

MR GEORGE ROBERTSON of Melbourne is about to publish the fourth series of the "Vagabond Papers." The table of contents bespeaks an interesting collection, and, although doubtless we shall find in it many principles and views put forward with which we can by no means agree, we are prepared also to discover much that is alike instructive and brilliant.

WE are informed through a private source that a letter, dated Lyons, Sept. 18th, has been received from the Rev. Father Charcyre, in which it is stated that he was about to set out for Rome to urge in person the plea *nolo episcopari*. He says, "God alone knows what is my fright at the thought of returning to Auckland as a bishop." It is, however, considered that the promptings of the venerable priest's humility are not likely to meet with success.

THE report of the Commissioners for Victoria for the Philadelphia Exhibition has been published by the Victorian Government. It contains the information procured by the Secretary of the Commission, who was instructed to acquire full particulars of all such exhibits as he believed likely to be of profit to the inhabitants of the colony employing him. The work is one of much utility, and has been well brought out.

THE *Illustrated New Zealand Herald* for November contains, as usual, several interesting and well-executed illustrations. One which represents sufferers in the Indian famine is terribly ghastly, but we believe unhappily not exaggerated. That named "Falls on the Lobster Rivulet, Tasmania," brings before us a charming scene, and a "View in Christchurch" is calculated to convey a most pleasing impression of a New Zealand city.

THE Government school-masters still continue to show their teeth. At Gisborne, recently, the chairman of the School Committee granted permission to the Catholics to make use of the schoolroom on Sundays for the celebration of Mass, but the teacher, a Mr Maberly, on being informed of the matter resisted so rudely that it was resolved at a meeting of the members of the Catholic congregation to refrain from taking advantage of the permission granted. The difficulty, however, is about to be surmounted in the best possible manner, for the Catholics have determined on erecting a church, and at a meeting held for the purpose of discussing the matter, and over which the Rev. Father O'Reilly presided, it was resolved not only to commence the building at once, but that, as Gisborne was in a position to support a Catholic clergyman, the Very Rev. Father Fynes, V.G. should be communicated with on the subject. It was further resolved that the necessity of devising means of providing Catholic education for the children was apparent.

THE drawing in connection with the Dominican Convent Art Union was held on Friday last in St Joseph's school room. The prizes, of which there were 122, were distributed with wonderful impartiality by fortune through the different districts of the colony, some of the best going to the holders of single tickets. Of the Roman pictures—which, although not first upon the list, were the most valuable of all—the Aurora went to Captain West of Port Chalmers, the Sybil to Miss Sullivan, of Bluff Harbour, and the Italian Peasant Woman to Mr. Maxted, of St. Kilda, West Coast. The prize presented by His Holiness the Pope, and for which there were many competitors, it forming the chief attraction to Catholic subscribers, fell to the lot of Mrs. Brazil, of Moa Flat, and the other works of art found owners scattered up and down throughout the colony. Much satisfaction has been expressed by those who were successful, and who have so far received the prizes won by them, at the value and beauty of the various pictures which are found to surpass the expectations formed concerning them. The drawing was conducted on the usual art-union principle.

Commercial.

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the N.Z. L. and M. A. Company), reports for the week ending Nov. 14, 1877:—

Fat Cattle.—A large supply of 186 were yarded, a greater portion of which were from moderate to medium quality, and at the latter end of the sales great difficulty was experienced in finding buyers, a few pens having to be turned out unsold. We quote really prime quality at 30s per 100lb; medium to ordinary, 25s to 27s 6d. At the yards we sold 40 head on account of Messrs Anderson and Carswell.

Fat Calves.—Only about 10 came forward, and sold at fully up to late quotations.

Fat Sheep.—1665 were penned, chiefly cross-breds shorn and in the fleece. Best cross-breds (in the wool) brought from 14s 6d to 17s 6d; do (shorn), 8s 6d to 11s—or equal to 3d per lb for former, and 13d to 13½d for latter. At the yards we sold 1100 cross-breds and merinos, on account of Messrs Logan, Anderson, Carswell, Maben, and McDonald, at above quotations.

Fat Lambs.—517 were penned, most of which found buyers, although at considerably under last week's prices. We sold 280 at from 7s 6d to 11s 6d.

Store Cattle.—Continued dry weather is preventing the usual active demand at this season. However, a fair inquiry exists for bullocks at £6 to £7 10s; do cows, from £4 4s to £5 5s. Next week we shall offer two very superior lots—one at Palmerston, on the 20th; and the other at Mosgiel, on the 23rd.

Store Sheep.—We have no transactions to report, nor do we anticipate any business being done until after shearing.

Wool.—The produce of the early sheds is now arriving in town. So far as we have had an opportunity of examining any lots to hand we find them in superior condition, both as regards length and soundness of staple. We have already good inquiries for the new clip, and we advise our constituents to send their lots to the auction sales without naming a price previously to private buyers, and thereby not lose the benefit of the competition of a number of new buyers which the comparative superiority of this season's clip in New Zealand to the Australian is already attracting to our coming wool sales.

