

## REV. N. FITZGERALD.

(From the *Mataura Ensign*.)

DIED APRIL 18, 1885; AGED 28.

It is our painful duty this morning to record the untimely death of the Rev. Father Fitzgerald, who has been in charge of this Roman Catholic mission district for the past two and a half years. The deceased gentleman was a native of Waterford, Ireland, and was educated in that city, where also he was ordained about four years ago. Even at that time his health was not good, and he was induced to try the climate of New Zealand in order to relieve the pulmonary complaint to which he was subject. He was not fortunate; however, in obtaining a mission suitable for a delicate person, and was never in robust health since he assumed charge of this large and difficult district. But he was animated by a strong sense of duty and disregarded all admonitions to seek a milder climate until he should have wiped off the obligations which had been incurred by the erection of churches and the purchase of a presbytery. There can be no doubt that he sacrificed his life to his sense of duty, and his works will be his best monument. In character he was most amiable, and his unassuming disposition and cheerful manner made him hosts of friends both within and without his own communion. This was evidenced by the large number who sought to visit him during his short confinement to bed, and after his death to take a last look at the remains as he lay in state in the church. All was done that could be done to soothe his last moments, and he was assiduously attended by a few devoted female friends. There are no relations in the Colony so far as known, except a paternal uncle, who has been a visitor from Melbourne for the last two months. The Rev. Fathers Newport (Dunedin) and Lynch (Invercargill), were present during the solemn time, and have made all needful arrangements for interment in Dunedin, whither the body was conveyed by yesterday's express, and escorted by a few immediate friends. The deceased was emphatically a gentleman esteemed by all who made his acquaintance, and the loss his own flock have sustained will be shared and sympathised in by all in the district.

The sketch of the late Father Fitzgerald written some time ago by our talented contributor "Churchless" will be re-read with especial interest just now. It appeared in the *Ensign* of July 13, 1883, and from it we make the following extract:—"It is only about six months, since this young, but highly appreciated and respectable priest took up his residence at Gordon, and the work he has accomplished during that time has been really marvellous. Not that it is apparent to a casual observer, but "Churchless," professes to be more than a casual observer, and wherever the cloth has shown he has kept his eyes and ears open. Father Fitzgerald is, as I have said, a young priest. Perfectly unassuming and retiring in his disposition to a fault, he goes about the highways and bye-ways doing good by stealth. He is a great traveller and never seems to think he should take that rest which his health really requires. With a small travelling bag he trains it through his district, and when the railway will not take him he does not mind footing it to any solitary cabin where the comfort his presence can give one of his flock is desired. He seems to have no leisure time on his hand, or, if he has, he, like Byron, borrows a few hours from the night. When not engaged in the more responsible duties of his office he may often be found in the humble homes of his people instructing parents and children in the faith of the Fathers of his Church. What little time he allows himself for his own intellectual recreation must be obtained at the side of the midnight lamp, and to a man of such delicate health this must be trying to his constitution. But he obstinately refuses to study self. He has been given his work to do, and he will do it heedless of all considerations for his own health or amusement. And he is a man who could join at almost any recreation that offered if he had the leisure. A little bird whispers that he could enjoy a game at billiards, and that he is a cricketer. But he remembers only that he is a priest with a charge committed to his hands and every other thing sinks into insignificance. A certain nervous affection renders him less attractive and less impressive as a preacher, than as a man, but this is a misfortune which time will cure. The matter he gives his hearers is good, though delivered in plain, homely, understandable language, as discourses of the kind always should be. I have no patience with the man who doles out the bread of life to hungry souls in metaphor and anecdote. Give me the plain, honest, manly words that speak for themselves of faith and truth. And these are the words the subject of this sketch gives to his congregation; something they can grapple hold of and lay to their souls. Private conversation best brings out the man's attainments. Then it is that one learns that he is speaking to a man who reads well and who by nature is a student. There is nothing stilted or strained about his information; he throws it off without any effort or ostentation. Every man has his faults, but I must confess that I have failed in my endeavours to find what are the faults possessed by Father Fitzgerald. If he were a venerable, white-haired man he would be simply beloved by his people (if he is not now), and by all but bigots."

The Drapery and General Importing Company of New Zealand, High street Dunedin, have opened and are carrying on with great success an establishment in which goods of all kinds are sold at wholesale prices. The public will find it to their advantage to patronise the establishment.

The goods at the City Boot Palace, George, Street Dunedin managed by Mr. J. Reynolds have been especially arranged so as to suit the depressed condition of the times, while preserving the excellent qualities for which they are noted.

News has been received at Rome from the Hong Kong Missions, that the Mandarins, together with a body of Chinese from the mainland, have sacked and devastated Daniano, a small island west of Macao, and that the chapel of the "Tomb of St. Francis Xavier" has shared in the general ruin. All the missionaries escaped.

## Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ended April 22, as follows:—

**Fat Cattle.**—There was another full supply this week, 204 heard being yarded. Of these, two-thirds were ordinary quality, and the balance good to prime. For the latter competition was fairly active, realising about the same as last week; but for ordinary, prices were low. Best bullocks brought from £8 15s to £9 2s 6d; others, £8 10s to £7 10s; and cows in proportion. We sold drafts on account of Mr. John Duncan, Cherry Farm, and others, at from £5 10s to £6 for bullocks; and quote prime beef at 17s 6d to 20s; ordinary, 15s per 100lb.

