

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

ANOTHER death from cholera has occurred on board the *Dorunda*, and several fresh cases have broken out, three of which are of a dangerous character.

The *Standard*, in an article of the political outlook to-day, affirms that Mr. Gladstone is prepared to restore the Irish Parliament, at the same time preserving union with Great Britain.

The rebels continue to form in the vicinity of Koochy, and in the skirmishes with them several officers have been killed.

SATURDAY.

Te Kooti, with 80 mounted followers, passed Taupo late on Thursday afternoon en route for Wairoa, on the East Coast.

Two more deaths have occurred on board the *Dorunda*, at Brisbane the victims being a woman and infant. By latest accounts no fresh cases have made their appearance.

Mr. Gladstone announces that the remarks in the *Standard* attributing to him willingness to re-establish an Irish Parliament are inaccurate.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* publishes an article which states that the scheme proposed by Mr. Gladstone for the settlement of the Irish difficulty includes an Irish Parliament, to sit at Dublin, and have control of all Irish affairs, the Crown retaining its right to vote, which, however, would only be exercised upon the advice of the Irish Ministry of the day.

In the powers proposed to be granted for local government in Ireland, Mr. Gladstone includes Irish control of the police, Irish members to continue to sit in the British Parliament for Imperial purposes. Mr. Parnell is to furnish guarantees for the protection of the loyal minority in Ireland and for the protection of the landlord's interest. This revelation renders the action of the Marquis of Salisbury uncertain.

It is reported that a French protectorate has been established over the island of Angaziya, or Great Comoro, lying in the Mozambique Channel, between Africa and Madagascar.

The Turkish Commission have arrived at Nisch, and Prince Alexander assented to its proposals, with certain reservations. The *Standard* asserts that the Sultan has appointed Prince Alexander Governor of Roumelia for life, the Powers agreeing to the appointment.

Advices from Burmah state that the Dacoits are very numerous in the vicinity of Mandalay, and are harassing the British troops.

Colonel Stanley and the several Agents-general are arranging to proclaim the British sovereignty of New Guinea, which will be done if the Colonies are liberal in subscribing funds for the purpose. It is considered probable that Mr. John Douglas will be appointed High Commissioner.

MONDAY.

Mr. Gladstone announces that the article published in the *Pall Mall Gazette* is without foundation, denies the existence of any such scheme as that attributed to him by the writer of the article, and disavows any intention of acting in the manner indicated therein. Mr. Gladstone takes the opportunity of stating that the announcement in the newspapers at present relative to the line of policy he is determined to adopt are mere conjectures, as he has not yet made known his intention to anyone. The *Times* states that he has submitted to her Majesty the Queen a plan for the re-establishment of an Irish Parliament, and further announces that her Majesty has referred the scheme to her Ministers for approval. The *Times* says that the conscience of the country is deeply shocked at Mr. Gladstone's conversion, which might lead to a disruption of the Empire. The article urges the moderate Tories to reject the proposals.

William Sheehan, who was arrested at Auckland charged with the murder of his mother, sister, and brother at Castletown-Roche, has been convicted of the crime and sentenced to death.

The work of delimiting the Russo-Afghan frontier has been brought to a standstill in consequence of the extremely divergent views of the representatives of England and Russia regarding the inclusion of Meruchak in the territory of the latter country.

Monkhtar Pasha, who was appointed Turkish commissioner to Egypt with Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, has not yet left Constantinople, recent hostile encounters between Soudanese Arabs and British troops having rendered the Anglo-Turkish convention a dead letter for the present.

TUESDAY.

Sir Julius Vogel is suffering from a severe chill, but with five or six days' quiet rest Dr. Grace, his medical attendant, expects he will be able to resume his official duties.

A prospecting party is about to start for the King country, backed up by Auckland speculators.

Another death from cholera has occurred among the *Dorunda's* passengers, at Brisbane, and several other serious cases exist.

A letter appeared in the *Times* yesterday morning from the Marquis of Hartington stating that he is absolutely without information in regard to the scheme for Irish reform by Mr. Gladstone. Lord Hartington adds that his views on the Irish question are unchanged.

The commission appointed by the Sultan for the purpose of defining the Bulgarian-Servian frontier has arrived at the boundary of the two countries, and will commence its labours forthwith.

WEDNESDAY.

The Bishop of Wellington, accompanied by the Rev. Father Sauzeau, left overland for Wanganui yesterday morning, en route for Jerusalem, whither the bishop goes to celebrate the opening of a new mission church on Christmas Day.

A dispute has arisen between the members of the Anglo-Russian Afghan Frontier Commission relative to the control of certain pasturages on the proposed frontier.

It has now transpired that the manifesto on the Irish question purporting to have emanated from Mr. Gladstone was a "pilot balloon" set afloat by Mr. Herbert Gladstone to learn how his father

would be likely to act if Lord Salisbury refused to accede to the Irish demands. The disclaimer published by Mr. W. E. Gladstone does not deny the intentions ascribed to him in the manifesto. The letter which was published in the *Times* on the subject by the Marquis of Hartington was written by him after travelling to London to see Mr. Goschen. Both the Marquis of Hartington and Mr. Goschen are evidently opposed to the formation of an Irish Parliament. The agitation caused by the manifesto is now subsiding.

