

retirement of Mr Justice WILLIAMS, Mr KERFERD assumed the position of leading Law Minister of the Crown, and at a comparatively early age he has attained the proud position of Chief Responsible Minister—the highest goal which it is possible to reach in the colonies. Mr KERFERD, now that he has succeeded in becoming the head of the Government had better steer clear of the narrow and illiberal policy which characterised the Ministry of his predecessor. It was during Mr FRANCIS' term of office that the late Attorney-General introduced his unwise and bigotted Education Bill, at once a mischievous and popularity-hunting measure, and a gross violation of the rights of citizenship. By that bill an outrage was perpetrated on the principles and feelings of a large portion of the community, which succeeded in alienating the support and sympathy which might otherwise have been accorded the Government, and perhaps have stood its friend in the hour of need.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

WE imagine the announcement made by the Premier from his place in the House that the Californian service had broken down, will be a matter of but small regret or surprise to the public, prepared as they have been during the entire service of the company by a series of breakdowns. A hope is still held out that the contract may be continued by the firms which are at present building steamers for the line, but we trust that if so, the arrangements entered into will be based on such a footing as to guarantee some degree of punctuality in the arrival and despatch of mails.

On Thursday evening, the 13th instant, a number of influential gentlemen waited upon the Rev. Father Ecuyer, at the Mission House, Christchurch, for the purpose of presenting him with a purse of sovereigns as a slight token of their esteem, and to express their regret at his departure from amongst them. Mr A. J. White said he had been deputed by his fellow Catholics to make the presentation, and on their part to wish the rev. gentleman God-speed and prosperity in his new sphere of work. Father Ecuyer replied in a feeling manner, asserting that he had been agreeably surprised at such a mark of respect and esteem. He expressed his regret at leaving Christchurch, where he had made so many sincere friends, and hoped the present church would be as large again on his next visit amongst them, which he trusted would not be far distant. The rev. gentleman will in future be stationed at Greymouth, whilst his place will be supplied by the Rev. Father Belliard, lately from that town.

We observe by a notice in our advertising columns, that Mr A. R. Loughnan, so long and favorably known in connection with the Green Island Meat Preserving Works, has entered business on his own account, as commission and general agent. We have little doubt, from his known business capacity, and the large circle by whom he is esteemed and respected, but he will secure a most liberal amount of patronage, and be thoroughly successful in his new sphere.

WE beg to inform the public that we have now bound copies of the TABLET on sale at the office, and that those of our subscribers who may have unbound copies by them, can see specimens in various styles and prices by calling at this office.

WE are glad to learn that the laudable and necessary efforts being made by the Catholics at Naseby, for the purpose of freeing the church from debt, appear to be most heartily supported. The committee organised to that end announce by circular that it is their intention to hold a bazaar in aid of the church on the 30th and 31st of October and 2nd of November.

It appears that the New Zealand Ministry is not the only one in which a want of unanimity prevails, and Mr Vogel not the only Minister who has rebellious colleagues. Mr Langton, who has ably held the office of Treasurer in successive Victorian Administrations, has, according to the Melbourne papers, resigned his portfolio through disagreement with the Minister of Lands, Mr Casey. The *casus belli* appears to have been a refusal on the part of the Treasurer to pass the item of expenses of the Lands Minister, occasioned by an extended tour through the colony, the amount and necessity of which Mr Langton deemed unwarranted. Mr Service has accepted the vacant office.

WITH reference to the Bishopric of Sandhurst, we extract the following from the 'Advocate':—"For this bishopric, which was declined, on the ground of ill-health, by Dr. Fortune, Canon Austin Maguire, P.P., Ballincolly, outside Cork, has been nominated. The rev. gentleman is brother of the late John Francis Maguire, who was M.P. for that city. Canon Maguire had not accepted the preferment, but it was not thought likely that he would decline. He was a chaplain to the forces in the Crimea, and from his varied experience, his high gifts, and the suavity of his manner, the Catholics of Sandhurst may be fully persuaded that they would have in Dr. Maguire a bishop who would earnestly and successfully promote their interests, and whom they could both love and esteem."

FROM the 'Grey River Argus' we clip the following sensible remarks, and would express a hearty wish that the liberal ideas held by that journal should become more general:—"Once or twice of late we have had telegrams of Orange celebrations in the Colony. We think it is a pity that such things should be started in this new country, where it is so desirable that old feuds should be entirely forgotten. These celebrations do not spring from love to the memory of William, but from hatred to the memory of somebody else, and we have generally found that Orangemen had no more distinct conception of William the Third—the real man, the historical hero—as painted by McCaulay or Mackintosh, than they have of the elder Cyrus. For the sake of our common country, let us have done with old forms of party strife."

WITH regard to the failure of the Californian line, the following special Sydney telegram has been received at Wellington:—"Serious complications have arisen respecting the Californian Mail Service, Mr Hall having left for America per the Mikado. The Tartar is ordered hence to China on her arrival, and the owners of the Cyphrenes have sent instructions here for her commander. The A.S.N. Company will not charter the steamer for a single trip unless they have the balance of the temporary contract. Under these circumstances the Government will be compelled to take the matter into its own hands, and it intends to carry on the line despite present prospects."

