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Passing Notes.

BY JACQUES.

Laugh where we must, be candid wherever we can.—Pope.

Motorman Cowley, in his report to the Tramways Engineer, had stated that he was nearly telling Councillor Miller to go to a place where ice was unknown.—Report of Town Council meeting, 20th April.

The Councillor, ye ken, like other Scottish men,

Is canny, dour, and obstinate, and so

'Twere a waste of breath to tell such a

man to go to h—ll,

For it's certain that the beggar wouldn't

go.

Mr Oliver, speaking at a smoke concert in Christchurch, said that, "personally he had a great opinion of New Zealanders—he was one himself." So! "The New Zealanders are a great people; I am a New Zealander; ergo, I am a great man." The syllogism is delicate and perfect. Reminds one of Bernard Shaw's definition of patriotism as the feeling that your own country is the best in the world because it has produced yourself.

The Wairarapa Egg Circle reports that stamped circle eggs are selling at 4s 4d per dozen, and that still higher prices may be yet realised.—"Southland Daily Times," 20th April.

We used to think old Aesop's little story rather tall,

Of the goose that golden eggs was wont to lay;

There's nothing really wonderful about it, after all:

Wairarapa hens are doing it to-day.

"The Southland Times" is an untrustworthy paper. The other day it stated, among its locals, that "Tender advertisements would be found on page 2" Being interested in that kind of advt., which tells that, "Young man, 30 years of age, good looking, amiable disposition, etc., etc., would like to correspond with a piece of feminine perfection, "with a view to above;" or that, "Young lady, beautiful, refined, musical, domesticated, etc., etc." is yearning for the companionship of some dark haired, wealthy Adonis ("photos exchanged") I looked on page 2, but there were no matrimonial or other tender advts. there at all, just a lot of rot about roads, etc.

The war is to be credited with at least one good thing—it has shown that even kings may be made useful. A little while ago our papers were full of William Hohenzollern's log-sawing exploits. It is probable, however, that God's particular friend engaged in that occupation not so much from the desire or necessity of earning an honest trusty, as for the reasons that Gladstone used to chop down trees, recreation and distraction. But, if the cable liar is for once surprising with the truth, it appears that poor old Ferdinand of Bulgaria has been worried by the wolf into attempting to earn his own bread and butter. He is "running a market garden at Gotha, and living on the sale of vegetables." It would be interesting to see the old pirate hoeing up the chickweed and fatten, or trotting around among his customers with a couple of baskets of assorted vegetables. Shade of Lewis Carroll! When you wrote of "cabbages and kings," as representing the extremes of unlikely association, you little thought that a very few years would bring them into such intimate juxtaposition as Ferdinand's garden must show.

"At Londonderry the police, with a view to quelling the rioting, withdrew from the danger zone, permitting two prests to patrol the streets. Armed only with umbrellas, they cleared the streets before midnight."—Recent news item.

We were tired of keeping quiet, so decided on a riot

Just to let the tyrants know that we were there;

Their machine-guns and their rifles we despised as merest trifles—

We could beat 'em to a frizzle anywhere.

Oh, gallantly we bore us, and our foemen fled before us,

We scattered 'em, and gathered up the spoil;

We have finished what we went for—but the dirty cowards sent for

Reinforcements in the shape of Father Doyle.

Then our bowels turned to water, and we lost our taste for slaughter;

With quaking hearts we hurried to de-camp,

For our fighting spirit failed us when his Reverence assailed us

With some ugly sounding Latin and a gamp.

Our old friend, the flu, is again with us, though with a seemingly changed manner. On his last visit he ran blusterously amok, and, like Paddy at Donnybrook Fair, wherever he saw a head he hit it, and, for the most part, hit it very hard. This time, however, his manner is more suave and gentle, and the Paddy says, "I hope I don't intrude" way that he moves among us is in such marked contrast to his former behaviour that one can almost fancy him apologising as he lays his unpleasant hands on us. But appearances are often deceptive. It will be remembered that he was equally gentle and unobtrusive at first in Auckland eighteen months ago. But as soon as his footing became firm he showed his true colours. And it well that we should be on our guard against any repetition of his former trick. Our vigilance committees have taken precautions, we know. But has everything possible been done to meet a sudden emergency? For instance, many of us would like to know if arrangements have been made for general inoculation in the event of the disease threatening increase in extent and intensity. In other centres this practice has been largely adopted, and all doubt of its efficacy in mitigating the virulence of the complaint seems to have vanished—that is, among those best qualified to give an opinion. Of course, there are doubting Thomases everywhere, but, as a rule, their doubts are about as reasonable as those of the woman who said she "didn't think much of vaccination, because three days after her Tommy had been vaccinated, he fell out of a window and broke his leg." Experience has proven the value of inoculation against influenza, and it were wise to take that experience for our guide. Some may oppose it on the score of its inconveniences, but we are told that it does not cause an hour's discomfort, or loss of working time. It were well to give it a trial, as in the other centres; we cannot afford to take any risks.

Speaking of inoculation, I am reminded of a story. Smallpox was raging in a southern city of America. Some ladies were afraid that an old negro mammy who laundried their frillies might catch it, so sent their doctor to vaccinate her. Doctor: "Well Lisa, I have come to vaccinate you." Lisa: "Good lor, what you want to vaccinate me for?" Doctor: "So you will not catch the smallpox. Come, now, I will vaccinate you on the arm." Lisa: "God lor, doctor, you mustn't do dat, I couldn't wash." Doctor: "Well, then, Lisa, I will vaccinate you on the leg." Lisa: "Good lor, doctor, you mustn't vaccinate me on de leg, I couldn't stand up to wash." Doctor (angrily): "Well, then, if you can't be vaccinated on the arm or leg, perhaps you will tell me some place where it will be convenient to vaccinate you." Lisa: (after a moment's reflection): "Wall, doctor, I don't get very much time to sit down."

RURAL EXCITEMENT.

At the close of some sports that were being held in a country village one of the competitors, coming across the local policeman, inquired when the theatre opened.

"We have no theatres here," said the policeman.

"Well, the music-hall, then?"

"No, nothing of that kind here."

"Have you no evening amusement at all?"

"Oh, yes," said the policeman, rising to the occasion; "if you wait till nine o'clock you'll see them shuatin' the goods train."

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