

THE TOOTH OF A HIPPOPOTAMUS.

THE baby hippopotamus "Baba" has become the chief pet of the Aquarium, much to the disgust of the trained seal and the learned otter. Baba is docile, and when not following his keeper lies quiet in a sunny spot near one of the windows on the Thirty-fifth Street side where with lazy content he submits to having his ears scratched by the children. Baba has his troubles, however, and for the past day or two had evidently been suffering from some derangement. "Doc," his keeper, finally decided that it was toothache. An examination showed, in fact, that one of his milk teeth was badly decayed. "Doc" said it must come out, and speedily improvised forceps out of a pair of gas nippers. Baba obediently opened his mouth, and "Doc" laid hold of the tooth. Then the forceps slipped and the keeper sat down with a bump amid the suppressed laughter and ironical applause of the spectators, while Baba looked lazily out of his half-closed eyes, as if to say, "What is all this fuss about?" When with grim determination "Doc" approached again, Baba uttered a rather dissatisfied grunt, but opened his mouth. This time the tongs held, and a strong pull proved too much for Baba's equanimity. He got to his legs with a 600 pound jump. "Doc" held on with all his might; there was a moment of breathless suspense, and then the keeper again suddenly took a sitting posture, waving, however, with a triumphant air, the huge forceps, in the jaws of which glistened the white molar. Baba stepped off a few steps and stood for a moment gazing at his keeper. He shook his head as if to see that everything was all right, and then came and rubbed his head against his friend, as if to express his thanks. A rinse of the mouth with a sponge and Baba was himself again, and trotted contentedly after his keeper, the pair being followed by a crowd of admirers.—N. Y. World.

THE PRISON OF SAN MARINO.

At the last dinner given by Marshall MacMahon, says 'L'Europe Diplomatique,' the Duc de Bruc, the *Charge d'Affaires* of San Marino, the little Catholic Republic which has brasted the storms of a thousand years, after explaining to the Marshal the institutions and manners of the little state told the following anecdote: A tourist last year having climbed up to San Marino and visited the cathedral, the library, the museum, and the admirable model hospital founded in 1865, felt a desire to see the prison too. Following the indications given him, he soon came to an ancient-looking edifice, with one of those forbidding and trebly-locked gates which can belong only to a prison. He rang long and loud, but no answer came save the echoes repercuting from the hollow, empty cells. He was turning to go, when a man, who had evidently been engaged in agricultural pursuits, came running across the field towards him, and asked him politely if he wished to visit the prison. "I do," replied the tourist; "are you the jailer?" "No, signor" was the answer; "the jailer died six months ago and no successor has yet been appointed; but I can show you the prison in all its details." So saying, he overturned a large stone and picked up a huge key which had been hid under it. "Well, but," insisted the tourist, "how about the prisoners?" "I am the prisoners," was the reply, and the tourist, struck by the singularity of the plural, followed his guide, who turned out indeed to be the only prisoner of the republic. He explained his truancy by explaining that he found his cell very dull in such fine weather, and relieved his feelings of *ennui* by cultivating the prison lands and gardens, which would otherwise run to seed. Then again he was necessarily obliged to go into the town for his victuals, and that was why the authorities left him the key of the prison. His conscience evidently reproached him with not being a consistent prisoner, but the tourist's approval of his conduct must have comforted him.

We observe that Mr. Isaac B. Sheath, of Christchurch, in addition to his extensive and valuable stock of Ironmongery, has on hand a quantity of guns of the most approved make, and at moderate prices. Particulars in our advertising columns.

DR. SCHWARTZBACH, the eminent oculist, having concluded a most satisfactory sojourn in Dunedin, where his services were availed of by numbers of patients, who profited much by his skill, has proceeded on a tour in the North, where, we have no doubt, his visits to the various towns will be attended by a like success.

HISTORICAL! Vide "Jurors Reports and Awards, New Zealand Exhibition." Jurors: J. A. Ewen, J. Butterworth, T. C. Skinner. "So far as the Colony is concerned, the dyeing of materials is almost entirely confined to the re-dyeing of Articles of Dress and Upholstery, almost useful art, for there are many kinds of material that lose their colour before the texture is half worn. G. HIRSCH, of Dunedin (DUNEDIN DYE WORKS, George street, opposite Royal George Hotel) exhibits a case of specimens of Dyed Wools, Silks, and Feathers, and dyed Sheepskins. The colors on the whole are very fair, and reflect considerable credit on the Exhibitor, to whom the Jurors recommended an Honorary Certificate should be awarded." Honorary Certificate, 629: Gustav Hirsch Dunedin, for specimens of Dyeing in Silk Feathers, &c.

N O T I C E.

