

The Pope smiled, and, turning to those present, delivered a short discourse, taking the boy's words as the subject.

The French pilgrims have been received in groups during the week, after their great audience. A German pilgrimage will be received soon. They will present their congratulations to the Holy Father on his entrance into his 85th year. On the 29th of May, an Italian pilgrimage composed of persons from all the provinces of Italy, will be received in solemn audience by his Holiness. That day is the anniversary of the glorious victory of Legnano.

REGAL GEMS.

1. THE Orloff of Amsterdam; 194½ carats; latest price, 450,000 rubles.

Cut in the old rhomboid shape. Forms the extremity of the Russian sceptre. It came from the old mines of India, and is said to have once formed one of the eyes of the celebrated statue of Sberigan in the temple of Brahma. At a later period it was found, with another large diamond, in the throne of the Shah Nadir of Persia. When he was murdered, it was taken by a French grenadier who had taken service there, and who fled with it to Malabar, and sold it to a ship captain for 14,000 thalers, and he handed it over to a Jew for 84,000 thalers. The Jew sold it at a greatly advanced price to the Arminian merchant Schafraas, from whom the Empress Catharine II. obtained it in 1775, at Amsterdam, for 450,000 rubles, an annuity of 2,000 rubles, and a diploma of nobility.

2. The Regent, or Pitt; 136½ carats; perfect diamond; value, 1,200,000 thalers.

Among the French crown jewels. It came from the mines of Partael, twenty miles from Mazulipatam (Golconda, East Indies), where it was found in 1702 by a slave, who, in order to conceal it, wounded himself in the leg and hid it under the bandage. He promised the stone to a sailor if he would procure him his liberty. The sailor enticed him on board his ship, took the stone, drowned the slave, sold the diamond to the Governor of Fort St. George (whose name was Pitt) for £1,000 sterling, squandered the money, and hanged himself. It was purchased from Pitt in 1717 by the then Regent of France, the Duke of Orleans, for Louis XV., its price being 3,875,000 francs. It weighed at that time 410 carats, and was afterwards cut and polished in perfect diamond form, by which, however, it lost two-thirds of its size. This operation took almost two years, and cost 27,000 thalers. In 1792 it was stolen, together with all the crown diamonds, at the plundering of the Tuileries, and was lost sight of until, in an anonymous letter to the Minister of Police at Paris, the place of its concealment in the Champs Elysées was accurately described. It was actually found there, together with the most valuable crown jewels. (Probably the thief had become convinced that it was dangerous for him to sell jewels of such value). The Republic then pawned it to the merchant Trescow in Berlin. After its redemption it adorned the sword of Napoleon.

3. The Koh-i-nor—mountain of light; 106 1-16 carats; a flat, oval diamond; belongs to the Queen of England; value, 800,000 thalers.

Its history is lost in the darkness of Indian tradition, and can be traced with certainty only since the beginning of the fourteenth century. It was for hundreds of years the crown jewel of the Radschas of Malwa, and was rightfully regarded as a talisman of sovereignty, because it was always the booty of the strongest conqueror. In this manner, after it had repeatedly changed owners, in 1813 it came into the possession of the ruler of Lahore, where it was captured by the English in 1850, at the rebellion of the Sikh troops, and presented to Queen Victoria. It weighed at that time 186 1-15 carats, but it had been so awkwardly cut—several hundred years before, by the Venetian lapidary, Hortensio Borgio—that it produced little effect. (Exhibited in London in 1851.) Queen Victoria had it newly cut by Herr Vorsanger, the most skilful workman in the celebrated diamond-cutting establishment of Herr Coster, at Amsterdam. The work was completed in 1852, in thirty-eight days.

4. Florentine or Tuscan; 139 1-2 carats; value, 700,000 thalers among the treasures of the Emperor of Austria; pure but of a yellowish color, probably the largest of the diamonds lost by Charles the Bold, in the battle of Granson in 1476.

It was found by a Swiss, on the public road in a casket, in which there also lay a costly pearl. At first the man scornfully threw away the diamond, but then picked it up again, and sold it for a florin to a clergyman, and he sold it for three francs to the Bernese. Here it was purchased for 5,000 florins by the wealthy merchant prince Bartholomew May. Then a Genoese purchased it for a little more, and sold it for double the price to Ludovico Moro Sforza, the regent of Milan. On the occasion of the dispersion of treasures of Milan, Pope Julius II. procured it at auction for 20,000 ducats. It is now in the Imperial treasury at Vienna.—Dr. Theodore Schuchardt.

TELEGRAMS.

(From our Daily Contemporaries.)

GRAHAMSTOWN, July 27.

Mr. M'Masters has extracted 48ozs. pure silver from one cwt. regulus, or molten ore, from the Richmond Hills Silver Mining Company. It is stated that the yield is equal to 140ozs. silver to a ton of ore.

CHRISTCHURCH, July 27.

