

space of time; and in the face of so many other calls for assistance, speaks well for the esteem in which the deceased gentleman was held by the public, and is a convincing proof of the promptitude and generosity with which our colonists come forward to alleviate and assist the unfortunate. At a meeting which was held at the Harbor Chambers on Monday, three gentlemen were appointed trustees, and authorised to deal with the money for the benefit of the widow and children.

We learn with pleasure that the Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society has so far progressed on the West Coast as to have erected a spacious hall at Goldsbrough, in which to hold their meetings. The building is situated at the entrance of the township, and, according to the local papers, was to have been opened on the 23rd ult., with a supper and ball. Great preparations were being made for the celebration, and a great many visitors were expected on the occasion from Hokitika and other surrounding townships. This speaks well for the energy and perseverance of the Goldsbrough brethren, and their example might followed with benefit by older branches of the association.

THE Dunedin Choral Society gave their first concert of the season on Saturday night in the University Hall, the selection being Sir Michael Costa's oratorio of "Naaman." It proved a genuine success, and the attendance most numerous and fashionable. Every available inch of the spacious hall was utilised, and long after the oratorio had commenced persons continued to arrive. Mr A. J. Towsey wielded the conductor's baton, Mr S. H. Little acted as leader, and Miss Muir presided at the piano. The labors of the evening fell on Messrs Lewis and Towsey, and Misses Jago and Dick, by whom the principal characters were delineated—in some cases in a dual capacity. The amount of applause elicited, while no doubt being flattering to those to whom it was accorded, was well deserved, and a just tribute to the excellence of those engaged.

JUDGING from the annexed paragraph taken from the 'Weekly Times,' the immigrants despatched to Invercargill—and for whom the inhabitants were so clamorous—do not seem to be such a boon after all. Speaking of those still remaining in the Esk street barrack, that paper says:—"They are, it is true, but few in number, and nearly all women, with tawdry clothes and outworn faces; but for pawning their goods and chattels for strong spirits, and for drinking, fighting, screaming, blaspheming, and in making night hideous in a general way, they are, we should say, simply unsurpassable. They seem to be fit for nothing useful, and the life they lead is truly a pitiable one. Still they are human beings, and must exist somewhere or other; but it is galling to think that the colonists' money should be wasted—literally thrown away—in bringing out people who, instead of being a benefit, are a burden to the Colony."

THE Auckland papers contain a long and minute account of the burning in effigy of the Premier and his supporters on the question of Abolition. A procession was organised, and on a horse draped in black was seated a figure bearing a remarkable likeness to Mr Vogel, bareheaded, and his hair characteristically parted in the centre and shining with tar. In front stood a tall figure, a fair representative of Mr Reader Wood, accompanied by Messrs Creighton, Buckland and Luckie. After parading the streets for a considerable time, the popular fury was vented on the Premier, who was thrown on his back and subjected to some "striking" proofs of the estimation in which he was held. The other gentlemen, to honor whom the populace had met, were paraded for some time longer and then met a similar fate. The 'Star,' in describing the imposing ceremony, says:—"Mr Luckie burned slowly and died hard. The last dying speech of each, as well as the gallows and ropes were in readiness, but owing to the earnestness of the amateur assistants the after part was curtailed. Crowds gathered round each blazing form, which from time to time was flung aloft, to the no inconsiderable risk of the spectators."

It appears that when Mr Vogel has concluded his negotiations in Sydney with regard to the electric telegraph cable, it is his intention to proceed to England, but the length of his visit has not transpired. The retirement of Sir George Arney from the Chief Justiceship will leave a vacancy, which will be filled up by the present Attorney-General, Mr Prendergast, and the prevailing opinion seems to be that Mr Travers will be offered the position vacated by Mr Prendergast. Mr Creighton, M.H.R., and editor of the Guardian, it is reported, has accepted the appointment of Emigration Agent, and proceeds to England in a short time, as also does Mrs Vogel and family.

We are far from advocating the adoption of Pagan customs, but we believe but few members of the Fourth Estate would object to the following summary mode of canvassing:—The Tycoon of Japan knows how to start a paper. He does not offer premiums for subscribers, but having taken an interest in the publication of a journal at the Japanese capital, he has issued an order that all men of certain social and political standing shall take it, or be behended.

THE Hokitika 'Leader,' states "Greenstone can boast of a real 'Claimant.' A miner, now working in that locality, not only maintains that his name is Sir Roger Tichborne, Bart., but likewise attempts to substantiate the same by exhibiting the tattoo marks on his arm, and speaking very indifferent French. He appears thoroughly acquainted with the names of the Tichborne family, and is at present so demonstrative in detailing his own history and in denouncing the imposition of any other claimant than himself to the title, that it is not unlikely an examination will shortly be made, with the view of despatching him to England, or elsewhere nearer hand." We imagine if the "speaking very indifferent French" be admitted as a proof of identity, there are not a few but could advance a claim, and supplement it with "very indifferent English." Regarding the second test, the man must have been singularly fortunate who is not now acquainted with the Tichborne genealogical tree from its very root.

