

We learn from the local papers that a new bell has been hung in a temporary tower, constructed for the purpose, at the Catholic Church, Lyttelton. It has been manufactured by Mr John Anderson, of Christchurch, and is said to be of good tone—heavy, rich and mellow. Its total cost, inclusive of all necessary fixings, has been £70. We believe it is the intention of the members of the church to build a bell-tower at no distant date, a plan of which is now in the hands of the committee.

We notice by advertisement in another column that Mr J. P. Armstrong is to re-deliver his lecture entitled "Wanderings in America and Australia," in the Temperance Hall, on Wednesday evening. The proceeds are to be devoted to a charitable purpose, and from the well-known powers of humor of the lecturer, there can be little doubt but that the entertainment will be an interesting one, and realise a handsome sum for the object for which it is to be delivered.

THE unprecedentedly high rates ruling for all kinds of butchers' meats are not, it would seem, confined to this Province. From all parts of the Colony the complaint is the same, in some parts there being absolutely a famine. In Graymouth, not only are the prices enormously in excess of the ordinary terms, but most of the butchers have closed their shops, and given up business altogether. At the Arahura sale yards, at Hokitika, the lowest prices obtained were 55s. per 100 lbs., whilst some of the meat sold reached as high as 70s. for the same quantity. When it is remembered that that was the wholesale price—and a margin should be allowed for its sale by retail—our readers will form some idea of its price to consumers. The worst of it is that, according to all accounts, there is little chance of its decline for two or three months at least, whilst there is a great likelihood of its advancing on the present exorbitant and ruinous rates. With such a state of affairs, and the modest demands made upon those who do not possess a fig-tree of their own under which to shelter, the struggling colonist has rather a hard tussle to make both ends meet.

It has been often asserted that "two of a trade could never agree," and a belief in its correctness will scarcely be shaken on perusal of the following. There seems to be a slight diversity of opinion between the Fijian organs regarding the benefits of annexation. The 'Times' says:—"Notwithstanding the temporary suspension of Great Britain's final decision upon this, to us, vital point, we have no fear whatever as to the ultimate result. The fact of so high and experienced a functionary as Sir Hercules Robinson having been directed to visit the kingdom, with a view to explain matters to the King and chiefs, is in itself sufficiently indicative that the Home Government do not by any means abandon the idea; but that a modification of terms only is looked for. Annexation is but a question of time, and a short time only; and we shall soon see Britain's glorious flag waving over a country which may be yet destined to become one of the brightest jewels in her diadem." The 'Fiji Argus' thus raves:—"Do our readers know what this means? Do they understand the mild supervision to which they are to be subjected? Are they aware of what is in store for them if a military autocrat, with absolute power of despotism, takes up his residence in Government House, Levuka, to rule them 'severely'? Have they ever heard of freedom destroyed, lands confiscated, ruin consummated by tyrants, to suit a whim or conserve a caprice? Let us be up and doing, for assuredly they will regret the annexation cry when it is too late."

THE schooner Pearl, which arrived at Auckland from Fiji on Monday, brought a special despatch, announcing the cession of the islands, and that the British flag had been formally hoisted on the 10th inst. The terms of cession were concluded and signed as far back as the 30th ult., at Nasova, which is situated at two miles distance from Levuka. The chief Maafu, who is next in power and authority to the King, had not, at the departure of the Pearl, declared which cause he would espouse, but the prevailing opinion was that he would offer no opposition. Sir Hercules Robinson had gone to the Windward Islands, where Maafu resides, with the view of getting his signature to the act of cession, giving orders that the existing form of government should not be disturbed until his return.

CONTRARY to all expectation, it would appear that the young girl who was so murderously assaulted at Invercargill, some time since, is rapidly approaching convalescence. The 'Southland Times' says:—"Our readers will be glad to learn that there is now every hope of the complete recovery of the young girl Mary Hall, who was so murderously assaulted some months ago by the man Brennan. She is now, and has been for the last ten days, able to walk about her room, and up and down the stairs, without any support, and also to enjoy an occasional short promenade in the verandah; and, notwithstanding the murderous maltreatment which she received, there is now no reason to suppose that she will, as formerly conjectured, remain a burden to herself, her friends, or the community."

If any doubt exists in the minds of our readers as to the weight-carrying powers of Celestials, the following, from the 'Reefton Courier,' will set the matter at rest—"One day last week, a party of European miners living about eight miles from Reefton, called tenders for packing provisions from Cronadin to their hut, a distance of about five miles. A tender was received from a Chinaman who undertook to carry the required loading at a rate of one shilling per cwt. and stipulated that each load should not weigh less than 4 cwt. When it is understood that 3 cwt. is considered to be a good load for a pack-horse, we are unable to imagine what sort of stuff Chinamen are made of."

