

The bill introduced by the Government for the revision of the Constitution of France has been finally passed by both Chambers.

Latest accounts to hand from Toulon and Marseilles state that the epidemic of cholera is increasing in those towns, the precautions taken to prevent its spread having been futile.

The report that Debbah had fallen into the hands of the rebels is now proved to have been without foundation.

TUESDAY.

A correspondent of the Greymouth *Argus* of the 4th inst. writes as follows:—The excitement at the Nelson Creek rush still continues. Sexton and party's claim, which I alluded to in my last letter, have got good payable prospects. This party getting gold puts it beyond doubt that the gold goes through the back terraces, and gives miners great confidence in the permanency of the field. This party are in with their tunnel 260ft. from the front of the terrace. It is said that they have payable gold in their tunnel for 48ft. wide. They are now erecting their camps and preparing to put their claim in working order. Michael Kelly and party are next farther in with their tunnel. They expect to be on the lead in about 10 days. There is a large area of ground pegged off, the most of it under the frontage system. Strangers coming here object to this, as they have to go so far ahead to mark claims out, while those claims are protected from one Court day to another, as the Courts are held monthly at Abaura. It makes it very inconvenient for miners to be compelled to wait a month to get their disputes settled. As the *Argus* has always been the miner's friend, I trust that it will exercise its influence on their behalf, and that we will get a fortnightly Court, and get it held at Nelson Creek. Mr. J. M. Morris called a public meeting on last Saturday night to discuss this matter, Mr. Timothy McCarthy in the chair. The Chairman, after pointing out the object of the meeting, asked for an expression of opinion. It was unanimously resolved that a memorial be forwarded to Mr. Warden Rird, praying him to hold a court at Nelson Creek. The meeting also selected a delegate to proceed to Greymouth with the memorial. Mr. William Brisbane was selected. The meeting then held a discussion on the frontage system, the speakers being Messrs. Law, Roche, Morris, Brisbane, and the Chairman. Mr. Roche maintained that notices protecting claims for a month, interfered with the progress of the place, and prevented legitimate miners from proving the ground, but he has no objection if the ground was fully manned. There is no doubt that this matter will be finally settled next Court day. On the whole the rush is looking well, and likely to be an extensive lead. There are a great number of miners coming from Reefton and other districts, particularly Totara Flat. The Cockatoos have turned out to a man, barely leaving as many behind as will milk the cows. Miners intending to visit the rush should know that it will take time and money to get on gold, as there will be long expensive tunnels to drive. In most cases it will take three months to drive them.

A shocking case of suicide was discovered at Auckland yesterday. About a week ago a man, aged about 60, named John Beit, leased a building in High street, stating that he required it for storing samples. Yesterday morning the owner called for the rent, but finding the inner door locked, suspicion was aroused, and he informed the police. A constable burst in the door, and found Beit's corpse lying on the floor of the inner room, fully dressed, and a five-chambered revolver in his right hand. A bullet had entered the right temple, and the fact that only four of the chambers were loaded showed that the unfortunate man shot himself. The deceased was a German, and came to the North four years ago from Westland. He was at the Thames until recently, having been engaged as clerk to Messrs. Ehrenfried, brewers. It is not known if he had any relatives in the Colony. Circumstances which have transpired show that he was in straitened circumstances. He had pawned his watch, studs, and ring recently.

Mr. John Taylor, who was injured at Whangaroa some days ago through a log rolling over him, died in the Hospital on Saturday.

Negotiations between the British and the French Governments as to the conditions upon which the proposed Egyptian Conference is to be held have concluded satisfactorily. One of the terms agreed upon between the two countries is that France shall never send troops to Egypt without the consent of the English Government. The public feeling against the Government and their policy in Egypt is daily becoming more intense. In the House of Commons the supporters of the Government are diminishing, but it is probable that the Opposition will remain quiet until after the Conference on Egyptian affairs has been concluded.

Speaking in the Reichstag, Prince Bismarck referred to the proposed annexation of New Guinea and other islands of the Pacific, and ridiculed the idea that the Australian Colonies had any claim to monopolise them. Berlin newspapers deny that England is entitled to annex New Guinea.

News has been received to the effect that the Arab rebels attacked Debbah on the 1st inst. The garrison resisted the assaults and repulsed the enemy. Heavy losses occurred on both sides. The fate of Berber is still uncertain. It is stated that El Mahdi is paralysed by the successes of his rival, the New Mahdi. The fall of Dongola is daily expected. The Governor's loyalty is suspected, and he is supposed to be intriguing with the enemy. The Arabs will advance after the end of the Mahomedian month Ramadan. Five hundred Egyptians are stationed at Wady Halfa, the same number at Korosko, and 3000 with artillery at Assouan. The Souakim railway has been commenced.

The cholera is still increasing, and at Toulon on Sunday, 19 deaths were registered, while at Marseilles no less than 15 succumbed to the same disease. Dr. Kooch, of Berlin, who has made a special study of cholera, pronounces that the disease which has broken out at Marseilles and Toulon is of the virulent Asiatic type, and he declares that it is almost certain to extend over all Europe. A case of cholera has occurred at Paris, and a panic has taken place there in consequence.

