

The application was granted in each case, but had the former kept quiet on his arrest, and made no admissions to the detective, the application would have been refused, his Excellency holding that the documentary evidence adduced by the French Consul was not sufficient to identify the prisoner. Cury will be handed over to the French authorities in fifteen days, but Gasparini will be detained until the charge of burglary in Auckland against him has been heard.

An old journalist, Mr. Henry Anderson, aged 50 years, died here at 6 o'clock yesterday morning, from cancer in the throat. He was formerly editor of the *Wellington Independent*, *Evening Post*, *Chronicle*, and one of the *Wairarapa papers*. He also represented Wellington in the old Provincial Council. Deceased leaves a wife and seven children.

The great Native will case, *William Muhanga Broughton v. Airini Donnelly*, was concluded on Thursday, after having lasted twenty-two days. The case involves property to the value of £130,000, besides £5,000 cash in the Bank. Judgment will be given by the Chief Justice at an early date, but it is understood that the case will go to the Court of Appeal, and probably to the Privy Council, and it has been arranged that the side which gains the verdict will pay all costs.

Parliamentary Notes.

Wednesday, 25th.—A discussion on village settlements took place in the House. The Minister of Lands, who said that the Government had no intention of continuing the system—giving as a reason that land was being rapidly taken up. Several hon. members spoke in defence of the system, especially those belonging to Auckland.—The motion for the committal of the Native Land Bill was opposed vigorously by the Maori members, being condemned by them as specially odious to their people, whom they described as having taken up arms on a milder provocation. Sir George Grey also opposed the Bill as ruinous to the Native race, and to result in conferring large tracts of land on favoured Europeans. The comparison made by the Premier between the Natives and European monopolists seems to us especially unfortunate. It must justly brand the statesman making it in Native eyes as one unfit to deal with their affairs. The motion was agreed to.

Thursday, 26th.—A discussion took place as to fencing the railways in order to prevent the frequent slaughter of cattle occasioned by their being open to trespass, Mr. Mitchelson finally stating that the undertaking was too expensive to be thought of.—The Otago Central Railway Bill was again strenuously opposed in committee, Sir George Grey taking a leading part, in the interests it seems of the workmen of Otago, to whom he is so devoted that his solicitude extends even to their grandchildren whose inheritance he labours to preserve to them. A little consideration, however, for the present generation might also be of some service, and would probably help to increase the numbers of the grandchildren in question by enabling their progenitors to remain in the country, out of which they are now being driven by the score. All the Auckland members are dead set against the Bill—and so, strange to say, is Mr. Fish, who, we are quite persuaded, does not care a fig about posterity, and must have some motive of action lying well within the present, whatever it may be. Mr. Scobie Mackenzie, again, whose opposition to monopoly of the lands and desire for *bona fide* settlement are necessarily the burning passion well known to exist in the heart of every squatter for those ends—is thoroughly opposed to the Bill, and hopes even if it be passed to make it of no practical effect.

Friday, 27th.—A motion by the Hon. Mr. Menzies in the Council to the effect that the Bible should be read in the public schools was defeated by a majority of one.—The Committee on the Otago Central Railway was adjourned in order that a compromise might be agreed to by the advocates and opponents of the Bill. The resolutions of the meeting were that the line be extended to Ewernburn; that the Government should effect the work by setting aside sufficient land to be dealt with by the land laws of the Colony; and that the construction should be carried out with the least possible delay. Mr. Pyke condemned the resolutions as no compromise, but resulting from a preconcerted arrangement. After some further discussion an adjournment was made until Monday.

Tuesday, 30th.—The House agreed to a proposal of the Government to the effect that Government should undertake to push the railway on at once to Middlemarch. The Premier added that the work would occupy two years, but Government would be prepared to do all that was possible to shorten the time. The proposal was opposed by Mr. Pyke and his supporters, but was carried by a majority of 4.

The English invasion scare does not find an echo in this defenceless country. Any nation intending to invade the United States could easily raise vessels enough to transport 100,000 men, but they all realise that it would need a much smaller fleet to carry back the survivors.—*Pilot*.

The German Minister of Worship has approved the statutes of the German Institute of Rome, which has been founded for the pursuit of scientific researches into the history of Germany in the archives and libraries of Rome and of other Italian cities. This historical centre is directed immediately by a commission of three members chosen from the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin, who are obliged to present an annual summary of their work. The value of this institution, at a time when the Vatican archives have been so generously thrown open to students, is of the greatest. Several other nations, in one way or another, draw immense advantage from present opportunities in Rome. Many a question associated with American history might be resolved by a study of Vatican documents.

