

1.49 p.m., Oamaru 2.25 p.m., Christchurch arrive 8.25 p.m. This train will make the same Stops as the North Express between Dunedin and Christchurch.

Train will leave Christchurch for Dunedin at 10.20 a.m., Oamaru 4.40 p.m., Maheno 5.6 p.m., Herbert, 5.19 p.m., Hampden 5.44 p.m., Palmerston 6.28 p.m., Waikouaiti 6.52 p.m., Seaciff 7.20 p.m., Waitati 7.38 p.m., Dunedin arrive 8.30 p.m. This train will make the same Stops as the South Express between Christchurch and Dunedin. It will also stop at Pukeuri to allow Passengers to alight.

The 8.30 p.m. Train Dunedin to Port Chalmers and the 9.20 p.m. Train Port Chalmers to Dunedin will NOT run. Train will leave Dunedin for Port Chalmers at 9.0 p.m., returning from Port Chalmers at 9.35 p.m.

Trains will leave Balclutha for Owaika at 11.30 a.m. and 8 p.m., returning from Owaika at 2 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.

Train will leave Dunedin for Balclutha and intermediate stations at 11.20 p.m.

SPORTS AT MIDDLEMARCH.

Train will leave Dunedin for Hyde at 8.15 a.m., Wingatui 8.55 a.m., Hindon 10.15 a.m., arriving Middlemarch 11.37 a.m.; returning from Middlemarch at 6.35 p.m., Hindon 8.5 p.m., arriving at Dunedin 10.15 p.m.

SPORTS AT CLINTON.

Train will leave Clinton for Balclutha at 6.25 p.m.

Train will leave Clinton for Gore at 7.0 p.m.

SPORTS AT INVERCARGILL.

The Train usually leaving Clinton for Invercargill at 6.0 a.m. will not leave till 6.30 a.m.

Train usually leaving Clinton for Invercargill at 2.30 p.m. will not leave till 3.0 p.m.

Train usually leaving Invercargill for Clinton at 4.15 p.m. will not leave till 6.0 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 2nd JANUARY.

A Train will leave Dunedin for Palmerston at 9.0 a.m., Sawyers Bay 9.32 a.m., Waitati 10.22 a.m., Seaciff 10.57 a.m., Waikouaiti 11.28 a.m., returning from Palmerston at 4.25 p.m., Waikouaiti 5.0 p.m., Seaciff 5.40 p.m., Waitati 6.10 p.m., arriving at Dunedin 7.25 p.m.

Train will leave Dunedin for Christchurch at 10.20 a.m., Waitati 11.23 a.m., Seaciff 11.50 a.m., Waikouaiti 12.9 p.m., Palmerston 12.35 p.m., Hampden 1.11 p.m., Herbert 1.39 p.m., Maheno 1.49 p.m., Oamaru 2.25 p.m., Christchurch arrive 8.25 p.m. This train will make the same Stops as the North Express between Dunedin and Christchurch.

Train will leave Christchurch for Dunedin at 10.20 a.m., Oamaru 4.40 p.m., Maheno 5.6 p.m., Herbert 5.19 p.m., Hampden 5.44 p.m., Palmerston 6.28 p.m., Waikouaiti 6.52 p.m., Seaciff 7.20 p.m., Waitati 7.38 p.m., Dunedin arrive 8.30 p.m. This train will make the same Stops as the South Express between Christchurch and Dunedin. It will also stop at Pukeuri to allow Passengers to alight.

Trains will leave Palmerston for Dunback at 8.35 a.m., 11.10 a.m., and 8.10 p.m., returning from Dunback at 9.25 a.m., 3.35 p.m., and 9.0 p.m.

An Excursion Train will leave Dunedin for Christchurch at 8.10 p.m., Waitati 9.25 p.m., Seaciff 9.55 p.m., Waikouaiti 10.20 p.m., Palmerston 10.50 p.m., Hampden 11.35 p.m., Maheno 12.10 a.m., Oamaru 12.43 a.m., arriving at Christchurch 7.0 a.m. on January 3. This train will Stop at the stations named; also at any station north of Oamaru to set down Passengers.

