

Commercial.

Mr. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the N.Z.L. and M.A. Company, Limited) reports for the week ending 29th January, 1879, as follows:—

The following fat stock came forward at the yards to-day:—105 head cattle, 6 calves, 1552 sheep, 370 lambs.

Fat Cattle.—Notwithstanding the moderate supply, there was very little improvement in prices, and the sales were altogether languid. Best bullocks brought up to £13 7s 6d; do cows, up to £10 2s 6d—or barely equal to 30s per 100lbs.

Fat Calves.—Those penned sold at fair prices, according to size and quality.

Fat Sheep.—Owing to the small supply, prices advanced 1s per head on last week's quotations. Of those penned, 300 only were in store condition. Best cross-breeds brought up to 12s, or fully 2d per lb.

Fat Lambs.—These sold at 6s 6d to 10s, according to quality.

Store Sheep.—We have placed several large lots under offer, but have no transactions to report.

Store Cattle.—On Thursday, the 23rd inst., we sold at Mosgiel the balance of Messrs. Ayson and Watt's cattle (173 head) at from £5 2s 6d to £8 per head for steers and bullocks, and £3 10s for cows. Privately, we have sold 300 head mixed cattle during the week at £5 per head.

Country Sales.—We beg to call special attention to our sale at Balclutha on Friday next, at one o'clock, when we shall offer, on account of Mr. Robert Williams, the whole of his coaching plant, consisting of coaches, horses, buggies, harness, &c., &c.; also sections in the Forest Hill, New River Hundred.

Wool.—We have no advices from our London office, nor have any sales taken place in this market since our last report. Private inquiry quiet. On Tuesday next we offer a catalogue of good wools, greasy, washed and scoured.

Sheepskins.—Supply small. The few lots offered sold at full rates, considering their medium quality. Cross-breeds brought 4s 1d to 4s 3d; merinos, 4s 1d; pelts, 3d to 6d.

Tallow.—We had a good supply this week, for which there was increased competition. We sold 45 packages—about eight tons—at 2s 6d to 2s 7d for fair medium quality; damaged and inferior, 1s 7d to 2s; rough fat, 2s.

Grain.—Wheat is not in request, except in small parcels for mixing. Millers will not increase stocks in face of the new crop so near at hand. Quotations are nominal. Oats: Sales of the new crop have been made at 2s 6d to deliver next month. Old corn brings 3s 6d to 3s 8d for feed. Barley nominal.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending January 29:—That it is utterly impossible to supply one-fourth of the present demand in every line of day labour. The new arrivals hardly get time to pack their traps and away. Not a shadow of an excuse for idlers at our street corners now. Paupers and public works are now bidding against each other for hands, so that men can choose which they may think best. Girls are at last to be got in small numbers only. Couples with farm experience go off easier now. The building trade is very active; the journeymen have better times than the contractors. There is room for a great many rabbit killers. Wages—Harvesters, 30s to 50s; day labour, 8s, 9s and 10s; cooks, waiters, grooms, boots, 20s to 40s; grooms and gardeners, 20s to 30s; couples, £65 to £85; ploughmen and shepherds, £60, £65 and £70; milkers, 15s to 25s; boys, 6s to 12s; ordinary girls, 10s to 15s; upper do., 20s to 30s; shopmen and clerks, 30s to 60s, worse than day labour.

MESSRS. A. & H. MERCER report for the week ending Jan. 29:—Retail prices only—Fresh butter, best and favourite brands, 1s to 1s 2d per lb; ordinary butter, 1s per lb; fresh butter in lumps, 1s; powdered and salt butter, 1s per lb. Fresh butter is still plentiful, and the most of the shops are selling down. Cheese, best (old), 10d to 1s per lb; new cheese, best, 10d to 11d per lb. Side and rolled bacon, 11d; colonial hams, 1s. Eggs (fresh) are scarce, and selling at 1s 6d per dozen.

MR. J. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending Jan. 29, 1879, as follows:—Oats (feed), 3s 6d to 3s 9d per bushel. Wheat—4s; chicks, 3s to 3s 4d. Barley, malting, 5s to 6s 6d; feed 3s to 3s 6d. Pollard, £6 per ton. Bran, £4 10s. Flour, large bags, £10; small, £10 10s. Oatmeal, £19 10s. Potatoes, £6 0s to £8 per ton. Hay, new, £4 per ton; old do. £6 per ton. Chaff, £4 10s to £5 10s per ton. Straw, £2 per ton. Onions, 14s. Cheese, 6½d. Bacon 9d.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending Jan. 29, as follows:—Retail prices. Roasting beef, 6d to 8d per lb; boiling do, 3d to 6d per lb; stewing do, 4d to 6d per lb; steak, 6d to 8d per lb; mutton, 2½d to 4d per lb; veal 4d to 8d per lb; pork, 6d to 9d per lb; lamb: 3s to 3s 6d per quarter.

L'Echo de l'Université of October 19, published at Lyons, France, contains six and a-half closely-printed columns of eulogy of the late Mgr. Dupanloup, in which are published extracts from the leading Catholic journals of France, expressive of the great loss the Church has sustained in the demise of the venerable prelate. We translate the following paragraph from the extracts contained in this article: "When intelligence of the death of Mgr. Dupanloup, Bishop of Orleans, reached the Vatican, His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State, by order of His Holiness Leo XIII., immediately addressed the following telegram to Mgr. Coullie: 'The Holy Father is deeply afflicted at the loss of so illustrious a prelate, and has ordered prayers to be offered up for the repose of his soul. From the fullness of his heart he blesses his successor.' It may be proper to add that on the 2nd October, 1877, Mgr. Coullie, Bishop of Sidon, was appointed Coadjutor to Mgr. Dupanloup *cum jure successionis*, and, on the death of the latter, at once entered upon his charge of the Diocese of Orleans.

