

JUSTICES' justice has become a byword everywhere. At the Resident Magistrate's Court, Dunedin, a few days ago, before two justices, a woman who is a notorious character was charged with having decoyed a girl into a house of ill fame, and afterwards sent her to a house at Port Chalmers, the proprietress of which was in gaol when she arrived. The evidence was most conclusive, no defence being offered, and yet, to the surprise of those present, the charge was dismissed, with a caution to the accused. The Justices not being able to deal summarily with the woman, were reluctant to commit her for trial!

THE programme of operations of the Emigration agent for Canterbury is thus sketched out:—"Mr Duncan writes to say that he proposes to make Glasgow his head-quarters for five months; paying flying visits into the rural counties and the North of Ireland, "giving lectures on Canterbury as a field for emigration. The remaining seven months of the year will be devoted to England." Mr. Duncan thus ignores the middle and southern counties of Ireland from which there is a considerable nominated immigration to this colony. Mr Adams will also without doubt take up his quarters in Scotland, and will probably get emigrants from no part of Ireland, or at all events only from one part of Ireland. It should be remembered that the warning of "hard times" and "retrenchment" for some months to come in America, will have the effect of greatly lessening Irish emigration to the United States. An active agent could by the contrast depict this colony as the brighter, and cause to flow to New Zealand that current which would flow to the United States in the ordinary course of things, but there is little likelihood of this being done in so far as Ireland is concerned.

THE 'Cromwell Argus' in a leading article on the Governor's visit up country makes the following remarks:—"The next time Sir James Fergusson travels through Otago, which we hope will be at an early date, we trust he will do one of two things: either travel as the Governor of New Zealand, or as plain Sir James Fergusson. To do the latter, and to escape any demonstrations of any kind, it will only be necessary for him to leave his mounted escort behind in Dunedin, and to give particular injunctions to his Honor the Superintendent to avoid giving announcements of his movements to Mayors and Councilors. He will not be molested on his journey throughout the province. It is impossible for any man to enjoy the honour and dignity of being a Governor, and at the same time the privacy of a private gentleman." The 'Wakatip Mail' also comments in strong terms on the same matter. On the other hand, it appears from the effusion of some clever children, or rather some raw literary artist who wrote an address for them, that shaking hands with the Governor has given a tone to the *élite* of Tokomairiro.

THE total revenue of the Customs' department for last year was £965,800 as compared with £813,270 in 1872. The increases on the quarter were—Dunedin, £26,914; Lyttelton, £15,458; Wellington, £7597; Auckland, £5347; Nelson, £3536.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made between the General and Wellington Provincial Governments, whereby the latter hereafter will assume charge of all immigrants after arrival in that Province.

THE Christchurch Spinning and Weaving Company have decided to commence the manufacture of woollen goods.

THE Good Templars in Dunedin have at length made an open effort to have the Licensing Ordinance of 1862 declared a nullity, and repealed by the Licensing Act of 1873. To test the matter, they, a few days ago, proceeded against a publican who had obtained a transfer under the Ordinance since the Act was in force, and the decision given in the case by the presiding Justices seems to sustain their objection—viz, that no liquor traffic can take place until licenses have been granted under the new Act. It was argued that the Ordinance was intended to be incorporated in the Act, and that therefore the transfer was valid. The Court inflicted a nominal penalty of 1s and costs, counsel for defendant giving notice of appeal.

THE criminal proceedings in the Surat case have been concluded, and ex Capt. Johnson has received sentence of two months' imprisonment. Mr Maitland, in passing sentence, said: I can come to no other conclusion than that you have been guilty of what I must characterize as a very serious offence—that of criminal neglect of your duty as master of your ship, at the time which should have called forth from any man of common prudence the utmost energy in the direction of taking every possible step to preserve his ship and those who were in it from the immediate and imminent danger which threatened them, and which I need not recapitulate. You showed an entire want of due precaution and a disregard of consequences in not taking proper means to seek and obtain assistance from the passing steamer, which you had it clearly in your power to do—an omission on your part which might have been attended with very fatal results, and by which you, in my opinion, seriously endangered the lives of those you had on board. The want of due precaution and the recklessness on your part may, I think, be attributed to the fact of your being at the time in a state of partial intoxication—a state which, in my opinion, under the circumstances, aggravates the offence.

A CANTERBURY Volunteer, has made 99 out of a possible 112 in the competition for the choice of representatives at the Colonial Rifle Firing contest. The conditions of the competition were seven shots at 200, 400, 500, and 600 yards. It is doubtful if any shooting with the Enfield rifle equal to this score has ever been made in the Australasian Colonies.

MR VOGEL has appointed a Commission to inquire into the late fatal boiler accident at the Thames, and into the state of machinery generally on the gold-fields.

THE Right Rev. Dr Croke has left Auckland in the *Phoebe*, en route for England.

QUITE a fleet of home vessels arrived at various ports in the colony on the 31st ult., and the 1st and 2nd inst., as will be seen from the following list:—At Auckland the *Lauderdale* has arrived; at Wellington, the *Ocean Mail* and *Glenora*; at Napier, the *Queen of the North*; at Lyttelton, the *W. E. Gladstone*; and at Port Chalmers, the *Lutterworth*, *Margaret Galbraith*, and *Warwick*—making eight altogether in the three days.

THE last mail from America brought information that the ship *Splendid* had left New Bedford in the month of November for Port Chalmers, where she will take up her quarters as a whaler. The *Splendid* is a ship-rigged vessel of 360 tons burden, and is owned by some miners at the Blue Spur, Tuapeka, and some parties at Port Chalmers.