WEDNESDAY.

A fatal accident occurred yesterday at Totara Point, Thames. A lad named Charles Robinson, employed by the contractors for

the Thames Kopu railway, being jammed between a waggon and the bank and horribly crushed to death.

In answer to a question put in the House of Commons, the Hon. Evelyn Ashley stated that Lord Derby had received an offer from the Australian colonies to contribute yearly a sum of £15,000 towards maintaining a High Commissioner of the Pacific, who would reside at Eastern New Guinea. The Hon. Mr. Ashley added that Her Majesty's Government would take steps to organise a sufficient staff to assist the Commissioner, and that the appointment of the latter would be made promptly.

In the Chamber of Deputies M. Ferry, Premier, made a statement regarding the recent engagements between French and Chinese troops at Lang-son, Tonquin. He announced that from accounts which had been received by the Government it was clear that the French force which was going to occupy Lang-son in accordance with the treaty, had been led into a regular ambush by the Chinese. M. Ferry further stated that it was the intention of his Government to demand from China an indemnity of 10 millions sterling as reparation for the outrage. It is currently reported that the Government will order the occupation of Foochow as a guarantee for the indemnity to be demanded.

It is announced that the appointment of a Resident Commissioner over New Guinea will, in the first place, be only for one year, the question of permanently appointing a British officer being deferred, pending the final settlement of the proposals of the Sydney Conference and their approval by the various colonial Legislatures. It is as yet undecided whether the adjacent islands in the Western Pacific will be placed under the supervision of the Commissioner resident in New Guinea.

THURSDAY.

A curious rumour has been circulated (says the *Wairarapa Star*) to the effect that the child of a shepherd on the Brancepeth run has been found dead in its cradle under circumstances that lead to the conclusion that it has been killed by a ferret. It is alleged that a ferret was seen in the hut, and the child's throat was punctured as if by a ferret.

John Webber, a dairyman, aged 37 years, was found dead at the bottom of the cliff at Oriental Bay Wellington yesterday morning. He left his home in search of cows a 5 o'clock on this morning, and it is believed that he had an epileptic fit and fell over the embankment.

In the House of Lords on Tuesday the Franchise Bill was under consideration, when Earl Cairns moved an amendment declaring that the proposed reform is unacceptable without simultaneous provision for the redistribution of seats. After debate, consideration of the amendment was adjourned until to-day, when a division is expected to be taken.

The exodus of the inhabitants of Marseilles and Paris is increasing.

U N I T Y.

(From the *Boston Republic*.)

MR. PARNELL'S speech at Drogheda, if it be remarkable for any feature, is noticeable for the unexpressed recommendation to unity which it conveyed. The Irish leader had very little reason to fear that dissensions in the ranks would cause any weakening of his power, but rightly anticipating that such dissensions might eventually come to pass, with that wisdom which is characteristic of him, he took time by the forelock and warned the Irish people that if they allowed themselves to be misguided by the theories of Henry George they would arrive at disunion, and possibly at the defeat of their national hopes.

And in making this warning, Mr. Parnell has only given another instance of that wisdom which is peculiarly his own. As he stated at Drogheda, the whole hope of the present Irish agitation depends on the unity of the Irish people. More than ever in the approaching electoral contest will that unity be depended upon; and while, as far as it is possible to judge, united action is assured, there may be no harm in counselling it, inasmuch as there are efforts made in this country to prevent harmony.

The sooner the Irish-American people recognise that Mr. Parnell is the one leader of the Irish population, and admit that his jealous opponents have no true cause against him, the better it will be for Ireland's prospects. For everybody recognises that, to succeed, Ireland and Irishmen must be united, and inasmuch as Mr. Parnell presents the only plan of agitation in which the Irish people can unite, it would seem that arguments in favour of agreeing with his methods were unnecessary.

A matter, though, in which that unity can be shown, is the appeal which the President of the National League of America has issued for subscriptions to the Parliamentary members' fund. The success or failure of that fund in this country will be justly regarded as a measure of the strength of the League, and the enemies of that executive will not be slow to notice any signs of weakness which may be exhibited in this matter. See to it, then, that President Sullivan's call is promptly and generously answered.

Sister Mary Basil, of the Sisters of Charity, Los Angeles, died in that city last week. A local paper thus describes the funeral obsequies of the deceased Religious: Sister Mary Basil's funeral was held to-day at the Church of Our Lady of the Angels. The ceremonies were imposing and High Mass was said for the repose of the soul of the deceased. Seventy-six young ladies and little girls robed in white and veiled, guided by six Sisters, filed into the Church, following the remains of the dead Sister. The children are for the most part orphans, and are being brought up and educated by those noble women, the Sisters of charity. They therefore shed tears to see one who had been so kind to them going to her last resting place. The church was crowded, and Father Myer, the President of St. Vincent's College, officiated.—*San Francisco Monitor*.