THE Government has received, per Tararua, a telegram from the Agent-General, dated the 7th of October, which advises that the following immigrant ships sailed during September:—Cospatrick, with 420 souls, for Auckland; Geraldine Paget, with 698, for Canterbury; Clarence, with 340, for Napier; Carnatic, with 290, for Marlborough; Crusader, with 370, for Canterbury; Dilhorez, with 370, for Auckland; Margaret Galbraith, with 130, and the Nelson, with 330, for Otago.

The French fleet now in Quebec is the first that has visited that place since its surrender to Great Britain.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A monument is to be erected to Horace Greeley manufactured from melted type metal. It is expected it will be in position before the end of the year.

It is the intention of Mr P. J. Smyth to bring in during the next parliamentary session, a bill to repeal the act of Union.

Nicaragua discourages banditti, by administering two hundred lashes to those who are captured.

The high price of coffee in Europe has compelled many families in Europe to do without it.

Over 20,000 people assembled at Hackney, London, not long since, to promote the work of Catholic total abstinence.

The Duke Decazes is said to have formally denied to the Madrid Government, the reports that France had favored the Carlists.

August 4th was the coldest morning ever known in America. The mercury in the morning registered 46.

The French Government is building at Toulon two iron-clad cruisers, which are intended to have a speed of 18 miles an hour, and carry 27 guns each.

About a ton of ice is used every night to cool the air that is pumped into the House of Commons. The air is filtered and rendered absolutely pure.

A man travels round in England exhibiting himself at fairs, who, with his hands tied behind him, kills a certain number of rats within a given time with his teeth.

The Bishop of Orleans has appointed an ecclesiastical commission for the purpose of taking preliminary steps towards the canonization of Joan of Arc.

Mr Disraeli said in the House of Commons, on the night of August 5, that however tranquil may be the state of Europe, there are agencies at work preparing great disturbances. [We know other places far removed from Europe where the same tactics are in operation.]

A new Catholic paper is projected in Chicago, United States.

Several canal boats in America have female captains.

The military expenses of Germany for the year 1874, is estimated at £34,000,000.

A steamer on the Hudson recently steamed twenty-eight miles in one hour.

Paris has 68,000 dogs, and their owners contributed last year £25,000 to the city, by way of tax.

It has been computed that £1,200,000 worth of sugar was destroyed by the recent flood in Louisiana.

The Italian police have discovered a secret deposit of arms in Ravenna, and seized five chests of rifles.

Eighty-one arrests were recently made in Marseilles of persons formerly connected with the Paris Commune.

Large numbers of religious associations of Catholic workingmen called "circles," are springing up all over France.

One of the last of the Iroquois tribe in Indiana was killed recently by being run over while in a state of helpless intoxication.

Arrangements have been made for a pilgrimage of English Catholics to the shrine of St. Edmund of Canterbury, at Pontigny, in France.

Embarrassments between the United States and Chinese Governments are likely to arise from the action of certain United States officers, who took part in the Japanese expedition against Formosa.

The daughter of a Greek brigand, who had acquired an immense fortune in his profession has just completed her education in London, and is about to appear in European Society as the Princess Petko.

Stockton, California, is afflicted by a plague of spiders. They hang pendant from awnings, lattice work, trees and fences; they enter houses with all the confidence of invited guests, and at night insert their poisonous fangs in the sleeping inmates.

Rocheport's paper 'Le Lanterne,' recently revived in London, under the title of 'Rocheport Chronicle,' has been slipping surreptitiously into circulation at Paris, through the Post office, in the folds of a journal called the 'Foresters' Journal.'

A curious deputation waited upon His Holiness the Pope to congratulate him upon his attaining his eighty-third year. The deputation consisted of eighty-three maidens, ranging from one year old.

Bells on sheep are said to have the effect of not only keeping off dogs, but wild animals.

In Switzerland all smokers and snuff-takers under 18 years of age are punished by fine.

At a sale of shorthorns recently in England, the large sum of £2000 was paid for an eight months' roan calf.

The Japanese Government now has a mint, with all the latest and most improved machinery in operation.

Over one million and a half of property has been lost on the American Lakes since the introduction of steam.

England and Scotland are said to contain 600,000 habitual drunkards of both sexes.

It requires the entire services of a clerk in the treasury department at Washington to attend to the applications for leave now-a-days.

At the dedication of the Sligo Cathedral there were present 14 Irish, 1 American, 1 Canadian, and 4 English prelates.

Freemasons are gnashing their teeth at the Austrian Government, on account of the latter having forbidden the establishment of Masonic lodges.

According to the last census the total number of deaf and dumb persons in the colony is 47, and that of blind 66.

The New York 'World' says:—"Mr Cashel Hoey, a journalistic English barrister, has been made a Knight of the Order of Pius IX."

Domenico Governaton, foster brother of Pius IX. still lives in his native place. He is a poor, but intelligent peasant.

The Order of the Good Shepherd established for the reclamation of fallen women at present comprises about one hundred and sixty houses, and five thousand sisters, who are actively engaged in the good work.