A considerable advance has taken place in the wheat market. Some heavy lines have changed hands for English shipment and speculation. Stocks are considered insufficient for New Zealand requirements. Millers' stocks are low.

At a meeting of the Christchurch shareholders in the Titanic Steel Company, it was reported that a man from Melbourne, who

has discovered a flux for smelting the Taranaki sand, has gone North in the Arawata.

WELLINGTON, July 28.

An accident occurred on the Wellington and Masterton Railway to-day. The engine of the down train from the Upper Hutt ran off the line. The driver was severely, but not dangerously, hurt. No other casualties happened. The engine capsized, and was considerably damaged.

GRAHAMSTOWN, July 28.

The 'Thames Advertiser' was sold by auction at noon to-day. The bidding commenced at £1000, and was rapidly run up to £2500. It was ultimately knocked down to Mr. Wilkinson for £2600. Mr. Wilkinson was one of the original proprietors.

GREYMOUTH, July 28.

At four o'clock this morning the Brunner Gorge railway suspension bridge, which was expected to be open for traffic next month, fell with an awful crash into the river. The anchor plates on the south side had been snapped through, too much strain on them causing the whole bridge to collapse. No lives lost. The anchor plates were generally considered too weak, but were according to the design sent from Wellington.

CHRISTCHURCH, July 28.

The Football Club contemplate sending a team to Auckland and Wellington this season if sufficient funds can be obtained. The team will also visit Dunedin, Nelson, and Taranaki.

A man named Fuller, late taxidermist at the Museum, was nearly poisoned yesterday by accidentally taking a solution containing arsenic used for preserving skins. The stomach pump was applied, and the patient is now progressing favorably, though he is not out of danger.

The Agricultural and Pastoral Association intend to establish a quarterly periodical called the 'New Zealand Country Journal.'

MELBOURNE, July 28.

Mr. M'Kean has been expelled the Assembly for making a statement damaging to the characters of members.

ADELAIDE, July 24.

A Court of Enquiry cancelled the certificate of the master of the Lightning for drunkenness.

SYDNEY, July 28.

The reported massacre of the May Queen's crew was untrue, the vessel having arrived safely at Brisbane with laborers. The departure of the Zealandia has been postponed till to-morrow.

HOKITIKA, July 29.

A crowded public meeting was held in the Town Hall, the Mayor in the chair, to consider the state of the Hokitika River. The following resolutions were carried:—"That it is highly necessary for the safety of the port that all the water of the Hokitika River be concentrated in one channel." "That the Borough Council be requested to take the advice of a competent engineer with regard to the advisability of making a wing-dam at or near a point where the old wing-dam stood, for the purpose of turning the water running down the north channel into the lagoon, and that the Borough Council be requested to spend such sum as is necessary to give effect to the opinion of the meeting; and if the Harbor Trust object, the money to be expended is to be refunded by the ratepayers." A committee has been appointed to confer with the Borough Council on the subject."

CHRISTCHURCH, July 29.

Fuller, who took poison on Thursday, died last night. It is now said that he took poison intentionally, owing to his having been dismissed from his position of taxidermist at the Museum.

WELLINGTON, July 31.

The Luna is engaged sounding in Cook Strait with the object of getting a course free of rocks for the second cable. Captain Johnson conducts the survey. The deep sea sounding machine (Sir William Thomson's invention) has been found to answer admirably. The principal part of the work is now completed, and the Luna will probably return to-morrow.

NEW PLYMOUTH, July 31.

There is considerable excitement here on account of a memorial having been sent by the Sabbath Observance Committee to the Minister of Public Works, in which it was stated that the community, as a whole, were opposed to trains running on Sundays. A large number of leading gentlemen have taken the matter up, and a counter-memorial is now being very numerously signed. Letters are appearing in the papers accusing the clergymen composing the Sabbath Observance Committee of falsehood.

GREYMOUTH, July 31.

The return of melted gold from the Wealth of Nations Company for July is 865oz. A dividend of 3s per share has been declared.

The 'Argus' says that an enquiry should be made into the cause of the collapse of the Brunner railway bridge, so that the blame may rest on the right shoulders, viz., whether the fact of the bridge breaking down under its own weight was due to faulty material or faultiness of design. Half the cables were recovered unimpaired yesterday, and the balance will probably be recovered to-day.

REEFTON, July 31.

The Hopeful Company, from 1,140 tons, obtained 2,313oz. of gold.

AUCKLAND, August 2nd.

It is placed beyond doubt that Bass, about whose supposed loss overboard from the steamer Taranaki, an enquiry was held by the Collector of Customs, has turned up safe.

CHRISTCHURCH, August 2nd.

At a meeting of Chairmen of Road Boards for the purpose of discussing the Government policy, a resolution was proposed that the proposal respecting the creation of County Boards are unsatisfactory, as providing cumbersome machinery for discharging duties which Road Boards are quite able to undertake. Opinion for and against the resolution was about equally divided, and it was ultimately resolved to adjourn the matter until after the second reading of the Counties Bill.