MAJOR ATKINSON was sworn in on Monday a member of the Executive. It is understood that the new Minister, in addition to the Secretaryship of Crown Lands will also be gazetted as Minister of Immigration, an office hitherto held by Mr Vogel.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

WE notice from the Hokitika 'Leader' that Father Ecuyer, who was recently transferred from Christchurch to the charge of Grey-mouth, preached his first sermon in that town on Sunday, the 23rd ultimo.

The Prussian Government has appointed official administrators of the Catholic dioceses of Posen and Gnesen.

The Ship Hotel and other premises in Spring Gardens, were submitted to auction, recently, by Messrs. Chinnock, Galaworthy, and Chinnock, comprising altogether 3250 superficial feet, and excited considerable competition, realising £30,000, or nearly £10 per foot.—The above paragraph is given as a sample of the value of land at home. In Melbourne, some years since, land in Bourke street brought £210 per foot, or twenty-one times the English price.

The wife of Captain Travers (of Deerhound celebrity) was received into the Catholic Church at the church of the Sacred Heart, Kilburn.

From Calcutta we learn that 1,700,000 persons are now employed on the relief works, and 300,000 are receiving charitable relief. Agricultural prospects are materially improving in consequence of ample rains.

Dr. Johnston used to say that the habit of looking at the best side of things was worth more than a thousand a year.

Probably the oldest timber in the world subjected to the use of man is that which is met with in the temples of Egypt. It is found in connection with stone works, which are known to be at least 4000 years old.

When Queen Elizabeth died, three thousand gowns were found in her wardrobe.

The Persians believe that diamonds are entitled to especial veneration, not so much from their intrinsic or saleable value, as from their so-called divine origin, as they hold the theory that these stones fell from heaven at an early period of the world's creation.

A female sexton in Chicago is accused of reserving all the best graves for the young men.

The application by New Mexico and Colorado for admission into the Union has been refused by Congress, which has just closed its session.

The Czar's private income is said to amount to two millions sterling a year.

An exchange says: Archbishop Purcell of Cincinnati is the only surviving Bishop of the Catholic Church appointed by Pope Gregory.

The Seneca tribe of Indians now consists of one old horse, a chief, and three gallons of whiskey. A few more setting suns—a few more moons—a brief season, and that three-gallon jug will join its comrades in the happy hunting ground.

The symmetrical curves of the river Jhelum are stated to have suggested the graceful pattern of Cashmere shawls.

At the Jardin d'Acclimation at Paris has just been received a very extraordinary animal, in the shape of a miniature elephant, perfectly white, and of the race which the Indians formerly worshipped as gods.

Mr Childs, proprietor of 'The Philadelphia Ledger,' began life as a poor boy, but is now reported to be worth £300,000. In the same American city there is a Mr Simpson, who never had but one arm. He began to sell papers, making a profit of 6d on every hundred. Already he is worth £3000.

It is a curious fact, long since observed by Aristotle, that the color of the eyes of new-born infants are invariably blue.

It is a popular error to suppose that the inventor of the guillotine—Dr Guillotine—perished by his own invention. He survived the French Revolution many years, and died in 1814.

AN ITALIAN SENATOR ON THE PROSPECTS OF ITALY.

Two letters have recently been published in the Italian papers, written by the Marchese Carlo Alfieri de Sotegna, a member of the Senate, on the occasion of the prorogation of Parliament. The former of these was intended to be a perfectly private letter, in which, writing to his friend, Professor Sharbaro, of Ancona, he very freely expressed his opinions on the practical working of the Parliamentary institutions of United Italy. "No one," he says, "can be less surprised than I am at the ridiculous and unbecoming way in which the Parliament of 1874 has terminated its foolish existence. I have very little hope for that which will be elected in the autumn." Government and legislation, he goes on to say, is to a great extent in the hands of the lower middle class, the "small bourgeois," a class, "a body of men who are avaricious, suspicious, and selfish. Some of them come up to the Parliament to attend to the interests of the rest, who live on the public revenue under any pretext—stipends, pensions, public works, State subsidies, and protection to industry and speculation—while owners of property and the common people have to pay and work for them. . . . The class which governs Italy has no thought but for its own interests, and would have no ambition for power if it were not a means of promoting them. One single passion agitates its mind—hatred of the clergy and ill will towards the nobles. And with this disposition, it can produce nothing useful to the country at large, nothing truly great, nothing calculated to promote the moral and political progress of the nation." Of the future of Italy he naturally takes a very gloomy view. The present state of affairs he describes as one of "half-hearted democracy and Socialism," and he has no doubt that as the Utopian ideas of social reorganisation, now so popular in Italy, pervade all classes, and financial difficulties increase, the result will be a revolution like that of 1848 in France. He concludes by expressing his regret at not being able to hope for a better future for Italy; "but," he says, "I have for some time seen things were tending in this direction, and events only give too much confirmation to the views I entertain."