

In connection with the retirement of Inspector Pender from the Police Force of the Colony, the *Masterton Times*, an outspoken organ of the Opposition, pays a warm tribute to the zeal and impartiality of that gentleman. It says:—No servant of the Colony ever retired from his post with more honour than Peter Pender, whose retirement from the important post of senior Inspector of Police is to take place in a few days. We feel that the circumstance is one that calls for more than ordinary notice at the hands of the journals of the Colony; for if the preservation of the peace in the community, and the execution of that civil law which is the basis of social order and welfare, are in the province of the police, and there is any merit in the efficient discharge of police duty, Mr. Pender undoubtedly represents the highest type of such merit. For during a long and honourable career he combined firmness with gentleness, and while vigorous in the suppression and detection of crime, he was never known to exhibit a trace of the persecuting spirit, or the anxiety to 'make out a case,' which is generally attributed to policemen. This somewhat rare trait of police character often called forth admiring and approving comment from the Bench—magisterial and judicial—when Mr. Pender was engaged in prosecutions. A stern and all-mastering sense of justice marked his character. Mr. Pender's career did not begin in the New Zealand police force. He saw service in the Crimea and in Victoria, and through all he was regarded as a man to be relied upon. Lyddite shells were not in vogue in his day, but had they been he would have walked about among them, as they exploded, with the same unruffled air as if he were walking about the Christchurch streets. When we express our respect, and even reverence, for the unsullied character and fine qualities of the aged officer, we are only voicing the universal opinion, which has been repeatedly expressed from the Bench and in Parliament, as well as by the man in the street. The Colony certainly furnishes no finer model of police efficiency than that which Peter Pender presents. One does not, as a rule, advocate a popular tribute to public officers; but in this case we most heartily advocate a public tribute to an officer who will be remembered, in his honourable retirement, as the model Peace Officer. It would be only fitting that services so numerous and efficient as his, and a character so admirable should be acknowledged in a fitting manner.

INTERCOLONIAL.

Miss Maud McCarthy possesses a most valuable violin, a genuine Guenerius, with an authenticated history of its descent—a brother violin to that played on by the famous Paganini.

At the annual dinner of St. Joseph's College (Sydney) ex-pupils the Rev. Father Herbert, of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, was present, and responded to the toast of 'Success to the Ex-Students' Union.'

The Rev. Father Hegarty, C.M., who was for some years on the Vincentian mission at Ashfield, has left for the Melbourne House of his Order. It was intended to make him a presentation before leaving Ashfield, but the rule of the Order debarred any such demonstration.

A Sydney Coroner's juryman a few days ago caused not a little sensation by appearing with the Victoria Cross on his coat—as every V.C. is entitled to do to the day of his death, and entitled also to the salute of every military man who passes him. The old hero was Mr. A. J. Heap, who won his cross at Delhi in the Indian Mutiny in 1858 by carrying a wounded officer off the field in the face of a hot fire.

'Miss Amy Castles, the young Victorian singer (says the *British Australasian*), whom the Australians have boomed so tremendously during the past six months, has come over from Paris to spend a few days in London. At her interview with Sir Hubert Parry, principal of the Royal College of Music, she sang one or two numbers with which her name has been constantly associated in the colonies, the distinguished conductor himself playing the young singer's accompaniments. That the Australians have not overrated the marvellous qualities of her truly remarkable voice may be gathered from the fact that Sir Hubert at once offered to have her trained at the Royal College entirely free of charge. This generous and very flattering offer Miss Castles is hardly likely to accept, as a Continental training is considered essential to an operatic career.' A letter received in Melbourne recently from Miss Castles contained a communication from Sir Hubert Parry. While expressing his appreciation of the wonderful quality and freshness of her voice, Sir Hubert Parry adds that it shows no signs whatever of 'forcing or strain.' He regrets that she was not permitted to accept his offer, but assures her that it remains open to her at any time. Friends and musical experts in London were unanimous, Miss Castles adds, in recommending her the Continental training, under the teacher of the greatest singers of the century, Madame Marchesi.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Affairs had been somewhat quiet in South Africa until Saturday morning, when General Joubert attacked Beaters and Ladysmith from all sides of the town. The garrison repulsed the attack. There was a tremendous fire of musketry and field guns, and the fighting was of a desperate character, and almost continuous throughout the day—the fiercest hitherto during the war. At 9 a.m. General White heliographed to General Buller: 'Enemy repulsed.' At 11 o'clock: 'The fighting continues. Enemy reinforced from the south.' At 1 o'clock: 'Enemy beaten off, but still round me in great numbers.' At 3 p.m.: 'Attack was

renewed, and I am very hard pressed.' At this stage the sun failed, and General White stopped heliographing. However, a private heliograph message showed that the Boers got so near the Gordons and Manchesters in the morning that the latter used their bayonets in repelling them.

