

Dondonkoff has been ordered to advance from Sarakhs and pursue his march close to Herat, which troops from Candahar will reinforce

WEDNESDAY.

The *Daily News* announces that it has been decided to withdraw the force under the command of Sir Gerald Graham from Egypt at once.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales returned from the South of Ireland to Dublin on Monday, and received an enthusiastic reception along the route, though in some cases mingled with hooting.

The French will allow Nubar Pasha time to consult with the Porte in connection with the suppression of the *Bosphore Egyptian*. Mr. Gladstone admits in a measure the responsibility of the English Government in regard to its suppression.

In the House of Commons on Monday Mr. Gladstone announced that the Government had received a further dispatch from Sir Peter Lumsden, but it was not in reply to the inquiries made in the communication of the 10th inst., wherein the Government asked the British Commissioner to report on all the circumstances connected with the Penj-deh incident. Sir Peter Lumsden's present dispatch, Mr. Gladstone added, conflicted with the version of the affair recently published by the Russian Government from General Komaroff, and the Cabinet therefore must await further details before communicating Sir Peter Lumsden's dispatch to the House. The statement caused a renewed anxiety as to the probable result of the Russo-Afghan difficulty.

The Russian Baltic fleet are now rendezvoused at Cronstadt, making active preparations for sea. It is announced that the Imperial Government have chartered the Peninsular and Oriental s.s. Rosetta for service as an armed cruiser on the China station, and the Orient steamer Lusitania for a similar service in Australian waters.

M. de Giers, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, states that the British officers who were present at the recent engagement encouraged the Afghans to provoke a Russian attack, and that General Komaroff's dispatches, which have been received in St. Petersburg, amply justify his action; and that under the circumstances it would have been a neglect of duty if he had failed to attack the Afghans. Dispatches have been received from Sir Peter Lumsden in which he reiterates the statements contained in his former message that the Afghans did not provoke the attack.

The Russians are compelling the inhabitants of Sarakhs to construct a military road towards Herat. The *Standard's* special correspondent telegraphs that the Afghans are studiously moderate in their manners towards the Russians.

THURSDAY.

Yesterday afternoon the Governor received a cablegram from London with reference to the Russian Afghan difficulty, which indicated that the Colony ought to be prepared with its defences. The Government anticipate that the British Navy will be represented within the next few days in New Zealand waters by two war vessels. Messrs. Levin and Co. have received a cablegram from London confirming the news that the Coptic has been chartered as a cruiser by the Admiralty. She is to come on to Wellington without delay, discharge all her cargo there, and await orders from Home.

The reply of Nubar Pasha to the ultimatum of the French Government demanding reparation for the suppression of the *Journal Bosphore Egyptian* has been received, and proves to be of an evasive character. The Porte supports Nubar Pasha in his action in suppressing the paper.

The report on the recent attack by General Komaroff furnished by Sir Peter Lumsden completely traverses those supplied by General Komaroff, and shows that the Afghans did not advance after the announcement of the agreement arrived at between England and Russia, and that the fighting which took place was forced by General Komaroff.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone asked for a vote of credit for £11,000,000, of which £4,500,000 was intended for operations in the Soudan. In proposing the vote the Premier announced that the general situation of foreign affairs rendered it incumbent upon Great Britain to prepare all her forces.

General Wolsley will return to England. The Government are not prepared to abandon the operations at present being conducted in Egypt, but reserve full liberty of action for the future. The Indian troops now in Egypt will prove sufficient to hold Souakim, the British forces being reserved for any emergency that may arise.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Rosetta has been engaged by the Admiralty as a cruiser. Persistent reports are in circulation to the effect that the Powers will endeavour to compel Turkey to maintain strict neutrality in the event of war breaking out.

Mrs. Gill of Princes' street Dunedin announces the arrival of a most choice stock of millinery and ladies' and children's clothing of all kinds. Mrs. Gill's dressmaking department is extremely well managed, and the charges very moderate.

Mr. J. E. Bone George street, and Railway Terminus Dunedin, has on hand a large stock of all the newest and best books and periodicals.

Mr. Robert Hay, Civil Engineer has removed to offices in the Buildings of the Dunedin Finance Company, High street.

Mr. J. Drumm has taken the Racecourse Hotel St. Kilda, near Dunedin, which has been renovated and fitted up in a most comfortable manner. Mr. Drumm's long established reputation in Dunedin and its neighbourhood will doubtless attract many visitors to his house—which will be found admirably conducted in all respects.

Mr. T. J. Leary has disposed of his old established chemist's business in Princes street to Mr. A. M. Loasby, by whom it will be conducted so as to maintain its well earned character.

Messrs Gibson and Smart, Crawford and Water streets, Dunedin, are supplying coal of all kinds at extremely reasonable rates.

Messrs Richard Allen and Co., of the Belford Flour Mills, Timaru, are possessed of the finest plant in the Colony, and turn out flour that cannot be rivalled in quality.

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF THE REV. FATHER FITZGERALD.

