

rival the Irish-American athlete O'Leary, who has a few months since travelled 116 miles in twenty-three hours.

THE truth of the old saying "It is necessary to go to a distance to learn news of home," is exemplified by the following, taken from the 'Marlborough Times':—"A newspaper, to be called 'The Satirist,' is to be published shortly in Dunedin." Perhaps the writer has confounded the paper mentioned with the 'Saturday Advertiser,' which enters the lists of journalism to-morrow.

THE following rather misty paragraph we clip from a Wellington exchange:—"Judge Fenton has been summoned and fined by the Resident Magistrate's Court at Waiuku, for shooting pheasants illegally ere the shooting season commenced. In a letter to the Waiuku Bench, the Judge says:—"When I had the bird in my possession I was unaware that such a provision as that under which I am charged existed. The intention of the Legislature seems to me to be clear, viz., to get hold of shopkeepers, &c.; cases like mine, I think, were not contemplated." We would like a key to this epistle of his Honor's, for he has evidently written either too much or too little. Of course, to the mind of a layman, the law and its intricacies is as great a puzzle as the Gordian Knot, but to the uninitiated the legal acumen displayed in His Honor's reading of the statute is even more damaging than the ignorance of its existence.

THE London correspondent of a contemporary, in speaking of the past winter and its effects in London, says:—"The weather has just begun to be tolerable. We have had a fearful winter, and there has scarcely been a day for the past six months that I have not longed for a breath of your balmy air. There is just the slightest sensation of green to be seen in the hedgerows, but the effects of the terrible easterly winds are painfully apparent still. On more than one occasion the obituary of the 'Times' has occupied nearly a column. A fortnight ago the mortality of London was at the rate of 27 per 1000, the temperature that week being 5.9 below the average of sixty years. At a famous pleasure resort in the South of England the mortality from bronchitis and similar complaints has been so great that if the same rate were kept up for fifteen years the place would be depopulated, and at Kensal Green cemetery the number of funerals during last month has exceeded that during the last cholera visitation. Altogether, the loss of life this winter has been almost without parallel."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Count Montalambert's unpublished work entitled "Les Papes Moines," will appear next October.

Father David, a Catholic missionary, estimates the population of China at three hundred millions.

A man has died near Akron, Ohio, who was once offered the land on which the city stands for a dollar per acre.

The forty-five thousand Catholics of Cleveland, O., are represented on the School Board by two members.

Archbishop Manning is the first convert from Protestantism who has been admitted to the Sacred College.

Paris has a dwarf elephant, thirty-nine inches high, and nineteen years old. He is remarkably intelligent.

Robert Burns' autograph sold in London, the other day, for £60, while Queen Elizabeth's brought only a quarter that sum.

Wolfe Tone's grand-daughter, Mr. L. E. Maxwell, of Brooklyn, subscribed £100 to the Mitchell Fund.

The daughter of the late Horace Greeley made it a special condition of her acceptance of Colonel Smith as a husband that he should become a Catholic, and he did.

The New Jersey Legislature has rejected the bill permitting clergymen to minister to persons of their own faith in public institutions.

A case in one of the Northern Courts was lately postponed on account of the defendant having been unable to attend on account of the measles.

The public debt of France now stands at £900,000,000, and the interest is over £33,000,000, being considerably the largest which is paid on any debt in the world.

The cotton cloth exported by England last year, if stretched out would measure over 200,000,000 of miles in length, or enough to go eighty times round the earth.

Arrests have been made at Metz of a number of men found selling bones which they had collected from the battle-fields in the neighborhood of that town.

General Todleben, in a pamphlet which has appeared in Brussels, ascribes England's refusal to take further part in the Usages of War Conference to her military weakness, which the Government studies to conceal as far as possible.

Among the Tartars in the Crimea no sooner is a child vaccinated by a surgeon than the parents suck out the lymph lest the young Mussulman should have any impure Christian blood in him.

Musical copyrights are worth something in England. At a recent sale the "Prince Imperial Galop" brought the enormous price of £900, besides which every copy of the music printed is subject to a royalty of one penny.

A lady advertises in an English paper, devoted to her sex, "a perfectly new fashionable Tussock lawn polonaise. Cost £1 10s. Take 30s." A very fair sample of a woman's idea of making a little sacrifice.

The following advertisement appeared in the Edinburgh 'Scotsman' recently:—"Gentleman having too many sons will gladly exchange one, eight months old, for a girl. Good home.—Pater, Post office, Hawick."

A number of deputies to the National Assembly have sent an offering of 7,015 francs to the Archbishop of Paris, towards the expenses of building the votive church of the Sacred Heart at Montmartre.

The Catholic Bishops of Canada have sent a letter to Cardinal Ledochowski and the Archbishops of Germany, expressing sympathy with them in their contest against the government in regard to the supremacy of the Pope.

