

such as that which now elevates them above the general stature of their fellow colonists, may have become universal among us; and then, with one accord, all our land-owners together will throw up their private rights voluntarily and with delight, and nationalisation will at once become the order of the brighter day.

Meantime, let it be the effort of everyone to secure the settlement of a population on the lands, unnationalised but open to the easy acquirement of those who are able and willing to cultivate them. To do this, and thwart the designs of land-sharks of every description, in Parliament and out of it, is a practical task worthy of attention, and should outweigh, to the great advantage of the colony, all high-flown theories and philosophical vapourings. To accomplish it moreover will prove a sufficient labour for our legislators, whomsoever this day's election may prove them to be, and they will find it needs all the clearness and strength of their faculties undivided to do so.

AT a meeting of the English Farmers' Alliance lately held in London, the Land Bill for England, prepared by a special committee of the Alliance, was asserted to be a great improvement on the Irish Act, it being more simple. It will be remembered that one of the reasons given by Lord Derby for the imperfect working of the Irish Act was that tenants would be prevented from availing themselves of its provisions in many cases, owing to their fear of law costs.

A WESLEYAN clergyman at New Plymouth, in his sermon the other day, ascribed the success of Mr. Bryce's diplomacy to the hon. gentleman's uprightness. It is a pity the hon. gentleman was not able to communicate some share in the quality in question to certain members of the forces under his command, and an account of whose exploits will be found in another column under the heading "High Jinks at Paribaka." However, as it was not diplomacy, but violence, that was called into play by Mr. Bryce at Paribaka, the Wesleyan clergyman alluded to may have been speaking of some other event in his career. The hon. gentleman's uprightness, in any case, was not very conspicuous in his treatment of the Maoris—unless it be an uprightness that tends to smite the enemy under the fifth rib, with which also history makes us in some degree acquainted.

THE Speaker of the Legislative Council and several other prominent gentlemen took part the other day in "sweeps" on the Hutt racecourse for the purpose of testing the Gaming and Lotteries Act. If the straining of points, also, in connection with the Licensing Act be continued as at present, it may, perhaps, be deemed necessary in the interests of freedom by some of our leading colonists to play with intoxication, for the sake of bringing the Act into discredit and obtaining a reasonable modification of its provisions. Something in that direction certainly seems desirable.

THE Hokianga river has been found navigable for 24 miles by steamer, to the great advantage of settlement.

ARCHDEACON DENISON has condemned the revised version of the New Testament as an "abomination in the sight of God." It certainly is so if the excisions made by it are not justified; but otherwise, except as to alterations in language and cadence, it is an undoubted improvement on the authorised version. Perhaps, however, between excision and mistranslation there may not be very much to choose.

THE Duke of Manchester's visit to the colonies has, as it might naturally have been expected, resulted in an attempt to prejudice the farming classes in England against coming here. His grace is evidently engaged in running down our agricultural prospects, in condemning the system of free selection, and in a defence, not of the pastoral interests which are worthy of all consideration, but of the pastoral monopoly which is quite another thing. On the whole, leading Orangemen have not lately exhibited themselves as of exceptionally friendly disposition towards colonial settlement and progress.

THE Irish in London and Newcastle have prevented the Liberals from holding certain meetings, appointed to be held by them.

A TUNNEL is about to be constructed under the Pyrenees for the purpose of establishing direct railway communication with France.

DARLINGTON AND Co. are reported to have discovered a rich reef, traceable for a quarter of a mile and of an average width of 3ft., at the Serpentine, Naseby.

It is announced that the Government are seriously contemplating the abolition of trial by jury in Ireland. Undisguised despotism, however, will not be wholly wanting in advantages.

RUSSIA proposes to accept territory in Armenia instead of the Turkish war indemnity. This seems to be a step towards obtaining a command of the Euphrates valley with its possibilities of easy communication with India.

MATTERS in Egypt do not yet appear to have wholly settled down. Mohammedan excitement seems to be extending there, as elsewhere, and there may be serious trouble before things are finally decided. A fanatic outburst of Islam might kindle a fire not only in the East but all through Europe.

