

## CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

January 21, 1887.

BISHOP REDWOOD'S Lenten Pastoral, which was read in the church yesterday, deals principally with the subject of Christian education. It is written in a style of masterly vigour, simple and forcible in language, logical in construction, eloquent, exhaustive, and convincing—in every way worthy of a Prince of the Church. Expecting to see it in your columns I refrain from summarising its contents.

In another place the subject of education has also had attention during the week in the shape of a thoughtful lecture on the question of technical education from a professor of Canterbury College. The Professor addressing the Educational Institute devoted himself to the task of impressing upon the teachers the superiority of thoroughness of quality in the teaching of scientific truth over quantity of facts. The system in the public schools evidently does not come up to his idea. Were he to examine into the method in force at St. Patrick's College it is more than probable he would acknowledge that the Maori Fathers have got on the right track.

The statement of Judge McKay that the unfulfilled promises to the southern Maoris are of considerable magnitude, and likely to occupy a considerable time has not electrified our public in any way. Hardly a creature, in fact, knows anything about any promises unfulfilled or otherwise. It is a curious commentary on the boasted scrupulousness of our treatment of the native race, that we have scrupulously forgotten promises made thirty odd years ago. Mr. Rusden, you will remember, perhaps, devotes some very severe writing to this episode in our history. Perhaps Mr. Ballance, who claims to have done wonders in the north, will do something for the Maoris of the south in this matter of their chronic grievance, which they for their part have never let rest.

The Midland railway has been in a way brought nearer to our doors during the week. The contractor and his engineers have been making a flying reconnaissance of the gorge of the Waimakariri.

Sir Robert Stout has paid us a flying visit on his way to Wellington, devoting a day (Saturday), to various matters. In the morning he gave the Industrial Association a little of the necessary bitter by telling them that as it was quite out of the question for the Government to think of making them grants, they must cultivate that self-reliance which really seemed to set so well upon them. In the afternoon he laid the foundation-stone of the new block which is to complete the asylum building at Sunnyside, and said a few grateful feeling things about the care of the insane, and the duty of Governments to attend to it. In the evening, he attended the social evening given by the local oarsmen to their Wellington visitors, after the regatta, and spoke in praise of the manly, healthful art of rowing. Between whilst he visited the foundries, received deputations, and discussed upon the probabilities of the Imperial Conference. In these various labours Sir Robert distanced his entourage altogether, his colleague Mr. Buckley and his private secretary keeping up with him not at all completely but better than anybody else, except the reporters who being in relays had no difficulty in keeping within earshot. Everybody was pleased except the Industrial Association. Having asked for bread, they naturally did not eat the stone he tendered them in the shape of the statement that if there was a surplus a case might be made out for dividing it among the numerous Industrial Associations flourishing throughout New Zealand. There is here perfect fairness and absolute non-committal, with not a little humour in the suggestion for the disposal of a surplus at a time when everybody is morally certain that there will be a large deficit. The Association was not at all pleased with this way of putting it, however, and ventured to say that the Minister for Lands had promised a grant or a site. Sir Robert, who is never at a loss, blandly refused to see how Mr. Ballance could have done anything of the kind. He perfectly remembered that what Mr. Ballance had said was something totally different.

The Rifle Association is in happier mood, a good range has been got nearer town (at Hillsborough, some six miles off under the Port Hills) the subscriptions are coming in better, and the mollified Captain Somerville is explaining to Northerners who have carped that the Christchurch folk have a good deal to be said for them after all.

More loans! Nobody can live without loans. The Drainage Board want £20,000 to enable them to enjoy the luxury of not pressing the ratepayers to pay their rates at the beginning instead of at the end of the year, and the St. Alban's Borough Council want £25,000 for various works, including concrete channelling. Their life is truly an expensive luxury, their will of course be opposition, in fact there is opposition already.—If instead of driving people to wrangling these continual proposals for borrowing money on rates were to drive people to live in the country they would not be an unmixed evil.

Mr. Corbet, of some merit as a portrait painter, is at present giving classes for young artisans. We should heartily recommend any of our young readers who are desirous of becoming more than mere daily workmen to pay Mr. Corbet a visit.

Mr. J. P. Armstrong, surgical and mechanical dentist, receives patients daily at his rooms in Princes street, opposite Cargill's monument.

It is of interest to people in want of boots and shoes to learn that for the next couple of weeks immense bargains are to be had at the Continental Depot, opposite the Post Office. Dunedin.

Mr. James Markham, late of the Queen's Hotel, Oamaru, has taken the Robert Burns' Hotel, Dunedin, which his friends and the public generally will find in every respect conducted in accordance with his well-known reputation.

Messrs. Herbert Haynes and Co., Princes street, Dunedin, announce the opening of their winter stock. The goods will be found, as usual, to bear out the high reputation of their establishment, and, owing to particularly fortunate circumstances, the prices placed upon them are extremely moderate.

