

## GENERAL NEWS.

The 'Wellington Tribune' describes the mode of lighting the lamps in that city thus:—"The lamp lighter mounts his horse and gallops to a lamp, stops and stands upon his saddle, like a veritable Duerow, lights the lamp, slides down his seat and gallops to another post, where the same process is repeated, and so on from Te Aro to Thorndon. No walking and no ladder. The town is lit up in an incredibly short space of time. Much depends upon the expertness of the man and more upon the training of the horse, but both manage to do their work excellently well."

"Phil," writing under the heading of "On the Flags," in 'Town and Country,' says:—"Tichborne Gossip will never end. The latest discovery is that Arthur Orton was hung in Melbourne Gaol, under the name of Alfred H. Jackson, shoemaker, for highway robbery at Bacchus Marsh, in 1855, in conjunction with one James Condon, the victim being a person named Rutherford, whom they eased of £1500. The individual who has made this statement is a prisoner named Clark, who is now rusticated in the Ballarat Gaol. It appears the A. H. Jackson mentioned was hanged as stated, and that the letters A. H. were tattooed on his arm. I don't think there is anything in the canard."

The population of Great Britain and Ireland at this time is stated in the Register General's returns to be 32,412,000, or 600,000 more than double the population enumerated at the first census in 1801. The population of Ireland in 1874, is only 84,000 more than in 1801. The population of Scotland in 1874 is 212,000 more than double the population of 1801. The population of England and Wales in 1874, is above 5,500,000 more than double the population in 1801.

In England the National Church has 1,452,600 children in its schools; the Nonconformists, 435,426 in theirs; the Catholics, 125,697, and the Board-schools, 111,286. The 'London Tablet' is glad to find that the percentage of the average attendance is larger in the Catholic than in any of the other schools; and further, that in regard to the results of the examination the highest percentage of passes in the different standards has been made by the Catholic schools. This speaks very highly for the zeal of the clergy in working up the average attendance, and for the efficiency of the teachers.

The new Bishop of Ballarat, Australia, the Right Rev. Michael O'Connor, was consecrated on Sunday, May 17, by Cardinal Franchi. The ceremony took place in the Chapel of the Propaganda, Rome. At the same time and place were consecrated Mgr Camillo Sorgente, lately a Prior of the SS. Annunziata of Salerno, and now Archbishop of Cosenza; and Father Antonio Maria Grasselli, now Bishop of Trapezopolis in *partibus infidelium*, and Vicar Apostolic of Moldavia.

The will and codicil, dated January 30, 1871, and February 15, 1873, of Anne, Duchess Dowager of Argyll, who died at No. 40, Rutland-gate, on February 25 last, were proved on the 29th ult. by the Very Rev. James Spencer Northcote, D.D., and David Lewis, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £25,000. The testatrix gives pecuniary legacies to her executors, sister, niece, and servants; to the Rev. John Dobree Dalgairns, of the Oratory, Brompton, the income of £7,000 for life; at his death £3,000 is given to certain members of the Convent of St. Dominic, Staffordshire. Lord Walter Campbell is appointed residuary legatee. There are numerous specific legacies to the Duke of Argyll, the Marquis of Lorne, and others; and she leaves all the contents of her chapel at Rutland-gate, with the vestments, ornaments, candles-sticks, pictures, chalice, relics, including her relic of the true Cross, set in a tortoise-shell case inlaid with gold, and all the furniture thereof, to the said Rev. J. D. Dalgairns.

The "old folks" appear to be falling fast of late. On Monday last, Mr James Godso, an old veteran in his 92nd year, expired (says the 'Argus') at his son's residence, Clifton hill. In the exciting war times of George III. he was kidnapped by the "press-gangs" of those days to serve in his Majesty's navy. He served principally in the Lion, 64 guns; visited China, the Cape, Bombay, the Persian Gulf, Java, St. Helena, &c., and received the silver medal and clasp for services at Java. He finally left the navy in 1815, and arrived in the colony in 1858. A narrative of his eventful life was published in several of the colonial journals about twelve months ago. He resided with his son, Mr Isaac Godso, of Shirley House, and was interred in the Melbourne Cemetery on Wednesday last, the Rev Caleb Booth, incumbent of All Saints, officiating. The old man was blind for the last six years, but had good health, and all his other faculties were unimpaired.

The leading Catholic and anti-Bismarckian paper of Germany, the 'Germania,' in one of its last issues, reviews the results of the elections to the British Parliament at some length, and expresses its unqualified satisfaction at the accession of the Conservative party to power. After alluding to the observations made by Mr Disraeli, in his Aylesbury speech, on the anomaly of the maintenance of coercion in the sister island and on the return of Home Rulers *en masse*, the 'Germania' goes on to say:—"In all that Mr Disraeli has to say with respect to martial law in Ireland we fully concur; but when he proceeds to designate the Home Rulers as revolutionists and rebels he lays himself open to flat contradiction. The Irish are very little given to revolutionism; less so, in fact, than any other nation—decidedly less than the English. Let us but cite one fact in support of this proposition. Although unhappy Ireland has been oppressed by the English conquerors these seven hundred years, her very life blood been sucked out and her soil made into an abode of misery; although owing to the tyrannical laws and administrative measures of an alien government which has no understanding for the faith and nationality of the people, as well as the merciless egotism of the ruling race, unscrupulously seeking its own advantage in the impoverishment of the conquered, millions and millions have been driven away from their beloved green island, whilst those who remained behind dragged on an existence scarcely worthy of human beings, under the supervision of gaolers and tax-gatherers; although, by reason of the wantonness and injustice of the rulers, of the hard-heartedness and contempt of the

men in possession, the distress and starvation of the disinherited, Ireland might have appeared as a soil specially fitted for the plantation of the poisonous flower of Internationalism; it is yet certain that, whilst in all the principal towns of the British empire the International Association has its branches—it has not one in Ireland. Surely the Irish can never be called a nation of "rebels" and "revolutionists!"

