

THE polling and election of three out of five candidates to represent Heathcote in the Canterbury Provincial Council took place a few days ago. Great interest was taken in the election. Mr Montgomery, the President of the Executive Council; Mr Fisher, a former member; Sir Cracroft Wilson, M.H.R.; and Dr Foster, M.D., were in favor of Secular Education; Mr E. W. Stafford, M.H.R., supporting Denominationalism. The following is the result:—Montgomery, 483; Fisher, 315; Wilson, 230; Foster, 221; Stafford, 163.

THE agent for Messrs Siemen Bros. has submitted an offer to the Government of New South Wales to lay a cable to New Zealand.

It is stated that the gold which was forwarded through the Provincial (Government some weeks ago to Melbourne by certain Otago miners has been returned in the shape of sovereigns, and that the actual average return has amounted to £3 16s 2d per ounce, or 8d per ounce more than the banks are now paying.

THE 'Lyttelton Times,' in showing how the efforts of immigration agents in the United Kingdom might be aided by the co-operation of colonists, remarks:—"There are, in this province alone, scores of men who, having landed either penniless altogether or with very small capital, are now in a position of independence. Many are even wealthy, and they readily acknowledge that no amount of toil, of prudent forethought, of careful husbandry, could have raised them to a similar position in the old country. They have prospered in spite of 'bad times' now and again, and in no way can they better show their gratitude for success than by taking every opportunity of making it known among such of their friends at home as they think would make good colonists."

MR HOLLOWAY is to be specially invited to Taranaki, to report on its advantages for immigration. A sum of money has been voted to pay his expenses while there.

THE Napier 'Daily Telegraph' says:—"A kit of potatoes would not appear to an ordinary slave dealer a high price for a young healthy boy, but this, we are informed, was what was paid by a Maori the other day for a Scandinavian child. Whether the parent or guardian of the boy really did sell him, or merely pawned him, the matter requires to be looked into."

AT the luncheon given at Auckland to the Rifle Representatives of that Province, Mr McLean said he intended to introduce some stringent regulations to prevent the volunteer movement becoming a sham.

MR STEWART, a Special Immigration Agent for the North of Ireland, is visiting the Tauranga district to select a site for small farm settlement. He is very favourably impressed with the land.

THE Directors of the New Zealand Steam Shipping Co. have under consideration the question of placing one of their fleet in the Fiji and Auckland trade.

THE ship Hindostan has sailed from Auckland for London with a cargo valued at £61,947.

MESSES SANDERS AND O'MALLEY, of Wellington, contractors, are the successful tenderers for the reclamation of 49 acres of land from the harbor. The tenders ranged from £56,000 (accepted) to £120,000. They estimate that the work will occupy two years and a half, with a hundred hands employed, and that the commercial value of the land when completed will be £4000 per acre.

THE Census returns of eight districts of the Province of Auckland sent in, show an increase of 27,533 souls over last Census. There are six district returns to come in. Waikato shows the largest increase, viz., 1311.

THE accepted tenders for the light railways to be constructed for the Otago Provincial Government are:—Wairereka Railway, W. D. Morrison, £45,000; Orepuke, David Proudfoot, £23,397 9s; Riverton to Otautau, David Proudfoot, £37,104 2s; Otautau to Makerewa, David Proudfoot, £32,080 0s 8d.

THE Tuamarina Hotel, Blenheim, was burnt down at midnight on the 6th inst. It is believed to have been caused by a fire left smouldering on the hearth. The total loss is £880. The landlord is the owner of the house. He is insured for £450 in the New Zealand Company. The family were in bed, and escaped by the window.

THE population of Marlborough is 6143, being an increase of 908 since the taking of last census.

It is stated that Mr T. Henderson, of the Auckland firm of Henderson and Macfarlane, who is now on his way to England, intends purchasing a complete plant for the establishment of a woollen manufactory in the Auckland Province.

FORMS of application and Regulations under the free nominated passage system, may be obtained at any of the School-houses and Police Offices in this Province out of Dunedin.

AT the christening of some new machinery at Charleston, the proprietors, Messrs Parker, Thompson, and Sulliran stated that they were really sanguine of being able to clear £100 per week per man now that they had proper machinery for working their claim, and that it would be years before their ground was exhausted. This speaks well for Charleston.

ACCORDING to Sergeant John Cassels, Inspector of Nuisances for the Town of Cromwell, that town is the dirtiest in New Zealand. One yard in it is alone sufficient to cause sickness in the towns.

By the outgoing English mail on the 7th inst there were forwarded through the Immigration Office, Dunedin, applications for 168 immigrants—equal to 145½ statute adults. These nominations were made between the 18th ult. and the 7th inst. The nationalities of those sent for are as follows:—Scotland, 82; England, 52; Ireland, 32; Germany, 2.

MR BRAITHWAITE'S run of 2,600 acres, about eight miles from Napier, has been sold to Mr Maney, for £10 per acre, the stock at value £1.

A DESTRUCTIVE fire occurred in Bridge street, Nelson, a few days ago. It broke out in Phillips's soap works, destroyed them and his shop, Thornton's, saddler shop on one side, Wymond, a draper's shop, on the other; also the billiard rooms and stables belonging to the Trafalgar Hotel. Wymond's store is insured for £4100, and the buildings, which belong to Harley, for £1400; Phillips's shop and house for £900. Thornton was uninsured, and Wymond's loss is for

in excess of his insurance. The total insurances is—South British, £1400; Norwich Union, £500; National, £1000; Victoria, £1800; New Zealand, £1000; London and Liverpool, and Globe, £1500. The flames had secured a complete hold of the building before the alarm was given.

