

there is a distrustful feeling prevailing in regard to the probability of the Marquis of Salisbury and Lord Randolph Churchill coming into power. The younger members of the Tory party are urging that if their party take office they should do away with the Coercion Act, and that loans should be raised instead of imposing fresh taxation on the people. The *Times* states that her Majesty the Queen has declined to accept the resignation of Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues without being furnished with further reasons for their retirement.

MONDAY.

The remains of Mr. John Sheehan were yesterday taken from Napier to the port and shipped on board the *Hinemoa*. An immense procession over half a mile long followed. The Volunteers and fire brigades with the Garrison Band playing the "Dead March" led the way, after which came the hearse followed by the Friendly Societies in procession, then a long stretch of people two and two, then a number of cabs and a number of Maoris bringing up the rear. Men of all political parties joined in paying the last tribute of respect.

The Marquis of Salisbury has been summoned to Balmoral by her Majesty the Queen.

It is considered unlikely that the Suez Canal Commission will agree as to the report to be drawn up.

Germany is equipping a scientific expedition to proceed to New Guinea and New Britain.

News is to hand from Thiers, a town in the Department of Puy-de-Dôme, that a shocking accident occurred there on Friday. A large number of people assembled in the local Courthouse, when the staircase of the building suddenly collapsed, precipitating the occupants to the ground. Fully 200 persons are known to have been killed or seriously injured by the disaster.

TUESDAY.

A telegram from White Cliffs states that Rewi, who was accompanying Wetere from the Waikato, on reaching Mokau had to return home, being too ill to proceed. Rewi was coming to Waitara to dig up the men buried at the foot of the main support of the house built to commemorate the Waitara meeting in 1878, as Wetere wishes to remove to Mokau. According to Maori ideas, the men can only be removed by the original depositor or those closely connected with him without danger to life, so great is the *tapu*. The Twelve Apostles who accompany Wetere have authority to act for Rewi. The party then go on to Te Whiti at Parihaka.

The Irish Volunteer corps at Invercargill have been informed by the Minister of Defence that, as hostilities are now improbable, the Government will only accept the services of new companies as honorary corps. The members have decided to offer their services on that footing. The Minister in his letter expressed gratification at the public spirit which prompted the offer.

It was expected that the Redistribution of Seats Bill would be pressed through the House of Commons yesterday.

Owing to the Ministerial crisis, the Russian squadron intended for dispatch to the Pacific has received orders to remain in the Baltic. From the same cause parleying on the Afghan question has been suspended.

It is announced that the Queen has been pleased to accept the resignations of Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues. Lord Salisbury, who is at present at Balmoral, has been summoned to undertake the formation of a new Ministry.

The Commission for internationalising the Suez Canal, which has been sitting for two months past, has concluded its labours. The main question of the control of the Canal still remains unsettled, however. The matter has been referred to the European Powers.

A series of fresh earthquake shocks is reported from Cashmere. Several hundred persons have lost their lives through falling buildings.

WEDNESDAY.

The *Hinemoa* arrived at Auckland at 8 o'clock yesterday morning with the remains of the late Mr. John Sheehan, M.H.R. They were taken to St. Patrick's Cathedral and placed in the catafalque. Mortuary service was held in the Cathedral. The funeral took place in the afternoon, when there was an assemblage of 4000. Among the mourners were Sir Frederick Whitaker, Mr. Mitchelson, the Mayor, Mr. Harris, M.H.R., and a number of leading citizens. The police force, under Superintendent Thomson, headed the procession. The coffin was laden with wreaths and crosses of flowers. Masses were said for the repose of the soul of the deceased gentleman at the Cathedral, and Requiem Mass was also celebrated.

In the Legislative Council yesterday the Hon. B. Pharazyn moved that the Address which had been prepared in reply to the Governor's Speech be agreed to. He dwelt upon the various topics referred to in his Excellency's Speech from the Throne. The Hon. Mr. Bathgate briefly seconded the motion. The Hon. Dr. Grace, in speaking to the motion, contributed his quota of credit to the Government for the fair amount of energy they had displayed for the benefit of the Colony. Referring to the question of charitable aid, he alleged that the Colony was encouraging pauperism throughout the land, and that the people were the most extravagant and wasteful in the world. In reference to the question of local government, he claimed that it was very largely a question of simplicity in machinery, and he thought a great deal too much money was expended in advertising. The debate was then adjourned.—In the House of Representatives, the Hon. R. Stout said that since the House last met, Mr. Sheehan, one of their number, had died at Petane, near Napier. On receipt of the news of Mr. Sheehan's death Sir G. Grey requested the Government to place the *Hinemoa* at the disposal of Mr. Sheehan's relatives for the purpose of conveying the body to Auckland, a request which was at once complied with. He thought most hon. members were aware of the official positions which had been held by the deceased both in the General and Provincial Governments. He was the first British-born New Zealander who had been elected a member of the House of Representatives or appointed as a Minister of the Crown. In the House of Representatives he had always taken a prominent position, being a clear thinker and keen debater, whilst his natural kindness of heart had endeared him to all the members in the

