

municipal contributions from the Australian Colonies excite profound gratitude. The total receipts from all quarters are 89 lacs. Kindly repeat to Mayors of Sydney, Adelaide, Hobart Town, and other centres.—E. FITZGIBBON, Melbourne."

[BY CABLE.]

LONDON, December 31st.

Mukhtar Pasha has been recalled to Stamboul.

An attack by torpedo vessels on the Turkish fleet at Batoum failed.

The Turkish commander defending Nissa has made proposals to surrender.

The Channel fleet and the ships under repair have been put in commission, and all ordered to be ready for sea by the 16th inst. (?)

Count Andrassy, according to the Government organ at Pesth, states that Austria was forced temporarily to join the tripple alliance, but will support England the moment she decides upon a resolute policy.

LONDON, December 31st.

A Russian semi-official note states that the British Government have intimated to the Russian Government that in the event of certain contingencies arising, national feeling may force England to defend her British interests in the East. It is officially stated that Russia is now willing to consider direct Turkish proposals for peace.

Commercial.

MR. SKENE'S labour report for the week ending December 31.—At the close of the year it is well to glance back on the position of the labour market during the twelve months gone. There have been a good many ups and downs, and a good deal of discontent. During the winter months, the iron trade was very depressed. The building trade flagged a good deal, but this is looked for in winter. Other skilled trades, such as bootmakers, tailors, cabinetmakers, painters, &c., weathered the dull time very well. In very few cases did really good tradesmen need to go idle long. Day labourers, sawmill, and bush hands were very slack for a while—from unsuitable weather—but now their prospects are much improved. During the whole year couples with families have been very hard to place. It is very humbling to report that couples with large families are so much neglected by farmers and squatters. This is a very short-sighted policy. Female servants have all along been far short of the demand; the best are at once secured, and soon get married, leaving in many cases only those without training and experience to supply the market. As to agricultural labourers, ploughmen, shepherds, and all degrees of these classes, the demand has been constant, and no one trained to such work need be idle for a day. Unfortunately far too many arrive here under false colours, saying they do farm work, and on trial are found useless. During the year we have never ceased crying out against the evil of sending useless young men to Otago. In fact many for whom the old country has got too warm. We can now look forward to the opening year with good prospects for all classes. Wages—Couples, £65 to £85; ordinary females, 10s to 15s; upper do., 15s, 20s, 30s, and 40s; shepherds, £70; ploughmen, £52, £55, £60, and £65; day labour, bush, road, and rail, 7s, 8s, and 9s; masons and bricklayers, 12s and 13s; carpenters, 10s to 12s; dairymen, 20s and 25s; boys and girls, 5s to 10s; cooks, waiters, grooms, gardeners, station cooks, &c., 25s, 30s, and 40s; clerks, &c., 30s to 60s.

MR. A. MERCER'S market report for the week ending January 3. Retail prices only.—Fresh butter in $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 lb prints, 8d to 10d; extra brands, 11d to 1s; fresh butter in lumps, 8d to 9d; powdered and salt butter, 9d. Fresh butter is still very plentiful and there is a fair demand. Cheese, best quality, old, 10d to 1s; cheese, new, 10d. Side and rolled bacon, 9d. Colonial hams 11d to 1s. English hams (new), 1s 4d; old hams, 1s to 1s 2d, no demand. Eggs are scarce, and retaling at 1s 3d per doz.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending Jan. 3, 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, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5d per lb; veal, 4d to 8d per lb; pork 6d to 8d per lb; lamb 2s 6d to 4s per quarter.

MR. J. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending Jan. 3, 1877, as follows:—Oats (feed) per bushel, 3s to 3s 3d. Wheat—milling, 5s to 5s 6d; chicks, 3s to 3s 7d. Barley, malting, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 2s 10d to 3s. Pollard, £6 per ton. Bran, £4 5s, bags included. Flour, large bags, £14; small, £14 10s. Oatmeal, £17. Old Potatoes, £1 15s per ton. New Potatoes, 12s per cwt. Old Hay, £7 10s per ton. Chaff, £5 10s per ton. Straw, £2 per ton.

Noyon's heroine is a servant girl. A common sewer of great depth has been opened for repairs, and four men, passing that way in the dark, fell in. It was not until midnight that their perilous situation became known. The poor wretches were already suffocating from a poisonous vapour: their moanings were heard, and their wives and children, frantic with grief, besought the bystanders for aid; but among all the stalwart men who gathered round the hole there was not one brave enough to go down and rescue his fellow-creatures. Then it was that Catherine Vasseur, a lass of seventeen, volunteered to descend into the pit. She was lowered into the sewer, where she fastened a rope around two of the men, and, assisted by those above, she had the happiness of restoring them to their wives and children. Again she descended and fastened the rope around the body of a third man, but her breath began to fail her. Fainting from foul air and exhaustion, she had sufficient presence of mind to knot the end with her own luxuriant tresses, so that when the dastardly fellows above drew the man to the surface they found the all but inanimate body of the young girl swinging by her hair to the end of the rope. Fresh air and stimulants restored her to consciousness, but not in time to enable her to save the fourth man, who perished in the pit.—*Richmond Enquirer*.

General News.

