

News of the Week.

WE clip the following remarkable paragraph from our Southland contemporary the *Weekly Times*:—"From a telegram that appears elsewhere it will be seen that Cardinal Sforza, who was generally looked upon as the successor to Pope Pius IX., is dead. Amongst English Catholics it is thought that Cardinal Wiseman, Sforza being out of the way, possesses the highest claims to the triple crown." We should have thought that English Catholics would have had the nous to perceive that the objection applied at least quite as strongly to Cardinal Wiseman, his Eminence having been dead for a much longer period than Cardinal Sforza. When egregious nonsense, however, is written or inserted in the columns of our contemporaries, the mere question of its degree is not of the slightest consequence.

A COMPLIMENTARY supper was given at the City Hotel, Dunedin, on Friday evening last to Mr. and Mrs. Murphy. A numerous company were present and a most agreeable evening was passed.

A MOST extraordinary missive has been received by the Immigration Officer in Dunedin, assuming to come from the minister of the island of St. Kilda, North Britain, and which states that a party of eight persons, long supposed to have perished by the loss of their boat at sea, are now believed to have been carried off by the wicked captain of some ship, and scattered in places "far abroad." Heaven knows why! but where they are thought to languish under the imposition of an oath which prevents them making their case known. The object of the letter purports to be the discovery of anyone of these unhappy wights who may linger spell-bound amongst us here in New Zealand, and if any of our readers suspect an acquaintance of pining under such a burden he will do well to communicate the matter to the gentleman who has received the epistle alluded to.

HIS LORDSHIP the Bishop of the Diocese left Dunedin yesterday for Invercargill, where he purposes to hold a visitation on Sunday next, 21st inst. From Invercargill his Lordship will proceed to Queenstown for a like purpose, and will be present in that town on Sunday, the 28th inst. A visitation will also be held in Oamaru on November 11th.

It will be seen that in one most important matter at least, the retrenchment policy announced by Sir George Grey, affords a striking contrast to the miserable tactics pursued by the late Government. It is with relation to the integrity of salaries of small amount which are not, in the case of other officials, to suffer the fate of those of the police force, most unfairly docked, not only to the injury of the parties concerned, but to the well-being of the whole state of society in the colony. It is, however, "never too late to mend." The matter is not irrevocable.

Telegrams.

LONDON, October 6th.

A Turkish official despatch reports a great battle at Gumri in Asia Minor with favourable results to the Turks.

A Russian unofficial report states that on the 2nd inst. the Russians captured the entrenchments near Kars on Mukhtar Pasha's left, repulsing large masses of Turks, and subsequently abandoned the entrenchment owing to want of water.

The Russian loss was 83 officers and 3200 men, and the Turkish losses enormous.

The Turkish official despatch from Mukhtar Pasha reports a complete victory on the 2nd October. The Russians attacked the whole line, but were compelled to retire, the Turks pursuing them to Opache. The Russian loss was 5000, and the Turkish unknown.

Other accounts say that the battle was indecisive.

The Czar has resolved to remain with his army until the war is ended.

There is much sickness amongst the Russians round Plevna.

The bombardment operations at Schipka Pass have been stopped by the fog.

A Russian unofficial despatch states that the Turkish left, supporting the garrison at Kars, attacked the Russian right on the 4th, but was defeated with great loss.

Suliman Pasha has been appointed Commander-in-Chief on the Danube, and Mehemet Ali is recalled. Raouff Pasha commands on the Balkans.

The Russian head-quarters have been removed to Sistova.

ROMBAY, October 9th.

The Russians appear to continue siege works at Plevna. The weather, however, is unfavourable, as it is raining and snowing.

Servian diplomatic agents at Stamboul renewed pacific assurances.

Mukhtar Pasha reports that on October 6th the Russians evacuated their position parallel to ours, retiring towards Arpachi. Their loss during the last three days' fighting was 15,000, ours 2500.

LONDON, October 8th.

The Grand Vizier has disavowed the recent violent Turkish articles against England.

Suliman Pasha has been deposed from the chief command of the Turkish army in Bulgaria, and is succeeded by Ahmed Eyob Pasha, who has ordered him to return to Constantinople.

Preparations in Kars and Bulgaria have been suspended by reason of the bad weather.

Commercial.

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the N. Z. L. and M. A. Company, reports for the week ending October 17:—

Fat Cattle—127 head were yarded to-day, chiefly good to prime quality. The prices realised was about equivalent to those of last week. Good beef continues firm at a shade over 30s per 100lb. Best pens of bullocks brought from £10 10s to £15; do. cows, £7 10s to £13 10s. We sold 40 head at the yards on account of Messrs John Anderson and H. Carswell.

Fat Sheep—2,300 were penned, principally good cross-breeds, and the market was much steadier than last week. Best cross-breeds in the wool brought from 16s 6d to 21s 6d, or equal to 3½d per lb.; do. shorn, 13s 6d, or 2½d per lb. We sold a draft on account of D. Macdonald, Esq.

Fat Lambs—270 were penned, all finding buyers, at from 6s to 12s 6d, according to weight and quality. We sold 60 on account of D. Macdonald, Esq.

