

the Australian station, has foundered at sea, as no tidings have been heard of her.

The Payment of Irish Members of Parliament Fund has been augmented by a subscription of £1000 received from Australia. Archbishop Moran returns to Sydney on the 16th inst.

A cablegram to the Melbourne *Age* says:—General Komaroff, commander of the Russian forces on the Afghan frontier, professes his inability to prevent another collision between the Russians and Afghans, unless the latter are restrained from advancing. The *Standard*, in an article dealing with the statement made by General Komaroff, declares that war is preferable to the present dangerous and expensive uncertainty.

The Royal Commission which was appointed to inquire into the cause of the present depression of trade in Great Britain has commenced its labours under the presidency of the Earl of Idlesleigh (Sir Stafford Northcote). The majority of the members of the commission hold views favourable to what is known as fair trade—viz., a system of international reciprocity, free trade being allowed to those countries only which admit English products on the same terms.

THURSDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Sir Julius Vogel made his Supplementary Financial Statement, at the conclusion of which he said he would ask the committee to proceed with the Estimates. Mr. Hurst suggested that as the leader of the Opposition was absent, the committee should adjourn till Friday evening. He thought it was only part of the courtesy due to the member for Egmont to adopt this course, which was customary on such occasions. He then proceeded to review the Financial Statement at some length, and moved that the chairman report progress. Sir Julius Vogel said Mr. Hurst was evidently disappointed because he did not bring down proposals showing that the Colony was in difficulties. He thought there was no greater proof of the soundness of the Colony than the successful manner in which it had survived all the attacks made on it by public men who should have taken a different view. He denied that the Colony was in such a depressed state as was represented. There was no doubt a temporary depression owing to a falling off in the grain and wool trade. He wished to say that when he prepared his former Estimates wheat was rising, and if it had continued to rise his estimate would have been correct. As far as he could anticipate, there would be a surplus at the end of the year. Mr. W. F. Buckland pointed out that the present Estimates showed an increase of £20,000 over those of last year. He said the increase in the stamp duties was not a sign of prosperity, but the reverse. He thought the time had come when large reductions should be made in the expenditure.

The Wellington correspondent of the *Lyttelton Times* telegraphs as follows regarding the proposal by Messrs. Meiggs and Co.:—A good deal of criticism still goes on about Meiggs and Co. Many people do not hesitate to say that the scheme submitted by them was a scheme for getting for them certain members of Government and certain members of the Railway Guarantors' Committee. There is even in some quarters an evident desire to make this belief the foundation for political developments. For these reasons I have thought it as well to publish the following facts, which have been furnished to me on good authority: When the first telegram was received from the delegates giving information of the provisional arrangements made by them with Meiggs and Co., the Government immediately cabled to the Agent-general to report to them as to the nature of the arrangement and the standing of Meiggs and Co. The Agent-general replied at length, and his cablegram was communicated to the House at once. As doubts were expressed about the exact terms of the arrangement, a further cablegram was sent by Government to the Agent-general to explain certain points with reference to working expenses. In his reply, after explaining the points referred to and which were mentioned for the first time, he added some entirely new conditions, which were never intended for a moment to be complied with, but it was thought advisable to refer the whole matter to a committee for consideration, together with the other proposals. No cablegrams were sent by any member of Government to the delegates, but only through the Agent-general. These are the facts. I leave them in your hands.

During the past four weeks the following were the principal exports from the port of Timaru:—60,484 bushels wheat, 29,152 bushels oats, 90 sacks pollard, 465 sacks potatoes, 3985 sacks shags, 2393 sacks bran, 5420 sacks flour, 700 sacks chaff, 263 reels barbed wire, 1500 cases preserved meat, 1456 sacks beans, 64 casks tall w., 848 bushels barley, besides minor quantities chaff, cheese, butter, wheat, meal, horses, cattle, hides, etc.

Telegrams to hand announce that the Archbishop of Seville has been attacked by cholera, and has succumbed to the disease.

It is announced that the British forces in India will shortly be increased by reinforcements of six thousand men.

The Right Hon. W. H. Smith, Secretary of State for War, stated in the House of Commons on Tuesday night that it was the intention of the Government to relieve from duty forthwith those members of the reserve forces recently called out who were married men. He further announced that the remainder would shortly be permitted to return to their homes.

The private in the 19th Hussars whose letters from Egypt are published in the new number of the *Nineteenth Century*, gives some interesting information about General Earle's death. He was killed after the whole of the enemy's position had been taken, because he insisted, against warnings, in "poking his head into a mud-butt" in which some "rebels" were secreted:—"The man who shot him was brought out of the house by Major Slade, and was instantly cut into a hundred pieces. There was another house found, with a horse and camel, and inside were 26 men and their store of ammunition, and the whole lot were burnt alive in the house, and blown to atoms by the continuous exploding of ammunition; the horse and camel were also burnt to a cinder." *London Truth* says:—"General Earle was a brave man and deserves all credit, which is more, it seems to me, than can be said for his avengers."

General News.

The French chamber of deputies refuses to exempt priests from serving in the army reserves.