An Excursion Train will leave Christchurch for Dunedin at 8.15 p.m., Oamaru 3 a.m., Palmerston 4.48 a.m., arriving at Dunedin 7 a.m. January 3. This train will Stop at any station between Oamaru and Dunedin to set down Passengers from north of Oamaru.

BLUFF REGATTA

Train usually leaving Clinton for Invercargill at 6.0 a.m. will not leave until 6.30 a.m.

Train usually leaving Clinton for Invercargill at 2.30 p.m. will not leave until 3.0 p.m.

The Train usually leaving Invercargill for Clinton at 4.15 p.m. will not leave until 6.10 p.m.

All Goods Traffic between Oamaru and Clinton will be entirely SUSPENDED on 1st and 2nd January.

The GOODS SHEDS at Dunedin and Port Chalmers will be CLOSED on Tuesday and Wednesday, 1st and 2nd January.

By Order.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Complaints re irregular Delivery of Paper should be made without delay to the Manager.

All Communications with the Commercial Department of the 'N.Z. Tablet' Newspaper are to be addressed to John Murray, Secretary, to whom all Post Office Orders and Cheques are in all instances to be made payable.

Annual Subscription, 25s. booked; 22s. 6d. if paid in advance; shorter periods at proportional rates.

NOTE.—Our limit of Credit is Six Months.

The great Austral Wheel Race was accounted for by 'Maori-lander' Forbes on Dunlop tyres in world's record time, and Connell's win in the New Zealand Wheel Race was also a record for Dunlops.—".



'To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.'

LEO XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1900.

'A MERRIE CHRYSTEMASSE.'



CHRISTMAS is once more upon us—the last Nativity Feast of the swiftly passing century. Gifts are exchanged; good wishes flit back and forth; and 'A Merry Christmas' resounds from many millions of lips. A thousand innocent joys are associated with this sweetest feast of all the year. And so intimately has it entered into our social life and domestic usages that few of the bands of merry-makers can realise that at one period all observances of the Christ-Child Festival were placed under the ban of law in England, Scotland, and the Puritan colonies of North America. The customary greeting that now passes between friend and friend is but the revival of the old 'Merrie Chrystemasse' of the Catholic England of the Middle Age. England was 'Merry England' then. And people flung themselves with the fresh abandon of schoolboys into joyous celebrations in memory of all that was brought to our race on the first Christmas Day by the Divine Babe of Bethlehem. Sir WALTER SCOTT says in his *Marmion* :—

England was merry England, when
Old Christmas brought his sports again.
'Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale;
'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale;
A Christmas gambol oft could cheer
The poor man's heart through half a year.

The Scottish poet and novelist tells us how,

When the year its course had rolled
And brought blithe Christmas back again,
With all his hospitable train,

the baron's hall was opened wide to 'vassal, tenant, serf, and all'; and how

Power laid his rod of rule aside,
And Ceremony doffed his pride.

A bright log fire 'went roaring up the chimney wide.' It was a time of quaint old ceremonies, of feasting, of festive gambols, and of childlike and generally innocent merriment. This was the light and airy side of the Christmas festival of the far-off olden time. But deep beneath the rippling, sunlit mirth of those picturesque old celebrations of the Nativity there lay the ever-present consciousness of its spiritual side. This was evidenced in the Advent fasting preceding it; in the midnight Mass; in the prayers; in the solemn Mystery Plays; and in the quaint carols that sang of the miraculous coming of the new-born King.

In England and Scotland the religious observance of the Christmas festival was swept away by the Reformation. But many of the old social and domestic usages long survived—shorn of their meaning and deprived of their religious setting. By the time of CHARLES I. the Christmas festivities had degenerated into mere disorderly revels. In CROMWELL'S time the day was ordered to be observed as a day of solemn fast. Then arose a loud and angry protest throughout the land. Serious riots broke out and raged sporadically here and there, and excited mobs led the military a merry dance. Parliament met to transact business on the festival. Business people were ordered to open their shops. The ringing of chimes was forbidden. Preaching and the holding of religious services of any kind were visited with penalties of a very convincing character. But in England, nevertheless, the Puritan Parliament failed to quite suppress Christmas observances. In Scotland the

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