GEORGE STREET RESTAURANT.

ST. LAWRENCE WEBB, ... PROPRIETOR.

The proprietor wishes to inform the public that the above Restaurant will be found second to none in Dunedin.

MEALS ALWAYS READY.

BOARD & LODGING with every attendance. Charges Moderate.

A R T U N I O N

TO CLEAR OFF THE DEBT ON THE

CATHOLIC CHURCH CHRISTCHURCH,

TO BE DRAWN FOR

ON THE ART UNION PRINCIPLE.

ON

THE 9TH APRIL, 1877.

PRIZES CONSISTING OF—

	£
One New Double-seated Buggy, with patent leather hood ...	100
One Harmonium ...	18
One new set of Plated Buggy Harness ...	15
One Cow in full milk ...	15
One Horse ...	35
Quarter-acre Land (a town section) ...	...
One Lady's new Gold Watch ...	15
One Gentleman's New Silver Watch ...	10
One Eight-Day Timepiece ...	...

And various other Prizes, consisting of Works of Art, Jewelry, &c., &c., ranging in value from £1 upwards.

The winning numbers to be published in the Christchurch daily papers and the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

TICKETS—TEN SHILLINGS EACH.

Tickets can be obtained from any Member of the Catholic Church Committee, or the Clergy, Christchurch.

THE TAIERI ANNUAL RACE MEETING.

TO BE HELD AT MOSGIEL ON

SATURDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1877.

PROGRAMME:

- HANDICAP HURDLE RACE**, 30 sovs. Over eight flights of hurdles, 3ft 6in high. Nomination, 1 sov; acceptance, 1 sov. Two miles and a distance.
- MAIDEN PLATE**, 25 sovs. For all horses that have never won an advertised race exceeding 20 sovs. Weight for age, 1½ mile. Entrance, 30s.
- TAIERI HANDICAP**, 40 sovs. Nomination, 2 sovs; acceptance, 1 sov. 1½ mile.
- DISTRICT FARMERS' PURSE**. A Handicap of £30, with a Sweepstake of £2 each; the amount accruing from the Sweepstake to go to the 2nd horse. Nomination, £2; acceptance, £1. For all horses the property of residents within the Electoral District of Taieri, and being their *bona fide* property two months previous to the day of running.
- SELLING RACE**, 30 sovs. Weight for age. Horses entered to be sold for 50 sovs, to carry 10lbs over weight for age; for 40 sovs, weight for age; for 30 sovs, allowed 14lbs; for 20 sovs, allowed 28lbs; for 10 sovs, allowed 42lbs. Entrance, 2 sovs. 1½ mile. The winner to be sold by auction, and any surplus to go to the funds.
- HANDICAP TROTTING RACE**, 20 sovs. Optional saddle or harness. Entrance, 2 sovs. Distance, 3 miles. No weight under 10st.
- PONY RACE**, 10 sovs. For all ponies 14 hands or under. Catch weights. Entrance, 1 sov.
- ST. PATRICK'S HANDICAP**, 60 sovs, with a sweepstake of 2 sovs; the amount accruing from the sweep to go to the 2nd horse. The winner of the Taieri Handicap incurs a penalty of 5lb. Nominations, 2 sovs; acceptance, 2 sovs. Distance, 2 miles.
- SELLING HACK RACE**, 15 sovs. Open to all horses. Catch weights. Post entry, 1 sov. 1 mile. Winner to be sold by auction for £15; any surplus to go to the funds.
- CONSOLATION HANDICAP**, 20 sovs. For all beaten horses during the meeting. Entrance, 1 sov.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The decision of the Stewards to be final.

Nominations for all handicaps to be made to the Secretary at the Mornington Hotel, Mornington, on or before the 27th February, at 8 p.m. Weights to be declared on Wednesday, the 7th March, and published in the daily papers on the 8th of March. Acceptances, with Sweepstakes, on the night of general entry.

General entries to be made at the Mornington Hotel, Mornington, on the 13th March, before 8 p.m.

All entries and acceptances must be in sealed covers, addressed to the Secretary, and contain entrance money, age and description of horse, and colors to be worn by the rider. A penalty of £2 for riding in wrong colors.

No person to enter a horse unless he be a subscriber of not less than £1 1s. to the funds, and no person to nominate unless both owner and nominator be subscribers to the same amount.

No protest will be received unless the sum of 2 sovs is deposited with the Secretary, to be absolutely forfeited if same be considered frivolous or vexatious.

Five per cent. will be deducted from the gross amount of all moneys paid, in accordance with the programme, for expenses.

The new rules of the Dunedin Jockey Club will be strictly adhered to.

D. J. J. DOYLE, Hon. Sec