

he resumed his seat. The plea that was urged against Mr. Hooper taking part in the proceedings was that his name did not appear upon the Electoral Roll. It was stated, however, that Mr. Hooper's name was upon the last revised roll, and consequently he was entitled to all the privileges of a ratepayer and an elector.—Mr. Murray was the first speaker who was allowed to rise to his legs on behalf of Provincialism, but although he was granted that concession, the dozen Abolitionists, who had secured prominent places, and whose voices and hands were afterwards uplifted for the measure, were determined he should not be heard.—Mr. Isaacs followed Mr. Murray, and although he had much difficulty in being heard at the outset, before he had concluded he had succeeded in securing the ear of the meeting, and giving his opponents a few good home-thrusts. Amongst the latter, he explained to those present that the reason the large leaseholders who held land since the year 1865 were so eager for the change was that if Provincialism were continued, their large runs on the expiry of the leases would be cut up for pastoral purposes.—Mr. Keith Ramsay then came forward and proposed the following amendment:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, it was the duty of the city members to have consulted the constituency before supporting so grave a reform, and one involving important constitutional changes." In the course of his remarks, Mr. Ramsay alluded to a promise made by one of the members for the city—Mr. Reynolds—which was directly at variance with his present conduct.—It was not, however, until Mr. Carrick came forward that the Abolitionists became really alarmed. We have but little doubt that, were it not for the speech of Mr. Carrick, the victory of Tuesday night would never have been scored, and, notwithstanding the opinions of the masses might be to the contrary, so well would clap-trap and bounce have done its work that the show of hands would have been otherwise than it was. Mr. Carrick's speech was clear, logical, and convincing, and, carrying with it the conviction that it was the utterance of a man who thoroughly believed every word he said, it exerted an influence on the meeting which was perfectly amazing. Even the turbulent spirits who had yelled themselves hoarse were awed into silence; and, after being accorded an uninterrupted hearing, the applause which greeted him continued long after he concluded. Mr. Carrick pointed out that in the whole history of Constitutional Government there was not a single precedent of a dying Parliament attempting the course pursued by the Government. He said, and truly, that even were it necessary that Provincialism should be swept away, it became the duty of the House to lay the matter before the country before taking so important a step, and the only reason for not doing so was the fear that the country would not approve of such a measure.—A rather laughable little episode occurred during the proceedings, which was richly relished by the meeting. A Mr. McLaren, who is well-known as a political agitator, and to whose energetic conduct on behalf of Abolition much of the "excitement" of the evening was due, loudly called for Mr. Hallenstein to address the meeting. A rival champion thereupon felt bound "to rise to order" and protest against that gentleman being permitted to speak; but the superior quality of Mr. McLaren's lungs carried the day, and the member for Queens-town came to the front. To the disgust, however, of the unfortunate who had struggled so hard to obtain a hearing for him, Mr. Hallenstein commenced a most vigorous and determined onslaught against the Government policy. This was borne in silence for a time, but human patience has its limits, and Mr. McLaren being but human, his stock was soon exhausted, and his dissatisfaction evinced in a somewhat forcible manner. When all the speakers had concluded, and the issue was put to the meeting, a perfect forest of hands were held up to register the vote of censure. When the other side of the question was proposed, the number of those voting amounted to a dozen. A perfect panic seemed to take possession of those who had been so boisterous and jubilant but a short while before. Upon the Chairman putting the original resolution as a substantive motion, it was negatived by an overwhelming majority, although there seemed to be an accession of some half-dozen over those voting against the amendment. We do not know how many persons were in the hall, but supposing there were 500, it cannot be denied that the Government, as far as the feeling of opinion in Dunedin is concerned, has been defeated by twenty-five to one.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Those who were present at the meeting at the Drill Shed, and consequently able to judge for themselves, will no doubt smile at the efforts of both 'Star' and 'Guardian' to ridicule and set at naught the unanimous expression of opinion there witnessed. The 'Guardian' says "the opponents of the Bill did not dare to put the question in the simple form 'for or against,' but were content with an entirely side issue." Now what is the true state of the case: The side-win which annihilated the Abolitionists was a distinct motion brought forward by Mr. Robert Gillie. That gentleman, in conjunction with others, attended in order to stifle a fair discussion of the question, and instead of allowing those who had asked the convening of the meeting to state the case, and then reply, he attempted to carry the day by a clever ruse, but unfortunately for himself found that he was "hoist with his own petard." The same journal characterises the resolution, so overwhelmingly carried, as a "barren, meaningless resolution," evidently forgetful that it emanated from a rabid supporter of the Government, and that that gentleman was the cause of eliciting the expression of opinion which the 'Guardian' wishes to despise. We wonder if the public voice had pronounced otherwise, and had the action of the representatives been endorsed, whether the 'Guardian's' estimate of the resolution would undergo a change. So confident were the Abolitionists of the meeting having a different termination, that one of the speakers waxed quite eloquent upon the immense weight the verdict of the meeting would carry with the

country; and yet, when matters take a different course, we find the opinions of the 'Star' to be that the result of the meeting was so unimportant as to make comment needless. Just so, and truly further comment on both 'Star' and 'Guardian' is equally needless.