THE ship *Queen Bee* sailed from Napier for London on Saturday last, with a cargo of wool valued at £68,991.

MR. KYNNESELEY, late Commissioner of the Nelson South-west Goldfields, died at Nelson on Saturday from consumption, after a long illness.

ACCORDING to advices just received by his Honour the Superintendent, the ship *Scimitar* has left London for Port Chalmers with 430 immigrants on board. She sailed in December last.

THE certificate of incorporation of the Standard Insurance Company was granted on the 27th ult. The Company is now registered under the Joint Stock Companies Act. Branch agents have been appointed in the various Provinces for some time, and sub-agents are now being appointed for the towns and districts of the different Provinces.

THE ship *Isles of the South* arrived at Lyttelton, on the 2nd ult. with 330 immigrants and seven cabin passengers, 88 days out from Plymouth. The deaths reported on the voyage were two infants and one adult, aged seventy-nine.

HIS Excellency Mr Du Cane, Governor of Tasmania, leaves Launceston shortly for the purpose of visiting Victoria and New Zealand.

THE ship *Ocean Mail* has arrived at Wellington from London, 80 days out, with over 300 immigrants. There was one case of scarlatina on board, and five deaths amongst the children had occurred on the voyage from whooping cough. The vessel was quarantined. It is expected the detention will be very short.

At a meeting held at Wellington to form a Seamen's Union it was resolved that £2 per month advance on the present rates be made in the pay of the officers, carpenters, cooks, and stewards. The firemen's wages to be £14 per month; trimmers, £8 per month; and foremast hands in sailing coasters, £7 per month.

A PROSPECTUS has been issued at Wellington of a new daily newspaper, to be called the *Tribune*, price a penny. The prospectus declares that the question of Immigration and Public Works now resolves itself merely into one of administration. It approves of a firm and conciliatory Native Government. It disapproves of Provincialism, but will endeavour to make the best of it while it continues in existence.

The immigration authorities have received a telegram notifying the sailing of the *Woolark* in December for Wellington, with 350 immigrants.

Gold has been struck in the Caledonian mine, and it is supposed to be the old lode. 150lbs specimens have been taken out, and 400lbs of picked stuff. The lode is dipping into Tooke's.

THE 'Wakatip Mail' says the number of tourists visiting the Lake scenery this year has been greater than any preceding one. The ensuing two months are generally the most enjoyable of the year in this district, and favorable therefore for tourists.

An extraordinary general meeting at Wellington has been called for the purpose of winding up the New Zealand Coal Company voluntarily. The cause is the insufficient support given to it.

THE 'Buller News' Company have made arrangements for starting a paper at Charleston.

THE annual meeting of subscribers to the Dunedin Athenæum was held last week, the proceedings being somewhat lively. The report was of a highly satisfactory character, and along with the balance sheet, was unanimously adopted. The sheet showed that the balance to the credit of the Institution at the end of the year was £565 5s 11d. Of this amount £500 had been since spent in paying off the debentures. After a stormy debate, a resolution was carried to the effect that the Institution should be kept open for four hours on Sunday. Steps will be taken to reverse this decision, by demanding that a poll be taken of the whole of the members of the Institute, seeing that out of the 800 members, or thereabouts, only 174 voted. In compliance with a requisition the Hon. Secretary of the Institution calls a special meeting of the members, to be held on Wednesday, the 11th inst., to consider the question of the opening of the Athenæum on Sundays.

THE new out-fall drain, at Christchurch, which will cost £12,000, has been formally opened. The Mayor and Mr H. B. Hart, gave a commemorative banquet.

By the upsetting of a cutter at the Manukau Bar on the 2nd inst the following persons were drowned:—J. Graham, a married man and a large land owner in the Raglan district, near Piko; Johnstone, a half-breed, brother-in-law to Mr H. Barbaud, R.M., at Opoiki; Robertson, an unmarried man, 18 years of age, who arrived by the *Indostan*, and was going to join his uncle at Raglan; F. Galvan, about 12 years of age, and son of Mr Galvin, the blacksmith at Raglan; Miss Phillips, aged 4, daughter of Mr J. Phillips, farmer at Raglan; and Capt in Kenney, who leaves a wife and family at Onehunga.

THE last northern and Southern escorts brought to Dunedin the following quantities of gold:—Queenstown, 873 oz. 2 dwts; Cardrona, 534 oz. 2 dwts; Arrowtown, 590 oz. 17 dwts; Cromwell, 978 oz. 5 dwts; Clyde, 125 oz; Alexandra, 379 oz. 16 dwts; Blacks, 425 oz. 1 dwt; St. Bathans, 450 oz; Mount Ida, 1142 oz; Macraes, 91 oz. 14 dwts; Palmerston, 410z. 4 dwts; Lawrence, 616 oz. 19 dwts; Waipori, 108 oz; Waitahuna, 72 oz. 10 dwts; Tokomairiro, 245 oz. 9 dwts. Total: 6726 oz. 19 dwts.

MR CHAS PETER BEGG, a son of Mr Adam Begg, of Anderson's Bay, and a surveyor in the employ of Messrs Connell and Macfie—went on Friday week last to the ocean beach near Dunedin to bathe, accompanied by his brothers; though a powerful swimmer, he was carried out to sea and was drowned.

OUR Auckland correspondent telegraphing on Wednesday evening as to the share market says:—Business done—National Insurance, 2s; Albion (New issue), 5s 6d; Caledonian, £12 5s; Albion (1 issue), £4; Royal Oak, 10s 6d.