

with Madame Goddard's company, is travelling with a series of illustrations from the works of Dickens, which he has styled "The Panopticon."

It is generally supposed that Nelson being designated the "Sleepy Hollow," its residents are consequently afflicted with a tolerable quota of somnolence, but from the following fact it would appear that the Marlboroughians are formidable rivals for the honor. In a country town in that province, on the occasion of a recent fire, the amateur fire brigade did not discover until they had reached the scene of conflagration that they had dragged a hearse all the way, instead of the engine.

For longevity the East Coast can compare favorably with other parts of the Colony. We (writes an East Coast correspondent of the "New Zealand Herald") have not only several octogenarians and nonagenarians, but we have also more than one centenarian. One remarkable rangatira, named Hanara, who is now in his 117th year, and whose descendants, to the seventh generation, number many scores, and perhaps hundreds, was present, with other natives, at the landing of Captain Cook, in Tologa Bay, and has often described the personal appearance of the celebrated circumnavigator, as well as that of the officers who accompanied him on the occasion. Hanara seems to have narrowly watched the movements of Captain Cook whilst on shore, and to remember well what he saw. He took particular notice of how Cook engraved his initials on a rock at Tologa, and wrote in his note book with a pencil. This ancient has long been regarded as a repository of Maori legends, and a chronicler of wars and other events of importance that have taken place since he was a little boy. He is now bed-ridden and relapsing into second childhood—he being scarcely able to speak, and living upon suction.

DURING the visit of Lowther Broad, Esq., to Ahaura last week, took occasion to visit the Convent schools, and in conjunction with the Rev. Fathers Binsfield, Chareyre, and Ecuyer, who accompanied him, an impromptu examination of the pupils was held. Mr. Broad, who is a member of the Central Board of Education of Nelson, said he was most agreeably surprised at the proficient manner in which the children acquitted themselves in the face of certain statements made elsewhere, where he promised to forward special prizes to be competed for at the general examination, which is to take place in about three months. The clergymen also acknowledged themselves much pleased, the Rev. Father Binsfield especially, who had charge of the district when there were neither schools or teachers in it, and he expressed his astonishment at the great progress made in the direction of providing educational facilities in a place which was little better than a wilderness a few years ago.

PRINCESS THEATRE.

THE engagement of Miss Howard came to a close on Saturday evening last, on which occasion the dramatised version of Dickens's "Oliver Twist" was produced. Notwithstanding the fact that all the great novelists writings were written with a laudable purpose in view, each one aiming at some reform to be accomplished, it must be confessed that its representation on the stage is scarcely calculated to have the same effect. The scenes of crime and misery, so graphically portrayed in the novel, are put before the mind of the reader in a manner to warn and deter by their example, but, strange as it may appear, the result is the reverse when placed before the public in a dramatised form, and this is even the greater, just as the merits of representation are recognised. Many of the scenes in "Oliver Twist" are of a nature the realities of which there would be found but few who would care to look upon, and, although in the work of adaptation for the stage, they could scarcely be omitted, yet it will be admitted such a course would call for little regret. The character of Nancy was undertaken by Miss Howard, and, although totally different from those assumed during her three weeks' engagement, she proved that in all the walks of her profession—whether as the accomplished lady or the lowly daughter of poverty and misery—she was mistress of its minutest details. Indeed, in some of the "scenes" with which the piece abounds, her delineations were most uncomfortably natural. Mr. Steele appeared as Bill Sykes, but we think the stage manager was at fault in thus casting the piece, the heavy ruffian not being one of that gentleman's specialties, and we are quite sure a more fitting representative could be obtained with little trouble. One of the principal characters in the drama is the Artful Dodger, a part sustained by Mr. Power with great success. In such characters Mr. Power will be found a most valuable acquisition, his acting on Saturday night stamping him as a low comedian of no mean merit.

On Monday night Mr. Hoskins and Miss Colville re-appeared after a lengthened absence. The greeting they received must have been very gratifying indeed. In response, Mr. Hoskins returned thanks on the part of himself and Miss Colville, stating—of course—that in all his travels and absence the Dunedinians had never been forgotten by him. The pieces chosen on the first night of their appearance were "The Jealous Wife" and "The Serious Family," in both of which they appeared. The two pieces are as well known to the public as the lady and gentleman whom we have just mentioned; and, such being the case, but little need be said with regard to the personation of the principal characters. In "The Jealous Wife" the entire burden is thrown on the shoulders of Mr. and Mrs. Oakley, all the other characters being merely subsidiary; and, as the loving yet suspicious spouse, Miss Colville evoked much laughter and applause. Mrs. Stoneham, as Lady Freelove, the heartless woman of the world, is deserving of special mention, as also is Mr. Musgrave for his personation of Major Oakley. Mr. Keogh had but little to do in the part of Mr. Russet, but he made as much of the character as was possible. "The Serious Family" has been played more than once recently in the same theatre, and it may be safely said that its representation on Monday night did

