

V.R.C. Grand National Steeplechase at Flemington on Saturday next.

Kulnine and Norton have returned to New Zealand.

The New Zealand jockey, Beale, who went to the other side with Ultimatum, is coming back.

The Dunedin Jockey Club will be represented at the racing conference by the Hon. G. McLean.

Southern papers state that the report of Mr. S. H. Gollan having purchased Norton is premature.

Busaco or Daimio are worth backing for the V.R.C. Grand National Steeplechase to be run on Saturday next.

Bluefire was top of the winning horses of 1893-94 with £2087 3s, and White Rose was at the bottom with £19.

With the aid of nineteen wins St. George sired stock that won £4035 7s. during 1893-94. St. Leger with seventeen wins was only £690 odd pounds below him.

In future the cost of the New Zealand Turf Register, which will be published in the first week of next month will be 10/6. Hitherto the Register has not returned to its publishers the cost of production.

The Stewards at Warwick Farm requested the pleasure of a few moments conversation with Geo. Wright re the Dancer's running in the Saxonica Handicap, but the Ellerslie trainer's statement was quite satisfactory, and he came through the ordeal with flying colours.

During the racing season of 1893-94 totalisator dividends of £20 and upwards were paid on 51 occasions. The highest dividend declared was £162, which was paid on Waimarama in the Christmas Handicap at the Annual Meeting of the Porangahau Racing Club.

The Canterbury Jockey Club heads the different Metropolitan Clubs in the amount of totalisator revenue for the season 1893-94. The C.J.C. revenue amounted to £61,584. The Auckland Racing Club comes next with £59,266, and third place is taken by the Dunedin Jockey Club with £51,943.

In the racing stastics for 1893-94 compiled by "Pentagraph," a table is given showing the favourites and the winners of all the principal New Zealand races. It may be interesting to those who follow the system of backing the favourite that out of the 67 races given in the table, the favourites only scored on 22 occasions.

George Wright has decided to give New Zealand a spell for twelve months, and he will try his fortune on the Australian turf for that period. Gallagher has been left in charge of Three Star and Co., and when Wright returns to the other side next week he will take other members of his Ellerslie string with him. Stanmoor will be one of the number, and so will the great St. Hippo, who may be expected to represent us right worthily when he gets fairly back to racing form. Three Star may now be reckoned a certain starter for the Melbourne Cup, in which case of course he will not contest the New Zealand Cup.

Music, Drama.

BY THE PROMPTER.

The statement that Mr and Mrs Bancroft intend touring Australia and New Zealand next year is contradicted in London.

The Australian manager, Alf. Dampier, who after long and plucky struggling against an unkind fate in Melbourne Alexandra, has decided to go home, was given a benefit recently at Sydney Royal, which panned out to the tune of £250.

ACCORDING to the Bulletin Miss Annis Montague will open a school of music and singing in Melbourne when she returns to Victoria from New Zealand. Miss Montague taught Frances Savelle, Cecily Staunton, who is appearing with her at the Opera House, and many other good artists. "Although she did not bring Melba right out," writes the Bulletin, "for Cecchi was the diva's tutor proper, she taught her several useful wrinkles which Melba has not forgotten to acknowledge."

MUSICAL and dramatic people throughout New Zealand and all over Australia will hear with regret of the death of the well-known operatic singer, Mr Charles Turner, who succumbed to congestion of the lungs, consequent on pneumonia, early yesterday morning. Mr Turner caught a severe cold on the passage across from Sydney, and although very much indisposed on the opening night of the season, he stuck to his work, and appeared as Don Caesar in Maritana. Next day he was unable to leave his bed, and in spite of the best medical skill and the devoted attention of his wife, he never recovered, and died at half-past one o'clock yesterday morning. Mrs Turner will have the earnest sympathy of everyone in her sad bereavement. The deceased gentleman was with his brother in the famous Carl Rosa Opera Company when that combination was at its best. It was in 1880 that he married Miss Annis Montague, and since then Australasia has enjoyed the result of that artistic union. Mr Turner, who was 50 years of age, has toured New Zealand three times, and when he arrived from the other side last week there was little indication that he would never again tread the boards.

MRS ANNIE BESANT is on her way to Australia.

