

posed to the opening of the Athenæum on Sundays. It was shown in the daily press on the publication of the letter, (which was prior to the meeting), that His Honor was acting inconsistently in allowing the running of trains and objecting to the opening of the Athenæum. It is a common impression that Scotchmen who don't go out on the Sabbath drink whiskey inside of doors on that day; but a little incident which became public just at the right time, shows that in His Honor's case this is incorrect, and that his Sunday weakness (time for morning and evening service being, of course, excepted) is the making of statistical calculations. His Honor, it appears, whilst in Invercargill, made a speech at the luncheon given to His Excellency the Governor, and in his speech alluded to the vast forests of Southland. He said the forests were worth "five-hundred millions of money," and that he made the calculation yesterday—that is, on the "Sabbath." For so calculating, a writer in the 'Southland News' takes Mr Macandrew to task, and says:—"That he made his calculations 'only yesterday,'—that was Sunday—was publicly disrespectful to the observance of that day, as regarded by British Christian communities." "What," asks the 'Daily Times,' "will the writer of the letter say when he learns that Mr Macandrew thinks it right to calculate the timber supply of Southland on the first day of the week, but wrong in the members of the Athenæum to read his Sunday calculations?" But is it not fortunate for His Honor that his taste for spending the Sunday shapes itself in this way, as otherwise, in travelling in country districts, he might be made the victim of unprincipled accommodation house keepers and bad whiskey.

A CONTRIBUTOR to the 'Wairarapa Standard' represents the letters "V.R." as standing for "Vogel Rex."

COL. GORDON, at Nelson, has expressed his belief that when his report was sent in, he believed that reductions would take place in the Force, and that many of the sedentary Volunteers would be made to resign.

At Cofomandel a novelty in cricket matches was recently played. Eleven handsome cricketers are said to have played eleven ugly ditto, and were well beaten for their conceit. The selection, we understand, was made by a committee of ladies, the majority deciding any vexed question. Several of the committee withdrew their names on the ground of partiality.

At a meeting of the subscribers of the Dunedin Athenæum, held on Wednesday evening, a motion to open the Library for four hours on Sunday was carried by 252 to 242.

An up-country contemporary states that there is a large demand for land in the Switzers' district. Several thousand acres would be taken up with avidity if the Government would make it available for settlement. A large block on Gow's run has been promised for some time.

"Cuckoo," writing to the Napier 'Telegraph,' says:—"I see, that at a public dinner lately held in a Southern province, after the toast of 'the Governor,' the band played 'The King of the Cannibal Islands,' and after the toast of the 'Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese,' a choir sang 'Ye Spotted Snakes.' Can you tell me, sir, why these are considered appropriate?"

The winding rope of the Queen of Beauty claim at the Thames was cut early in the night of the 28th ult., the rope being almost severed. The flaw was fortunately discovered before the cage was set to work, but the offender has yet to be caught. The Thames 'Star' says:—"Of all the Manchester rattening during the last strike nothing so diabolically fiendish was ever attempted as that at the Queen of Beauty on Thursday morning last."

The golden goose has been killed at Charleston, Nelson. It had half a pennyweight of sraly gold in its gizzard.

At Otaki, Wellington, a powerful half-caste of local celebrity as a wrestler has been appointed policeman and bailiff. He is looked upon as the right man in the right place.

Mr Moriarty, the Sydney Government Engineer, proceeds from Auckland to Greymouth to report on the harbor works there.

MIDDLE Jenny Claus, the celebrated violinist, is to arrive in this colony in a few days from Melbourne with a concert party, and is likely to give performances in Dunedin about the 20th of the month.

THE last monthly crushing of the Wealth of Nations claim, Reefton, yielded 498 ounces of gold, value £1918. At the general meeting of the shareholders it was decided to increase the battery from 15 to 20 stampers.

At a trial of the submarine boat, the Platypus, in Dunedin Bay a fortnight ago, the vessel after being submerged would not, through a weakness in the air pumps rise, and had to be towed till the manhole appeared clear of the water, when those in her, to their great relief, got out. A subsequent trial a few days ago was completely successful so far as her power to rise was concerned, but it still remains to be seen whether the vessel will answer in the rough bottom and swift currents of the Molyneux.

THE question of a site for a fourth public school for Dunedin has been settled at last. The City Council has agreed:—"That, in consideration of the Provincial Government conveying to the City Council of Dunedin, for the purpose of public traffic, the piece of land known as the Fire Brigade Stand, this Council will lease to the School Committee for twenty-one years, at a rental of 1s per annum, section 31 and half of section 30 of the Market Reserve, for the purposes of a Fourth School." Cr Beck protested against the motion being adopted, and Cr Reeves did not vote.

THE amount of Customs revenue collected in Dunedin on the 9th inst., amounted to £5497 14s 8d. This is perhaps the largest amount ever received in Dunedin in one day. The principal item on which duty was paid was drapery.

THE Turkish baths are to be erected in Dunedin; at a meeting of persons favorable to the project, it was resolved to form a company with 1000 shares, at £1 each, 10s to be paid an application. Nearly 800 shares were taken up in the room.

