

TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, June 14th.

Russia is negotiating a new loan of £15,000,000 sterling. After fifty-five hours' continued fighting between the Turks and the Montenegrins, the latter withdrew. Both sides suffered heavy losses.

The Russian preparations for the passage over the Danube at Giurgevo have been frustrated.

SINGAPORE, June 16th.

Suliman Pasha, after desperate fighting, has forced the Dugar Pass.

Sir Stafford Northcote has been informed that Russia won't interfere with the navigation of the Suez Canal.

BOMBAY, June 16th.

The report of the Dugar Pass having been forced, is unconfirmed.

After desperate fighting, the result is undecided, and both maintained their position.

A Russian official despatch states that the Turks endeavored to counteract siege work at Kars by frequent sorties.

SYDNEY, June 15th.

News by the Torres Strait mail at Brisbane states that full details of instructions were sent in May, by the Madras mail from the Home Government to the Indian Government, to send a force to occupy Egypt in the event of certain contingencies arising. Sir Neville Chamberlain has been offered the command of the expedition.

Chinese emigration to Queensland is expected to decrease greatly, owing to the opening of the tea season.

AUCKLAND, June 16th.

Charles Rowley, the Thames prospector, is still missing. He is now generally believed to be the person whose drowning cries were heard on the wharf on Thursday night.

LAUNCESTON, June 14th.

The agricultural returns for Tasmania show a surplus of 184,527 bushels of wheat available for export.

BRISBANE, June 14th.

Official statistics show that the population at the Palmer is 1400 Europeans, and 17,000 Chinese.

REEFTON, June 19th.

The Defiance has struck a golden reef in the low level. It is at the same level as the Golden Fleece, but 300 feet south of the latter boundary. From the same reef gold was obtained some time ago at 150 feet higher level.

WELLINGTON, June 19th.

It is stated that a compromise has been effected with Kitchener and Slowman, who claimed compensation for non-fulfilment of the contract made by the late Dr. Featherston with those gentlemen for the introduction into New Zealand of 4000 German immigrants. The colony is to pay Kitchener £500, and Slowman £3000—exclusive of passage-money for the Fitz-Reuter immigrants—in full of all demands. Slowman's claim was £20,000.

The *Times* this morning says that it learns that a serious charge has been brought against the management of the Mount View Lunatic Asylum for the alleged ill-treatment of a patient, and insinuates that the Asylum has been mismanaged since the death of Mr. Seager.

BOMBAY, June 18th.

The Montenegrins have been revictualled. It is announced that Mehemed Effendi was compelled to retire, leaving 200 dead.

The Egyptian contingent has arrived at Stamboul. Ahmed Madlar has been reinforced with the 24th battalion from Nickaich.

SINGAPORE, June 19th.

A despatch from Mukhtar Pasha states that the Russians were defeated at Alaschgerd, after severe fighting.

There is no news from the Danube. It is semi-officially stated at St. Petersburg that mediation is impossible.

A levy is proposed.

COMMERCIAL.

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company) reports for the week ending June 20, as follows:—

Fat Cattle—113 head were yarded at the market to day, which were of fair to good quality. All changed hands at about last week's quotations, notwithstanding that the small supply forwarded might have been expected to result in improved prices. Best pens of bullocks brought from £11 to £14; do cows, £7 to £9 10s—or equal to 30s per 100lb for prime quality. At the yards we sold 45 head at above rates.

Fat Calves—Nine came forward, which sold at from 18s to 65s.

Fat Sheep—The large number of 3650 were penned, consisting of good to prime quality, and all found buyers at slightly under last week's prices. Best cross-breeds brought from 10s 6d to 13s 9d; medium do, 8s 6d to 10s—or equal to a shade under 2½d per lb for prime quality.

Store Cattle and Sheep—The market for this class of stock remains as before reported. During the week we have sold 800 cross-breeds and merinos, the former at from 7s 6d to 8s, and the latter at 3s 6d to 5s for full-mouthed wethers.

Wool—Press London cablegram, dated 16th June, quotes wool in keener demand; prices higher. Sales close on the 26th. This news has improved the demand here. At our weekly sale on Monday

some lots of stragglers' wool brought higher rates; greasy merino 10d per lb.

Sheepskins—At our auction on Monday we catalogued 2000 skins, principally green slaughters. We had a very large attendance of buyers; every lot sold. Cross-breeds not so much sought after as merinos; the former sold at 2s 9d to 3s 4d; the latter 2s to 2s 8d; full merinos, 4s 8d; do cross-breeds, 5s 4d.

Hides—Shippers not being in the market this week, prices are a shade easier; good local demand, equal to 4d per lb. for good-conditioned lots.

Tallow—Supply small. Inferior brought £26; medium, £23 to £31; good shipping lots of mutton are worth £34.