Sheepskins.—We had a large catalogue of skins on Monday—over 2000—which sold briskly at advanced rates; we quote best crossbreds and merinos at 5s 10d each; station skins, 6½d to 7½d per lb; lambs, 1s to 1s 2d.

Hides were in good competition at full rates. We sold 300, mostly wet salted, from 3½ to 4½d per lb; heavies, 21s to 23s; mediums, 15s to 20s; inferior, 10s to 13s each.

Tallow is dull. To make sales we have to reduce limits. We sold prime at £30 10s; medium, £26 to £28.

Grain continues without any improved demand, excepting a little more inquiry for choice wheat for mixing, which is not offering. Quotations are nominal, 6s to 6s 6d. Oats—no business doing. Feed—saleable, 2s 10d to 2s 11d; milling, 3s to 3s 1d. Barley quite neglected.

MR. SKENE'S labour report for the week ending November 14: The trouble at present is to get a sufficient number of suitable men and women to satisfy the demand. Work is plentiful, but too many are quite unsuitable for it. We are quite inundated with new arrivals, totally unfit to grapple with stern work. Shepherds and trained ploughmen are very scarce, and they are at once picked up. Couples are a little slow; fortunately those with families are not rejected so much as they were. Men for bush, road, and rail are fairly employed. Shearers are fast converging on the different stations. Female servants in every department are very short. People suitable for hotels are in better demand. The building trade is active; even the despondent ironworkers are brightening up. Wages—Gardeners, grooms, waiters, &c., 20s to 40s, couples, £65 to £85; musterers, 30s to 60s; shepherds, £65 to £75; day labour, 7s, 8s, and 9s; milkers, 15s to 25s; boys, 5s to 10s; hotel and house girls, 10s, 12s, 15s; upper do., 20s, 25s, and 30s; station cooks, 30s; ploughmen, £52, £55, £60, and £65; storemen and clerks, 30s to 60s.

MR. J. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending Nov. 8, 1877, as follows:—Oats (feed) per bushel, 3s to 3s 3d. Wheat (chicks), 3s 9d to 4s. Barley, malting, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 2s 9d to 3s Pollard, £6 10s. Bran, £4 5s, bags included. Flour, large bags, £16 10s to £17; Oatmeal, £17. Potatoes, £2 per ton. Hay, £6 per ton. Chaff, £5 per ton. Straw, £2 per ton.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending Nov. 8, 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, 2½d to 5d per lb; veal, 4d to 8d per lb; pork 6d to 8d per lb; lamb 3s to 4s per quarter.

MR. A. MERCER'S market report for the week ending November 16. Retail prices only. Fresh butter in ½ and 1 lb prints, 7d to 9d; extra brands, 11d to 1s. Fresh butter, in lumps, 7d to 8d per lb; powdered and salt butter, 8d. Fresh butter is still very plentiful, although several dairies have commenced cheese making. There is no demand for salt butter, and the grocers do not care for taking any more fresh butter than they have consumption for. Cheese, best quality, 10d to 1s. Side and rolled bacon, 9d. Colonial hams, 10d to 1s. English hams, 1s 3d, no demand. Eggs are in good demand, and have risen to 1s 6d per dozen.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A MEETING was held in the Temperance Hall, Dunedin, on Monday evening last for the purpose of considering the political situation. About 300 people were present. His Worship the Mayor occupied the chair, and on the platform were Messrs. John Cargill, J. G. Reeves, H. McNeill, John Davy, P. Sherwin, J. Oliver, A. Burt, G. Turnbull, J. Barnes, A. Sligo, J. Robin, A. Galt, A. Lawson, and Dr. Borrow.

The following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

1st. Moved by Mr. John Cargill, seconded by Mr. Richard Oliver—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is highly desirable, in the interests of the Colony, that the Government now in office should be allowed fair time and opportunity to investigate the state of public finances, public works, and native affairs, and that the conduct of the late Ministry and their followers in endeavouring to prevent this is highly obstructive and reprehensible."

2nd. Proposed by Mr. H. S. Fish, jun., seconded by Mr. A. Sligo—"That as parties in the General Assembly are so equally balanced, that neither side of the House have a working majority, an immediate dissolution of the Assembly is absolutely necessary."

3rd. Proposed by Mr. Reeves, seconded by Mr. Sherwin—"That a memorial to His Excellency the Government be prepared and signed, asking him to dissolve the present Assembly with a view of giving the constituents throughout the country an opportunity of expressing their views upon the present state of public affairs."

4th. Proposed by Mr. J. Robin, seconded by Mr. Davie—"That copies of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the Colonial Secretary, and each member of the Legislative Council and the House of Representatives."

"I AM willing to risk my reputation as a public man," wrote Edward Hine to the *Liverpool Mercury*, "if the worst case of small-pox cannot be cured in three days, simply by the use of cream of tartar. One ounce of cream of tartar dissolved in a pint of water, drank at intervals when cold, is a certain, never-failing remedy. It has cured thousands, never leaves a mark, never causes blindness, and avoids tedious lingering."