

COMMERCIAL.

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company) reports for the week ending April 18, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—There was a very full supply of 230 head yarded, a fair proportion of which were of good to prime quality. Owing, however, to the large number offered, prices somewhat receded, and prime quality did not realise over 27s 6d per 100 lb; ordinary, about 23s to 25s. At the yards we sold 40 head, and have placed a like number privately.

Fat Sheep.—A moderate supply of 1000 were penned, which caused a further slight advance on last week's quotations. Best cross-breeds brought from 9s to 12s 6d—or equal to 2d to 2½d per lb. At the yards we sold 400, and have delivered 500 privately during the week.

Fat Lambs.—Only about 60 came forward, of medium quality, and sold at from 7s to 8s 6d each.

Store Cattle.—Few are offering, with a limited demand for winter feeding. No transactions of importance to report.

Store Sheep.—The market is still bare of young sheep, both merinos and cross-bred, particularly the former, for which there is a good demand. Old culls and wethers, however, are plentiful, without finding buyers at the extreme low rates at which they are offered. During the week we have sold 6000 at following quotations: Merino wethers, two, four, six, and eight-tooth, 5s to 5s 6d; do, full-mouthed, 3s to 3s 6d; merino ewes, two, four, and six-tooth, 6s to 6s 6d; do, full-mouthed, 2s to 3s 6d; cross-breeds, two-tooth, 5s 9d to 6s 3d; do, four-tooth and over, 6s 6d to 7s 6d.

Sheepskins.—A fair supply came to our weekly auction on Monday, which sold at very full rates. Pelts, 1s 2d to 1s 4d; merino shearlings, 1s 1½d to 2s 3d; cross-breeds, 2s 6d to 3s 2d each; station skins, 6½d to 6½d.

Hides.—Small supply. Late rates were maintained. Heifers' and steers', 5s to 9s each; medium, 15s 3d to 16s 6d; heavy weights, 19s 9d to 20s 3d—or 3½ to 4d for wet salted.

Tallow.—None offered.

Grain.—Wheat.—There is more inquiry for good sound milling samples, which we quote at 5s to 5s 3d. Secondary samples are now saleable at 4s to 4s 6d. Inferior and fowls' feed is in greater supply, and more difficult of sale, at 3s 6d to 3s 9d. Oats are not offering in large quantities, which, with considerable demand for shipping, the market is very firm, or even a shade higher this week, 2s 4d being freely offered for good feed, and milling, 2s 6d to 2s 7d. Barley.—Some good parcels of malting samples have changed hands, the choicest bringing 4s 9d; medium, 4s to 4s 3d; inferior, 3s 6d to 3s 9d. Feed samples inquired for at 2s 6d.

MR. A. MERCER reports as follows for the week ending April 18, 1877, retail prices only:—Fresh butter, in ½ and 1½ lb pints, 1s 4d to 1s 6d; fresh butter, in lumps, 1s 2d to 1s 3d; powdered and salt butter, 1s 3d. Fresh butter for this season of the year is very plentiful and the most of the shops in town have to salt down their supplies. Cheese, best quality, 10d to 1s; English, unsaleable, 1s 4d per lb; s de and rolled bacon, 10d to 11d; Colonial hams, 1s 1d to 1s 2½ per lb; English hams, 1s 4d to 1s 6d; eggs very scarce, retailing at 3s per dozen.

MR. M. C. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending April 18, 1877, as follows:—Oats (feed), per bushel, 2s to 2s 3d; milling, 2s 6d. Wheat (chick), 3s to 3s 6d. Barley malting, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 2s 6d to 3s. Pollard, swarc, Bran, 23 15s, bags included. Flour, large bags, £13; small, £13 10s. Oatmeal, £12 10s. Potatoes, new, 4s per cwt. Hay, new, £3 15s; old hay, £4 per ton. Chaff, £4 per ton. Straw, £2 per ton.

MR. J. VIZEY reports for the week ending April 18, 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 to 3s 6d per quarter.

MR. SKENS reports for the week ending April 19, 1877:—The demand is quieter than usual for April. Thoroughly experienced farm men and couples are easily placed, but signs are more apparent every day that the genuine article in ploughmen is getting scarce. It is now getting hard lines with those who have no trade or country training to fall back upon. Carpenters are well employed in town, no lack of buildings going on. Several very large works planned for the winter, will employ many. Hotel servants, especially females, are in large demand. Ordinary general female servants for town or country were never so scarce. men with colonial experience and training get the preference for stores, shops, etc. Shepherds are nowhere at present. Bush and bush mills are quiet. Wages—Couples, £65, £70, £75 and £80; ploughmen, £52, £55 and £60; Shepherds, nil; labour—road, rail, and bush, 7s, 8s and 9s; carpenters, 10s and 12s; blacksmiths and shoers, country, 50s and found. Cooks, boots, waiters, bar-men, 20s, 25s up to 50s; hotel girls, 12s, 15s and 20s; for private families, 10s to 15s; dairy people, 15s and 20s; boys and girls, 6s to 10s; storemen and clerks, 30s, 50s and 60s.

In presenting the prizes to the successful students at the Dover school of Art, Earl Granville addressed himself to a refutation of the Rev. Mark Pattison's opinion that taste in art is decaying in this country. As proofs that taste is improving the noble earl pointed to our churches, country houses, manufactories, needle-work, children's books, and bouquet arranging, as so many indications that much positive progress has been made within the last thirty years.

