

We have been racking our brains now for nearly three weeks in a vain attempt to find out the lord who once played whist with Mr. George Bell fifty years ago. It could not have been Lord Shaftesbury, for Lord Shaftesbury certainly never played cards in his life, and would consider such an acknowledgment as that made by Mr. Bell—unless it took place on the penitents' stool, or in the shape of a warning addressed to the young—exceedingly inconsistent in a pious Christian.—It might have been Lord George Gordon, only he died about fifty years too early for the purpose, and what is more, he died a Jewish proselyte, giving us another example of the great Judæo-Evangelical alliance. We are sorry Lord George Gordon died so much too soon for, otherwise, we should have hit on the very nobleman to take a hand at whist with Mr. Bell, and to be followed as a pattern by the much-flattered Mr. Bell in gratitude all his life afterwards.—But those who doubt that Mr. Bell would have made an excellent follower for Lord George Gordon, we refer to "Barnaby Rudge," where they will find all their doubts put an end to.

We learn from the Paris *Figaro* that the acknowledgment made the other day by the Jews of the services rendered to their nation by Sir Moses Montefiore had not been undeserved. The *Figaro* gives a very remarkable case in which the venerable Hebrew acted a protecting part. Speaking, then, in connection with the strange and still unexplained affair at Tizla Eszlar, in Hungary, where a Jewish lad had accused his father of killing a Protestant girl in order to use her blood in some religious ceremony, he *Figaro* quotes from a pamphlet published by one Dr. Justus, at Paderborn, and in which it is sought to prove—although we believe the charge has been fully refuted—that in certain sacred books of the Jews the murder of Christians is enjoined, and the use of their blood in sacrifice approved of. In relation to this publication, however, the *Union of Alsace Lorraine* had given the details of a case which took place some years ago at Damascus. There was, it seems, in the year 1840, in the town alluded to, a pious Capuchin called Father Thomas, noted for his skill in medicine and inexhaustible charity; he had, moreover, particularly distinguished himself during an outbreak of the plague by his close attendance on the sufferers in the pest-house, so that from the Turkish Governor down, the citizens of every form of belief were supposed to hold him in love and honour. There were, nevertheless, some exceptions to the rule, and they were found among a group of Jews, of whom a man named David Harari, especially esteemed for his piety, was chief. One evening, then, it was indeed that of February 5, when Father Thomas was passing in front of Harari's house, he was invited in, but had no sooner entered than the owner, his two brothers, his uncle, and two other Jews threw themselves upon him, bound and gagged him, and immediately sent for a Rabbi named Chakam, and Soliman, the Jewish barber. The barber was ordered to cut off the Capuchin's head, but, as his courage failed, the good and pious Harari himself seized the knife, and when, in turn, his hand trembled, Aaron, his brother, came to his aid, and while Soliman steadied the victim's head by holding his beard, his throat was cut and his blood received in bottles for superstitious purposes. The body was then cut into bits, the bones were ground up, and all the remains, in such a condition, were thrown into a sewer. Nor did the doings of these pious people rest here, for, when the sacristan of Father Thomas came to search for him in the Jews' quarter, where he knew him to have gone, he also was seized and treated in a similar manner. The crime, however, did not remain hidden; the suspicions of the French Consul were aroused, and the result was a full discovery. Sixteen arrests were made; two of the prisoners died during the trial, four were pardoned, and among them Soliman, on condition of turning informers, and ten were condemned to death. No executions, however, followed, for Crémieux, who was afterwards Minister of Justice in France, and Sir Moses Montefiore, who is now the revered patriarch, interceded with the Government so successfully that a firman granting pardon to the condemned men was issued. "No plea," says the *Union*, "that could excuse or justify was urged. A penalty justly merited was remitted!" But if such proofs of devotion as this have been often given by Sir Moses Montefiore to his people, it is not to be wondered at that they hold him in high esteem and consider him worthy of reward.

Messrs. Charles Begg and Co., Princes street, Dunedin, advertise a large assortment of musical instruments of all kinds, and by the best makers, for sale or hire on the most reasonable terms. They have also on hand a great quantity of music among which musicians of all classes will find their requirements provided for.

Mr. Edward Leen has taken the Club Hotel at Gore, which will be found to afford excellent accommodation, and be in every way a first-class house.

We desire to draw especial attention to the advertisement of a farm to be found elsewhere, the opportunity offered is an exceptional one, and we would gladly see some one or other of our readers availing himself of it. The terms will be found easy.

Amongst the victims to cholera at Marseilles is Père Roger, who had had experience in several cholera epidemics in foreign countries. He died in the Convent of the Grey Sisters, where in a few days no less than twelve of the inmates succumbed to the plague.

