

he would speak. The word microscope was derived from two Greek words, *micro* small, and *skopeo* I see, signifying a looker at small things. It was invented about two hundred years ago in a somewhat rude state, but has been constantly improved upon until it has reached its present state of perfection. Microscopes, as regards their power of magnifying, were of all kinds. Some had the power of magnifying one hundred times, others to many millions of times, the natural size of the object placed under them. The chief uses of the microscope, those which rendered it of the greatest value to man, were not generally known, the ordinary idea entertained of it being that it was an instrument having no practical use in itself other than that of forming an agreeable means of gratifying the curious. This idea, he might say, was held by many of his friends, when it was known to them that he had become possessed of one, they thought it a childish whim on his part, and they found a way of expressing their ridicule by sending him various fleas, beetles, mosquitoes, etc., with hopes that they wouldn't bite him, or endanger his safety in any way. He might say that if the microscope had no other use than that, it would not be of much practical value, but such was not the case. It has been of the greatest importance to medical science ever since its invention. By its aid Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood; were it not for it this truth would for ever remain as a theory and nothing else. Diseases, such as fever and diphtheria, were found to be produced by uncleanness, which would never have been clearly proved, if it were not for the microscope. Again, in law, where the guilt or innocence of a person accused of murder depended on the question as to whether certain spots or stains found on clothes or instruments in his possession were produced by blood or anything else, the microscope was of the greatest importance. With the naked eye it is an extremely difficult thing to decide whether stains on a knife had been produced by blood or are the effects of rust, but when the microscope is brought in all doubts are instantly removed.

But one of the grandest and most important uses of the microscope was that it revealed in every thing in nature an abundance of life absolutely astonishing. Every thing around and above us, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the very dust we tread on, were found when examined to be perfectly swarming with living things. He would show them that evening some mud which had been dredged from the bottom of Lyttelton Harbour, in which they would see some of the tiniest, the most beautiful, the most exquisite of shells that could possibly be conceived. In fact every thing in nature, when subjected to the examination of the microscope, revealed a variety of form, a gorgeousness of colour, an exquisiteness of design, so astonishing as to impress on the right understanding of the beholder a most exalted idea of the wisdom and power of the Creator. The above is a *précis* of the lecture greatly condensed, delivered in an easy, clear, and simple manner, entirely unpretentious, but which nevertheless betrayed a gentleman of the deepest research and scientific knowledge. After Mr. Maskell had finished, he, aided by Mr. Webb, arranged the various objects he had brought with him for the meeting's inspection. For this purpose the microscopes were placed on each side of the large table in the society's room, a row of lamps being in the centre. After all had been completed those present had the rare pleasure of satisfying themselves to the fullest extent of the truth of all that had been stated. They saw in some of the objects placed for their examination a beauty of form and gorgeousness of colouring, the like of which is rarely ever seen by the naked eye.

After all had been inspected, Bro. Mahalm rose and moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Maskell for all the trouble and inconvenience he had put himself to that evening for their entertainment and instruction, and stated that night would mark an era in the society's history, from which the most advantageous results may be expected. This was seconded by Bro. Barrett, and carried with great applause. Mr. Maskell, in the course of his reply, stated that he would always be most willing to forward the interests of the society in any way he could, and if this were possible by giving lectures he would always most willingly aid in that respect. A vote of thanks passed to the president for his conduct in the chair concluded one of the most enjoyable meetings the society has held since its establishment.

The Central Terminus Hotel, Dunedin, conducted by Mr. Philp is now open. This hotel is close to the railway terminus, commanding a fine position and offering to residents and visitors unrivalled accommodation of every kind.

Those of our subscribers who may have on hand copies of the N. Z. TABLET of the dates appended will confer a great favour on us by forwarding them to our office.—Oct. 24, Nov. 14, '79; March 5, March 12, May 23, '80.

Deacon Jackson of St. Louis called a sister in the church "an old cow." She had him arraigned before a committee, which recommended his suspension, but a majority of the church voted against such punishment. That was the situation when, at a prayer meeting, Deacon Jackson took his accustomed place in the amen corner. The pastor suggested that under the circumstances, he had better take a back seat. Then Deacons Smith and Bire ejected him, after a violent struggle.

Under the heading "A Good Example" the *Daily Express* prints the following telegram, dated Fermoy, Monday, from its correspondent:—"The Roman Catholic congregations at the different masses here yesterday were asked to pray for fine weather for the crops. The officiating clergyman at last mass, the Rev. M. Higgins, said he thought Providence might have sent the succession of bad harvests in consequence of the propagation of false doctrines by certain persons who were striving to mislead the people. These teachers asked their fellowmen to disregard the Commandment of God which says, 'Thou shalt not steal,' when they set forth their views on the rights of property. They also sought to have the commandment disregarded which tells us not to kill. He thanked God the people of this district were free from the taint of those teachings, which he regretted was not the case in other places.—*Dublin Nation*.

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co., Limited), reports for the week ending 13th October as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—140 head were yarded at Burnside to-day. Although the supply was under the average the demand was but languid, trade requirements having been so fully supplied from last week's market. The result was a decline equivalent to about 2s 6d per 100lbs. Bulls realised from £5 2s 6d to £11 10s, and cows £6 10s to £7 10s 6d. We sold a few head of mixed cattle on account of Messrs. Little Brothers. To-day's price for best beef may be given at 22s 6d per 100lbs.

