

of the wretched usurper of Italy on the decease of the Holy Father, should that deplorable event take place during the occupation of Rome.

Our contemporary, the 'Otago Daily Times,' in its issue of Wednesday last, supplies in a local *alteram partem* to a leader, which immediately precedes it, impressing the necessity that exists for the introduction of compulsory education into this colony. Our contemporary very properly animadvert on the misconduct of certain pupils attending the Pelichet Bay Grammar School, who, it appears, are in the habit of trespassing on the neighbouring line of railway and placing stones in the way of the approaching trains. Surely the 'Times' must perceive that to render a scheme of compulsory education effective, it is absolutely indispensable that the discipline maintained in the institutions where attendance is enforced should be without flaw. It must be evident that the education, given at such an establishment as that alluded to, is but calculated to furnish roughs with further weapons of offence.

THE NEW ZEALAND TABLET is above all things a marvel-moving journal. Our mission seems to be in great part the excitement of wonder in the gentle breasts of our contemporaries. In fact, we continually find ourselves playing "bull in a china-shop," and it is distressing to contemplate the tumult we unsuspectingly occasion. The venerable father of all the ancient Romans himself never felt his hair spontaneously arise in more rigidity, nor his voice more fixedly become adhesive to his throat, than now and then do those editors who glance upon our chimera-displaying columns, aghast at what they find there. For ten consecutive days did the editor of the 'Evening Star' wonder in silence, but on the eleventh, having managed to hem and haw his vocal powers into their accustomed ability to pipe, he commented as follows, in his issue of Tuesday last, 6th inst., on an extract that appeared in the TABLET of the 23rd ult.:—"We are somewhat surprised at the TABLET publishing as undisputed facts a story, evidently of American origin, purporting to describe the treatment of certain so-called Fenian prisoners. In answer to a question it was elicited from the Government in the last session of the Imperial Parliament that no Fenians are undergoing penal servitude for political offences, but that the persons so-called now in confinement had been convicted of grave crimes against person and property. Will our contemporary supplement his extract from the 'Irish World' by informing its readers what are the crimes of which McCarthy and O'Brien were convicted?" With our habitual obstreperousness, and in pursuance of the general eye-openingness of our demeanor, we venture to hint that we are quite aware that the British Government colors its unmerciful detention of the Fenian prisoners by a pretence of graver accusations, but, nevertheless, we strongly condemn the unbending cruelty of the men's imprisonment, and discern in it a continuance of the "sparrow-hawk" policy which, of late years, has characterised to a most deplorable degree the English Cabinet.

MR. MARTIN'S Gridiron Hotel, in Princes street, Dunedin, is decidedly one of the finest establishments of the kind in the city. It has been erected at a large outlay, and its appearance, both exteriorly and interiorly, is a credit to those who were concerned in its construction. On entering through the principal door, the visitor finds himself in a spacious hall, from which access is gained to the upper and lower storeys by a staircase of unusual dimensions, and which occupies the centre of the building; the bannisters and rail being of polished kauri, and by their substantial make and well-designed shape forming a handsome feature in the surroundings. On the right of the hall are situated a large and commodious commercial room which looks out upon Princes street, and a dining-room eminently calculated to minister to the pleasure of those persons who frequent it. It is of fine proportions, lofty and wide as well as lengthy, and commands a splendid view of the harbour upon which its windows open. Fine views are indeed a special characteristic of the establishment, for many of the bedrooms also command the harbour, and from some of them the Ocean Beach is to be seen. In the plan of the edifice, pains seem to have been taken to secure all the advantages offered by the site, and in consequence—cheerfulness, ventilation, and the enjoyment in the midst of the city of beautiful scenery, have been ensured. Throughout the building, water, both hot and cold, is abundantly laid on, and each of the upper storeys is provided with a convenient bath-room. The bedrooms number forty-three, and those at the top of the house, instead of being, as is frequently the case, mere gloomy cells, partake in the cheeriness which distinguishes the establishment all through. But ere we conclude, though last not least, the kitchen deserves special notice. It is situated beneath the dining-room, and is a most inviting apartment; it is, moreover, furnished with a magnificent range and its whole appointment bespeaks the supreme excellence of the cookery performed there.

The usual weekly meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Young Men's Society was held last Wednesday evening, when there was a good attendance of both members and honorary members. The Vice-President, the Rev. Father Crowley, occupied the chair. Next Wednesday there is to be a lecture delivered by one of the young men and it is particularly requested that all the members will be present.

CLIFFORD'S Mirror of the World is again on view at the Temperance Hall. No one should lose the opportunity of seeing this beautiful exhibition, in which scenes of nature are shown with a vividness that is hardly short of the locality.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to Messrs Guthrie and Larnach's prospectus to be found in our advertising columns. We will refer at greater length to it in our next issue.

The father of all newspapers is the venerable Pekin 'Gazette,' which is over one thousand years old. It is a ten-paged paper, with a yellow cover; has no stories, no "ads," no marriage or death notices, no editorials, no subscribers. It simply contains the official notices of the Government. The 'Standard and Mail' wonders if it has as venerable an appearance as our 'Government Gazette.'

COMMERCIAL.

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co.) reports for the week ending March 7, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—An excessive supply of about 240 head were yarded, about one-half of which were of good to prime quality, balance little better than stores. Best bullocks at from £9 to £11 5s; do cows, £8 to £9—or equal from 25s to 27s 6d per 100lbs for prime pens. At the yards and privately we sold during the week 60 head.

