

George Butchart, discharged from the Lunatic Asylum, was arrested for forgery, and remanded for a week.

The steamer *Kaseby* and the schooner *Mera* have arrived. They are intended to trade between Dunedin and Newcastle. Fulton, a passenger on board, has brought a number of valuable sheep. The *Kaseby* was carried by the current to King's Island, but saw the light in time to avoid danger.

A private telegram states that the steamer *Legislator* left Foo-Choo with a cargo of new season's teas. She will arrive about the middle of July.

June 25.—The markets are a little brisker. There are large speculative purchases. Kerosene: 1s 5d is now asked for Defoe's. Breadstuffs: Grain unaltered.

All the passengers of the *Flintshire* were landed in safety. It is doubtful if the vessel will be saved. She struck on a ledge of rock at 5.30 on Monday afternoon, after leaving Townsville.

The Assembly discussed the Constitution Bill in committee last night as far as the second clause.

SDNXX.—The steamer *Mongol* made the run to Hong Kong in 18 days.

Dibbs and Co., insolvent eight years ago, have paid all their creditors' claims in full.

Saul Samuel was banqueted last night in recognition of his services in connection with the Californian Mail service.

HOBART TOWN.—Arrived—*Sword Fish*, from Dunedin; *Bella Mary*, from Auckland. Sailed—*Halley Bayley*, for Dunedin.

NEWCASTLE.—Sailed—*Record* and *Edwin Bassett*, 20th June, for Wellington; *22nd*, *Ellen Mary*, for Taranaki.

THE RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN GERMANY.

From the 'Saturday Review.'

THE imprisonment of the Archbishop of Cologne, which had been anticipated, took place on Tuesday last, and adds another to the lengthening catalogue of Episcopal confessors in Prussia. It proves at all events, that Prince Bismarck's illness and threatened retirement have not as yet produced any change, or even check, in the ecclesiastical policy of the Government. But every fresh persecution under the Falk laws not only serves to embitter the controversy, but inevitably re-opens in the popular mind the previous question, so to call it, of the justice and expediency of the course on which the Imperial Government has entered. Many opportunities have already occurred for indicating our own view of the matter, but a highly characteristic apology for the new legislation which appeared the other day in the 'Daily Telegraph' supplies amusing evidence of how little one section of English Liberalism has succeeded in mastering the first elements of the question at issue. The 'Telegraph' notices with regret that there are English Liberals who have taken the wrong side in the quarrel, and it solemnly admonishes them that, "on the main point in dispute between the Prussian Government and the Catholic clergy, the sympathies of Englishmen must, in all fairness, go with the former," this main point being, as far as we are able to gather from the context, that as a matter of principle, "the clergy should obey the civil law." It appears to have escaped the writer that the whole dispute is about the application of the principle. Even the doughty Archbishop of Posen would probably admit the ordinary duty of obedience to the law, but he would plead, plausibly enough, that there must be some limit to this obligation, or there would be no security against any excess of arbitrary oppression. To confine ourselves to the religious aspect of the question, it is obvious that, if the duty of civil obedience is absolute and universal, the early Christian martyrs were morally, as well as legally, criminal in preferring their faith to the commands of the divine Emperor. As to where the line should be drawn, there is room, of course, for infinite diversity of opinion. Some people profess conscientious scruples about vaccination, and others about giving medicine to the sick, which the Legislature very properly disregards. But few unprejudiced observers are likely to deny that the Prussian Government has overstepped the utmost legitimate limits of civil interference in matters of conscience. Nor is it any answer to say, even supposing it to be strictly true, that Roman Catholic notions of religious duty are fanciful and erroneous. That is not a point for the decision of the State, especially of a Protestant State, so long as the moral and social interests of the community are not injuriously affected. And, indeed, the 'Telegraph' writer, for whose sinister advocacy his clients will hardly be thankful, has too much of the instincts of English freedom not to be dimly aware of this distinction himself. He admits that many of the provisions of the Falk laws are scarcely consistent with our notions of right and justice, and illustrates his admission by specifying nearly all of them. But these are precisely the points on which the whole controversy hinges, so that the natural inference would seem to be that the sympathies of Englishmen must, in all fairness, go with the victims of legislative injustice, and not with its authors.

