

Commercial.

HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company), reports for the week ending 9th January, 1878:—

Fat Cattle.—The market was again over-supplied with 240 head of from fair to good quality, which being more than the trade was prepared to take without considerable reduction in prices, a few pens had to be turned out. Best bullocks brought up to £12, do. cows £10 10s, the highest price obtained for best quality not exceeding 27s 6d per 100lbs. At the yards we sold 60 head, and have placed 40 head privately during the week.

Fat Calves.—About 20 were penned, and there being little or no demand, most of them were withdrawn, a few lots selling at 20s to 30s.

Fat Sheep.—As in the case of cattle this market was also over-supplied with 2650 sheep of all sorts, a portion of which were turned out, and will be held over until next week. The pens taken by the trade realised from 7s 6d to 10s 6d; one pen of a choice cross-breeds, heavy weight, bringing as high as 12s 6d each, or prices equal to not over 13d per pound. At auction and privately we sold 600.

Fat Lambs.—700 being penned caused a considerable reduction on last week's rates, best lambs realising up to 8s 6d, while ordinary to good quality were scarcely salable at 5s to 6s. A few medium pens were turned out unsold.

Store Cattle.—We have no transaction to report. There is a fair inquiry for quiet well-bred bullocks at up to £7; do cows, £5.

Store Sheep.—There is a very brisk inquiry for cross-breeds of every description, and merino wethers or ewes. Cross-breeds are saleable at from 5s to 5s 6d for lambs, 6s to 6s 6d for two-tooth; 7s to 8s for four-tooth and upwards. Merino lambs, 5s 6d to 6s; do ewes, two, four, and six-tooth, 6s to 6s 6d; wethers, two, four, and six-tooth, 5s 6d to 5s 9d. Aged merinos are dull of sale unless from flocks known to have been well culled, and are saleable at from 3s 6d to 4s for wethers, and 2s 6d to 3s 6d for ewes. During the week we have sold of various sorts 5500.

Wool.—On Monday last we disposed of a few small lots of wool, when prices were well maintained. The lots realised as follows:—JMc, greasy crossbred, 8½d; RN, greasy crossbred, 9½d; P over D, greasy merino and crossbred, 8½d; locks and pieces, 5d. We hold our second regular wool sale of the season on Tuesday next, when we will offer a large catalogue of every description.

Sheepskins.—The sale was well attended, and the competition was good, although prices have not yet attained the prices got about a month ago, still the tendency is upward, and we quote up to 5s 6d for cross-breeds, 4s 7d for merinos, 1s 4d for lambs, and butchers pelts 4d each.

Hides.—The aspect of the market is unchanged, with a fair supply forward. The prices continue firm at late quotations.

Tallow.—A few lots of medium sorts and rough fat found buyers at very satisfactory rates that point to an advance in value. Quotations are—Inferior fat, 18s 6d; mixed and beef, 28s 6d; good mutton, 32s to 32s 6d.

Grain.—In the expectation of the harvest being soon to hand, millers are very loath to buy, and we cannot quote any transactions in wheat, but prices are still unchanged. Oats still command a deal of notice, and the supply is very limited. We have sold a really good parcel at 3s 6d. Feed may be quoted 3s 3d to 3s 5d; milling, 3s 6d. Barley there is no business to report, but we have had enquiries for prime malting.

MR. A. MEBER'S market report for the week ending January 9. Retail prices only:—Fresh butter in ½ and 1 lb prints, 10d to 11d; extra brands, 1s; fresh butter in lumps, 9d; powdered and salt butter, 9d. Although the market is well supplied with fresh butter there has been a better demand and the price has advanced. Salt butter in keg, no demand at present. Cheese, best quality, old, 10d to 1s; cheese, new, 8d to 10d. Side and rolled bacon, 9d. Colonial hams 11d to 1s. English hams, old, 1s to 1s 2d; new, 1s 4d; little or no demand. Eggs since New Year has been very scarce and advanced in price from 1s 3d to 1s 4d per doz.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending Jan. 9, 1878, 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 2s 6d to 4s per quarter.

MR. J. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending Jan. 9, 1878, as follows:—Oats (feed) per bushel, 3s to 3s 4d. Wheat—milling, 6s to 6s 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, 10s per cwt. Old Hay, £7 10s per ton. Chaff, £5 10s per ton. Straw, £2 per ton.

MR. SKENE'S labour report for the week ending January 9:—Nothing talked of now but hard work, fortunately there is plenty of it to be got, and also good pay. No excuse now for any man going idle. Shortly the harvest will demand every extra willing hand. When even those with little knowledge of country life can make a few pounds at the binding. Skilled trades of all sorts are very sound. Ploughmen are in good demand and topmen get fine wages. Shepherds are reviving fast. Day labourers at road, rail, bush, &c. are well employed. As to female servants it seems we will never be able to use the word "enough." Hotel servants in every department are well employed; so are steamboat stewards, cooks, &c. Wages—couples, £70, £75, and £80; day labourers, 7s, 8s, and 9s; masons, bricklayers, carpenters, 10s to 15s; ploughmen, £52, £55, £60, and £65; shepherds, £70; dairymen, 20s and 25s; boys, 10s to 15s; female servants, 10s, to 15s, 20s, 25s, and 30s; men cooks, 25s, 30s, and 40s; shop hands and clerks, 30s to 60s; stewards, waiters, &c., 40s to 60s.