Store Sheep—We have no transactions to report, although we have placed a lot of 5,000 wethers under offer. We anticipate a good demand for young sheep immediately after shearing.

Store Cattle—The demand continued good, and during the week we have sold a few odd lots up to £7 for bullocks, and £5 for cows.

Country Sales—We held a clearing sale at the farm of Mrs. Stevenson, Wingatui, Taieri Plain, on Tuesday, 9th instant. Cart horses brought from £30 to £57 10s each; store cattle, £6 2s 6d; dairy cows, £6 to £10 10s each; ewes and lambs, 17s 6d, and also a large quantity of agricultural implements at satisfactory prices.

Wool—We disposed of a few lots of fellmonger's wool, which realized satisfactory prices, and the market is firmer than it has been for some time past, buyers seeming to have more confidence. As no portion of the new clip has yet been offered, we refrain from quoting probable values.

Sheepskins—There was a very full attendance of buyers at our sale on Monday, when we submitted a large catalogue for their competition, which was keen, and prices realized show considerable advance over last week's rates. The general tone of the market seems more assured, the quality of the skins offered was good, and the prices obtained were—for lambs, 7d and 9d for small skins; merino, 2s 10d, 5s 6d; cross-breeds up to 5s 9d; full wool, 4s 9d to 5s 6d.

Hides—The supply forward was not large and prices still rule the same, but without much animation. We sold large sized good quality 22s; calfskins, 2s 6d, maintaining the same average of 4d per pound.

Tallow—There was a large quantity catalogued, but the quality was not first class, the biddings did not in some cases reach holders' idea of value. The market is dull, prices rule about the same as last week—say, good mutton, 31s 10d, 33s; mixed, 28s 10d, 30s 10d; inferior, 25s 10d; rough fat, 21s 10d, 22s.

Grain—The aspect of this staple is rather discouraging to holders, although prices have had no decline, yet consumers are unwilling to operate except at reductions upon ruling rates. Wheat is difficult to move at 7s and 7s 6d. Fowls' wheat there is a moderate enquiry, 3s 6d to 4s. Oats—a little more business has resulted, but prices are unchanged. Feed, 3s 4d, 3s 5d; milling, 3s 4d, 3s 6d. Barley—good malting is still in demand, with none forward, for a really choice sample, 4s 3d, 4s 6d, would be readily sold; inferior sorts neglected, 3s 6d to 3s 9d.

MR SKENE reports:—The labour market is very active, and the right stamp of people are quickly picked up. Town work is improving, and all connected with the building trade are busy. Ordinary day labourers in the town mostly get their work in spurts; they suffer a good deal from broken time. A few storemen and clerks are occasionally wanted. Hotel servants, men and women, will all be needed for the brisk season now approaching. Female cooks are scarce. Country smiths are always needed, if able to shoe horses. Wages—Day labour, 7s, 8s, and 9s; bushmen, 7s, 8s, and 9s; couples, £65, £70 to £80; shepherds, £70 to £80; musterers, 30s to 60s per week, according to time; house girls, 10s to 15s; hotel do. 12s, 15s, 20s, and 30s; dairy hands, 15s to 20s; station cooks, 30s per week; boys, 5s to 10s.

MR. A. MERCER'S market report for the week ending October 17. Retail prices only. Fresh butter, in ½ and 1 lb prints, 9d to 10d; extra brands, ½ lb, 1s. Fresh butter, in lumps, 9d fresh; and salt 10d. Fresh butter is very plentiful, and the market overstocked, and no sale for salt butter, prices little falling. Cheese, best quality, 10d to 1s. Side Rolled Bacon, 9d. English hams, 10d to 11d. English hams, 1s 3d. Eggs very plentiful, and retailing at 1s 3d per dozen.

MR J. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending Oct. 17, 1877, as follows:—Oats (feed) per bushel, 3s to 3s 3d. Wheat (chicks), 4s to 4s 6d. Barley, malting, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 3s to 3s 6d. Pollard, £6 10s. Bran, £4 5s, bags included. Flour, large bags, £17 to £17 10s; Oatmeal, £18. Potatoes, £2 10s per ton. Hay, £5 per ton. Chaff, £5 per ton. Straw, £2 per ton.

MR J. VEZEY reports for the week ending Oct. 17, 1877, retail:—Roasting beef, 5d to 8d per lb; boiling do., 3d to 5d per lb; stewing do., 4d to 6d per lb; steak, 6d to 8d per lb; mutton, 2d to 5d per lb; veal, 4d to 8d per lb; pork 6d to 8d per lb; lamb 3s 6d to 4s 6d per quarter.

MR. E. LOFT of the Arcade is at present clearing off his large and excellent stock of boots and shoes. An unprecedented opportunity is therefore afforded of obtaining a supply of these useful articles at most reasonable rates.

The eighteenth anniversary of the death of the venerable J. B. Vianney, Curé d' Ars, occurred on Saturday, the 4th of August. More than 10,000 persons assembled at the scene of his labours to celebrate the event, and at their head was the Cardinal-Archbishop of Lyons.