General News.

THE Bishop of Salford, in a letter to Rev. Henry Depelchin, S.J. who has been charged with a mission to Central Africa, says:—"God seems to seek compensation among the inferior races for the dishonour He sustains by the perversion of cultivated and refined intellect among the more favoured races. As it was in the sixteenth centuries, so it may be in the nineteenth and twentieth. The Church, through the zeal of her missionaries, will spread, and will acquire more than she has lost and is losing. The millions that are as yet unevangelised, and have never known the truth, are at least five or six times as numerous as those who have despised and rejected the light of salvation. All Catholics ought to feel it a positive duty to take part in the foreign missionary work of the Church.

As a Kansas city lawyer was going to his office the other day he noticed a red suspender lying on the top of some freshly caved earth. He stooped to pick the suspender up, but it stretched and refused to come. Digging down with his hand, he found the dead body of a boy. Much alarmed, he began to dig with a spade, and to his horror unearthed the bodies of two more, who had been buried alive by the caving in of an embankment on which they had been playing the night before.

THE women of the country should have the following extract from the Memphis *Aratanche* printed in letters of gold and hung up in every home:—"Parents have deserted children and children parents, husbands their wives, but not one wife a husband." This tribute to women's devotion is found in a column descriptive of the plague horrors in Memphis.

ON his way to the northern provinces, King Alfonso has been at Avila, and his visit to the shrine of St. Teresa suggests to the correspondent of a daily contemporary some remarks on the revival of religious Orders in Spain. "The Restoration," he says "has allowed many of the monastic Orders and congregations of nuns to return to their ancient homes. The cells have once more become harbours of prayer and solitude. The cloisters are tenanted by their reverend Fathers as in the days when Ferdinand and Isabella laid the remains of their first-born in the Mausoleum of Santa Tomas. Ten monks, fifty-six novices, and twenty lay-brethren live in the monastery (the Carmelite priory at Avila), and the Prior showed the King the relics of Santa Teresa and the cells of illustrious members of the Order. They now prepare young missionaries for the colonies, and but a few days ago twelve left for the Philippine Islands."

A SYSTEM of loading heavy guns by means of compressed air has been invented by R. C. Smith, of Edinburgh, Scotland. The rammer consists of a series of telescopic tubes, into which the air is admitted so that the tubes are extended one after the other, and when the charge is thus thrust home communication is established between the rearmost tube and a series of internal tubes (which are extended along with the others) permitting the air to escape. Sparging is effected in the same way. The whole process is said to be very expeditious.

AN association has been formed in England entitled "The Church of England Funeral and Mourning Reform Association," to encourage the adoption of such observances as are consistent with the hope of a resurrection to eternal life, and to discourage feasting on the day of burial and all useless and extravagant expenditure in the coffin and its furniture, and in wearing of mourning.

THE Very Rev. Canon Oakley, of St. John's, Duncan Terrace, writes to the editor of the *Standard*:—"Sir,—I find that my name has been mentioned in a somewhat animated controversy on the subject of Anglican Sisterhoods in general, and one in particular, between a speaker at the Church Congress and a lady, who replies to him in the *Standard*. I think that I may throw some light on the subject, which will have the effect of showing that both parties in this controversy have truth on their respective sides. The speaker at the Congress was correct in saying that an Anglican Sisterhood came over to us in a body some years ago, and after going through a short novitiate at Paris, worked under me till called to Ireland, where they have ever since been living a most holy and devoted life in the county of Leitrim, as Franciscans of the Third Order enclosed. It is equally true, as your correspondent states, that I never received under my care any community from Osnaburgh street, nor, indeed, any other Anglican community than the one above mentioned. That which I did receive, and to which I imagine that the speaker at the Congress refers, was previously established, not in Osnaburgh street, but in Margaret street.—*London Universe*.

On Friday, October 18, 1878, Maurice Flynn, an enthusiastic Irish patriot and friend of Robert Emmet, died in New Orleans. He was born in Tipperary, Ireland, 1773, just three years after the birth of that memorable patriot and martyr.

One of the greatest improvements inaugurated in Dublin for many a day is making satisfactory and even rapid progress towards completion. We allude to the new bridge which will connect the northern and southern sides of the city between Beresford-place and George's-street East, thus affording an accommodation to the public, the want of which has been long and keenly felt by the business portion of our community. Resting on a solid granite arch in the middle of the river is the huge swivel bridge itself almost completed. It is iron of course. Round the mason work of the arch in the centre of the river, on which the swivel bridge revolves, is a heavy shield of timber to protect passing vessels from contact with the granite work, which shield will, of course, be removed when the works are completed and thrown open to the public. One man is sufficient to turn and replace the new bridge; and this improvement alone will be appreciated by those whose occupations lead them frequently to the North Wall, where the time and labor expended on the opening and shutting of a single little bridge are sufficient to try the sweetest and most amiable of tempers. This great and much-needed improvement will, we are assured, be available for public accommodation on or about the 1st of May next year.—*Freeman*.