THE Provincial Government of Auckland have despatched Barry, a miner, to prospect the Uriwera country for gold, in compliance with the wishes of the Natives.

GREAT mortality prevails at Wellington. The death rate of last

month, was double that of the corresponding month of last year. For this month it is already double that of last February.

A SUDDEN death occurred in Walker street, Dunedin; a few evenings ago, a man named Alexander Affleck, lately employed in a wood-yard, falling down dead opposite the Royal Hotel.

WE ('Thames Star') are informed that the name of No. 1 Royals is about to be changed to the "Royal Irish Brigade," and that it will be at once recruited to about 150 strong.

THE upshot of a very prolonged debate in the City Council regarding the Town Hall Site, was the carrying of the following motion, by five votes to three:—"That the Octagon be the only site for the Town Hall." A proposal had been made to secure the present University Building as a Town Hall. The motion was moved by Mr Prosser. It was twenty minutes past four a.m. when the Council adjourned.

HARVEST hands are very scarce at East Taieri, the wages offered being £2 a week and found.

THE workmen engaged in cutting a drain in one of the streets of Invercargill came across a bed of lignite.

At the Otago Waste Land Board, a lease of a copper mine at Waipori has been applied for and granted.

A CHRISTCHURCH paper of the 30th ult. says:—"The treat to the children attending the Catholic Schools, Barbadoes street, took place yesterday. The boys assembled at the Catholic schoolroom to the number of 136, and marched to the Stanmore bridge, headed by the Rev. Father Ecuyer, Mr Edward O'Connor (schoolmaster), and Mr D. McGinness (member of the school committee). The boys arrived at New Brighton at half past 10 o'clock, having been conveyed there by Mr Hopkins' new steamer. Shortly after their arrival the children were served with cake, gingerbeer, &c., after which a number of games (including cricket) were indulged in on the beach. The girls arrived at 3.30 p.m., and spent as pleasant an evening as could have been expected under the circumstances, considering the late period of their arrival. Several sports were initiated and gone through with great success, after which the children returned to Christchurch highly satisfied with the day's proceedings. The services of the new steamer throughout the day, and the attention of the officers, deserve special commendation.

LAST month Capt. Logan, of the Hero, set apart a day on which he gave the children of the various charitable institutions of Auckland, including those of the Catholic institutions, a trip in his vessel to and from the Hot Springs. There were 183 children on board, and about 150 passengers at 10s each, whose fares were equally divided among the several institutions. There was an excellent band on board, and the comfort of the excursionists was well attended to. On the return, and just before getting alongside the wharf, Victor Pomero, belonging to St. Stephen's Home, Parnell, and godson of her Majesty Queen Victoria, jumped on to the top of a seat and called out in a loud voice, "Three cheers for Captain Logan." The cry was taken up by the other little ones, and three hearty cheers were given. The adults on board took it up and also gave three cheers for the worthy captain, the band playing "For he's a jolly good fellow." Cheers were also given for the other officers of the ship. It is said to be Captain Logan's intention to give such a treat annually, and he hopes the next one will be even more successful.

THERE appears to be a large demand for female servants in Auckland. All the female immigrants, per *Lauderdale*, were immediately engaged. There were 80 applications in excess of the supply.

THE Annual Moveable Meeting of the Hibernian Australasian Benefit Society is to be held in Melbourne this month. Bro. Peter Griffen, who is connected with the Charleston Branch, N.Z., has been appointed a delegate to represent the Dunedin, Oamaru, and Naseby branches.

GOLD EXPORT OF NEW ZEALAND.

In a return published in the New Zealand Gazette of the 29th January, appear the following facts, showing the quantity and value of the gold exported from the several gold-producing Provinces of the Colony during the years 1872 and 1873 respectively:—

	QUANTITY.		VALUE	
	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.
	oz.	oz.	£	£
Otago	157,074	182,416	639,693	722,834
Westland	133,829	151,356	553,316	605,424
Auckland	104,890	119,449	369,341	426,589
Nelson	42,100	51,203	168,400	204,836
Marlborough	1,682	907	6,723	3,628
Canterbury	195	...	783	...

Totals ... oz 445,370 oz 505,337 £1,731,261 £1,970,141

From the foregoing, it will be seen that there is a large increase in the yield of gold during 1873. Calculating from the value, the increase amounts, for the whole of New Zealand, to £233,881, or 13.79 per cent. The increase in the export of gold from Otago during the year is £93,968, or 15.69 per cent. The total value of the gold exported from Otago (including Southland) from the 1st April, 1857, to the 31st December, 1873, is no less than £12,508,120. From the whole Colony there was exported, during the same period, gold to the value of £28,053,401.

RANDOM NOTES.

"A chieft's among ye takin' notes,
And faith he'll print 'em."

I OBSERVED a document in a recent issue of the TABLET, signed "R. H. Bakewell, M. D.," which had been specially dedicated to your readers at a distance. I have not the honor of the distinguished medico's acquaintance; but if his chirurgical skill be but on a par with his logical acumen, I pity his patients. The worthy doctor says, while indignantly disclaiming the charge of party prejudice:—"There was no mention made of the Irish; and there was no phrasal used which could be tortured into an exclusion of the Irish on account of