

Mr. Dobbin considered that civilization had a greater capacity for contentment than barbarism. The civilized man had more room and material where with to employ his mind than his savage brother. For instance, the number who devote their time, which would otherwise be a source of discontent to them, to the arts and sciences. He had no doubt but that civilization helped to make better soldiers, although Gallie it was difficult to understand Caesar in his commentaries on the War, when he says that a certain people of Gaul were very brave because they were far distant from the polish of the Roman Province, Still the means of enjoyment in savage countries were very limited, and not at all likely to produce contentment.

Mr. Blake was of opinion, from the knowledge he had of savage life, that they seem to be far more contented in that state than afterwards when they became partly civilized, as then their wants and desires increase, whilst at the same time they pick up the cunning and knavery of Europeans, a matter which does not tend to their comfort.

Mr. O'Sullivan thought it would be unfair to compare savage life with Christianity, as nothing on earth can contribute more to man's happiness and contentment than the latter. Therefore in instituting a comparison, it would be necessary to leave Christianity out altogether. The more civilized a man becomes, in proportion will be his ambition, whilst every want will be found to be a higher step to knowledge. The happiest state that man could aspire to is the highest form of existence.

Mr. Nolan said that no creature had a greater capacity for happiness than the savage because his wants were few, and none of the burning questions of civilized life disturbed his mind. This is also the reason that children are so happy. The Church made men Christians, and civilized them, but civilization is not Christianity, as men are more enlightened now than they were 100 years ago—not that they are better Christians, but luxury demands it. He often envied the contentment of the natives of Queensland as they lounged under the shade of the trees, or as they went fishing or shooting. There is no such thing as contentment among civilised people, as progress demands otherwise.

Mr. Milner having replied, the question was put to the vote when it was declared by a majority of one in favour of the savage state.

This was one of the best debates engaged in for some time, and although it is not possible even to give a fair idea of the speeches in this compressed style, yet it will be seen they were above the average, especially that of Mr. Corr, which was undoubtedly the best that he has favoured the members with.

### THE PROFITS OF AUTHORS.

SOME interesting figures are given in *Truth* showing the earnings of a number of well-known writers. Disraeli, it is stated, made by his pen £30,000; Byron, £23,000; Lord Macaulay received £20,000 on account of three-fourths net profits for his history. Thiers and Lamartine received nearly £20,000 each for their respective histories. Thackeray is said never to have received £5,000 for any of his novels. Sir Walter Scott was paid £110,000 for eleven novels of three volumes each and nine volumes of "Tales of my Landlord." For one novel he received £10,000, and between November, 1825, and June, 1827, he received £26,000 for literary work. Lord Lytton is said to have made £80,000 by his novels; Dickens, it has been computed, ought to have been making £10,000 a year for the three years prior to the publication of "Nicholas Nickleby"; and Trollope in twenty years made £70,000. The following sums are said to have been paid for single works:—"Romola," George Eliot, £10,000; "Waverley," Scott, £700; "Woodstock," Scott, £8,000; "Life of Napoleon," Scott, £18,000; "Armada," Wikie Collins, £5,000; "Lalla Rookh," Thomas Moore, £3,000; "History of Rome," Goldsmith, £300; "History of Greece," Goldsmith, £250; "History of England," Goldsmith, £600; "Vicar of Wakefield," Goldsmith, £60; "Decline and Fall," Gibbon, £10,000; "Lives of Poets," Johnson, £300; "Rasselas," Johnson, £100.

The last French survivor of the battle of Trafalgar has just died at Gruiשא (Aude) at the advanced age of 96. This veteran, Henri Blanc, was on board the French line-of-battle-ship *Mont Blanc*, which had all her masts shot away at Trafalgar, and surrendered when she was in a sinking condition. Blanc was a prisoner of war in England for seven years.