MRS. PAYLETICH, of the Universal Hotel, MacLaggan-street, continues to conduct her comfortable and well-known boarding house with the ability always shown in the management of the establishment referred to. Persons coming into town, from the country and elsewhere, will find all their wants attended to with the utmost care.

PRESENTATION TO MR. J. J. CONNOR.

On Saturday evening last the staff of the firm of Mills, Dick, and Co. met at the Globe Hotel, Princes-street South, at the invitation of Mr. J. J. Connor, overseer of the press department, who is severing a connection with the office of 15 years' standing. A cold collation was provided by Mr. Harris, to which between 40 and 50 guests did ample justice. After supper, John Dick, Esq., was called to the chair, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr. Connor. Mr. Connor, in addressing his guests, said it was with great reluctance that he had decided to retire from the service of Mills, Dick, and Co., for he had spent the happiest and best part of his life in that employ. However, what he was doing, he believed, was for his own benefit. He had a great respect for the old customs of the trade; therefore, he had invited them to have a parting glass. The Vice-Chairman, in giving the first toast—"Success to the firm of Mills, Dick, and Co."—gave an amusing account of his first connection with Mr. Dick. Some 15 years ago, he said, after recovering from the gold fever, he arrived in Dunedin regularly hard-up, and more like a navvy than a printer. He was suspiciously viewed from head to foot, but he pressed so hard for a job that he was taken on, and had been with Mr. Dick ever since. By his employer he had always been treated with the greatest kindness, and he had tried to the best of his ability to do his duty. He then passed a high eulogium on Mr. Dick as an employer, and the toast was drunk with acclamation. Mr. Bayliss then favored the company with a song, after which Mr. Dick rose and proposed the "Health and Prosperity of Mr. Connor." He said he did not look on the employé as a slave who wanted to be driven to his duty. He looked upon it in a business way, and expected a *quid pro quo* for what he gave. If a man wanted watching, the sooner he was rid of him the better. He was very sorry Mr. Connor was leaving his employ; but he sincerely wished him success in his new undertaking. He has great pleasure in presenting Mr. Connor with this small mark of esteem from himself and fellow workmen, and wished him long life, health, and prosperity. He then handed to Mr. Connor a beautiful iced water-jug and salver, and also informed him he would be presented with a written address for framing. The toast was drunk with musical honors. After the toasts of "Mr. Reid," "Mr. Woodfield," and "Mr. Terry" were given and suitably responded to, and a few songs and recitations given, a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem.

THE CELT IN CONNAUGHT.

A WRITER in the *London Telegraph*, who confesses to a bitter animosity against the Celt, as he knew the race in the extreme west of Ireland, is compelled to give the following testimony to his character:—He is staunch to his kinsmen and his people, but he hates the "stranger"; he is unclean in his habits, and degraded in his superstitions; he can remember injuries, but he is without gratitude; he is passionate, without courage; and he is excitable, without stability. His spirit is tender, but his heart is hard; and, to crown all, he is utterly at the mercy of the priest. There is nothing, in short to distinguish him from his Celtic brother in the Western Hebrides of Scotland, except that he is habitually untruthful, and that he still clings to a faith which the other deems morally extinct. This is the dark side of the picture; there is a light side, too. The Irish Celt loves the scenes where he was born, and the roof which shelters him from birth. He is a dutiful son, a faithful husband, a kind father: though his person is unclean, his affections are pure, and he is without bestial vices; he is patient in suffering, unwearying in trust, where his trust is given; he tills a few sad acres for bare life, and wears a few poor rags for bare warmth; but, so long as he is undisturbed, he is uncomplaining; and, above all, he softens the hard leaven of his lot with the dew of a simple faith in Heaven. No greeting, however casual, is complete without its thanks and benediction. "A fine day, thank God," is the simple formula, spoken as a matter of course; and even in a drenching shower, we have heard the words, "A fine, fresh day, thank God," come from the lips of a passing peasant-woman soaked to the skin!

O'CONNELL'S RULE OF LIFE.

The following rules of life were written by Daniel O'Connell, and are copied from his own manuscript:—

- 1st. To avoid a wilful occasion of temptation.
- 2nd. To appeal to God, and invoke the Holy Virgin and the saints, in all real temptations.
- 3rd. To say the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity every day.
- 4th. To repeat, as often as may be, a shorter form.
- 5th. To say daily, at least, and as often as may be, a fervent Act of Contrition.
- 6th. To begin every day with an unlimited offering of myself totally to my crucified Redeemer; and to conjure Him, by all his infinite merits and divine charity, to take me under His direction and control in all things.
- 7th. To meditate for at least half an hour each day if possible—longer if God pleases.
- 8th. We fly to thy patronage, etc., and St. Bernard's prayer to the Virgin, as often as convenient, daily.
- 9th. Ejaculations, invocations of the Blessed Virgin, Guardian Angel, and the saints, as often daily as may be.
- 10th. To pray daily to God, His Blessed Mother, and the saints, for a happy death—and as often as may be.
- 11th. To avoid most carefully small faults and venial sins, even the smallest.
- 12th. To aim at pleasing God in all my daily actions; and to be influenced by love of God in all, rather than hope or fear.