

of Irishmen. It is proposed to form a vast federation, comprising representatives of all organised labour in Ireland, for the sole purpose of keeping out of the country all goods of British manufacture with the exception of such as Ireland is unable to produce. The movement is warmly approved by Michael Davitt, and a deputation waited on Mr. Parnell, to secure his approval and that of the Irish National League.

Both Bulgaria and Servia have invoked the aid of the European Powers with a view to effecting a settlement of hostilities between the two countries, and the Powers have appointed commissioners to demarcate a zone dividing their territories, and to arrange for a four weeks' armistice. Despite this, however, King Milan reports officially to the Powers that Bulgarian troops made an attack on Servian outposts on Friday. The account of the engagement further states that after severe fighting the Servians dislodged, the Bulgarians from their position at Velikizvor, killing and wounding many of their number.

After a reprieve of eight days, Louis David Riel, leader of the Canadian half-breed rebellion, was hanged at Begnan, North-western Territory, on November 16, at 8 a.m. Extraordinary precautions were taken against a demonstration of his partisans at the scaffold. He was accompanied to his death by Pierre Andre and Father M'Williams. At the request of the former, he made a speech to the few soldiers and civilians who were admitted to see the execution. He died completely self-possessed. His executioner was a man named Jack Henderson, who was captured by Riel in the rebellion of 1870. The body was temporarily interred at the foot of the scaffold. Some hesitation was felt by the Government in transferring it to Winnipeg, as Riel had asked, as a half-breed demonstration was feared at the funeral. When the news of the execution reached Quebec, the excitement was almost beyond restraint. Flags were draped with glaring emblems, and many men donned crape. At night a group of students and their friends paraded the streets shouting "Glory, Riel!" and cursing Orangism. Bills were distributed to all passers-by calling on them to assemble in mass meeting. The bills were headed: "Riel hanged! Triumph of Orangemen over Catholics!" The French Canadian City Council at Montreal adopted a resolution to adjourn as a protest against the violation of the laws of justice and humanity in the execution of Riel. About eight thousand citizens and a great many students burned the same night an effigy of Sir John M'Donald in front of Queen Victoria's statue. When the Premier's effigy had been partly burned, the party cut it down, with the remark, "There goes a cursed serpent." The Queen's statue was blackened and disfigured by the smoke. The news of Riel's fate was received quietly in Ottawa. Numbers waited on the Premier and the Minister of Customs congratulating them for carrying out the sentence of the Court. The former comrades of Riel in school at Montreal resolved to wear mourning for a month in respect to his memory. Madame Riel and family take up their residence there. A fund will be established for their support. Some French Canadian students, together with some quarrymen and others, numbering 800, paraded the streets. The quarrymen carried axe-handles, and clubs, and thigh-bones. They shoved people from the sidewalks, frightening horses, and committed aggressive acts. It was thought at one time they would attack the Salvation Army Hall. They threatened the office of *La Minerve*. The students of McGill University (English) intended to burn Riel in effigy in the Champs de Mar.

TUESDAY.

The cutter Kent, when crossing Foveaux Strait from Stewart Island to the Bluff on Saturday, was thrown on her beam ends, and narrowly escaped being capsized. The crew were at first puzzled to account for the occurrence, but the mystery was explained by the appearance of a large whale going astern of the vessel. It is surmised that the cutter sailed over the whale.

A smart shock of earthquake was felt throughout Wellington on Sunday morning at about 7 o'clock, the direction being north to south.

His Holiness the Pope has written a letter to Cardinal Manning, in which he strongly approves of the establishment of Catholic schools in the Colonies by voluntary subscription.

Constant fighting is taking place between the British troops at Khosbnay and the Soudanese and Arabs in the vicinity. Casualties are taking place almost daily.

Telegrams from Balkan Peninsula, referring to fighting which is alleged to have taken place at Velikizvor, are now stated to be devoid of truth. Latest advices report that at present hostilities have ceased.

The British India Steam Navigation Company's Dorunda arrived at Brisbane yesterday from Townsville. Fifteen fresh cases of sickness have broken out, and five deaths occurred on board the vessel since she left Townsville. The medical officer affirms his belief that the disease is undoubtedly cholera, and that it was introduced on board at Batavia.

WEDNESDAY.

Te Kooti visited Kihikihi on Monday with a large cavalcade and purchased large supplies. He states that he is going with his followers to Poverty Bay, notwithstanding the warning given him.

It is reported that Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Chamberlain, and Sir Vernon Harcourt are inclined to support the amendment which Mr. Parnell intends to move to the Address-in-Reply demanding Home Rule for Ireland; but the moderate Liberals are opposed to this step.

It is announced in reassembling Parliament that Lord Salisbury's Government will avail themselves of the earliest opportunity to ascertain whether or not they possess the confidence of the House.

Arrangements have been concluded by which King Theebaw and his Queen will be interned at Madras, a residence being provided for them, and though not kept close prisoners, they will be under surveillance.

The French Government have issued a circular note to the European Powers favouring the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia under Prince Alexander. The Porte has also sent a circular to the Powers inviting them to an entente on the question.