A REMARKABLE instance of youthful heroism occurred lately at Auckland. Some lads were bathing in the sea, at Wynyard's pier, and one of their number named George Brown, aged six years, who could not swim, took a dive, but did not rise to the surface. The other boys saw bubbles rising from the bottom, and a noble little fellow named Reuben Conrolly, whose age is only seven years, at once dived after him, and rescuing his playmate brought him ashore on his back, when, after a little treatment by his youthful play-fellows, the boy revived from the effects of his immersion.

THE last Northern Escort, which arrived in Dunedin, brought down the following quantities of gold:—Queenstown, 1,694 oz 0 dwts; Cardrona, 236 oz 6 dwts; Arrowtown, 785 oz 0 dwts; Cromwell, 2,195 oz 1 dwt; Clyde, 500 oz 0 dwts; Alexandra, 332 oz 0 dwts; Teviot, 399 oz 0 dwts; Blacks, 250 oz 0 dwts; Mount Ida, 700 oz 16 dwts; Palmerston, 68 oz 1 dwt. Total: £7,201 oz 3 dwts.

OUR Auckland correspondent telegraphs:—South British Insurance, 48s 6d; National Insurance, 31s; Auckland Gas Company, 21s; Standard Insurance, 10s 6d; Sash and Door Co., £8 10s; Bright Smile, 80s; Alburnia (New Issue), 17s 6d, 16s 8d, 16s 6d; Caledonian, £9 10s; City of London, 23s, 23s 6d, 24s; Queen of May, 11s 6d; Bismarck, 14s; Caliban, 5s 6d; New Pacific, 11s; Ruby, 9s; Old Whau, 7s, 7s 6d, 7s 8d, 7s 10d; Cure, 6s. Total duties received, Tuesday, £1360 9s.

BISHOP MORAN AND THE PALMERSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

THE following letter has appeared in the 'Daily Times':—

SIR,—Having read your report of Bishop Moran's remarks on the election of a School Teacher not a hundred miles from Dunedin, also, some letters from correspondents at Palmerston, endeavouring to contradict the same. Knowing the circumstances of the case, I consider it but right to say a few words on the subject. In the first place, I fail to see one word in Bishop Moran's remarks but what is quite correct, which I regret I am not in a position to say for your correspondents who have attempted to contradict him; however, as the public here have already formed a pretty correct idea of the inconsistency of their actions and writings, I will say no more on that head. It is very much to be regretted that through the interference of a few who imagine they represent the wishes of the majority, our system of education should be thrown into disrepute, and made the subject of religious discord.—I am, &c, OBSERVER. Palmerston, 2nd April.

THE LATE SISTER MARY AUGUSTINE.

THREE died at Wellington lately, Sister Mary Augustine, well known in connection with St. Philomela's Girls' School, Te Aro. She was the first sent to that school, and directly it was established her health gave way. Her interest in the children of the school was great and unceasing. Her death was most edifying. She was received and professed on the feast of St Joseph, and, as she had hoped for, she died on the same day after having received extreme unction and the last blessing, and with the community of the convent assembled in prayer around her. Her funeral, which was most imposing, was attended by over 1500. There walked in the procession, the Catholic Young Men's Society, in regalia; the confraternity of the Living Rosary and Scapular; the children and sisters of the Providence Institution; the convent children, boarders and community; the boys' schools; Revs Father O'Reilly, McCoy, and Petit Jean; and a large number of citizens of all denominations. Rev Father Cummins, who conducted the ceremonies and procession, preached a panegyric, taking for his text some verses of the xxxi Chapter of the Book of Proverbs. He pointed out the spirit of the Sister of Mercy, and the nature of the of the Evangelical Councils and religious vows and virtues, and showed how perfectly Sister Mary Augustine had illustrated all in her holy life and death. The whole congregation were deeply affected. Her loss is lamented by all who knew her.

Sister Mary Augustine was born in Kilkenny; her family was highly respectable. From an early age she wished to embrace a religious life; her health was always delicate. She joined the Presentation Nuns at Trillick, remained with them till near the time of profession, when, owing to delicate health, she was obliged to leave. Later on, her health improving, she volunteered to join some Sisters of Mercy going from Carlow to Auckland in 1857, to reinforce a convent already established there. In 1861 she came to Wellington, soon after her profession in the order of Mary, and laboured amongst the children with great devotion. Her zeal made her unmindful of herself, and from exposure to cold, she brought on the attack of bronchitis which finally terminated her useful life.—R. J. P.

THE HIBERNIAN CELEBRATION AT GREYMOUTH.

At the Hibernian celebration at Greymouth, on St. Patrick's Day, Mr Hughes, in speaking to the toast of the evening said:—"The assemblage around him, fair women and brave men—and the splendid specimens of their race he had seen in procession and out of it gave proof that the legions of self expatriated Irishmen could help to build up here a state, as they helped in America to build up the greatest Republic the world ever saw. For did not a large proportion of illustrious American names bear the stamp of Ireland, and how many of the MacMalions, the O'Donnells, and the Cavanaghs, and a hundred other Irish names were to be found identified with the history of every nation in Europe. Their race claimed this eminent peculiarity that where they cast their lot, they so fused and identified themselves with the people as to be undistinguishable except as being often foremost in advancing the national interest. That this would be the case in New Zealand he was so much convinced that he could predict that whenever Macaulay's celebrated New Zealander was found sitting