

IRISH IMMIGRATION.

(To the Editor of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.)

SIR,—In taking up my pen to write upon this important subject, I shall not attempt to criticise any of the articles that have appeared in the various journals throughout this colony, but rather give my own views on the question as briefly as possible.

In the first place, it is an admitted fact that immigration is at the present time one of the leading questions of the day, and involves the highest interests of all New Zealand colonists. Whatever agreement may be found to exist among the friends of the present immigration policy as to the best means of conducting it—on the subject of the introduction of more Irish into this colony, and the beneficial results that would accrue from their industry if among us,—there does not appear to be that perfect unanimity of opinion which is manifestly desirable at a time when the success of a scheme depends entirely upon wise and liberal legislation. The worthless and bigoted cry that in by-gone days served as a postscript to all advertisements for servants, viz., "No Irish need apply," does not yet appear to have sunk into oblivion. It is admitted by all, that numbers of our worthiest colonists hail from Ireland; notwithstanding that fact, some of our public men in the blindness and bitterness of sectarianism, and party zeal would close the shores of this colony against any class of immigrants except those supplied from certain portions of Great Britain. Thus we find a certain clique, even in this Province (and it is by no means small in number, or unimportant in character), almost asserting that they are the rulers of the people, and anything done without their knowledge and consent is a gross infringement of what they consider to be, their just and lawful rights.

Unless the Irish can be stamped as bad colonists, why in the name of justice are the necessary steps not taken to encourage them to New Zealand? Are they fond of disturbing the peace of a country? Are they rebellious and traitorous? No! they are peaceful and loyal subjects when justice is meted out to them: they are an industrious and painstaking race, and the "American Republic" owes her rapid prosperity in a great measure to the enterprise of those Irishmen who quitted the shores of their native land some years ago when oppression was rife, and when Ireland was in a distracted state. Yes, numbers of true patriots at that time were almost driven from their homes without any fortune, save a resolution to distinguish themselves, and show to the world of what great and noble works natural talent and industry are capable when untrammelled by useless and oppressive laws. Why then, in the face of such facts, does the present Colonial Executive tolerate the dogged blindness of our Agent-General (Dr. Featherston) to the interests of this Colony? We know, to our loss be it spoken, that he is a paid officer of the General Government, and in common with many in his position attempts at times to usurp the authority of his masters.

Plainly speaking, the class of Irish immigrants requisite for this country are practical farmers, with wives and families, and agricultural labourers. If the special settlement system was in operation in Otago as it is in Auckland, monied men, i.e., men possessed of sufficient capital to enable them to commence farming operations on their arrival in our midst—and they are by no means few, in either the North or South of Ireland—would be enticed to relinquish their present holdings, and cast their lot in a country where greater scope is allowed for honest industry and perseverance.

Mr. Vesey Stewart deserves credit for the success which has attended his patriotic efforts to aid his countrymen; yet, he has been disgracefully treated, his plans all along have been thwarted by the General Government, his actions grossly misrepresented, and his efforts almost stifled with the cry of "failure;" but indomitable pluck has at length succeeded against the most strenuous opposition, and the Irishmen of Auckland may well boast of their zealous advocate. It must be acknowledged by all impartial men that the treatment which the Irish people are receiving at the hands of the New Zealand Government, in the matter of immigration, is altogether disgraceful; and these prejudices which appear to exist against them as colonists are groundless and unreasonable, and ought not to be allowed to interfere with justice. I trust that in thus expressing myself on this subject I am not actuated by the spirit of mere partisanship, or by any other motive except that which springs from conviction alone. Although born in the city of Dunedin, I am nevertheless an Irishman at heart, and consider that I am merely doing my duty when I agitate for justice to Erin's sons and daughters either in New Zealand or elsewhere.—I am, &c.,

Dunedin, July 12, 1875.

F. W. FLANAGAN.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company were, on the 10th inst., loading 1800 emigrants of Omaha, Nebraska, and on that day sent two loads of provisions for those at Cheyenne, Daramie, and beyond. There were 4000 western bound passengers at Omaha, and west to the break, waiting to go through when the water fell.

A serious riot took place, April 18, at the opening of some pleasure grounds in the suburbs of Glasgow. A stand, on which were 1500 people people gave, and precipitated the entire mass to the ground. Thirty persons were injured. The visitors, indignant at the carelessness of the proprietors, destroyed everything on the ground and burned the barricades around them.

Poor Monsieur de Villemessant of the 'Figaro' little expected all the trouble which his imprudence in addressing the bishops would bring upon his head. The letter of the Bishop of Angiers, was speedily followed by one still more severe from the venerable Archbishop of Aix. All the papers of Paris, Catholic, Protestant and infidel, have said the severest things about the 'Figaro,' and heartily endorsed the opinion of the episcopacy. It is reported that in consequence of this protest of the bishops, M. de Villemessant has lost 15,000 subscribers.

WAIFS AND STRAYS.