Owing to the death of Mr Chas. Turner, Abbott's Opera House has been closed until further notice.

MR ARTHUR GARNER, the well-known theatrical manager, has filled his schedule, which, summarised, stands as follow:— Debts due upon mortgage, £34,143 7s 8d; debts due to unsecured creditors, £18,826 4s 6d; total debts, £52,970 2s 2d; assets, £54,687 10s, estimated surplus, £1,606 7s 10d. The causes of the insolvency are the usual ones, viz., pressure of creditors, and depreciation in the value of property. There was a motion heard in the Victorian Insolvency Court to commit Mr Garner for contempt, because he did not file his schedule in the seven days specified by the Act, but the motion was frustrated through the insolvent filing his schedule.

THE second performance of Lecocq's opera bouffe, Giroffe Giroffa, was given by the Montague Turner Opera Company at the Opera House on Thursday evening last, and a large audience attended and fully appreciated the fine interpretation given of the work. Light opera suited the chorus to a nicety, and their work can be highly commended. The title role was played by Miss Ada Colley, and in acting and singing she has fully sustained the reputation which preceded her. Her wine song, See How it Sparkles, was given with admirable effect, and Miss Colley fairly brought down the house with it. Miss Cicely Staunton shared the honours with Miss Colley, and as Pedro sang beautifully and looked charming Mr Walshe, who pleased everyone when he took Mr Turner's part of Don Caesar in Maritana, made a capital Marasquin, and Mr Ed. Farley was a very capable Mourzouk. The humour of Mr Frank Sceats as Bolero, was very welcome, and Miss Ada Moxon played up to him very consistently. On Friday evening the always popular Bohemian Girl was produced, and the interpretation given to the work was first-class. Miss Annis Montague was, of course, Arline, and her acting and singing was in every way worthy of her high reputation. In addition to the solos which fell to her lot, Miss Montague gave an exquisite rendering of Packer's Listening, and she had to respond to the plaudits of her auditors with Home, Sweet Home. Miss Staunton was a very effective Gipsy Queen, and the other characters were very worthily sustained. Faust was underlined for Monday, but owing to Mr Turner's illness, which was to have such a sad termination, Giroffe Giroffa was repeated.

OUR MELBOURNE LETTER.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

June 26. MA MIE ROSETTE, the new comic opera, has been staged at the Princess Theatre with success. In view of the empty state of the pockets of the people here I don't know that even success counts for much nowadays. Miss Nellie Stewart is in the bill, and this is a good thing. Mr Wallace Brownlow, a new English baritone, a fine vocalist and a capital actor is also in the cast. Mr Brownlow is a welcome addition to the Australian stage—but there, you'll see him for yourselves ere long.

The Holloway Company at the Royal have been playing to somewhat hollow business. The good old times have now vanished like the beautiful vision of the proverb, and two weeks for any piece, no matter how good, is, I am afraid, just a week too long. Holloway's company is a good all round one, the pieces are all well staged, but, bless you, the scarcity of sugar in the city is the real opposition an opposition, you'll admit, of the most formidable character.

Fitzgerald's Circus have suddenly come out and put up the shutters of the Alexandra Theatre, which is now closed, but Dan Barry is to take the running again in a day or two.

Miss Marion Willis has just returned from a New Zealand trip. Her tour, as you know, has not been of the brightest. She is I am told to go into the Victorian provinces, but what with the bad times and "badder" weather, she's very ill-advised, and if she's the sensible little lady I take her to be, she'll not even dream of it.

Alfred Dampier looked me up a few days ago to bid me adieu ere leaving for "Merrie England." Dampier goes to the Adelphia Theatre, London, to pro-

duce the Australian drama, "Robbery Under Arms" and the like. I hope he'll do well. He deserves it more than others I could name. Mr and Mrs Alfred Rolfe (Miss Lily Dampier) remain in Australia. At the end of twelve months Dampier will return to the Antipodes with English novelties. Their vice versa idea is not bad, is it?

James F. Cathcart, the veteran, has also been visiting me. He is delighted with his recent trip to your part of the world. He desires to be remembered to all and sundry, and hopes to again renew your acquaintance. He speaks feelingly of the kindly manner in which the New Zealand press have spoken of his performances.

