

hurled at it by Mr. McNab or anybody else. The rev. gentleman's remarks were received with applause by the assemblage.

The Bluff has been going ahead by leaps and bounds of late years. Palatial buildings are replacing those of an early date, design, and structure, and business places have been enlarged to meet the expansion of trade.

Waikaiti residents will regret to hear of the demise of Mr. W. Skene, squatter, Queensland, and formerly of the firm of Skene and Haast, Waikaiti.

It is publicly notified that the people of Gore are to meet shortly to decide whether a monument or memorial be erected to the memory of the soldiers who fell in South Africa, but so far no Goreite has been killed, nor even wounded.

Mr. Hay, of Dunedin, has assumed office of Commissioner of Lands for Southland, and being an old resident of this province, he is likely to give satisfaction to the public and the department.

OPENING OF THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE Imperial Parliament was opened last week by the King, who was accompanied by the Queen Consort. The opening ceremony was a magnificent spectacle. There was nothing very striking in the Speech, which regretted the prolongation of the war in South Africa, but at the same time paid a tribute to the patriotism and devotion of the colonies in sending contingents to all the Imperial authorities. We are also told that the Lord Chancellor administered the oath of adjuration to the King, who signed the declaration against transubstantiation. With reference to the latter matter we were informed a few days later that 30 Catholic peers protested to Lord Salisbury against the declaration that the King was called upon to sign against transubstantiation, and in the House of Commons Mr. Balfour said, in reply to a question, that the Government did not intend to introduce a Bill altering the Coronation Oath. We gave the full text of this adjuration, a relic of barbarism and bigotry, in our issue of February 7. A very able and trenchant article, condemning 'the discredited phraseology of the Coronation Oath,' appeared in the *Dunedin Evening Star* of Tuesday. Our contemporary says:—'In this age of religious toleration and comparative enlightenment, in the dawn of the twentieth century, it might surely be possible to dispense with words which reflect the spirit of a bygone age of passion and danger, and which must be peculiarly offensive to thousands of loyal subjects of the Crown. What possible justification can there be, at the present day for requiring the Sovereign of a free Empire ostentatiously to declare his belief in the "superstitious and idolatrous" nature of doctrines which are dear and sacred to no insignificant minority of his people? It is small wonder that the Roman Catholic peers have protested against the continued preservation of this sectarian barbarism, and we are quite at one with the N.Z. TABLET in denouncing the unreasonableness of the oath.'

INTERCOLONIAL.

The Rev. Father McGlone, pastor of Lithgow, New South Wales, met with a fatal accident on the evening of January 31. The rev. gentleman was out riding, when his horse became restive and threw its rider. In falling Father McGlone's foot caught in the stirrup, and he was dragged for a distance of about 100 yards. When picked up he was in a terrible condition, and died an hour afterwards. Great regret was felt by all classes in the district at Father McGlone's sad death, and the attendance at the funeral, which was representative of all denominations, showed the esteem in which he was held.

The Rev. J. B. Ronald, in his sermon at the South Melbourne Presbyterian Church on the Sunday after the death of the Queen, referred to the fact that the Orange institution did all in its power to prevent the late Queen from ascending the throne. He said: 'The most noticeable feature of the Queen's life and reign had been her Catholicity. It was well known that the Emancipation and civil rights of the Roman Catholics were quietly but firmly advocated by her Majesty, and that under her reign it was made possible for a Jew (Disraeli) to hold office as Premier of England. Strange to say, however, it was because of this same Catholicity that a plot to kidnap the Queen was concocted by a class who to-day profess intense loyalty to the throne, which showed the great change towards the brotherhood of man that had taken place during her reign.'

On Sunday, January 27, at most of the Catholic churches in Sydney, touching reference was made to the death of the Queen. At St. Mary's Cathedral the muffled bells were solemnly tolled. At 11 o'clock Mass his Eminence the Cardinal-Archbishop delivered an eloquent discourse on the Queen's reign. In token of mourning, the sanctuary, altar, and pulpit were draped in black, relieved with white ribbon in many cases, which imparted an additional aspect of solemnity to the occasion. Underneath the pulpit was a crown worked in white roses. At the conclusion of the Mass the organist played the Dead March in 'Saul.' In the course of his sermon his Eminence said: 'God alone is truly great. It is only the joys and blessings of Providence that are eternal, and no one more vividly realised this than the departed Queen who now sleeps in death. And yet how wonderful had been the reign which had now come to a close, and how marvellous in many ways. Of the long line of monarchs from the Anglo-Saxon days to our own time, not a single British sovereign had reigned so long as the departed Queen. Again in that brilliant array of sovereigns, there was no one whose dominion had been so world-wide or whose domain had been so vast as that of her departed Majesty the Queen. And, best and noblest of all that long line of sovereigns, no one had been more sincerely beloved and mourned not only by her own subjects, but by millions throughout the world at large as Queen Victoria.'

