SHIPPING.

PORT OF LYTTELTON.

Arrived.

YESTERDAY.

Hinemoa, C.G.S., from Wellington.

TO-DAY.

Taiaroa, s.s., from Port Chalmers.

Cleared.

YESTERDAY.

Lutterworth, barque, for London.

Sailed.

YESTERDAY.

Rotomahana, s.s., for Wellington.
Emerald, ketch, for Foxton.

SHIPPING TELEGRAMS.

AUCKLAND, Yesterday.

Arrived—The Hero, s.s. She left Sydney on the 17th. Orwell, brigantine, from the Islands; Kenilworth, from Lyttelton.

Sailed—Ringarooma, for the South.

WELLINGTON, Yesterday.

Arrived—Wanaka, from the South.
Sailed—Wallace, for Nelson.

GREYMOUTH, Yesterday.

Sailed—St. Kilda, for Melbourne; Cora, for Picton.

TIMARU, Yesterday.

Arrived—Hero, from Picton; Clematis, from Lyttelton; Martha Reid, from Oamaru.

PORT CHALMERS, Yesterday.

Sailed—Tararua, s.s., for Melbourne.

COMMERCIAL.

Ashburton Retail List.

Butter, inferior to best, ℔ lb, 6d to 8d.
Eggs, ℔ dozen, 1s.
Cheese, prime quality, ℔ lb, 6d to 8d.
Bacon, prime smoked, ℔ lb, 10d to 1s.
Hams, in cloth, ℔ lb, 1s 1d.
Flour, in bags, ℔ 100lb, 13s.
Oatmeal, ℔ 25lb, 4s.
Lard, ℔ lb, 7d.

Auctioneers' Reports.

Messrs. H. Matson and Co. report on the live stock market, &c., for the week ending Thursday, December 23rd, 1880, as follows:—

Yesterday being the Christmas market day, a large entry of all classes of fat stock was sent forward to the Addington Yards, for trade supplies. Mutton was but little in request, far more fat sheep being penned than were wanted, and anything but the best lines were comparatively neglected and difficult to quit. During the early part of the sale half of the sheep offered were passed unsold, and when, later in the day, buyers began to operate, it was at very irregular rates, a drop in some instances of more than 1s per head being noticeable under last week's prices. At the conclusion of the auction the bulk of the sheep previously passed were disposed of privately at prices equal to the day's average. For stores there was a fair enquiry, and most of those penned were sold at values a shade lower than lately ruling. Amongst others, we placed 600 fresh conditioned merino wethers at 5s 7d to 6s, and smaller lines at proportionate rates. Average weight fat cross-breds brought 8s to 8s 9d; prime do, to 9s. 6d and 11s; merino wethers, to 7s. Fat lambs were more difficult to dispose of than at any market this season, and prices were 1s per head "down." As high as 10s was paid for a pen of choice Downs, but 7s was about the average for prime quality. Taken as a whole, the sheep sale was very dull, and exhibited a thorough want of vitality from beginning to end. The fat cattle sale was, to a great extent, a counterpart of the sheep trade, and it was very difficult to do business almost at any price. A large number of the trade had supplied themselves privately outside, rather than risk purchasing too close to Christmas, and where sales were made prices may be quoted as showing no improvement upon late ruling low values. Useful weight nice quality steers brought L7 to L7 10s; extra prime to light weight mixed lots, L6 to L7. For store cattle a decline in value may also be noticed, though not to the same extent or in comparison with the price of beef. Good lines of two to three-year-old steers are worth L4 15s to L6; yearlings to three-year-olds (mixed), L2 10s to L4. There is but little doing in the pig trade, but yesterday more were penned than usual, and realised fair prices. The totals yarded for the day comprised 6572 sheep, 466 head of cattle, and 76 pigs, of which our entry included 3444 sheep, 389 fat lambs, 216 head of cattle, and 48 pigs. On Saturday last our catalogue at Tattersall's comprised an entry of 83 horses, in addition to sundry traps, harness, &c. Their was a fair attendance, and for the better class of light horses a little more competition was shown than has been noticeable of late. We placed a pair of the best draught geldings we have had the pleasure of submitting for some time to a well-known firm for 120 guineas. Of our general entries we sold from 20 to 30 light horses at from L5 to L14, and a few draught and plough horses (for which at present there is little demand) at from L15 to L25.

THE TINWALD YARDS.

Matson and Co. report:—At the Tinwald cattle yards we held our usual fortnightly sale of live stock, &c., at which there was a very large attendance of country visitors. There was an exceptionally large entry for the day, viz., about 7,000 sheep and 450 head of cattle, of which we catalogued about 2,600 sheep, 197 head of cattle, 3 horses, and 9 pigs. We disposed of most of our entry in sheep, fat crossbreds bringing from 8s 6d to 9s 4d; store do., 7s to 8s 3d; store merino wethers, 5s 4d. In cattle we sold 101, mixed ages and sexes, at from L2 10s to L4 15s each; 5 do., L5 5s to L7 10s; 8 at L3 10s; 12 at 39s; 1 at L8 2s, &c. We also cleared our pigs at from 35s to L3 per head.

Messrs. T. Ford and Co. report:—At Tinwald, on Tuesday, we yarded 3,400 sheep and over 60 head of cattle on account of Hon. W. S. Peter and F. Tooth, Esq. Of Mr. Peter's merino ewes 1,200 sold at 6s 1d each, and 1,500 merino wethers, on account of same owners, brought 6s 3d each, and a line of crossbred ewes from the Alford station brought 7s. 6d each; 65 head of cattle brought an average of L3 12s each.

