

Landolf's Fidelity ... 1
 Champion Four-oar Inrig Gig Race; distance, 3 miles. 1st prize, Challenge Cup, presented by the New Zealand Shipping Company, with £15 added; 2nd, £5.
 United Tradesmen's Young Colonist ... 1
 Bona Fide Whaleboat Race, not more than six oars and steer oar; distance, 8 miles. 1st prize, £15; 2nd, £7 10s. Entrance, 20s.
 Mr. D. Ellison's Maori Girl ... 1
 Four-oar Inrig Gig Race, for crews not entered for Champion or Amateur fours; distance, 2 miles. 1st prize, £5; 2nd, £2 10s. Entrance, 10s.
 Mr. Turton's Isis ... 1
 Duck Hunt. Prize, £4.
 Inrig Sculling Race, open to all; distance, 2 miles. Prize, £5. Entrance, 5s.
 Mr. G. Green's Star ... 1

But one casualty occurred throughout the day; it took place during the race contested by youths under 17. The water turned rough, and in consequence the gig Pioneer, while holding its own bravely with the Union, which afterwards became the winner, was swamped; but as its crew were promptly rescued by a boat from the Christian M'Ausland, no serious mishap ensued. A thoroughly enjoyable day was, on the whole spent, and the spectators returned, the greater part of them, to Dunedin, resolved that next year they would seek like enjoyment from the same source.

SAN FRANCISCO MAIL NEWS.

(From our Daily Contemporaries.)

A number of Bashi-Bazonks crossed the Danube and plundered the Roumanian outposts. The commanders of Silistria were ordered to punish them.

The Serbian general, Totennatieff, was received at Prague with incessant ovations favorable to Russia. The authorities interfered, and the police escorted him over the Saxony frontier. As he showed a disposition to resist, force was threatened.

The British ship *Ada Treadle*, bound for San Francisco with coal, has been totally destroyed by fire. The crew, numbering 23, set out for Marquesas Island, over 2000 miles distant. One boat capsized in a gale, but all were saved except one. After twenty-six days in open boats, and undergoing great sufferings, they arrived safely.

In the event of war a split is expected in the British Parliament, the Liberals dividing under the opposing leadership of Hartington and Gladstone, and the Conservatives dividing through known differences between Salisbury and Beaconsfield.

The Porte has warned Serbia that no armistice will be granted beyond the 1st of March.

Commercial intercourse between Russia and China is suspended, owing to Chinese suspicions being excited by Russian exploring expeditions.

It is said that Serbia and Turkey agreed to accept *statu quo ante bellum* as the basis of a treaty for peace negotiations.

It is reported that Russia will not oppose the Serbian peace negotiations, in order that, should war arise, Serbia may be invaded as Turkish territory.

The Porte sent a despatch to its representatives abroad giving notice of the appointment of three Christian governors, and that the reforms were proceeding unremittently.

The Roumanians are erecting redoubts opposite the Turkish fortress at Wadden.

Prince Gortschakoff is dangerously ill. It is reported he is likely to resign owing to the Emperor's unwillingness to declare war.

The American ship *Dakota* was struck by lightning and burned. The captain and his wife escaped after being in a boat four days.

The Freemasons have refused to recognise the negroes.

A fight has occurred, the whites against the blacks, in South Carolina. The American troops were again defeated.

The Indian revolutionists in Ecuador defeated the President's troops in a bloody battle. The revolutionists are expected to enter Quito.

Trade with England is dull, and freights to New Zealand are unprecedentedly low.

A considerable force of Circassians and Bashi-Bazonks advanced against Negotin on the 2nd January, but was repulsed by the garrison and some Cossacks from Kladowa. According to information received at Serbian head-quarters, 35 Cossacks and 111 Turks were killed. As a fresh attack is apprehended, Kladowa is being fortified.

Private advices from Russia continue to afford strong evidence of injury to some of the mercantile communities by apprehensions of war.

The 'Times' Vienna special says: "Serbia, in consenting to peace negotiations, carries two points. On the first—the concessions and remissions of arrears of tribute—there will probably be little difficulty. The second point insisted upon by Serbia is that the river Dwina should form the frontier of Serbia. This would imply the cessation of service in Dwina. Another difficulty is the Turkish demand for guarantees. Serbia has demanded a statement of the guarantee required, but has not yet received an answer.

The 'Times' Berlin correspondent says Russia seems to have decided upon a peculiar plan; she trusts she can support the strain of a prolonged mobilisation better than Turkey, and will therefore keep troops on the frontier, thus compelling Turkey to do the same.

Russia has made fresh but unsuccessful attempts to raise a loan in Amsterdam and Germany. She will be obliged to have recourse to an increase of her floating debt, and issue Treasury bonds.