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE number of Chinese in the Colony at the end of last year was 3077, including 34 females.

THE contents of the current issue of the *Triad* are varied and instructive, consisting of articles on music, art, and science.

THE depots at the four centres for the reception of poultry for export are now completed and have been placed in charge of experts engaged in Melbourne.

THE area of coal known to exist in the Westport Coal Company's property will, it is estimated, enable the present output to be maintained during the next century.

A BAZAAR was held in Carterton last week in aid of the local Catholic church, with the result that £150 was raised in three nights.

WITH this number of the N.Z. TABLET we issue an illustrated supplement containing a picture of the new Catholic Cathedral, Christchurch, the foundation stone of which was laid on Sunday, February 10.

ACCORDING to a message from Oamaru the weather is now perfect for the harvest, which is in full operation. The samples of new grain received are excellent, and the yield is expected to be generally good.

THE Shaw, Savill, and Albion Company, the Tyser line, and the New Zealand Shipping Company have combined to establish regular steamer communication between New Zealand and South Africa. The first vessel, the Otarama, leaves the Colony about March 9.

THE Government have purchased 32 acres on the River Heath cote, near Christchurch, about two miles from town, for closer settlement purposes. The property was originally known as Packer's, but for some years has been owned by Mr. J. Freeman, confectioner. The price was £90 per acre.

GOOD harvest weather has been enjoyed during the past week in Canterbury, and excellent progress has been made with securing the crops. Another fine week will see most of the grain safe. Notwithstanding the storms, birds, and Hessian fly, the yields are generally good. A report from Ashburton states that the crops in the district are now nearly all out, and the large number of stacks already to be seen in all directions give evidence of the abundant harvest just reaped. In consequence of the fine weather of the past few days a good deal of threshing from the stock is being done.

WHEN the delegates to the meeting of the Hibernian Society in Dunedin were passing through Christchurch a member of the local Fire Brigade was killed whilst proceeding to a fire. The delegates, hearing that the deceased was a married man, started a subscription for the widow and family, with the result that a decent sum was collected. The consideration of the act will be better appreciated when it is stated that the idea originated with the North island delegates, who had no knowledge of the deceased save that he met his death whilst in the discharge of his duty, and had left a widow and family unprovided for.

THE 'servant girl question' is still at an acute stage in Wellington. A girl (says the *New Zealand Times*) who recently advertised for a situation in domestic service received over one hundred replies from people anxious to become mistresses of such a *rara avis* as a young woman who really wanted a situation.

ON May 13 a bazaar will be opened at Amberley for the purpose of liquidating the debt on the handsome new presbytery recently erected there. The bazaar will remain open for several evenings. Active preparations are already in progress, under the guidance of Father Price and an energetic committee, and there is every promise of a great success.

A CONCERT and social (writes a Palmerston North correspondent) were held recently at Ashurst in aid of the fund for the erection of a new Catholic Church. The concert was arranged by Mr. V. Dallow, of Palmerston, and was carried out most successfully. The attendance was very large, about £30 being taken at the doors. The programme was as follows:—Overture, Mr. F. Meyrick's orchestra; solo and chorus, 'Adeste Fideles,' Miss Hickey; song, 'Evermore,' Mr. Dallow; song, 'Kate O'Shea,' Miss Rush; Irish jig, Mr. Peat (encored); song, 'The song that reached my heart,' Miss Hickey; song, Mr. Hanley (encored); selection, orchestra; duet, 'Friendship,' Misses McGrath; hornpipe, Messrs. Roberts and Hurley; song (comic), Mr. Pearson (encored); recitation, 'The Captain's Colt,' Mr. L. Horne; gypsy dance (in Highland costume), four Palmerston ladies; song, Mr. Peat (encored); song, Mr. Henley (encored). The accompaniments were played by Mr. Tombs. The Rev. Father Tymons presided.

MR. M. FOLEY, the genial and popular Clerk of the Magistrate's Court, Gore, who was recently married in Wellington, has been the recipient of a valuable wedding present from the legal fraternity in Gore. The proceedings were of an original and humorous character, Mr. Foley being formally arraigned 'that he clandestinely became a benedict at a distance of more than 50 miles from Gore without consulting the legal profession, which was contrary to the statute in that case made and provided.' After hearing the evidence and pronouncing the sentence of the court the judge (Mr. Poppelwell) wished Mr. and Mrs. Foley every happiness in life. As solicitors practising in Gore they were all indebted to Mr. Foley for his courtesy and kind attention to their wants. He hoped Mr. Foley would be resident in Gore for many years, and that their associations together in the future would be as pleasant as they had been in the past. He then asked his acceptance of a silver tea service and set of carvers as a token of regard for him, and wished Mrs. Foley and himself a happy and long life together.