THE PROPHECY OF LEHNIN.

(Adapted from the French for the Catholic Review).

We read in an old German chronicle that "in the year of grace 1180, the Marquis Otho, the first of that name, completed the princely monastery of Lehnin, of the Order of Citeaux, situated at a distance of two leagues from Bradenburg, and begun by his late father, Albertus Ursus. The Marquis Otho made to the monks the gracious gift of the inclosure of the Zanche, together with the village of Thurow, the baptismal dowry of Primislaus, King of the Vandals."

Seven hundred years after, less "two lustra," on the 18th of January, 1871, the day on which the imperial dignity was proclaimed, the King of Prussia signed a cabinet order, decreeing that the Church of Lehnin should be made to rise again from its ruins. And, in accordance with this order, on Sunday, June 24, of the present year, it was solemnly inaugurated in the presence of the Prince Royal of Prussia, his consort, a large number of attendants and a numerous audience.

It was at Lehnin that the legend of the White Lady originated, and it was there that Father Hermann wrote, about the year 1300, the production known by the name of the prophecy of Lehnin. According to this prophecy the great heresy was to commence under Joachim I., which actually came to pass, and to continue until the eleventh generation after him, which is the present. During the reign of this generation the prophecy foretells events to take place in Germany which have always been watched for with most lively interest in that country; and this interest has only increased since the eleventh generation of the Hohenzollerns has ascended the throne. But, as the year in which the great event was to occur should see the Church of Lehnin arise from its ruins, the Emperor William, apparently desirous to throw a defiance in the face of the superstitious, ordered the monastery church to be rebuilt.

But this does not seem to have much effect in lessening the interest of the Germany people in Father Hermann's prediction. His name is mentioned at the Prussian court only with a sort of dread reserve. If he were now living Bismarck's gendarmes would very soon make short work of him, by virtue of the May laws and the press laws: But he is dead; and as it is through no fault of the Germans that his prophecy is made so public, the all powerful Emperor does not despair of confounding Father Hermann by bullying him in his tomb. This bravado has had no other effect than to quicken the popular curiosity; and never, therefore, has the prophecy been better known than at the present day. Germany possesses four manuscripts of this document, which are respectively in the libraries of Göttingen, Dillemburg, Wolfenbuttel and in the family archives of the court of Prussia.

Father Hermann predicts the future of the March of Bradenburg, and passes in review all the margraves, electors and kings who have since his day ruled this country. It is singularly worthy of note that the prophecy has been literally fulfilled down to the present day; and this circumstance appears so much the more astonishing as the verses in which it is written are couched in the clearest language. Vague phrases or doubtful and ambiguous thoughts are never to be met with. Thus, the prophecy says that the Reformation will be introduced under Joachim I., and that a woman—*mortifera pestis*—will plant that poison everywhere, and the sovereign alone will not be affected by it until the eleventh generation (*stemma*). The truth is that it was the mother of Joachim I. who introduced the Reformation into Bradenburg.

The prophecy then laments over the destruction of Lehnin, and passes in review the ten first generations (*stemmata*). The eleventh stemma contains two sovereigns, Frederick William IV. and William I., his brother, the present king and Emperor of Germany, of whom the prophet speaks in words which we translate almost literally as follows:

"Finally he holds the sceptres who will be the last of his generation. Israel dares to perpetrate an odious crime, which will be expiated by death. Then the pastor will resume the charge of his flock and Germany receive her king."

"Finally he bears the sceptres who will be the last of his generation. Frederic William IV. was the first—*primus undecimi stemmatis*."

We insist particularly on the plural form, *sceptres*, for in two other passages bearing on the ancestors of William I.; Father Hermann uses the singular form, *sceptrum*, and not the plural, *sceptra*. Does not the present state of affairs explain this, since William I. is at the same time King of Prussia and Emperor of Germany?

"Israel dares to perpetrate an odious crime which will be expiated by death." Everyone in Germany is now familiar with this odious crime, for her children have been subjected to outrages that were spared them by the Swedish hordes of Gustavus Adolphus and Mansfeld. The expression, odious crime—*infandum nefas*—is a vigorous and correct rendering of the Culturkampf and its odious persecutions.

"Israel dares!" In all the anti-Catholic enterprises of Prussia do we not recognise the mask and action of Judaism inspiring, or rather animating, the International? Father Hermann tells us that the crime will be expiated by death. Let Israel beware!

"Then the pastor will resume the charge of his flock, and Germany will receive her king." This verse refers likewise to the eleventh stemma, but still awaits its realisation, though pure blooded Prussians pretend that it has been realised by the establishment of the new German empire. The interpretation is far-fetched, for the words are, "Then Germany receives her king," then only when the last of the eleventh generation will hold the sceptre, will Germany receive the two sceptred king, who then "at length," (*tandem*) that is to say, as the last of the series of sovereigns, will precede the coming of the new king.

But the last verses of the document give us a free interpretation of this passage, and establish its meaning much more clearly. There we are told who will be the last sovereign of his race. The other Roman empire will come after Lehnin shall have been rebuilt, "The triumphant pastor crushes the heresy and the wolf is chased far away from the fold."

It is true that Lehnin has been rebuilt by William I., who, desir-