



ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.

ITINERANT FRAUDS.

"OH, for a forty-parson power, to chant thy praise, Hypocrisy!" as Byron says in "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers." A biting bit of sarcasm is that. With the far inferior force at our disposal we are about to assail the wandering frauds which, under cloaks religious and otherwise, invade our territory and deplete our pockets. Without unduly straining our memories, a formidable list of charlatans unfolds itself. Faith-healers, such as Milner-Steven and Dr. Dowie; quacks innumerable like the Duflots, of "Golden Chariot" fame; Clampetts, escaped nuns, Free-thought lecturers, converted Jewesses, spiritualists, mind-readers, fortune-tellers, trance-mediums, Indian doctors, etc., *hoc genus omne*—humbugs all—visit our cities, and make levies on or take up collections from the credulous section of colonials who are ever ready to flock like silly sheep to be shorn. Who has not read "Japhet in search of a father?" If anyone pleads guilty to such an omission let him repent, and forthwith read Marryat's humorous and able exposition of the tricks and devices by which professional imposters fool the many-headed multitude. Have any of our readers noticed the audiences dispersing from entertainments of the kind under criticism? They are always practically the same people—persons who invariably run after novelties, and pump up faith and enthusiasm on the smallest provocation. Ministers of regular congregations complain of scanty attendances at their places of worship, and of inadequate and irregularly paid stipends, while hundreds of pounds are pocketed and carried out of the colony by those "itinerant frauds." Of course we are not attacking persons and companies offering to the public legitimate entertainments. They come to us sailing under true colours, and offering a fair *quid pro quo* for the remuneration demanded. They spend in all cases a fair share of it, and in many cases leave behind more than they carry away. Recently a minister complained that while Madame Patey's concerts were crowded his congregation did not seem capable of contributing sufficient for the maintenance of church and pastor. He was wrong in choosing a legitimate amusement as a peg upon which to hang his rebuke. Opposition occurs only when two of a trade tread upon each other's toes. Let him preach a sermon on the subject of "itinerant frauds," and teach his congregation the folly of running after strange gods and fanciful doctrines. Next to the invention of a new pill or patent medicine, probably nothing pays better than inventing and promulgating a new religion. Strike out something novel, study the sociological aspect, and put in tenets which will allow the greatest number to indulge in the most popular "darling sins" of the period, with consciences lulled to slumber under the protecting ægis of a creed. You will speedily attain fame and fortune by such a policy. Our legislators are about to assemble in the Empire City. One of the gravest subjects for deliberation will be the incidence of taxation. We offer a suggestion. Let a tax be imposed upon all "itinerant frauds." It may perhaps be difficult to arrive at an exact definition of such, but a schedule might be prepared enumerating the particular wanderers

who would be taxable under the tariff. Such persons would then be compelled to take out licenses like pedlars or express-men. The most dangerous of those "itinerant frauds" always pretend to labour, not for themselves, but for some good cause. They are about to found an institution, and every penny over expenses is to be devoted to that excellent purpose. However, almost invariably the individual is the institution, and the charity is of that description which begins at home.

FOOTBALL.

PONSONBY V. GRAFTON.