A candidate for the English Parliament said:—"Taking the estimates of Mr Dudley Baxter, which is the most favorable to the existing state of things, the poor pay £30,000,000 of taxation, local and imperial on a very small margin of surplus income above that needed for supplying the bare necessities of life; whereas the rich pay £50,000,000 of taxation, local and imperial on a surplus income of £400,000,000."

Father Lawlor, of St. Patrick's Church, Louisville, Ky; has been visiting the saloons of that city with the view of prevailing on the proprietors to remove pictures of an objectionable character, which are not uncommon in such places, and it is believed that he has been quite successful.

At the banquet given by the city of London to the chiefs of the Ashantee expedition, Sir Garnet Wolseley, in replying to the toast of his health is reported to have said:—"The military world of late years has been employed in discussing many plans for campaigns on a large scale, and that without reference to England; but it is a great blessing to us that these little wars, such as those of Abyssinia and Ashantee, teach us a lesson—that when we have selected a general to take command of an expedition, it is necessary to trust him, to give him what he asks, to rely on him, and, above all things, not to trammel him. There was the mistake of the New Zealand war, and I trust no general will ever again be sent who is not intrusted with the charge of the whole of the affairs connected with the country into which he is to advance. If I had had a civil governor at my elbow or an ambassador to control me in such things, I firmly believe I should never have reached Coomassie."

The death is recorded of Dr Charles James Fox, who will long be remembered for his unbounded kindness to the Catholic clergy of London, and, we may even say of England. The late Dr. Fox not only gave his professional services gratuitously to every priest, but, in former years, was in the habit of receiving into his house those clerics who did not reside in the metropolis, and more especially the students of St. Edmund's College. His generous kindness and able services were deeply appreciated, both by Bishop Griffiths and Cardinal Wiseman, the latter of whom expressed his sense of this in a letter which is gratefully treasured by the afflicted family. Dr. Fox was a most exemplary Catholic, and closed a holy and suffering life by his death on Tuesday last. We must not omit to add that Dr. Fox's services to the clergy were acknowledged by His Holiness Pope Pius IX., who sent him, at Cardinal Wiseman's request, a special Benediction.—R. I. P.

Considerable interest has been excited in scientific circles in Auckland by the discovery, during the excavation of the Barrack Hill, of the stump of a Ti tree, evidently many hundred years under ground, from the strata under which it was buried. The interest lies in the evidence of the tree having been cut by some instrument, proved by the surface, and by a spike of wood left standing in the centre where the trunk had broken as it fell. The stump was upright when found, and has been the subject of a paper and discussion in the Auckland Institute, when the balance of opinion was in favor of its having been cut down, and consequently of its throwing some little light on the existence of the race of people in the North Island, whom the Maoris by tradition say were found when their ancestors first came from Hawaii to New Zealand.

At the Middlesex Sessions, John Edward Irving, whose name appeared in the calendar as Robert Roberts, a private in the Royal Horse Artillery, was charged with a series of singular frauds. The prisoner went to the house of Dr Sherrin, who keeps a private school in Leighton-crescent, Kentishtown, and told one of the assistants that he was one of the officers on the staff of Sir Garnet Wolseley, and had been sent by him to make arrangements with Dr Sherrin as to receiving the two sons of Garnet on the following day. He also represented that he was a brother of Henry Irving, the well-known actor, of the Lyceum Theatre. On Dr Sherrin's return he repeated the story, and was not recognised, though he had previously been a teacher in the school. The prisoner left suddenly, taking with him a coat, and nothing more was heard of him. The other frauds were of an equally ingenious character. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and Detective Butcher gave the court a few particulars regarding the prisoner's past career. He had been a student at Guy's Hospital up to the time of the death of his father, who had been the clergyman of St. Philip's Church, Regent street. Whilst studying there he and his brother committed a robbery on the Metropolitan Railway, were tried at the sessions of this court, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. He was afterwards a tutor in Dr Sherrin's school, and then a constable in the Metropolitan Police Force, but ten days after his admission he was recognised at Marlborough Police-station by Detective Butcher, who gave information of his conviction for felony, and he was immediately dismissed. He then enlisted in the Scots' Greys, was convicted again of felony, sentenced to 168 days' imprisonment, and ordered to be dismissed from her Majesty's service with ignominy. He afterwards enlisted into the Royal Horse-Artillery, but deserted shortly after he had joined, and then commenced the career of fraud of which those given are merely samples. The assistant judge ordered him to be kept in penal servitude for five years.

The consumption of alcoholic liquors in the Tuapeka Hospital has lately been the subject of some discussion. A correspondent of the local paper, who signs himself "Growler," says:—"Commenting on the amount of money expended in grog for the patients of the Tuapeka Hospital, it appears at a glance that sixteen sick men drank four hundred pounds worth of fermented liquors in the year; and I do speak plainly there must be some good drinking men in the institution. I noticed a bad Templar last night staggering along the street, and I at once settled in my mind that he was sick and had been in the Hospital."