Messrs. Jameson and Roberts, agents for R. Wilkin and Co., report:—At the Tinwald sale on Tuesday, there was a large attendance of buyers, and the biddings were animated for the various lots offered. We sold on behalf of our clients as follows:—80 fat sheep at 8s 3d, 87 mixed do. at 6s 9d, 1,500 store merino wethers at 5s 4d, 190 merino ewes at 4s 6d, 30 rams at 5s; 24 fat bullocks from L7 7s to L8 2s 6d, 26 store steers and heifers at L4 12s 6d, 63 head do. at L3 10s, 21 do. from L3 2s 6d to L4 17s 6d, 4 young bulls at L2 2s 6d; best pigs at 55s, others at 20s, 26s, and 30s each.

MAIL NOTICES.

Mails close at the Chief Post Office, Christchurch, for the following places (subject to necessary alterations) as under:—

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31.

For the United Kingdom, via San Francisco, &c., as under:—Money orders and registered letters, at 5 p.m.; books and newspapers, at 9 p.m.; ordinary letters, at 10 p.m. A supplementary mail will be closed at 7 p.m. on Saturday, January, 1, 1881. Late fee letters may be posted in the guard's van attached to the 8.30 p.m. train on Saturday, January 1.

On Saturday, December 25th (Christmas Day), all branches of the Post Office will be closed.

On Saturday, 1st January (New Year's Day), all branches of the Post Office will be closed.

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE.

TRAINS LEAVE ASHBURTON FOR CHRISTCHURCH and intermediate stations at 6 a.m., 10.30 a.m., and (Express) 5.48 p.m.

TRAINS LEAVE ASHBURTON FOR TIMARU AND SOUTH, at 7 a.m., 10.36 a.m. (Express), and 4.50 p.m.—the latter proceeding no farther than Timaru.

TRAINS ARRIVE AT ASHBURTON FROM CHRISTCHURCH at 10 24 a.m. (Express), 4.35 p.m., and 7.50 p.m.

TRAINS ARRIVE AT ASHBURTON FROM TIMARU AND SOUTH at 10.15 a.m., 5.34 p.m. (Express), and 8.15 p.m.

DAILY MEMORANDA.

AUCTION SALES.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31.

Mr. T. Bullock, at his rooms, East street—Freehold and Leasehold Property. Two o'clock.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4.

Quill and Co., Monthly Sale, Mount Somers.

MEETINGS, AMUSEMENTS, &c.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27.

Fire Brigade Carnival, Town Hall, at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29.

Borough Council, at Borough Council Chambers, at 7 o'clock.

MONDAY, JANUARY, 3.

Upper Ashburton Road District—Annual Meeting of Ratepayers, Road Board Office, at 12 noon.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4.

Longbeach Road Board—Annual Meeting of Ratepayers, Road Board Office, at 12 noon.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5.

County Council, at the County Council Chambers, at 11 o'clock.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6.

Mount Somers Road Board—Annual Meeting of Ratepayers, Schoolhouse, Mount Somers, at 12 noon.

Wakanui Road District—Annual Meeting of Ratepayers, at the office of the Agricultural and Pastoral Association Show Grounds, at 12 noon.

Special Advertisements.

O. Carstens & Co.
(LATE WESTON'S),
PROSPECT BUILDINGS,
TOBACCONIST, FANCY GOODS, AND STATIONERY.

Meerschaum Pipes, G.B.D. Pipes
Nailrod. Twist, and Vanity Fair Tobacco
Musical Instruments, etc., etc.

Haircutting, Shaving and Shampooing.

EAST STREET, ASHBURTON.
520*

THE BEST VALUE FOR READY MONEY IS THE MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING MANUFACTURED BY THE NEW ZEALAND Clothing Factory,

Which can be purchased at their Retail Branches, all over New Zealand.

A SINGLE GARMENT AT THE WHOLESALE PRICE.

Thousands of the discerning customers testify that the New Zealand Clothing Factory's Garments are the Very Best Value for Ready Money.

ASHBURTON BRANCH:
EAST STREET.
WM. SPARROW,
751* Manager.

K. F. Gray,
AUCTIONEER, VALUATOR, STOCK, STATION, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT, TEMUKA.

Agent for Standard Insurance Company, and Sub-Agent for the Althouse Windmill. Licensed Dealer in Arms and Ammunition. 782

FOR SALE.
QUARTER ACRE in Mrs. McLean's Paddock. Good soil. Well situated and cheap. No reasonable offer refused.
W. WHITE,
809 Agent.

TENDERS WANTED for STOOKING and FORKING about 380 Acres (more or less), of Wheat and Oats, on Maronan Station; and for 60 Acres (more or less), of Oats, about three miles distance off. Tenders to be addressed to John R. Liddle, Tinwald post-office, on or before 1st JANUARY. 812

SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT PROVIDED AGAINST.

THE SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT MUTUAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.
Registered under the Friendly Societies' Act, 1877.
Head Office—SYDENHAM CHAMBERS, HEREFORD STREET, CHRISTCHURCH.
TRUSTEES—R. Wilkin, Esq., Christchurch; L. E. Nathan, Esq., Christchurch; E. C. J. Stevens, Esq., M.H.R., Christchurch; Hon. E. Richardson, Esq., M.H.R., Christchurch.
Rates to Assure—£1 per week during disability for 13 weeks, and 10s. per week for further 13 weeks:—25s. per annum; 13s. half-yearly; 7s. quarterly.
Entrance Fee after January 15th, 1881, 5s.
Members are simply required to make a declaration that they are in good health and free from chronic disease. Both sexes eligible. Profits divided amongst assured. Members may assure from £1 to £4 weekly.
W. W. CHARTERS,
Manager.
Agent for Ashburton—CHARLES BRADDELL. 811

THE GUARDIAN is on every Tea Table in Ashburton.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

All orders for insertion of advertisements must be written legibly on the face of the advertisement. When no order is given the advertisement will be inserted until countermanded, and charged accordingly.

