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New Books to arrive every Month. Rosaries and Crucifixes always on hand. Small Orders can be sent in Postage Stamps.

COMMERCIAL.

MR. SKENE, of the Dunedin Labor Exchange, reports that the week closed has given a deal of broken time to people at outdoor work. But it cannot be all sunshine. The arrivals by the "Earl of Zetland" are getting rapidly placed. Doubtless, they are of the right stuff, and will have no trouble in suiting themselves to Otago. The married folks with large families have a lot of trouble before they get suited, but, if steady, they are by far the best off in the long run. A good many "Victorians" are coming across. It does not look well when so many of them are "dead set" against roughing it. We get splendid people from Tasmania; they come too seldom. Females are still all needed. In-door trades are well employed. This is "St. Crispin's Harvest." Wages—Road, rail, and bushmen, 8s., 9s., and 10s. per day; ploughmen, £2 to £65; shepherds, £60; couples, from £65 to £90; house girls, £26 to £40; hotel girls, from 12s. to 30s. per week; dairy hands, 15s. to 20s. per week; useful youngsters (boys and girls), 6s. to 15s. per week; gardeners, £60 to £70 per annum. Sod fencers wanted by the chain. Shopmen and clerks only taken of colonial experience.

MERCER'S report for the week ending 10th June; retail prices only:—Fresh butter, in $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 lb. pats, 2s per lb.; lump butter, 1s 10d; powdered and salt butter, 1s 8d to 1s 10d. Fresh butter has fallen off very much, and is consequently very scarce indeed; it has not been so scarce for many years. Salt butter, in kegs, 1s 6d per lb.; cheese, best quality, 1s 1d to 1s 2d per lb.; side bacon, 1s 8d; rolled bacon, 1s 2d; Colonial hams, 1s 4d per lb. Eggs are not so scarce, and retailing at 3s to 3s 6d per dozen.

MR. HENRY DRIVER, on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company reports as follows for the week ending June 9:—

FAT CATTLE.—140 head were yarded to-day, only a few of which were good beef, the remainder being very little better than "stores." In consequence of the large quantity of inferior quality offering, we quote prices at about same as last week; any really good pens, however, would command a fair advance on late rates. Best bullocks brought from £9 10s to £11; ditto cows, £8 to £10 5s, or equal to 30s per 100 lbs. for prime quality. At the yards and privately we have sold sixty head.

FAT SHEEP.—One thousand were penned, but only about one-half were sold. The whole, however, could have been placed at fair value. Best cross-breeds realised from 14s 6d to 16s 6d; ditto merinos, 9s to 11s 6d; or equal to 3½d to 3½d per lb. for former, and 2½d to 3d for latter. We have sold at the yards, and privately, 750 cross-breeds and merinos.

FAT CALVES.—The market was much overstocked with 60 head, and in consequence prices receded considerably. A few only were sold, at from 15s to 45s.

STORE CATTLE.—We have to note an increasing demand for good, quiet, well-bred cattle of every description, and have, during the week, sold 250 head at, say, £5 10s for bullocks, and £4 to £4 10s for cows, and from 35s to 45s for mixed herds, lots from 12 to 18 months old.

STORE SHEEP.—We have no alteration to make in late quotations, and have no important transactions to report; in fact, very few desirable lots are offering. We quote cross-breeds, four-tooth and upwards, at from 13s to 14s 6d; ditto, two-tooth, at from 10s to 11s 6d; ditto, lambs, 8s; merino ewes, in lamb, six-tooth and under, at from 8s 6d to 10s; ditto, full-mouthed, 6s 6d to 7s 6d; merino wethers, six-tooth and under, at from 7s to 8s; full-mouthed, 6s to 6s 6d. We have sold about 2,500 at above prices.

WOOL.—Cablegrams from our London house, 28th May, report that up to date, 130,000 bales had been sold. Competition on French account was active, but German dull. For scoured, the market was firmer; medium and inferior greasy, market easier; greasy, cross-breeds, market easier; superior clothing and combing, washed, advanced 1½d to 2d per lb. In this market there is no business doing.