## WELLINGTON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

February 21, 1887.

SINCE my last letter, the secular priests in this district have nearly all been to Christchurch to attend the annual retreat there, and have returned again.

His Lordship Dr. Redwood S.M., is now in Wellington, and is likely to remain for some time.

The only diocesan news of special interest at the present time, is, that the Rev. Father Binsfield of Rangiora, is about to visit Europe on six months leave of absence, and that the Rev. Father O'Connor of Lyttelton will succeed Father Binsfield, while the Rev. Father Kickham of Napier will assume charge of the Lyttelton parish. These changes are expected to take place in about five or six weeks time.

During the last fortnight the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church have held their session here. The daily papers reported the proceedings very fully, and judging by those reports, it appeared to me, that beyond discussing certain abstract questions, no decision was arrived at on any important matter, but the further consideration was postponed until the next session. Possibly my opinion may be wrong and that a large amount of business was done, but I do not think so.

The time is drawing near for the judges to assemble at Christchurch to hear arguments on the point reserved by Mr. Justice Williams, in the Cain murder case. Mr. H. D. Bell, the senior partner in the firm of Bell, Gully and Izard, of this city has been specially retained as senior counsel to argue the case on behalf of the prisoner. Mr. Bell's long experience as Crown Prosecutor in this district makes him specially qualified to argue an important point bearing on Criminal law: Before agreeing to accept the retainer, Mr. Bell consulted with the Attorney General as to the etiquette of a Crown Counsel arguing a prisoner's case, but Sir Robert Stout saw no objection to such a course being pursued, where the Crown had not availed themselves of the services of such Counsel and especially where the case was tried in another district.

As regards the condemned man Hall, many reports have been circulated regarding his actions before his arrest, and since. Many of these are stated to be absolutely untrue—with reference to the story, that on his entering the Lyttelton prison, he was met by a prisoner, serving a life sentence for having killed his wife owing to Hall's relations with her, who saluted Hall with the words "Ah, you wretch, I knew you would be here sooner or later." I am in a position to state, from information I have received from the Prisons Department that the story is absolutely untrue, as there has never been any prisoner in the Lyttelton prison on such a charge. The currency of these stories cannot in any way effect the condemned man, as he is dead to society, and according to high legal opinions, will soon forfeit his life to the law, he never hears anything that is said about him, and even if he did it would matter little to him, but there are many innocent ones living who are entitled to consideration, whose sorrow and trouble is greatly increased by the repetition of such reports. In fairness to these I mention the matter.

Mr. C. J. Johnston, M.H.R., is about to visit England, and it is stated that before his departure, which will be in a fortnight's time, he will resign his seat in Parliament. Acting on this supposition, one candidate, Mr. L. H. Fraser, bookseller of Manners street, has already announced himself.

The annual licensing elections for the city are just over, and generally resulted in a defeat for the temperance party. The *Evening Post* of Saturday night, in an article fully explains the cause of this defeat, as will be seen from the following extract:—"The complete and decisive defeat of the extreme temperance party in the late licensing elections is not a matter for either regret or surprise. It is undoubtedly attributable to the unjust action of the Cook Committee last year. Entrusted with large powers, that committee abused their position to inflict great loss on, and do great injury to certain respectable citizens, practically confiscating their property, and depriving them of the means of earning a respectable livelihood for themselves and families. We doubt whether any public body in New Zealand ever did a more cruelly unjust act than was done in the cancellation of the licenses of the Prince of Wales and Clydequay Hotels, and although it reduced two previously well-to-do citizens to poverty, we are pretty certain that no public benefit, even from the committee's own point of view, resulted. There has not been a single nobbler the less sold in the city during the year, because there were three licensed houses fewer than before. The arbitrary action of the Cook Committee caused a great revulsion of feeling in the public mind, and was unequivocally condemned by even the more moderate section of the temperance party. It was generally felt that the enormous and almost irresponsible powers of a Licensing Committee could not safely be entrusted to the hands of men prepared, in indulgence of fanatical feeling, to use these powers in the inequitable manner they were used by this committee last year. The result was shown in the elections which took place in Te Aro and Cook yesterday and the day before."

More health, sunshine and joy in American Co.'s Hop Bitters than in all other remedies. Observe

The British Home Rule Association and the Home Rule League of the United Kingdom will amalgamate under the name of the Home Rule Union, and support a single ticket in future elections for the purpose of assisting the Irish people in obtaining the rights of local self-government. A conference of the two associations is called for December 9.

A Washington paper tells a curious story concerning the widow of the late A. T. Stewart, the dry-goods merchant. Judge Hilton refused to consent to any reward being given for the stolen body of Stewart, but at last Mrs. Stewart offered to give twenty-five thousand dollars. The transaction took place on a lonely hill at dead of night; the bones were recovered, and the next night quietly placed under the vault of the Great Cathedral of Garden City.