

Mr. Hamilton then sang, with concertina accompaniment, "The White Squall," which was received with great applause.

A vote of thanks having been passed to the rev. Chairman, that gentleman, in responding, said: I assure you, ladies and gentlemen, that I feel highly honored and grateful for the compliment conferred on me, more especially as it was received by you with such generous enthusiasm. Though I have had the honor of residing amongst you for over four years, I must candidly confess there has been no occasion in my career of usefulness that has given me greater pleasure than to preside at the festivities this evening. I see before me to-night representatives of every Christian community in our town and district; some of those present having travelled a distance of over 20 miles to attend this evening, and creditably indeed are you all performing your part in most charitably carrying out that social unity which I trust will be the proud boast of each and every one of you to possess. The members of the society, now rapidly established amongst you, are, I am sure, grateful for the honor you confer on them and have only to express the hope that the branch so instituted to-night may henceforth do honor to the tree of Christian integrity to which it is united. The rev. Chairman took his seat amidst the enthusiastic cheering of the large assemblage, who seemed to appreciate the great interest he has taken in the establishment and successful inauguration of the society.—'Tunpeka Times.'

#### OPENING OF THE H.A.C.B. SOCIETY AT TARADALE, N.Z.

JULY 8th, at 8 o'clock, St. Patrick's Branch of the above Society was opened in the Mission School-room, Meanee, by the delegates appointed for the purpose—Messrs. Rearden, Fox, and Shanly, of St. John's Branch, Napier. There were also present about 30 members from the Napier Branch, who took great interest in the proceedings.

After the formal opening of the Branch, the members were initiated to the number of about 20. Then came the election of officers, when the following gentlemen were duly installed as follows:—President, J. Barry; Vice-President, G. E. Lee; Secretary, F. Shanly; Treasurer, W. Anderson; Warden, J. Anderson; Guardian, W. Higgins. Mr. J. A. Rearden, one of the delegates, in a short speech, then complimented the Taradale residents on the establishment of a branch of the Order in their midst, and hoped that it would flourish and succeed.

The opening of the branch being ended, the whole of those present then adjourned to Mr. Jeffares' Hotel, Taradale, where a sumptuous repast was prepared, and was in readiness when the members arrived from the school-room. The dinner reflected great credit on Mr. Jeffares, and was done ample justice to.

Mr. G. E. Lee occupied the chair, and Mr. John Barry the vice-chair.

After the cloth was removed, the chairman proposed the first toast, "The health of Pope Pius IX." In doing so, he spoke in high terms of His Holiness, who, after being deprived of all his temporal possessions, and attacked on all sides by the Press, was still firm and more grand than ever. He said the Pope was an exemplar of that true piety, meekness, and submission, which all of us ought to try and imitate. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

The next toast was "The Queen and Royal Family," coupled with the name of the Governor. In doing so, the Chairman said the Queen was the exemplar of morality and sociality, as the Pope was the exemplar of Christianity, and that every one should respect her for it. In her administration, she had made the British Empire more solid and united than ever it was before. In alluding to the Governor, the Chairman said we did not know much about him, but we always got good Governors, and he had no doubt but that present Governor would gain our respect and esteem. The toast was drunk with all the customary honors.

Then came the toast of the evening, "Success to the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society," proposed by Mr. Lee. He said that this Society was not a political Society, but one that was a truly Benefit Society, its object being to help each other against all those casualties of life to which we were all accustomed. He hoped that would never mix up in politics, but always stick to the object for which it was established. It was drunk with great enthusiasm.

The next and last toast proposed, was "Our Visitors," which was responded to by Brother J. A. Rearden.

The members then returned to town, having spent a most enjoyable evening.—'Napier Telegraph.'

#### WAIFS AND STRAYS.

**THE GERMAN OCEAN ONCE DRY LAND.**—The German Ocean, or North Sea, like the English Channel, is supposed to have been once an inland plain or valley raised far above the sea level. The sea has but recently invaded this depressed plain, submerged its forests, and superceded its river courses. The buried trees of its sunk forests are still standing, rooted in their own vegetable soil, although beneath the waves. Cromer Forest, which dips into the waters from the coast of Norfolk, is the most famous of the submerged forests of the German Ocean. This ancient woodland has been traced at low tide for more than forty miles. At certain seasons, and especially after great storms, the stumps of oak, alder, yew, and Scotch fir are seen standing upright in the water. The condition of the wood and of the fir cones (some of the latter obviously bitten by animals) tells us that the sinking of the land here occurred at no distant period in the physical history of our country. The remains of land animals, too, as well as of the forests they inhabited, are discovered in the bed of the German Ocean. In his "Physical Geography of Norfolk," Mr. Woodward tells us that in less than fifteen years the fishermen of the village of Happinsburgh dredged up from their oyster beds as many as two thousand teeth of mammoths. Bones and tusks of mammoths

have also been fished up from these watery depths. It takes us back to the time when the European mainland, instead of terminating, as it does to-day, with the coasts of Norway and France, stretched far westward in one unbroken area, beyond the present coast of Ireland. These were the flourishing days of the forests of oak, chestnut, alder and yew, which are now submerged in the German Ocean and the English Channel.—'Leisure Hour.'

