

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Mr Milburn, a compositor in the London 'Times' office, who produced a set of verses in honor of the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh has received an autograph letter of thanks from the Empress of Russia.

The total cost of the Tichborne trial was £55,315 17s 1d. The amount of counsel's fees was £11,450, of which £2644 was paid in 1871; in 1872-73 £4700, and in 1874, £5500. The witnesses were paid in 1872-73 £8220, and in 1873-74 £8848 18s., and this year £4300. The shorthand writers got £3493, the jury £3780.

It is stated that the Hon. Col. White intends to resign his seat for Tipperary, and that Mr W. O'Connor Morris, Chairman of County Louth, will stand for the vacancy, on Home Rule principles.

The City of Buffalo at present contains sixteen Catholic churches and seven chapels in convents, together with religious houses for the Jesuits, Redemptorists, Oblates, Franciscans and Fathers of the Congregation of the Mission.

A great German magnate, Herr Von Schwertstock, lately said:—People talk abroad of the high standard of education among our German workmen; the truth is, our workmen just have education enough to read cheap newspapers, and to be misled by all the fallacies in them.

Colorado was a howling wilderness, without a railroad, five years ago. Now the civilizing steam whistle shocks the nerves of the people for over seven hundred miles of that territory.

There is something remarkable, though not uncommon, in the vital statistics of Connecticut. There were 457 divorces granted last year in that State. The population has increased 4265 over the preceding year; but the number of marriages has decreased by 182. More than half the marriages were between foreign-born persons, or one of the parties was foreign-born. It is not hard to foretell the fate of the Puritan element in Connecticut.

The great clock of the British House of Parliament has been stopped for cleaning on account of having lost a second in one month. The average variation of the clock does not amount to a quarter of a second in the year.

Amongst the "Strangers" inscribed in the Introduction Book of the Liverpool Exchange Newsrooms recently, was "J. Ossou Aushah, Coomassie." The gentleman in question is a son of the predecessor of King Koffee.

In a recent number of the 'Evening Post,' attention is drawn to the fact of Mr Vogel having a telegraphic communication carried to his own house, and expresses a hope it is not connected with the general system of telegraphy to enable persons, not sworn officers of the department, to read ordinary messages in transit.

A lucrative bouquet was recently thrown to a popular artiste at Tiflis—the flowers were held together by a twisted band of banknotes.

A San Francisco journal, in speaking of Dunedin, describes it as a British settlement not far from New Zealand.

Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, who arrived by the Australian mail, is at present in Italy, and will not reach London before the end of June.

A new Irish magazine, to be called 'Now-a-Days,' is to be started, to which Mrs Cashel Hoey, Miss Mulholland, Miss Katherine King authoress of "Petite's Romance," Mr W. G. Wills, and other Irish men and women will contribute.

Nearly two and a half million lbs of tea were received in London during the week ending May 18, and there was a large falling off in the average receipts of preceding weeks!

In June last, according to English papers to hand, the Carlists had 101 battalions in the field. These were exclusive of guerillas and unarmed sympathisers.

In a recent debate in the House of Lords upon the policy of the Government upon the Gold Coast, Lord Carnarvon stated that the mortality among the troops during the recent expedition against Ashantee did not exceed that of the metropolis—the rate being 23 in 1000. This of course does not include the loss of life in battle. His Lordship's facts are disputed by the press.

In reply to a recent advertisement in the Melbourne 'Argus' for a clerk, salary £2 a week, 120 applications were received.

CATHOLIC PROGRESS IN AUCKLAND.

THE fund for building our new cathedral is swelling rapidly. It now amounts to nearly two thousand pounds, which is lying at five per cent. interest in the Bank. In due time we shall have a cathedral worthy of the capital of the Province and our holy religion, and which, moreover, will reflect credit on ourselves. If some of the seniors among us do not live to see it completed, our children after us will have that satisfaction. Bishop Croke, it is expected, will bring from Europe, America, and Australia, some considerable addition to our cathedral fund, and who knows if we do not out-do even Mr Macandrew's "First Church" or Presbyterian Cathedral in Otago. Our schools were never in a more flourishing state. What we want chiefly is an increase of school room, and an increase of teachers—male and female. The Christian Doctrine Society are making increased efforts to secure the attendance of children at the Sunday schools, and to have them well instructed in their religion—or "armed to the teeth" as Dr. Wallis expresses it, against the enemies of their faith and morals, visible or invisible. It is a pity more of the heads of families do not interest themselves in this society. Their apathy is not to their honor. The Auckland branch of the Hibernian Society is flourishing, and now numbers nearly one hundred members, I hear. This is certainly the most important lay Catholic association we have on this side of the equator, and is likely to exert a powerful and widely extended influence for good in more ways than one. It is a society which is not only profitable in a religious and moral, but in a pecuniary point of view to its members, and therefore well calculated to elevate the character of the Catholic body generally in the estimation of their Protestant neighbors. The good it does will be owing to the power of the Church, from which it is an offshoot, and derives its religious and moral life.

