

Brussels, he was entering his carriage to go to dinner at the house of Count de Baillet, when just as his foot was on the carriage step, a workman, wretchedly dressed, rushed forward, insulted him, and attacked him personally. His servants, ready in his defence, seized the aggressor, and proceeded to make things hot for him; but the Pontiff—then simply Monsignor Pecci—stopped them, and, calmly and kindly addressing the man, said: "My friend, I bear you no malice for what you have done; are you in need? Come to see me some other time," and let a five-franc piece slip into his hand. Needless to say, the workman, after such encouragement, went to see him, and went so often that the Nuncio eventually took him into his service as a domestic, and even now Leo XIII. retains a benevolent recollection of him, and recounts that he never had a servant more respectful and more to be trusted.'

THE RESULT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE result of the General Election upset the calculations of the political prophets, and the man who said 'I told you so' was not even in evidence the day after the contest. The election resulted in an overwhelming majority for the Government, the reduction of the Opposition to a feeble minority, and the almost total annihilation of that party called the Left Wing—a noisy little group that will 'never be missed.' From a precarious majority of six among the European members in a House of 70, the Government have increased their strength to a majority of about 30. The state of parties in the new Parliament will be—Ministerialists, 49; Opposition, 19, with two electoral contests yet to take place. As Mr. J. Hutcheson has practically thrown in his lot with the Opposition, the only representative of the Left Wing is the creator of the party—Mr. Pirani, his trusty lieutenants, Messrs. Kelly, Taylor, and Smith, having suffered defeat.

A feature of the election was the rejection of some of the most prominent Opposition men in favour of candidates practically without any claims on the constituencies save that they declared themselves in favour of the Liberal policy. Among these may be mentioned Mr. W. C. Buchanan (Wairarapa), Mr. Scobie Mackenzie (Dunedin), and Mr. Rolleston (Riccarton). The surprise of the election was the rejection of Mr. T. E. Taylor in Christchurch, where it was supposed his seat was quite secure owing to the solidity of the Prohibition party, and the support which was due to him by the Opposition for his work in trying to bring the Ministry into disrepute. Two promising young politicians, from whom much was expected, were also unfortunate, namely Messrs. Montgomery and O'Regan. The former lost his seat to an anti-Ministerialist, and the latter to a Government follower. The surprise of the contest, from the individual standpoint, was the return of Mr. George Fisher, who is to-day, as he had often been before, one of the chosen of the Empire City. The *quidnuncs* said he had not the remotest chance of success; he was not the selected of any party; he played a lone hand, addressed but few meetings, and spent but nine shillings altogether on the contest—a record for the Colony. His return was no doubt all the pleasanter when he learnt that Mr. Taylor was not to occupy the seat immediately in his rear in the new House, where the late member for Christchurch worried him with 'asides,' which never reached the Speaker's ears. Another feature of the election was the rejection of nearly all the 'Independent' candidates; evidently the time has not yet arrived for the doing away with party government in this Colony.

The *habitués* of the galleries will miss the rapier-like thrusts of the late senior member for Dunedin, but they will have some consolation in knowing that the redoubtable Mr. 'Ironsand' Smith in all the glory of a white vest, bell-topper, and the most pronounced of 'buttonholes,' will be present to keep the House in good humour.

CALLINGS AND PROFESSIONS.

In making a rough estimate of the callings and professions of the new House we find there is a pretty general distribution, but that of farmer or runholder predominates. The following are the various callings or professions represented:—Farmers or runholders, 21; solicitors, 9; journalists, 7; storekeepers, 4; contractors, 3; schoolmasters, 3; merchants, 2; and one each of the following:—Native interpreter, livery-stable keeper, estate agent, clothier, tinsmith, mining agent, newspaper proprietor, sailmaker, clicker, bootmaker, stationer's assistant, lecturer, gasfitter, bookseller, master mariner, sawmiller, salesman, auctioneer, and butcher.

Taking the members according to the countries of their birth we find that about 20 of them were born in England, 16 in New Zealand, 14 in Ireland, 10 in Scotland, 4 in Victoria, 2 in India, 1 in Tasmania, and 1 in South Australia.

The following is a list of the members elected last week, including the name of Mr. Field, returned for Otaki, and who died on Friday:—

AUCKLAND.