MESSERS. MERCER BROS., Princes street, report:—Fresh butter (in ½lb. and 1lb. prints), best quality, 9d per lb.; ordinary butter, 8d per lb.; eggs, 1s 3d; roll bacon, 7½d per lb.; good salt butter, in kegs, 7½d per lb.; cheese, 4d per lb.

OTAGO LAND BOARD.—At Wednesday's meeting the following applications were granted:—That of W. Smith to purchase section 117, block XIX, Tuapeka East; that of E. Mannel to purchase 3 acres, block II., Teviot; that of W. F. McFarlane for 30 acres bush land, Rankelburn and Glenkenich, for one year at 4s; that of the Waitaki County Council for 3 acres gravel reserve, Maerwhenua; that of C. Archer for coal-mining lease, section 18, block V., Kyeburn; those for rural deferred-payment license of B. Cameron, section 1, block 3, Cathlins; W. Murray, section 68, block I, Otepopo; J. Milne, section 1, block I, Otepopo. B. Robinson's application for a flax-cutting licence at Maungatua was adjourned in order to see if willows could be planted to prevent the soil's being washed away. The following applications were refused: that of A. F. Mackenzie to occupy section 11, block VIII, Crookston; that of the clerk of the Kaitangata Town Board for offices on certain unsurveyed land; that of B. Rossbotham for a strip of land on Water of Leith. The perpetual lease of section 58, block IX., Strath Taieri, at upset price of 8s per acre was granted to Jane S. Brown. It was decided on the application of J. E. Glover, to lease at 1s per acre for ten years, sections 11 to 14, Dunblack. The following deferred-payment licenses, Mid-Wakatipu, were cancelled:—H. J. Sproule, sections 19 and 20, block V.; J. Rowell, sections 15 and 17, block IV.; H. Beer, section 37, block 4; J. R. McDonald, a section in block V.

## Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ended March 5, as follows:—

**Fat Cattle.**—The market was over supplied to-day, 280 head being yarded, proving far in excess of the trade requirements. The greater part of these were only medium quality with a few pens prime. For the latter there was fair competition, but at lower prices, whilst other sorts suffered a considerable decline on last week's. Several pens were also turned out unsold. Best bullocks brought £8 10s to £10 2s 6d; others, £4 15s to £7 10s; and cows, £4 2s 6d to £7 6s. We sold on account of the proprietors of the Seadown estate 12 bullocks at from £9 17s 6d to £10; Mr. Andrew M'Laren, Milton, 5 bullocks at £6, and 7 cows at £4 15s to £7 5s; and quote prime beef 20s per 100lb.

**Fat Calves.**—18 were penned and sold at from 7s to 16s each.

**Fat Sheep.**—There was a very large supply penned for the week's requirements—viz., 3144. Of these about 500 were merinos only of medium quality; the balance crossbreds. The greater portion of the latter were only medium, and for such prices were low, and sales difficult to effect at a reduction of from 1s to 2s per head; but for heavy sheep of prime quality prices almost equal to last week's were obtained. Best cross-breds brought 16s to 18s 9d; others, 10s 6d to 16s, merinos, 8s to 10s 6d. We sold on account of Mr. William Telford, Clifton, 160 merinos at 9s; A. M'Laren, Tokomairiro, 250 crossbreds, at from 12s 9d to 19s; John Duncan, Cherry Farm, 75 do at 12s to 13s 9d; A. Sutherland, Palmerston, 38 do at 14s; J. Sutherland, Ngapara, and others, 126 do at 11s 3d to 13s 3d, and quote prime mutton 2½d per lb.

**Fat Lambs.**—351 were penned, mostly good quality, for which there was a very good demand, prices ranging from 8s 6d to 13s. We sold on account of Mr. Andrew M'Laren, Tokomairiro, a pen at 11s; Mr G. Watson, Pukeuri, a pen at 11s 3d.

**Fat Pigs.**—213 were penned. A large number of these were suckers, which sold at from 10s to 15s. Porkers and bacon pigs sold at from 30s to 76s. We sold on account of Mr. Andrew M'Laren, Tokomairiro, 2 at 30s, 4 at 46s, 3 at 50s; Messrs Wilson Bros., Waihiola, 15 suckers 10s, and 2 sows at 60s each.