Fat Sheep were in moderate supply, the number penned having been 1978 head, consisting of 1678 cross-breeds and 300 merinos. Butchers having largely supplied their wants last week, 400 had to be turned out unsold, and on those cleared a decline of 1s to 1s 6d per head must be recorded. The cross-breeds sold at from 12s 6d to 15s (shorn, at 8s 9d), and the merinos at 9s 9d to 10s. We disposed of 158 head of shorn cross-breeds, on account of Mr. David Corsan, at 8s 9d per head. Quotation for best mutton in the wool, 2½d per lb.; shorn, 1½d per lb.

Fat Lambs.—212 were sold at from 5s to 10s per head. We sold 50, on account of Mr. J. C. Gilchrist, at 6s 9d to 8s.

Fat Pigs.—23 offered. Fetched from 13s to 60s each.

Store Cattle are being enquired for, and we are in treaty for the sale of a large mob.

Store Sheep.—We have particulars of several lots for sale from some of the best flocks in Otago and Canterbury.

Wool.—The Brindisi mail, delivered this week, brought details of the London auctions down to 26th August, confirming the reports by telegram of a fall of ½d to 1d on the coarser descriptions of cross-bred wools, as compared with the May-June series; merinos, especially good-conditioned combing, having ruled at about previous sale prices.

Sheepskins.—We offered a good catalogue on Monday, which with spirited competition, realised fully up to last week's prices. Butchers' cross-bred skins fetched from 4s 4d to 6s 3d; and merinos 3s 6d to 5s 1d; lambskins, 6d to 7d each.

Hides.—There is a very active demand at late prices, which can easily be obtained for all lots coming forward, say 3½d per lb. for wet salted, and 20s each for butchers' green hides.

Tallow.—We have no transactions in tallow to report, but have made sales of rough fat at 16s per cwt. The market generally is quiet.

Grain.—Wheat: The demand shows some improvement, and prices reported last week are well maintained. We have made sales of fair milling at 4s 5d, and of medium to good at proportionate prices. We quote prime milling, 4s 6d to 4s 7d; fair to good, 4s to 4s 4d; inferior to medium, 3s 3d to 4s. Oats: There are still inquiries, but holders' ideas are high, and not much business has resulted. Prime samples are held for 1s 8d to 1s 10d, buyers, however, are not disposed to operate except at considerably below these quotations. Feed oats could be obtained at 1s 6d, but the enquiry is slack. Barley: We quote 3s 6d for prime malting, the supply of which is extremely limited; 2s 6d to 3s 3d (nominal) for medium descriptions.

PRODUCE MARKET—OCTOBER 13, 1880.

MESSRS. MERGER AND McDONALD, Rattray street, report:—Fresh butter is now getting very plentiful, best and favourite brands (in 1lb. and ½lb. prints), 10d per lb.; good ordinary butter can be procured at 8d and 9d per lb.; Eggs (plentiful), 8d per dozen. Roll bacon, 8½d per lb. Good salt butter, in kegs, 7d per lb.

MR. F. MEENAN, Great King street, reports:—Wholesale prices: Oats, 1s 5d to 1s 8d per bushel; milling wheat, 4s 0d to 4s 6d per bushel; fowls' feed, 2s to 3s; barley, malting, 2s 6d to 3s 6d; feed, 1s 9d to 2s 6d per bushel; hay, £3 per ton; chaff, £2 15s per ton; straw, £2 per ton; bran, £3 10s per ton; pollard, £4 per ton; flour, £10 10s to £11 per ton; oatmeal, £10 per ton; butter, fresh, 8d; salt, very unsaleable, 6d to 8d; eggs, 9d; bacon in rolls, 8½d; side, 9d; hams, 10d; fresh pork, 4½d per lb.

A rather grim joke has found its way into print which the "most eminent statesman of the late administration" is said to have perpetrated about his rival. According to our contemporary, this eminent statesman was asked a few days ago: "What is the difference between a mishap and a misfortune?" His answer was, "Well, I should call it a mishap if Mr. Gladstone were to fall into the Thames, and a misfortune if anybody were to pull him out again."

The decay of Orangeism in Ireland is well depicted in the fact that but one member of the British House of Commons is a representative Orangeman. He is Ellis Macartney, from Tyrone.

The body of St. Paul of the Cross, the Founder of the Passionists, is preserved in the Basilica of SS. John and Paul on the Cœlian hill, and in the adjoining convent the visitor can still see where the Saint died, the small altar in an adjoining room where he celebrated Mass, when unable to descend to the church; and a large collection of relics, such as the breviary and crucifix he used, the wire girdle he wore round his loins, the discipline wherewith he scourged himself, and the clothes in which he was once arrayed. The body, clad in his robe, and recumbent with the hands clasped over his breast, is enclosed in a glass frame, and the face, hands and feet seem those of one who died but yesterday, though it is now more than a hundred years since the Saint went to his reward. Lately a new chapel was built by the munificent Prince Alessandro Torlonia, as a more fitting resting place for the remains of the Founder of the Passionist Order. The altar alone of this chapel cost over ten thousand dollars.