

there is something more than a remote contingency of the action of the legal fraternity being imitated by no less a body than the judges of the Supreme Court. It appears there is every likelihood of Sir William Stowell, the present Chief Justice, who is on leave of absence, resigning his office, and it is rumored that the Premier, Mr Kerferd, feeling himself overweighed in his present position, would not be loth to resign its cares and uncertain £2000 a year for the snug office of Chief Justice for life, with £3500, and knighthood in prospective. As Sir Redmond Barry, the Acting-Chief Justice, has had twenty years' experience as a Judge of the Supreme Court, and the Attorney-General and Premier has not had half-a-dozen years' experience at the Bar, the Bench are naturally wroth at the bare supposition of such a contingency, and it is said that their Honors have entered into a league, offensive and defensive, to protest against their being deprived of promotion, and all other means failing they will go out on strike. Should Mr Kerferd carry out the intention, and follow the example of our late Minister of Justice, Victoria may witness something unique in the way of strikes.

The members of the South Australian Legislature have set an example of patriotic self-abnegation which is certainly worthy of being imitated by their brother legislators throughout the Colonies. A proposition having been made for the introduction of a Bill providing for payment of members, it was followed by an amendment limiting the amount of honorarium at £200 per annum, but on coming to a division the amendment was lost by more than three to one. A further amendment was tabled to refund members residing more than ten miles from Adelaide their *bona fide* travelling expenses. This also was negatived, and on the original motion being put to the House, either the mover or seconder of the resolution had evidently turned the matter over in his mind to some effect, there being only one member found to be in favor of the motion. This conduct of the South Australians exhibits a marked contrast with that of a number of our own legislators, whose attendance at the Councils of the country, if remunerated according to their own estimate, would be rather an expensive commodity.

In an article on the necessity for a State Reformatory for the Province, the Napier 'Daily Telegraph'—a journal which cannot be accused of any undue leanings to the Church—thus speaks of the care and efforts made for the religious training by the Catholics of that province:—"It is a fortunate circumstance that there is at least one religious sect in the Province, whose members are able to support those charitable institutions, which, in other countries are either established or wholly maintained by the Government, or owe their existence to the voluntary contributions of all classes. We have repeatedly had occasion to refer to the well-conducted Catholic educational establishments of Napier, that have merited every word of praise bestowed upon them by members of all religious denominations. The Church of England in this province is magnificently endowed with a splendid estate and a large fund, but we look to it in vain for those charitable institutions which the Catholics have established unaided and single-handed, and which have more truly enriched their Church than the Te Aute property has that of the Reformed religion." This spontaneous testimony is of course most satisfactory, but it only serves to show with greater effect the grossly unfair treatment of the Catholic body, and the anomalous conduct of withholding aid towards educational purposes which admittedly would be so profitably expended.

SOME amusing proposals are made by a correspondent of the 'South Australian Register' as to the tests which should be applied to prove the eligibility of persons who offer themselves at home as working men desirous of emigrating. Holding that it is genuine working men who are wanted, and not pretenders, or shams, "A Northern Farmer" submits three tests, to which all candidates should be subjected. One of these is the hands, with regard to which "the fingers should be short and square at the ends; if over 30 years of age a little knobby on the knuckles. The palm should be hard and dry, and when the owner is asked to put his hand flat on the table it should be found resting on the wrist and the tips of the fingers." The next is the hand-writing, and although the writer looks back with regret to the days when the best immigrants were unable to sign otherwise than by a cross, yet this is a declaration of faith that he would not now insist on. "A man should not be condemned because he is able to write his name, but to a good farm laborer it will be always an effort requiring a sigh after it is finished. Any attempt at a flourish should cause a man's rejection." His third test is "speaking capabilities," and with reference to this he says:—"Make the applicant stand on a chair and ask him a few questions; if he speaks as readily as when on the ground be doubtful of him, but if he shows the least tendency to wave his arms, condemn him at once—he is a born orator, and if brought out will never work himself, and will try to prevent others from working, but will possibly get in Parliament, or come to some bad end." We would commend these tests to the attention of the Agent-General for New Zealand.

It appears the vacant seat in the Cabinet of Minister of Justice has been offered to and accepted by Mr Bowen, Resident Magistrate at Christchurch, but the appointment would appear to be received with much disfavor by the Press. Commenting upon the fact, the 'Times' says:—"We venture to say that no public man or newspaper outside Canterbury will be satisfied. We are not aware of any claim Mr Bowen has for high political office. He is quite unknown outside Canterbury, and cannot possibly strengthen Government more, and especially as he must take a seat in the Upper House, where he need not hope to excel while that experienced political gladiator, Dr Pollen, leads it. If a Ministerial recruit was wanted for the Legislative Council, surely there were men to choose from already in that House. But this is a 'Government of surprise,' and the Colony will certainly be surprised at the selection made. There is nothing to recommend it; and, moreover, it can only weaken the Ministerial party. We have nothing to say against Mr Bowen, but object in the most emphatic terms to a gentleman being taken from the rank and file of the civil servants and pitchforked into the position of a Minister of the Crown. The outcry that was made in the case of Mr Gisborne's elevation and retirement is as nothing to what ought to be made on account of this