Grain—Wheat: Demand good. Holders very firm. Finest milling sales at 7s 6d. A line of 30,000 bushels of Northern is reported sold at 7s 4d—equal to the latest London quotation for New Zealand wheat. Oats: Shipping demand has slackened since Monday. Prices are from 3s 6d to 3s 7d for feed; milling, 3s 8d to 3s 9d. Barley: More business has been doing in malting samples: some large lines have been sold at 4s 3d to 4s 6d for fair medium samples.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending June 20, 1877:—Business has been greatly hindered during the week by the broken, wintry weather, but, of course, this is to be expected in the dead of winter. Farm and station couples move off freely, if not too much encumbered with youngsters; fortunately, most farmers can now offer cottages to married people. Single ploughmen are in good demand, and really experienced men get as good wages as ever. The building trade is very much hindered by the weather, but, of course, men with forethought are prepared for such contingencies. Shepherds are nowhere at present. Shopmen and clerks are very difficult to place, business being quiet in shops and warehouses necessarily affects them. Bushmen and mills are very quiet. Miners are well employed. Female servants are more plentiful, but experienced ones are not easily got. Wages: Couples, £65, £70, and £80; day labor, 7s, 8s, and 9s; ploughmen, £52 to £60; hotel females, 12s, 15s, 20s, and 25s; private house do., 10s, 12s, 15s, and 20s; men cooks, waiters, grooms, gardeners, 20s, 25s, and up to 50s, per week; carpenters, 10s, 11s, and 12s; boys and girls, 6s, to 10s; shopmen and clerks, 30s to 60s, per week.

MR. J. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending June 20th, 1877, as follows:—Oats (feed), per bushel, 3s 3d to 3s 6d; milling, 3s 3d. Wheat (chicks), 4s to 4s 6d. Barley, malting, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 3s. Pollard, scarce. Bran, £4 15s, bags included. Flour, large bags, £18; small, £18 10s. Oatmeal, £20. Potatoes, £3 15s per ton. Hay, £4 5s per ton. Chaff, £4 10s per ton. Straw, £2 per ton.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending June 20th, 1877, retail:—Roast beef, 5d to 8d per lb; boiling do., 4d to 5d per lb; stewing do., 4d to 6d per lb; steak, 6d to 9d per lb; mutton, 2d to 5d per lb; veal, 4d to 8d per lb; pork, 6d to 8d per lb; lamb, scarce, 2s to 3s 6d per quarter.

MR. A. MERRICK reports as follows for the week ending June 20, 1877, retail prices only:—Fresh butter, in ½ and 1lb prints, 1s 6d and 1s 7d per lb; fresh butter, in lumps, 1s 4d; powdered and salt butter, 1s 4d. Fresh butter is not so plentiful as it was, but the market is still well supplied. Salt butter in keg is very plentiful, and is at present a drug on the market. No demand at any price. Cheese very plentiful, and good quality, 10d to 1s; side and rolled bacon, 10d to 11d; Colonial hams, 1s to 1s 2d; beef ham, 9d; English hams, 1s 3d to 1s 4d (no demand); English cheese, 1s 3d, no demand; Eggs are very plentiful now, and retailing at 2s per dozen, and likely to be lower in price.

THE MELBOURNE BOUQUET NUISANCE—ABUSE OF PRIESTS AND BIBLE.

It surprises me that the calumniators of the "Priests" in Melbourne and Dunedin do not tire of their dirty work, more especially after the Bates case and the Bell case, in which the *Argus* and *Star* cut so disreputable a figure. The *Argus* again shines in the "Bouquet nuisance" case. Again the enemies of the "priests" would be put to the blush, if they knew how to blush, for shame. Why will they persist in publishing these trumpery and false tales at the prompting of evil-disposed bigots without first inquiring properly whether they be true or false? The *Argus* was forced with a wry face to admit that the bigots who prompted him in the bouquet case had acted very wrongly in presenting the bouquets in the way they did. Yet he expresses no regret for publishing the calumny. The meanest kind of falsehood is that of partially stating the truth, so as to create a false impression. The *Argus's* clients were guilty of this, and made him a partner of their offence. He does not seem to feel his degradation. The same with the Dunedin accomplices, in that case as in the Bates slander.

A certain paper the other day, adopting the language of Carlyle, said that literary men were a kind of "perpetual priesthood," and far more charitable than the common clergy. I presume he claimed a kind of "priesthood" for the Press, which he said excelled the clergy in charity too. But charity thinketh no ill, and is slow to take up an evil report. It appears that the Press, or a portion of it in Melbourne and Dunedin, are ready to think any ill of the priests of the Holy Roman Church, and are swift to take in and publish any evil reports of them; but slow to make proper amends. The enmity of the world to Christ is the same with the enmity of the world to the priests, since they represent Christ. The cause of the enmity is the same in both cases. The priests "follow goodness," therefore the world, as represented by the *Argus*, speaks ill of them, or acts as tale-bearers to those who do. The charity, self-denial, and zeal of priests are a standing rebuke to Protestant preachers, and their supports in the Press—not that all priests are equally good, or Protestant preachers equally bad.