

year's achievement by 33 points, while the representatives of Ireland are two points to the bad. It will be seen that, were it not for the unfortunate fatality which attended Milner throughout the match, there is every probability that it would have been very close indeed. It may be remembered that the same luck attended him last year, and through a blunder of his in firing at the wrong target the Americans were given the victory. He aimed and scored a bull's-eye at the wrong target, which but for that fact would have left the Irishmen the winners by one point. It is consoling to know, however, that not only were they beaten this year by shooting that has never been equalled, but the Dublin Club won the All Ireland Challenge Shield on July 3rd, beating their American opponents by six points.

DURING the services at St. Joseph's on last Sunday, the Vicar-General intimated to those members of the congregation who had made themselves liable for the sum owing upon the episcopal residence, that he had appointed Sunday, the 5th proximo, as the day on which the instalments were to be paid. The reverend gentleman entered into a minute explanation of the state of the fund, and in concluding, urged upon those persons who had become residents of the district since the purchase had been made, and the debt incurred, the necessity of their bearing a portion of the burden. Father Coleman also stated that when he had received the sums for which the members of the congregation had become pledged, it was his intention to visit the country districts upon the same errand.

WE regret to state that the extent of damage done by the floods in the low lying grounds about Kensington and Forbury has been far greater than was at first imagined. The misfortune is, also, that the weight has fallen upon those who are but ill able to bear it, and in many cases, the amount of misery inflicted upon unfortunate families has been most trying. In many of the houses the inmates were unable to light their fires, and with the water knee deep, their sufferings may be easier imagined than described.

WE have been forwarded from the publisher, Mr. William Mahony, jun., the first number of a journal published in Wellington called "The Omnibus." It is sixteen pages demy quarto, and sold at the rate of threepence per copy. For a first number it is a most creditable turn-out, and although an apology appears for shortcomings on that account, we fail to see that it required any. It contains some well-selected extracts, short tales, and original poetry, and if the excellence of the first number be maintained, it must command a ready and extensive sale.

WE have received the 'Illustrated New Zealand Herald' for August, which fully maintains its excellence, and is worthy of, if it does not surpass, its predecessors. The illustrations are twelve in number, four of which are devoted to New Zealand, the remainder being sketches in Australia and Fiji. Chief amongst the illustrations is a full-page cut of "The landing of Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon at Nasova," which is admirably executed. In addition to this there are "Crossing the Waimakariri during a flood," "Splitters Falls, Victoria," "Grounding of the Ceylon, R.M.S.," "A View of the Queensland Goldfields," "Glenelg, S.A.," "Akaroa Bay," "The Norham Castle in a Storm," "The South Head Lighthouse, Port Jackson," "Shipping Horses for India," and "The Invercargill Athenæum."

SPEAKING of the accommodation for our legislators in connection with the House of Parliament, the 'Napier Telegraph' says:—"We have been furnished with a copy of Bellamy's tariff of charges, by which we perceive that things are made nice and comfortable for members of our Colonial Parliament. In New Zealand, 'Bellamy's,' is a select club for legislators, where a man may live at a cheaper rate than at a hotel, and be better cared for. Members are allowed to take wine by the dozen, at a reduction of five per cent.; they can have supper hot for 1s 6d, or supper cold for 1s. For the moderate charge of 30s a week a member is provided with full board, and a premium is held out to those whose small daily wants are supplied by five meals, by a charge of only five shillings less to those whose appetites are satisfied with a breakfast and dinner. A liberal honorarium, and the pleasing recollections of life at Bellamy's, perhaps account for much of that noble patriotism that urges a man to sacrifice himself on the shrine of politics."

WE are pleased to see that the "Saturday Night Concerts," being held in the Temperance Hall, are rapidly growing in public favor, and all it now requires is judicious management to make them an established success. Some little while since we believe the programme was not the most select, but since the concerts have been held in the Temperance Hall everything of an objectionable character has been carefully eliminated, and the entertainment is such that an agreeable hour may be whiled away without anything being either seen or heard to hurt the most susceptible. On Saturday night the large number of infants amongst the audience was the subject of general remark, and their unmistakable method of making their presence known elicited not a few expressions of dissatisfaction.

The Esquimaux fishers who fringe the Arctic Sea coast down to Kotzebue Sound adopt a somewhat curious and crafty method for killing the Polar bear. The hunters bend pieces of stiff whale-bone and freeze each into a ball of blubber; then they entice the bear to pursue them, dropping in his path the frozen balls, which he stops to swallow. When the blubber balls thaw, the whale-bones spring open, and put an end to the hapless beast.

The grizzly bear is proved to have formerly existed in England, by the researches of Professor Busk into the character of the numerous bones found in the ancient cavern at Brixham, near Torquay, in Devonshire. Of the sixteen hundred and twenty-one bones obtained from this cave since its discovery, in 1858, nine hundred and thirty belonged to cave animals, and at least fifteen artificially worked joints have also been found there.

THE DRAMA.

