

informed—so complex was the machinery of the department—that by no other means than the formal claim of the missing subscriber would they be saved from the fate assigned them. We do not wish it for a moment to be understood that we complain of any unjust treatment at the hands of the local officials. Far from it; for of course they are merely the passive agents in carrying out the eccentricities of their superiors; but we do most emphatically condemn a course of procedure which, while it bears absurdity on its face, is a manifest injustice to those who trust to the good faith of the Government for the fulfillment of its contract. While bearing testimony to the civility with which we were informed during the interview, that although in some cases such concession might be made if applied for in a fittingly-submissive spirit, as a rule the department would not compromise its liberty of action by any such course, we assert that as a rule—and a most stringent one it should be—the public should not be subjected to the caprice of any official, nor gladly obtain by courtesy what they should be placed in a position to demand as a right.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

BISHOP MORAN visited Laurence on Sunday last and administered Confirmation to 52 persons of both sexes. His Lordship preached three times and in the course of his discourse at 11 o'clock Mass expressed his satisfaction at the efficient state of the Catholic school.

A LARGE number of persons assembled at St. Joseph's School-room on Monday evening for the purpose of taking some action with regard to the strictures on the Rev. the Vicar-General, but learning that legal proceedings had been taken against the 'Daily Times,' all action was deferred till after the result of the trial, in order not to prejudice the public mind. The damages have been laid at £1000.

We take the following from the 'Marlborough Times':—The picnic of the St. Mary's schools took place yesterday, the spot selected for the day's enjoyment being Amersfoort. The weather showing up fine an early start was made to the ground Mr. Lewis acting as "conveyancer" for about 80 children. There were also other children of larger growth who went down to the scene of recreation in divers ways, and who took great interest in the business of the day by setting various diversions on foot. Of these there were many. There was cricket, croquet, juvenile performances on the trapeze, blind man's buff, and sundry other safety valves for exuberant spirits. Dinner was served *à fresco* at one o'clock; first to the children and then to the adults. Appropriate provision was made for the satisfaction of the inner child, and more solid material was furnished for those of stronger if not of larger appetites. The children entered with zest into the masticatory as well as the gymnastic performances, showing what muscle and bone and teeth could do. His Lordship the Very Rev. Dr. Redwood was present on the ground, and also the Rev. Father Sauzeau. Many gentlemen resident in the district contributed in various ways to make the affair pleasant and successful. Good humor and enjoyment was visible in every face, and the health creating games were continued until dusk. The ladies deserve special mention and great credit for their aid and countenance, and for the very ample supply of good things they provided for the children, who, no doubt, will long remember the happy day they spent at Amersfoort.

We would remind our readers that the Grand Hibernicon Panorama of Ireland will open on Monday evening in the Temperance Hall, an entertainment which possesses peculiar attractions for Irishmen, and has been spoken of by the press of the various cities visited in the most flattering terms.

We have received from Mr. Macedo, of Princes' street, "The Cause of Ireland Stated," being a refutation of the slanders cast upon the Irish race by Mr. Froude. The volume also contains some eloquent lectures by the author, the Very Rev. Father Burke, whose sermons and addresses are copied into the Catholic journals of Great Britain and America. Father Burke has acquired such a deserved fame for his oratory that any work from his pen should commend itself to lovers of the beautiful, but to Irishmen in particular, the subject of which the volume treats should have an additional charm. The volume can be procured in town for 1s 6d, or free by post for 2s 3d.

FROM the 'Tupetika Times' we learn that a settler in the district offers to convey the freehold of four or five acres of his farm, or whatever quantity may be required for the purpose, to any company of men who will start a woollen factory on the same. The land is in every respect conveniently situated for the purpose, and there is a copious supply of water always within easy access, and the railway passes close to the land. The only reservation made is that the donor be allowed to erect cottages for the workmen on the ground.

THE juvenile portion of the community have enjoyed a rare treat during the past week in witnessing the performance at the American Circus. The entertainment is a most varied and pleasing one, embracing some excellent feats of horsemanship, tumbling, the horizontal bar, in addition to the customary eccentricities of the circus clowns. That the entertainment is a most enjoyable one, the amount of patronage accorded is ample proof; and, indeed, it has been a matter of surprise that, considering the many counter attractions elsewhere, the attendance was even more numerous towards the close than it had been at the commencement of the week. This, however, may be accounted for by the fact of there being a nightly change of programme, and consequently a good many were induced to re-visit an entertainment where a few hours could be passed so pleasantly.

