

terised the debate, would be thereby avoided. While the battle is fought out by a consistent few, there are many, who, if not by word, at least by action, profess an unfavorable view of the matter, but who quietly allow their feelings to be outraged by the acceptance of the honorarium without the slightest demur. Those members who rise in the House, when the delicate question comes before it, and boldly declare that they are the hired servants of the public, that they do a certain amount of work for a consideration, and expect an adequate and fair amount of remuneration in return, are entitled to a certain meed of respect; but there are others who are advocates for the position being purely one of honor, but when the tempting bait is held within their reach, do violence to their scruples, and pocket their share of what they consider to be an unwise and improper expenditure of the public money. This is a most anomalous position in which to be placed, consequent, no doubt, on a too sensitive desire to avoid invidious comparisons being drawn in their favor to their neighbor's detriment, and one which the State should seek to remedy. The difficulty might be met by a law that only those members whose voices and votes were recorded in favor of payment for services be recompensed, thereby delicately relieving many from the dilemma, and doing away with the objectionable custom of forcing men to accept remuneration, to the receipt of which they are averse, not to speak of the possible reduction in the expenditure of the country. An objection might be urged, however, to this mode of payment by opinion, inasmuch as it would create, as it were, an honorary or stipendiary distinction between members of the House, but this objection might be removed by the amount of the honorarium receivable being bestowed on one of the various charitable institutions, thus proving sincerity, and aiding a deserving object. Were the plan which we have advocated adopted, and those whose voices and votes are in favor of their being recompensed for their services, competent to receive such, many would be relieved from their present false positions; for we look on the fact of either forcing money upon men, or placing it too temptingly within the reach of those who say they do not want it, is adding insult to injury.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

WE understand that the choir of St. Joseph's have been requested to repeat the programme of their late concert at an early date, in aid of the erection of a church in Port Chalmers. We are not in position at present to particularise the arrangements, but we believe it is intended that the concert shall be given at Crickmore's Concert Hall, at the Port. In addition to this, it is contemplated to charter a steamer and band of music, so that no doubt a large number of town residents will be induced to lend their patronage, and contribute to its success. For some time past subscriptions towards building a church at Port Chalmers have been made, but the amounts collected have been so small, that seeing the unmistakable success of the efforts of the choir in aid of St. Joseph's School, their kind offices have been again enlisted, and we trust their efforts will meet with equal success.

A CORONER'S inquest was held at the Hospital on Wednesday on the body of Charles Burgess, whose death was caused by drowning in Anderson's Bay on Monday. After hearing the evidence of the brother of deceased, and two other witnesses, the jury returned a verdict of "accidental drowning." Burgess was a bricklayer, and leaves a wife and family in England.

AN accident of a most serious character, resulting in the death of one man, and the severely injuring of two others, occurred on Friday, at the Deborah Bay Tunnel. It appears that a man named John Renshaw, employed as formman at the works, and who has the reputation of being a thoroughly reliable and careful man, was using for blasting purposes the composition known as lithofracture, not taking the usual precautions towards safety, an explosion occurred, blowing away one side of the unfortunate man's head, completely disemboweling him, and frightfully shattering the body. Two men, named John Sims and Alexander Simpson, who were assisting Renshaw, but, fortunately, were at some distance, were somewhat bruised; on being removed to the Hospital, the wounds were found to be but flesh deep, received from the articles scattered by the force of the explosion. The contractor for the works at which the accident occurred, Mr. McKenzie, not long since, met with injuries involving the loss of an eye, by the accidental explosion of some of the blasting material.

A MOST distressing calamity, and unfortunately terminating in the death of one of the victims, occurred at the Taieri on Tuesday week. It appears that a number of Germans, who are engaged on the railway works in the vicinity of the White Horse Hotel, have encamped with their families in tents. On the night mentioned, one of the men hearing cries of distress, rushed to the door, and to his horror discovered that the tent of his neighbor, a man named Gutschlay, was on fire, out of which was rushing the owner, with his hair in flames. With great courage he entered the burning tent, and with difficulty succeeded in rescuing a woman and her infant. The poor creature had received frightful injuries, the flesh on her arms being almost a charred mass, whilst her neck, head, and breast had been literally roasted. The unfortunate sufferers were removed to the Dunedin

Hospital, but, after lingering in great agony till the following Friday, the unfortunate woman expired. Mrs. Gutschlay was quite young, not having reached her twentieth year, and possessed of considerable personal attraction. The cause of the fire is attributed to some charcoal which had been carelessly left burning, on the family retiring to rest, for the purpose of warming the tent.