All notices of Births, Marriages, or Deaths must be accompanied by the signature of the sender, as a guarantee of good faith.

All advertisements and business letters to be addressed THE MANAGER; literary communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

The Ashburton Guardian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1880.

A Merry Christmas.

A journalist has much to write during the twelvemonths, but he chooses to make his work light when the happy season of Christmas comes round. He likes not to gush about the customs of the season nor to clink together smooth sentences about the Bethlehemitic choir and the burden of its song—"peace on earth, goodwill towards men." He prefers to leave that work to the men whose special mission it is and whom it well befits—the clergymen. But he would be rude indeed did he neglect on Christmas to wish his readers

A MERRY CHRISTMAS,

one and all, and to express his best wishes for their welfare. We do so now, most fervently. This season is one at which it is much better that many things that one would wish to say were left unsaid, and however full one's heart may be on other occasions, to be silent on this, except in so far as our words add only to the good feeling that ought to prevail. Therefore we have only to join our salutations to the many heartfelt ones we hope every reader of this journal will receive, and to hope that the dawn of Christmas, 1880, will be the beginning of a new era of health, happiness, and prosperity.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.—The *Guardian* will not be published to-morrow, being Christmas Day.

TELEGRAPHIC.—Sunday hours will be observed at all telegraph stations tomorrow (Christmas day) and on Monday next (Boxing day).

THE SAN FRANCISCO MAILS.—Mails for the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, and America, West Indies, Sandwich Islands, &c., will close at Ashburton on Friday, the 31st instant, as follows:—Money orders at 10 a.m.; correspondence at 5 p.m. Late fee letters may be posted in the mail van up to the time of its departure for Christchurch.

KAURI GUM.—The Auckland Waste Lands Boards propose the imposition of a duty of L1 on kauri gum, and have forwarded a recommendation to that effect to the Government.

THE OLD MEN'S DINNER.—The master of the Old Men's Home desires to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of a saddle of mutton from Mr. Lancaster, a fore-quarter of veal from Mr. Digby, a roast of beef from Messrs. Wilkin and Carter, of Gore Farm, for Christmas dinner for the inmates.

"THE BIG GOOSEBERRY."—Mr. St. Hill's big berries are not the only ones raised in Ashburton. Eleven others were shown us yesterday that scaled altogether 7¼ ounces. They measured 1½ inch in diameter each, and were a little over 1½ inch in length. The gooseberries were large, hearty-looking fruit, and were grown in Dr. Trevor's garden on bushes supplied by Messrs. Sealy Brothers two years ago.

THE SCHOOL PRIZES.—We gave the examiners' prize-list in our issue yesterday, but we have to add that though, as the examiners' list, it was exactly what it purported to be, it would have been impossible with the number of books at the Committee's disposal to give prizes to each of the children named in that list, and the subjects for which awards were made were therefore grouped, and prizes were given accordingly. We may add, while on the subject of prizes, that the dux silver medal was presented by Dr. Stewart.

A STRANGE CASE.—An Auckland telegram of last night's date says:—Mrs. Brooks, of Picton, is at present here searching for her husband and two sons, who went missing in a yacht three years ago on a voyage from Picton to Wellington. She had been informed that persons answering to their descriptian were working at Kaipara timber mills, under an assumed name. The police are making inquiries. She is in a destitute condition, her effects having been sent by the Hawea to Nelson by mistake. An appeal has been made on behalf of her and her children to send them to Picton.

I.O.O.F., M.U.—The half-yearly meeting of the Loyal Ashburton Lodge was held in the Templar Hall last evening, and was attended by a large number of members. The election to the various offices resulted as follows:—G.M., Bro. G. F. Scott; N.G., Bro. J. Tucker; V.G., Bro. J. Tait; E.S., Bro. J. Maynard; Warden, Bro. Gibson; J.G., Bro. Hopkins; R.S., Bro. Anderson; L.S. to N.G., Bro. Macfarlane; R.S., Bro. Stevens; L.S. to V.G., Bro. T. Maynard. Medical Officer, Dr. Stewart. The proceeds of the evening amounted to over L45. The business having been proceeded with, the Lodge closed in a harmonious way.

OTAGO GRAIN EXPORT.—Reporting to the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce, the secretary showed that during the past eleven months the export from Dunedin of oats and barley was 52,064 bushels, valued at L4,844; from Oamaru 16,318 bushels, L2,348; and the value of exports from Southland to Victoria was L2,790. During the same period the imports from and via Victoria amounted to L382,649 It was shown that notwithstanding the large trade between the two colonies the Victorian Government had doubled the duty on imported oats, which is now 2s. per 100 lbs., instead of 1s., one plea being that the Victorian market was swamped with New Zealand produce.

