

THE CANTERBURY CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY AND THE CANTERBURY IRISH RIFLES.

STRANGE combination, but nevertheless a real one. Owing to a considerable number of the members of the C.C.L.S. having been seized with a sudden and violent attack of that latest development of Colonial epidemics which might not inaptly be termed "Bellicosities," and from which nothing but the presence of a Russian cruiser in the waters of Port Lyttelton would cure them, the meeting nights of the society have been adjourned from Mondays to Tuesdays, in order to allow those who have joined the newly-formed regiment of Canterbury Irish Rifles, who practice on Monday nights, the time to learn their drill.

It was about the loss of the contract for the uniforms of this regiment that one of your manufacturing firms put a most desponding wail in a late number of the *Dunedin Star*, and from which it was copied into the papers here. The fact is, the members of the C.I.R. require their clothes to fit them properly, and to be cut and made in a true military style, and that could scarcely be done by a factory about two hundred miles away from them; indeed the particular uniform this regiment is to clothe themselves with, in preparation for the enemy, is not yet decided upon. That it ought to be green all admit, but unfortunately green in this Colony has a great variety of shades, upon which there may be just as many shades of opinion.

This reminds me of the manner in which the dress of one of our Volunteer regiments here was decided upon just lately. On the notice board at the white Hart Hotel was an official order to the Christchurch Rifles which ran thus—"Church Parade.—Members are requested to assemble at the Drill shed at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, with gloves and side arms only." The Italics are mine. Your Dunedin readers may think that this was a rather cool dress for a winter's day, but then they must remember that we are much nearer to the sun than they are. We are not so far from the Equator by about 200 miles or more. Going back to the C.I.R. I may be permitted to say that a finer lot of big-chested, broad-shouldered fellows, perhaps never enrolled themselves under the flag of England for the defence of one of her Colonies than the men I saw go through their military exercises on last Monday evening. The Irishman seems to take to this sort of thing as naturally as a duck does to water.

But what has all this to do with the Canterbury Literary Society? Nothing whatever, but that it cropped up in quite a natural way, and whenever I get a fair start I seldom know where to stop. *Revenons a nos moutons*. Where is it that I left off? At the adjourned meetings. The programme for the night of the 26th inst. consisted of the third and concluding part of Mr. Nolan's lecture on the Romans. The first part of this lecture was devoted to the consideration of the wealth, power and civilization of the ancient Romans, to their unexampled prosperity and boundless wealth. Rome, in the golden age of the Cæsars, was described with her multitudinous temples, shrines, altars, basilicas and theatres in graphic and appropriate language. The Capitol, the Forum, the Circus Maximus, the Campus Martius, the Baths, the Aqueducts, and the ever interesting Colosseum, were each in turn described and commented on; the gods that were brought to Rome by all the conquered nations and the devotees that trooped after them, the wealth that continually poured into it from the four corners of the world, and the luxuries which even the meanest of her citizens might enjoy. As the consequences of such wealth were dilated upon at considerable length, while a description of the palace of Plautius Lateranus, on the occasion of the festive gathering as Sts. Peter and Mark entered it on their mission of peace, closed the first evening's lecture.

The second evening was devoted to the unparalleled crimes of the Romans, and was taken up with the festivities and games held in honour of their gods, with descriptions of the Lupercalia, the gladiatorial shows, the games of the Circus and the Amphitheatre, also of the atrocities of the Spoliarium, the treatment of the slaves, and of the treatment of women and children among the ancients and finished by showing what paganism had reduced the world to at the coming of our Blessed Lord.

The third and concluding lecture was taken up with the conclusions which the lecturer had arrived at after the consideration of those things, and of this I will send you a *resumé* for your next issue. At the conclusion of it the lecturer was complimented by the chairman and by Mr. Leahy in very warm terms, and a vote of thanks was proposed to him by the Rev. Father Bowers, who said that he would be glad if Mr. Nolan could see his way clear to continue his lectures on those and kindred subjects, as there was no doubt whatever but the effect of them would be good. A lecture on Christian morality, for instance, treated in the style of the one they had just heard should prove interesting and edifying to the members. Mr. Kennedy seconded the vote of thanks. This brought the meeting to a close.

Mr. A. Wilson, George street, Dunedin, makes ladies' boots his speciality. His stock of boots and shoes is otherwise excellent, and his scale of charges for repairs extremely moderate.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, including bags: Oats, 1s 6d to 1s 9d; wheat, milling 3s to 3s 6d, fowls' feed 1s 6d to 2s 6d; barley, malting 3s to 3s 6d, milling 2s 0d to 3s 0d, feeding 2s; oatmeal, 3s; rye-grass 2s; chaff, £2 10s to £3; straw, £1 15s to £2; bran, £3 10s to £3 15s; pollard, £2 10s; flour, £7 15s to £8 10s; oatmeal, £10 10s; fresh butter medium to prime, 10d to 1s 1d; eggs, 1s 9d; salt butter, 8d; cheese, 4d to 5d; bacon, 8d in rolls, hams 10d; potatoes, Derwents £3 to £3 5s, kidneys £2 10s.

Constantinople, April 4.—The Grand Scheriff of Mecca has issued a proclamation declaring El Mahdi an outlaw, and notifying all true Mohammedans that the English have the right to treat him as a common murderer. The proclamation goes on to declare that El Mahdi has massacred hundreds of believers, and caused the murder of Gen. Gordon, for whom prayers had been offered up at Mecca, as a friend of Mohammedans.

LAWRENCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THERE is nothing very startling in the way of mining news to communicate this month. At the Otago Company's battery they are busy crushing, the usual number of hands being employed, and the monthly yield appears to be satisfactory.—The laying of pipes and boxes of the Great Extended Company is now completed, and the claim will be again open in the course of a few days.—The Nelson battery is still idle, no machinery having as yet been obtained.—They are working two shifts at the Goldmining Cement Company's claim at Wetherstones, over thirty men being employed, and they are still on good payable ground.—The Tailings' Company at Gabriel's Gully had a bad breakage in their tail-race about five weeks back, and have not yet been able to resume work.—The manager (Mr. Adams) has used great exertions to remedy the damage, and has had a very difficult task owing to the large amount of surface water with which he has had to contend. The pressure of water not being sufficient to clear away the large quantity of tailings lying in the tail-race, the manager laid on a line of pipes, which he connected with the Wetherstones' race, and they hope to resume work in a day or two. It was anticipated that but for the accident the returns of the precious metal would have been better last month than that of any previous one.—The various sluicing claims in Munro's Gully are steadily pushing ahead, and all doing well, using a large amount of powder, by which means they get rid of an immense quantity of dirt.—At a meeting of the directors of the Great Extended and North of Ireland amalgamated claims which was held on Thursday last—Messrs. Morrison, M'Kinlay, M'Hattie, Uren and Ralston present—a dividend of £300 was declared; and on the same afternoon a meeting of the directors of the Tuapeka Prospecting and Mining Company was held, at which the following were present—Messrs. Herbert (president), Browne, M'Kinlay, M'Hattie, Uren and R. Pilling (manager). It was intimated by those directors who interviewed the Hon. Mr. Larnach when he was here, that a letter had been received from the Government after the visit of the inspecting engineer (Mr. Gordon) stating that the Government would subsidise £ for £ on any expense which the Company should incur in further prospecting the cement at Wetherstones. A like subsidy had been expected on the amount already expended, and during the visit of the Minister of Mines he had paid a visit to the mine, and had stated that, in his opinion, the expectation was a reasonable one, and promised that payment of the same should be made. Since that the amount had been received. Further prospecting was postponed till September, it not being thought advisable to prospect during the winter months, and the president and manager were authorised to adopt such measures as were necessary to keep the mine clear of water until work was resumed. I stated in a previous letter that the Minister of Mines had promised Mr. Adams that a model of a cement crushing machine which he invented should be made by the Government, on the condition that they should hold it for the use of the school of mines. This has been done, and the model is to be exhibited at the New Zealand Exhibition.—A new claim has been opened up on Hospital Flat, by a party of Chinamen, who have purchased the right to mine on two acres in a paddock, the property of Mr. McAlpine. A paddock is already made and the dirt is being put through the sluice boxes, but with what result I am at present unable to state, but believe from the verdict given by an old experienced miner in Lawrence, who prospected there a short time back, and who, I believe, intended to work the ground, that good, payable gold will be obtained there.—A fifth share of one of the oldest claims in Roxburgh, formerly belonging to Mr. Walter Anderson of that place, has been bought by Mr. Waters, of the Blue Spur, for the sum of over £500. The exact amount I am not in a position to state, and another fifth share is still in the market. The claim being well known as a good paying one, it will no doubt soon be disposed of.—The various claims at Waitahuna are all at work, and appear to be yielding good returns.—Mr. P. Callanan has sold a fourth share in the claim known as Evans's to Mr. Laffey, of Ettrick, for £200.—At Waipori the Little Maud (Cox and Clifford) is still idle, and at Cotton's reef they are still raising stone.—The Undaunted are in full swing, having fourteen hands employed under a manager who is spoken very highly of, as a thoroughly practical man, and one who thoroughly understands his business.—Most of the alluvial claims are also doing well.—One more appeal for the unfortunate miner, who has a special tax laid upon him in the shape of gold duty. Parliament is about shortly to meet, and it is to be hoped that this matter will there be fairly considered, and that without prejudice. Many of the members of our local Parliamentary Union spoke strongly and eloquently on the subject at a recent meeting. Mr. Herbert in speaking on it characterised it as a most unfair tax, and said that it was introduced at a time when there were special expenses attached to the various goldfields, such as escorts, gold receivers, wardens, etc., which did not exist in a similar degree at the present time, and that now there was no reason why a class of men so useful to the Colony should have this special tax laid upon them. Various other members spoke in a similar strain, and I only hope that the members of the "big house" will follow so worthy an example. The miners as a rule are quite willing to pay the £ for a miner's right, but object strongly to the extra burden imposed upon them in the shape of that nefarious tax, the "Gold Duty." Those who suffer most by it are the employers of labour, whom, in many instances, it completely cripples, and who could afford to employ more hands and work many a piece of ground which is now untouched, if it were abolished.

It is impossible to remain long sick or out of health where American Co.'s Hop Bitters are used. See another

What are the desirable qualities in a whisker dye? It must be convenient to use, easy to apply, impossible to rub off elegant in appearance, and cheap in price. Buckingham's Dye for the Whiskers unites in itself all these merits. Try it.