THE following specimen from the 'Cromwell Argus' is unique:—"The TABLET is exceedingly wroth that we should prefer Chambers' Encyclopædia to its *ipse dixit* as an authority about the birth-day of Daniel O'Connell, and devotes in last number nearly half a column of space to put itself right. To effect this, our irate contemporary quotes from the 'Dublin Evening Post' of 1827, wherein it states a letter appeared from O'Connell himself, notifying to all whom it might concern that he was born on the 6th day of August, 1775. We are not prepared to dispute this quotation of the TABLET, our chronological knowledge not being equal to 50 years back, nor do we conceive that it makes much difference to the present generation whether the illustrious patriot came into the world on the 6th or the 9th. The authority we gave—Chambers—is one of world-wide reputation, seldom in error, and implicitly trusted as a reliable source of information. We can readily understand that it would never do for the TABLET to allow itself to be shaken as to its knowledge of the life and works of the great Irishman, and as it seems likely to lose credit for correctness among his countrymen, we concede the point gracefully, and cast Chambers to the dogs. We may, however, remark that we had looked for better things from the TABLET than mixing up the revered name of a man whose memory it professed to honor and glorify with ribaldry and pointless jest, which neither strengthen our contemporary's argument, nor grace his columns." We give the paragraph in its entirety, so as to be acquitted of unfairness, and may therefore make a few selections without being accused of altering the sense. The 'Argus,' after having commenced the controversy in which it has been worsted, now unconsciously lampoons itself in the following words:—"Nor do we conceive that it makes much difference to the present generation, whether the illustrious patriot came into the world on the 6th or the 9th." True, O King; and had you held the same opinion when you *thought you were right*, you would not have now to make the above "graceful" apology. But circumstances alter cases, and what appears a matter of little moment, now that the TABLET is right and the 'Argus' wrong, bore quite a different aspect when it was hoped the positions were reversed. The 'Argus' tells its readers that, having been proved in error, it "concedes the point gracefully." Perhaps so; but we imagine most people who read the above will come to the conclusion that the "gracefulness" of that journal is on a par with the correctness of its statements. One more word and we have done. The 'Argus' says we have "ribaldry and pointless jest, which neither strengthen our argument nor grace our columns." We are afraid the editor of the 'Argus' has devoted much valuable time to poring over the Encyclopædia to the neglect of the dictionary. We do not seek to "grace" our columns as the 'Argus' does with words, the meaning of which we are ignorant, and our arguments are strengthened by one quality sadly lacking in those of our contemporary—reliability.

Mr. Stout, the newly-elected member for Caversham, made his maiden speech in the House of Representatives on the 27th ult., and the correspondents from the seat of Government are unanimous in their terms of commendation. Although containing many excellent and telling points, and thoroughly logical throughout, the portion of his speech telegraphed to the Dunedin journals loses much of its effect by the jerky, disconnected way in which it is put together. This, however, must be attributed to the telegraphist rather than to the speaker. Mr. Stout spoke for over an hour, and was frequently interrupted by cheers from the Opposition, the whole House joining in the applause at its conclusion.

THE demonstration in Melbourne in commemoration of the O'Connell Centenary extended over four days, and proved in every way a success. The address was delivered in St. Francis' Church by the Rev. Father O'Malley on the Sunday following. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity, it being estimated that 2500 persons were present. A small oil painting of the great liberator was hung in the pulpit, and a green pot of soil from the tomb of O'Connell, in which grew a flourishing sprig of shamrock, was placed beside the preacher.

THE Albion with the Suez mail on board arrived at the Bluff at noon on the 27th ult., after a run of three days seventeen hours, being the fastest passage on record. The intelligence brought has been, however, in a great measure forestalled by the Californian mail. It is heart-rending to read the details of the disastrous inundations in France,—the sacrifice of life and property being almost unparalleled in magnitude. Upwards of 3000 valuable lives have been lost, and property to the extent of over twelve millions sterling destroyed. Whole villages have been swept away, and where some few months since happy families and contented communities were gathered together, there now remains but devastation and destruction. Close upon one hundred thousand people are destitute and homeless, and in Toulouse alone twenty thousand have been left without a roof. The thriving little village of Verdun, which numbered 500 houses, has almost entirely disappeared,—but five now remaining to tell where the village once stood.—With regard to the proposed trip of His Royal Highness, we notice that no mention has been made of his visiting Australia or New Zealand. The route set down has been Bombay, Poona, Ceylon, Hyderabad, Calcutta, Nepal and Benares. It is possible, however, that the distinguished visitor will include the colonies in his route. The newly-acquired dependency of Fiji is steadily assuming all the responsibility of a Crown colony. It is now blessed with gubernatorial presence, and we see a company of the Royal Engineers embarked for Nasova in the Whampoa.

A CORRESPONDENT from Nelson sends us the following, under date August 9th:—"The week just past has been an unexceptionably