

have nearly reached the length of their tethers. In Italy, the usurper, it appears, not satisfied with having sacrilegiously despoiled the Illustrious Head of the Church, of the patrimony of St. PETER, and laying violent hands on churches and colleges—the property of the faithful throughout the world—is desirous of wresting from his venerable prisoner every vestige of royalty, and has issued a circular, demanding of the European Powers, the withdrawal of their diplomatic agents at the Papal Court. In that unhappy land, the venerable and rightful ruler is a prisoner within the walls of the Vatican, while, as in Germany, the work of spoliation and persecution goes on, and the members of religious houses, who had given up the world and its allurements to serve God and minister to suffering humanity, are ruthlessly driven from their dwellings, and exposed to the cold charity of the world. That such atrocities are permitted without a protest from the European Powers is a standing reproach to the boasted civilization of the nineteenth century, but to its lasting shame be it said, England, the boasted champion of justice and liberty throughout the world, not only looks on unmoved, but by the voices of her leading statesmen, glories in the outrages and indignities perpetrated. To such men as Earl RUSSELL and Mr. DISRAELI, there could be no injustice in the imprisonment of the aged and venerable Princes of the Church, but when the German Chancellor varied the programme, and in the person of Count ARNIM touched the sacred rights of the aristocracy, his despotism was viewed with pious horror. In the Count's case, the alleged offence was no slight one, and yet the deprivation of his liberty was such a high-handed proceeding, as to elicit the public condemnation of the English Premier. 'Tis true the German Ambassador had not been specially named, but the allusion was sufficiently palpable to cause Mr. DISRAELI, on the suggestion of the German Chancellor to qualify the expressions used. It is a humiliating spectacle to see the leader of a great nation such as Great Britain has always claimed to be, forced to eat his own words, and drag the nation through the mire, at the frown of a despot who, a quarter of a century since, would place his forehead in the dust at her command. Slowly, but surely, the proud pre-eminence which England has hitherto assumed amongst European nations is being lost to her, and that power and weight which the voice of the nation carried with it, are waning away. The placidity with which the records of Bismarck's outrages upon an unoffending class were received, forms a marked contrast to the storm raised by the seizure of Count ARNIM, and the persecution of the German newspapers. Those who, but a short time before, lauded the energy of the Minister in his struggle with the Church, gravely shook their heads and prognosticated the fate of WOLSEY. ARNIM has been no friend to the persecuted Catholics, as the HOLY FATHER himself could readily testify, but he is a bold, ambitious man, and as a rival is one whom the Chancellor may have great cause to fear. In the infamous persecution of a portion of the Empire by Prince BISMARCK, he sees the highroad to power on the downfall of his rival, and as formerly they were fast friends, they love each other as only bold, unscrupulous men can. The domineering attitude assumed by Germany toward France, may be borne with for a time, but the longer the chain is worn the greater will be the struggle when the time does arrive. The memory of Sedan and Metz, and the insulting swagger of the Prussians on the Boulevards, has sunk too deep into the hearts of Frenchmen to be easily forgotten, and in that terrible day of reckoning Germany may find out, when too late, the number of faithful hearts and strong arms she has lost by her present crusade against right and justice. The London correspondent of the 'New York Times,' in writing on the state of Europe, assumes that France and Germany are bound to fight some day, and adds that from the lowering appearance of the sky on the Continent, it is impossible not to feel that a storm is brewing. He says:—"There can be no doubt that Germany is just now in rather an explosive condition. The people are groaning bitterly under the strain to which they have been subjected, and which has still to be continued in order to maintain the enormous armament which is deemed necessary as a check upon reprisals by France. It must be remembered that it is not merely France by itself that the Germans have to reckon with in the future, but also the Papacy and Czar—two very formidable opponents."

The oldest white native of the Colony of New South Wales died a few weeks ago. His age was 75. His name was Wm. Cook, and was a son of soldier belonging to a regiment stationed in Sydney in the very early days of the Colony.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Our readers will, no doubt, be pleased to learn that there is every probability of the Hibernian Society having a thoroughly efficient brass band, to assist in the celebration of its second anniversary. It may be remembered that when the original St. Patrick's Band became the property of the citizens, under the name of the Provincial Band, it was provided that in the event of its being disbanded, the instruments, clothes, &c., had to be handed over to the Mayor, who in turn was bound to deliver them up to the first duly organised band making application therefor. During the past week an advertisement appeared in the 'Gazette,' notifying the disbanding of the Provincial Band; and the trustees of the Hibernian Society, having previously bought some twenty instruments, the private property of the members, made application to his Worship, and, having complied with all the necessary conditions, on Tuesday formally received into their possession all the property lately held by the Provincial Band. The Hibernian Society, consequently, have now between thirty and forty excellent instruments, and, as we hear a number of the late band have expressed a wish to join under the new auspices, it is to be hoped that its services will be available on the anniversary of Ireland's Patron Saint.

