

anon forbids the cutting of olive trees; a reason for it is given, which, in the eyes of jurists, will not appear sufficiently general or adequate, but which in the eyes of the philosophy of history, is a beautiful symbol of the beneficial influence exercised over society by religion. This is the reason given by the Council: "It is," it says, "that the olive tree may furnish matter for the holy chrism, and feed the lamps that burn in the churches." Such a reason was sure to produce more effect than any that could be drawn from Ulpian or Justinian. It is ordained in the 10th canon that shepherds and their flocks shall always enjoy the security of the truce; the same favor is extended by the 11th canon to all houses within thirty paces of the churches. The 18th canon forbids those who have a suit to take any active steps to commit the least violence, until the cause has been judged in presence of the bishop or the lord of the place. The other canons forbid the robbing of merchants and pilgrims, or the commission of wrong against anyone, under pain of being separated from the Church, if the crime be committed during the time of the truce.

In proportion as we advance in the 11th century, we see the salutary practice of the truce of God more and more inculcated; the Popes interpose their authority in its favor. At the Council of Gironne, held by Cardinal Hagues-le-Blanc, in 1068, the truce of God is confirmed by Alexander II. under pain of excommunication; the Council held in 1080 at Lillebonne, in Normandy, gives us reason to suppose that the truce was then generally established, since it ordains by its first canon, to bishops and lords, to take care that it was observed, and to inflict on offenders against it censures and other penalties. In the year 1093, the Council of Troja, in La Pouille, held by Urban II. continues the truce of God. To judge of the extent of this canonical regulation, we should know that this Council consisted of sixty-five bishops. The number was much greater at the Council of Clermont, in Auvergne, held by the same Urban II. in 1095; it reckoned 13 archbishops, 220 bishops, and a great number of abbots. The first canon of this Council confirms the truce for Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; it wishes moreover, that it should be observed on all days of the week, with respect to monks, clergy, and women. The canons 29 and 30 ordain, that if a man pursued by his enemy take refuge near a cross, he shall be in safety, as if he had found asylum in a church. The sublime sign of redemption, after having given salvation to the world, by drinking on Calvary the blood of the Lord God, had already proved a refuge, during the sack of Rome, to those who fled from the fury of the barbarians; centuries later, we find it erected on the roads to save the unfortunates, who by embracing it, escaped their enemies, who were thus deterred from vengeance.

BALMEZ.

## WEEKLY EPITOME.

The regulations under which people in the Colony can procure free passages for their friends at home to this Colony, and their expenses paid to the port of embarkation will be found in our advertising columns.

The Nelson 'Examiner' in taking a glance at what those minerals, more precious than gold, have done for other localities, remarks: The feeling is general in the Province of Nelson that we must look to the coal and iron it contains as the foundation on which its future prosperity must be built.

The 'Australasian' bewails the new tariff of New Zealand a result of which is that New Zealand merchants who have formerly taken their goods from Melbourne, will have to make arrangements for doing business direct with England. And a Napier exchange trusts that what is Melbourne's loss will prove to be New Zealand's opportunity.

Among the bills passed in the last days of the late session of Parliament was an Act to provide for a grant of land for the five half-caste children of Charles William Broughton, of Wanganui, in the Province of Wellington, who was "treacherously assassinated"—as the bill sets out—near Kākarama, in the Patea district, on the 1st of October, 1866. Two hundred acres are to be selected for the benefit of the children, and placed in the hands of two trustees for their benefit.

DURING the past month Kaiapoi has shown indisputable signs of progress in the shape of additions to its local industries by the establishment of two iron and brass foundries—one on the north side and the other on the island portion of the town.

TENDERS have been accepted for about 38 miles of the Mount Ida Water Race, to the amount of £3800.

The fire in Auckland is regarded a "great calamity to the city and to the province. A large proportion of the damage is covered by insurance, but the loss, direct and indirect, to the commerce of Auckland must be great. It is absolutely disgraceful to the provincial authorities, to the municipal authorities, and to the citizens individually that Auckland has no water supply. The mere loss that Auckland has suffered from fires within the last two or three years would have provided the most expensive water supply that ever has been spoken of."

The 'Bruce Herald' understands that Messrs Webster and Shand will shortly proceed to Southland for the purpose of selecting 30,000 acres to be disposed of under the system of deferred payments. It has also been arranged that Mr Adam will examine the ground previous to his departure, so that he may describe the same to intending emigrants in the home country.

A LEASE has been applied for, for the working of a mine of antimony recently discovered on the gold-fields at Ravenscliff, in the Province of Marlborough.

The Auckland 'Star' says:—John Parsons, recently a medical man of the Bay of Islands, was sentenced last evening by Sir George A. Arney to four years' penal servitude. It was a lamentable spectacle to see an educated, apparently respectable man, with a head white with the frosts of time, in his fiftieth year, placed in the dock, and consigned to herd with the lowest class of criminals; and more especially as he has a sickly young wife and three children. The result of the trial of John Parsons, while it may act as a warning to others, shows that

education and natural abilities do not always prevent a man from sinking into vice and moral degradation.