Bay of Islands—B. M. Houston	...	...	G
Marsden—R. Thompson	...	...	G
Waitemata—R. Monk	...	...	O
Eden—J. Bollard	...	...	O
City of Auckland (three members)—			
W. J. Napier	...	...	G
G. Fowlds	...	...	G
W. Crowther	...	...	O
Manukau—Sir G. M. O'Rorke	...	...	G
Thames—J. McGowan	...	...	G
Ohinemuri—Jackson Palmer	...	...	G
Parnell—F. Lawry	...	...	G

Franklin—W. F. Massey	...	...	O
Bay of Plenty—W. H. Herries	...	...	O
Waikato—F. W. Lang	...	...	O
Waipatu—J. Carroll	...	...	G
HAWKE'S BAY.			
Hawke's Bay—Captain W. R. Russell	...	...	O
Napier—A. L. D. Fraser	...	...	G
Waipawa—C. Hall	...	...	G
TARANAKI.			
Taranaki—E. M. Smith	...	...	G
Hawera—F. McGuire	...	...	O
Egmont—W. Symes	...	...	G
WELLINGTON.			
Wanganui—A. D. Willis	...	...	G
Patea—G. Hutchison	...	...	O
Pahiatua—J. O'Meara	...	...	G
Palmerston—F. Pirani	...	...	LW
Manawatu—J. Stevens	...	...	G
Masterton—A. W. Hogg	...	...	G
Wairarapa—J. T. M. Hornsby	...	...	G
Otaki—H. A. Field	...	...	G
Wellington City (three members)—			
J. Hutcheson	...	...	LW
A. R. Atkinson	...	...	O
G. Fisher	...	...	G
Wellington Suburbs—T. M. Wilford	...	...	G
NELSON, MARLBOROUGH, AND WESTLAND.			
Nelson City—J. Graham	...	...	G
Motueka—R. McKenzie	...	...	G
Buller—J. Colvin	...	...	G
Wairau—C. H. Mills	...	...	G
Westland—Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon	...	...	G
Grey—A. R. Guinness	...	...	G
CANTERBURY.			
Ashley—R. Meredith	...	...	G
Kaiapoi—D. Buddo	...	...	G
Riccarton—G. W. Russell	...	...	G
Avon—W. W. Tanner	...	...	G
Selwyn—C. A. C. Hardy	...	...	O
Christchurch City (three members)—			
W. W. Collins	...	...	G
C. Lewis	...	...	O
H. G. Eli	...	...	LW
Ellesmere—R. H. Rhodes	...	...	O
Ashburton—J. M'Lachlan	...	...	G
Geraldine—F. R. Flatman	...	...	G
Timaru—Hon. W. Hall-Jones	...	...	G
Waitaki—Hon. W. J. Steward	...	...	G
OTAGO.			
Oamaru—T. Y. Duncan	...	...	G
Waihemo—Hon. J. M'Kenzie	...	...	G
Waikouaiti—E. G. Allen	...	...	G
Dunedin City (three members)			
J. A. Millar	...	...	G
J. F. Arnold	...	...	G
A. R. Barclay	...	...	G
Caversham—A. Morrison	...	...	G
Taieri—W. C. F. Carnoross	...	...	G
Bruce—J. Allen	...	...	O
Tuapeka—J. Bennet	...	...	G
Clutha—J. W. Thomson	...	...	O
Wakatipu—W. Fraser	...	...	O
Mataura—R. M'Nab	...	...	G
Invercargill—J. A. Hanan	...	...	G
Awatua—Hon. J. G. Ward	...	...	G
Wallace—M. Gilfedder	...	...	G
STATE OF PARTIES.			
Government	...	...	49
Opposition	...	...	19

WHERE THE TOYS COME FROM.

NINE-TENTHS of all the toys which will fill the stockings of youngsters on Christmas morning are manufactured in Germany. In Sonneburg, a little town in Thuringen, almost the entire industry is confined to the manufacture of dolls. The inhabitants are poor people and are brought up to doll making. From all over the world large numbers of dealers in toys go to Sonneburg every year. There are at least five hundred different kinds of dolls, and while the French invent many of the most attractive, the Germans copy them so cheaply that the buyers go principally to Germany for their supplies. From Nuremberg come the magnetic toys, swords, guns, woolly sheep, jumping-jacks, trumpets, and many ingenious mechanical toys. The carved wooden toys are made in Saxony. Toy horses, cows, elephants, cats, lions, tigers and all kinds of animals are made in German prisons.

Persons about to purchase boots and shoes would do well to pay a visit to Messrs. Loft and Co.'s establishment, Royal Arcade, Dunedin, where they will find an extensive stock of Colonial and imported goods to make a selection from.—*.*

The cycle is already proving its worth for despatch work in the Transvaal, the detailed accounts to hand from the seat of war showing that the Dunlop-shod cycle is eminently suited for carrying orders and instructions when decent tracks are available.—*.*