not suffer by comparison. The Aminadab Sleek of Mr. Hoskins was a magnificent piece of acting, the make-up of the canting hypocrite being perfect. It is in such pieces as Sleek and Affable Hawk that Mr. Hoskins stands without an equal in the colonies, and, indeed, in the latter character he is no mean rival of Charles Matthews himself. As the dashing volatile, yet good-hearted widow, Miss Colville appeared to advantage. In her representation of the character she appeared to so thoroughly identify herself with the part sustained as to share with the audience the amusement and merriment occasioned by the absurdities of the various situations. As Captain Murphy Maguire, Mr. Steele appeared to decided advantage, the character being sustained with a spirit and dash, the lack of which is the only drawback to Mr. Steele's at all times otherwise excellent acting. It is but fair to state, however, that of late this cannot be said of his impersonations, and he has amply proved that when occasion requires he can rid himself of the seeming listlessness to which we have before referred. Mr. Launcelot Booth, another addition to the company, also made his re-appearance on Monday night, and in the character of Charles Torrens, in "The Serious Family," gave evidence of considerable ability. As Lady Creamly, Mrs. Stoneham sustained the character to life, and received the most enthusiastic and deserved call before the curtain. In a certain round of characters Mrs. Stoneham has no rival, and we were pleased to see the merits of so deserved and painstaking an actress meet with recognition.

On Tuesday evening the brilliant five act comedy of "The Love Chase" was placed upon the boards, in which Mr. Hoskins and Miss Colville appeared in their highly successful characters of Master Wildrake and Constance Fondlove. They were ably supported by Mrs. Stoneham and Mr. Musgrave, whose performances called for the hearty bursts of applause, and kept the audience in a continual state of merriment. The other characters in the piece were well represented, and left little to complain of. The conjugal lesson of "The Happy Pair" formed the after-piece, and certainly met with great favor at the hands of the audience. Miss Colville acted charmingly as Mrs. Honeyton, while Mr. Hoskins as Mr. Honeyton displayed an amount of humour which was deservedly appreciated by the large house which stayed to witness it.

LORD ACTON.

THIS Catholic nobleman has written a letter to Mr. Gladstone, on the subject of his pamphlet. It is a remarkable letter, and must gratify the enemies of the Catholic cause amazingly. Lord Acton, if I understood him, rejects the doctrine of Papal Infallibility, flat; yet he professes to be a true Catholic. He is a disciple of Dollinger. He cannot believe the Pope infallible, because former occupants of the Papal Chair have, under the impulse of passion, or through mistake, done acts and sanctioned principles which the present Pope and Catholics, and indeed mankind in general, must denounce as wicked, or plainly wrong. It would take some one better read in Papal history and Catholic theology than I can pretend to be, to say whether Lord Acton's way of putting his alleged historical facts be fair and exact or not. But this much I know, that several Popes, from the days of St. Peter downwards, have said and done things they ought not to have said and done. So much I would grant to Lord Acton. I have yet to learn, however, that any Pope ever promulgated *ex cathedra*—that is speaking officially and in name of the entire Church—any religious dogma which a subsequent Pope condemned as erroneous. The Pope though infallible when speaking *ex cathedra*, is liable, under ordinary circumstances, to be misled as a man through ignorance or passion, and to commit sin like other frail men. The wickedness or errors of Popes while merely speaking or acting in their individual character, cannot, and ought not, affect their claim to infallibility while speaking *ex cathedra*, as the official organ of the entire Church, after consultation with the representatives of the Church spread throughout the whole world, and solemnly invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is what I, as an unlearned lay Catholic understand about Papal infallibility. If I am wrong, I hope to be set right. I cannot but regard Lord Acton's letter as extremely mischievous and well calculated to mislead; the more so as he is a person of considerable pretensions to learning and zeal for the Catholic Church, of which he is and still means, I presume, to remain a member. It will be a painful operation to excommunicate him. But painful though it would be, I suppose it must be done unless he renounce his error. His letter is somewhat misty, and after all he may find his way to submission after wandering about a little. He needs a guide, obviously.

LAIC.

MR. GLADSTONE, IN HIS STUDY.

MR. GLADSTONE, it appears, is not yet satisfied with his religious views. He is determined to pursue his theological studies still further. May God, in His mercy, grant him grace to see the truth and courage to embrace it. He would not be the first who has sat down to study the Catholic religion with a view to confirm his objections to it, and who has risen at last fully persuaded of its truth. Dr. Newman is an instance in point among many others. But even a more striking instance of the same thing is the following, as related in a recent number of the "Weekly Register":—"Among the recent receptions at the Vatican, was one full of consolation to the Holy Father in the midst of his afflictions, which he experiences from the persecution of the Church in Germany. A German, well known in the literary world, who has recently become a "convert," on laying at the feet of the Pontiff a considerable sum, as a personal offering of Peter's pence, reminded His Holiness of an interesting incident. In 1856 this gentleman, who was travelling in Italy, and who, at that time, manifested great hostility to the Church, had