**Store Cattle.**—There is not much business doing under this head in the meantime, but we have no doubt ere long a demand will spring up for well bred-quiet cattle for winter feeding.

**Store Sheep.**—We have still inquiries for young merino ewes, but very few are offering. During the week we disposed of 1300 four six, and eight-tooth merino ewes and now have on hand some good lots full-mouthed merino and cross-bred ewes.

**Wool.**—The latest cablegrams from London report the February sales continue firm. From our London office, dated February 28th, we received the following:—"Wool sales progress firmly. Up to date 129,000 bales have been sold. The sale programme has been curtailed by two days." Since our public sale of last week here we disposed privately of the Glenorchy clip of 301 bales merino at an advance on best offer at auction. We purpose holding our next sale on or about the 18th inst.

**Sheepskins.**—Our weekly sale was held on Monday, as usual, when we cleared a full catalogue, and last week's prices were well supported. Dry cross-breds brought from 1s 7d to 4s 7d; do. merinos, 1s 7d to 4s 5d; do. pelts, 2d to 11d; green do. 1s 1d to 1s 4d; lambs', 8d to 1s 5d.

**Rabbitskins.**—We catalogued on Monday a few lots summer skins, which we sold as follows:—Suckers, 2d; full-grown skins, 8d to 9½d per lb.

**Hides.**—The demand is steady, without any alteration in values, all coming to hand being easily disposed of at from 2d to 2½d for cut and slippy; 3d to 3½d for light; 3½d to 4½d for medium to heavy, and 4½d for extra heavy clean hides.

**Tallow.**—The market is quite bare, and all coming forward meets with ready sale. We sold at auction on Monday mixed at 25s to 29s; medium to good, 30s to 32s 6d; and passed in 7 casks prime at 33s; and sold rough fat, of medium quality, at 20s 6d to 22s per cent.

**Grain.**—Wheat: There are samples of new from the North being offered, and a few truck-loads came to hand for immediate requirements, but millers show no disposition to go in largely at the prices now asked—that is, from 4s to 4s 1d for prime velvet, delivered in Dunedin, bags given in. So long as the London market continues at its present level, however, we fear the tendency of prices will be downward, as shippers are not at all likely to operate at the above prices. Fowl wheat is plentiful at from 2s 6d to 4s. Oats: These are only inquired for in small parcels to satisfy immediate wants. There is no demand for shipment, and prices now offered are reduced to about equal to those ruling before the late rise. We quote prime milling at 2s; short bright feed, 1s 11d to 2s; medium to good, 1s 8d to 1s 10d, bags given in. Barley: There are samples of new forward, but we have heard of no transactions.

**Ryegrass Seed.**—Several parcels of the new crop are forward, but the demand is limited, and but very small business is being done.

### PRODUCE MARKET.—FEBRUARY 28.

MR. F. MEENAN, Great King street, reports:—Since your last issue in the produce business an important change has occurred in the direction that all bags are included in quotation for produce, except chaff, which is as heretofore. Who sale prices for the week are as follows including, bags, Oats, 1s 10d to 2s 1d; milling wheat, 3s 8d to 4s; for new old, of good quality, not obtainable and prices unchanged; fowls, 2s to 2s 10d; barley, malting, 3s 6d to 4s 3d; milling, 2s 6d to 3s 6d; hay, old, £4 10s; oaten new, £3 10s; rye-grass, £3; chaff, old, best quality £3 15s; new, £3 10s; straw, £2 5s; bran, £4; pollard, £4 to £4 10s; flour, £10 to £10 10s; oatmeal, £11; fresh butter, medium to prime, 9d to 11d; eggs, 1s 4d; salt butter, 8d; cheese, 4½d; bacon, sides, 8d; hams, 10d; rolls, 8d; potatoes, £3;