THURSDAY.

The Bishop of Wellington and Father Sauzeau returned from Sydney yesterday morning.

In connection with the indiscriminate killing of seals on our coast, the Hon. Mr. Ballance now proposes to deal with the matter by leasing lands along the coast-lines to responsible persons, and to make the months of October to May inclusive close season for seals. Draft regulations in connection with seal-fishing are now being drawn up, and will be submitted to experts for their opinion.

Prince Alexander, of Bulgaria, declares it would be needless to appoint a commission in settlement of the Bulgarian difficulty, and declares that he is quite ready to comply with the demands of the Turkish Commissioner, provided that the latter country insists on the evacuation of Widden by Servia.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Dec. 15, 1885.

LAST week, the festival of the 8th was honored in the Catholic way large congregations and many communicants at the Masses, and a good attendance at vespers. The turn out of the school children at their special Mass was as usual remarkably good. I say "as usual," because this is one of the sights of the place on highdays, holydays, and Sundays. A great many people like to look upon it, and they like to hear the remarks which our parish priest, who has a way of his own of talking to the little ones, addresses to the assembled children.

A section of our public opinion, how large I cannot say, but I hope it may be large, is exercised about some unhappy old men who have found a decent refuge in the Domain for some years. Are you aware that Christchurch possesses the handsomest, the most picturesque, and the most extensive park and public garden in New Zealand? Beautifully planted originally, it has grown up with a tract of sylvan beauty most refreshing to the eye, and the eye is not alone pleased: the song of birds is everywhere, and the perfume of flowers, of clover, of the resinous pine, and the aromatic eucalyptus. With flower beds to cultivate, vast plantations of seedling trees to attend to, miles of shady walks to keep in order, great stretches of trees of most sorts to be found in temperate climates to trim, prune, give air by thinning their branches, hedges upon hedges to keep from almost irrepressible exuberance;—between all these things there is much work. It is not hard work, just the work that one man can do. In the old Provincial days that work was allotted to old men seeking employment and past their best days. When the Provinces went the way of flesh, we all thought that a frost, a nipping frost, had fallen upon our Domain, which was left with a Board—that wonderful panacea for all political evils—and without any funds. The funds were a detail that somebody had forgotten. But we were agreeably surprised, like that good-hearted ecclesiastic will be when he meets a certain questioner who asked him if he expected to meet her in heaven. The Charitable Aid Department continued to provide the money to pay the old men, and the Domain flourished fairly. But we have now the nipping frost in real earnest. We have a Charitable Aid Board of our own, which, being a really charitable body, has cut off the wages of the poor old fellows at one fell swoop. Charity, you see, sir, when it forms part of a political table, means a dolc for which nothing must be given in return. Somebody has lately said amongst us that we scorn to relieve without pauperising. This is a little above me, sir, but I do pity these poor old chaps who have to leave the pleasant place of their ending old age, and go forth to starve. The probability is that they will be refused rations on the ground that they have been earning wages as able-bodied men, and can do so again. This is not one of the good things of this new Board's start.

Of the Ministerial policy shadowed forth by Sir Julius Vogel in that cheery spirit for which you have not been slow to give him credit, I cannot report anything definite; as to its reception here, I mean. Opinions are divided everywhere I go. After the public has had a little time to turn it over, it will be more easy to tell on which side the majority of opinion lies. The newspapers wage war *pro* and *con*, but their readers have as yet made little sign. Protection and Free Trade monopolise the correspondence columns of the journals at enormous length, and with the usual statistical merits and demerits—especially the latter. But while thrashing out this subject which will not be of vital importance just yet in our political world, the correspondents neglect the progressive policy which is sure shortly to divide parties very sharply. This is a sign that as yet there is not much that is definite in the public mind about the latter. One suggestion has been made which appears to commend itself generally. It is that if we are to complete the trunk lines there must be no monopoly of land as in the past. This, I am in a position to say, is the opinion of some of our most prominent representatives.

In the matter of Ministers, we are in that state which nature abhors—we have a Ministerial vacuum. Nearly all the week we enjoyed the presence of four Ministers—Sir Julius, recovering from his accident, the Premier, with Mines and Justice, being in attendance—and we made the most of our opportunities. By the aid of never failing rumour, we arranged Cabinet meetings by the dozen, in which we disposed of policies by the score. We did a great deal of most interesting work, and we wound up by issuing a new loan. Now, I don't say that we were at all wrong in all this. I only say that all that has transpired is that Ministers have completed arrangements to take over the Rakaia Railway, and arranged to support the prospecting party at Big Bay. What that speculation is you will see from the following, which I clip from the *Lyttelton Times*:—"A Prospecting Party.—A number of enterprising people in Christchurch and Dunedin have, we understand, made arrangements for prospecting some country lying inland from one of the bays of the West Coast—Big Bay, near Cascade Point—which is close to Jackson's Bay, of not too happy memory, and lies to the southward of it. A portion of the party is, we hear, already at the bay in question, and the rest are to start forthwith. The enterprise has grown out of a rather romantic