OCIETY

zossip.

to receive and escort the injured man to his home. Maslon and Mr Milmouse remained behind to inaugurate a fitting welcome to the victim of circumstantial evidence by the aid of a few flags, a purse of sovereigns, and an address from his fellow townsmen in the town hall. The ceremony passed off with the utmost celar. Maslon, in a manly speech, apologised humbly for his previous harsh suspicions, Mr Milmouse commented at length on the fallacions and daugerous character of circumstantial evidence, and Barker, moved to tears by the kindly feeling displayed on all sides, expressed his thanks in a brief and broken speech. The ex-convict was then by general consent allowed to retire quietly to his house.

One of the first persons to visit him the following day was Mr Milmouse. The reverend gentleman stayed for a considerable time, and, on leaving the house, it was noticed that his brows were contracted by a thoughtful frown

'I fear,' he remarked to Mrs Milmouse, later in the day, 'that poor Barker's mind has suffered under the harsh treatment he has received under the name of

astice. I greatly fear so.'
'Why, Richard?' asked Mrs Milmouse.
'His manner,' said her husband, 'is peculiar, very

justice. I greatly fear so.'

'Why, Richard?' asked Mrs Milmouse.

'His manner,' said her husband, 'is peculiar, very peculiar.

'In what way, dear?' inquired his spouse.

'Well,' said the minister, 'I can hardly describe it, but he laughs.'

'He was always a jovial man,' said Mrs Milmouse, reflectively. 'He was always greatly given to laughter.'

'Just so,' replied Mr Milmouse, but now he never does anything else.'

This curious fact came also to be noticed by others, and the impression that Barker had in part lost his reason gained ground locally, and eventually crept into the papers. At last a person called Justice wrote to an influential journal suggesting that a subscription should be got up for the unfortunate man Barker, who through prolonged mental suffering had become totally insane. The editor of the paper hacked up the writer with a warm-blooded leader, and subscriptions began to flow in from all quarters. In the course of rather more than a month a sum of £200 was forwarded to Mr Milmouse, to be invested on account of Barker in any manner that he and the rest of the unfortunate man's friends deemed to be most to his advantage. Immediately on its receipt Mr Milmouse walked across to Barker's workshop to communicate the good news.

At first the ex-convict seemed thunderstruck. He dropped the awl with which he had been working, and sat gazing at the minister with open month; then he suddenly rose from his seat, placed his hands across his stomach, said 'This will kill me,' and broke into a hurricane of laughter. He stamped, he bowled, he threw himself into his seat, and wriggled out of it, holding his sides. He said, 'Ho! Ho! ver and over again with painful emphasis. His face became apoplectic, his eyes twinkled and started from their sockets with the intense agony of his enjoyment. 'Great God!' he gasped, finally, 'I must tell someone or it will be the death of me. Ho! Ho! Mr Milmouse, Ho! Ho! sir. 'What is it?' asked the paralyzed minister.

'Ho! Ho! Sir, to think how you've fooled 'em all. And that

Even obtuseness is not without its compensations. lends a man into error, but it may preserve him from the discovery of the fact when he is in.
'Poor fellow, I fear it is a hopless case,' said the minister, subsequently, in relating the incident to his

But Mrs Milmouse looked wonderingly across the garden to a newly-made mound in the cemetery, beneath which lay the mortal remains of the man Bagstock, who had died of inanition, and her face as she looked grew still

SAMUEL CLIALL WHITE,

CLARKE'S WORLD FAMED BLOOP MINTURE.—'The most searching Blood Cleanser that sedence and medicat skill have brought to light.' Surferers from Servius, Scarry, Eczema, Had Lege, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it at thai to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cores have been effected by it. Bottles 2s de each, sold everywhere. Reware of worthless imitations and substitutes.



The latest Wellington engagement is that of Miss Maude Grace to Mr J. Duncan, eldest son of Mr John Duncan, of Uplands, Te Aro.

MISS ELIOTT is to be married to Mr Murison in Wellington this month.

MENTLEMEN'S VISITING CARDS.—100 best ivory W Cards with copper plate for 10s, or 53 fo 7s 6d.—Graphic Office, Shortland.street, Auckland.



AUCKLAND,

JANUABY 7.

We have had lovely weather for the bolidays, the much-wanted rain coming on Sunday last. I have a good deal of nows. We are rather disappointed His Excellency the Governor and party remained in Auckiand for so short a time, leaving in the Hinemos for a cruise on route for Lyttelton last week. However, we hope to see them back shortly.

TENNIS

THE DERRY DAY

Mies Snell, white cambric with black beit and collar; Miss Jones and Miss Sellers, dark skirts, light blouse; Miss Bull, bus cambric; Miss Hall, pale green; Mrs Harrison, dark skirt, light blouse.

718 DERRY DAY

of the Auckland Racing Club took place on New Year's Day, when the attendance was much larg; r than on Boxing Day. The Derby was won by Fabuist. The winner was led to the front of the grand-tand, where Lady Glasgow, in her usual graceful of the spectators. Annought the Covernment Hsuse party were His Excellency, the Countess of Glasgow, Ladies Augusta and Dorothy Boyle. Miss Fisher, Major Editiot and Captain Preston. The day was brilliantly fine, tempered by a soft balmy wind. The stand was filled with an elegant and well-dressed crowd. Now for the gowns: Lady Glasgow looked well in a stylish locerul lade, becoming boment with bise; the Ladies Augusta and Dorothy Boyle were suitably gowned in simple but eff-clive one of the property of the gowner of the lade; has been suitably gowned in simple but eff-clive blue muslins large picture cream Leghorn hats with white chiffon and pink rosebuds; Miss Fisher, fawn gown, black lace bat; Mrs Col. Dawon (wife of President of Club), black cropen with cream ellk bodice, black floral hat; Mrs O'Rorke, tovely white muslin bordered with canary stripe, lilac crianlers; and black sith fluid chancy stripe, lilac crianlers; and black sith fluid muslin bordered with canary stripe, lilac crianlers; the black sith skirt, pink crepe biouse, black lace hat with fluid electors, Mrs Fenwick looked pictures, under the wind of the sith stripe in the crianlers and black lace hat with fluid accordance with white sith streamers; Miss Maud Wilkins, dark skirt, pink crepe biouse; Mrs Chanc, black sith, Mrs Greenway, miss green sith, stripe black velvet bat; Miss Wilkins, dark skirt, pink crepe blouse; Mrs Chanc, skirt, spink crepe blouse; Mrs White hat, Mrs Bundon, dark skirt, spink crepe blouse; Mrs White hat, Mrs Bundon, dark skirt, spink creps with the sink shirt, spink creps had b

Miss Atkinson looked remarkably well in white with black collarcite and black hat; Mrs Cottie, black flowered silk; Miss Burgaville, white facek white hat, with electrique trimmings; Mrs Chol, it alicemboidery mualin; Miss Ada lixen, canary-coloured knowledge of the collection of t

magenta roces and black and white feathers, white and alives parsace, white gives stitched with white fithe set dressed on the garden of the still.

STEELEHAND DAY.

The third day of the summer races was on Thursday, and proved as accessful as any of the former. Gowns were pretty and season able, and the law nerpresented a very gay some with the crowds of the control of the cont