

an Abolition Law; and no doubt the Privy Council will ultimately decide the question. But all this will involve delay, confusion, and other evils. Whose fault is this? Clearly the Government's and their rampant majority in the House of Assembly. Had they adopted the reasonable course, and acted constitutionally, all these could have been avoided. But it is clear that an effort has been made to put an affront on the Provincial Councils, to render them contemptible in the eyes of the people, to prevent the electors from exercising their undoubted right to express their will constitutionally at the hustings, and to steal a march on the country. The entire blame, then, of the present unfortunate state of things rests with the Abolitionists, and not with the Provincialists.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

NOTWITHSTANDING all that has been written by the 'Star,' 'Guardian,' and Co., as to the unanimous voice of the country being in favor of immediate abolition, it is somewhat singular to record that the majority of meetings held throughout the colony have been in favor of an appeal to the country. Facts are stubborn things, and it cannot be denied that up to the 2nd inst. there were 74 meetings held to test public opinion, of which 32 were with abolition, and 42 for an appeal to the country. No doubt, the abolition journals will not admit that those meetings or the majority against the measure have expressed the voice of the country, but we imagine that were the numbers reversed, and the abolitionists in the ascendant, the opinions as to their weight would undergo a change.

HIS HONOR Mr. Justice Johnston seems determined that everything in connection with the Court over which he presides shall be correct to the letter. In the Supreme Court, Christchurch, last week, he called attention to the fact that the motto over the judgment seat had been incorrectly spelt. Instead of *Dieu et mon droit*, it had been painted *Deiu mon droit*, the "e" in the word "Dieu" being transposed and the "t" omitted. His Honor expressed a hope that the error would be corrected without delay.

WE have been requested to call the attention of those gentlemen who have not as yet forwarded the money received for sale of tickets for the O'Connell Celebration, to the advisability of their doing so without delay. A month has elapsed since the commemoration, and it is necessary the accounts and expenses incurred should be settled without further delay, a course which cannot be taken until all monies for tickets have been sent in.

THE University Hall was crowded on Saturday evening, on the occasion of the Choral Society's first concert of the season. Although we were forwarded the usual complimentary tickets, it was at such a late stage that they never came to hand until Monday morning, when, of course, too late to be of use. As a consequence, we are unable to speak with any degree of authority as to the success or otherwise of the concert. We are, however, pleased to see from the morning journals that it was one of the best hitherto given by the Society.

MR. and MRS. BATES after a successful season in Southland have returned to Dunedin, and enter upon another engagement with the management of the Queen's, on the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell. We understand they will open in a highly sensational drama, never before presented to a Dunedin audience, after which they will appear in a piece written specially for the power of the company by a local author.

WE notice the Perth, Angus, and Mearns Association has a social gathering of their members and friends this evening in the Oddfellows' Hall. A most attractive programme has been prepared, including choice national songs, readings, and recitations. The President of the Society—Mr. Keith Ramsay—will occupy the chair, and Mr. Sykes preside at the piano.

AT a meeting of the City Council, held on Wednesday night, the following claims were forwarded to that body for damages sustained by reason of its neglect in not having kept the Rattray street culvert in proper order on the occasion of the recent floods:—Mr. A. Mercer, £26 9s 6d; Mr. Peter Adair, £30; Mr. R. K. Murray, £101 15s; Mr. William Couston, £50; Mr. C. Flexman, £78 2s 2d; Mr. A. Solomon, £15 5s; Messrs. North and Scoullar, £80; Messrs. Isaacs and Marks, £15; Mr. Walter Wright, £20 10; Mr. M'Liskey, £100. Mr. George Munro also claimed £30, in consequence of his property in Cargill street having been flooded. They were all referred to the Finance Committee.

THE Carisbrook Castle, having on board 350 immigrants for Mr. Vesey Stewart's special settlement, has arrived at Auckland. The selection made by Mr. Stewart appears to have been an admirable one, for they have been characterised as the finest ship's load that has been landed for years. Special attention must have been paid to their cleanliness and comfort on the voyage, the vessel arriving in the most creditable condition.

THE Melbourne correspondent of the 'Bruce Herald' furnishes the following amusing simile against Protection:—"There used to be a good story told illustrative of the peculiar folly of protection to native industry. A certain Judge in America wanted to have a cord of firewood split up. He was just concluding a bargain with a Chinaman to do it for half-a-dollar, when a Yankee came up and offered to do it for two dollars. At first the Judge couldn't see it, but the Yankee made use of his own protectionist arguments, and pointed out that he would spend the money in the country for the universal good, whereas the Chinaman would take it out of the country. The Judge thought he would be consistent for once, and so gave the job to his countryman. His disgust may be imagined when, on returning

to his woodpile, he found the Chinamen busy at work, having been hired by the astute Yankee to do it for half-a-dollar. That story seems too good to be true, but just such another can be told about our Sydney neighbors. Some time ago, the protectionists made a great outcry about importing railway engines from England when they could be made as cheap and as good in the colony. The Government called for tenders, but found that the price was much above that of English locomotives. However, as a sop to the protectionists, tenders were accepted for the colonial engines. The contractors followed the example of the aforesaid Yankee. They sent home to England, imported the engines in sections, and put them together in the colony, thereby putting a good sum of money in their pockets which the Government might as well have saved.

