beet, and salad herbs. Sow a few scarlet runners. Sow sweet basil, summer savory, parsley, and other pot herbs. Sow carrot and turnip, also parsnip. If neglected last month, New Zealand spinach may be sown now, or in some localities plants may be obtained from the sea-beach; it is a useful esculent sadly neglected here. Plant out cabbage. Keep down weeds, thin out previous sowings. Cover sea-kale with horse, and in stable manure over them. Plant Jerusalem artichokes. All planting should be finished this month. Secure removed plants against wind-waving. Plant oranges and lemons in good soil in sheltered places. Plant cuttings of plum, quince, filbert, nut, peach, &c., and of any desirable fruit stock. Sow seeds of fruit and other trees. Graft fruit stock.

**FARM.**—Lambing still continues. As the lambs are strong enough to travel they ought to be removed into good pasture, the ewes should be separated from the singles, and the best grass given to them. The lambs are not usually tallied until some weeks old, but a good, if not the best, plan is to tail them when they are a few days old as they are removed in small lots into the pasture where they are intended to remain. As soon as the ewes recover from lambing they should be cleaned, and the loose wool removed from about the udder, as lambs occasionally die from swallowing portions of it. The ewes' feet should also now be pared; it is not advisable to throw them for that purpose when heavy in lamb. Peas, barley and all kinds of spring grain should be sown early this month if not in before, and land which does not grow autumn grass well may now be sown. Potato land should be well harrowed before the potatoes appear, and planting finished if possible before the month is out. Where hay is to be mown the fields ought to be unstocked early this month, and stones or whatever would interfere with the scythe removed.—*Town and Country Almanac.*

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Rotorua ... Sunday, Sept. 23

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- 3 Roomed Cottage and Section, 23 x by 80, Beach Road.
- 3 Roomed Cottage and Section, one-eighth of an acre, Shakespeare-road.
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- 186 acres Waikato District, Province of Auckland.
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- 40 " Woodville, Hawke's Bay.
- 40 " Wairoa, Hawke's Bay.
- 37 " To Whakau, Hawke's Bay.
- Town Section, 296 in White-road.
- " " 308 " "
- " " 312 " "
- " " 311 " "
- " " 302 " "
- " " 41 " Hyderabad-road
- " " 353 " Dickens-street
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1877.