

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

MESSES. STEVENS AND KENNEDY returned to Napier from Tongariro on Wednesday night. At the base of the mountain there has been held during the past three weeks an important Maori gathering, over 1200 Natives being present, representing all the principal tribes who occupy the interior of the island. The object of the meeting was to cement the union of the Native race by the formation of a common platform, on which both Queen and King Natives could agree. The following resolutions were passed:—Recognition of the King as head of the Natives; unity of the Maori race, and maintenance of friendly relations with Europeans; adoption of the Native Lands Court; abolition of special representation in the Legislative Assembly; the withdrawal of all lands from sale, lease, and survey, pending the arrival of Sir J. E. Gorst from England; the support of the temperance movement; though no obstruction would be offered to the construction of railways consent should first be given to them, and all land taken for railways should be paid for. A small section of the Natives, of whom Hobepa Taumanutu was spokesman, disagreed with all the above resolutions, but, being in so small a minority, their objections carried no weight. The Natives resolved to shut up the hotel at Tokano, and 600 took the total abstinence pledge. The principal chiefs present were Te Hehu, Hu Topia, Turoa, Hori Kopeha, Matu Abau, and Te Keru. The latter was present as representative of Tawhiao.

Mr. G. A. Sala has decided to postpone his trip to Tasmania. After giving four lectures at Christchurch, commencing on Monday next, he goes on to Dunedin; thence he will return Northwards, and remain in the Colony till he leaves to attend the Melbourne races.

The *Gazette* notifies the appointment of Mr. John B. Callan to be captain of the Dunedin Irish Brigade.

The *London Times*, in the course of an article upon Sir H. Drummond Wolff's mission to the Porte, states that the British Government declined to fix a date for the evacuation of Egypt by the English forces, but perhaps an Anglo-Turkish Commission will be appointed to determine the period when such evacuation may become possible.

The British Government have made a recommendation to Spain to accept the decision of an arbitrator in settlement of the dispute with Germany as to the Caroline Islands.

SATURDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday Mr. Pyke gave notice to move—"In the opinion of this House, it is not only desirable, but absolutely necessary in the interests of the public weal, and for the completion of the unification of the Colony, that a proper system of local government should be devised and formulated by Ministers, and brought down to the House in the next ensuing session; and further, that copies of proposals to this end should be widely circulated by Ministers during the recess before next meeting of Parliament."—Captain Sutter moved that the vote of £10,000 subsidy of pound for pound on rates collected in goldfields counties be reduced to £5000. Mr. Pyke said he had been in the House for 14 sessions and he had never heard the mining interest so vilified as it had been this session. He wanted to know what it all meant. Mr. W. H. Buckland opposed the vote. He did not see why goldfields should be treated in an exceptional manner from other districts. Mr. Turbitt supported the vote. Mr. Seddon asked the committee to pass the vote. He quoted from returns to prove that the goldfields were entitled to the subsidy asked for. The amendment was lost by 35 to 30.—Captain Sutter moved to strike out the item £1000, bonus to La Monte's gold-mining process. After a long discussion, the item of £1000 was retained by 31 to 20.—Captain Sutter moved to strike out item £2000, aids to prospecting and rewards for mineral discoveries. The amendment was lost by 30 to 20.

Cardinal Moran, Archbishop of Sydney, is a passenger for Australia per the Liguria.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, addressed a public meeting of electors of East Gloucestershire on Wednesday night, at Cirencester. In the course of his speech, he denied the existence of a compact between the Parnellites and Conservative parties. Regarding the Home Rule question, Sir Michael expressed himself in favour of an extension of local self-government for the three kingdoms. He states that the Government will not support Mr. Parnell.

The Spanish Government is making purchases of cruisers and torpedoes.

MONDAY.

The London wheat market is firmer. Three off-coast cargoes have been sold at 34s 3d to 34s 6d, ex ship, and ex warehouse are unchanged. The flour market is depressed, and there are large supplies in stock. The bidding at the wool sales has slightly improved. The number of bales catalogued was 379,000, of which 29,000 were withdrawn.

Mr. Gladstone, in view of the approaching general election, has issued a political manifesto to his constituents of Midlothian. He urges the complete withdrawal of the British troops from Egypt at the earliest possible moment, and expresses himself as distinctly opposed to the annexation protectorate, or indefinite occupation of that country. Speaking of Home affairs, Mr. Gladstone advocates a reform of the House of Lords and the land laws. The necessity for a readjustment of the incidence of taxation is pointed out, as well as for the extension of the principle of local self-government. He expresses himself also ready to grant Ireland any system of self-government compatible with the maintenance of the supremacy of the Crown, the integrity of the Empire, and the authority of Parliament. In conclusion, Mr. Gladstone announces that he speaks as the working chief of the Liberal party.

News is to hand from Roumelia that a revolution has taken place there, fortunately of a peaceful nature and unaccompanied by blood-

shed. The inhabitants in the province seized the Turkish Governor, Alexo Paaha, and issued a proclamation declaring the union of Roumelia with Bulgaria. The Roumelian army took the oath of allegiance to Prince Alexander, of Bulgaria, and are now occupying several strategic points on the Turkish frontier. Consequent on these events, the Bulgarian army has been mobilised. The revolution has caused intense surprise on the Continent.

