

Commercial.

MESSESS. DONALD REID & Co. report for week ending 14th January 1880:—

Fat Cattle.—A moderate supply of 157 head had come forward, which being a short supply was quickly disposed of prices slightly in advance of last weeks. Best bullocks brought from £10 5s. to £12 2s. 6d.; good do., £8 7s. 6d. to £9 5s.; others from £6 to £7 5s. Cows, from £5 12s. 6d. to £9 10s., or equal to 26s. per 100lb. for prime, and 21s. medium quality.

Fat Calves were in full supply. We sold 10 at from 10s. to 15s., according to quality.

Fat Sheep.—2555 penned, consisting of a prime draft of merino wethers; the balance all good to prime cross-breeds. The supply proved excessive, and prices suffered a further decline, consequently a large number were turned out unsold. Best cross-breeds made 8s. 6d.; good, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; others, 6s. to 7s. 3d. Merino wethers, 6s. 3d. We quote prime mutton at 1½d. per lb.

Fat Lambs.—About 550 penned, ranging in quality from inferior to prime. All were sold at a shade under last week's price. We sold on account of Henley, 50 at 4s. 3d.; on account of Bell and Currie, 35 at 4s. 6d.; and placed privately 120 at satisfactory prices.

Store Cattle.—No transactions.

Store Sheep.—We have buyers for young merinos, of which there are at present few offering. During the week we sold 500 cross-bred wethers (in wool), at 9s 6d.; 1000 cross-bred ewes and hoggets, 8s to 8s 9d.; and have further sales pending.

Wool.—We are pleased to note that the favourable advices received from Home have caused continued activity and fair competition for all wools offered in this market up to date. We purpose to hold our second sale of the season at our rooms, High street, on Tuesday first, the 20th instant, at 3 p.m., when we will submit a large catalogue, including some of the finest clip in the province, for positive sale.

Sheepskins.—We held no sale this week, but will hold our usual sale on Monday next.

Hides are firm at late quotations, viz., 3d per lb. for wet salted, 17s 6d to 18s 6d for butchers' hides.

Tallow meets with ready sale at full rates. We sold several lots privately at, mixed, 25s, rough fat, 15s.

Country Sales.—On Saturday last we held a clearing-out sale at Scobie's Farm, Eastern Bush, the whole of the sheep, horses, cattle, &c., finding buyers at fair rates.

Grain.—The wheat market has been more active during the past week, and several parcels of fair to good quality have been placed for shipment at 4s to 4s 6d per bushel; extra prime is in local demand for milling at, say, 4s 9d to 4s 10d per bushel. The demand for oats is brisker, but there is no improvement in value to report. Good malting barley is in request, but none offering. We beg to direct attention to the sale of grain to be held at our rooms to-morrow, when we will offer a large quantity of wheat, oats, and maize for positive sale.

THE LABOUR MARKET, JAN. 14TH, 1880.

MR. SKENE reports a very brisk demand for country people, such as couples, ploughmen, handy men, and milkers; also for women of all kinds, but trained girls are very scarce. For all the crowds arriving there seems no difficulty with them. Town is getting thinned out, and soon harvest will occupy all hands. Tradesmen are wakening up a bit, a good many buildings being contemplated. Hotel people are in better demand. Good cooks, laundresses, waitresses, governesses, and barmaids are in favour. Wages do not vary, but a slight increase may be looked for in harvest.

PRODUCE MARKET—JAN. 14, 1880.

Mr. J. Fleming reports for the week ending Jan. 14, 1880:— Wholesale prices, oats, 1s 8d to 1s 10d per bushel; milling wheat, 4s 9d to 5s per bushel; chicks, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; barley, malting, 5s 6d per bushel; feed, 3s to 3s 6d; pollard, £5 0s per ton; bran, £4 10s per ton; flour, £11 10s to £12 per ton; oatmeal, £11 10s per ton; potatoes, £5 to £6 per ton; hay, £4 per ton; chaff, £4 per ton; straw, £2s 5s per ton; onions, 10s per cwt.; round potatoes, 5s.

MESSESS. MERCER and McDONALD, Rattray street, report:—Fresh butter (in 1lb. and ½lb. prints), best and favourite brands, 1s. per lb.; good ordinary butter, 10d. per lb. Eggs plentiful, 1s. per dozen. Cheese, 7d. per lb. Bacon, 9½d. per lb. Hams, 11d. per lb.

According to the *Italia* the Pope has undertaken a work of the highest importance on the liberty of the Church, treating of the famous maxims "A free Church in a free State." It is reported that this work, that will appear in the form of an Encyclical, is destined to produce a great sensation by the way in which this difficulty and delicate subject will be developed. The matter will, it is said, be divided into several parts. The first will treat of the school and the Church, a question which causes so much anger and conflict in France and Belgium; it will show that the school cannot exist without religion, which can be properly taught only by the clergy, and consequently that the clergy ought to have a part in the direction of instruction. The second part will treat of science and theology referring to modern phases of these subjects. It will touch particularly on atheism and its sad consequences. In the third part, His Holiness will occupy himself with politics and religion. He will show that every good political policy must have good principles for its foundation, and religion for its base, and he will also point out the evils which have resulted from the political courses adopted in modern times. The fourth part will show the origin of the idea of "a free Church in a free State;" will explain in what manner and measure this idea can be realised, and how, in the case where such a system is obtained, the State would have everything to lose and nothing to gain. The work is spoken of as being worthy of his Holiness's pen.