THE announcement made in St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin, on Sunday that the Rev. Father Fitzgerald had died at Gore the day before was received by each congregation in succession with evident marks of sorrow. The deceased priest, indeed, had not served long on the Dunedin mission, but during the short time that he worked among them, the extreme amiability of his disposition, his sincere kindness, and his particularly winning manner, had gained for him the warm and lasting friendship of the Catholic community. They knew, besides, that he had been a fervent, self-sacrificing and devoted priest, and on all accounts he possessed their affection and respect. It was announced also that on Monday evening the body would arrive in Dunedin, and that it would lie in the church until the following forenoon, when, on the conclusion of the Solemn Office for the Dead and High Mass of *Requiem*, it would be taken for interment to the Catholic cemetery. On Monday evening, accordingly, a large number of the Catholic people met at the railway terminus, where his Lordship the Bishop and the Rev. Father Burke were waiting, and on the arrival of the Invercargill train—in which also there had come the Rev. Fathers M'Kay, Newport, Lynch, M'Enroe, and M'Grath, and a number of the parishioners of the Gore district—the coffin was borne from the mourning-draped carriage in which it had been conveyed to a hearse and followed by a long procession to the church, which had been hung in black for the occasion,—the Dominican Nuns having prepared hangings with the following inscriptions in white letters: "*Consummatum est, requiescat in pace*," and "*Miseremini mei, miseremini mei, saltem vos amici mei!*"—and where a large congregation had already assembled. When the Office for the Dead had been sung, the body was exposed, clad in vestments, and clasping the chalice in its hands over its heart, during the night and following morning—a watch being maintained by members of the sodality of the Children of Mary and the Society of the Sacred Heart, and numerous visitors coming to offer their prayers for the departed soul, and to show due respect to the remains. Masses were commenced in the church at an early hour on Tuesday morning, a second altar having been provided, and were continued until a short time before the Solemn Office for the Dead and High Mass of *Requiem* were begun at 10 a.m.—when the Bishop acted as celebrant, with the Rev. Fathers Burke and M'Grath as deacon and sub-deacon respectively, the Ven. Archdeacon Coleman as Master of Ceremonies, and the Rev. Father Walsh as Priest-assistant. The Gregorian music of the Office and Mass was most impressively sung by a choir of priests, with the Rev. Fathers M'Kay and O'Neil as cantors, and the Rev. Fathers Purton, O.S.B., Lynch and Newport as leading members. The "*Dies Ira*" and the "*O, Salutaris!*" were, in particular, most affectingly rendered; as was afterwards at the grave the "*Benedictus*." At the conclusion of the Mass, the Bishop addressed a few words to the congregation. Father Fitzgerald, he said, had been a young priest. He had not been ordained quite four years, and it was not three years since he went to take charge of the mission at Gore. His health had all along been delicate, but he had not spared himself and had laboured zealously. It had always been his desire to build a church before he died, and he had been permitted to build two churches, as well as to provide a presbytery to accommodate the resident priest. It would not become him (the Bishop) to enlarge upon the merits of the dead priest—that he must leave to somebody else—but the works he left behind him showed his worth, and he had been a good and zealous priest. The Office for the Dead was then continued, and when the final absolution had been given, the priests closed the coffin, and, reciting the "*De Profundis*," bore it to the door of the church, where they gave it into the hands of the parishioners from Gore, by whom it was carried to the hearse and, on arriving at the cemetery, from the hearse to the grave. The order of the funeral procession, which was of extreme length, the school children alone numbering between 700 and 800, and the attendance of adults probably reaching even a higher number, was as follows:—Boys of the Christian Brothers' schools, with their teachers; girls of the Dominican Nuns' schools, under the guidance of pupil teachers and assistants; altar boys; the hearse; carriages containing the Bishop and clergy in their vestments; parishioners of Gore; Society of the Sacred Heart, with medals and crimson scarfs; Society of the Children of Mary, in black with their blue ribbon; women of the congregation; men of the congregation on foot; carriages and vehicles. A large crowd also accompanied the *cortège* without joining in the procession. The passage through the streets occupied a considerable time, and was the occasion of much interest to the general public, who for the time relinquished their various occupations to look on—the houses of business of the Catholics being closed as the funeral went by. In the cemetery the crowd was inconveniently great, and many people found it impossible to get within hearing distance of the grave, where the ceremonies were carried out with all the affecting solemnity that had marked those performed in the church. The loss of Father Fitzgerald, the first priest who has died in Otago, to the diocese will be one felt for a long time to come, and, besides the natural grief for his early death, especially that of those members of the clergy to whom he was known at Home, and whom he accompanied to the Colony, the Bishop and his priests, and all interested in the welfare of religion, must sincerely regret so efficient and true a pastor. In another place will be found the admirable testimony borne by a non-Catholic writer to the life and labours of the dead priest.—*Requiescat in pace.*

Persons desirous of securing a really desirable site for a suburban residence near Dunedin, at a low price, and on easy terms will do well to apply to Mr. G. W. Elliot, N. Z. Accident Assurance Company.

The New Zealand Accident Insurance Company whose agent in Dunedin, is Mr. George W. Elliot, offers exceptionally liberal terms to those who do business with it.