

way. All this, as we may naturally believe, the Irish American voter clearly recognises. Nor, we are convinced, is he so stupid as to be ensnared by vain and futile menaces. What, then, Mr. Blaine may intend by mobilising his forces, if he is actually doing so, it is not easy to explain. It seems impossible he can seriously contemplate a hostile employment of them—and a vain display appears hardly more probable.

Colonial Notes.

At the time at which we write, the chief item of interest is the appointment of the new Cabinet, which still, however, wants a member representative of Auckland. The *personnel* is this:—Premier, Treasurer, and Native Affairs, Hon. J. Ballance; Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General, Hon. P. Buckley; Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Mr. John McKenzie; Minister of Mines and Defence, Mr. B. J. Seddon; Minister of Education and Justice, Mr. W. P. Reeves; Minister without portfolio, Mr. J. G. Ward. We do not say that the appointments are all perfect, or that better in some instances could not possibly be made. They, however, have, on the whole, much to recommend them, and there are strong reasons for us to hope that in making them the interests of the country have been duly considered.

The appeal of the Sisters of Mercy for the orphans, made on Father Lane's pretty grounds (says the *Wellington Post* of the 22nd inst.), was liberally responded to. Sports of every description were provided, and the proceedings were made thoroughly enjoyable by the sweet music which was evoked by an excellent band under the direction of Mr. Trowell.

The Rev. J. Stark, in a paper on "Maori Literature," read by him last week before the Science Congress at Christchurch, gave a curious equivalent current among the Maoris for the English slang saying "Dry up." "Oh, sir, take the water out of your mouth," is the Maori method of putting it. We do not know how the evolutionists may regard the matter, but, in this instance at least, poetry and politeness seem to be on the side of the less civilised race. The Congress closed on Thursday, the 22nd inst. It will meet next year in Tasmania.

An agitation is on foot at Wellington for the proper drainage of the city. If we may judge by what the local Press has to say on the subject, the necessity for the undertaking is very urgent. Whatever its other effects may be, sewer gas seems highly productive of journalistic eloquence.

It should be good news to people whose tastes are those of the tourist, that a small steamer is in process of being placed on Lake Te Anau. Further accommodations are also contemplated so that the time is approaching when a visit to the more distant lakes will no longer seem formidable. As a harbinger of advanced settlement the matter is also one for congratulation.

As extreme a case as could well happen of asserting rights occurred last Friday night at Caversham. A fire broke out in a narrow street, the east side of which is situated in the borough named, while its left side is in that of South Dunedin. The Caversham Council, however, have refused to pay the South Dunedin Council costs incurred by extinguishing fires, and Caversham owns no fire-brigade. The consequence was that the fire being on the wrong side of the street, the South Dunedin brigade did not act, and the flames were allowed to do their worst. Is such, indeed, a specimen of the heart that beats in the municipal breast?

Sir Harry Atkinson has prepared for the information of the Governor a statement in which he calculates that the end of the financial year will show a surplus of £156,244.

We (*Sydney Freeman's Journal*) notice with much pleasure that Mr. Frank Kendall has successfully passed the first year examination lists at the University. Mr. Kendall got first place in English out of a hundred competing students, and second in the English essay, besides getting a high place in Latin and French. This young gentleman is a son of Henry Kendall, the poet, and he was educated at the Marist Brothers' College, at Hunter's Hill.

The *Tasmanian Catholic Standard* announces the death at Hobart on Christmas day, of the Abbé Cullieret, chaplain of the war vessel Dubouddien, and almoner to the French navy of the Pacific division. The deceased ecclesiastic was also Canon of the cathedral-church of Mont Pelier, and was eminent as a man of science in several branches. He had further been decorated with the gold cross of the Legion of Honour for distinguished services in Tonquin and elsewhere.—*R.I.P.*

Our contemporary, the *West Australian Record*, takes Mr. Loftie, the Government Resident of Albany, sharply to task for being present at an Orange banquet. Nothing the *Record* says, however, exceeds the requirements of the case. It would, indeed, be difficult to stigmatise such conduct more severely than it deserves.

The Jewish firm of Feldheim, Gotthelf and Co, who were recently sufferers in a fire at Sydney, won golden opinions by keeping on their employees consisting of over a hundred hands, at full pay. Were

the spirit shown by these employers general, the labour question would become less difficult.

The *Silver Age* gives the output of silver from the Broken Hill mines for the past year as 11,000,000 oz., which, with 52,000 tons of lead, were valued at £2,700,000. The increase over the preceding year was nearly £1,000,000. The population of Broken Hill increased by 10,000 during 1890, and is now estimated at 26,000.