THIS match, owing to the state of the ground, proved a regular mud-worry, and yet was not only exciting but also the occasion of an exhibition of football which must encourage us all. The game was fast, considering the handicap, and the running, dribbling, passing and collaring, astonished the large muster of spectators who expected nothing brilliant to be achieved with a greasy ball and so treacherous a foothold. Forwards and backs on both sides covered themselves with glory and mud. Ponsonby, following the precedent laid down by Gordon on the previous Saturday, imported an English player of note in the shape of Stoddart, who turned out to be a sterling coin, worth several colonial "Roberts" to his side. The kick-off took place at 3.20, Ponsonby having a not very strong breeze at their backs. After a preliminary skirmish Stoddart got possession, and made a good run, invading the enemy's territory. A knock on from the throw in, and a scrum followed, of which Grafton got a bit the best. Masefield presently made a strong run, ending with a throw forward. Play was now in Grafton twenty-five. Breen presently effected a neat pass to Ross, who, after a clever run and good feinting and dodging, got in, but not far from the corner flag. The colonial Stoddart essayed the place, but making a poor attempt, for which the greasy ball easily accounted for, did not improve. Shortly after Grafton was forced, Hales saving by a kick out of bounds. After some give and take work, and varying fortunes, the ball was again near the centre, when a good rush by Ponsonby forwards took the ball close to Grafton's twenty-five, when Hales kicked into touch. Shortly after the throw in Masefield made the run of the day, dodging and fending strongly and until only Kissling stood between him and the goal-line. But Mase, not to be denied, flung himself over Kissling, and scored. Breen did not improve the score, which now stood—Ponsonby, 2; Grafton, 0. Up to this point the game had been decidedly in favour of the blue stripes. Ross next secured a mark, from which "Colonial" nearly placed a goal, but the distance was a bit too far, and the ball passed under the bar. Grafton, rallying now, got on some excellent dribbling rushes, Smith and Mackenzie being generally to the fore, and play was for some time in Ponsonby's twenty-five. Good passing among the Grafton backs ended in a free kick being accorded them on the ground of obstruction. We failed to detect any valid cause for this penalty, the last thing we saw being a decided throw forward by a Grafton player. However, the penalty place resulted in a splendid goal kicked by Penalligan. Score 2 everybody at 3.35. Put on their

mettle by this mishap Ponsonby worked the ball into Grafton territory, and twice forced their opponents. Grafton then rallied, and carried the war into Africa. Elliot with a good dribble reaching Ponsonby's twenty-five. The ball was speedily back into Grafton territory, when Hales made a long and brilliant run until well stopped by Stichbury just on Ponsonby's twenty-five line. After up and down fortunes, of which Grafton seemed to have the best, Smith repeatedly shining with splendid dribbles, Davidson secured a mark right in front of the goal, and within a moderate distance, but Penalligan failed to put the ball over. Ponsonby shortly after had to submit to a force. After the kick out Madigan shone with a really fine run until cleverly stopped by Cole. During the last five minutes of this spell Grafton looked like scoring on several occasions, but Ponsonby defended well. The first spell then ended with the ball close to Ponsonby's twenty-five. Score—2 all.

The second spell opened with the wind in Grafton's favour, but, as usual, the breeze had dropped to an imaginary quantity. Ponsonby forwards began with a lusty effort, and after one force Mills, aided by Murray, scored. Masefield took the place at a difficult angle, and made an excellent shot, but without improving. Score—Ponsonby, 3; Grafton, 2. From this point the battle raged chiefly in Ponsonby's twenty-five. Madigan, Wells, Smith, Elliot, Hales, Kissling, and Penalligan, repeatedly distinguished themselves by fine play, while Ponsonby's forwards and backs fought a determined and successful defensive battle. Elliot got in brilliantly, but Penalligan, though making an excellent attempt, did not register the major point. Although Ponsonby on one or two occasions threatened the enemy's stronghold, Grafton had considerably the best of the spell, forcing their doughty opponents several times, and penning them dangerously. However, good defensive play averted any further score, and a match creditable to both clubs ended in a tie, each scoring 3 points.

Auckland v. Gordon did not come off, the former not having a team, gave the match to Gordon.

Rumours are rife on the subject of a feminine football match, to take place at Potter's next Saturday, or at least at an early date. The thirty damsels purpose making a tour of the colony. For the present we reserve our approval of such an undertaking, which is somewhat startling at the first blush, but if they say they will play there is an end of the matter. No remonstrance of ours would avail in the least.

It is a well known fact that when Maoris take anything in hand they are pretty keen on it. At both Horowhenua and Wairarapa are football teams, between whom considerable rivalry exists, a match has been decided to take place, and the stakes are to be £50 aside. The only hindrance preventing the game eventuating is that the parties are unable to agree as to the ground on which the contest shall be played. One team wishes it played at Otaki, and the other would like it decided on the Palmerston ground, the reasons they assign