

Dread Death has raised his bony thumb
And beckoned Pole R. Bear
To follow him, where quadrupeds
Are freed for aye from care.
And at 10.15 on Monday morn,
As the winds souged through the pines,
They took his fur to make a mat,
Then threw him to the lions.
Not lost, but gone inside.'

A Matter of Dress.

We are continually hearing of the advance made by Jappy Japan in Western civilisation. But the Chinese are beating the Japs. The Emperor of China walked in a procession to Peking shabbily dressed. Nobody ever heard of the Mikado going around with his pyjamas baggy at the knees, or his tall hat looking as if someone had mistaken it for a Government section, and had tried to comply with the residence clause. And that is where the Chinese Emperor gets in first. He walked in that procession with his tie sticking out under one ear, his laces undone, his kimono all unbuttoned up the back, and his catamaran and his Hoang-ho all out of plumb, looking remarkably like a man who had squeezed through the sky-light of a fan-tan shop when some police had called to ask the way to the Post Office. He was nearly as badly dressed as a European nobleman. In England the Royal Family dress respectably; but, if we are to believe the personal paragraphs in the newspapers, outside the Royal Family, there isn't a nobleman in England who hasn't at some time or another been taken for a tramp. In England, if you see a man with his clothes fitting him all over and touching him nowhere, and looking as if they had been thrown on to him with a hay-fork by a man with the palsy, you can stake your last shilling that he is one of the upper crust, or a colonial Premier, or an American millionaire, suffering an attack of general nobility.

Some Cures.

Lest anyone should be overtaken by the same sad fate as the Sydney polar bear I subjoin a couple of cold cures, culled from the Philanthropic column of the Portland 'Oregonian.' Mark Twain tells how he tried a number of recipes without obtaining relief. I have never heard a complaint from anyone who tried either or both of these cures. For a cold in the head: Take a voyage to China on an ocean greyhound, or, if your means are limited, go in a private yacht. We are not at liberty to print the names of manufacturers of private yachts, but send one dollar to pay postage and we will put you next to three or four. For a cold in the chest: A cold in the chest is a pretty serious affair, but it yields readily to skilful treatment. Get a dentist to lend you a pair of forceps, reach down your throat until the cold can be firmly gripped and extract it with a short, sharp jerk. Once you have it out set the bulldog on it, or it is likely to attack you again.

Quips

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

At St Joseph's Hall on Friday last a pleasant social evening was spent, the object being to assist the funds of the South Dunedin Literary Club. Various games were indulged in, and a quartet party gave a very acceptable item. There was a large attendance, and all present thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

On Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from the 11 o'clock Mass until Vespers. During the day the members of the Confraternity of Perpetual Adoration were present in large numbers, the sacred edifice being crowded at times. The manner in which the members of this society attend the Cathedral when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed has given great edification and is a source of much pleasure to the clergy. In the evening there was the usual procession around the interior of the Cathedral, in which the children of the parish schools and the Sacred Heart Society took part.

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent)

May 5.

The members of the Hibernian Society attended church in regalia, on Sunday last, and approached the Holy Table in a body. The branch now numbers about 120 members, and on Sunday the number of young members recently joined made a welcome addition to the ranks.

Last Sunday, being the first Sunday of the month, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament took place during the afternoon. The Forty Hours' Adoration commenced after Vespers and concluded with Solemn High Mass on Tuesday morning, and procession of the

Blessed Sacrament. The Rev. Father Bowers (Geraldine) was celebrant, Rev. Father O'Connell (Waimate) deacon, and Rev. Father Tubman subdeacon. The Rev. Father Kerley (Temuka) also assisted at the services on Sunday and Monday.

A Young Ladies' Club has been started in the parish, the meetings being held in the convent parish school. The Club is carried on on similar lines to the Catholic Club, and several successful meetings have been already held.

The Pender testimonial was brought to a close to-day and a very respectable amount was forwarded by the treasurer, Mr. Howley, to the Christchurch committee.

Obituary.