THE CALEDONIAN SPORTS.—The Committee are hard at work making arrangements for the Sports on Monday. Already the course has been laid off for the races, and the ground for the other events is being rapidly got into ship-shape. Some half-dozen pipers are expected from various parts of the colony, and there will be no want of either Irish or Highland dancers. The runners will form the fullest field that has ever started in Ashburton, and for all the running events there are a crowd of acceptors, many of them men of good fame, as well as a strong contingent of local talent. Stone-putters and caber-tossers are already rolling up, while many good leapers and vaulters are also on the lists. The horizontal bar will be a fresh feature in the contests, and not a few competitors will enter. The programme has been so arranged that seventeen events will come off the first day and a like number the second. It may be mentioned, also, that Mr. Ferryman has offered a prize of L1 to be run for by boys under 16, and the Society has added 10s., the distance to be 440 yards. The sports will commence each day at twelve noon, and the piper will parade the town every morning. Altogether there is every prospect of the gathering being the most successful sports meeting yet held in the district.

ELGIN SCHOOL.—The Committee held a meeting in the schoolhouse last night. Present—Messrs. J. Stanley Bruce (chairman), J. Keir, P. Innes, S. Scott, J. Cochrane, and T. Greenaway. The following resolutions were passed:—Proposed by Mr. P. Innes, and seconded by Mr. J. Cochrane, "That, relative to a letter from the schoolmaster, he be requested to furnish the Committee with an account showing the dates when the school books have been sold, to whom, and at what price, and further to hand the Committee all sums which he has received to this date from the sale of books. Also that his account for books will be considered with the others when liquidating the same. Further, that the schoolmaster hand the Committee all receipts which he has received for accounts paid by him for books." Proposed by Mr. S. Scott, and seconded by Mr. J. Cochrane, "That in reply to the schoolmaster's letter relative to the appointment of his wife as mistress, the Chairman inform him that the Committee have not received any intimation from the Board of Education sanctioning her appointment." Proposed by Mr. P. Innes, and seconded by Mr. J. Cochrane, "That the consideration of the schoolmaster's letter relative to garden be a matter for the new Committee." The Committee then adjourned. After the school meeting, the subject of giving the children a treat was considered. The subscription lists opened for the purpose were handed in, and were considered satisfactory. It was decided to hold the treat on New Year's Day in a paddock adjoining the school, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Keir.

WESLEYAN QUARTERLY MEETING.—On Thursday evening last the usual quarterly meeting of office-bearers of the Wesleyan cause in the Ashburton district, was held in the Cameron street Church. The Rev. W. Keall presided, and there was a good attendance of Church officials. The balance sheet showed receipts to the amount of L120 14s. 10d, including a grant of L45 from the Home Mission Fund, and an expenditure of L73 19s. 1d. with a grant of L25 to the Trust Fund. Messrs John Orr and H. M. Jones were re-elected Circuit Stewards for the coming year. A vote of thanks was accorded to the Tinwald School Committee for the use of the school on Sabbath evenings, and it was decided in future to obtain the new Temperance Hall in that township for future services. The Rev W. Keall gave an interesting account of spiritual work accomplished recently in England, and after an edifying conversation, the meeting decided that arrangements should be made for holding special religious services at an early date for the advancement of the work of God in the neighborhood.

THE SCHOOL CONCERT.—Last night, the school children gave their concert in the Town Hall, to a large attendance, both of young people and adults, there being an especially full dress circle. Dr. Stewart acted as chairman, while Mr. Stott conducted the children's choruses. On the platform were ranged some sixty or seventy boys and girls, who, in their holiday dresses, presented quite a gay spectacle. The leading feature of the concert was the choruses sung by the children, and we must say of these, that they were very well sung indeed. The chorus singing of the children bore evidence of great pains having been taken with them by their teachers, and close attention displayed by the children themselves. The choruses sung were "The reapers," "The snowdrop," "Men of Harlech," "The bugle horn," "My own New Zealand Home," "Our volunteers," "The skaters," "Who is a brave man?" "The star spangled banner," "The red, white and blue," "Rule Britannia," and the National Anthem. Appropriate flags were displayed by one of the girls during the singing of "The star-spangled banner" and "The red, white, and blue." Regarding the solos, some of them were decently sung, but of the others, perhaps the less said the better, and so with some duets. A mite of a girl—Miss Emily Cotton—was very amusing in her song, "The little brown jug;" and Miss T. Butler, whose splendid voice is well known, sang her favorite song "The shamrock" exceedingly well. Having noticed the piano solo by Master Herbert Fooks, and the fact that Miss Nelly Shury played the accompaniments where these were given, we have done with the musical portion of the evening. Those of our readers who were present at the distribution of prizes, will remember that the Rev. Mr. Hands was particularly funny over what he called "The Third Standard song." He was ridiculing the idea mostly all the children had of elocution. Several recitations were given last night in all of which it was painfully evident that the reciters had not been able to unlearn the "Third Standard Song." The concert over, the "art union" of the big doll commenced. The "dice box" was a big revolving one, and so fitted with glass that every motion of the dice was visible. Each child turned the wheel of luck for herself. The first turn threw eighteen, and it was not until sixty had had a try at the wheel that another eighteen turned up. The ties were then thrown off, and it was found that the winner was Miss Betsy Lambie, the first lucky thrower of eighteen. In her tie throw she made thirty-seven against the thirty-five of her opponent—Miss Ada Muschamp. The proceedings closed at about a quarter to eleven, with the usual compliments.

CABLE NEWS.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

(*Per Reuter's Agency.*)

Greece Can't See It.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

The Great Powers have accepted the proposal made by England to arbitrate between Greece and Turkey, but the former has declined to agree to the same.

The Basutos Routed.