The French Government are favourable to the Pacific Conference, but Spain opposes it, unless all rights are respected.

Irish plans are gradually taking shape. Mr. Macarthy will contest the doubtful exchange division of Liverpool, and Mr. Sexton will probably contest the sure Scotland Yard division. Similar tactics are arranged in London, where T. P. O'Connor will get a seat by aiding the Tory Richie to carry St. George's. Mr. Parnell will contrive to sit for the discontented city of Cork, and Mr. Healy for Monaghan, unless it should be deemed wise to assail constituencies further north.

The Panama revolution has ended. M. De Lesseps' representative in New York declares that the Panama canal is making satisfactory progress, and will reverse a good many prophecies of failure. On the other hand, Engineer Manoel reported to the secretary of the American Navy, declaring that 70 per cent. of the whole distance is yet untouched, and the work done represents less than 6 per cent. of the total to be removed, that the work cannot be completed for less than 275 million dollars, and in 14 years.

There is a smallpox epidemic in Montreal. The theatres are closed, disinfectants are used in watering the streets, and masses are being celebrated in the Catholic churches.

Lord and Lady Carnarvon started on a tour through Ireland on August 17. Their first stop was at Galway, where a large crowd had assembled to meet the Viceroy. The people received the visitors respectfully, but without any cheering. The Lord-lieutenant received addresses from the Labourers' Society, Harbour Commissioners, Town Council, and citizens of Galway. In replying he said the Government desired to do its utmost for the prosperity of Ireland. He was gratified to see the efforts of the citizens of Galway to develop the resources of their port, which, he said, was two hours nearer America than other important towns in Ireland. He hoped to see in his own life-time the ancient prosperity of Galway revived. He regretted the universal depression in labour, which he said was owing to foreign competition, and urged labourers to study the interests of their employers. He hoped Irish fisheries and other industries would be developed, and in conclusion expressed his conviction that times would mend. His remarks were received with cheers. The results of Lord Carnarvon's peaceful progress has been an enormous influx of tourists into Ireland. Fifteen hundred from England, Scotland, and Wales landed at Dublin on August 24.

Michael Davitt has written a letter in which he says substantially that while supporting the Parnellites he will maintain his agitation on the question of proprietorship in land.

A magistrate and 10 policemen went to a place near Ballyraggit, County Kildare, on the 27th August, to evict tenants. When they arrived the chapel bell tolled, and 2000 persons assembled and attacked the officers, preventing them from accomplishing the proposed eviction. The police were compelled to charge the mob with bayonets, and a fierce encounter ensued, in which many on both sides were stoned and stabbed.

On August 22nd a tremendous procession (called by the Press a "morality parade") made its way to Hyde Park, London. The number is estimated at 150,000. The affair was under the auspices of temperance societies, Good Templars, Bands of Hope lodges, the Salvation Army, various trades and labour societies, Ladies' National Societies, and Young Men's Christian Associations. One of the waggons in the procession carried 24 little girls, dressed in white, holding banners bearing the inscription, "Shall our innocents be slain." Another cart contained an enlarged *fac simile* of the Queen's letters to Mrs. General Booth approving of the army's work in rescuing young girls. With the exception of the one bearing the 24 girls under 13 years of age, dressed in white, all the waggons were piled with women dressed in deepest mourning. Such mottoes as "Save our daughters" were seen on every hand. The entire proceedings were orderly, the weather was fine, and the affair a decided success. The Bishop of St. David's declares the action of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, in making the recent revelations, constitutes perhaps the gravest offence against public decency and morality ever committed in a nominally Christian country.

Sir Julius Vogel's eldest son, Mr. H. B. Vogel, who was born in the Colony, has just carried off at Wimbledon the Spencer Cup, which is a prize given by Earl Spencer for the best shot in all the public schools of the United Kingdom. Mr. Vogel represented Charterhouse, where he previously won during the same season a silver cup for the Wimbledon competition, and a silver medal for highest aggregate score of the season.

A secret meeting on August 14th, resolved that all Home Rule candidates for Parliament must give themselves up absolutely to Mr. Parnell's guidance. In his speech Mr. Parnell said the Irish cause was assured whether Whigs or Tories won the elections. At a banquet to Mr. Parnell, given in Dublin on August 24, 38 of his partisans were present. The customary loyal toasts were omitted. Mr. Parnell enlivened his followers for their courage and self-denial. He said there was only one thing on the Irish programme that was to restore the Irish Parliament. When that Parliament assembled in Dublin it would develop the healthy clauses of the Land Act, make tenants owners of their holdings, and secure to landowners a share in the land. Mr. Parnell dwelt upon the importance of securing loyal and self-denying members in the next Parliament for the final battle for Home Rule. He hoped that the coming party representation would be strong enough to restore independence to Ireland. Mr. Justin McCarthy presided at the banquet. In Sackville street an enormous crowd collected and cheered incessantly during the banquet.

In a riot in Londonderry on August 21, 40 soldiers beat a crowd of civilians, whereupon the latter turned upon the soldiers, and the