

difficult to divine whom it was sought to make the political JONAH. It will be freely admitted that on personal grounds Mr. BASTINGS had much cause for complaint, in the treatment he received, but it must also be admitted that the late Executive, since its reconstruction, has been an able and effective one, and that the affairs of the Province have been administered with credit, and it is therefore to be regretted that a majority of the Council—small though it is—should have driven them from office without having any specific charge to lay at their doors. Of the Government formed by Mr. BASTINGS, and of which in the multiplicity of his offices he represents half the members, it would be premature to speak; and although we may have our own opinion as to its calibre, and the doubt that some of its component parts are calculated to add to either its stability or status, yet we hold that it is but fair it should have an impartial trial, and whether its reign be long or short, its existence or fall shall be determined by its merits alone. The head of the late Government while consistently refusing to coalesce with the malcontents, announced his determination of throwing no obstacle in the way of his successors, and promised that no factious opposition should be offered to any measure brought forward. It would appear, also, that the main difficulty in the way of the new team—that of securing a law officer—has been obviated by the offer of the late Provincial Solicitor to conduct, without office, the legal business of the Session. It will be thus seen that the new Executive has assumed the reins of power under more favorable circumstances than their predecessors, and when the Treasury benches again become vacant the fault will be their own, and arise from their being weighed in the balance and found wanting. It must, however, be borne in mind that the majority which sent their opponents into opposition, and placed office within their reach, cannot be relied on.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

We are pleased to learn that the efforts of the worthy pastor, the Rev. E. Royer, to place the schools at Naseby upon a substantial footing, have been worthily seconded by his parishioners, and that they are duly sensible of the labors of the reverend gentleman for the accomplishment of the object in view. At the collection made at the doors of the local church on Sunday, the 16th instant, the sum of £40 was received, which, considering the parish is neither an extensive nor a rich one, speaks well for its liberality and the interest the residents of the district take in so important a question.

It is, we believe, the fashion in some parts of Germany to celebrate with becoming festivities the 25th anniversary of one's wedding day, and these celebrations are called the "Silver wedding." The congregation of St. Mary's, Nelson, propose to keep the 25th anniversary or "silver wedding" of the Rev. Father Garin. It is just the above number of years this month since the Rev. Father was appointed parish priest of Nelson. His parish has been to him a loving bride, and he has been a faithful husband and father. The congregation intend to commission Herr Lindauer to paint a full length portrait in oils of Father Garin, which is to be hung in the dining hall of the Presbytery, and will be held as an heirloom by the Marist Fathers.

It is stated that the difficult feat of walking one hundred miles in twenty-four hours is shortly to be attempted by a pedestrian of the name of Edwards. The feat, if fairly accomplished, will be a surprising one, but we would recommend the gentlemen who have consented to act as the committee, to provide their own tape in the measurement of the distance, as we have a lively recollection of a gentleman bearing the same name undertaking in another Colony to walk seven miles in the hour, and which he was supposed to have successfully performed, but it was afterwards found that the tape which he kindly provided for the occasion had reduced the distance by nearly a mile.

By the arrival of the Otago we are in possession of English dates to the 14th instant, but the intelligence is not of an important character. An English telegram on the above date states that during the recent alarm in Europe, England despatched a note to Germany, in which was expressed a very decided opinion regarding the maintenance of peace. The reply, however, received from that Power was in a conciliatory tone, being both satisfactory and friendly. The President of the French Republic has written to thank England for her friendly attitude.—The funeral of John Mitchel took place at Newry, and was attended by ten thousand mourners, but the wires are silent with regard to the circumstances of his death or that of his patriotic brother-in-law, John Martin.—That most veracious chronicler, Anthony Trollope, has paid another visit to the antipodes, and is at present located in Sydney. The object of his second visit has not been stated, but it may be possible it is for the purpose of correcting, in a second edition of his work on the colonies, the inaccuracies for which it was so notable on its issue.—We regret to learn that the whole of the New Zealand mails for March were on board the ill-fated steamer Schiller, and have been all lost, but of course, much as this is to be deplored, it pales into insignificance before the melancholy tidings of the sacrifice of so many precious lives.

THE efforts which have been made of late to establish a Working Men's Club in Dunedin have at last been crowned with success, Saturday last being the opening night. The Club is situated in Princes street, opposite the Post Office, and, in addition to reading, smoking, and other rooms, is also provided with a billiard table. The Club now boasts of a large number of members, amongst whom—as an honorary one—figures the name of His Excellency the Marquis of Normanby. Such an association will prove a boon to the young men of Dunedin, and only requires judicious management to become a thorough success.