We are pleased to observe that Mr. Sub-Inspector Mallard has been promoted to the rank of Inspector. This well-deserved recognition of the services of Mr. Mallard will be heartily endorsed by all those to whom he is known, not only for the zeal and energy he has displayed in the exercise of his duties, but for his uniform courtesy in their discharge.

A RECENT arrival in the Colony, named Claffey, died last week at his residence at Kensington of typhus fever. The unfortunate man had been ailing for some time, but his friends refused to allow his removal to the Hospital, notwithstanding that there were four or five persons living in the same house, liable to the contagion. The relatives of the deceased had determined to hold a "wake," but, yielding to the advice of the Very Rev. Father Coleman, the burial took place the day after death.

We have been requested to acknowledge the receipt—per Mr. John McInerney, of Invercargill—of the following additional subscriptions to the testimonial to the Vicar-General:—Mr. John McLoughnan, £1 1s; Mr. John Maher, £1.

THE usual quiet of the Water of Leith was somewhat disturbed on Saturday morning when it became known that a serious *fracas* had taken place, resulting in the stabbing of a man. It appears that a farmer named Holmes, assisted by a man in his employ named Walter, had been engaged killing pigs, when some words ensued which ended in a tussle. The struggle was carried on for some time, when Holmes fell to the ground declaring he had been stabbed. He was immediately assisted to the house, and Drs. Garland and Cole quickly summoned to his assistance, but from the first no hope of recovery was entertained. Walters was brought before the wounded man, whose depositions were taken before Mr. Fish, in which he declared Walters the man by whom he had received what he knew to be his death blow. Holmes lingered on till Sunday night, when he expired at eleven o'clock. He was a young man, scarcely twenty-five, and leaves a wife and one child. The accused is a German, between forty and fifty years of age. An inquest was held on the body on Tuesday before Dr. Hocken, the coroner, the jury, after a deliberation of almost two hours and a half returned a verdict of "Manslaughter." It is, however, rumored that the authorities are not satisfied with the verdict, and that the prisoner will be indicted for murder.

THE team selected to represent Otago in the forthcoming contest with the cricketers of Canterbury sailed on Monday in the s.s. Taranaki, a large number of their friends mustering at the Railway station to see them off. At a special meeting of the team, which was held shortly before their departure, Mr. Downes was unanimously chosen captain, Mr. W. Morrison elected umpire, and Mr. M. Cohen scorer. In returning thanks for the honor conferred upon him, the captain said he trusted the team would bring no discredit upon Otago, as he looked upon the victory as a certainty for them if they worked well together.

ANOTHER fire has to be added to the already large list of those which have taken place but recently. At an early hour on Tuesday morning the premises occupied as a workshop by Messrs Hughes and Harvey, tinsmiths, Princes street, was discovered to be on fire, but fortunately the alarm was given at an early stage. Constable Doran, who was the first to discover the flames, took prompt measures, with the assistance of some bystanders, and, although the Brigade were on the spot with their usual commendable promptitude, there was but little occasion for their services. As all the buildings contiguous are of wood, it is fortunate that the night was a calm one, or the consequences might otherwise have been serious.

THE following special telegram from the Palmer, received from Mr. J. C. Browne, M.H.R., will, no doubt, be read with interest:—There are no fresh discoveries at the Palmer. The first workings are mostly worked out, and the ground at the new rush is all occupied. It is only just payable. The country is being well prospected. Very little gold is coming down, and what there is is principally the product of a few claims. The workings are confined to narrow runs in the beds of rock-bound creeks. Two men can work out a claim in three weeks. Provisions are plentiful, and prices moderate. The quartz workings are suspended, and all claims protected for six months, waiting for machinery. The hot rainy season is now on, and fever is very prevalent at Cooktown and on the mines. It is mostly New Zealand arrivals who are attacked. Many are dying. There are no legally qualified medical practitioners at Cooktown or on the mines; only Chinese and quacks are practising. The hospital surgeon resident here has left for Sydney. He was receiving a fee of two guineas per