Diary of the Week.

WEDNESDAY, 25th.

PORTION of Jonathan Roberts' clothes found near Rhodes' Bay.—Victorian surplus revenue for year £837,000.—Boulanger defeated for Dordogne.

THURSDAY, 26th.

Snow and heavy rain general in South Island.—Fossil remains of gigantic animals found at Myrill Creek, N.S.W.—Hon. B. Campbell warns London public against tendering for Otago Dock Trust loan, as not guaranteed by Government and insufficient for purpose required.—O Kelly, member Roscommon North, arrested inciting people to disobey Crimes Act.—Gladstone celebrates golden wedding.

FRIDAY, 27th.

Bankrupt at Invercargill sentenced to four months' hard labour for concealing property.—South Australian Government moving against pauper immigration.—O Kelly admitted to bail.—Imperial Government intimates to Transvaal Government annexation of fresh territory.—Otago Dock Trust loan agent threatens action against Hon. B. Campbell.—Cardinal Moran has audience of Pope; leaves immediately for stay of several weeks in Ireland.

SATURDAY, 28th.

Public meeting at Auckland demand placing of £10,000 on Supplementary Estimates for village settlement.—American authorities capture four British sealers in Behring Sea.—English hop gardens in critical condition; great loss feared.—Kruger of Transvaal promises neutrality regarding Zululand.

MONDAY, 30th.

Revolt of Turkomans in Central Asia; more civilising work for Russia.—Great strike of navvies in France.—Crispi notifies annexation of Massowah.

TUESDAY 31st.

Unemployed at Waimate accept: married men, 3s 6d per day, unmarried 2s 6d.—Pope confined to bed with liver complaint.—Mantor, Sligo, sentenced four months, publishing boycotting notices.

Correspondence.

[We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

A LIVELY CONTRADICTION.

TO THE EDITOR N. Z. TABLET.

SIR,—Having represented the Tuapeka district for the last 23 years it may be considered by some of your readers strange on my part did I take no notice of the anonymous letters in your late issues, as well as other correspondence also published there, and again signed anonymously.

As a rule, and in this case there is no exception to the rule, such correspondence should be treated with contempt. An assassin who tries to do his foul and ungodly work in the dark does not deserve the honorable treatment of the open enemy who wars in a manly style. But while I would here like to treat my traducer with that contempt the liar and coward is of course justly entitled to consider his due (probably considering his lies and cowardice his mantle of security), I have a special object in writing this.

The N. Z. TABLET is the particular organ of a very large and important section of the New Zealand communities, and although I am aware you notify that you are not responsible for the opinions of your correspondents, still I am sure it is no part of your desire to allow your readers to be misled by the publication of statements contrary to fact, never mind upon what subject. I am desirous you should not deceive those of your readers who are ignorant of the facts; those who are acquainted with them cannot be deceived by false statements published in your paper or anywhere else. Had the statements of which I complain emanated from you I should have been bound to defend myself, and correct what would have simply been a misconception on your part. The case however is different and it simply becomes me to say that your occasional Lawrence correspondent in his correspondence published in your issues of the 20th inst and prior ones wallows in misstatements, base and unwarrantable insinuations, and direct lies, as the more common and more useful ordinary hog wallows in filthy mire.

The Blue Spur and Gabriel's Gully Consolidated Gold Company, Limited, is quite able to look after its own affairs, and has, so far, disappointed no shareholders, nor is it likely to do so; but should you desire any information in regard to the company (of course I mean actual facts) I can only say I shall be most happy to oblige you.

As regards Mr. Dennehy's dismissal: to you I will say I was unaware it was even contemplated, my first knowledge of his removal being obtained from the TABLET, and I have never used, or attempted in any way to use, any influence in respect of him. I have always considered Mr. Dennehy an able and efficient officer, and my official position as Visiting Justice should enable me to judge. Further, had I intended to remove him, I should have asked for information on the subject, and, if upon enquiry I found he was unfairly treated, should certainly have used my position on his behalf.—I am, etc.,

J. C. BROWN.

The report is confirmed that Bishop, the mind-reader, is in an insane asylum in San Francisco.