Considerable efforts have been made to do honour to the Irish Bishops during the stay of their Lordships at Rome. Thus we learn that the entire College of the Propaganda gave one evening an academical seance at which the praises of St. Patrick were celebrated in a great number of poems composed in an astonishing variety of languages. As is well known, the students of the Propaganda are themselves natives of many countries, and accordingly most of the languages of Europe and Asia, living and dead, were laid under contribution for the purpose of extolling the Patron of Ireland and paying a well merited compliment to the representatives of the Irish Episcopate. In Hebrew and Chaldean, in Persian and Russian, English and Italian, not to speak of the Chinese and other Eastern tongues, the virtues of St. Patrick were extolled and the events of his life narrated. Other entertainments of a like nature have been given in honour of the Prelates. It need hardly be said that the reception of the Irish Bishops by the Holy Father himself has been of the warmest character.—*B. m. bay Catholic Examiner*.

Several French papers have expressed their surprise at the increase in the number of murders during the last few years; but the criminal statistics for 1884, which have just been published, afford an ample explanation of this, for they tell us that, though twenty-five persons were condemned to death, only three were executed. When it is considered that, in addition to those condemned to death, at least twice as many were found guilty of wilful murder, but with "extenuating circumstances" (which makes it impossible for the court to pass the capital sentence), it is apparent that only three out of seventy or eighty murderers were sent to the scaffold. It is a bad sign, too, that French juries are acquitting a larger proportion of prisoners; and out of 3,299 cases tried by jury last year more than 800 resulted in a verdict of acquittal. This is equivalent to a proportion of 24 per cent., whereas ten years ago the proportion was about 17 per cent.; and half of the total number tried at the assizes had one, or more than one, previous conviction recorded against them.

"The Polyglot Academy," given in honour of the Irish bishops now in Rome, was held in the Church of the Propaganda on the 11th May. Besides their lordships, a number of Italian and other bishops and dignitaries of the Church were present. Cardinals Simeoni, Angelo Jacobini, and Massaia represented the Propaganda. The proceedings, which were in every way remarkable, included the recital of a large number of short essays and poems, all dealing with Ireland and her Patron Saint, in most of the important languages of the world, national songs being interspersed. Many of the themes were peculiarly interesting. Thus the subject of the recitation in classic Chaldean was "St. Patrick and his love of Ireland"; in Georgian, "St. Patrick and his Civilisation"; in Albanian "O'Connell"; in Slav, "Irish foundations in Italy"; in Polish, "Cardinal Cullen," etc. Eugene Davis' poem, "Visions of Erin," was very feelingly delivered by the Rev. John Mauron, of the diocese of Dublin. A continental journal declares that the proceedings add new glory to the prestige enjoyed throughout the entire world by the unique institution of the Propaganda.—*Daily Chronicle*.

Says our vigorous contemporary, the *Western Watchman*, of St. Louis:—"The preachers have discovered that one-half of this city are Germans, of whom the majority are Catholics. About one-fourth of our population are Irish, of whom nearly all are Catholics. The other 200,000 are made up of infidels and unchurched descendants of English, Scotch and Dutch heretics. Less than 20,000 are members of Protestant denominations. It would seem that there is ample field for the zeal of Protestant preachers in this city without organising missions to Catholics." Half German and one fourth Irish, or vice versa, with a strong sprinkling of French, Italian, and Portuguese, is the usual composition of what certain esteemed contemporaries call an "Anglo-Saxon community."—*Pilot*.

Christian Augenschlager, a German emigrant who arrived in the steamer Westphalia from Hamburg, has probably lost his reason because of a startling experience which befell him on landing. He had smuggled his favourite dog Bueber on board the steamer at Hamburg, and the animal subsequently got into trouble by escaping from the steerage and helping himself to meat in the cook's galley, the master whereof threw him overboard. This was on Thursday, May 21. On landing the following Tuesday, Augenschlager beheld on the dock a dog wonderfully like his own. "Come here, Blucher," said he, and the dog came. Augenschlager threw up his hands, exclaiming, "Mein Lieber Gott! it is Blucher's ghost!" and then swooned. He was taken care of by a fellow-passenger, but it is feared that he will become permanently insane. The presence of the dog is accounted for by the fact that he was enabled to sustain himself in the water several hours by the buoyancy of a beef's pluck, the meat he had stolen from the cook's galley, until he happened to be picked up by some sailors on the steamer Normandia, which, after the dog was picked up, passed the Westphalia and reached New York first.

In Rome the celebration of the centenary of St. Gregory VII. was postponed to June 1. Curious destiny, it must seem to those outside the Church. An imprisoned Pope celebrates the eighth centenary of an exiled Pope, with as little fear of the future as if Pope had never died in exile or had not worn the chains of prisoners. Still, while Leo is celebrating this anniversary, so full of the lessons of hope that follow trials overcome, we find one department of the Vatican disturbing the European balance by reminding the world that "the question of the Pope's leaving Rome remains always open," and another receiving the Pope's orders to plan a gigantic scheme of education, just as if the Pope would never leave his Eternal City. It is not he who is temporarily encamped on the Tiber, but the Ban lit who levies blackmail at his palace door. The robber will go, and the Pope, even though he were to temporarily retire, will finally remain the victor.—*Catholic Review*.