

official presence of a dignitary of the Church at a Masonic ceremonial, while at the same time they offered an insult to the religion of the country by the fact of a Protestant and a Freemason taking the chief part in the inauguration of a purely Catholic institution. Their little game was spoiled by the wisdom of the Archbishop of Malta and the good sense of the English Queen.

TELEGRAMS.

(From our Daily Contemporaries.)

AUCKLAND, July 20.

Mr. Corcoran, nephew of the landlord of the Greyhound Hotel, getting out of an upstairs window, apparently to reach the adjoining room, fell to the pavement, and was killed.

The New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company's produce telegram confirms the late wool reports, and says:—Tallow, less trade demand; mutton, 42s; beef, 41s. Leather market flat; 4000 sides sold since last report; best showed 3d per lb. decline on previous rates; others in proportion. Wheat market firm.

CHRISTCHURCH, July 20.

The Provincial receipts and expenditure for the quarter ending June 30, show as follows:—Receipts, £453,345; expenditure, £173,666. The receipts include £131,062, balance from previous quarter; £41,858 from pasturage rents, £187,388 from land sales, and £66,870 from railways. The expenditure includes railway maintenance, £3885; and railway works, £28,847.

MELBOURNE, July 13.

Parliament opened on Tuesday. The Governor's speech stated that the estimated revenue had been fully realised, and the finance of the country was in a satisfactory condition. A number of Bills were promised, including an Electoral Bill, to alter some of the existing boundaries and equalise the districts; also bills to add about four more members to the Assembly, for railway extension, harbor trust, mining on private property, wines, beer, and spirit sale; land and education. No mention was made of any financial alteration, and none was proposed in the Council. The address was agreed to after a few remarks. In the Assembly no amendment was proposed, but in the course of the debate the speech was much criticised, especially for its omissions, and it was not favorably received by the Press generally.

The revenue returns for the year, show a total of £4,322,000 with an increase of £190,000.

The Government refuse to receive Messrs. Stevenson's invoices without a proper heading, and their goods, which are constantly arriving, remain unopened, doing a great injury to their business.

Three bodies have been recovered from the wreck of the *Geltwood*. It is now almost certain that no lives were saved.

Rain is very much wanted in all the Australian Colonies. The average fall for the last half year is the lowest since 1848.

Meat and vegetables are getting very dear.

Sullivan is said to have left the Colony.

Sewell was sentenced to five years.

Mr. John Gavin Duffy has been admitted as an attorney.

July 17.

The proceedings in Parliament so far are very mild. The address in reply was carried without a division, and after very little discussion. The New Electoral and Education Bills have been introduced.

Captain Cooper, of the barque *Armistice*, well known in the New Zealand trade, has been found dead in the Yarra, having probably fallen into the river when leaving his ship.

About £150 has been subscribed for Dr. Van Hemert's orphans at Dunedin, and further subscriptions are being received.

The mail steamer grounded on leaving Adelaide, but got off in a few hours.

Our rainfall this year is seven inches below the average, and the same is the case in all the Australian Colonies. This, coupled with the great fall in the price of fine wool, is not hopeful for the squatters.

The weather is magnificent, being very cold and clear, with dense fogs at night.

SYDNEY, July 21.

The steamer *Egmont*, from Noumea, brings news of the murder of the captain of the labor vessel *Lucy* and Adelaide, of Brisbane, by the natives of St. Bartholomew, New Hebrides. The Government agent, who went ashore with the captain, escaped to a neighboring village, where he was protected.

In the Assembly the Postmaster-General said that the New Zealand Government wished to modify the Pacific Mail Service, but no proposals have been received from the contractors, except as to changing the route.

Severe floods are reported from Queensland, doing much damage to property and railways. An engine capsized on one line, and four men were seriously injured.

CHRISTCHURCH, July 22.

Mann's butcher's shop was burglariously entered last night, and £8 stolen.

A new bi-weekly paper, called the '*Akaroa Mail*,' has been started at Akaroa.

BLUFF, July 22.

A trial of Captain Thos. Thomson's patent boat lowering apparatus was made here to-day. A boat secured for sea was put into water ten feet deep, clear of the side, by men who had never seen it before, in eight seconds; and with oars was put out in fifteen seconds. Nautical men of standing, who witnessed the lowering pronounced it superior to anything known.

TAURANGA, July 24.