**RUN IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.**—The proceedings in Parliament are usually dull, and it is only by going to the House, sitting in the Speaker's gallery, and looking out for absurd things, that one can extract any amusement out of the Legislature. In this way, however, one may spend occasionally a merry evening. The awkwardness of many of the members is comical. The other night Mr. Pell got up to move an amendment to Mr. Fawcett's motion concerning the education of the children of the peasants. "No member can be more sensible than I am," he began; and there he forgot what he was going to say, and paused, while a titter ran through the House. "No member," he resumed, "can be more sensible than I am"—and again he stopped amid the cries of "hear! hear!" "No member, Mr. Speaker, can be more sensible than I am"—a voice from below the gallery, "Who denies it?"—"that the question of education," etc. The Hon. Mr. Stanley, Earl Derby's brother and heir presumptive, is a member of long standing and much experience; but his manner of speaking is something terrible. He is as nervous and embarrassed as a school-boy. He gets up to speak with a large sheet of paper in his hand, on which he has made his notes. He fumbles this over, and never finds what he looks for. "I think sir," he says, "I think, that is, I would venture to say"—a long pause, in which the House sits in respectful silence—"now, this question is one in which a colonel, or I may say a major, might, in point of fact—that is, I think, supposing his regiment were ordered to India—to India"—another long pause, in which some one says, in a stage whisper, "On, Stanley, on!" "I was saying, sir, that a major or a colonel"—a pause and a nervous search for the notes—"but, sir, to come to the point"—and so on for twenty minutes. One hears, also, the strangest pronunciations of English—I don't mean from the Irish members. Here, for instance, is Mr. Trevelyan: "If I am asked to answer this, I reply, that if affairs come to such a pass that the command of a regiment," etc.

**DEAF AND DUMB.**—A person who is born deaf, or who loses his hearing at a very early age, is dumb also. His dumbness is only a consequence of his being deaf. When children, we hear sounds and learn to imitate them—that is we learn to repeat what others say. But the deaf child hears nothing; he, therefore, cannot imitate, and consequently remains dumb. A one-handed-alphabet for the dumb was invented in 1620 by a Spanish monk named Juan Paulo Benet.

**ORIGIN OF CHESS.**—There is considerable dispute about the origin of the game of chess. It seems to have been known from a remote date in Hindostan, where it went by the name of Chaturanga, or the four members of the army, namely, elephants, chariots, horsemen, and foot soldiers. From Hindostan it passed into Persia, where it was called "Lhatrang," or the "King's Distress." The Arabs introduced it into Spain in the eighth century, and from thence passed into all the countries of Europe.

**ORIGIN OF THE WORD CABAL.**—Some have asserted that the term cabal, meaning a set of persons trying to effect their purpose by underhand means, is made up of the initials of Clifford, Ashley, Buckingham, Arlington, and Lauderdale, who were the ministers of Charles II. Others assert that it is derived from the French word *cabale*, which is a term applied to a number of persons acting in concert, and which is generally understood in a bad sense.

**PAPER AND ITS CONSUMPTION.**—There are 3,960 paper manufactories in the world, employing 80,000 men and 180,000 women, beside 100,000 employed in the rag trade. The manufactories make 1,809,000,000 pounds of paper every year. One-half of this large amount is used in printing; a sixth for writing, and the remainder for packing and other purposes. The United States averages 17 pounds per head; an Englishman uses 11½ pounds; a German, 8 pounds; a Frenchman, 7 pounds; an Italian, 8½ pounds; a Spaniard, 1½ pounds; and a Russ an only 1 pound annually.

**HOW THE TRAPPISTS LIVE.**—Some time ago, Dr. Ducaine, a distinguished French physician, published an article in 'La France' on the subject of abstinence, in which he instances the monks of La Trappe as being so remarkable for longevity and freedom from disease. It appears that these laborious monks make only one meal in the twenty-four hours, except from September 14 to the first Sunday in Lent. This meal is taken at half-past two o'clock p.m., or twelve hours after they arise from their short sleep; the intervening time being spent in prayer and manual labor. Still, they work most industriously, and indigestion or troubles of the bowels are unknown among them. Their food consists of fifteen ounces of bread, to which may be added potatoes, soup in which there is neither grease, butter, nor oil, to which a dish of vegetables cooked in water, gives piquancy. Meat, fish, butter and eggs are prohibited, and oil is not even allowed for salad. A pint of cider is the only beverage. The dessert is limited to some dried fruits or radishes. Yet Dr. Ducaine states that, so far from this hard fare shortening life, it is a real source of health and longevity, particularly when accompanied by plenty of open air labor and pious exercises. The Brother physician of La Grande Trappe, during a residence of twenty-eight years, has not known of a case of apoplexy, aneurism, dropsy, gout, or cancer. What is most strange, he adds, that the most terrible epidemics which have visited the country around the abbey, have invariably stopped at its threshold.—'Catholic Almanac.'

**GIANTIC TREES OF CALIFORNIA.**—Professor Brewer describes the "big trees" as being in great abundance on the western flanks of the Sierra Nevada, at from 5000 to 7000 feet altitude for a distance of more than twenty-five miles. One of the largest seen by Professor Brewer measured 106 feet in circumference at four feet from the ground, and was 276 feet in height.