It is with regret we learn that circumstances of a private nature have caused Mr. Albert Beck, one of the representatives of Bell Ward, to resign his position in the City Council. The only candidate as yet in the field for the vacancy is Mr. R. H. Leary, who will place himself in nomination.

MONDAY last being the natal day of Her Majesty, was celebrated as a close holiday, the Tradesmen's Races taking place on Kensington Course. His Excellency the Governor was present during the earlier portion of the day, but the weather assuming a somewhat threatening aspect, and no protection therefrom having been provided, he hastily beat a retreat.

In journalistic matters there have been material changes of late. The editorship of the 'Bruce Herald' has become vacant through the appointment of Mr. J. M. Perrier to a similar position on the 'Wellington Weekly Mail.' Mr. Perrier seems to have made a host of friends in the district which he has just left, and before his departure was entertained by the proprietor and employes of the 'Herald,' and presented with a handsome silver service in recognition of the esteem in which he has been held. The vacancy thus caused will be filled by Mr. F. Nicholls, sub-editor of the 'Daily Times,' and it is with regret that his many friends, both in and out of the profession, have heard of his intended departure, his genial good nature and thorough *bon-homie* securing the esteem and friendship of those to whom he is known. Mr. George Geddes, who has occupied the position of publisher of the 'Guardian' for the past twelve months, also severed his connection with that journal. Mr. Geddes has relinquished his position to enter upon a different sphere of labour, but before doing so was presented by the runners under his charge with a testimonial and a very handsome souvenir in consideration of the uniform courtesy they had experienced at his hands. To each and all of these gentlemen we tender our best wishes, and trust they will secure in their different spheres the hearty expressions of goodwill which follows them from Dunedin.

By a 'Gazette Extraordinary,' published on the 15th instant, the members of both Houses are informed that Parliament will assemble for the despatch of business on the 30th prox. Another lengthy Extra, issued also on the 15th, gives a number of interesting tables of statistics regarding the colonial prize firing of 1875.

A FIRE of a most dangerous character, but luckily unattended with loss of life, occurred on Saturday night in Maitland street. It appears that Mr. and Mrs. Watson, by whom the building was owned and occupied, had gone to town, leaving the house in the care of Mrs. Watson's mother and the servant. In the course of the evening the latter, in searching for some boots beneath one of the beds, set fire to the drapery, and in a few moments the house was in flames. One of the children was rescued by Mrs. Watson's mother at considerable risk, but neither fortunately receiving any injury. Although the house was insured for £550 the loss sustained amounts to £1,000.

We would draw the attention of our readers to a return, published in another column, of the number of scholars attending the Catholic Schools of Dunedin, and which possesses especial interest for Catholics. From that statement it will be seen that, notwithstanding the supposed superiority possessed by schools which are endowed from the public purse, over 500 children are educated at St. Joseph's without the slightest aid from the Government. It is also worthy of note that, as there are but 2000 Catholics in Dunedin, the number of scholars amount to one in every four.

THE 'New Zealand Times' in reviewing the position of the Ministry in the light of Mr. Vogel's illness and detention at Home, says: "Now that the doubt is removed, and we need not hope for his (Mr. Vogel's) return before September, there can be no possible object gained by postponing the opening of the session beyond the usual time, early in July; also, 'It would be idle to shut our eyes to the fact that the Government, as now constituted, is perhaps as weak as one as could well meet the House at the present crisis.' It says that Sir D. McLean will have enough to do to attend to in Native matters, and the Hon. E. Richardson will be fully occupied in Public Works, and neither can be of much assistance to the Ministers in other business. Neither Mr. Reynolds nor Mr. Atkinson is equal to conduct the Government business in the place of Mr. Vogel. The article altogether is very hostile. It says virtually, that rightly or wrongly, the colony has not confidence in the present Executive without Mr. Vogel.

A CORRESPONDENT from Hyde, writing under date, the 24th instant, sends us the following:—I am happy to be able to record the establishment of one Catholic School here, and though we have not as yet been fortunate enough to procure a teacher, the Rev. Father Royer—to his credit, be it written—has, in the meantime, undertaken that duty, and stated yesterday at Mass that he would continue to do so until a competent female teacher could be procured. I so trust that his Lordship, or some of the clergymen in Dunedin, will, before long, be able to recommend to the committee a lady who will relieve the rev. pastor of the self-imposed duties of teacher. Of one fact, am I confident that, whatever lady comes here to take charge of the school, the committee will endeavor to make her comfortable. Those who have known Father Royer for the last fifteen years, as the hard-working, indefatigable, and zealous priest; those who knew him when he was, perhaps, the only priest with whose face the diggers were