

this one of our correspondents takes exception. From the report of the proceedings at this meeting it would seem, that deputies appointed by certificates, forwarded from New Zealand and other places to the Executive Directory for this purpose, were, owing to certain objections made against them, not allowed to take their seats. But it also transpired that, in fact, gentlemen appointed in this manner would not have been legally qualified to sit, since, to do so, it would have been necessary for them to have been elected by district boards, of which, as yet, there are none existent in New Zealand.

Now, it must be evident to all parties that it would be highly advisable, under any circumstances, that the various branches of the Society should be duly represented at the annual meeting; hence, were it only to qualify representatives to be legally appointed, it would be most desirable that such boards as would enable this to be done should be at once established. But it seems that there exists a still more pressing reason for taking this step, for in the protest of the officers and deputies of the Melbourne district the following clause occurs: "Legally speaking, we claim to carry out the business of the Society solely under the provisions of the 'Friendly Societies Statute' of the colony of Victoria, without reference to any other colony." From this it would appear, that there exists an imperative necessity for the appointment of some local governing bodies, whose business it would be to see that the Society in New Zealand was conducted in accordance with the law of this colony, and which would be qualified to adjudicate in matters relating to the branches here only.

We by no means counsel separation from the Victorian head. There is "strength in union," and we should be glad to see this Society become the bond which would unite the interests of the whole Catholic and Hibernian communities throughout the colonies. We believe that this would strongly conduce to the elevation of the whole in the social scale, while it would ensure on their part, an attention to the ordinances of the Church, which could not fail to obtain for them blessings still more valuable. It would be the means of perpetuating amongst such of them as were the descendants of Irishmen so much of the nationality of their fathers, as would serve to make precious to them the recollections of all that these had borne for the faith, so that they would be zealous in following the good example afforded them in accordance with the circumstances of their different position, while it would also serve to identify them more completely with the mighty nation that is springing up in these regions, as yet, and we trust destined to continue, unimpaired by party animosities, or the recollection of persecution or injustice. With Melbourne rests the credit of having originated a Society so widely appreciated, and it is but right that the originator should sit in the place of honor. Let Melbourne then continue to be the acknowledged head; this may well be, and yet the branches may thrive none the less.

All the difficulties may be solved, and all the subjects of complaint rectified by the appointment of district boards, with enlarged powers calculated to suit the circumstances of the different branches. Local interests would thus be secured against neglect or miscomprehension, and deputies legally appointed might be sent to the annual meeting in Melbourne, so that the branches might have a voice in any matter that affected the Society as a whole. We write under the belief that such a plan would find favor with the Victorian authorities, and that, although they perhaps at first did not foresee the spread of the Society beyond their own Colony, yet that they view with pleasure the likelihood which exists of its extension far and wide, and are ready to make all reasonable concessions to such an end, for, although our Christchurch correspondent takes exception to the action of the Executive Directory at the last four annual meetings, we can not lose sight of the fact that the Hibernian Australian Catholics of Victoria are ever foremost in the van of enterprise, enlightenment, and liberality.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

WE have received from the Government printer four numbers of the Parliamentary Debates.

Those persons who are interested in floricultural pursuits, or matters generally connected with the garden or orchard, would do well to look over Mr. George Mathews' calendar for the year, where they will find much useful information for their guidance in planting, pruning, or sowing, and will be made acquainted with the names and descriptions of many valuable and beautiful trees and flowers.

THE katipo seems to be particularly active in the North Island just now. Another case has occurred of a gentleman being bitten by it; this time at Napier. The bite caused extreme pain, and resulted in paralysis of the parts affected.

THE correspondence between His Honor the Superintendent and the Hon. the Premier has been issued in pamphlet form. As we have already given this correspondence a place in our columns, it is hardly necessary for us to refer further to it. It, however, appears to us important to preserve it in convenient shape, for the information and warning of future legislators, and, therefore, if only for this, the step taken is one in the right direction.

MR. H. LEAR, boot and shoe maker, George street, informs the public in our advertising columns, that he is now making gentlemen's first-class elastic-side and balmoral boots (to measure) for 20s. per pair. This is certainly a very large reduction on the price usually charged by the trade for first-class work. Mr. Lear explains how he is enabled to make so large a reduction, by saying that the "sweet simplicity" of cash payments frees him from bad debts and other evils that attend the credit system, and we believe it.