THE UNWRITTEN SIDE OF GREAT MEN.—We always think of great men in the act of performing deeds which give them renown, or else in stately repose, grand, silent and majestic. And yet this is hardly fair, because the most gracious and magnificent of human beings have to bother themselves with the little things of life which engage the attention of us smaller people. No doubt Moses snarled and got angry when he had a severe cold in the head, and if a fly bit his leg while he was in the desert, why should we suppose he did not jump and use violent language, and rub the sore place? And Caesar—isn't it tolerably certain he used to become furious when he strives to get his slippers in the dark, and found that Calphurnia had stowed them under the bed, so that he had to sweep around them wildly with a broom-handle. And when Solomon cracked his crazy-bone is it unreasonable to suppose that he ran around the room, and felt as if he wanted to cry? Imagine George Washington sitting on the edge of the bed and putting on a clean shirt, and growling at Martha because the buttons were off; Joan of Arc holding her front hair in her mouth, as women do, while she fixed up her back hair; Napoleon jumping out of bed in a frenzy to chase a mosquito around the room with a pillow; or Martin Luther, in a nightshirt, trying to put the baby asleep at 2 o'clock in the morning; Alexander the Great, with the hiccoughs! or Thomas Jefferson, getting suddenly over a fence to avoid a dog; or the Duke of Wellington with the mumps; or Daniel Webster, abusing his wife because she hadn't tucked the covers at the foot of the bed; or Benjamin Franklin paring his corns with a razor; or Jonathan Edwards, at the dinner table, wanting to sneeze just as he got his moi' full of hot beef; or Noah standing at the window at night throwing bricks at a cat.—Max Adler.

HOW TO BREATHE.—Civilized man is the only being that breathes through the mouth, which at once shows that it is an unnatural and acquired habit. The wild Indian would as soon think of eating with the nose as of breathing thus. The habit is usually acquired in childhood, and is generally the result of breathing impure air. It is then the fond mother who should guard her offspring with watchful care against this insidious and deadly enemy of her child. Let her follow the example of the wild Indian mother, and give her child the pure air of heaven to breathe, and if perchance it opens its little mouth during sleep, let her gently press its lips together, until the habit of keeping them closed becomes fixed for life.

THE JAILBIRDS' JUBILEE.—The bill which has passed both houses of the New York Legislature granting conditional liberty to convicts sentenced to imprisonment for life at the expiration of fifteen years of penal servitude, has occasioned an unusual flutter of excitement among the older jailbirds in Sing Sing Prison. Nor is it surprising to learn that this unexpected boon, now almost within the grasp of many immured malefactors, who had long since abandoned themselves to despair, should cause the dreary cell of the condemned to be suddenly illuminated by the light of hope that the day of liberation draws nigh. To the weary and heart-worn prisoners who have been confined within granite walls for a quarter of a century and upward this prospect of a release, ere the King of Terrors claims his own, can alone be appreciated, and accordingly, in the language of one of the keepers, "The life-men are perfectly wild." In the female prison the same intense feeling was manifested, the women undergoing life sentences being described as 'almost crazy' with mingled emotions of surprise and joy.

A BIG DEVIL FISH.—A letter has been received in St. John's, Newfoundland from a gentleman in Grand Bank, stating that on the 10th of January a gigantic cuttle fish was cast ashore, the body of which was 13 feet in length and 10 feet in girth. The arms (the long tentacles) were 26½ feet in length and 16 inches in their greatest circumference. The beak was larger than that of an owl. The account is thoroughly trustworthy. Unfortunately the people who found it, not knowing it was of any value, cut it up for their dogs; and the coast being blockaded by ice, no account reached here until a few days since.

THE DEEPEST SHAFT IN THE WORLD.—The deepest mining shaft in the world is said to be that of the colliery of St. Gilley Châtillneau, three miles from Charleroi, Belgium, which is 860 metres in depth (940½ yards). The deepest coal pit in England is that of the Rosebridge colliery, in the Wigan district, being 875 yards deep and 16 feet in diameter. There are four seams of coal being worked. The Wigan 5 feet, at 450 yards; Wigan 4 feet, at 470 yards; the yard coal at 680 yards, and the Arley at 860 yards. The ventilation of the pit is by a furnace, and is very good. The deepest mine in Cornwall is Dolcoath, which is 360 fathoms (720 yards). In the Hartz mountains there are several shafts more than 800 yards in depth.

KID GLOVES.—In certain parts of Europe the rearing of kids for the sale of their skins is an important business, those which command the highest prices, and are regarded as being superior to all others, being the French, called in the market *peaux nationales*. By some the fine qualities of these skins is attributed to a peculiar virtue in the wild vines upon which the young ones feed in the pasturage which they frequent; this, however, being a peculiar error, as their value is simply the result of the care with which the little animals are reared during their life of four or five weeks. They are not allowed to roam at large, as such a license would imperil the evenness of their skins, which would become scratched by rubbing against stones, or passing through hedges. They are, besides, deprived of all food except milk, as eating grass would tend to render their skins coarse. Consequently they are kept under a wicket-coop, from which, at regular hours, they are led to suckle the mother, and this continues until they are killed at the end of four or five weeks. The younger they are killed the thinner the skin, but, of course, the smaller they are less valuable, too, especially when they are only large enough to allow of single-buttoned gloves, while the demand is all for two, three and four-buttoned gloves.