

It is believed that W. J. T. Clarke's estate will pay to the Victorian Government about £84,000 as probate duty. He leaves the Victorian property to his eldest son, William, and the New Zealand property to Joseph Clarke. His widow will receive £300 a year, and his second son has been left a comparatively poor man.

The following are London telegrams, under date 20th and 21st January:—"The Siamese twins are dead. The French Assembly passed the Mayors Bill with a majority of 42. The French Government declared its policy was to show the Pontiff a pious respect and filial solicitude whilst maintaining more amicable relations with Italy. The Ultramontane newspaper Universe has been suspended for two months for publishing the pastoral of the Bishop of Perigueux. This was in consequence of the representation of Prussia."

IMMIGRANTS to Otago under the old system, who are in arrear with respect to passage money, will do well to take note of an intimation published by the Provincial Secretary.

HOKITIKA intelligence states that the Kanieri Lake Water Race Company's shares are going off well. The Borough Council are now negotiating with the Company for the supply of water to the town. The mining claims are being taken up largely along the line of the race.

A SHORT time ago a child of a washerwoman at Auckland was drowned in a tub. Now, a child, three years old, whose parents live near the Shotover Ferry, has been drowned in a tub of water.

At a meeting of the Canterbury Astronomical Society the Committee were requested to communicate with the General Government with a view to giving assistance to the Transit of Venus Commission when it arrives in the Colony. The committee also decided to take steps for establishing an observatory.

DUNEDIN is now within a week of London, when steamers suit.

It is proposed to form a company at Naseby to invest in station property in the Mount Ida district.

MR JAMES GROGAN, who was thrown out of a buggy at the races at the Forbury on December 1st, had so far recovered as to be able to leave the Dunedin Hospital a few days ago. He was insensible for about a fortnight after the accident happened to him, and is still partially paralysed, but able to walk.

NELSON is waking up. The Provincial Council has passed a resolution recommending the importation of 150 immigrants per month.

A COMPANY is in course of formation to utilise the sulphur from the celebrated volcano at White Island.

At the annual meeting of the Dunedin Water Works Company it was reported that "the proposed purchase of the Company's plant and works has been finally abandoned by the Corporation, and a special report and all the correspondence on this subject is submitted herewith. The Directors have no cause to regret this result, nor the position they have all along taken in this matter, so far as the interests of the shareholders are concerned. The continuing prosperity of the Company—its brilliant prospects, and the actual price at which the stock is selling in the open market, all demonstrate this." The dividend declared made in all 12 per cent. for the year on the original shares, and 10 per cent on the others.

MR W. D. MORRISON is the successful tenderer for the Waipori Sludge Channel, at £9000.

JAMES WALKER, a seaman, died suddenly a few nights ago in the Port Chalmers lock-up while suffering from *delirium tremens*. The cause of death was disease of the heart.

RANDOM NOTES.

"A chiel's amang ye takin' notes,
And faith he'll print 'em."

It has been alleged that climatic influences exercise a powerful sway upon the cuticle of persons of a sensitive nature. If such be the case, the climate of Dunedin has a deal to answer for, and the number of those subject to its influence somewhat numerous. Some years since one sensitive mind recoiled with horror at the thought of being compared to the Hon. C. E. Jones, of Victoria; and lately we have a public officer wildly appealing for justice at the hands of his countrymen, on the miscreant who had stigmatised him as — well, it might not be safe to repeat the expression. Bulwer makes Richieu declare the pen more mighty than the sword, but it sometimes happens that it becomes a two-edged weapon, and unless used with judgment and skill, recoils upon the person by whom it is wielded. To be a writer of, or to the Press, requires a tact and finesse of which few are possessed; and the line of demarcation which separates sarcasm and satire from legal libel is of so fine a character, that many inadvertently overstep the boundary, and place themselves at the mercy of the impeccunious and rapacious. The case which has recently been heard before Mr Justice Chapman is certainly a most extraordinary one: the fact of its ever being brought into Court at all a matter of surprise; but the climax has been capped by the finding of the jury on the evidence adduced, and in the face of the charge from the Bench. The *gravamen* was that complainant had been designated a "Bumble of the first water." Witnesses were called on his side, who deposed that, so far from that gentleman being injured in their opinion by the usage of the term applied to him, their admiration and respect for his character had been the greater, and instead of being reduced, he had been considerably raised in their estimation. As the deputy-harbourmaster sought a pecuniary solatium for the damage to his character alleged to have been received, but which lamentably failed to be proven, the most natural, and in fact only, presumption to be arrived at is, that the gentlemen of the jury fully endorsed the truth of the expressions constituting he so-called libel, and in their appreciation of Mr Orkney being a "Bumble of the first water," presented him with a testimonial of £50. While thoroughly deprecating the prostitution of the mighty lever of the Press, I think the recent verdict will have an injurious effect on the community at large, for it is scarcely to be supposed that journalists will fight the battles of the public, and set themselves up as "Aunt Sallys," to be shied at on every trivial occasion. In future Mr Bell and his *conféres* will be somewhat chary in trying issues with a Dunedin Twelve, and perhaps when next a public wrong has been perpetrated,

or a social evil to be redressed, there may be some difficulty in finding any one to "Bell the cat." The enquiring minds of the jurors have however, set at rest one point they held in doubt, the oft-repeated, but never-assured, question, "What's in a name," has been solved by them. The rose might smell as sweet by any other name, but the florescence of the deputy harbour-master has been seriously impeded by the application of the opprobrious epithets; and Mr Bell can thoroughly respond to the query—"Fifty Pounds."