A child was lately attacked on Grosse Tete by a large eagle. Upon hearing the screams of the child, its mother ran into the yard, and when she discovered the eagle endeavouring to carry off her child she made a desperate attack upon the intruder. During the fight between the eagle and the mother the child crawled under the house, and finally the mother was forced to retire, as the eagle fought with unusual desperation. Several persons were attracted to the spot by the screams of both mother and child, and after firing several shots at the eagle, he was finally killed.—*Montreal True Witness*.

Some of the memorials in the hallowed and time-honoured cemetery of St. Pancras must, it is stated, be displaced, in order that the Midland Railway Company may carry on their projected work. Amongst those whose memorials are to be so treated are two famous Irishmen—Arthur Richard Dillon, Archbishop of Narbonne, and the Rev. Arthur O'Leary, whose reputation will survive as long as wit is appreciated or genius excites admiration.

A duel, which ended in the death of both combatants has taken place at Wilmington, Delaware. It arose out of a paragraph in a paper burlesquing a younger brother of a youth named Young, himself only fifteen years of age. Having demanded satisfaction of the editor, Mr. Brown, the latter instead of giving it knocked him down, and a challenge to mortal combat with pistols was immediately given by Young and accepted by Brown. The combatants were placed on each side of a railway track. When they approached the rails the order was given to fire. At the first discharge the ball from Young's revolver entered Brown's breast, and that from the latter's revolver the lower part of Young's abdomen. Brown continued firing at his antagonist, but Young, finding his revolver did not revolve, closed with Brown, when both fell, and began pummelling each other with their pistols. The seconds then interfered and separated the men. They were laid out on the railway platform, both in a dying condition. Young while in that state, cursed his adversary, who died in a few minutes later. The former lingered until next day in great agony.

In the district of the Jura twenty of the curés who had been installed by the cantonal Government in the parishes rendered vacant by the forcible removal of the lawful Catholic pastors have been prosecuted for various crimes. One of these individuals has just absconded and is sought after by the police for a career of swindling, by carrying on a fraudulent trade in watches, and the *Evangelische Kirchen-Zeitung*, the organ of the Protestant synod of Berlin, which reports the fact, adds that the person in question has been taking advantage of the clerical position conferred upon him to practice his rogueries with the more success.

Two men have just been tried before the Court of Assizes of the Basses-Pyrénées for a number of robberies, which, by an accidental circumstance, led to an interesting archaeological discovery. The accused, Rivas, a shoemaker, aged thirty-two, and Bellier, a weaver, aged twenty-six, were arrested in May last, after frequent burglaries and armed attacks on the highways had spread terror around the neighbourhood of Sisteron. The evidence against them was clear, but no traces could be obtained of the plunder until one of the men gave a clue to the mystery. Rivas in his youth had been a shepherd boy, near that place, and knew the legend of the Trou d'Argent, a cavern at the summit of one of the Alps, with sides so precipitous as to be almost inaccessible, and which no one was ever known to have reached. The Commissary of Police of Sisteron, after extraordinary labor, succeeded in scaling the mountain and penetrated to the mysterious grotto, where he discovered an enormous quantity of stolen articles of all kinds, comprising watches, clothes, domestic animals, food, spirits, firearms, etc. The way having been once found, the vast cavern was afterward explored by savans, and their researches brought to light a number of Roman medals of the third century, flint hatchets, ornamental pottery, and the remains of ruminants of enormous size. The advocate of Rivas asked for the indulgence of the jury for these pioneers of science, but both persons were sentenced to twenty years' hard labour.—*London Globe*

THE following is a portion of a letter of the *Times* Correspondent from the Relief Camp, Carlova. "As we rode up the main street, which, from its pebbly appearance, is evidently in winter the bed of a roaring mountain torrent, we noted that every house was closed and carefully barred. It seemed like another city of the dead. A few Turks were at the door of a coffee-house, and our sixty-five arat drivers were lounging about waiting for us; but beyond these and a few dogs and cats, this town, which lately boasted some 10,000 inhabitants, was apparently tenantless. I say apparently, because as we went up the street it became necessary to halt while Mr. Fawcett got out his credentials for the mudir; and during that temporary stoppage a sight was encountered which brought tears to the eyes of more than one of our rough-looking party. A well-built house, close to which we reined up, was discovered to have inhabitants, and how we discovered this was that the tips of several little white noses poked through the strong wooden bars, which were carefully nailed up from within, for all the world like rabbits pushing their noses out of a hutch. At our inquiry if anybody was within, given in Turkish, the spaces between the bars became instantly blank. Calling up our dragoman, who spoke Bulgarian, we told him to speak gently, and the little noses re-appeared. "How many of you are there?" we inquired. "Ten," was the faint reply, in a childish treble. "How long have you been shut up here?" "Nearly forty days." "But why do you stay in there?" "Oh, do not ask us; they are killing everybody. Where is our father?"—from a dozen little throats at once. "Have you anything to eat?" "Nothing now; we have lived all the time on the grapes in our garden, but they are gone." The rest was lost in a chorus of sudden sob's."

FATHER MORRIS, whose unwearied researches had already led him to collect materials for another volume of his series, "The Troubles of our Catholic Forefathers," has been entrusted with the task of establishing a Jesuit College at Malta.