The latest intelligence to hand from the Cape states that the Umhlonhlo and Basutos have been completely routed, and have fled. The Boers have made a fierce attack on Patchstrom, but no details are yet to hand as to the result.

The Markets.

Three per cent. consols, 99⅞. Adelaide and New Zealand breadstuffs are unchanged at last quotations:—viz., Adelaide wheat, ex warehouse, 49s. 6d.; Adelaide flour, ex ship, 44s.; Adelaide flour, ex warehouse, 35s. Australian tallow—best beef, 33s. 6d.; best mutton, 36s. New Zealand securities—Five per cent. 10-40 loan, 103; Five per cent. 1880 loan, 107; Four and a-half per cent. 1879-1904 loan, 96¾.

Frozen Meat.

ADEN, Dec. 22.

The steamer Protos, with a cargo of fresh meat, has arrived here from Melbourne *en route* for London. Everything, so far, has been satisfactory. The meat is in a sound condition, and the refrigerating machinery worked well.

The Marquis of Ripon.

CALCUTTA, Dec. 23.

The Marquis of Ripon has now recovered. He has resigned his position as Viceroy of India, and will most probably leave at an early date for England.

Subsided.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.

The grain panic, which took place at Chicago, has now subsided.

AUSTRALIAN.

(*Per Reuter's Agency.*)

Beer Awards.

MELBOURNE, Dec. 23.

The official awards for beers at the Exhibition have been published. The awards announced by telegram on the 12th inst. are correct, but the following additions are now known:—For porter, in bulk, Ehrenfried, second; for bottled porter, Ehrenfried, second; for bottled ales, Crowe (Chrishchurch), Ehrenfried and Strachan (Dunedin) third; for brown ales, Manning (Christchurch), first; Hargan (of Dunedin), Thomson (of Oamaru), Mactaggart (of Palmerston), seconds; and Cochrane (of Dunedin), third.

An Auckland Yacht.

MELBOURNE, Dec. 24.

The Auckland yacht Taniwha has arrived in the Bay.

Intercolonial Disarming.

The Legislative Assembly last night passed a resolution in favor of disbanding the Victoria Artillery force.

The Walking Tournament.

In the walking tournament now proceeding, Swan, of New Zealand is first, with 111 miles; Seymour and Baker have each done 107 miles.

ASHBURTON SCHOOL.

The following are the letters of the Examiners regarding the result of their examination of the Ashburton School:

The Parsonage, Ashburton, December 23rd, 1880. Dear sir,—I have examined the Borough School in geography and history, and some of the standards in reading and recitation. I have the pleasure to report that the children to whom I awarded the prizes in their various classes showed a very thorough knowledge of the subjects in which I examined them. The third standard I consider very backward in both history and geography, but the other standards were well informed in comparison with children of their own age I have elsewhere examined. I was much pleased with the cheerful, pleasant tone of the children, and met with no obstinacy or disobedience. There were two or three cases of copying, but they were promptly noticed by the teachers, who gave every assistance in their power.—I am, &c., A. W. HANDS.

I have examined the upper 3rd, the 4th, 5th, and 6th classes (standards) in English, including reading, spelling, dictation, and recitation. What most struck me was the general evenness of attainment in each class, as showing an impartial and patient attention to all the scholars. The clearness and intelligence of the reading were also very marked. A singular anomaly showed itself in the fact that the spelling was always better given under dictation than by the voice. The scholars, though inclined to take matters easily and to talk with one another, were readily brought to order and quietness. The assistants were very youthful, but intelligent and promising.—CHARLES FRASER.—Ashburton, December 22, 1880.

I have examined No. 1 class of lower part of the school, and found some difficulty in awarding the prizes on account of their evenness of attainments. I also examined the 3rd division of 3rd standard. I found them very backward in their dictation. I examined the 3rd division of 2nd standard in arithmetic, and had no difficulty whatever in selecting the three best, they were so far in advance of the others; but there was some difficulty in awarding the prizes, in consequence of the frequent ties in working off questions for final decision.—J. WARD.—Ashburton, December 22, 1880.

The Manse, Ashburton, December 23rd, 1880. My Dear Sir,—Herewith are enclosed lists of names of scholars, who, in my opinion, stood highest in the branches which fell to my share to examine in your school, during the first three days of this week. These branches were chiefly English, grammar, and arithmetic throughout the various standards. The discipline maintained and the behavior of the children throughout the whole school during the examination, were very excellent and praiseworthy. I have all the more pleasure in bearing testimony to these things, because I recently observed in a newspaper a report by an Inspector to the contrary. Indeed, with the new additional rooms, now almost ready for use, and with another assistant teacher also, whom you ought to have had long ago, I think your school should be one of the very best of the kind, in this new colony.—I am, &c., A. M. BEATTIE.

A Romance of the Stock Exchange.

(*Home News.*)

There has been great excitement in the London Stock Exchange these last ten days over the doings of a criminally foolish sharebroker's clerk, who, in his employer's absence speculated not wisely but too deeply. The young gentleman was left in complete control of his master's business while the master went on a yachting cruise in the Mediterranean with friends. Unfortunately for both himself and his employer, the clerk—who was a member of the Stock Exchange on his own account—took to gambling in stocks and shares. His master had played for heavy stakes and won them in a like game—why should not the clerk be equally fortunate? So, no doubt, the foolish youth thought as he plunged into huge operations, venturing to have as much as L193,000 open in one stock alone, beside much else in others. But the luck went against him; and settlement day drew near with what for him were enormous "differences" to be met. He had been trusted on his master's account, whose name and authority he doubtless used, and there was no suspicion that there could be anything wrong. Everything, however, was wrong—very much wrong. The miserable clerk saw ruin staring him in the face, and cowardice urged him to make his escape. He became a fugitive, taking with him not only his master's books, but also his cash balance at his banker's and other moneys, amounting to L7,000 and has not since been heard of. The facts becoming known the telegraph wires were at once set in motion to communicate with the absent broker, who was fortunately found at some Mediterranean port within a very short time The master hastened home as quick as steam would bear him, and arrived in London on Tuesday. His clerk's speculations had involved him in a loss of L16,000, which he honorably paid; so that, including what had been taken away, the master had lost L23,000 by his yachting cruise, in addition to the expenses which his trip cost him. We should think he will not be in haste to go on another expedition of the sort.

