

the low level of a no-Popery vehicle of bitter insult to a large and peaceable section of the community. Further, as to Mr Maunsell, we dismiss him with the reflection that his conduct makes manifest the principles and practice of his own life. Only the filthy can think filthily of their neighbours.

We have received a copy of the report, by the Under Secretary for Gold Fields, on the state of the Gold Fields operations, their extent and prospects. Mr Haughton shows his usual tact, judgment and discrimination in dealing with this subject. We think a copy of this report could with good grace be distributed among the miners of the several Gold Fields, and easy access to them could be had in the several Provincial Athenæums. The reading of this report would prove to the miners their strength and power as members of the New Zealand Colony. The report brings us down to March, 1873, from the 1st of January in 1872.

We see that from the entire Colony during 1872, there have been exported 445,370 oz. of gold, equal in value to £1,731,261; and from the 1st April, 1857, to March 31, 1873, that is in 16 years, there have been exported from the several Gold Fields of this Colony 6,912,670 ozs., equal to £26,816,328—that would be over 1½ millions sterling per year.

The revenue and gold duty for 1872 amounted to £111,135 1s. 10d. The number of miners employed was 22,335; so that the Government received on an average from each of these men as gold revenue about £5 per head. The average wages, for 1872, for each man would be £77 10s. 3d., being less by £24 6s. 2½d. per man than they received in 1871; therefore their pay was reduced by £2 per month per head, taking the average. This falling off Mr Haughton presumes to have arisen from the unusually dry season just past, owing to which the miners had not sufficient water to work the claims; but, by the time the water channel works now in hand are completed, in many places such difficulties will be impossible in the future.

Another reason for the falling off in revenue and receipts from Gold Fields labor, apparently escaped Mr Haughton's notice; that is, that several hundreds of men were, during the past half-year, employed in making Sludge-Channels and other Water Races; and for the present their work is not remunerative, but in the future it is to be hoped that an ample return will be forthcoming from the outlay now made, and the labor employed.

The Mining and Agricultural leases held by miners on 31st March, 1873, comprised about 50,000 acres; that would give only about 2½ acres per man, to a body deserving so well of the Colony. To the miners is due the credit of opening up and developing the resources of this Colony; only for the gold searchers, these islands would be scarcely known to Europe. And if the mining population give the Government over £100,000 per year, they are wanting in a care of their own interests, if they do not seek for at least 25,000 acres per year for every £100,000 of revenue paid: that, we consider not exorbitant, for it may be presumed that £75,000 may well repay the Government for cost of Wardens, &c., &c., and leave a good surplus as compensation for the privilege of working on the Gold Fields: there then would remain £25,000, that ought to go to the credit of the hard worked miners, who earned the money. Blocks of land of 25,000 acres, at £1 per acre, would be acceptable to a Miners' General Association, as a reserve for the old age of its members, after their years of severe toil and hardship in working for the colony's prosperity. If the miners be true to themselves, they can succeed in getting this reasonable demand. They have 20,000 votes; they ought to learn how to use them with effect.

WEEKLY EPITOME.

The New Zealand University is exciting the wild wrath of the 'Daily Times.'

The 'Daily Times' states it has been informed that the Council of the local institution has "offered to accept affiliation from the Colonial body, on the express understanding that all the powers at present held by it be retained, except that of conferring degrees. Such an arrangement is perhaps as satisfactory a one as could be hoped for." In the event of affiliation taking place, "our local institution" will "in all probability be known henceforth by the title of 'the Otago University College.'" Everything in time finds its proper level.

An exchange enumerates nine members "who dare not go back to their constituencies to seek re-election, and with the threat of a dissolution hanging over their heads, Mr Vogel holds the whip hand. There are also others whom we could mention who dare not face their

constituents. In a House so constituted," it remarks, "a healthy Opposition is impossible. Without an organised Opposition, representative institutions and responsible government are a farce, and the sooner the electors throughout the Colony wake up, and see that they are fairly and properly represented, the better it will be for our future welfare."

The 'Auckland Herald,' commenting on Mr Haughton's report on the gold fields, says:—"We are not aware whether the Government circulate these reports outside of New Zealand, but if not, they certainly should do so. By means of such a paper distributed throughout the sister colonies and the immigration fields of Great Britain, would the prospects and great resources of our gold fields best be brought under notice, whilst those reading it would, knowing it to be a Government production, be content to rely upon the accuracy of the information contained therein."