The commission on the Bulgarian-Servian frontier question has arranged for the evacuation of territory. It has decided that the Servian forces at present in Bulgaria shall evacuate the positions on Friday next, and that the Bulgarians who have advanced into Servia shall retire within the Bulgarian frontier on Sunday. A prolongation of the armistice until the 1st March has also been arranged.

THURSDAY.

Cardinal Moran will leave Sydney for New Zealand after the Christmas holidays.

The Parnellites are urging through the Press a conference of landlords with a view of effecting a compromise with their tenants regarding the payment of rents.

DOMINICAN CONVENT HIGH SCHOOLS:

THE annual distribution of prizes took place on Tuesday at the Dominican Convent High School, his Lordship the Bishop presiding, and in presence of a large number of the lady friends and relatives of the pupils, and of the Rev. Fathers Walsh and Lynch, the Hon. P. Buckley, Dr. Feigussou, and Mr. Thos. Bracken. The programme, which was rendered with even more finish than in preceding years—high as the excellence of each performance had been—was as follows:—"Hail Zealandia" (Leech), sung as a chorus in three parts, and very prettily and correctly given; an arrangement of Rossini's "Il Barbiere" as a duet, performed on two pianos with great taste and skill by the Misses B. and D. Howell and F. and G. Allen; "Si la Stanchezza" (Verdi), a duet, very sweetly and effectively sung by the Misses B. and D. Howell; "The Battle of Blenheim," a juvenile recitation by the Misses G. Howell, A. Ansell and G. Hardi, given very intelligently repeated; "Till the Breaking of the Day" (Pinsuti), charmingly sung by Miss D. Howell; the overture to Mozart's "Il Flauto Magico," splendidly played as a duet on two pianos by the Misses Hanning, Moloney, B. Howell, and M. Harding; "The Minstrel Boy," sung as a chorus in 2 parts with correctness and expression; "Thème de Caraïa" (Hunten), brilliantly played as a duet on two pianos by the Misses Martin and Morrison; a French recitation from Racine's "Esther," fluently given by Miss Hanning; "The Storm" (Blockley), sung with expression and sweetness by Miss Murphy; "Home Sweet Home" (Thalberg), a pianoforte solo very finely played by Miss Hanning; the "Chord of Love" (Behrend), sung with exquisite finish by Miss B. Howell, with pianoforte and violin accompaniment, Miss M. Howell playing the violin; "The Last Rose of Summer" (Thalberg), performed as a pianoforte solo by Miss Williamson, whose performance was as brilliant in execution as it was perfect in feeling; a German recitation from Schiller's "Maria Stuart," intelligently given by the Misses Murphy and B. Howell; an arrangement of Meyerbeer's "Les Huguenots," magnificently played as a duet on two pianos by the Misses Moloney and Hanning; vocal trio, "Æolian Lyre" (Danby), delightfully sung by the Misses B. and D. Howell and Murphy; French recitation from Racine's "Athalie," given with spirit by Miss B. Howell; "Norwegian Bridal Processional March" (Gireg), most stirringly played by Miss Moloney; Sir J. Stevenson's arrangement of "Silent O Moyle" expressively sung by Miss B. Howell; overture to Weber's "Der Freyschutz" finely played as a duet on two pianos by the Misses Hanning, Williamson, Hungerford, and Moloney; "Hail, Merry Christmas" (Young), sung as a chorus in three parts and like all the rest, admirably given. We have said the entertainment surpassed those given on previous years, and nothing could more plainly show the manner in which the school has continued to progress. Its traditions are now, however, completely established and we can hardly look for any further advancement.—But if it sustains its present tone, as we have no doubt but that it will, nothing more can possibly be required. When the prizes had been distributed and the musical programme with the exception of the concluding chorus exhausted, his Lordship the Bishop, as reported by the *Daily Times*, spoke as follows: He said the visitors had been asked to attend to witness the distribution of prizes, but that was not the chief entertainment provided. There was principally the magnificent exhibition of music, both vocal and instrumental, and behind this lay a great deal of work on the part both of teachers and pupils. Evidence had been given them of industry and talent which were highly creditable to them, and he was sure must have been most gratifying to those present. If there were nothing else to admire than this it would have been very well, but he was happy to say they had only seen that day specimens of the efficiency which had been attained by the pupils in all departments of the school. He was present himself at some of the examinations, and was pleased at what he saw and heard. So that those present would not go away under the impression that the pupils were proficient only in accomplishments. He was gratified to be able to say that they had made considerable progress in more homely and necessary things—English lessons, arithmetic, etc.—which would be useful to them in after life. They were not to suppose from this that he thought music and singing lessons unnecessary. They were not so necessary, but still were necessary. He had not seen the exhibition of fancy work yet, but he had seen those of former years, and understood that as the pupils had improved in all their lessons, so also had they in this department. Altogether, therefore, he was very much pleased, and thought he might take it on himself to say that all the ladies and gentlemen present were also much pleased, and obliged to the pupils. After these remarks they would be dismissed for a holiday, which he hoped they would enjoy thoroughly, because it had been so well earned, and they could therefore take it with an easy conscience. He trusted they would at the same time enjoy the vocation innocently, and not allow