THE CHIMNEY CORNER.

A REALLY GOOD CASE.

[A LEGEND OF ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL.]

Everyone knows that St. Michael's, as we shall take the liberty of calling it, is the largest and most celebrated of the London hospitals. It is situated quite in the heart of the city, and is about equidistant from London bridge, Westminister, Gower street, Smithfield and Whitechapel. I was a student there, and there the happiest days of my life were passed. And now to my story.

A large number of the students had gone down for the short Christmas vacation, and I should have gone also, but was just then "dresser" to Carver Smith, and could not leave town; moreover, it was my week of residence. I must beg you to remember, what is perhaps but little understood by the general public, that a large part of the watching and care, and a certain proportion also of the treatment of hospital patients, devolve upon assistants selected from the senior students. Some of the less important appointments, such as the "dresserships," are held by every student in turn; but the more responsible offices, some of which require twelve months' residence in the hospital, can only be gained by a few men each year. And for these appointments, which are esteemed positions of great trust and honor, and which are exceedingly valuable as stepping-stones to professional success, there is very keen competition. On the surgical side of the hospital each of the four visiting surgeons had a resident house-surgeon, and to be Sir Carver Smith's "H.S." was one of the highest ambitions of a "St. Mike," for Sir Carver was at that time one of the leading English surgeons.

A man named George Adams held the post at this time, and as he is the hero of my story, so far as I have a hero, I will just say a word about him. He was one of those men that we occasionially meet with, who seem to stand head and shoulders among their fellows—very quiet and reserved, and when he chose quite inscrutable. No one knew where he came from. But his very great ability, his calmness in all emergencies—I never saw him discomposed except once—his mature judgment, and his great kindness, won him the respect alike of the students, the nursing staff, and the surgeons. Under him were four dressers, juniormen, who assisted in the hospital under his direction. I was one of them. Each week, one of us in turn resided in the hospital, and, as I said, Christmas week fell to my turn, and that is how I came to spend Christmas in St. Michael's. I ought to add that there were four assistant surgeons to the hospital, but their care was over the out-patient department, and it was only in the absence of the visiting surgeons that they had any duty in the wards.

Well, it was Christmas night, and our work for the day was done, except some late visits to the wards by-and-bye, and of course any casualities that might turn up. But Christmas day is usually pretty slack in that respect. It is medical rather than surgical casualities that Christmas day produces. We had got up in honor of the day a little entertainment in an empty ward, for any of the hospital inmates who cared to attend and were able to do so.

We had a famous little programme. One or two of our residents could play and sing well; another had a curious facility in whistling to the piano; another was an amateur ventriloquist and presdigitateur; and I fancy there were also some recitations and tableaux to come off. Also, there was one of the patients, an old sailor, who could sing in a grand, rich, stentorian baritone and bring down the house. Our chairman—Adams, of course—had just begun, and was delivering himself in a semi-serious way of some very eloquent remarks, amidst great applause—for nothing pleases the lower classes better than a few oratorical flourishes—when, "tinkle, tinkle, tinkle, tinkle," went a small, high-pitched, imperious bell. It was the accident bell!

Oh, ye lay mortals, ye little know how the social and domestic joys of a medical man are at the mercy of a bell! We invite our friends to tea, we welcome them, we anticipate a pleasant evening, and—there goes the bell! We come home tired and wet, change boots for slippers, and get comfortably by the fireside, and—there goes the bell! We turn into bed on a cold night, and just get warm and snug, when—there goes the bell! My bell experiences began that night at St. Michael's, and I shall not soon forget it.

It was Sir Carver's "taking-in week," and his assistants had to attend to the accidents. Adams nodded to me, and off I went to investigate, knowing that it might be anything from a cut finger to a railway smash. I found a scene of considerable excitement in the accident-room. Two policemen, aided by a crossing-sweeper and a cabman, had just brought in a patient, and some other spectators had pushed their way in out of curiosity.

"Just happened outside, sir; knocked down by a runaway cab, sir."

"Lost a lot of blood; 'fraid it's a bad case, sir." Thus the policemen.

"Ask Mr. Adams to come down at once, and clear the room," I said.

It was a young, fair-haired girl of eighteen or nineteen, perfectly pale, unconscious and almost pulseless—a strange contrast to her rough, swarthy, weather-beaten bearers. A deep wound in the neck was bleeding profusely; but, on tearing open the dress, I found I could stop the hemorrhage almost entirely with my finger.

Adams was there immediately; in a minute he knew all about it, and had settled his course of action. Quietly he said: "Send for Sir Carver. Take her to the theatre [the operating room] at once. Ask the other men to come, and get everything ready for operation." And then to me: "Keep up steady pressure, and don't take your finger away for an instant."