DURING the sitting in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, before proceeding to the orders of the day, the member for Franklin raised a question as to whether Superintendents could legally hold seats as representatives of the House. From the report in another column, which we take from the 'Guardian,' it will be seen that the Government has been severely handled by a number of speakers. Coming from such a source it can be thoroughly relied on.

THE writer of the following, which we clip from the 'Mount Ida Chronicle,' had evidently been behind the scenes, and thus exposes the method in which the wires are pulled in the interests of Abolitionists:—"The latest dodge the managers of these newspapers have adopted to gain a little artificial reputation outside the Province deserves to be recorded. Members of their respective staffs are encouraged to hire themselves out as special correspondents, telegraph agents and the like. Added to the duty of collecting and forwarding news in general is the special duty of puffing their own respective papers, and furnishing epitomes of their leading articles and free criticism upon them. These are forwarded to Lyttelton, Wellington, and Auckland, to appear in the various Provincial papers. Of course the Dunedin papers reciprocate, and do the needful for their weak brethren in the North—to make things fair and equal, prepaying their own messages." It then mentions two Dunedin morning papers (which, however, shall be nameless), and gives extracts from each, bearing out the above statement, and winds up as follows:—"This, to us, is really disgraceful to journalism. We have merely picked from the papers immediately before us. The same thing is to be found in every issue of certain of these so-called leading papers. Even in this modified attempt at artificial importance it will be seen our Dunedin contemporaries are not very likely to reach practical benefits."

THE Waimea, with 322 immigrants for Otago, may shortly be expected to arrive. She sailed on June 18, and is, consequently, now about 80 days out. The Invercargill sailed from Glasgow on July 1 for this port, with 450 immigrants. Information has also been received, says the 'Guardian,' by the Immigration Officer, of the Zealandia and Auckland having sailed during the month of July for Otago. The former has on board 210, and the latter 458 immigrants.

THE Wellington correspondent of our evening contemporary has evidently a taste for facts and figures, and has forwarded some highly-interesting statistics anent the speeches on the Abolition question. The debate on the second reading of the Abolition Bill extended over eleven nights, and fifty-four members addressed the House. The speeches occupy 665 columns of 'Hansard,' and were they placed lengthwise, would measure 414ft. 4in. The longest speech delivered was by Mr. Fitzherbert, measuring 374 inches of 'Hansard,' or over 31ft. The shortest was Mr. Dignan's, which measured 5in. Mr. Fitzherbert's speech equalled within 2in. the combined speeches of fourteen of the shortest speeches during the debate. Mr. Sheehan comes next to Mr. Fitzherbert in order of length, with 203in., being an inch short of 17ft. Mr. Reid contributed 16ft 4in.; Mr. Stout, 12ft. 6in.; Mr. J. C. Brown, 11ft. The longest speech on the Government side was Mr. Cuthbertson's, who contributed 10ft. 6in. The greatest number of speeches delivered at any one sitting was on the tenth day, when nine members spoke. The ninth sitting, however, when seven members spoke, contributed the largest quantity of matter to "Hansard," namely, 55ft. 6in.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A simple way to make a new pen hold ink is to put it for a second or two in a lighted candle, and then plunge it in the ink while hot. So far from spoiling it, it rather improves.

A current item of art gossip states Gustave Dore is to receive £10,000 for illustrating a splendid pictorial edition of Shakespeare to be published shortly.

An Italian photographer, named Josellis, has invented a method by which he can take photographs of objects at the bottom of the sea from a diving bell. A society at Florence has lent him a steamer with which to prosecute his researches.

A popular writer, who had assumed the *nom de plume* of "Timothy Trim," was buried in Paris recently. For years he wrote the leading article in the 'Petit Journal,' which was daily read by 2,000,000 people. From this non-political paper, price one sou, he received 72,000*fr.* a year, and yet poor "Timothy" died in the Maison Dubois, where indigent men of letters often end their career. "Timothy Trim's" real name was Leo Lespes, and he began life as secretary to the well-known Detective Vidocq.

The word "Brigand" comes from the Irish *Brigh*, a mountain. A Brigand is, or was originally, a mountaineer.

The last survivor of the famous tea party that destroyed the British tea in Boston harbor on the 10th December, 1773, was David Kinnison, who died in Chicago in 1851, at the extraordinary age of 115.