In furtherance of the plan to shorten the line of travel between Europe and America, A. C. Light, a Canadian Government engineer, has begun a survey for a railway 350 miles long across Newfoundland from west to east.

It is understood that the peat morasses of Ireland and Scotland are nearly exhausted, and that the people, who for generations had drawn their fuel from these sources, are now compelled to use coal, for which the localities not on the lines of railroad have to pay heavily for transportation.

John Phillips, a native of Courthouse-lane, Galway, has just died, aged 106 years.

THE DRAMA.

AFTER an engagement extending over seven weeks, Mr. and Mrs. Bates take their leave of a Dunedin audience to-morrow evening. During that time, Shakespeare has been represented by "Shylock," "Richard III," "Hamlet," and "Macbeth"; Robertson by "School" and "Caste"; while in addition to a number of plays and dramas produced for the first time, some of Boucicault's most sensational spectacular dramas have been put upon the stage. It can be asserted without fear of contradiction, that during the visit of no other artistes has there been such a variety, the heavy tragedies of the immortal bard being diversified by sparkling comedies, or night last, "Macbeth" was the programme, and we confess we were plays with striking situations and absorbing interest. On Saturday most agreeably surprised at the manner in which the piece was carried through by the company. Mr. Bates gave an intelligent rendering of the Thane of Cawdor, the passages requiring fire and vehemence being delivered with a vigor which was markedly appreciated by the audience. Indeed, if his rendition were open to exception, it would be that he exhibited a superabundance, rather than any lack of verve or animation. Although a most careful and studied piece of acting throughout, Mr. Bates' Macbeth cannot be placed in the same rank as either his Shylock or Hamlet. As Lady Macbeth, Mrs. Bates had disadvantages to contend against which had no existence in Ophelia or Portia. In either of those characters, and indeed in most others in which she has appeared, Mrs. Bates, in addition to having an excellent conception of the part, has always looked the character, but Lady Macbeth, the unscrupulous strong-minded woman, is pictured to our minds as one whose commanding and majestic appearance is in keeping with the boldness of her designs. That Mrs. Bates does not possess those qualifications is a fact which will be granted, but one is apt to forget the defective physique in their appreciation of the natural bursts of passion and envenomed which Shakespeare has allotted to the character. Perhaps, however, the part in which the excellence of Mrs. Bates was shown to most advantage, was in the scene where the guilty queen walks in her sleep, and, in piteous tones, bemoans the blood which has stained her hands. The other characters of the piece were most creditably sustained, and Locke's music, incidental thereto, particularly the chorus, was given in a manner which would have done credit to an opera company.

On Monday and Tuesday, a piece entitled "True Hearts," an adaptation from the French, was produced, but like all plays and dramas from the same source, its chief recommendation lay in its mysteriousness. It may be deemed paradoxical to assert that, although the piece abounds in plot—in fact, it is one continual change of villainy for another, there is in itself no plot proper. The two principal male characters are a kind of Robert Macaire and his Fidus Achates. We are unaware whether the author or the adapter is to receive the credit for the haze which surrounds the whole, but if mystifying the audience be the aim intended, then indeed it must be deemed an unqualified success. On Wednesday night Mrs. Bates took a farewell benefit, on which occasion was produced an American novelty entitled "Psychoscope," the work of two members of the Fourth Estate in America. We are glad to say that the fair benefice had a most substantial house, the lower portions being inconveniently crowded. We cannot say the selection of the piece was a judicious one, as Mr. Bates was almost entirely cut out, the insignificant part for which he was cast almost totally ignoring him. Although in many places throughout, the piece abounds in crisp and sparkling dialogue, and much of the language put into the speakers' mouths, is of a nature calling for favorable criticism, yet there are many things which is open to censure, and, had the management studied their own interests, they would have excised one long and highly improper act. The drama, when properly conducted, has much in it to commend itself to favor, but certainly such pieces as "Psychoscope" are calculated to bring the stage into contempt. Were it cut down to two acts, and the objectionable portion to which we have alluded excised, it would have been a most enjoyable performance, as many portions exhibit considerable merit, but its excellencies were more than outweighed by the preponderance of the offensive. To Mr. Keogh, the hero of the piece, fell the burden of the labor, and, although vilely treated in the earlier portion of the evening, he had a fitting reward before the curtain was dropped, while the scoundrel was confounded in the most orthodox manner. Mr. Saville received a hearty round of applause for the admirable manner in which he acted as the expositor of the charades, and his recitation of a portion of Tennyson's "Elaine" was a splendid piece of elocution. At the conclusion of the evening's entertainment a vociferous call was made for Mr. and Mrs. Bates. After bowing their acknowledgments, the former warmly thanked the Dunedin public for the liberal patronage which himself and Mrs. Bates had received during the stay.