War preparation continues with energy. Serbia is making urgent appeal to the Western Cabinets to support her in refusing the demands of Turkey. The Russians, in order to redouble their

pressure on Turkey, will probably cross the Pruth—if not immediately, at least at a later stage.

As soon as it was known that Turkey had made overtures to Serbia, the Russian representatives at the various Courts declared that Russia had no objection to the conclusion of peace.

The Pope received the students of the American College, who read an address, and presented a sum of Peter's pence. The Pope, in reply, referred to the marvellous progress Catholicism was making in America. It is said the Catholic papers have engaged to make the strictest use of the ancient prerogatives to ensure regularity in the election of a successor to Pius IX.

The 'Times' Paris special says it is affirmed on all hands that a brisk correspondence is progressing between Russia and Germany. Some assert that Russia wants to know whether she could enjoy the fruits of victory if she achieved one.

ROBERT EMMET.

ROBERT EMMET, the great Irish patriot, was an early advocate of Irish freedom. In the year 1798 he was expelled from Trinity College on account of his principles. The events of those times had a powerful effect on his feelings. He actively participated in the work going on with the object of effecting the independence of Ireland. In October, 1802, we find him among the refugees in Paris, when they were devising new means to overthrow the British Government in Ireland; and it may appear strange that so readily, after the fatal suppression of one insurrection, they were engaged in organising another. It would not at all appear strange to those who would have calculated the circumstances of Ireland and England at that time. Although the insurrection of 1798 was totally suppressed, yet, in the year 1800, the atrocious means which the Government adopted for carrying the measure of the so-called Union, had excited the bitterest resentment in the heart of every man in Ireland who had not been bought over by the Ministry, or whose pecuniary or personal interests were not in some way identified with English supremacy. Emmet relied on the force of this national resentment, but he did not rely on that exclusively.

With reference to the fair being whose history was entwined with that of Robert Emmet, his fate destroyed her hopes of earthly happiness and transformed her into a hopeless maniac. When, in obedience to the demands of society, she ventured to mix in the great assemblies, she was observed to mope about like one abstracted, for her heart lay beneath the cold tombstone on her lover's grave. Washington Irving has traced with his own diamond pen the history of her sorrows; and he tells us that she sought, under the influence of a southern sky, to dispel the gloom that had settled upon her soul; but it was in vain. She wasted away in a slow but hopeless decline, and at length she sunk into the grave, the victim of a broken heart. And you know that it took the enchanted lyre of Moore to give expression to her feelings and to preserve in appropriate numbers the memory of Sarah Curran's fidelity.—'Exchange.'

THE CATACOMBS.

BENEATH the ruined palaces and temples, the crumbling tombs and dismantled villas of the august mistress of the world, we find the most interesting relics of Christianity on the face of the earth. In traversing these tangled labyrinths we are brought face to face with the primitive ages; we are present at the worship of the infant Church; we observe its rites; we study its institutions; we witness the deep emotions of the first believers as they commit their dead, often their martyred dead, to their last long resting-place; we decipher the touching record of their sorrow, of the holy hopes by which they were sustained, of "their faith triumphant o'er their fears," and of their assurance of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. We read in the testimony of the Catacombs the confession of faith of the early Christians, sometimes accompanied by the records of their persecution, the symbols of their martyrdom, and even the very instruments of their torture. For in these halls of silence and gloom slumbers the dust of many of the martyrs and confessors, who sealed their testimony with their blood during the sanguinary ages of persecution; of many of the early Bishops and pastors of the Church, who shepherded the flock of Christ amid the dangers of those troublous times; of many who heard the words of life from teachers who lived in or near the apostolic age, perhaps from the lips of the Apostles themselves. Indeed, if we would accept ancient tradition, we would even believe that the bodies of St. Peter and St. Paul were laid to rest in those hallowed crypts—a true *terra sancta* inferior in sacred interest only to that rock-hewn sepulchre consecrated evermore by the body of our Lord. These reflections will lend to the study of the Catacombs an interest of the highest and intensest character.—'Withrow's Catacombs of Rome.'

The wonderful discoveries of Dr. Schliemann in Greece afford an additional proof of the foundation in truth of old legends, and descriptions preserved in poetry. It is now evident that Homer described works of the goldsmith's art such as existed in his day, and which did not owe their being only to his genius. In like manner tales preserved amongst the Irish annals of battles, which took place in pre-historic times, have in modern days been partially confirmed by remnants discovered of the fight. There is more fidelity in the memory of mankind than has oftentimes been supposed, and the "fiction-crusher" is not always a supporter of fact.

The 'San Francisco Commercial Herald' thinks that its prediction of the termination of Trade Unionism will soon be verified. "At least two-thirds of the members have already severed their connection with those organisations, and little more remains of them than the outward semblance."