

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

In another column will be found the Lenten Pastoral of His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Moran, which will be read in all the churches of the diocese to-morrow, next Wednesday being Ash Wednesday.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Hibernian Society was held on Monday evening, to take into consideration matters in connection with the newly organised band. During the evening it was decided to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the usual dinner.

TUESDAY last being the festival in commemoration of the presentation of our Divine Lord in the Temple of Jerusalem, and the Purification of his Blessed Mother, the ceremony of blessing the candles took place in St. Joseph's before the seven o'clock Mass; and in the course of the day the children attending the Dominican Convent Schools, renewed their baptismal vows. In connection with the Convent Schools we have been requested to bring under the notice of parents and guardians that the Christmas vacation being at an end, the classes were resumed on Monday last.

It appears that we were in error in stating last week that the man Walters, who has been committed for trial for causing the death of the man Holmes, was a German. We have been visited by a gentleman of that nationality, who informs us that Walters is a Channel Island man, being a native of Jersey. We make this correction with pleasure, as we agree with our informant that each nation should only be credited with the misdeeds of its sons.

A MEETING of the members of the Dunedin Press Club was held at the rooms on Saturday evening, the chair being occupied by the Vice-President. The office-bearers having been elected on the starting of the club merely for three months, a re-election took place for office-bearers for the ensuing twelve months. The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary were re-elected without opposition; but fresh candidates coming forward for a seat on the committee, a ballot was taken, resulting in the return of the following:—Messrs. Dungan, Bracken, Cole, Nicholls, and Utting. A new rule was passed, to enable members of the up-country Press to join the club; and after other matters of a routine nature had been transacted, the meeting adjourned.

By the Otago, which reached Port Chalmers on Tuesday morning, we are in possession of English news to the 23rd ult. The intelligence, however, is not of a very startling nature. The crusade against the Church is still at its height, and the venerable Archbishop of Cologne has been again fined 30,000 thalers, and a threat held out of imprisonment being added to his punishment. The Most Rev. Dr. Manning was on a visit to the Holy Father, and it is more than probable that the Archbishop will return with a Cardinal's hat. Some of the under current of the scheming of the German Chancellor came to the surface during the trial of Count von Arnim, which has aroused an intense feeling of indignation in France. In a despatch which was produced from Bismarck to the German representative at the Tuilleries, the following passage occurs:—"I cannot but wish France weak, and deem it inadvisable to strengthen her by contributing to the establishment of a monarchy." As might have been expected, this expression of feeling has caused profound indignation in the hearts of Frenchmen, and has laid bare the unscrupulous designs of this immaculate reformer. The usual catalogue of calamities is reported, amongst which the casualties at sea take precedence. The Panama mail steamer Japan shared the fate of the Cospatrick, on the passage from San Francisco to Hong Kong, and out of 483 passengers on board, but 117 escaped. The loss is also chronicled of the magnificent steamer Mongol, well known in this port, which struck upon a rock some twenty miles from Hong Kong, resulting in her total destruction, and the loss of the captain, his wife, and a number of passengers. In Continental matters, a Madrid despatch states that King Alphonso has issued a manifesto to his subjects, promising to initiate a liberal policy, and offering a complete amnesty to all who will lay down their arms and acknowledge his sovereignty. It is also rumored that Espartero, the celebrated Spanish statesman, is dead.

On Wednesday evening (says the Mount Ida Chronicle) a pleasing presentation was made to Mr. W. Grumitt, of the Bank of New South Wales, at the residence of the Rev. E. Royer, Naseby. The rev. gentleman addressed those present, relating the services given by that gentleman so readily to the Church as far back as 1864, at Hamilton: services which, after he (Father Royer) had removed to Hokitika, had been continued to his successors in the district, and when he returned back until the time of the building of the new church had been continued, as before, to himself and to his congregation. Mr. John Dillon presented a very handsomely framed and illuminated address to the rev. gentlemen, who handed it to Mr. Grumitt. After the reading of the address, the Committee appointed for the presentation left St. Patrick's Presbytery, and repaired to Mr. J. Cogan's residence, with Mr. Grumitt and his friends, where a very pleasant evening was spent. A number of toasts were given and responded to—"The Catholic Church throughout New Zealand," "W. Grumitt, Esq.," "Prosperity to Mount Ida," "The local Press," &c., the party breaking up about ten o'clock. Mr. Cogan had spared no pains in preparing the supper-table, on which were placed all manner of fruit and delicacies. We append a copy of the address presented:—"Naseby, 31st December, 1874. W. Grumitt, Esq.: My dear sir—I cannot permit this solemn and holy season to pass away without at least giving expression to my heartfelt gratitude, and that of my flock, for the many acts of Christian philanthropy, in promoting by your voluntary services as organist to St. Patrick's Church the glory of God, which you have so freely and generously rendered when requested. We fully appreciate this sacrifice of time and labor, which you so kindly placed at the disposal of the congregation, but I fear I am unable to find words sufficiently adequate to express our grateful acknowledgements. Accept, my dear sir, my personal sentiments, and I pray that the Lord Jesus will afford you and yours the blessing and protection He can bestow on true Christians;

and I earnestly hope that this blessing, given with a free heart, may be visibly manifested before the close of the year 1875, which I pray you will happily enjoy. Believe me, with much esteem, regard, and respect, on behalf of myself and flock, ever to remain, my dear sir, yours very obediently in the Lord, Emmanuel Royer, Catholic pastor."