CAPTAIN FAIRCHILD goes home to superintend the construction of a swift steamer of larger size than the Luna, for the Government, also a smaller subsidiary steamer. The large steamer is to be 110 horse power, working up to 600. Length, 188ft.; beam, 24ft.; draught 10ft. 6in. She is to be rigged as a barquentine, and will have coal stowage for a 500 miles voyage. Her speed is to be from 14 to 15 knots, and her cost £20,000. The smaller steamer is to cost £15,000.

A SPECIAL telegram to the 'Guardian' says:—"The deputation to Sir George Grey was entirely successful. Not only has he consented to stand for Mr. Gillies's seat in the House, but he has likewise consented to be nominated for the Superintendency. He does so on the grounds that it is right for every man who has time and ability at his disposal, to assist in forwarding the interest of the colony and in building up our young empire. He would not consider it *infra dig.* to accept the smallest office, if, in so doing, he could forward, or it was thought he could forward, the interest of the province or the colony. He will therefore allow his friends, if they think it to be for the advantage of the province, to nominate him for the Superintendency, and if he is elected he is prepared to sacrifice the comforts of his present home and retired life, to bring to bear in the office of Superintendent the official and political knowledge which his training as a Governor has supplied him with.

THE question of Funeral Reform has acquired some tangible shape, and at a meeting held in the Temperance Hall on Tuesday evening a series of resolutions were adopted carrying out the views of the association. A report was read stating the basis upon which the association would be formed, and laying down certain regulations for its guidance, all of which were endorsed by the meeting. It was also agreed to accept the tender of Messrs. Craig and Gillies as undertakers to the association, and fixing the amount of subscription at 2s. 6d. for which sum members would become entitled to its privileges. A long discussion ensued as to the propriety of the reform extending itself to the mourning to be worn by members, Mr. E. B. Cargill contending that it would be unwise to go beyond the object of funeral reform and attack a national custom, and upon the meeting taking an opposite view, and a resolution being carried to that effect, signified his intention to withdraw from the association.

THE hearing of the adjourned case of Carrick v. Pyke was resumed on Monday morning before Mr. Bathgate, the District Judge; Mr. Barton appearing on behalf of plaintiff, and Mr. Haggitt representing defendant. The action was brought for £200 damages for breach of an alleged partnership by the sale of the 'Southern Mercury' newspaper—in which plaintiff claimed to have an interest—without his sanction. The evidence for plaintiff had been taken at a former sitting of the Court, and counsel for the defence now sought to disprove the existence of such partnership. A number of witnesses were examined with this view, and after a lengthy hearing the case was adjourned until Wednesday, when after another protracted sitting his Honor intimated his intention of taking time before delivering judgment.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Ten athletes of the Wairarapa have challenged a similar number of Wellington to a match in vaulting, running, jumping, and other exercises of the same class. A good deal of interest appears to be taken in it in both places.

Nature has made ample provision for the protection of salmon, as one female fish will deposit 20,000 ova.

A new lamp has been patented for taking photographs at night, in which bisulphide of carbon is burned on oxide of nitrogen. It is said to be equal to sunlight in its effects and intensity.

As the fly season is now due, the following simple way of preventing flies from remaining on pictures or any other furniture is well tried, and will, if generally used prevent trouble and damage:—Let a large bunch of leeks soak for five or six days in a pailful of water, and wash the picture or any other piece of furniture in it; the flies will never come near anything so washed.

A list of the officers who fell in the Ashantee war is published. Of the 42 whose deaths are enumerated, only six died from wounds.

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.

A telegram to the Queensland Government, from their Agent-General in London, states that the news of the burning of the Cospatrick had operated injuriously on the prospects of emigration to the colonies.

A Liverpool policeman has been committed for trial for stealing 6s. 4d. from a beggar boy, whom he persuaded to give up the money by threatening to put him into prison.

A boy has just died from swallowing a bottle of ink, out West. An inkwest revealed the fact.

An American male soprano, Mr. Haywood, has been playing at the Berlin, Walhalla, Leonora, in the "Trovatore," and "La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein." He sings the two parts seriously, not as a burlesque, and his voice is stated by the German critics to be that of a pure and sympathetic soprano.

Paper manufactured from the refuse of the sugarcane is reported from Guadeloupe. The paper is reported to be of excellent quality, thick, fine grained, and with a particularly smooth surface.

A census of canaries has been taken in the United States by some enterprising ornithologist. The feathered songsters number 900,000, and of these 300,000 were imported last year. Other cage birds number about 100,000. The little songsters consume annually 475,000 bushels of seed.

The action brought by the late M. Guizot to compel the Empress Eugénie to accept repayment of a sum of money advanced to his son William by the late Emperor, has, it is stated from Paris, been dropped by the family.

A telegram from Rome says that Archbishop Manning is preparing a reply to Lord Acton.