

ashore. When last seen by the witnesses, he was striking out direly for land, and, from the progress he was then making, they were under no apprehension as to his safety. A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned by the jury.

An accident of a serious nature, and which might have been attended with fatal consequences, occurred on Tuesday afternoon, at the church in course of erection at the corner of Hope and Stafford-streets. It appears the men employed were about removing the wooden frame upon which one of the centre arches had been built, but the bricks not having been sufficiently cemented, a considerable portion of the archway gave way, carrying with it the scaffolding upon which the men were standing in its fall. Most of them, however, had received sufficient warning to enable them to make for and cling to the upright poles for support. One man, however, was not so fortunate, and he was being precipitated head foremost to the ground when, providentially, his legs became entangled in one of the ropes, suspending him in the air, and by which he ultimately reached the ground in safety.

ADVICES from Auckland state that the captain of the Macgregor was summoned to the Police Court for a breach of the 29th section of the Post-office Regulations, by refusing to deliver up certain mails in his possession on demand being made by the Postmaster. Mr McCormick appeared for the defendant, and said the captain was certainly entitled to some remuneration for bringing the mails. He also urged that Captain Grainger had been instructed by the owners to act in the manner he had done, and that he did not know he had been acting contrary to law in the retention of the mails, which were consequently delivered up. A demand was also made on the captain by the A.S.P. Company for the sum of £257, for services rendered by the Star of the South to the Macgregor, while on the reef at Kandarua. The amount being forthcoming, the vessel proceeded on her trip to Sydney.

His Worship the Resident Magistrate, after the business of the court had been concluded on Tuesday last, took occasion to read the members of the Fourth Estate a severe homily on their misdeeds. Some inaccuracy had crept into the police report published in the 'Daily Times,' and his Worship, at the instance of his clerk, publicly charged the representative of that journal with wilfully and maliciously misreporting the case, with the view of injuring the official in question. Had the officer been misrepresented, he possessed redress by publishing a contradiction of the error; and the injustice of his Worship in taking such an extraordinary and unprecedented course, on the mere *ex parte* statement of a subordinate, has been shown by a distinct disclaimer and disproof of the unworthy conduct imputed.

We have received a communication from "W.J.N.," in reply to a letter published in the 'Tablet' some time since, but we do not deem its publication advisable, our correspondent having evidently written in ignorance, and without a sufficient knowledge of the subject. Had he fully investigated the matter, he would have found the facts as stated. We have also been forwarded correspondence by "J.H.," which we must respectfully decline. Of course, the actions and conduct of public men are freely open to criticism in their official capacity, but we rigidly exclude from our columns anything of a personal character with regard to the private actions of individuals.

THE Premier, in a recent speech on Provincialism, thus predicts the future greatness of the midland Provinces:—"I am not unaware that some of the Middle Island Provinces do not partake of the prosperity which exists in the larger Provinces; but I think that they have a great future before them. I look upon Westland and Nelson as the Cornwall and Staffordshire of New Zealand. These Provinces have very large and varied mineral resources, and I am sure that these resources will be developed with great advantage to the Colony."

If the statement of a Northern paper be worthy of credence, the Hon. Julius Vogel labors under a similar disability as that of Mr Von der Heyde. The Auckland 'Star' asserts that the birthplace of the Premier is Belgium, and although naturalised as a British subject in Victoria, he has never undergone a similar process in this Colony. It certainly seems an anomaly that a person who has been naturalised as a British subject in any part of Her Majesty's dominions, should be debarred from asserting the rights and privileges of citizenship throughout her dependencies, and that a claim for such could not be maintained wherever Her Majesty's representatives held sway. Should the rumor prove correct, it opens up the question of the legality of all the official acts of Mr Vogel as a Minister of the Crown; and although it is more than probable that in this case "the wish was father to the thought," it shows the necessity that legislation should be brought to bear on the point, and sweep away this absurd inconsistency. The Victorian journals have always spoken of the Premier as English born, and the New Zealand 'Times,' while distinctly denying the statement of the 'Star,' replies that even if it were the case, an Act could be passed to make everything he has done legal. This, no doubt, would be the only course out of the difficulty, but it had been well if the disability had been removed when the House was in session, and the case of Mr Von der Heyde was under discussion.

THE constituency represented by the Hon. Mr O'Rourke have been anxious to show him some mark of their high appreciation of his honorable and self-denying conduct in resigning place and pay in support of his principles. At a meeting of his admirers and supporters, held on the 3rd, at Auckland, a committee was appointed for the purpose of raising subscriptions, and it is intended besides inviting him to a public dinner, to present him with a lasting testimonial, in proof of his long and faithful services and honorable conduct.

By the Otago the intelligence is brought of the appointment of the Very Rev. Martin Crane, of Dublin, to the newly-created See of Sandhurst, declined by Dr. Fortune.

