

their warehouses, and put them on board the inter-provincial steamers, at the same trouble and expense as they presently incur in sending them to the railway station, their enterprise would be much better rewarded.

A GENTLEMAN in Wellington telegraphs to us that nearly all the Irish immigrants by the Douglas had been nominated by their friends.

The London correspondent of the 'Age' writes:—"It is confidently stated here by persons likely to be well informed that Sir Charles Gavan Duffy will finally leave Victoria in April next. He will at that time have completed his sixtieth year, and will be able to leave the Colony without the necessity of returning within two years. Should the general election for the House of Commons take place before the arrival of Sir Charles in England, he will in all probability be nominated in his absence for some Irish constituency." It appears, says the Melbourne 'Advocate,' from a statement Sir Gavan himself made in the House, that the rumour is not incorrect.

MR BRADSHAW'S Act "to provide for employment of females in workrooms and factories," is now in operation. The Act, we learn from a summary of it in the 'Daily Times,' deals with the employment of all women and female children at "all kinds of manual work and labor in the preparing or manufacturing articles for trade or sale, not being contract or piece-work." It prohibits the employment of any female between the hours of 6 p.m., and 9 a.m., or for more than eight hours in one day; so that females employed between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., must get one hour during that period to themselves. The Act also orders that every female shall have holiday after 2 p.m. on Saturday, as well as the whole of Sunday and all days set apart as public holidays, without thereby incurring any loss of wages. Every place in which females are employed must be properly ventilated. Employers guilty of contravening the Act are liable to a maximum penalty of £50 for each offence, the penalty being recoverable before two Justices in a summary way "by any person who may sue for the same." Although, however, any one may put the law in motion, provision is made for the inspection of work-rooms during working hours. Such inspection may be made by any person who obtains the necessary authority in writing from the Resident Magistrate. We hope this Act will have a salutary effect upon those employers who keep girls at work until Sunday morning, instead of letting them away at a reasonable hour on Saturday evening, and that if this practice continues, steps will be taken to see the law enforced.

THE Bright Smile Company, during the last half-year, declared dividends to the amount of £5,775.

THE establishment of a Chamber of Commerce at Napier is urged by the 'Hawke's Bay Herald.'

AT a meeting of the Provisional Directors of the National Building Society, held at the office of Mr C. R. Chapman, a prospectus was approved, of the rate of interest to be charged on loans was fixed, and a sub-committee appointed to revise the rules. The roll of directors, and particulars with regard to the Society, will be found in our advertising columns.

THE Lyell correspondent of the 'Grey River Argus' says he would "not be in the slightest degree astonished to hear of a new and extensive gold field being discovered in the unknown ranges lying between the Buller and Mokihinui rivers. A party of miners have applied to the Survey Department for all the information that can be gathered regarding the nature and lay of the country, with the full intention of making good use of it this summer."

PEOPLE, remarks the Auckland correspondent of the 'Daily Times,' are much disgusted at the great increase of pay to Ministers, and contrast them, their glory, their travelling expenses, and their private secretaries, with the miserable, almost parsimonious manner in which they are obliged to conduct their own Provincial affairs and Provincial Institutions.

WE read in the 'Jytzelton Times' that the Rev. Father Ecuyer is taking steps for the formation of a school committee; that he intimated to his congregation that of course Catholics would now have to depend on themselves for the support of their school, and urged upon them the necessity of their being united, so that their school might be efficiently maintained.

"NOTIONS" in the Grey River 'Argus' pays tribute of homage to the powers of the Home Rule vote. Referring to the Maori M.H.R.'s, he says:—"Like the Irish members in the House of Commons, the Maoris are sometimes masters of the situations."

A NOTEWORTHY STATEMENT.—The Melbourne telegrams to the newspapers, say: "It is considered that the Education Act has broken down." So much for that perfect system.

A MINER makes this suggestion through the columns of the 'Ross Guardian':—"If the Banks have combined between themselves to reduce the price of gold, thereby taking a mean advantage of the miners, why should not the miners combine and bind themselves to sell their gold at a fair price, say of £3 17s per ounce?"

AT Macetown, according to the 'Arrow Observer,' a case of attempt at robbery of a tailrace occurred on Sunday, 21st ult., the thief being a Chinaman of the name of Hong Hai, and the victims being Messrs Jenkins and party. A great amount of uneasiness has existed amongst the miners for a long time, there being grave reasons for believing that a systematic plan of robbing the claims and tail-races was being carried on.

In the debate on the Provincial Loans Bill, Mr Hunter, the member for Wellington city, remarked incidentally that he had obtained information with reference to the amount of deposits in the banks throughout the Colony. There was in all £3,893,000. More than two millions out of this sum was not bearing interest at all; the rest bore interest at three per cent. There would have been no difficulty in raising the Provincial loans at or below six per cent.

As illustrating the losses by floods incurred by residents in Westport, it is said that only one, among the hundreds in business since its settlement by Europeans, continues in the premises originally erected.

It will be recollected that in December last it was reported that a storekeeper named James Hayes, who bought gold for the banks, reported that he had been robbed of 356oz of gold and sundry moneys, while journeying from Ahaura to Greymouth. The offer of a reward of £500 did not lead to discovery of any trace of the

robbers; and recent occurrences led the parties interested to doubt whether a robbery, as reported by Hayes, ever took place. Hayes having been brought back from Melbourne on a charge of attempting to defraud his creditors, is now charged with larceny of £1500, entrusted to him by the Bank of New South Wales in Greymouth.