On Monday the Deputy-Superintendent invoked the aid of the law in ejecting from the Old Immigration Barracks some few families, who insisted in retaining free quarters at the dépôt. It appeared from the evidence adduced during the hearing of the case, that the parties summoned had not made the slightest effort towards obtaining house accommodation, although permitted to remain far beyond the usual time, and when spoken to on the subject positively refused to do so. His Worship granted the order for ejectment, and censured the authorities in submitting so long to the imposition.

Amongst the regulations contained in the new Licensing Act is one specifying the hours during which barmaids can serve at hotels as between eleven in the morning and the same hour at night. We certainly fail to see the propriety of the provision, believing it to be one that will not be conducive to early rising, while it undoubtedly encourages late hours.

WE leave our readers to discover whether the following grandiloquent effusion taken from the 'Napier Telegraph,' regarding the arrival of the immigrant ship Winchester at that port, is to be attributed to a dearth of local items, or a genuine burst of welcome to so unusual a visitor:—"At an early hour on Sunday morning, a white speck on the clear but far-distant horizon was seen, which betokened to authorities on nautical matters the approach of a large vessel. As the day wore on, any doubts that might have existed on the subject were dispelled, and crowds of people assembled on the beach and on the hills overlooking the bay, to witness that noble sight—a ship in full sail." Perhaps the breeze which wafted the interesting stranger, like that which affected the Prince of Denmark came from the "north-north-west."

By the arrival of the Otago, we are in possession of later English and Australian dates, but the items furnished are of no especial interest. The most important, however, are to the effect, that the Internationalists have created disturbances in Roumania, and arrests have been made in Rome, Florence, and Naples. From a London telegram, under date 10th inst., we learn that Count Hohenlohe, German ambassador at Versailles, has notified to the Duc de Canges, Minister of Foreign Affairs, that Germany intends recognising the Spanish Government. The Duc de Canges has issued a circular refuting the complaints of Spain.

WITH regard to the rupture between the members of the Victorian Ministry which we noticed in another column, it appears that during a discussion in the Assembly on the dispute between Messrs Langton and Casey, with reference to expenses incurred by the latter in his tour through the country, Mr Casey read a letter from Mr Francis to Mr Langton, which is considered most damaging to the present Ministry, as showing their great weakness. When the House met, Mr Jones, member for Ballarat, tabled a direct want-of-confidence motion, declaring the reconstruction of the Ministry unsatisfactory. All business was thereupon suspended, when a motion was brought forward, and several objections were urged against the Ministry, especially as regards their position with reference to the Reform Bill, and practically abolishing the office of Chief-Secretary. After several members had spoken, the debate was adjourned, but there is no idea that the motion will be carried, it being regarded as importune. Mr Service, the Treasurer, and Mr Townsend McDermott, Solicitor-General, had been returned unopposed. It is also stated that Sir James McCulloch is to oppose Mr Ramsay, the Post-Master-General, but this must evidently be a mistake, Sir James at present representing Warrnambool; unless, as is improbable, he should resign his present seat for the purpose.

On Tuesday forenoon a rumour was current about town, which unfortunately proved too true, that Mr Hayzen, a well-known citizen, had committed suicide, by cutting his throat. An inquest was held in the afternoon of the same day, but the evidence adduced did not tend to throw any light upon the sad affair. The coroner addressed the jury at some length, explaining the law under such circumstances, and after a short deliberation they returned a verdict that deceased had committed suicide while laboring under temporary insanity.

The announcement that his Royal Highness Prince Arthur Patrick has been created Duke of Connaught has been received in Ireland, says the correspondent of a London paper, with great satisfaction: The 'Observer' fell into a deep mistake in stating that this is the first instance which occurred of any member of the Royal Family having taken a title from Ireland. Why, from King John to Henry VIII., all the English Kings bore the title of Lord of Ireland. And every one of the seven sons of George III. had an Irish title. The Prince of Wales inherits the Earldom of Dublin from his grandfather, the Duke of Kent; the Queen's second son, the Duke of Edinburgh, is Earl of Ulster; the Duke of Cambridge is Earl of Tipperary; the ex-King of Hanover is Earl of Armagh; the Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV., was Earl of Munster. The Irish title now about to be conferred on Prince Arthur Patrick is, however, the first ever connected with Connaught; and being a Dukedom it will be the title by which he will be called. The Queen visited Ireland, for the first time, early in August, 1849; and on the birth of the Prince, on the first of May following she called him in honor of that visit, Arthur, in compliment to his godfather the Duke of Wellington, and Patrick, as a tribute to the country. It is now rumoured that the new title has political significance, and only a step towards appointing the Duke of Connaught Viceroy of Ireland, thus reviving the habit of five or six centuries ago, when the son of the King of England was frequently Lord Deputy.