

light, it is clear the words—lawyer of sweetness, are not applicable. Mr BARTON, then, is not the “lawyer of sweetness and light,” and it is to be presumed he would not absent himself from church, because his minister has not one, two, or three thousand a year, or may have been below him in class at college.

Having now settled what Mr BARTON is not, let us see what he is, and what he is likely to be—that is in the event of his being elected. He is a lawyer of ability and industry, a successful advocate, an uncertain politician, and a timid man, we mean politically, in presence of bigoted public opinion. As to the future, he may be Minister of Justice, if elected in succession to Mr BATHGATE. Whether he may be able to emulate the noble public services of that learned gentleman, and come ultimately to a similar glorious reward, we can not say—time will tell.

#### OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

NUMEROUS complaints have reached us that the TABLET arrives in some places very irregularly, and in one instance, we have been informed, it was not delivered for four successive weeks. We beg to assure our friends that in our opinion the fault does not rest with our office. The TABLET has been regularly posted every week for all our subscribers and agents. Latterly, special care has been taken, and the papers directed to the localities from which complaints have come, have been posted by a special and most careful hand, and a special record kept should the irregularity complained of continue. We hope the persons aggrieved will let us know, as we are now in a position to ascertain where the fault lies.

#### WEEKLY EPITOME.

THIS is what the ‘Timaru Herald’ thinks of Mr G. E. Barton:—“He is an Irish barrister of the spitfire type, and a politician of feverish activity. A quick, clever, restless, spiteful bird-like little fellow, who gives a peck here, and a scratch there, and generally manages to pick up a grain worth having from the most unpromising heap of chaff. He is a man of birth and breeding, with great acquirements, and exquisitely cultivated tastes, and he is moreover one of the boldest and most original thinkers we know. He has rare pluck, and untiring energy also, and as far as mere intellectual advantages go, is infinitely superior to two-thirds of the members of the House.”

FROM October 23 to the 19th ult., 2038 immigrants have been nominated through the Invercargill Immigration Office.

On the arrival of the Carnatic at the Otago Heads with 250 passengers, a great many of whom were children, it was found that measles and scarlet fever had broken out, and that six deaths had ensued. The Scimitar has arrived with over 400 passengers, and 26 deaths occurred on the voyage.

AT an extraordinary meeting of St. Joseph's Branch No. 73, held last Wednesday evening, it was unanimously resolved to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the first anniversary of the Branch with a supper in St. Joseph's schoolroom; and it was determined not to confine it to the members alone, but that their wives, families, and friends, both Catholic and Protestant, be admitted. Bro Robt. Carroll (President of the Branch) will occupy the chair, and R. A. Loughnan, Esq., the vice chair. A very pleasant and successful evening is anticipated.

MR HOLLOWAY, the representative of the English Labourers' Union, has started on a tour through Otago. He is, on behalf of the Provincial Government, accompanied by an officer of the Survey Department, Mr Samuel Thompson. They will spend a day or two in each of the agricultural districts of Tokomairiro, Clutha, and Mataura, on their way to Invercargill. After visiting the western and other farming districts of Southland, they will proceed via Kingston to the Lake district, and from thence will return by the valley of the Clutha, taking the Teviot and Tuapeka districts on the way. Mr Holloway has already been to the Taieri district, and it is believed that he will reserve the examination of the northern and Oamaru districts until he proceeds to Canterbury.

MR McKILLAR, the newly-appointed Provincial Auditor at Wellington, having refused to certify to any warrant for the payment of money from the Provincial Treasury, the matters in dispute between the General and Provincial Governments are to be relegated to the Supreme Court.

MR VOGEL, at Auckland, said in reply to a deputation against Sunday trains, that a large number of persons, including many clergymen, opposed the trains. He instanced that the Bishops of Christchurch and Dunedin were among the first who travelled on Sunday when the lines were opened South. He said that personally he had endeavoured to co-operate with the religious section of the community, and had therefore stopped Sunday post office work. He had refused to renew the Sunday work although petitioned by the officials. He would use his influence towards reducing the number of trains to meet the necessary traffic only, and preventing special inducements for Sunday travelling.

MR GEORGE PROUDFOOT has purchased the coal pit at Green Island recently belonging to Messrs Waugh and Todd. The seam of coal is nearly 20 ft. thick, and extends over an area of some 300 acres, which is supposed to contain a million tons of coals, which, reckoned at a profit of 2s a ton, would yield £100,000. It is the intention of the owner to sink another pit without delay, and also to erect cottages for the workmen.

THE barque Anazi, from London, went ashore at Donald's Bay, three miles beyond Lake Takapuna, at four o'clock on Sunday morning. The accident is unaccountable, as it was a bright moonlight

night with only a moderate breeze. The ship is resting on a sandy bottom, and not leaking. The steamer Golden Crown has gone to endeavor to tow her off. The cargo is valued at £47,000. She has twelve passengers, but no Government immigrants. It is doubtful whether the vessel can be got off. The Anazi is insured. Her voyage from London does not seem to have been a pleasant one.

ONE ton of picked stone from the Golden Ridge plain, Amato, Collingwood district, yielded 41 ounces of gold. The stone had to be carried on men's backs 85 miles.