**Fat Calves.**—Thirty-six were penned, which sold under good competition at from 8s to 27s 6d each.

**Fat Sheep.**—The supply was again large this week, consisting of 3,334, of which 313 were merinoes, the balance cross-breeds. A large proportion was only medium, and for this quality competition was slack, and, only for graziers taking advantage of low prices ruling, sales would be difficult to effect; but prime mutton and all fit for freezing was well competed for, last week's rates being well maintained. Best cross-breeds brought 14s 6d to 16s; others, 8s 6d to 14s; merino wethers up to 8s. We sold on account of the New Zealand Agricultural Company 62 cross-bred wethers at 13s 6d; W., Ackroyd (Temuka), 65 do at 14s 6d; John Duncan (Cherry Farm) 70 do wethers at 12s; Siegart and Fauvel (Temuka), 247 at 11s 3d; R. Melrose (Clinton), 69 cross-bred ewes at 9s 6d; and quote mutton 13d to 24d.

**Fat Lambs.**—345 were penned and sold under fair competition at from 8s 6d to 11s 9d.

**Fat Pigs.**—315 were penned, and all were briskly disposed of under good competition at—For suckers, 8s to 14s; porkers, 25s to 47s; bacon pigs, 50s to 60s each.

**Store Cattle.**—We have no transactions to report, but have for sale privately several lots of well-bred young cattle, mixed sexes.

**Store Sheep.**—There are numerous buyers for cross-bred ewes and wethers, also young merino ewes, in suitable lots; but the number offering of these descriptions is very limited. We sold privately during the week 1,000 full-mouth merino ewes at 7s; also, on account of Mr. William Telford, 110 pure-bred Romney Marsh ewes, four, six, and eight-tooth, to Mr. H. C. Cameron, Inch Clutha.

**Sheepskins.**—We cleared a good catalogue at our usual weekly sale on Monday Under spirited competition values realised fully in advance of recent quotations. Dry cross-breeds, low to medium, brought 1s 5d to 3s; full-wool, 3s 3d to 4s 9d; do merinos, low to medium, 1s 7d to 3s 3d; full-wool, 3s 6d to 4s 9d; dry and inferior pelts, 6d to 1s 1d; butchers' green merinos, 1s 9d to 2s 3d; do. do. cross-breeds, 2s 1d to 2s 5d; lambskins, 2s 1d to 2s 3d.

**Rabbitskins.**—We did not offer any this week, but there is a fair demand for all coming forward. The number, however, is limited, and prices slightly easier.

**Hides.**—For heavy hides, say 60lb and upwards, in sound condition and well trimmed (of which, however, very few come to market), 4s is readily obtained, but for below that weight 3d to 3½ per lb is the present market value.

**Tallow.**—The market continues firm at late quotations—viz., 18s to 20s for inferior and mixed, 21s to 23s for medium, 24s to 25s for good to prime, and rough fat 14s to 16s per cwt.

**Grain.**—Wheat: Market unchanged; the demand for prime milling being well maintained, without, however, any evidence of anxiety on the part of millers to rapidly increase their stocks. So far, deliveries have not been by any means heavy, and all to hand has been placed at for first-class milling velvet and Tuscan, 3s 4d to 3s 4½; red straw and red chaff, 3s to 3s 1½; medium, 2s 9d to 2s 10d; inferior and fowls' wheat is scarce and in demand at from 2s to 2s 6d.—Oats: These are coming to hand freely, and a fair demand exists, chiefly for shipment; but buyers are not disposed to give prices quoted last week. Our quotations are, for short bright milling, 1s 9d; short bright feed, 1s 8d to 1s 8½.—Barley: There is a fair demand for full bright malting samples at from 3s 6d to 3s 9d; medium is neglected for the present.

## DUNEDIN PRODUCE MARKET, APRIL 22.

J. H. Kilgour, grain and produce broker, reports under above date as follows:—Wheat.—The little animation consequent on the advance in prices cable from London has now subsided and the market is quiet, millers being inclined to buy only sparingly. I quote velvet and Tuscan, of prime milling quality, at 3s 2d to 3s 4½; other milling sorts, 3s to 3s 1d. Fowl feed, which is scarce, 2s 3d to 2s 7d.—Oats: There is a fair demand for shipment, but arrivals are quite up to requirements. I quote bright short feed, 1s 8d to 1s 8½; milling, 1s 9d to 1s 9½; inferior and long oats, 1s 6d to 1s 7d.—Barley: The demand continues good for prime malting quality is at from 3s 6d to 3s 9d, but inferior quality slow of sale. I have inquiry for feed parcels at 2s 3d to 2s 6d.—Chaff: Prices are about the same as quoted last week, viz., £2 17s 6d to £3 per ton, bags extra or returnable.—Potatoes: The supply is rather in excess of the demand, which is only local, and the best price going is £2 10s.—Butter: 8d per lb for prime salted, in kegs.—Eggs: Very scarce, at 1s 9d to 1s 10d per dozen.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, including bags: Oats, old 1s 8d to 1s 10d, new 1s 6d to 1s 10d; wheat, milling 3s to 3s 4½, fowls' feed 1s 6d to 2s 3d; barley, malting 3s to 4s, milling 2s 6d to 3s 6d, feeding 2s; oatmeal, 12s; fresh butter, ryegrass, 2s; chaff, £2 10s to £3; straw, £1 15s to £2; bran, 2s; pollard, 2s; flour, £8 to £8 10s; oatmeal, 12s; fresh butter, medium to prime, 8d to 10d; eggs, 1s 8d; salt butter, 8d; cheese, 4d to 5d; bacon, 8d in rolls, hams 10d; potatoes, Derwents £2 5s to £2 15s, kidneys unsaleable.