BESIDES the question of Egypt, whose control by European powers M. Gambetta advocates, and that of North Africa generally, affairs in the Pacific tend towards requiring the interchange of explanations between France and England. The intention of the French to annex Rarotonga is, for example, said to be contrary to the terms of the treaty made by the island in question with Great Britain.

A BOY of about sixteen years of age was fined at Christchurch for drunkenness the other day.

A SMART shock of earthquake was felt at several places on both the east and west coast of the Middle Island on Monday morning. At Christchurch a moulding was displaced on the summit of the cathedral spire, and the bells of the church were made to sound.

THE Irish National Convention, assembled at Chicago, have passed resolutions approving of a National Government, based on the will of the people, for Ireland, and of the non-payment of rents.

A DISPUTE concerning the navigation of the Danube is in progress between Austria and Roumania.

MR MICHAEL BOYTON, an American citizen, who was one of the first gentlemen arrested under the Coercion Act in Ireland, has been released. On the other hand, arrests are still numerous, and if some be released, it seems only for the purpose of making room in the prisons for others.

MR DE LAUTOUR, speaking at Naseby the other night, declared that the land question had been "settled by an advertisement, which said the land would all be sold in March." This, or something else of the kind, we have little doubt, is the true state of the case.

A PUBLIC HALL is about to be erected in Ashburton, at a cost of £8000.

THE Christchurch Bench have refused to grant new applications for licenses, in consideration of local option coming shortly into force.

THERE have been serious fires in Boston, resulting in the loss of property to the value of 500,000dols.

MR J. C. BROWN reports that Sir George Grey has declared that he will never again become a member of any Government in New Zealand. If this be true, we can hardly regret it; there is much that is valuable, much that is honourable, and to be remembered with admiration and gratitude in the political career of Sir George Grey, but our hopes for its future have for some time been clouded.

MR JAMES GODSO, a builder and contractor, well known in Dunedin and its neighbourhood, was drowned on Monday by losing his balance and falling into the water, in attempting to prevent the wind carrying away his hat while he was crossing the railway bridge at Pelichet Bay.

A CHINAMAN was choked at Braidwood, N.S.W., while attempting to swallow cat's eyes as a cure for blindness. The prescription, most probably, was given him by some fellow-countryman of repute for skill in medicine. We have heard of such an one who was remarkable for the wonders of relief in sickness he worked by means of monkey's gall. He was also a deft surgeon, and on the complaint of a certain matron that she suffered from head-aches, he proposed to effect her cure by the removal of about three inches of a vein from some portion of her forehead. On her demurring, he produced a friend, who testified that he himself had undergone the operation in question to his complete benefit.

A MAN named Callander was suffocated on Sunday, by bad air in the new shaft of a coal mine at Saddle Hill.

A MINER named Duncan Buchanan shot himself at Naseby on Friday.

EMIGRATION from the United Kingdom to America is reported to be on the increase. New York is full of immigrants, among whom want of employment threatens to inflict hardship.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Lyttelton Times* reports very favourably of things at the Lyell; wages, he says, are 12s. a day and upwards, and the unemployed not known. The existence of new reefs is undoubted and their richness probable. Some of the reefs being actually worked are paying highly:—"Look at the Welcome for example," he adds. "A gentleman told me that his wife, who holds 100 (£1) shares, received £35 as her last month's dividend. There is another small private company, which consists of four miners, who during the last twelve months have had three crushings, and have each time divided £1,200 amongst them."

THE pupils of the Marist Brothers have, we perceive, been distinguishing themselves both at Home and in the colonies. The students of St. Joseph's College, Dumfries, have come off most creditably at the musical examinations of Trinity College, London, which were conducted on June 17th in 224 centres of the United Kingdom, and the pass-list of which contains, amongst the names of those who took honours, as well as of those who obtained ordinary pass certificates, several belonging to students sent up by the institution in question. Referring to one of the students who obtained these certificates, a contemporary speaks as follows:—"In the Glasgow University Local examination, the result of which has been recently published, this last-named student (Master Wynn) scored 96 per cent. in mathematics (the highest but two), and is the only one of all who went in