Clark's Company are at the Melbourne Opera House; Cogill's at the Gaiety Music Hall; the latter wants the Bijou Theatre.

Talking of the Bijou reminds me that the Garner season was not fraught with much grandeur, the furniture man having been suing in court to recover his money.

Madame Belle Cole's Company gave their last performance in the Town Hall, Melbourne, last night.

Diana Bloustein, the ambitious young Jewess who went to New Zealand with Marian Willis, has not set the place on fire since her return. Indeed, with the exception of a mild benefit at the Alhambra she has done nothing. At the benefit in question she essayed Pauline in the Lady of Lyons, but the performance and attendance were equally bad. She has gone back gracefully to that retirement whence she so suddenly emerged.

THE FLAT.

Weights, etc.

NEW ZEALAND GRAND NATIONAL MEETING.

WEIGHTS. THE NEW ZEALAND GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLCHASE of 500 sovs, about 3 miles.—Norton 12.8, Liberator 10.13, Waterbury 11.3, Despised 11.3, Clarence 12.3, Bombardier 10.11, Tintea 10.10, Mutiny 10.9, Melinite 10.8, Morag 10.7, Victrix 10.6, Bootles 10.5, Robin 10.2, Crazy Kate 10.1, Belle 9.11, War Dance 9.10, Dromedary 9.9, Nanakia 9.8, Fishmonger 9.8, Pamoana 9.7, Amalgam 9.7, Salute 9.7, Bishop 9.7, Kararoa 9.7.

NEW ZEALAND GRAND NATIONAL HURDLE RACE of 300 sovs, 2 miles.—Liberator 12.6, Kulnine 12.3, Couranto 12.0, Kapua 11.10, St. Kilda 11.2, Clarence 11.0, Melinite 10.10, Despised 10.10, Musket 10.9, Magazine 10.6, Empire 10.5, Fright 10.0, Barnardo 10.0, Morag 9.13, Stranger 9.12, Cyrus 9.11, Goodwood 9.11, War Dance 9.10, Jacob Faithful 9.9, Perkin 9.7, Stray-shot 9.0, Dromedary 9.0, Splitink 9.0.

VICTORIA RACING CLUB.

HANDICAPS. GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLCHASE of 750 sovs; second 150 and the third 75 sovs out of the stake. About three miles.—Knight of the Garter 13.3, Mikado II. 13.1, Norton 12.12, Busaco 12.11, Confidence 12.9, Trojan 12.7, The Actress 12.6, Claret 12.5, Elfie 12.3, Tayforth 11.13, Sir Wilfred 11.11, Corangamite 11.10, Mon Ami 11.9, Polonius 11.8, Waterbury 11.6, Waiter 11.5, Frantic 11.3, Dondi 11.2, Circling 10.12, Foxhall 10.9, Mutiny 10.9, Spanker 10.6, Glenview 10.3, Blyth 10.2, Expectation 10.2, Banda 10.1, Gillie Cruabh 10.1, Sardine 10.0, Medicine 10.0, Darkie 9.12, Western 9.10, The Czar 9.10, Bogong 9.10, Mambrino 9.10, Royal Oak 9.9, Cerberus 9.8, Rapid Bay 9.7, Whalebone 9.7, Reckless (late Rufus) 9.6, Passsword 9.5, Phantom 9.3, Daimio 9.3, Baritone 9.0.

CAULFIELD CUP.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Weight, and other details for the Caulfield Cup race.

MELBOURNE CUP.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Weight, and other details for the Melbourne Cup race.

NEW ZEALAND CUP.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Weight, and other details for the New Zealand Cup race.

ADVERTISEMENTS

(COPY.)

NAPIER, 4TH JUNE, 1894.

DEAR SIR,—I write to express regret in having stated that two tickets were rung upon "Gorse" in the Ladies Purse at the last meeting of the Waipawa County Racing Club on the Outside Machine during the time the race was being run. I am perfectly satisfied that there was no foundation in fact for such a rumour.

Yours faithfully,

W. Y. DENNETT.

To H. P. COHEN, Esq., Napier.

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A. COATES,

Hon. Sec.