



HE WOULDN'T FORGET HIM.

Nervous Waiter: "Er, aren't you going to remember the waiter, Sir?"

Discontented Diner: "Remember, you, I should think so; I'll remember you and the cast iron steak you gave me for the next six months?"

"Fully a hundred compositors are out of work, it is said, in Wellington, and some of them look as if they had not had a square meal for weeks. Many of them have been living on one meal a day for weeks past." We clip the above from an up-country contemporary. Wellington is certainly bad enough at the present time, but this assertion is a gross exaggeration.

From an Auckland contemporary—"More cases reported of purses being stolen from women. But while the gentle creatures, God bless them, persist in carrying their purses in loose bags slung behind them or in shallow pockets from which the wallet temptingly protrudes, who can wonder that the nimble-fingered annexer of unconsidered trifles should avail himself of the opportunities so generously afforded him. The carelessness of women oftentimes makes thieves of needy men."

"No member of the S.A. Ministry and no S.A. Supreme Court Judge possesses a title." Bravo, South Australia.

A miner from Coolgardie writes:—"The day after to-morrow comes my turn to wash my face. Water for this purpose can only be spared every fourth day. This is the fifth week I have had to wear the same shirt unwashed." And yet there are people who will insist that the Western Australian mining fields offer more advantages to a young man than a city life.

"I tell you what, sir, I'm a man who can command a salary!"

"Yes. It's so small it doesn't dare disobey you!"

"If you wasn't doin' a burgle in that 'ouse, why did I meet yer comin' out in yer stockin' feet?"

"I'd 'eard there was sickness in the family, ole man!"

The following from Tasmania is worth republishing:—"A high-school girl, class A, being told by her teacher to parse the sentence, 'He kissed me,' consented reluctantly, because opposed to speaking of private affairs in public. 'He' she commenced, with unnecessary emphasis, and a fond lingering over the word that brought the crimson to her cheeks, 'is a pronoun, third person, singular number, masculine gender, a gentleman, pretty well off, universally considered a good catch. Kissed is a verb, transitive—too much so; regular—every evening; indicative mood—indicating affection; first and third person plural number, and governed by circumstance. Me—O everybody knows me, and down she went.

Banking Matters.

We publish the following from a Wanganui correspondent:—

There was a spirited controversy not long ago between the *New Zealand Times* and the *Evening Post*, of Wellington, about "Banking, Banks, and Money," and the principal question thus debated was "Where is our money gone?" Millions of deposits and millions of advanced money were put against each other by the *New Zealand Times* to prove that the Australian banks treated us unfairly; while the *Evening Post* tried to establish that the banks doing business in New Zealand were in their actions only governed by prudence and wisdom. Yet neither of them can or will answer the question of "Where our money goes?" to the plain understanding of our citizens. I will now give a plain statement made by the manager of one of the Australian banks doing business in New Zealand, which was published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, and signed by the same manager, and thereon I shall make some comments. These, I think, everyone will understand. In April, 1893, appeared the following statement:—

Statement of Liabilities and Assets of the ——— Bank, in their Branches of New Zealand.

Fully paid-up capital	... £1,500,000
Reserve profits	... 1,000,000
Liabilities, including note issue of £111,000, within the Colony of New Zealand	2,851,000
Assets in the Colony of New Zealand	... 2,311,000
Last dividend paid	... 90,000

I give here round numbers. Everyone can and must understand that when there is in a commercial concern a surplus of liabilities over assets, that there can be no capital at all; therefore there is no capital of this bank employed within the Colony of New Zealand. Therefore I declare that the paid-up capital of £1,500,000 does not exist in New Zealand. The latter, too, can be said of the reserve profits. Thus the above statement should read for New Zealand—

Fully paid-up capital	... £0 0 0
Reserve profits	... 0 0 0

Furthermore, the liabilities exceeding

the assets of £540,000 shows else, that these £540,000 are employed in some other country or that they are lost. Taking the first, that this sum of money is employed somewhere else, the question arises, if New Zealand can afford to do without this money? If not, then certainly does this Bank act unfairly with our colony, and everyone will see this. If the money is lost, the Bank should be forced to wind up, like any other commercial concern, or at least should lose the confidence of the public. Now I shall treat that item of dividend of £90,000. This sum of money is divided between the shareholders who constitute the proprietary of this Bank. Of those shareholders none, or at least a very small percentage, reside with us. Therefore, the bulk of the £90,000 goes out of the colony. And as we do not get any value whatever for this money it means a simple loss to the colony of New Zealand.

The proprietary of the Bank in question do not invest one single penny with us, simply handle our capital, leave us the benefit of our capital or take it away, as they please, and for this they tax us to the tune of £90,000 p.a. Will anybody calculate what the loss is to New Zealand during a period say of 10 years from this source, and then we ask, where is the money gone? I ask, where is the intelligence of our citizens gone to if they cannot answer this question. If there was not such an extraordinary drainage of money out of the colony, surely the surplus of our exports over our imports should, year by year, better our circumstances, and there should be a yearly substantial increase of national wealth. In order to insure this let us stop all those leaks that we can see, and let us, for God's sake, start with this enormous payment of dividends into the pockets of the people that have not a single penny capital in New Zealand. If allowed I shall treat National Debt, Gold Basis, &c., at a future time, and am willing to enter into controversy about these questions with anyone. I do not want to take too much liberty with your space, wherefore for the present I will conclude.

I am, Sir,
AMICUS POPULI.

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Faithfully yours,
E. FRIKART, M.D., L.K.Q.C.P., &c.