

THE steamship Otago, with Inter Australian news, arrived in Port Chalmers on Thursday morning, but the items of intelligence she brings possess no importance. From them we learn that Count Armin, who had been imprisoned by Bismarck for detaining documents belonging to the Paris Embassy, had been released. The Imperial Government had telegraphed to the Victorian Premier that Fiji is not to be an appendage of any of the Colonies, but has been annexed as a distinct Colony of the British Empire. This will cause some disappointment to some of the Australian Colonies, a spirit of rivalry having existed for some time, and efforts being made with a view of ultimately securing the coveted prize. Of the Australian items, the most noticeable is one which states that of the million and a-half of the Victorian Loan placed on the London market, only £900,000 had been subscribed; but the remainder, however, had been taken up by the Associated Banks at the London minimum.

A CORRESPONDENT has written to us inquiring in what spot the remains of the Terence Bellow McManus repose? In answer to the above, we would state that when McManus died in exile, in California, he was an unpardoned convict of the British Crown. So much was he beloved by the citizens of that far-off land in which his last breath was drawn, that, knowing that his last wish was that his bones should be buried in the land so dear to his heart, application was made to the British Government to allow of their transportation to Ireland for that purpose. To the request the Government graciously and generously acceded. On the arrival of the body at Dublin from San Francisco, it was conveyed to the Music Hall, Abbey street, and after lying in state for three days, was finally deposited in Glasnevin Cemetery, not far from the remains of the immortal O'Connell.

We do not know whether the following fact has been derived from the same source from which our High street contemporary is usually supplied, but at all events it is worthy of quotation:—"Cremation has its advocates even in Dunedin. A certain medico, whose winter residence is not many miles distant from the Flagstaff Hill, is a strong supporter of the proposed innovation, and a rival practitioner has been heard to aver that, although the medico in question cannot earn his living by the profession, he would have plenty of practice if he commenced to burn his dead. It is a burning shame to make such remarks as these about votaries of the noble science of cremation."

THE people of Coromandel have a grievance, but one which to most people would appear to be a rather equivocal one—they are not favored with a lawyer amongst their residents. The 'News' says:—"There is seldom a court held, but some plaintiff or defendant, as the case may, loses his suit for want of legal assistance." It would appear to have never struck this sapient community, that were they possessed of the valuable acquisition for which they pine, it is somewhat more than probable that either "plaintiff or defendant, as the case may be," would possess but small advantage, and the result be somewhat as at present. Beside, the 'News' seems to be ignorant of the fact that one lawyer in a community could not possibly get an existence, and that it is only by the importation of a brace that any business is to be done—and then possibly to an amount to more than satisfy even the Coromandelians. We know of a community that would gladly change places with a people so bereaved.

A MEETING of the committee of the Working Men's Club was held on Saturday evening at the Athenæum: His Worship the Mayor being in the chair. The meeting had been convened with a view of conferring with delegates from the various Trades and Friendly Societies, representatives of the following being present: Bricklayers, tailors, plasterers, carpenters, and joiners; as also of the Foresters and Oddfellows. After the chairman had explained the objects of the proposed institution, and stated the principles upon which it was to be based, a warm discussion ensued, the prevailing opinion seeming to be that it would be impolitic to accept the donations of Messrs Larnach and Clarke, considering the conditions attached thereto. A motion was ultimately carried, respectfully declining the donations of those gentlemen, exception being taken by the committee to the conditions with which the money had been offered, but intimating that when rules have been drafted if favorably received by those gentlemen, their offer would be thankfully received.

We notice by proclamation in the 'New Zealand Gazette,' of October 29, His Excellency the Governor appoints that the seal or badge to be worn in the Union Jack used by the Governor of New Zealand, when embarked in any boat or other vessel, shall be the Southern Cross as represented by four five-pointed red stars emblazoned on the white shield aforesaid, and the monogram N.Z. in red letters in the centre of the Southern Cross.

THE Queensland papers announce that His Excellency the Governor's preparations for leaving Queensland for his appointment in New Zealand are nearly completed, and that his stay in the colony will not be later than the middle of November. It is not known at what time his successor will reach Queensland, but between the departure of the Marquis of Normanby and the arrival of Mr Cairns, the Government of the colony will be administered as on former occasions, by the President of the Legislative Council.

It may not be generally known that much of the deafness with which persons are afflicted, has been the result of their having been rudely struck on the ear at one time or other. The following melancholy circumstances should act as a warning as to what manner persons in authority inflict punishment on juveniles:—"The 'Southland Times' says that "a son of Mr W. Grant, settler at Waikiwi, died at one o'clock in the morning, after an illness of nearly three weeks. The deceased was a pupil attending the district school at Waikiwi, and on the 16th of October he complained when he came home of pain in his head. He said that Mr Macdonald, the teacher, had taken him and another boy named M'Ilwrick and knocked their heads together for misbehaviour at school that day. He continued to complain of his head, and on Saturday, the 24th, Dr Cotterell attended him, and Drs Grigor and M'Clure were subsequently called in, but without avail."