THE Agent-General, under date 3rd September, reports that the following number of immigrants were despatched in August:—For Auckland, Hydres and Assaye, 760; for Nelson, the Mail, 380; for Wellington, the Soukar, 415; for Taranaki, the Hurah, 380; for Lyttelton, the Pleiades, 220; for Otago, the Auckland, 840.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is understood that Mr W. Kennaway, late Provincial Secretary of Canterbury, has been appointed Secretary to the Agent-General, and that he will go home very shortly to enter upon his duties.

Mr Beveridge, the Provincial Solicitor of Auckland, died after a protracted illness.

Te Whaka, the chief who murdered Nuku at Hokianga in 1863, and who was sentenced to death, which was afterwards commuted to imprisonment for life, but who escaped from gaol three months afterwards, and has been living concealed with his friends, has received a free pardon.

It is understood that Mr R. J. Creighton assumes the editorship of the 'New Zealand Times' at the end of the month.

The 'New Zealand Times' says that Mr Vogel anticipates he will be back in Wellington within five or six months of the date of departure.

It is understood that before his Excellency leaves the colony he will exercise his prerogative of mercy in the case of Alexander McDonald, now undergoing a sentence of penal servitude for shooting a mail-coach horse.

The Reform League at Auckland have held a public meeting, the Mayor chairman, and passed resolutions in favor of the abolition of provincialism throughout the colony. They intend establishing committees and branches of the Society in all parts of the colony. Captain Daldy was the chief speaker.

The 'Coromandel News' again asserts that another evening paper is to be started in Auckland.

The artists of the manufactory at Sevres are at present engaged in the painting of two exquisite cups, intended for the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, as a wedding present from Marshal MacMahon.

The Princess Massimo has presented the Pope with the sum of 10,000fr. on the part of the Comtesse de Chambord.

M. Edmond About's newspaper, the 'Dix-Novième Siècle,' has been prohibited from entering Alsace-Lorraine for three months.

Mr Samuel Wilson, of the Wimmera, has offered £1,000 to the Acclimatisation Society towards an effort for the introduction of salmon into Victoria.

A new organ of public opinion has been started at the Fijis, under the name of the 'Fiji Argus.' It is owned by Mr W. Cook, and is published once a week.

A 'History of Victoria,' from its earliest colonisation down to the end of the year 1873, has been undertaken by Mr G. D. Muirartney, L.L.D. It will embrace the political and social, as well as the industrial rise of the colony. The work is nearly completed, and arrangements have been made for its publication. It is to be illustrated with portraits of the more illustrious among the founders and prominent men of the colony.

Memento and relic-hunters in the New World are as indefatigable as Old World tourists to Egypt and Rome. The visitors to the late Senator Sumner's house have become so unsparing, that it became necessary to close the place to prevent its being carried off bodily. One day the person in charge had all the buttons cut off his dress coat by a party of ladies and gentlemen, who found the coat lying on a bed, and supposed it to have been Mr Sumner's.

In 1693, W. Anderdon, a man of probity, was executed for printing a pamphlet, entitled 'A French Conquest neither Practicable nor Desirable.'

In all Bengal there are rather fewer than 20,000 Europeans of all nations, and of non-Asiatics not more than 22,000. A Chinese paper has been started by a company of native shareholders. It is called 'The Native Circulating Herald,' and is the first daily vernacular paper issued under purely native auspices.

The quantity of milk consumed daily in New York is estimated at 2,000,000 quarts. This is more than two quarts to each individual.

In the little country of Holland, with its 3,513,316 inhabitants, there are no fewer than 1004 booksellers. In no country in the world is there so large a number of booksellers compared with its population.

In Italy it is proposed that a law should be made to prohibit or regulate the tide of emigration.

A thunderstorm in London flooded the streets. Several persons were killed by lightning.

L'Univers newspaper has been suspended for a fortnight, for publishing offensive articles against Marshal Serrano.

After Bazaine's escape was known the rope was found, from the top of a precipice to the sea, stained with blood as if from Bazaine's hands. Madame Bazaine has published a letter stating that she alone, with her cousin, planned the escape. Bazaine is in Brussels. His extradition will probably be demanded. Some assert that the rope was put over the rock with the view to mislead the authorities and the guards, through whose coquance it is believed the escape was accomplished.

The inquiry into the assassination of Marshal Prim resulted in the indictment of fifty or more persons.

Advices from Ireland state that the reception of John Mitchell, the Fenian exile, on his return to Cork, was most enthusiastic. The streets were alive with bands of music and bonfires; a torchlight procession also took place, in which 5000 persons participated.

A riot took place at Armagh during a parade of the Orangemen. The military cleared the streets at the point of the bayonet. Many were wounded.

The 'Church Herald' says:—"Another noble family—recently moved to the highest grade in the peerage—is about to lose its son and heir, who becomes a convert to the Church of Rome, if he has not already actually seceded. Mr Carey-Elwes, a landed proprietor in the Midland counties, and recently High Sheriff of his shire, has, with his wife and family, likewise joined the Anglo-Roman communion; and, from what we hear from quarters which are well informed, there can be little doubt that another large and influential exodus in the same direction is imminent." We are unable to see how a noble family "loses its son and heir" by his conversion to the Catholic Faith.