Fat Calves.—25 were penned, which brought from 20s to 55s each, according to size and quality.

Fat Sheep.—3100 were penned, which, being considerably in excess of requirements, scarcely last week's quotations were maintained—best cross-breds bringing from 9s to 11s each; merinos, from 6s 6d to 7s 6d, or equal to scarcely 2d per lb. We sold a draft on account of Messrs Blues and Duthie, of average quality, at quotations.

Fat Lambs.—400 were penned, many of them being of inferior quality, prices ranging at 5s 6d to 8s each.

Store Cattle.—There is no change in the market, and owing to the lateness of the season the demand has somewhat slackened. Good quiet bullocks, for winter feeding, are however, saleable at about late quotations.

Store Sheep.—The principal inquiry for this class of stock is confined almost entirely to young merinos, of which there are very few offering. Cross-breds, four-tooth and upwards, are saleable at prices which do not meet the views of sellers, consequently very few lots are changing hands, while merino ewes and wethers are entirely neglected, with very large numbers offering. During the week we have placed 4,000 of various sorts at last quotations.

Sheepskins.—We catalogued 1000 skins, which sold at considerable advance on last week's rates. Full wool dry skins brought 4s 11d to 5s; shearings, 1s 8d to 2s; pelts, 9d to 1s 2d; lambs, 2s 1d to 2s 3d.

Hides were in better demand, especially good conditioned, shipping lots bringing a fraction over 4d per lb; inferior and medium, 1s to 15s each.

Tallow.—A few small lots sold; inferior, £21 10s; medium, £29; shipping tallow, good mixed, £31 to £32.

Grain.—Wheat: Good sound milling samples, scarce, sell readily at 5s 6d; medium, 5s to 5s 3d; inferior, 4s to 4s 6d. Oats: Good old feed are wanted and very scarce, and as prices have advanced in Melbourne, old corn is not likely to be cheaper at present. New oats are not offering in quantity. Barley: We have placed some 1100 bags old malting at 3s 9d to 4s 6d, f.o.b.; good demand. New samples are not coming forward yet, barley crop being late.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending March 7, 1877:—Affairs in the labor market move along quietly. The demand is good for labouring and farm people of experience; town work is very quiet. Carpenters are fairly employed, but nothing to boast of; blacksmiths are as quiet as ever; couples are more asked for; female servants are in brisk demand; shopmen and clerks are too plentiful, and advice does not seem to thin their ranks; shepherds are out of season now; bushmen are wanted; male hotel servants are in fair request. Wages: Couples, £65, £70 and £80; ploughmen, £52, £55 and £60; shepherds, £60; dairy and odd hands, 15s., 18s. and 20s. per week; day labour, 7s., 8s. and 9s.; house girls, 10s., 12s. and 15s.; hotel do, 12s. 15s. and 20s.; hotel cooks, 25s. and 50s.; carpenters, 10s., 11s. and 12s.; boys and girls, 6s., 8s. and 10s.; shopmen and clerks, 30s., 50s. and 60s.; boots, waiters, barmen, grooms, 25s. and 40s. per week.

MR. A. MERCER reports as follows for the week ending March 7, 1877, retail prices only:—Fresh butter, in $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1lb prints, 1s 2d to 1s 4d; fresh butter, in lumps, 1s; powdered and salt butter, 1s 2d; fresh butter is again plentiful, and the shops have again resumed salting down; but it will be good stock; salt butter, in kegs, has been selling well at 10½d to 11d per lb. Cheese, is very plentiful, and Provincial cheese, good quality, 1s; English cheese, 1s 4d; side and rolled bacon, 10d to 11d; Colonial hams, 1s 2d; English hams, 1s 6d; eggs are very scarce, and a great difficulty in supplying orders at 2s 6d per dozen.

MR. M. C. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending March 7, 1877, as follows:—Oats (feed), per bushel, 2s 4d; milling, 2s 6d. Wheat (chicks) 3s 6d to 4s. Barley, malted, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 2s 6d to 3s. Pollard, scarce. Bran, £4 15s, bags included. Flour, large bags, £15; small, £15 10. Oatmeal, £12. Potatoes, new, 4s per cwt. Hay (new), £3 10s; old hay, £5 per ton. Chaff, £4 10s per ton. Straw, £2 per ton.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending March 7, 1877:—Retail: Roast beef, 6d to 8d per lb.; boiling do., 4d to 5d per lb.; stewing do., 4d to 6d per lb.; steak, 6d to 9d per lb.; mutton, 3d to 6d per lb.; veal, 4d to 8d per lb.; pork, 6d to 8d per lb.; lamb, 2s 6d to 3s 6d per quarter.

Our trade with Japan increases fast. The Japanese people are inventive. When they buy our fabrics they set about improving them, and their genius is displayed in many such innovations. When our Government sent Commodore Perry to break the exclusiveness of Japan, we sent, among other presents, a case of Sharp's rifles. Two years later the Japanese Government sent to us return presents. Among them was what appeared to be the identical box of Sharp's rifles. The box bore exact resemblance and the rifles the same, even to the name of Sharp engraved upon them. Our Government supposed this to be evidence of disapproval, for inspectors pronounced them the same rifles returned. Sharp was sent for, at Philadelphia. The first Sharp survey revealed to him a certain improvement, which had baffled his inventive genius, and which he had given up as impractical. It saved one extra movement in breech-loading, and Sharp immediately adopted it.—'Baltimore Sun.'