Nothing could be found out concerning her. No one was with her when she was struck down. She was very tastefully, though not expensively dressed. Her features were exceedingly regular and pretty, and when the color was in her face she must have possessed a very considerable share of good looks. Nothing but a purse and a handkerchief were found in her pocket. The former was well filled, and the latter was marked "E. Stead." Adams said at once that she was a lady.

I do not know whether it ever happened before at St. Michael's that, on the occurrence of a sudden emergency, no one of the surgical staff was at hand. Strange to say, it happened so to-night. Sir Carver Smith and three of the medical assistant surgeons lived close to the hospital; but in five minutes the messenger returned with the news that Sir Carver had been called to some aristocratic celebrity at the West End, who had met with an accident, and had taken one of the assistant surgeons with him. The second was out of town; and the third, who had been left to act in emergencies, had been taken suddenly ill.

We had been discussing the case, and offering advice upon it with all that calm assurance that characterises embryo surgeons. But matters now became serious. Half an hour would suffice to summon one of the other surgeons; but it was plain that something must be done at once. We all looked at Adams, who had said very little hitherto, but had gone on making everything ready. He simply said: "Begin to give chloroform; I am going to operate."

"What are you going to do?" we asked.

He told us; but I will not inflict any details upon my readers, but will simply say that the sharp end of a broken shaft had made a narrow, deep gash in the roof of the neck, and had wounded a large artery. The operation contemplated afforded almost the only chance of life; and to delay it any longer, Adams said, would be throwing that chance away. It was an operation of the highest difficulty and danger under the present condition of the parts; and could the performance have been anticipated, the theatre would have been crowded with spectators from all the hospitals in London. And there was a young surgeon of twenty-five, called upon at a few minutes' notice to undertake what many a long-experienced surgeon might hesitate to attempt, for it was impossible to perform it without additional loss of blood; and it was not at all improbable that a patient might not survive the operation, to say nothing of after dangers.

Adams carefully explained to the other house surgeons what assistance they would have to give him; and when the patient was ready, commenced at once. Perfect silence reigned, broken only at intervals by a word from the operator, but, indeed, he had little need to speak, for we were well drilled at St. Michael's, and everything he needed was put into his hand almost before he asked for it. I think I can still see that quiet eager group of young men under the brilliant gaslight, standing around the palid, slumbering girl; and in the centre the young surgeon, cool, collected, without hurry, without hesitation, doing his work. I have witnessed many of the most brilliant operators in England, and of course have seen Adams himself in that theatre in later years; but I think I never saw that night's operation surpassed either by himself or anyone else. A special demand sometimes calls forth special powers, and acts almost like an inspiration; and so it seemed now.

In a short time it was done, and successfully done, and the patient was carried away to a quiet ward, where she was duly cared for by the nurse in charge, Adams, and Sir Carver Smith, who came on later. Our miscellaneous entertainment did not come off; but we scarcely regretted the change of programme. In a place where accidents are hourly, and operations daily occurrences, one more or less seldom creates much excitement; and when I go on to say that this case excited more interest among residents and nonresidents than almost any other case I ever saw in the hospital, I wish you to clearly understand that this fact was due entirely to the extreme professional interest in the case and the great enthusiasm of St. Michael's men for the study of surgery. At the same time, I may state, although not particularly bearing on the question, that the patient was an uncommonly pretty girl; and day after day passed by without any light being shed on the question as to who she was and whence she came—circumstances quite sufficient to excite in a mind not pre-occupied with such matters as burden the intellect of the average medical student, the liveliest interest and curiosity.

After the operation she was at first too ill to be interrogated, when she got a little better she declined to give any information; at any rate, none could be obtained from her. Perhaps she was a little "queer" with feverish or hysterical excitement.

At the expiration of two days I went in to help with the dressings. She was very grateful for everything done for her, and bore her pain very well. For a long time she was in a very critical state. As the euphonious phrase of the young profession went, "She had a very close shave for it." At the end of three weeks, however, she was in fairly smooth water, and for the first time some of the clinical class went in with Sir Carver Smith to see the case. He had hitherto said nothing on the subject of the operation. He was a man of few words; but one word of praise or blame from him was never forgotten by any of us. Turning to us from the patient, he said. "This, gentlemen, is a case of so-and-so," and he briefly explained it. Then he added: "Nothing but the most exceptional circumstances could justify a house surgeon in this hospital in undertaking an operation of such importance. In this case those exceptional circumstances existed. The operation is one of great difficulty and rarity. I have once, many years ago, performed it myself, and the patient died. Had my patient recovered, such a recovery would then, I believe, have been without precedent. But the gratification to myself of having performed the first successful operation would not have been greater than is my gratification now at having under my care a case which will, I believe, recover, and whose recovery will be due, without doubt, to the prompt and skilful action of a St. Michael's student, my own house surgeon, Mr. Adams."

"Strong for Carvy, and good for Adams" was the general comment. Adams pretended to be writing notes; but there was not one of us who would not readily have suffered "plowing" in our "final college" to gain such a word from Carver Smith.

And now my fair readers, if you will turn to the clinical report of the celebrated case in the pages of the *Lancet*, somewhere about March, 18—, you will find it stated that "after this point the case presents no features of special interest; convalescence was rapid, and the patient was discharged cured on the forty-seventh day after admission." I therefore give you fair notice that you may lay down this record here and not read any further unless you like.