House. He felt sure that all would regret that a young life of such promise should have been so soon cut down. As for himself he (Mr. Stout) could testify from association with Mr. Sheehan, both officially and privately, to his kindness of disposition and his many other good qualities. He would conclude by moving—"That the House adjourn till half-past 7 o'clock as a tribute of respect to Mr. Sheehan's memory." Sir G. Grey, in seconding the motion, said he desired first to acknowledge the readiness with which the Government had acceded to his request to despatch the *Hinemoa* to Napier. He thought a peculiar interest attached to Mr. Sheehan's death. He had been highly gifted by Providence, and was the first New Zealander of European descent who had sat in the House, being also the first New Zealander who had attained the position of Minister of the Crown. Mr. Sheehan had been away from the House for one session, and he (Sir G. Grey) thought if he had been amongst them last session his natural talents would have been very useful in the discussions of many measures that came before them. They must all deplore that his life was cut short so suddenly by the hand of death. He trusted that the House would agree to the adjournment without a dissentient voice, and he felt sure the people of Auckland would feel grateful to them, as the deceased was essentially an Auckland man. The motion was then put and carried, and the House adjourned at 3 p.m. till 7.30.—The Address-in-Reply, moved by Mr. Pearson and seconded by Mr. Hislop, was agreed to. The Financial Statement will be made on Friday.

Tito Kowaru and his people were at Opunake yesterday morning, and danced a *haka*. Tito Kowaru afterwards said that the Natives had met there that day to show that peace had been made with the Europeans, who, he hoped, would not take a wrong meaning as to their war dress. He concluded by saying that he would shower peace upon his people for ever.

The Marquis of Salisbury has returned to London from Balmoral, and is still actively engaged in the formation of a Ministry.

In connection with the difficulty between Germany and the Sultan of Zanzibar regarding the establishment of a Protectorate over territory in the vicinity of that town, the German Government disclaims the statement that they were sending an expedition there to enforce their rights.

The inhabitants of Crete have agreed, in consequence of the action of the European Powers, to accept Savas Pasha as Governor of the Island, and the rebellion, which appeared imminent, has thus been averted.

THURSDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday Sir George Grey moved an Address to the Crown for the purpose of congratulating her Majesty on the steps recently taken by New South Wales and other Colonies to aid or to tender efficient aid to the Empire at a time of temporary difficulty, and of assuring her Majesty that it is the desire of her subjects in New Zealand to render aid to the Empire to the best of their ability at all times when their services may be deemed of value and may be accepted by her Majesty. The motion was unanimously agreed to. The following bills were introduced and read a first time:—The Wellington Corporation Leasehold Bill, (Mr. Beetham), Gladstone Town Improvement Bill (Mr. Hatch) The Employment of Females and Others Act 1881 Amendment Bill (Mr. Bradshaw), the Banknotes Security Bill (Mr. Dargaville), the Miners' Right Fee Reduction Bill (Mr. Guinness); the Coroners' Juries Abolition Bill (Mr. Guinness), Timaru Harbour Board Loan Bill (Mr. Turnbull).

The spread of the cholera in Spain is causing great alarm, and a complete exodus of citizens from Madrid is taking place in consequence.

Negotiations for the formation of a New Ministry are still in progress, and there are rumours of a divergence of opinion among the leaders of the Conservative party, it being stated that Lord Randolph Churchill and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach are opposed to the inclusion of Sir Stafford Northcote in the Administration as wished by Lord Salisbury. Sir Stafford Northcote will probably be raised to the peerage.

H. A. C. B. S.

THE half-yearly meeting of the members of the St. Patrick's Branch, No. 3, of the H.A.C.B. Society, was held in the schoolroom, New Headford, on Thursday evening, June 4, Brother J. Doherty presiding. There was a large attendance of members. Two candidates were balloted for and duly initiated as members of the Society. An apology was received from one candidate who was unable to attend for initiation.—The officers' report and balance-sheet were read, which showed the Branch to be steadily increasing both from a numerical and monetary point of view. After some discussion the balance-sheet as read was adopted.—It was resolved to send notice of motion to the District Board to have clause 2 of Law 48 amended. After several other items of business of an unimportant nature had been dispensed of, the election of officers was proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—President, Bro. James Doherty; Vice-President, Bro. William Brown; Secretary, Bro. M. F. Ryan; Treasurer, Bro. Patrick Ryan; Warden, Bro. John Walsh; Guardian, Bro. Patrick McGonegal; Sick-visitors, Bro. Herlihy and Hartigan. The installation ceremony was performed by Bro. P. J. Henley.

It having transpired during the evening that Bro. Henley intends leaving the district, a committee was appointed to consider the best means of acknowledging his services in connection with the Branch since its formation. The committee decided to do so by holding a dinner, which has passed off and proved a complete success.

The admirable work by the Most Rev. Dr. Ricards, of which a review will be found in another column may be ordered of Mr. Macedo, Princes street south, Dunedin. We especially recommend it to the study of our readers, who will find it of the greatest possible benefit to them.