A CORRESPONDENT says that the Catholics of Shortland, province of Auckland, intend establishing a school in which Catholic children can be taught without danger to their faith. Will the Auckland Government make them pay in addition for the Godless Government schools?

THE 'Wanganui Chronicle' says that the "Civil Service Bill which has been introduced by the Government will no doubt be passed over by the general public as a matter of no interest; but as far as we can gather from the data before us, we are of opinion that the Bill amounts to neither more nor less than repudiation. The attempt by the Government to tamper with the rights of those members of the Civil service who joined it before November, 1871, cannot be considered in any other light than repudiation; an act cowardly in the extreme, as the Government well know that their employees dare not write to a newspaper, or even to the head of their department, without running the risk of instant dismissal. If a Bill were introduced to abolish pensions and retiring allowances altogether, to affect those only who join the service after the Act was passed, we should be prepared to give it our support, but we object to lend ourselves to any act of repudiation, and we feel certain that the public will endorse our views."

THE 'Wanganui Herald' has a favorable word for Sir George Bowen. "We never heard, however, that he was mean in his expenditure, and it was a common impression that he lived quite up to his income. But there is a considerable difference between £3000 and £10,000 a-year, and it is not impossible that Sir George Bowen may be regulating his expenditure in Victoria according to rules forced on him in this Colony. There is time and room for him to expand, and his Excellency has too generous and free a nature to hoard official money."

DR KNOX, of Burke and Hare celebrity, after a life prolonged beyond the usual span, has passed away, his demise being thus alluded to by the 'Wellington Post':—"Yesterday another old settler, Dr Knox, died in the Hospital at the age of 82 years. Dr Knox arrived in this Colony some 32 years ago, and after various changes at last settled down in the Porirua district, where he practised his profession and acted as coroner, until failing health a few weeks ago compelled him to seek refuge in the Hospital in order to obtain proper medical attendance and nursing. In early life Dr Knox was demonstrator of anatomy to his brother, the celebrated Professor Knox, whose name became so familiar in connection with the Burke and Hare cases. During his residence in this Colony Dr Knox pursued his scientific studies with unwearying diligence."

THE 'Napier Telegraph,' commenting on the Education Bill, says the Catholics, not unnaturally, object to be taxed for the support of schools to which their children cannot be sent, and to allow them to grow up in ignorance no Government can permit.

AT HOKITIKA Mr Justice Gresson dwelt, in his opening address to the Grand Jury, on the want of a penal establishment where prisoners might be classified and instructed. He said the Judges should raise their voices against the inconsistency of spending money lavishly on education, while there was no money to preserve the youth of the Colony from contamination.

THE 'New Zealand Herald' in regard to the charge against Sir George Bowen of accepting gratuities, under various headings from Ministers, which he ought not to have accepted, remarks:—"The question to be considered is, did the maintenance of the Vice-regal establishment cost £9000 when only £5000 had been voted? If it did not, Sir George Bowen ought to deny what is asserted. If it did, he ought to show that it was no more than he was justly entitled to. Our impression is that Sir George Bowen was altogether incapable of asking for more than what, in his position, he had a right to expect; but that Ministers, on their own responsibility, increased the vote passed for the cost of the Vice-regal establishment, with that disregard to consequences which in many things have marked their administration."

THE Agent-General, remarks the Wellington 'Independent,' is very sore that the Government, in calculating the number of immigrants despatched to this Colony since the Agency was formed in London, do not credit him with the immigrants sent out by Messrs Brogden and Sons, and those nominated by their friends in the Colony. We fail to see any reason why the Government should have done otherwise than regard these immigrants as being in an entirely different category to those actually procured through the means of the Colonial Agency. As for Messrs Brogden's immigrants, it is a well-known fact that this firm went to a vast amount of trouble and expense in obtaining suitable hands, and that so far from the Colonial Agency being an assistance to them it was rather the reverse, because of the easier terms of passage offered by the Agent-General.

THE editor of the 'Grey River Argus' is wicked enough to suspect the title of the Oamaru Nouthetic Association has been misprinted—that it should have been "Mouthetic."

An exchange is not inclined to make Dr Featherston the Government scapegoat for the failure of the immigration scheme. At the same time, it says—"We do not now, nor did we ever, think that Dr Featherston was—as Agent-General—the right man in the right place. That Dr Featherston has proved his unfitness for his post his best friends will scarcely deny, but at the same time the Government is