

In consequence of the hostile attitude of the inhabitants of Zanzibar towards Germany the German corvette Stoich and two other war vessels have been ordered there.

Merawi, a town 30 miles below the fourth cataract on the Nile, has been evacuated by the British.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

May 26, 1885.

SINCE I last wrote I have been able to see the result of the "Al Nations" Bazaar, because it has come into sight. On Sunday afternoon last the committee met and the manager presented a statement showing gross receipts, £1269 2s 9d; expenses, £174 10s 6d; balance to the Convent Building Fund, £1094 12s 2d. This is a grand result truly. I may add that the informant who induced me to write in my last that the net result would be £1000, is a gentleman whose opinions I shall in future respect.

In municipal circles here there is a flutter of tribulation, arising out of the great question of finance. As you are aware, the Colonial Treasurer has written a nice innocent letter to the borough councils in these islands. He is always writing nice letters. In this particular one he has outdone himself by offering the deserving bodies, the objects of his unceasing solicitude an increase of revenue. What municipal heart can refuse an offer of added revenue, and withhold its heartfelt gratitude from the giver of such a good gift? But all municipal councillors are, unhappily, not doves; and as for the ratepayers, what they are not in the matter of shrewdness and suspicion it would not become one who has the honour to write for your polite and well-conducted columns to say. Some councillors have allowed themselves to be unfavourably influenced by the fact that the increasing of revenue offered is only an increase of the power of self-rating. The Treasurer offers to increase the municipal revenue limit, from 3d in the £ capital value, to one penny, if the boroughs will agree to change the basis of valuation from the leasing to the capital value. The reason given (nothing is ever done without a reason) is that 3d of one system is not equal to the shilling of the other which it replaces under the present Rating Act. As far as Christchurch is concerned this reason has been demolished by the mayor who has put together the following for the information of his council:—

Leasing Value.	Capital Value.
10s rates equal to £10,997	3d rate equal to £12,135
1s " " " £12,316	1d " " " £15,168

From which it appears that one shilling and three farthings about balance each other. The Treasurer's reason goes for nothing with us here, it is needless to say. A suspicious councillor has given his reason which is that the Treasurer wants to take away all our endowments in the shape of the license fees, which give the city the handsome annual sum of £2515. Hence, the generous design of the Treasurer to aid the municipal revenue says the councillor. This appeared in a newspaper in a letter from the councillor aforesaid. When the council met the mayor said he was afraid the suspicions of the councillor were well founded. He had been closeted with the Treasurer, who, apparently, had convinced him that the fees of the liquor traffic ought to be devoted to the alleviation of the suffering it causes. A newspaper has declared that the expenses of the traffic's control ought to be met out of the fees, and that the gift of the fees to the Boroughs without the simultaneous imposition of the corresponding duties was unsound finance. All this is very well. Let us grant that the abolitionists diddled the Boroughs with a delusive finance. Let us persuade ourselves that the whole plan is founded on the basis of justice, which should be unalterable, and ought never to have been altered. Still the reason of the thing is plain. The cost of education is growing too enormous to be borne. There is a knot of politicians, blatant and determined, who threaten all kinds of hard usage to the Government, even to raising the uttermost bigots of the "undenominationalist" Sects, if the Government touches a farthing of the necessary education vote. Last year the education vote was, in spite of every care, exceeded by several thousands, about £6000. The complaints of the want of school accommodation increase and multiply. What is an unfortunate government to do but bend before what it considers a storm? There is no safety in getting this increased cost of education from the consolidated fund. The only resource is to dip into the revenues of the local bodies. "Take the fees from the local bodies, and let them fill the void by rates from their own pockets. All taxation comes from the pocket. If you will insist on educating children gratis, for people who can afford to pay handsomely for education, there is your pocket, Dip away." This is the formula on which the Colonial Treasurer is acting, if this information of our worthy Mayor and his Councillor is correct. If the Treasurer would only state his formula in the above bold fashion, what a revulsion of feeling there would be against the Education Act.

After the battle come the doctors and nurses. After the formation of Volunteer companies and the escape of the Militia to be called out, we have the St. John's Ambulance Association, of which a branch has just been formed here. Over forty ladies have joined, and a course of lectures has been begun. The lecturers are the medical men of the place, who have for the most part undertaken to give the necessary instruction. If any of your readers will look into the manual of the parent association issued for the use of the Volunteers—copies may be had I believe at all booksellers—they will see how very useful is the knowledge therein imparted, and how necessary in all departments of peaceful life, especially useful would it be to miners and agriculturists, and people working amongst machinery, to understand the first principles of treatment of accident cases—bandaging wounds, disposing broken limbs for conveyance, stopping bleeding and the rest. A little knowledge easily acquired, and never forgotten may often save life, or prevent avoidable pain. Everybody ought to belong to the St. John's Ambulance Association. The Association has a rule against mixed classes, which our Educational institutions might bear in mind.