THE crowded house which met to witness Mr. Darrell's personation of the Melancholy Dane, no doubt influenced the management in following up with another of Shakspeare's tragedies, and on Friday night last "Macbeth" was produced. The cast, however, was materially altered from that during the engagement of Mr. Bates:—Mr. Steele sustaining the character of the treacherous Thane of Cawdor; Mr. Darrell, Macduff; and Mr. Hoyle, Hecate. Mr. Steele has often appeared in the same character in this city, and we rest assured with greater success, for it must be confessed he did not appear to advantage on Friday night. The passage in which he apostrophises the dagger was given with a tameness which materially detracted from its effect. In the banquet scene, however, when stricken with horror at the apparition of Banquo's ghost, he infused a vigor and life in the part which met with recognition from the audience. As Macduff, Mr. Darrell appeared to far greater advantage than in Hamlet, many of the passages being given with tolling effect, which were greeted with prolonged applause. Perhaps the act in which Mr. Darrell was most effective was that in which he learns of the slaughter of his children, the outburst of passionate grief being depicted with a reality which it was painful to witness. Mrs. Darrell, of course, appeared in the rôle of Lady Macbeth, and having said so much, more is needless. It is in such characters as Lady Macbeth, and other of Shakspeare's creations that Mrs. Darrell has scope for her abilities, and after witnessing such a finished performance as that of Friday night, one is forced to regret that talents, such as she possesses, should ever be devoted to aught save the legitimate drama. On Saturday night "Lucretia Borgia" was presented, and on Monday a dramatised version of Wilkie Collins' novel, "Man and Wife." We understand Mr. Darrell claims the credit of being the adapter, and if such be the case he must be complimented upon his success. The piece is superior to either "The Struggle for Freedom," or "Under the Ban," and although savouring strongly throughout of the sensational, it is immeasurably more creditable than many pieces which pass current in the present day. It possesses the merit of carrying the audience with it through every act, and although there are five, the interest throughout is never once allowed to flag until the curtain drops upon a most effective tableau. Mr. Darrell appears in the character of Geoffrey Delamayn, one for which he is admirably fitted, and which he played to life throughout. Indeed in our mind characters such as Geoffrey Delamayn and Francis Levison are those in which he appears to most advantage, where the polished and heartless man of the world is portrayed, or life in its different aspects of the present day is to be depicted. We cannot pass by the admirable personation of the loquacious old Scotch inn-keeper by Mr. Keogh. His make-up was inimitable, and the fund of humor displayed exhibited comic powers of no mean order. His very appearance on the stage was the signal for merriment, and so well was he disguised, that were it not for his voice, it would have been difficult to discover his identity. The part of the heroine was sustained by Mrs. Darrell in a manner which brought forcibly to the audience the wrongs and sufferings of the betrayed woman, the other characters being sustained by Miss Willis and Messrs. Musgrave and Clinton. The drama of "Man and Wife" is one which should have a long run, and the manner in which it is mounted and put upon the stage reflects much credit upon the management. Since writing the above we have seen a letter from Mr. Darrell, which places his right to the authorship of the piece beyond dispute.

On Wednesday night "Hamlet" was again produced, with a slight variance in the cast, the part of Laertes being undertaken by Mr. Keogh, in consequence of the indisposition of Mr. Stoneham. We must congratulate Mr. Darrell upon his good judgment in materially altering many of the points presented on the night of his benefit, and we are bound to confess the conception of the part, as embodied in Wednesday night's representation, is infinitely superior to the preceding one. This was markedly apparent in the soliloquy, "To be or not to be," the beautiful passage being given with a delivery and action which, while being in keeping with the text, was widely different from Mr. Darrell's former rendering. Again, in the scene where he finds his interview with Ophelia watched by the King and Polonius, he goes to the arras, behind which they are concealed, and assures himself of the fact, before returning to Ophelia and asking of her the whereabouts of her father. By this, he makes it more clear to the audience the cause of the horror he feels on receiving her answer, believing her in the plot and playing him false. There are many other points which Mr. Darrell either introduced or altered since he last appeared, and we are glad to be able to heartily approve of both innovations and alterations. By the course he has adopted, he has shown his only aim is to give a delineation of this creation of the immortal bard which will bear out the conception of the master-mind, and, as in so doing he has taken nature for his guide, and tested the correctness or incorrectness of his views by that standard, it will be admitted his performance should bear the test of criticism.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A lace dress and shawl, and other laces, formerly the property of the Empress Eugenie, and worth £5000, were found recently at a Washington pawn shop, where they have been pawned for £50.

It is stated that Sir Charles Gavan Duffy intends permanently settling in Ireland, and that he contemplates re-entering the House of Commons for an Irish constituency.

Profiting by the sad experience of the Holyoake disaster, most of the churches in America are having the doors altered to swing outward.

The executive of the Irish Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain have issued their last monthly report, future statements concerning the organization being to be transferred to the columns of the 'United Irishman,' the first number of which will be issued on June 5. This journal will, it is announced, be the mouthpiece