last Ministerial performance. The country groans under the weight of civil servants; it is made subject to tribute in a most literal and unmistakable way, and if it submits to have its Ministers elevated, for reasons, from the ranks of the Civil Service, and then, having served their purpose, retreating again within its lines, it may abandon all hope of economy or efficient good. We are friends of the Government, but can conceive of no action, rightly considered, so calculated to bring the Government into contempt."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Duke of Cambridge is about to retire from the British army. He has fallen a victim to gout, and for three months has been unable to take any exercise. George William Frederick Charles, second Duke of Cambridge, is the grandson of George III., and a cousin of Queen Victoria. He was born in Hanover, in 1819.

The Peruvian Government, too, is following in the footsteps of Bismarck, and has decreed the banishment of the Jesuits in the Huanaco district; and the Bishop of Pune is to be tried for having sent in his resignation to the Pope without consulting the Government.

Dried oysters are among the imports into San Francisco from China. They are simply taken out of the shell, dried in the sun, and packed in wooden boxes. The Chinese are the principal consumers.

Mr Marcus Clarke, the author of "Long Odds," a story that has achieved a great reputation, has commenced another tale in the 'Australian Journal' entitled "Childrook Tieborne." The demand for the first issue was so great that the whole of the publication was bought up at once, and a supplement has been added to the last number containing a republication of the first chapters of the above work.

It is stated that there are 1,000 miners out of employment at Sandhurst, 1,200 at Ballarat, and many at other places in Victoria.

The second son of the Khedive of Egypt is expected shortly at Berlin for the purpose of military education. The Khedive, it is stated, has determined to dismiss the French officials now in his service and to employ Germans.

In British Columbia, Oblate Fathers and Sisters of St. Ann devote themselves to the instruction and support of the Indians, about twenty thousand of whom are already baptised or under instruction.

Grotesque colored prints find a market in South Africa. Not only unusual colors of the flaunting kind go down, but unusual figures as well, such as those of imps and demons, are highly appreciated there. They are no doubt chiefly disposed of through the system of barter. Another item, glass beads, is a very important one, and gold-dust, ivory, and palm oil are usually taken in exchange by the merchants.

Mr Michael Banim, the surviving member of "the O'Hara family," whose delineations of Irish rural life and scenery are known throughout the whole reading world, died shortly before the departure of the last mail.

The death is announced at Paris, in her nineteenth year, of a sister of the Ex-King of Naples. The princess married, only a few months ago, Count de Bardi, nephew of the Count de Chambord.

The issue of naturalisation papers to nine foreigners is gazetted. Amongst them appears the name of Shing Hee, a Chinese gardener at Invercargill.

A herd of 20 red deer have been seen in the Nelson province by a traveller.

A bank clerk in Victoria has thrown up his situation and dissipated because the manager objected to his wearing a velvet coat.

A new hospital is about to be built in Auckland.

The following editorial notice is decidedly clever and cool: "The editor has gone up the river for a few days. All good articles, facetious remarks, puns, and typographical errors, may be attributed to his absence. In order to give variety and vigor to the paper he will frequently leave it for a week or so. It is to be hoped that the readers of this journal will appreciate his endeavors."

The Vincentian Fathers, from Cork, have given a successful mission in Charleville. Sixteen publicans of the town met the Fathers and gave a pledge to take out a six days' license at the next renewal of license, and to prohibit, as far as in them lay, Sunday drinking from thence forward.

It is estimated that no less than 37 tons of butter were sold at Skibbereen market one day this season, which is calculated to have amounted to upwards of £3000.

Cremation is prospering in Germany. There are now 82 cities with cremation societies.

The cost of payment of members in Victoria is £28,000 per annum.

From the news received by the steamer Hero, from Sydney, according to the latest advices from the Palmer Gold Fields, the miners are leaving in hundreds, and a famine is feared next winter, unless the Government open up communication.

A Dutch member of the Pennsylvania Assembly, having returned home from a session, was asked what had been done by the Legislature. "I don't know what others have done," replied he, "but I have cleared one hundred dollars for myself."

Corsica produces the largest quantity of wax of all countries in Europe, if not in the world. In ancient as well as in mediæval times the inhabitants paid their taxes in wax, and supplied large quantities annually. Since wax is to honey as one in fifteen, the Corsicans must have gathered each year some millions of honey.

The Italian Government has arrested at Rimini, Signor Aurelio Saffi—the former Triumvir, who was long resident in England—and twenty-six other Republicans who had held a political meeting. Eight leaders of the International have been arrested in Rome, two more at Bologna, and others at Florence and other places.

A correspondent of the 'Pall Mall Gazette,' writing from Geneva in reference to the resignation of Pere Hyacinthe, says there are numerous signs that the dissolution of the Old Catholic congregation in Switzerland is close at hand.