The House of Representatives is to undergo another metamorphosis before Parliament meets this year. Economy is to give way to elaboration, and the rough deal saw-marked desks and shabby seats will no longer offend the eye and evoke the scathing criticism of the honorable member for Newton, Mr. Swanson. The drapings of the Chamber are again to be changed for others, which are on their way from England, and the seats are to be covered in maroon rep. The effect, says the 'New Zealand Times,' cannot very well be conceived until the alterations have been effected, but it is still questionable if the present green curtains will be very much improved upon. These, however, are the least important of the changes absolutely required, for they do not touch the radical defect in the building—its acoustic imperfection.

One of the passengers on board the Cospatrick, Frederick King, was brother of Mr. Alfred King, a reporter on the staff of the Auckland 'Evening Star.' Mr. King left London to come to New Zealand by the Northfleet, which was run down in the Channel. He was one of the saved on that occasion, and took passage by the Cospatrick, apparently to meet the fate he so narrowly escaped when on board the Northfleet.

The Melbourne 'Telegraph' mentions that a reunion of somewhat peculiar interest took place on the 2nd December, at Melton, Victoria. On that day Mr. Dalrymple Keating completed his seventieth year, and a number of his friends met to celebrate the event of his attaining the honorable age of three-score years and ten. What gave a special interest to the birthday was the fact that Mr. Keating was the first child born of Europeans in Tasmania, and is, therefore, probably the oldest Australian "native" alive. Seventy years ago, then the "little stranger" was especially honored by Lady Paterson, the Governor's wife.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Within six years, on the coast of Canada, ninety-eight new light-houses have been built, four new lightships established, and ten new steam fog-alarms; forty-eight more lighthouses, eight fog-alarms, and two lightships are in course of construction.

A court-martial has dismissed from Her Majesty's ship Agincourt, Sub-Lieutenant John Campbell Mackenzie, for having been absent from his ship for one night. He was also deprived of six months' seniority.

Two monks and nine workmen have perished in a snowdrift near the Great St. Bernard Monastery.

While witnessing a game of base ball out West, a boy was struck on the back of his head, the ball came out of his mouth.

The announcement is made that the memoirs of Talleyrand will be published in a few months, when the 30 years, during which he directed by his will that they should remain in manuscript, will have expired.

Temple Bar has now to be propped up; so it will be formally taken away from its present position, where it is an obstruction to traffic, and re-erected as an entrance to the new Law Courts near by.

There died in the Picton hospital the other day a man named Philip Waite, who, not many years ago, had money sufficient to spend £900 in a spree in a fortnight at Melbourne. He was the first man to drive sheep from South Australia overland to Melbourne.

A private in the Royal Engineers, stationed at Chatham, deliberately laid his hand on the rails in front of an advancing train, and the member was completely crushed. A desire to quit the service was the motive for this act of self-mutilation.

The veteran cricketer of England, Mr. C. Absohn, now over 70 years of age, has performed wonderfully during the last season in the "old country," making 1066 runs, and taking 500 wickets. His batting average is 15, and his bowling average being six runs a wicket, these being secured in good matches.

The largest plate of glass ever manufactured in the United States was recently cast in Indiana. It is 184 x 91 inches.

The 'Japan Mail' describes the city of Yeddo as a miracle of cleanliness. "Notwithstanding the feet which tread the streets, they are as clean as the seldom visited parks of the aristocracy. No person throws paper or any refuse in the streets."

The Pope gave an audience on November 23, to the Duke of Norfolk and his two sisters.

Verdi, the composer, has been created an Italian senator.

A wager, attended with somewhat unpleasant consequences, was lately made at Eton. An Etonian undertook to swallow a certain number of eggs and rolls in a specified time, and accomplished his object, but has been dangerously ill ever since.

Dr. Livingstone's camp equipment was lately sold by auction, and produced a total of £28 4s. The highest prices were £3 10s for the late traveller's fowling piece, and £5 10s for his pocket filter and cup, while a lot of five air pillows, gaiters, and one black glove fetched £4, and a couple of egg-cups sold for 17s.

A mysterious basket, addressed to the station master at Clapham Junction, on being opened was found to contain a living child. The station master declining the gift, a porter volunteered to accept it, and took the basket and child. On lifting the child £800 was found in the basket. The story goes that the station master then demanded the basket and its contents, which the porter very properly refused to give up. One can hardly doubt to which of the two the mother would entrust her child.

It is stated that a Swede has discovered a new explosive compound which exceeds in power all known explosives, and is free from the dangers which attach to most of them.