Mr. Horace Kennedy Bloxham, editor of the *Central Australian and Bourke Telegraph*, has been struck off the roll of magistrates of New South Wales for drawing a contrast in his newspaper between the treatment accorded to Mr. Parnell and that given to the Prince of Wales. Mr. Bloxham accused His Royal Highness of being protected by influence only from figuring several times in the divorce court, if not in the criminal court—and of exhibiting all the proclivities of a "low-bred German Jew." The gentleman had also described Mr. Parnell as a "half-bred Englishman." We honestly confess we are at one with those who think Mr. Bloxham deserving of his punishment.

An established feature of the Highland Society's sports in Sydney on New Year's Day is the contest for the Lady Aberdeen prize, presented by Irish citizens. On the recent occasion Mr. Martin Cherry, a gentleman representing, at a luncheon given, the citizens in question, spoke as follows, as reported by the *Freeman's Journal*:—"As the originator of the Lady Aberdeen prize, I have been asked to come here to-day to thank you for the honour you have done them by giving them an opportunity of showing their gratitude to your distinguished countrywoman—a lady who has endeared herself to every Irish heart. I thank God that the time has arrived when Scotchmen and Irishmen have opportunities of knowing each other and of appreciating each other. In the days of my boyhood the only time they had a chance of meeting was on some battlefield fighting the cause of the Empire, and even then they were so busy that they did not have much time for conversation (laughter); but they always made their mark on those occasions, and one thing can be said of them, if they were not always the first in the field they were generally the last out of it (laughter and applause). I again thank you, and not only you but Scotchmen all the world over for their kindness to us and their sympathy with our cause (applause)."

At the invitation of the Cardinal Archbishop, the Dominican nuns of West Maitland have founded a house of their order at Moss Vale in the diocese of Sydney. The nuns will conduct boarding and day schools, and have secured for the purpose property in every respect suitable. An important addition is thus made to the provision for religious education of the highest class, by which the episcopate of his Eminence has been distinguished in so remarkable a degree.

Our friends the cow-boys seem to have a talent for something besides lassoing beasts. At least, we find the following in an Australian paper of a recent date:—"Four cowboys appearing with the Indians in the Wild West Show at Albury got very drunk at the Rose Hotel there, and painted the town a gaudy vermilion. They threatened to use revolvers when the police interfered. The police magistrate told them such Wild West behaviour was not tolerated in Australia, and fined them £1 each and costs." We saw nothing of this kind when the boys were in New Zealand. Possibly our liquor is less exciting, or our climate less suggestive of life "away back in Texas."

The *Sydney Daily Telegraph* utters a warning relative to the Tasmanian silver boom. "The first thing to make sure of," says our contemporary, "is that the stakes are genuine, and this can only be proved by development of the mines. Tasmania may have a Broken Hill as well as a Mount Bischoff, but these are days in which mining investors who take least for granted have all the chances on their side of coming off in the long run winners."

BEATIFICATION OF THE CURE D'ARS.

(To the Editor of the *London Tablet*.)

SIR,—It is a source of great consolation to Father Kenelm Vaughan and myself that our appeal for aid to carry forward the Process of the Ven. J. B. Vianney's Beatification, has within so short a time been so widely responded to! The promoter of the cause has repeatedly expressed his heart felt thanks in his letters to me for what has already been accomplished: and he hopes that the good Catholics of England and Ireland will continue to manifest their zeal in this holy cause. Apart from the material assistance which has been forwarded to Ars, it is very cheering to find the great moral support given to the cause by the Bishops of England and Ireland. The hierarchies of both have sent a "Postulatum" to the Holy See petitioning for the Beatification of the Curé d'Ars, and judging from the many encouraging letters from the Bishops of the Far West, I have great hopes that before long the hierarchy of America will do likewise.

When, however, we remember that the Process of a Beatification in the Roman Tribunal requires several thousands of pounds, immense help is still needed to carry it forward to a successful issue. We sincerely hope, therefore, that the deep interest which is so universally felt in the cause of the Ven. Vianney's Beatification will arouse every zealous effort to hasten it forward. We hope that those who have already helped on the work will generously renew their aid, and that multitudes of sympathisers who have not as yet responded to our appeal will come forward to share in the cause.

I have received so many inquiries from correspondents about the graces and favours obtained at Ars, that I think it may be well to publish a few of the most important notices of miracles which I