MELBOURNE.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

October, 8, 1884

THE vacillating attitude assumed by the Government of New South Wales in dealing with the question of the annexation of the Pacific islands has aroused a strong feeling of indignation throughout the colony. At the close of the late convention of delegates from the colonies, though, as was expected, there was a wide difference of opinion with regard to the tariff and other questions, on one point the delegates seemed to be all agreed—viz., that the most urgent representations should be made to Great Britain to annex or at least establish a protectorate over New Guinea so as to prevent a foreign power seizing upon that island and using it as a convict depôt, and at the same time establishing a military post which, in the event of war, would afford a hostile power the required facilities for invading the Australian colonies. The surprise and indignation that were felt here can readily be imagined when it was found that the Government of New South Wales was disposed to shuffle out of its share of the contract, and thus, by destroying the general concert amongst the colonies, to afford the Home Government a welcome pretext for declining to take any action in the matter. A series of letters have passed between Mr. Stuart, the Premier of New South Wales, and Mr. Service, the Premier of Victoria, in which the former gentleman strives in a lame and impotent fashion to explain the motives that actuated his Government in withdrawing their support and afterwards in opposing the other colonies. Nothing could be more absurd than the attitude assumed by Mr. Stuart in speaking of the protection of Imperial interests, as though the Governments of the other colonies were not as much interested in the maintenance of the British Empire, and in as good a position to obtain information of the intentions of the Home Government as Mr. Stuart or his colleagues. In fact, the opinion prevails here that it is not so much a feeling of anxiety for the safety of the British Empire as party considerations, which caused the Stuart Government to withdraw from the position they at first assumed in common with the other colonies.

The arrival of a large German man-of-war at Sydney aroused no small amount of interest, and, during a debate on the subject of annexation, Mr. A. T. Clarke, the member for Williamstown, created quite a sensation in the House, by announcing that a German ship of war had passed Cape Otway without calling at the port, and that he believed the mission of the vessel had reference to the annexation of New Guinea by Germany. The excitement attendant on Mr. Clarke's sensational announcement was, however, allayed when it was found that the German ship called at Sydney and that annexation was not her mission.

Mr. Peter Campbell, the bush missionary who rendered himself notorious by fiercely denouncing the Redmond Brothers during their visit to the colony, has been acquiring a different sort of notoriety through the medium of the Divorce Court. Mr. Campbell's numerous admirers must have been painfully shocked when the disgusting details of his case were first made public. In fact, so brutal and indecent was the language used by this man, who professed to teach the Gospel, that his counsel in disgust threw up their briefs, and left him to conduct his own case. Mr. Campbell may now chew the bitter cud of reflection in gaol, for the public could hardly be expected to subscribe the heavy costs against him, and it would be interesting to know if he will resume his occupation as bush missionary when he regains his liberty.

Mr. Gerald Massey, the well-known English poet and thinker, has been lecturing amongst us for some time past. During his early youth Mr. Massey became known to fame as a somewhat fierce advocate of the rights of the working classes. As time rolled on he gradually mellowed into a writer and poet of a religious cast—such, however, was the reputation that preceded him. His opening lectures in Melbourne on Shakespeare and other great writers were well attended. At a farewell lecture given at Ballarat last evening, under the presidency of the Mayor, the lecturer did not appear to have been so successful. He was labouring to convince his hearers that the devil was a myth, and the irreverent manner in which he spoke so shocked the chairman that he rose and left the hall, followed by several of the audience. It was well for Mr. Massey that his atheistical views were not known to the people of Melbourne when he first arrived amongst us, as, in that case, it is quite certain that such an enthusiastic welcome would not have been accorded him.

The Month of Mary has again arrived, and the altars of our Blessed Lady in the several churches in and around Melbourne present a beautiful appearance. Flowers are now plentiful as was evident from the tasteful manner in which the altars were decorated on Sunday with those choice gems of nature. Processions of the societies of the Children of Mary were held in the churches during vespers on Sunday evening last, the effect of the members walking closely veiled and with beautiful banners being indeed gratifying.

The little Sisters of the Poor have not yet arrived amongst us, but active preparation is being made for their reception. A large sum of money has been already collected, and there is not the slightest doubt of the good Sisters receiving a hearty support when they do arrive.

Germany and Russia are both pushing forward experiments in flying machines for use in war.

One can always tell a temperance man at a political convention by the fact that he has his pockets stuffed full of bad cigars, which he took instead of drinks.—*Philadelphia Call*.

Read this.—In consequence of the Dissolution of Partnership on September 2, we are compelled to raise a large sum almost immediately, and we shall offer the whole of our Stock at Cost Price for a few weeks, including all the New Goods which we have just opened up. It will pay you to call during our Great Dissolution Sale Carter and Co., Ready-Money Drapers and Direct Importers, 60 and 2 George Street.—Note.—Dressmaking by Mrs. Carter. Best in the city. Lowest charges.—[ADVT.]