THE writer who photographs the political portraits for the columns of the 'Daily Times' is evidently not impressed with the abilities of the late Minister of Justice, and appears of the opinion that the Council of State was not materially effected by his withdrawal. However, Mr. Bathgate may question the accuracy of the estimate given, he must in common justice acquit him of all inclination to flattery. After stating that Mr. Bathgate had come before the public like a St. Catherine wheel, all splutter and fizzing, and people had begun to wonder how it was possible, unless through some flaw in the telescope, he became elevated from a very small twinkler to a high place in the zenith, he subsided into peace again, the writer says:—"So ungrateful is our age, that even Mr. Bathgate may be allowed to slide into oblivion, and it is an unfortunate fact that all his friends insist upon believing that it is the very best place for him. And so it is. A man who is deficient in brain and sense is better able to magnify those wants by a judicial seat and a wig, than to cope with those more than his equals in an open war of words. Mr. Bathgate is likely to be less objectionable where he is than where he was."

It must indeed be gratifying to Mr. Justice Gray to find such unanimous expressions of sympathy and regret at his failing health, and the promptitude with which members of both sides of the House bore testimony to his labors in the service of the country. On the proposition of the Premier to increase the retiring allowance, Mr. McAndrew, amongst a host of others, paid a high eulogium to his unremitting exertions during the last dozen years, and stated that he had completely shattered his health in his zeal for the welfare of the country. When Mr. Wilson Gray quitted Victoria, some fourteen years since, so high was he held by the public, for whose good he had labored in Parliament for many years—during which time he had refused seats in various Cabinets—that a public subscription to present him with a fitting testimonial was organized. In the course of a few days, five thousand pounds were raised for that purpose. But although Mr. Gray was far from being a rich man, he declined the proffered testimonial, and landed on the shores of New Zealand, when far advanced in life, to commence the world anew. A worthy tribute was paid to his ability and honesty of purpose when he was elevated to the New Zealand Bench, and how he has acquitted himself of the trust needs no comment. Some few years since, an offer was made to him by the Victorian Attorney-General of a seat amongst the Supreme Court Judges of that colony, but it was declined, on the plea of the gratitude he considered he owed the New Zealand people.

ON the 28th ult., a bill, sent up from the House of Representatives, was passed by the Council without a division, granting advances of £60,000 for railway works in this province. This is a matter for congratulation, providing, as it will, funds for the employment of labor, without the necessity of disposing of the Waste Lands.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JAMES FERGUSON, during his speech at prorogation of Parliament, delivered his valedictory address to members of both houses, and testified to the courtesy and consideration which he had experienced from all classes. He briefly alluded to the various measures which had been before the House during the Session, congratulating the country on the passage of the State Forest Act, and regretting that the length of the Session forbade the dealing with the question of commercial intercourse with Polynesia. A promise was held out that the re-establishment of the Californian mail service, in conjunction with New South Wales, would have the zealous attention of the Ministry during the recess. In referring to the question of Abolition, he pointed out that the decision arrived at by the Legislature is indicative of the desire that the land fund of the Colony should be applied to suitable purposes, and, as far as possible, localised. He denied that any ground for apprehension existed that the change in the Provincial system would be followed by the absorption of the land fund. His Excellency expressed a deep interest in the welfare and prosperity of the community, pledging himself, should opportunity occur in another sphere, to forward its interest to the extent of his ability.

THE arrival of the immigrant ships, Otogo and Corona, have once more caused a stir at the Caversham barracks. Some few who had possession of the buildings for some time were removed to the Princes street depot, with the view of giving the married couples among the late arrivals better accommodation. The authorities intend despatching, in a few days, batches to Riverton, Oamaru, and other places where their services are at a premium, so as to avoid a recurrence of the trouble experienced a few days ago, and to place them within reach of employment.

WE regret to learn from our Home and American files that death has been thinning the ranks of the Catholic hierarchy, no less than three Sees being at present vacant. Bishop O'Gorman, the Vicar Apostolic of Nebraska, an Irish missionary, whose labors in America date from 1830, died on the 4th of July; Bishop Wheelan, the Bishop of Wheeling, after ailing for some time, succumbed three days later; and advices from Rome announce the decease of Mgr. de Merode, the Archbishop of Mitylene, and Private Chaplain to the Pope. The deceased prelate belonged to a noble Belgian family, his father being Count Felix de Merode. In early life Bishop de Merode had followed the profession of arms, in which capacity he made two campaigns in Algeria under the great and good Lamoriciere. In 1843 he resigned his commission and repaired to Rome, and in 1859 became Secretary of War to his Holiness.

THROUGH all the trials to which he has been subjected, as well in the zenith of his temporal power, the Holy Father has had no truer sons, or more practical sympathisers than the children of Erin. Scattered throughout the universe they contribute their humble mite