

# New Zealand Tablet



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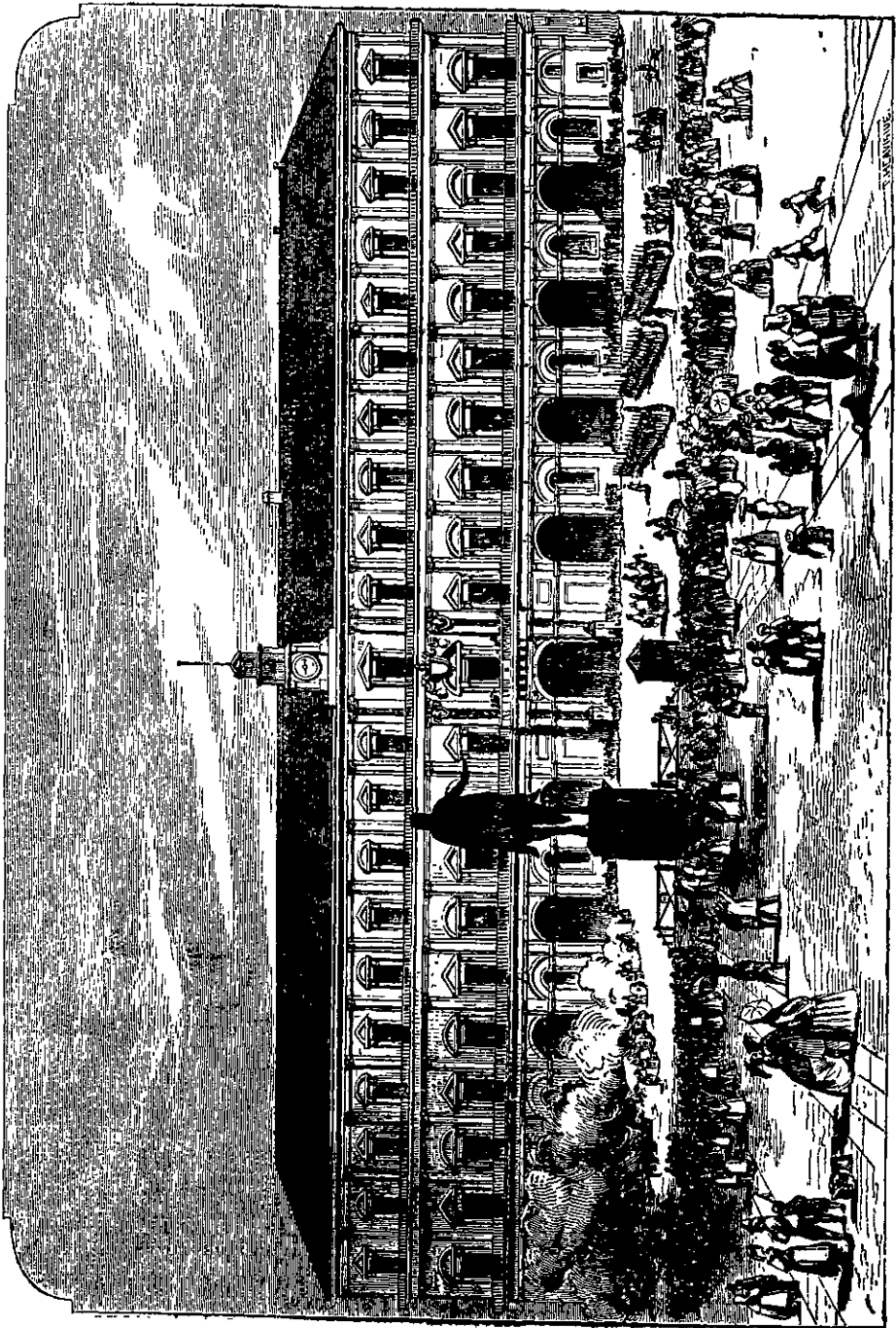
DUNEDIN: FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1877.

PRICE 6D.

## NAPLES.

NAPLES, whose Palace Royal forms the subject of our illustration, is situated on the north side of the bay which bears its name, and is the largest city of Italy, containing somewhere about 500,000 inhabitants. It is surrounded, on those sides which border on the land, by a fertile tract of country known as the Terra di Lavoro, and amidst which Vesuvius rears its cone aloft. Like the other great cities of Italy, there is attached to this town a long and eventful course of history, of which, however, it would be impossible to give even an outline of any interest in such a limited sketch as the present must necessarily be. We shall, therefore, confine our attention to one or two circumstances with which the neighbourhood has been of old, or still is concerned.

The beauty for which the coast of the Mediterranean Sea is celebrated culminates here, and here all that nature itself can do towards making lovely the face of the earth has been done. The azure of the skies and waters, the verdure of the shores, and the configuration



of the land, bearing its far-famed volcano, all combine to form a seat of unexampled loveliness for the city, whose buildings complete the attraction of the scene. Yet what terrible things has that tract of the heavens, many times so tranquil in its sapphire-seeming depths, that overhangs this bay and town beheld. What terrible convulsions of the earth, and what foul deeds of men.

As peacefully and beautifully surrounded as now is Naples were Herculaneum and Pompeii close by, some seventeen hundred and ninety-eight years ago, while old Rome was yet at the summit of her power, and Titus, whom they styled "Delight of the Human Race," had just begun to reign.