THE PREMIER AND THE HON. MR. O'RORKE.

THE debate on the abolition of Provincialism has been signalized by a rather sharp and acrimonious passage-at-arms between the Premier and one of his Ministry, terminating with the resignation of the latter. Mr Vogel, in rising to speak to the question, asserted that the statement was without foundation that Otago would lose its land revenue if Provincialism in the North Island were abolished, and promised that provision for securing the land revenue to the Middle Island should be made. His speech was a most able, telling, and logical one, in which he showed the absurdity of allowing the present state of things to continue, and pointed out that in three years there had been spent in the North Island out of Colonial funds, £2,387,000, while the whole Provincial revenue, including the land fund, was only £448,000; or in other words, the North Island, with an annual revenue of something over one hundred thousand pounds, has been supplied with money by the General Government amounting to five times that amount. In further proof of the necessity of the measure, he stated that the North Island services for last year was £58,000, while the capitation paid by the Colony was £88,000. For these reasons he considered it would be economical to take the administration of the North Island. They would have a resident Minister of Auckland, and a Government agency in the other provinces, except Wellington. The local machinery of the North Island would be modelled the same as the Timaru-Gladstone Road Board. The seat of Government would be fixed at Wellington, and the security given to the Middle Island land revenue would not be interfered with. All existing and contingent liabilities for public works and immigration were made chargeable to the consolidated revenue, but, should the public works be extended, then hereafter the expenditure would be charged against the land revenue of each island. It was proposed that the Superintendents of the North Island should be paid to the end of their term, and the Superintendent of Auckland, who had spent a life service in the province, should be pensioned.

On the Premier resuming his seat, Mr O'Rorke rose from the Treasury benches, and in an indignant and excited tone denounced the conduct of his chief, and publicly announced his retirement from the Ministry. He said he wished to say that he had been no party, and could be no party, to the scheme. Had he voted for it, he would have deserved to be called a base political traitor, and although there were eminent political apostates, he was happy he could not imitate them. If the scheme were carried out, it must result in a failure. He could not alter his political opinions in the twinkling of an eye, and would never have joined the Ministry if he thought his hon. colleague had in his copious armory the dagger to stab the political life of Auckland. He had no personal grounds of objection against his colleague; he had always been courteously treated. The Premier had entered on a voyage of which no man could see the end. After enlarging on the beauties of the Constitution Act, and reiterating that Mr Vogel wished to crush out the political life of Auckland, which he proposed should be ruled by a leader of Centralism, 400 miles distant, he asserted his seat in the Executive was none of his seeking, and had he known the opinions of the Premier he would never have joined him. He then indignantly withdrew from the House.

Mr Vogel rose to explain, and said Mr O'Rorke was still a member of the Government, and that the speech took him quite by surprise; but the Government would survive the loss of the departmental assistance given by the hon. gentleman. Mr Vogel declined going to explanations as to what transpired in the Cabinet. Mr O'Rorke, on the other hand, declared he had stated, when he heard the resolution was to be pressed, that he could not possibly support it.

On the motion of Mr Reeves, the debate was then adjourned.

UNEQUAL REPRESENTATION.

To the Editor of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

SIR,—In the issue of the TABLET of the 15th inst, you throw out a very good suggestion in reference to the very unequal manner in which the colonists of New Zealand are represented in the House of Representatives. As matters stand at present, Dunedin, which, according to the last census, bears a population of about 19,000 people, has only two Representatives in that House; while Taranaki which bears a small population of 5,000 has three representatives. Marlborough with a population of 6,000 and Hawke's Bay with a population of 9,000 have each two members, while Dunedin with her large population has only the same number. The suburbs of Dunedin are also represented in the same manner. In fact, sir, Otago and Canterbury are so under represented in the Assembly that it must be next to impossible for these Provinces to get justice at the hands of the other Provinces. It is monstrous that it should be left in the hands of the representatives of those small Provinces to decide how the colony should be ruled and what should become of the land-revenue of Otago and Canterbury. The scheme which Mr Vogel has now on hand having for its end the abolition of the numerous miniature parliaments in the North Island, is a praiseworthy one, and will no doubt gain the favor of the majority of the Colonists. What his chances of success are I will not predict, still there cannot be the slightest doubt but that if he had first got the people more equally represented in the Assembly, his chances of success would have been perfectly certain.—I am &c.,

August 18, 1874.

C. R. CHAPMAN.

Great Britain has now 36,000,000 spindles in her mills; the United States, 8,000,000; France, 5,700,000; the German Zollverein, 4,300,000, of which Alsace possesses 1,700,000; Russia, 2,000,000; Switzerland, 1,800,000; Austria, 1,400,000; Spain, 1,400,000; Belgium, 600,000; Italy, 500,000; and over 2,000,000 in other countries. William Adair, a Cherokee Indian, has been admitted to practice law at the bar of the United States Supreme Court. This is the first lawyer of the red race.