MISS ELLEN LUNDON, WANGANUI.

The many friends of Miss Ellen Lundon (writes our Wanganui correspondent) will regret to hear of her death which took place, after a short illness, on Sunday, April 27th. The deceased lady was the second daughter of the late Mr. David Lundon, at one time collector of customs here, and sister of Mr. P. Lundon, a prominent Catholic citizen of Wanganui. The body was taken to Auckland for interment by Mr. P. Lundon. To her sorrowing relatives the sincerest sympathy is extended.—R.I.P.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE *Triad* for the current month is well up to its usual standard of excellence.

THE takings at Miss Castles's concert at the Agricultural Hall, Dunedin, on Thursday evening amounted to £500. This is the 'record' money for Dunedin.

A COMPARISON of the port charges levied in Wellington and other parts of the Colony was (says the *Post*) made by Mr. T. M. Wilford at one of his meetings last week. This showed that for a vessel's first visit Wellington charged at the rate of 4d a ton, Lyttelton 7d, Port Chalmers 1s 6d, Auckland 6d, Bluff 1s 2d, and Napier anchorage 4d. For subsequent visits Wellington made no reduction, but the other ports did, that at Port Chalmers and the Bluff being substantial. Assuming that a steamer of 2400 tons register called at each port three times in a month, the respective charges would be—Napier £80, Wellington and Auckland £120 each, Lyttelton £140, Port Chalmers £275 17s, Bluff £280.

At a meeting of the Children of Mary, held in St. Mary's Schoolroom (writes a Greymouth correspondent) the members presented the Rev. Father Kimbell (spiritual director) with an address and travelling rug to mark the occasion of his feast-day. The president (Miss Cissie Heffernan) read the address in her usual pleasing style. Since Father Kimbell has taken charge of the sodality he has left no stone unturned in getting new members and in furthering its interests in every possible way, and his efforts have already been rewarded, for it was never in a more flourishing state than at present. After thanking the members for their congratulations and kind gift, the Rev. Father gave a most instructive discourse on the devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and pointed out that the Children of Mary should show in an especial manner their love for her during the month of May.

THE following notice appeared in a recent issue of the *Gazette*: Free second class quarterly tickets may be issued to school children not over 18 years of age—(a) To those attending the Government primary schools, from railway stations where there is no primary school in the vicinity, and only to the station in the vicinity of the nearest primary school; (b) to those attending private schools for primary education. Such tickets may also be issued for the purpose of enabling pupils not over 19 years of age to attend a district high school or a secondary school as defined by "The Manual and Technical Instruction Act, 1900," provided that such pupils have passed the Sixth Standard or are holders of scholarships, exhibitions, or free places tenable at such district high school or secondary school. Applications for these tickets must be accompanied by a certificate duly signed by the schoolmaster having charge of the school. These tickets are available for distances not exceeding 60 miles. They are not transferable, and are available only for use by the holder when travelling to and from school for the purpose of receiving tuition; if used for any other purpose the tickets will be forfeited.

SIR J. G. WARD, in opening the new railway station at Wellington on Monday, referred to the finances of the Colony for the past year, stating that they showed a surplus of £270,489. The receipts were £6,185,403, and the expenditure £5,914,000. Included in the expenditure was £19,000 paid off debentures, the actual revenue exceeding the estimate by £24,000, while the expenditure was about £3000 below the estimate. In the actual receipts customs showed an increase of £20,254, railways £148,817, stamp £4736, land tax £18,251, income tax £5588, beer duty £5062, registration fees £8054, marine £1992, miscellaneous £7349. Singular briskness in trade had, he said, brought about increases. Territorial revenue had decreased £20,584. Referring to the Wellington-Manawatu railway, he said the Government proposals were rejected on April 7. The company were then asked straight out whether they were prepared to sell their assets under the act of last session, but it was not until May 1, when the act had expired, that the company specially mentioned the conditions which they were prepared to place before shareholders. Fair means would be used to bring price to the Government line. The means to be employed would do no harm to farmers.