THE SIN AND SCANDAL OF NEGLECTING MASS.

THE following extract is from a recent Pastoral of the Bishop of Salford:—

"We know to our shame and grief that hundreds, and if we speak of the whole Catholic population we must say thousands, live in neglect of holy Mass. Various reasons are assigned for this neglect. Some say that they are too poor to hear Mass; but they must know that poverty can be no excuse. Our churches are the homes of Jesus Christ and the poor. Although the people must contribute to the maintenance of the Church, the poor who cannot do so are never refused free admittance on account of their poverty. Should such a scandal ever occur at a church door it would be remedied at once by being made known to the rector. Many excuse themselves on account of their clothing; but if they only thought of the poor clothing worn by our Lord and His Apostles they would come. And again, if they reflect that the frivolities and vanities of fashion, which so often display themselves in church, are but the insolence of the flesh and of a worldly spirit, and, as such, an abomination to the Lord, they would not hesitate to go to Mass, though ever so poorly clad. No trains of silk, no cloth of gold, no precious gems, are equal in value, in beauty and splendor, to the humility of heart found in a poor man who is clothed in the poverty of the Gospel. They may be assured that their presence at Mass in their poverty, so far from being an offence, is most pleasing to our Divine Lord, 'who, being rich, became poor for our sake.' Every good Catholic honors the man who says, 'My poverty, my temporary misfortune, is no sin. "I will go to my God, who invites me, whether I am well or ill-dressed. He knows me; He calls me; I hear His voice. I will go and worship before His holy altar.' Lastly, let the poor consider how greatly they need the assistance of God in their poverty. Let them know with certainty that our Lord will receive and bless them as He received and blessed the poor shepherds, who hastened to Him just as they were in the fields, approaching him with faith and devotion. But alas! the thousands who neglect Mass are made up chiefly of those who have become fairly poisoned by the pagan atmosphere in which they live. What remedy can be applied to so grave a malady? First, to answer this question, did every Catholic understand what Mass really is—who is he that offers it, and who he is that is offered; what are its unspeakable benefits, what its strength, its riches, its blessings, spiritual and temporal, during life; what its consolation in death; what its power over Purgatory; what its joy and glory for eternity—would it be treated with neglect and indifference, would many fail willingly to assist at it? Certainly they would not."

Tobacco has some distinguished female devotees in Europe. Emily Faithful, it is declared, smokes like a Michigan tug-boat, the Duchess of Edinburgh takes a quiet puff now and then, and the Princess of Wales keeps a little cigarette case which she hides profoundly from the smoke-aborring nose of her royal mother-in-law, while the list might be extended by naming Elizabeth Thompson, the artist, Madame Ratazzi, of Italy, and others.—Exchange.

The progress of irreligion and the alarming increase of crime, are going hand in hand in France. The Paris correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* says:—A veritable epidemic of crime seems to be sweeping over the land which is not one of the most encouraging signs of the times. It is almost impossible to keep pace with the chronicles of murders, suicides, and what are euphemistically styled 'dramas' here." And yet they are vigorously carrying on the work of banishing the religious from the schools.

Incendiarism in Russia is steadily increasing. Some ingenious persons have started a theory that the origin of the unprecedentedly numerous conflagrations in the empire this year, is not political or agrarian, nor Nihilistic or Communistic, but purely atmospherical. It may seem at first sight inconsistent with this hypothesis that the fires have been impartially distributed over the whole empire—not solely in dry and arid districts, or in crowded cities, but in damp, cold regions abounding in woods and saturated with moisture. A fire in Nijni-Novgorod during the great fair or in Perm or Riasan is reconcilable with the theory of spontaneous combustion; although the atmosphere in the adjoining countries, at exactly the same season of the year, shows no such inflammable properties; but what is to be said of the latest disasters in the province of Astrakhan? There four fires have occurred during the last ten days, besides one on the river Volga, where a steamer and twelve barges carrying naphtha were burnt. A train with a quantity of the same material was also in flames and "left blazing." Now, of course naphtha is a dangerous article, and Muscovites are clumsy and careless; but it is difficult to believe that natural causes alone can explain a concurrence of disasters seen in no other country of Europe.

Lord Bennet, the brother of the late Lord Ossulston, and the eldest surviving son of the Earl of Tankerville, is not a convert of the last few weeks, as one of the society papers, in announcing his secession, would seem to suppose. He has, we believe, professed the Catholic faith for more than a year, and in that profession he is joined by his mother. The Countess is, therefore, one of no fewer than five distinguished ladies who have submitted to the Church within a short period, the others being the Countesses of Ravensworth and of Rossmore, Lady Alexina Coventry, and Lady Hilda Higgins. Mr. Gladstone, in his recent article in the *British Quarterly Review*, dismisses lady converts with the curt taunt that they are the possessors of "pious appetite." Probably they are quite willing to admit the accusation, and even to glory in it; and, bearing in mind Cardinal Manning's recent utterance on the mission of women, it is an important gain that so many of them are resolved to exert the influence which attaches to their sex and to their prominent social position on the side of Christian faith and morals. Just in proportion as this resolution is adhered to will their conversion to the Church be a blessing to others and to themselves.