A CORRESPONDENT of the 'Post' suggests that amongst other schemes Mr Vogel may, when in England, revive his famous project for paying off the national debt. Some twelve years ago he published a pamphlet on this question, and now he may perhaps commend it to the consideration of the Conservative Government. His scheme was that the mother country should borrow money at a low rate of interest, and lend it to the colonies at an advance, the difference going to the reduction of the national debt. Mr Vogel now as Premier would be able to give the cordial co-operation of at least one colony in that patriotic scheme. He would doubtless be quite willing to borrow any amount of money for New Zealand in order to relieve England of its load of debt. He could begin with six millions by way of experiment.

It is whispered that there is a great deal more truth in the report circulated concerning the probable appointment of Sir Donald McLean to the Governorship of Fiji, than many are willing to suppose, says the 'Daily Telegraph.' It has been said that the report originated at a festive gathering, and was circulated for fun. At all events, the Wellington 'Post' first publicly gave currency to it, and that journal is usually pretty correct in what it says. We now learn that Sir D. McLean will very shortly visit Hawke's Bay to put his house in order, preparatory to leaving the colony for Fiji.

THE London correspondent of the Auckland 'Evening Star' writes as follows:—"We are somewhat curious here as to the reasons which have led to the resignation on the part of Sir James Fergusson of the Governorship of New Zealand. We have noticed both in the New Zealand and Australian Press comments on him and his ways which are by no means complimentary, and have been a little surprised. As a sporting and yachting man I should have thought he would have liked your Colony immensely. Has his wife anything to do with it? I have understood that she did not care about the society, which she thought rather mixed. Still she could hardly have expected anything else in a new country. As regards the Native question Sir James seems to have got his name up wonderfully, and to have impressed the Maori mind more favorably than his predecessor, but then Sir George was the incarnation of soft-sawder and boah."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

"Carnival" is derived from the Latin words *caro*, flesh, and *vale*, farewell, meaning "Farewell to butchers' meat."

A Mrs Van Henrich is 1868 bequeathed all her property to her husband, adding:—"It is also my earnest wish that my darling husband should marry, ere long, a nice, pretty girl, who is a good housewife; and, above all, to be careful that she is of a good temper."

A volcanic eruption on a range near Lambo, in Queensland, is reported; but the truth of the report is very much questioned.

The population of New South Wales has increased 10,000 during the last half-year.

The colossal statue of the Duke of Wellington at Hyde Park Corner weighs 40 tons, and is nearly 30 feet high.

To promote sleep, put sixpenny-worth of clean and fresh hops in your pillow-case.

There are more than 500 noblemen and gentlemen in the United Kingdom worth the capitalized sum of £1,000,000 sterling at 3 per cent. interest.

The luxury of a glass of pure water is denied to the wealthiest community the world has ever known. There is no "constant supply" in any part of London, and the moving organisms and the sediment from sewage are retained in all cisterns for weeks and months.

The German empire contains 530,000 square miles, and a population of 38,000,000; France, without Alsace and Lorraine, 520,000 square miles, and a population of 36,000,000.

A locomotive consumes, on the average, forty-five gallons of water for every mile that it runs.

The first European decoration conferred upon H.M. the Mikado of Japan, has been presented by the Duke of Saxe Coburg-Gotha. The Mikado has been enrolled in the Order of the Ernestine House, because of the welcome he accorded Prince Philip of Coburg.

The Government intend publishing during the recess an official history of their land purchases in the North Island.

A Paisley manufacturer got by some accident a severe cut across the nose, and having no court plaster at hand, stuck on his unfortunate organ one of his gun tickets, on which was the usual intimation—"Warranted 350 yards long."

There are at present 9101 Jesuits in the world. The largest number—2303—is in France; the missionary service occupies 1588; 1527 are in Italy; 1080 are in Great Britain and her Colonies, and the rest distributed in the various countries.

Mr G. M. O'Rourke has joined the Auckland Provincial Executive, taking the office of Provincial Solicitor, vacant by the death of Mr Beveridge. Mr O'Rourke has not taken the title, but it is understood that he will do so.

Mr John Gleeson, solicitor, Limerick, has just died at the ripe age of 82 years. He was the "Father" of the legal profession in Limerick—indeed, in Munster, having begun practice as a solicitor at so remote a date as the year 1815.

The Visitation Convent, Georgetown, D.C., received last year Bertha Gorolt, the daughter of the late Prussian Minister to the United States, as a/o one of the Emperor Iurvide, and a daughter of General Scott. A few weeks since, the daughter of Admiral Sands took the white veil in the same convent.

There are forty-seven public libraries in Rome, and they are to be consolidated into three.

The doctors of Naples have discovered a liquid preparation which instantly stops the flow of blood from wounds of every description.

Twelve thousand of the inhabitants of Fez, Morocco, have risen in rebellion in consequence of the reimposition of gîte-tax.

Commodore Ryan, U.S.N., is the chief astronomer at Keryueien Island, Pacific Ocean, for the observation of the transit of Venus.