SKEEPSKINS.—At our sale on Thursday last, competition was very active; every lot offered sold at an advance on former rates, butchers' green skins bringing, for cross-breeds, 3s 8d to 4s 4d each; merinos, 2s 4d to 2s 11d; dry skins, up to 5s 11d for full wool; a superior lot from Moa Flat station selling at 12½d for cross-breeds, and 8½d for merinos, as before notified. I hold my usual weekly sale to-morrow (Thursday) at three o'clock.

HIDES.—As anticipated in my last report, hides, in good condition, have increased in value. Heavy green hides I sold at 25s 9d to 27s 3d; medium, salted, 18s to 20s; inferior and light weights, 13s to 16s 3d.

GRAIN.—Wheat: The market is unchanged. For milling samples, 4s 3d to 4s 4d for superior, and 3s 10d to 4s for medium qualities; inferior, for fowls' food, meets quick sale up to 3s 9d. Oats have been more inquired for; we have placed shipping parcels at 2s 9d for feed, up to 3s for milling. Barley: Good samples of malting are readily sold at 5s 6d to 6s for very superior; inferior, 5s to 5s 3d. Milling barley, 4s 2d to 4s 4d.

BISMARCK AND HIS WORK.

"VANITY FAIR," a periodical of which the Prince of Wales is the reputed proprietor, hits fair at "Bismarck the Disturber." In an article published in a late issue, it says:—

The "Times" has been lately doing its best to earn Prince Bismarck's gratitude by its vigorous attacks against Catholicism, which has not assailed, or sought to assail, a single established law of this country, and its no less vigorous defence of our British Protestantism, which has never been in danger. Whether the man of "blood and iron" will show himself duly grateful for this persistent and systematic identification of the principles of Bismarckism with those of true Evangelical religion is a question which does not concern us. At any rate, in the present condition of European affairs the great journal is doing him much useful service with the friends of Mr. Whalley and the readers of Mr. Gladstone's pamphlets. The man of "blood and iron" is ungovernable in his wrath and intemperate in his speech, but there is a method in his paroxysms of temper and language. For the present it has pleased him to stir up a religious war in Europe under pretence of coercing the Vatican. Of this apparently gratuitous proceeding he has himself given the explanation in the German Parliament. After the humiliation of Austria and the subjection of France he was afraid that the Catholic countries in Germany would combine against Prussia with the foes he had overthrown; and taking, therefore, advantage of the helplessness of the latter, he endeavored to deprive them in advance, before they had time to recover their strength, of what support they might eventually find amongst the South German Catholics. This he labored to effect by various means—by coercive laws, by measures directed against the influence of the Catholic clergy, by the expulsion of the Jesuits. But his efforts have turned against him, and produced the contrary result; instead of crushing the Catholics in detail he has united them all against him, in Germany and elsewhere. At this moment the French Catholics are in constant correspondence with their German co-religionists and the union of creeds is dissolving the unity achieved by the sword. Unsuccessful at home Prince Bismarck has equally failed abroad in forcing his policy upon the Catholic Powers. He demanded of Italy that she should restrain the Pope, as an Italian subject, meddling in the internal affairs of a foreign country, and he has met with a refusal which the "Times" vainly attempts to palliate by explaining that Berlin made no request, and therefore encountered no denial. For the first time the imperious will of the German Chancellor has failed to extort submission, and even such a small State as Belgium, which lives on the sufferance of its neighbours, declines to join him in his crusade against Rome. Foiled and baffled on all sides, it is to be feared that he will now bring matters to a crisis. The mad bull of Varzin is looking all round the circus for a foe that he can pin to the earth with his horns, and he has singled out France. The pretext will be soon found. "If there be an 'offender,'" says the "Times," "it is with the offender that Germany will deal face to face," and the Foreign Office at Berlin has already made out a case against France as the aider and abettor of the Pope's wicked designs against the peaceful subjects of William the First, who were never better armed or better prepared in every way than at present to rend what is left of France limb by limb. In the interest of the peace of Europe it is to be hoped that the Austrian Emperor will succeed at Venice in detaching Victor Emmanuel from the Prussian alliance; that Protestants will not be blinded by Prince Bismarck's Protestantism, or the Liberals by his Liberalism; and that a league of Catholic Powers, supported by England, may keep the peace between Germany and France.

One vice is more expensive than many virtues.
Laziness begins in cobwebs and ends in iron chains.
Journeyman tailors in China receive two cents a day.
Want of care does more damage than want of knowledge.
The lives of the best of us are spent in choosing between evils.