General Buller, reporting to the War Office upon the attack at Ladysmith, mentions a camp rumour that the Boers were defeated and 400 prisoners taken. War correspondents agree that the Boer losses were heavy.

General White later on reported to the Home authorities that the Boers were repulsed everywhere with heavy loss, greatly exceeding the casualties on the British side.

A London message, under date January 8, says that the widespread suspense over the attack on Ladysmith was relieved late this afternoon by the War Office publishing a heliograph message from General White stating that the attack lasted 17 hours, and was pushed with the greatest courage and energy.

Some of the British entrenchments on Waggon Hill were thrice taken and retaken. The enemy held one point throughout, but at dusk, during a heavy rainstorm, they were ejected most gallantly, at the point of the bayonet, by the Devonshire Regiment, Major Cecil W. Park leading, and Colonel Ian Hamilton rendering valuable service.

General French reports that four companies of the first battalion of the Suffolk Regiment at night attacked a hill some distance from his main position. The enemy sounded the British order to retire, just at the moment when Colonel Arthur John Watson, of the Suffolks, was wounded. Three-fourths of the Suffolks thereupon retreated. The remainder held their position till they were outnumbered. Sixty-three men and seven officers were made prisoners. General French's situation remains unchanged. The first battalion of the Essex Regiment have replaced the captured Suffolks.

WEDDING BELLS.

M'GARRY—CONDON.

A very pretty wedding took place on the 27th December at the Catholic Church, Gore, the contracting parties being Mr. Daniel McGarry, fourth son of Mr. Thomas McGarry, County Antrim, Ireland, and Miss Ellen Condon, fourth daughter of Mr. Matthew Condon, County Cork, Ireland. The Rev. Father O'Donnell performed the marriage ceremony in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends of the young couple. The bride, who was given away by Mr. Thomas Leahy, was handsomely attired in Irish poplin, embroidered with white silk, and wore a white picture hat with pink roses. The bridesmaids were Misses E. Ootter, and E. Leahy (cousins of the bride) who looked exceedingly pretty dressed in silver grey lustre, trimmed with pink silk. Mr. W. Nolan acted as best man. When the marriage was over, the happy couple, accompanied by many friends, proceeded to Mr. Handley's, where about forty guests partook of the wedding breakfast. The Rev. Father O'Donnell proposed the health of the newly married couple. In the evening the bride and bridegroom, amid many farewells of sincere and hearty wishes for their future happiness, took their departure by train for the North, where they intend to spend their honeymoon. The presents were numerous, handsome and valuable.

OBITUARY.

MISS ELIZABETH FINEGAN, ROXBURGH.

General and sincere regret was felt in the Teviot district when it was known that Miss Finegan, of Roxburgh, had passed away at her residence on Friday, December 22, at the age of 65 years. The deceased had been a great sufferer for some months, but she bore her trials with great fortitude until the end came. Miss Finegan was born at Chatham in 1835, and was for a number of years associated with Miss Mullin in business in Glasgow. About 20 years ago Miss Finegan and Miss Mullin came out to New Zealand and settled down in Roxburgh. The deceased lady was very popular in the district, her kind and unassuming manner making her a general favourite with all classes. She was of a most charitable disposition, having during her residence in Roxburgh done many acts of kindness unknown to the world. Miss Finegan was a prominent member of the Catholic Church in the township, and her demise is keenly felt by the congregation. The funeral took place on Christmas Day, the burial service being conducted by the Rev. Father Delaney.—*R.I.P.*

MRS. CATHERINE HOARE, KERRYTOWN.

I regret (writes an occasional correspondent) to record the death of Mrs. Catherine Hoare, relict of the late Mr. Patrick Hoare, of Kerrytown, which took place at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. J. B. Wareing, Woodlands, Temuka, on January 4. The late Mrs. Hoare, who was a native of Kerry, came to this Colony in 1862 with her husband and two children, her two sons, Messrs. Richard and Denis Hoare, having arrived in New Zealand some time previous. Shortly after his arrival the late Mr. Hoare took up land at Kerrytown, where the family remained till his death, about five years ago, after which the deceased lady went to live with her daughter, where her death occurred at the ripe old age of 95 years. Up to the time of her death Mrs. Hoare showed wonderful vitality, retaining her faculties to the last. She walked to Temuka on the occasion of the last General Election for the purpose of recording her vote, and was present at the Temuka Sports on Boxing Day. Her descendants number thirty-seven grandchildren and twenty-eight great-grandchildren. The deceased lady lived a truly Christian life, and her funeral, which took place on Saturday, was one of the longest seen in Temuka.—*R.I.P.*