WE have been requested to enumerate certain of the more fortunate amongst the winners of prizes at the late Art Union. A large steel engraving of Landseer's "Stag at Bay," together with an oil painting of Nicoll's Creek Waterfall, by Mr. Power of Dunedin, fell to the lot of Miss Dempsey, a lady resident in Oamaru. Mr. Gwynne, of Palmerston, won a large chromo-lithograph of Lake Como, in a gilt frame, which, together with "The Stag at Bay" and some other valuable pictures, was presented by his Lordship the Bishop. Mr. Haggitt, solicitor, of Dunedin, obtained a fine oil painting, entitled "Horses at Water," presented by Mr. McDonough. A valuable oil painting of "The Dunstan," and a beautiful oleograph of the Madonna were won by Mr. Mackay, of Queenstown. A large chromo lithograph of Lake Coniston fell to Mr. O'Shea, of Wellington, and in addition to the magnificent portrait of the Bishop, several handsome pictures are destined for Timaru. Many of the prizes have not as yet been claimed, and we have been asked to state that it would be desirable they should at once be sent for, or directions with regard to their disposal given.

THE Saturday Evenings' Concerts at the Temperance Hall continue an attractive feature amongst the amusements of Dunedin. Mr. Sykes' well-known capacity for managing musical entertainments has rendered them a decided success, by obtaining a liberal supply of talent and setting it off to the best advantage.

"HIS LAST LEGS," as represented on Friday evening last at the Princess Theatre, by the members of the Press Amateur Dramatic Club, seems to us to have been done ample justice to. Mr. Thomas Bracken as O'Calaghan was simply perfect. To thoroughly appreciate his acting in this part, it is necessary at some time or other to have been acquainted with one or more individuals of the unfortunate class represented, and which is now happily all but extinct, if not quite so. In former days we remember to have encountered such, and not even in the originals are we conscious of having observed a more natural intermingling of the pathetic with the absurd. The true character, however brilliant might have been his antecedents, was inevitably a bore, but, although this trait was here quite sufficiently indicated, the talent of the actor and the wit of the part prevented it from being apparent in any greater degree, than that necessary to render the rôle complete. Of Miss Corville and the other ladies, who appeared on this occasion, it is quite unnecessary for us to speak; their names alone are sufficient guarantee for the excellence of anything undertaken by them. When, therefore, we have said that in our opinion each of the remaining actors very creditably sustained his part we have, so far as in us lies, given our readers a fair description of a capital performance.

THE sad case of two little girls lost in the bush on the West Coast lately, recalls to us a most melancholy occurrence which came to our knowledge a few years ago in New South Wales. A gentleman, residing in Gippsland near the border and in the midst of the bush, lost his little boy. Search was made far and wide and long continued, but with no result; the child could not be found. At length, when all hope had been abandoned, and about a year after the event happened, the bereaved father was riding home one evening, and in ascending the side of a gully close behind his house, his horse trod upon something that seemed to him strange, when on dismounting to examine it, he found hidden amongst the brush-wood the remains of his poor little boy. The child had perished not much more than a hundred yards from his parents' door, notwithstanding the ardent search made for him.

It will be seen from our advertising columns that Baker's Hibernicon is again in Dunedin. The pleasure afforded by a visit to this exhibition is no doubt still fresh in the memories of many residing in this town and neighborhood. On all sides were heard its praise, and we believe that its success in Australia quite equalled that gained by it in New Zealand. The views of Irish scenery here presented are unrivalled, and while they afford to natives of the Emerald Isle a welcome opportunity of refreshing their recollections of the scenes amidst which their early days were passed, they furnish to those who hail from other countries means of extending their acquaintance with the beautiful face of nature, so far as this may be artificially represented. There are besides many other attractive features in the entertainment, which on the whole may be said to be one of the most enjoyable ever visited in Dunedin.

WE have been requested to state that the collection of Peter's Pence in the Invercargill district amounts to £17. The list of subscribers will be published as soon as possible.

John E. Shawhan, a San Francisco stock speculator, has built a stable at a cost of about 100,000 dols., chiefly to gratify his wife, who is fond of horses. It contains a parlor handsomely furnished for her use; and the carriage and harness rooms, stalls and other apartments, are finished in fine woods.