MESSRS KINCAID, McQUEEN, & Co, of the Vulcan Foundry, Dunedin, have just completed the hull of a steamer for Messrs Campbell & Richardson of Napier. The steamer is built of iron, and is sixty-five feet in length, thirteen feet beam, and depth of hold six feet, and will be furnished with high-pressure engines of twenty-five horse-power nominal. The highest water-line is three feet, though it will probably, when laden, draw about four feet astern. It will be of about thirty-five tons register, and, when completed, will cost about £2600. It will be under the command of Mr Campbell, one of the owners, and is destined for the Poverty Bay and Napier trade. The hull was built at the foundry, and taken on a carriage to the water, the transit being much delayed by the badly formed streets.

MESSRS SIMS & BROWN of Auckland have lately laid down the keel of a new screw steamer to be built by them for a firm at Napier. Her dimensions will be 56ft keel, beam 11ft 6in, depth of hold 5ft. She is intended for towing purposes in Napier harbor, is to be strongly built, and to have engines of great power.

THE following eccentric advertisement appeared recently in the 'South Canterbury Times':—"Invitation.—If the person or persons who some time ago took from the Ship Hotel, Timaru, an old china tea-cup will call at the hotel, he can receive the saucers to match, and take tea, bread, butter, and shrimps with the owner."

A TREMENDOUS hailstorm occurred on the 25th ult., on the plains to the westward of Burnham, Canterbury. The hailstones lay on the ground to the depth of five inches.

THE six new ships now building for Messrs P. Henderson and Co., of Glasgow, for the New Zealand trade, are to be named respectively, Wellington, Canterbury, Auckland, Nelson, Dunedin, and Invercargill.

THE Provincial Council, at its last session, empowered the Government "to obtain, as soon as possible, the services of a competent geologist," for the purpose of completing the geological survey of the Province, begun by Dr Hector. Captain Hutton, F.G.S., for many years connected with the Colonial Geological Department, has been appointed to the situation.

MR SEWELL, who is said to have a "craze," since he retired from the Fox Ministry, of examining the financial position of the country, recently stated in the Upper House that the colony owes £10,398,736, and that we have authorized works and incurred liabilities that bring the debt up to £16,445,791.

AT the last Patea land sale the prices ranged between £5 to £7 per acre. Competition was most spirited and rapid. Three times the quantity of land could have been sold if offered. Patrick Burke, a West Coast miner, bought a large quantity of land, and placed his deposit of £800 cash on the table.

WE are glad to see that the unjust Education Bill has been thrown out by the Legislative Council. That body having the courage to resist the endeavor to tax the poor for the education of the rich, rejected the clauses providing for model schools. The Council, it may be mentioned, approved of the cumulative principle, thereby giving minorities a chance of representation. The unrepresented of the Colony, and those in favor of denominational education have reason to be deeply grateful to the Hon. Dr. Grace, and the Hons. Major Richardson, Captain Fraser, Col. Brett, and the other gentlemen who raised their voices in defence of right and justice.

THE 'Bruce Herald's' Irish news by the mail consists of a frightful murder by a lunatic and a horrible murder by a publican.

SOME ten days ago, says the Queenstown paper, a stalwart son of Vulcan in a neighboring town bade farewell to sin, in blessedness, and, to celebrate the happy event, a number of his townsmen adopted the orthodox fashion of "tin-ketting" and other boisterous tokens of showing their friendly feelings. The worthy Benedict became wroth, and made a descent upon his tormentors, more than one of whom he rather severely handled. One gentleman got the worst of it, and appealed to the law to vindicate his injured feelings. The result was that each and all—including the groomsmen—were served with summonses. On second thoughts the offended bridegroom declined to prosecute, and the charges were dismissed; he himself was fined 25s for assault. The moral of all this is, that "tin-ketting" should be kept within bounds, and that those who receive the "honor" should preserve their tempers, and meet the evil half-way.

A FATAL accident occurred in the bay on the 1st inst., by which a man named Peter Wilson, able seaman on board the ship Peter Denny, was drowned. It appears the deceased and another man, named Andrew Maconochie, went on board the ketch Fanny, lying off Carey's Bay, about two o'clock in the morning. Between five and six o'clock the deceased went up on deck, and the other man hearing a splash proceeded on deck, but could not see anything of deceased. The body was afterwards recovered.

THE last Northern Escort which arrived in town, brought the following quantities of gold:—Queenstown, 1774ozs ldwt; Arrowtown, 848ozs 18 lwt; Cardrona, 508ozs 18 lwt; Cromwell, 3038ozs, 3dwt; Clyde, 250ozs; Alexandra, 628ozs; Teviot, 743ozs 10dwt; Blacks, 75Cozs; Dunstan Creek, 600Cozs; Mount Ida, 1190ozs 13dwt; Palmerston, 109ozs ldwt; Macraes 137ozs 4dwt. Total 10,573ozs 13dwt.

THE prospect of the new Tariff of New Zealand causing this Colony in the future to import more of its goods direct from the United Kingdom instead of via Melbourne, has naturally caused the Melbourne merchants to grumble at the prospect of a diminution of their trade.

'Harper's Weekly' says:—"Physicians affirm that extraordinary nervous disorders are appearing among the children of the present generation. Sleeplessness is not an uncommon malady in children now-a-days. It is believed that the excessive brain work in close schoolrooms, which is now demanded of children, is producing the most pernicious results."