Origin of Apprenticeships.—Apprenticeship is supposed to have had its origin in the twelfth century. In 1400, the practice of apprenticing boys to trades had become so common that complaints arose of a consequent want of agricultural laborers, and in the reign of Henry IV., it was therefore enacted that no person, who had not land or rent to the value of 20s. a year, which was then a comparatively large sum, should be allowed to bind his son or daughter apprentice, and this law remained for some time in force. The sons of knights, esquires, and gentlemen were, at a far later date, noticed by an old writer as flocking to London to be apprenticed. An Act passed in the 7th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth established seven years as the period of apprenticeship.—'Furniture Gazette.'

It does not appear to be generally known that Sir Garnet Wolseley has but one eye, having lost the other when a lieutenant in the Crimea, while leading a forlorn hope against Sebastopol. Both he and Sir Archibald Alison, the chief of his staff, were not only in the very hardest of the work in the Russian campaign, but both were severely wounded—Sir Archibald losing his arm in one of the frays.

THE POPULATION OF NEW ZEALAND IN 1874.

The following table shows approximately the numbers of the population of the Provinces of the Colony, as ascertained by the Census taken on the 1st of March, 1874, including a comparison with the numbers ascertained by the Census of February, 1871:—

PROVINCES.	POPULATION.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Auckland ... March, 1874	37,117	30,223	67,345
... Feb. 1871	35,502	26,833	62,335
Taranaki ... March, 1874	3,051	2,432	5,483
... Feb. 1871	2,572	1,908	4,480
Wellington ... March, 1874	16,230	13,500	29,730
... Feb. 1871	13,180	10,821	24,001
Hawke's Bay ... March, 1874	5,406	3,812	9,218
... Feb. 1871	3,596	2,463	6,059
Marlborough ... March, 1874	3,664	2,479	6,143
... Feb. 1871	3,235	2,900	5,235
Nelson ... March, 1874	13,555	9,011	22,566
... Feb. 1871	14,257	8,244	22,501
Westland ... March, 1874	9,548	5,365	14,913
... Feb. 1871	10,453	4,904	15,357
Canterbury ... March, 1874	32,294	26,476	58,770
... Feb. 1871	25,781	21,020	46,801
Otago ... March, 1874	50,121	34,961	85,082
... Feb. 1871	41,691	27,800	69,491
Totals (exclusive of Chatham Islands) ... March, 1874	170,896	128,264	299,160
Totals (exclusive of Chatham Islands) ... Feb. 1871	150,267	105,993	256,260
Increase in 1874	20,629 or 13.72 per cent.	22,271 or 21.01 per cent.	42,900 or 16.74 per cent.

AN ELECTIONEERING BILL OF FORMER DAYS.

DURING the contested election in Meath, some forty years ago, Sir Mark Somerville sent orders to the proprietor of the hotel in Trim to board and lodge all that should vote for him, for which he received the following bill, which he got framed, and it still hangs in Somerville House, County Meath:—

'16th April, 1826.
 'MY BILL.—To eating 16 freeholders above stairs for Sir Marks at 3s 6d a head is to me £2 12s. To eating 16 more below stairs and two priests after supper is to me £2 15s 9d. To 6 beds in one room and 4 in another at 2 guineas every bed, and not more than four in any bed at the time cheap enough God knows is to me £22 15s. To 15 horses and 5 mules about my yard all night at 13s every one of them and for a man which was lost on the head of watching them all night is to me £5 5s. For breakfast on tay in the morning for every one of them and as many more as the brought as near as I can guess is to me £4 12s. To raw whiskey and punch without talking of piper and tobacco as well as for porter, and as well for breaking a pot above stairs and other glasses and delf for the first day and night I am sure but for the three days and a half of the election as little as I can call it and not be very exact it is all or thereabouts as I can guess and now to be too particular is to me at least £79 15s 9d. For shaving and crapping off the heads of the 49 freeholders for six marks at 13d every head of them by my brother has a Vote is to me £2 13s 1d. For a womit and nurse for poor Tom Kernan in the middle of the night when he was not expected is to me ten hogs. I dont talk of piper or for keeping him sober as long as he was sober is to me £4 10s.
 2 12 0 0
 2 15 0 0
 22 15 0 0
 5 5 0 0
 4 12 0 0
 79 15 0 9
 2 13 0 1
 Signed
 In the place of Jenny Carrs wife
 his
 Bryan & Garraty
 Mark.
 £100 10 7 you may say £111 0 0 so your Honour Sir Marks send me his eleven hundred by Bryan himself who and I prays for success always in Trim and no more at present.'