MR S. LOCKE has concluded the purchase of 62,000 acres of valuable Native land in and on behalf of Wellington Province. It is the residue of the Seventy-Mile Bush.

THE ship Queen of the Age, has arrived at Auckland, with 165 Government immigrants on board. Frederick Holmes, a seaman, was lost overboard. W. Penny, aged 44, died of dysentery. There were no other cases of sickness. Seven of the crew have been arrested for broaching cargo.

HAPARONA, a great chief who fought against the Europeans, has died at New Plymouth, aged 60.

AT the end of the last session of the House of Representatives, on the motion of Mr O'Neill, member for the Thames, it was ordered “That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that the Government should, not less than three months before the commencement of next session, cause a Gold Mining Bill to be prepared and circulated throughout the Colony.” The time has nearly elapsed and the Bill has not yet been circulated. It is to be hoped that the Ministry will not fail to carry out its pledge and obey the order of the House.

THE tender of Mr Bruce, Waimate, Canterbury, for the erection of the Waitaki bridge, has been accepted. The amount has not yet transpired.

MESSRS HERBERT, MOUNT & Co's Victoria Steam Saw Mills, Tapanui, were destroyed by fire a few mornings ago.

THE ‘Marlborough Express’ says:—“During the last quarter 73 vessels, of a total tonnage of 2,550 tons, had cleared from the port of Havelock, containing 1,726,000 feet of timber, being a large increase on any previous quarter.”

AT a meeting of the members of the legal profession practising in Dunedin, which was held at the Supreme Court-house, resolutions were passed that an address be presented to Mr Strode, R.M., on the occasion of his retirement, and that Mr Strode be requested to have an enlarged portrait of himself taken by a photographer at the expense of the profession; the portrait to be hung in the Resident Magistrate's Court, with the sanction of the Colonial Government.

THE Thames Railway Committee has waited on the Superintendent of Auckland, respecting the Thames Valley Line. The Superintendent said he and the Executive were favorable to the construction of the line, and proposals would be submitted at the next meeting of the Council, authorising the Province to go to Parliament to borrow the requisite amount. Afterwards, a Deep Sinking Drainage Deputation waited on the Premier, and laid the plans and report of the proposed works before him. The question was fully ventilated, Mr Vogel made a reply, the tenor of which was favorable.

IT has been determined, at a large meeting of seamen held at Lyttleton, that the rate of wages for home shall be £10, and Inter-colonial vessels £8 per month.

THE long delayed Dallam Tower has at last arrived at Port Chalmers.

A TRADESMAN in Westport (says the local paper) when called upon lately for a donation to a projected Catholic Church bazaar, gave a whole haul of watches, which had “accumulated in his safe as unredeemed pledges for borrowed notes and unpaid accounts, the owners having died, skeddaddled or become hopelessly hard-up.”

THE choirs of the two Catholic churches of Shortland and Grahamstown (says a late Thames paper) gave an entertainment last evening at the Catholic School-room, Willoughby street, free of charge, to the members of their congregations. The Rev. Father Norris gave a brief address at the commencement. The entertainment consisted of a musical melange of comic and sentimental songs and recitations. The house was crowded, and the entertainment passed off agreeably.

THE Northern and Southern Otago Escorts brought to Dunedin the following quantities of gold:—Queenstown, 935 oz 5 dwts; Cardrona, 338 oz; Arrowtown, 522 oz 9 dwts; Cromwell, 1619 oz 2 dwts; Clyde, 134 oz 1 dwt; Alexandra, 326 oz 18 dwts; Teviot, 537 oz 7 dwts; Blacks, 600 oz; St. Bathans, 225 oz; Mount Ida, 493 oz 5 dwts; Macraes, 83 oz 8 dwts; Palmerston, 37 oz 11 dwts; Waikouaiti, 5 oz 10 dwts; Lawrence, 1037 oz 18 dwts; Waipori, 900 oz 19 dwts; Waitahuna, 165 oz 7 dwts; Tokomairiro, 200 oz; Switzers, 1121 oz 2 dwts. Total: 8568 oz 3 dwts. Of this 300 ozs is to be forwarded to the Victorian Mint.

#### TRAGEDY AT GREEN ISLAND.

##### INQUEST: VERDICT OF WILFUL MURDER.

AN inquiry took place on Monday afternoon, at the Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle Hotel, Green Island, into the circumstances attending the death of Nicholas McDonald, aged 22 years. Mr I. N. Watt, R.M., acted as coroner, and Mr Weldon, Commissioner of Police, conducted the case on behalf of the Crown. Messrs Barton and Smith appeared for the accused, Patrick Long, who was present during the inquiry. Previous to the evidence being taken, the Coroner decided not to allow the legal gentlemen to cross-examine witnesses. After the jury (of which Mr Thomson was foreman) had been sworn in, and had viewed the body, the following evidence was taken:—

Andrew Kerr deposed: Last Saturday night, between 8 and 9 o'clock, I was standing at the bar of Pat Long's hotel, in company with Daniel McLaughlin, when deceased and another man named Donald McSweeney came in. The latter asked me to have a drink, and I gave him down 1s 6d to pay. Long would not give him the drinks. Mrs McSweeney then came in and asked Long to give us the drinks, and he did so. I tried to get McSweeney home with his wife, but he did not.