When the work of the Industrial School and the Reformatory are combined under an irreligious system of education, what can you expect but a bad result? The magistrates send every waif and stray to the Burnham School, whether they have come from homes whose only reproach is poverty or whether they have been inmates of houses of vice. The young thief and the young prostitute are sent off to Burnham, and "thank goodness, they are out of the way." This is a crying evil. Attention has just been drawn to it by the escape from the School of several young girls, headed by one who had been given to vicious courses before her admission. But though attention has been drawn, I am bound to say that the idea of the possibility of such wholesale corruption has not stirred many hearts. In this connection I may mention that our Missionary Rector, Father Glaty, never loses an opportunity of getting the Catholic waifs and strays conveyed to St. Mary's Orphanage at Nelson.

Temperance is still to the fore; this time kept there by a woman, and a remarkable one, Mrs. Leavitt, from America, who talks well, and is telling us all about Ohio, Kansas, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire—the States which have prohibited the liquor traffic—and Wyoming, where the women enjoy the pleasure of voting at all the elections. This lady is not getting as many pledges signed as her predecessor, Mr. Booth, did; but in getting up an association of women to assist the temperance cause she is doing a good work which commands the respect of all right-thinking people.

Yesterday being the Queen's Birthday was a grand day for the Volunteers. How many men turned out the morning papers will have told you before you get this. All I need add to their glowing description is that the number of trained men who turned out with such smartness, alacrity, and efficiency was a great credit to the patriotism of the country. It is good that the war alarm is over. It is good also to be prepared as we are prepared.

A CLEVER BOY.

THE following extract, taken from the *Yass Evening Tribune* refers to a nephew of our respected fellow colonist Mr. Thomas J. Collins, of the Railway Hotel, Herriot:—It is always a source of pleasure to us to record the progress made by the youthful portion of our community, whether in an educational or business point of view; and therefore with the greatest degree of satisfaction we make known the fact that Master John Collins, son of Mr. John Collins, of Cooma street, has gained the highest distinction in connection with the recent Bursary examination at St. Patrick's College, Goulburn. The competition for this position was open to scholars throughout the Goulburn diocese that is under the charge of the Right Rev. Dr. Lanigan; and notwithstanding that there were a great many competitors from all parts of the district, some of whom were as much as eighteen or nineteen years of age, this little boy surpassed them all although only eleven years old. Master Collins was, and always has been, a pupil at St. Augustine's Roman Catholic school in Yass, which speaks well for the instruction imparted at that establishment (especially under the present teacher, Mr. Gilchrist), as well as for the attention that Master Collins has paid to his studies; and Mr. Collins has therefore much reason to be proud of his son, and the townspeople generally that one so young should have gained such a high distinction. The letter received by the Very Rev. Dean O'Keefe, from the Principal of St. Patrick's College on Tuesday morning, was as follows:—

"St. Patrick's College, Goulburn,
23rd March, 1885.

"[My Dear Dean,—It gives me great pleasure to be able to communicate to you the results from Bursary examinations. They are as follows:—1st, J. Collins, Yass; 2nd, L. Tenbrink, Albury; 3rd, J. Wm. Titzen, Albury; 4th, H. O'Leary, Burrows; 5th, T. E. Jones, Wagga, etc. There were eleven competitors, and all the candidates were good. In fact, the examination was better than usual. This will please you to hear, that with eleven competitors—better than in other years—Master Collins came in first with ease.

"The Bursary covers all expenses for entrance fee, pension, etc. Books, clothes, medical attendance; and music, if taken up, must be paid for as extras. The successful candidates must be in the college by Easter Tuesday, or the Bursary is forfeited; but they may come at once if possible. It lasts till the Easter of the succeeding year. As a guide to the articles required by boys entering, I enclose a printed slip. If he can be got ready, we would prefer that he enter at once.

"Hoping that Master Collins will realise the expectations which his examination papers justify us in entertaining of him,

"I am, dear Dean, yours sincerely,
"JOHN GALLAGHER."

"The Rev. P. J. O'Keefe, Dean, Yass."

We understand that Master Collins secured 354 points out of a possible 400, and that it is the intention of his father to take him to Goulburn in the course of the next two or three days in order to get him firmly established at St. Patrick's College.

Truth says:—It is expected that the Nizam of Hyderabad will attend the Colonial Exhibition in London next year. This young gentleman, who is fabulously wealthy, ought to be welcome in our metropolis. While at the Calcutta Exhibition last year he spent at the rate of £1000 per minute. Fortunately, however, for his purse he stayed only twenty minutes.

The *Daily Telegraph* publishes a telegram, stating that a messenger has arrived at Congo from Omdurman, which place he left about February 10. According to the messenger, the Catholic missionaries taken prisoners at Obeid and Gebel Naba, seven women and five men, are wearing dervishes' dresses to protect them from insult. He also had a letter with him, dated February 3, 1885, addressed to Father Vincentini, stating that Don Lingi, the Superior of the Soudan mission, is ill at Obeid. The letter adds that 2000 people were massacred at the taking of Khartoum. Consul Hansal was murdered together with all the Europeans and General Gordon.