Yes; she recovered rapidly; and prettier and prettier she grew as she got better. She talked very little, and said nothing at all to help her identification. Inquiry was fruitless, even though the case got into the newspapers. The interest among the students increased daily. It was reported that she was an heiress who had quarrelled with her guardian; that Adams was madly in love with her; that she was waiting for him to propose, and then would marry off-hand; that Adams knew all about her, but kept it snug. And then men got to chaffing him in a mild sort of a way, wanting to know the "state of the heart," and the chances of "union by first intention." But Adams was impenetrable. Personally, I am inclined to think that, whatever the condition of his patient's heart might be, he was a little affected in that region. She was evidently very fond of him, and liked no one but him to dress the wound. Still the mystery increased.

(*To be continued.*)

A country debating society is wrestling with the question: "Is a woman's waist the best place for arm-y movements.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Pure Blood.—As the vital fluid, when in a healthy state, sustain and renovates every part of the living system, so, when it becomes impoverished or impure it exerts a precisely contrary effect. It is abundantly manifest that any medicine which does not reach the circulation can never exterminate the disease; but any preparation capable of exercising a salutary influence over the blood, must with it be carried to every living fibre of the frame. The lungs, heart, liver, kidneys, and skin, all receive benefits from its more wholesome condition. Holloway's purifying Pills operate directly, powerfully, and beneficially, upon the whole mass of blood, whether venous or arterial. They strengthen the stomach, excite the liver and kidneys, expel disease, and prolong existence.—ADVT.

Wanted.

WANTED—A good WAITER. Apply at once, Ashburton Hotel. 813

WANTED—A good general SERVANT. One who can milk preferred. Apply, Office of this Paper, at one o'clock, Friday, 31st Dec. 810

WANTED—A good General SERVANT; references required. Apply, Office of this Paper. 803

WANTED KNOWN, That HENRY'S PORTRAIT ROOMS, Saunders' Buildings, East street, Ashburton, are open DAILY, from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. Portraits taken in any weather. Great Reduction in Price. 606

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SOMERSET LIVERY AND BAIT STABLES.

J. W. M'RAE begs to inform the public that he has taken the above Stables from Mr. Bossenberg, and is making extensive repairs.
Buggies and saddle horses on hire.
Lowest prices and best attention.
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WANTED KNOWN—Just arrived from England—Christmas, New Year, and Birthday Cards. New Zealand Illustrated Annual, Young Ladies' Journal, and Bow Bells, 1s. 6d. each. Family Herald and Family Reader, 1s. each, and all other Magazines supplied at Christchurch Prices. Colonial and European Newspapers, School Books, Stationery, &c. A visit solicited. L. F. ANDREWES, East street, near Lancaster's Butchery. 527

Meetings.

LONGBEACH ROAD DISTRICT.

NOTICE is hereby given that the ANNUAL MEETING of RATEPAYERS of this district will be held at the Road Board Office, on TUESDAY, the 4th day of JANUARY next, commencing at the hour of Twelve o'clock noon.

Business will be to receive Annual Balance-Sheet, and Statement of Expenditure, &c.; to discuss district matters generally, and to nominate and elect three persons to serve as members of the Board, in the places of Messrs. Grigg (Chairman), Dawson, and Wright, who retire in rotation, but are eligible for re-election.

A Poll will be taken after the nomination, if required, closing at 4 o'clock p.m.

W. CUTHBERT,
Returning Officer.
Longbeach Road, 17th Dec., 1880. 773

MOUNT SOMERS ROAD BOARD.

The ANNUAL MEETING of Ratepayers of the Mount Somers District will be held at the Schoolhouse, Mount Somers, at 12 noon on THURSDAY, January 6th, 1881, for the purpose of laying before the Ratepayers a statement of receipts and expenditure and the Balance Sheet for the past year.

By order,
C. J. WENTWORTH COOKSON, JUN.,
805 Surveyor to the Board.

UPPER ASHBURTON ROAD DISTRICT.

The ANNUAL MEETING of Ratepayers of this District will be held at the Road Board Office on MONDAY, January 3rd, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of ELECTING THREE MEMBERS in the place of Messrs. D. McLean, M. Stitt, and Arch. McColl, who retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election.

A Poll, if demanded, will take place the same day, closing at 4 o'clock p.m.

D. McLEAN,
781 Chairman.

Amusements.

ASHBURTON FIRE BRIGADE

Carnival.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27.

Under the patronage of his Worship the Mayor and the Borough Councillors of Ashburton, the Directors and Members of the Caledonian Society, and of all the Beauty and Talent of the County.

PROGRAMME.

At 7.30 p.m., the Brigade will march through the town, and at 8 p.m. sharp the Concert will commence at the Town Hall.

1. Overture—Pinaoforte.
2. Song—
3. Scotch Reel, with Bagpipe accompaniment.
4. Glee—"Hark, the Lark." Ashburton Glee Club.
5. Local Stump Speech.
6. Irish Song and Dance.
7. Bagpipe Solo.
8. Scotch Song.
9. Pianoforte Solo.
10. Recitation.
11. Glee—"Sweet and Low."
12. Sword Dance, with Bagpipe accompaniment.
13. Double Song and Dance.
14. Brigade Song and Chorus.
15. National Anthem, with full chorus.

At 10 p.m. a Torchlight Procession will take place, accompanied by Mephistopheles and his Evil Genius. The procession will march round the town, and a Pyrotechnic Display will be made at the Fire Brigade Station.

Tickets for the Concert may be had from all members of the Brigade.
Dress Circle and Chairs, 4s.; Second Seats, 3s.; Back Seats, 2s. 790

To Let.

TO LET—Near the East Belt, TWO ROOMS, with use of copper and outhouse. Rent, 6s. a week. Apply, Office of this Paper. 795