A terrible S.E. gale has been blowing since noon yesterday. The sea made a clean breach over the sea-wall on the strand, im-

peding traffic. The debris of boats was caught in the wharf piles. Cottages were unroofed and fences blown down in all directions. The gale is abating.

RIVERTON, July 24.

At a public meeting, attended by most of the influential residents of the district, the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—"That this meeting support the shire boundary fixed by the delegates appointed by the Riverton Town Council and the Aparima Road Board, and are utterly opposed to the boundary proposed in the Bill; that it is of the utmost importance that the harbor of Riverton be improved, and that the Riverton Harbor Board be endowed with a large grant of land; they recommend at this meeting that the most effectual method of abating this rabbit nuisance will be for the Government to pass a measure making it compulsory for every owner or occupier of land to destroy or keep down the rabbits on his own holding, and that the Government appoint an officer to enforce the same."

SYDNEY, July 22.

Two schooners and a ketch were wrecked off the coast during the last gale. One man was drowned, and a heavy sea washed 500 sheep overboard from the steamer *Boomerang*, coming from Brisbane.

At Warinalda a frightful flood is reported, during which 300 cattle were washed down the M'Intyre river.

July 24.

Further particulars of the Queensland floods report loss of life at Warwick, and the rescue of seventy-one persons at Dalby. In portions of the country the floods were the highest ever known.

The barque *Anna* and the brig *Isabella* were wrecked at Port Stephens. The crew of the former were lost.

A Committee of influential citizens has been appointed to decide upon the most suitable manner in which to perpetuate the memory of the late Dr. Featherston.

Only one wire was working north of Wellington yesterday, telegraph communication being much interrupted.

It is believed that alluvial gold has been discovered in a creek at Waimuomata, about ten miles from Wellington.

GRAHAMSTOWN, July 25.

A fearful easterly gale occurred last night, accompanied by the heaviest rainfall experienced for years. The extent of damage done is not yet ascertained, but the low lying portions of the borough are under water still. The Karaka Creek was so flooded that large logs were brought down, and these, coming in contact with the struts of the bridge in Pollen-street, weakened the structure, and the road sank about a foot on one side of the street, which will necessitate almost a new bridge being built. The Thames School is surrounded to such a depth that it is unapproachable. Culverts and open drains are much injured, and there have been several landslips.

CHRISTCHURCH, July 25.

The Acclimatisation Society voted a sum of money to-day for the introduction of humble bees from England.

SYDNEY, July 25.

Great floods have occurred in the Clarence District. Two villages were entirely submerged, and several persons drowned. Hundreds are reported to be starving in the public buildings. There is nothing but wreck, ruin, and desolation everywhere.

A branch of the Bank of New Zealand has been opened at Newcastle.

SYDNEY, July 26.

The steamer *Queensland*, from Foo-Chow to Melbourne, with 1,400 packages tea, has arrived here. She reports ten vessels loading for the Colonies.

The Clarence floods are subsiding.

An affray between the blacks and black troopers is reported from Queensland. Several of the latter have been wounded.

The 'Budget' shows the revenue exceeds estimates. The customs' excise, and territorial revenue show an increase, and the prosperous state of the Colony is altogether satisfactory, although the estimated loss of a million on the decline in wool will affect all classes.

Kingsborough's non-appearance on the training-ground during the past few days has affected his position as first favourite for the Metropolitan.

The Government have despatched a steamer to the Clarence River for the relief of the sufferers by the flood.

Five letter-pillars have been broken open and a number of letters abstracted.

MELBOURNE, July 26.

The Exhibition Commissioners ask the Colonial Treasurer for an additional vote to save the credit of the Colony at Philadelphia.

NAPIER, July 26.

The flood is subsiding, and railway through traffic has been resumed. The river at Petane is higher than in January. It has overflowed its banks, and has done damage along the valley, telegraph posts washed down and the wires submerged. The Poverty Bay line of communication with Gisborne has been stopped since Monday.

Subscriptions are on foot for the officers and crew of the barque *Coq du Village*. About £100 has been collected.

Cairo is the most Mohammedan city in the world. It has the finest library of Moslem literature, and its printing press has a reputation wherever the name of Mohammed is revered. There are upwards of 500 mosques in the city. The chief of them is called Al-Azhar (the splendid), and has 10,000 enrolled students, who are instructed in theology, law and mathematics. But although Cairo is externally more religious even than Mecca, the faith of the people in their system is dying out.