THREE died at Oamaru lately a very old and respected resident—Henry France—who for years was intimately connected with public matters in the town, and for some time represented the district in the Provincial Council.

THE 'Wakatip Mail' has the following on the subject of larrikinism:—"It will be seen by our Municipal Council report that the subject of larrikinism in Queenstown, upon which we have more than once commented, has significantly attracted the attention of the authorities. We earnestly hope steps will be taken to put down a growing evil: On Sunday evenings it is positively disagreeable to pass through the main streets, owing to the crowds of boys and youths indulging in horseplay, and coarse expressions. The police might, we think, take steps to put an end to this grievance.

CAPTAIN GOLDIE, Lieut. Christie, Sergeant Taylor, and Volunteers Mann and Dobbie, the accredited representatives of Otago at the forthcoming Intercolonial Rifle Match at Melbourne, sailed by the *Claud Hamilton*.

Mr O'Connor's public meeting at Charleston resulted in a proposition being carried affirming his fitness to contest the forthcoming election for the Superintendency of the Province of Nelson. An amendment, "That in the opinion of this meeting it is undesirable to express an opinion," was negatived.

FROM Reef town comes the intelligence that the Wealth of Nations Co. has obtained 306 ounces of gold after a crushing of ten days' duration. The *Just in Time Co.*, from 110 tons of stone, has obtained 1230 ounces of amalgam, equal fully to 450 ounces of gold, while the tailings will yield over an ounce per ton additional.

THE 'Southern Cross' states it is reported that negotiations are on foot, on behalf of the National Insurance Company, for the transfer to that Company of all the New Zealand business of the Victorian Insurance Company. This proposal if carried to completion, will secure for the National, a large and profitable connection at the commencement of its career.

WITH the exception of six men, all the emigrants to Canterbury, per *Adamant*, numbering 150, found employment in two hours after the Barracks were opened to employers. The rates of wages given were:—Married farm laborers, £78, with cottage and firing; married couples, £60, and found; together with a bonus of £10 if they remain with their employers 12 months; masons, 10s per day; carpenters, 9s per day; single women £20 to £35. The demand for single women and farm laborers greatly exceeded the supply.

A SMALL party of miners working at Tuapeka mouth have struck a lead, from which they have taken out £50 a month's worth of gold per man, and expect to get at least £500 or £600 each before working it out.

WE read that Mr F. McCarthy, late sub-editor of the 'Independent,' has accepted the management of the Anglo-Telegram Agency, in lieu of Mr Montrose.

THE Roman Catholic Synod at Sydney, has been opened by Archbishop Polding. Sixty priests are present.

LATELY at Lawrence a boy named Kelly got his face and hands badly burnt with powder at the railway works. It appears that the boy obtained some of the powder used by the workmen, and ignited it with a match. This should be a warning to those who have the charge of powder in connection with the railway contracts to keep it inaccessible to children.

IN an editorial article, the Australian and New Zealand Gazette (published in London) says "it is safe to assert that in no country in the world does so high a percentage of middle-class ease and prosperity prevail," as in New Zealand.

THE Greymouth Licensed Victuallers' Association is being wound up.

THE gold return for the month at the Thames, is given at 8000 ounces, obtained from a little over 6000 tons of stone. The share market shows little change.

TWO well-known re-idents at Lake Wanaka, Messrs Macdonald and Tuohy, are now in the direction of the head waters of the Haast river. They are about to take up some country in that direction for pastoral purposes.

FIRST-CLASS coal is now being received in Greymouth from the Greymouth Coal Company's mine.

HOKITIKA is to have a new fire-bell, made of steel, and to weigh 13 cwt.

THE 'Auckland Herald' says it has information of a reliable nature to the effect that Sir Duncan Cameron has written out by last mail recommending Colonel M'Donnell for the Colonial Cross.

The Governor's reception at Auckland was nothing equal to that which Sir George Bowen received; it was altogether very tame.

THE prospectus of the "New Zealand Times," (Wellington) Newspaper Company has been issued. The capital is £10,000, in shares of £2 each. Mr Vogel's name is amongst those of the directors. The others are local men, merchants, including the Mayor, as well as Mr Moorhouse, solicitor. It is intended to make the paper "the representative one of the Colony." The prospectus says 3500 shares are already applied for, and that it is expected it will not be necessary to call up more than £1 per share. The idea of making a Wellington paper with a capital of £5000 the representative journal of the Colony, is one which is very rich. There must needs be more railways, closer inter-communication, and less provincialism before the Colony can have a really representative journal, and then such a paper would need at least, six times £5000. But we are told that Mr Vogel is the Colony, and the Colony is Mr Vogel, and it may be representative of the Colony in that sense.

A MAN named John Paton lately slipped off a punt on the Taieri river and was drowned. He leaves a widow and four children.

MR T. B. GILLIES in his address to his constituents, condemned the general attitude of the Government during the session, and eulogised the Legislative Council.