PETER POSSUM.

EMIGRATION FROM IRELAND.

To the Editor of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

Wellington, January 26.

SIR,—By the arrival of the Salisbury on the 21st inst., there came some 9 or 10 single men, some young women, besides a few married couples who hail from the green old Isle, and who gave a cheering aspect to the present Immigration scheme, for as they marched from the dock to the Immigration depot a vast number of on-lookers said, "Dr Featherston is improving in his business; see those splendid emigrants he is sending." The real fact is that they were nearly all nominated here by friends. Perhaps the best test of all of the value of Irish labor was the fact that the whole of the Irish were engaged before the day set apart by the Immigration officer in charge.

When such is the case why not honestly require that more scope should be given for Irish to emigrate than has hitherto been done? but alas! we can never expect justice to be fully done to us in this respect, therefore it behoves on Irishmen to stretch a point and lend a hand in forwarding the good work of colonization. There are few Irishmen who have not some friends or acquaintances willing to emigrate, then why not send passage tickets to them? If they are not acquainted with any in particular, so disposed, they must surely know some friend to whom to send nominations for a number of workmen of any particular calling, and as immigration is now free, we would thus have a number of honest good Catholic Irishmen out in a few years. The plan is practicable and ought to be tried at least. Irishmen ought to have no selfishness on the point, they lose nothing by seeing their neighbors thrive. As the matter is a commendable one I have no doubt but you will readily join in forwarding it. Although but comparatively speaking a new chum, I have now the satisfaction of seeing a number of my acquaintances around me, where two years ago my native county was totally unrepresented save by one single female.

Yours,—CAERNIAL

ULTRAMONTANISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TABLET."

SIR,—Seeing numerous allusions to ultramontaniam in the journals of the day, and not clearly understanding what was meant by the term, I wrote to one of these journals for an explanation. His reply was that it was applied to a section of Catholics, on account, not of their religion, but of the hostile attitude they maintained under the name of religion, towards modern society. "In every Kingdom in Europe they insist upon government for themselves apart from the civil government; they profess to be under a system of law administered by a chief who is invested with both temporal and spiritual power, they claim, in short, to be an imperium in imperio, and consequently they come into collision with society at every point." This explanation is not sufficiently clear, or definite, to give me a correct idea of the aim and objects of ultramontaniam, and I therefore apply to you, and trust that you will be kind enough to furnish me with the desired information, and you will much oblige. Sir, yours truly, ENQUIRER.

[In the Catholic Church there is really no such thing as ultramontaniam. The term as used at present is one of reproach, intended to give expression to insult and calumny, as regards the Catholic Church. ED. N.Z.T.]

RECOLLECTIONS OF ROME.

No. v.

TO LEAD myself back to St. Peter's of which I promised to tell you further, I propose that to-day we travel in spirit over the road which lies between Via Felice, where I lived, and the Basilica. Our journey will be full of interest as there are many wonderful things to be seen on our way. Do not be shocked if I make provision for our pilgrimage in the shape of a score or two of those delicious chestnuts which are vended at the corner of the street. We need not be deterred by the fact that our feast will only cost two *baicelli*. Are we not *forestieri*, eccentrics, barbarians—wanderers from a land without sunsets and without a sky, without pictures except the miserable copies which we pay extravagantly for, without literature to speak of, except a red covered book lettered 'Murray,' which we consult furtively before we dare to admire anything, and with a language which consists principally of the absurd phrase 'Oh, yes'? I readily admit that if in our own country we outraged society by buying a penny's worth of fruit at a street-stall, we should be cut and deserve to be cut by such of our fashionable acquaintances as became aware of the disreputable occurrence. But here the solecism will be looked upon merely as a vagary of minor Ingles who knows no better, and will not prevent us being received at the banquets of a Roman Prince, if our letters of credit and introduction be satisfactory. Let us pay for our chestnuts with a two poul-piece, and we shall get in change a whole handful of copper coin which we can distribute among the numerous mendicants who congregate on the steps of the Piazza di Spagna. Five brigand beggars who demand alms in a tone which savours of "money or your life" noble looking beggars who adopt the "Date obolum Belisario" role, with like hags whom you would fear to re-see, pretty children who make their plaints in soft musical tones which sound like poetry, and merry looking rogues whom you half expect to address you as "your honour" instead of *eccellenza*. These beggars are uncountable, but I think their life is not quite so hard as the life of the poor in other countries. They can obtain food in the convents, and in the day time sleep in the churches, and the money which they get from