

when he afterwards informed them that the offence was not voting a second time, but applying for a voting paper a second time. And the jury were so bewildered and blundered so in their verdict, that his Honour had to write it out again for them in another form which they were at liberty to adopt, amend or reject as they thought fit. It is not surprising then to find that there is some doubt as to what the verdict really meant and that its sense remains to be determined in the Court of Appeal.

THE *Evening Post* reports that during the late holidays some drunken fellows smashed the windows and front door of a hotel at Pahautanui, and that also a batch of rowdies travelling in a train on the Wellington railway carried with them large stones, with which they broke everything they could hit in the wayside stations.

HAD the visitor to New Caledonia to whose discovery there of a strange plant we refer in another column, visited New York also of late years, he would have found there likewise abnormally grown fruit akin to that discovered by him in the French island, and here is proof of what we assert:—"At the last meeting of the New York Health Board the preamble and resolution offered by Professor Chandler were adopted: 'Whereas, a corps of the Sisters of Charity has resided at the Riverside Hospital during the past six years, having charge of the hospital, and nursing those ill with smallpox and other diseases, in a manner that has elicited the unqualified approval of the Commissioners and officers of the Health Department, and at a time when it was impossible to secure the services of other reliable nurses for this work, the magnitude of which will be realised when it is remembered that in 1875 and 1876 there were at times between two and three hundred patients suffering from that loathsome disease, smallpox; and, whereas, it has been found necessary by the director to transfer them to other fields of usefulness; therefore, resolved, that this Board express to the Vicar-General, and through him to the Superior and officers of the Order to which the Sisters belong, its appreciation and gratitude for such services, and its profound regret that it has been found necessary to terminate them.'"

WE may now daily expect to hear of the suppression of the *Nation*, the *Dublin Freeman*, and many other Irish papers. It is announced that all newspapers considered to encourage seditious conduct in Ireland are to be suppressed forthwith, and with Mr. Forster for a judge sedition will be discovered without much difficulty. It is fortunate that the American papers are out of reach of the executioner, and that they are so fully informed and trustworthy on all questions relating to Ireland.

WE do not know much about the Guicowar of Baroda, nor what the result of his installation may be, but we have sufficient recollection of the doings of sepoy to believe that riots in which they were concerned, and which are reported to have taken place at the installation in question, may have had some significance. Do the sepoys dislike the dignity alluded to, or is there again a question of their chewing grease? There has been lately some agitation as to the slaughter of horned cattle in India.

Apropos of the arrival of a band of Mormon missionaries in Auckland, a local paper gives some account of the reported doings of the "Saints" in Utah. He quotes an authority, who says their laws are designed for the encouragement of licentiousness, and furnishes details that are extremely revolting.

LADY FERGUSON, wife of Sir James Ferguson, Governor of the colony, died at Bombay of cholera on the 9th inst.

THERE are now six cases of smallpox among the passengers by the *Garonne*, which lately arrived at Melbourne with the disease on board.

HUMANE and peaceful England, that shudders so at any report of outrage made concerning disturbed Ireland, still herself does actually display a case or two that may reasonably be called in question. There, for example, were the boys at the St. Paul's Industrial School, starved, beaten mercilessly, and shut up continually in a dark cell. One of them, too ill to do the work allotted to him, was whipped the very day before he died; another took poison in an attempt to escape from his misery, and others, well instructed in morality by the training given them, tried to set fire to the building in the extreme of their despair. There, again, was a little girl at Sheffield who, having fallen into consumption, as a consequence of fever, was caned by her father in order to rouse her to renewed energy, and that she might "get up" as he told her instead of lying too ill to move, but who, instead of being reinvigorated, died. We further are informed as follows by a recent number of the *Spectator*:—"No one who reads the police reports can fail to have been struck during the last few months with an enormous increase in the class of what may be called 'riotous offences.' Isolated cases of wife-beating and street-robbery are of tolerably regular occurrence, and so long as men beat themselves with drink, and are subject to the passions of cupidity and jealousy, these forms of crime are likely to remain beyond the reach of the deterrent influence of even the most savage penal code. But the epidemic of brutality from which we are at present suffering has a different origin, and requires different treatment. . . . In Islington the inhabitants have been compelled to follow Californian precedents, and to band themselves

into Vigilance Committees, who execute immediate and summary vengeance upon the disturbers of their streets. The military organization of the Salvation Army has enabled it, in more than one instance, to render a good account of its enemies. But in some of the lower parts of London there is literally no security against personal violence, and scenes are enacted every night which, if they were reported from Ireland, would immensely strengthen the cry which is perpetually being raised for more coercion. There is nothing more contagious than this kind of ruffianism, which is all the more formidable because it is not confined to, nor indeed mainly practised by, those who belong to what is ordinarily regarded as the criminal class."

THE Counties' Railway Commissioners have sent in a report concerning the Otago Central Railway that is favourable to the line laid out by the Government Engineer. The district to be traversed contains a number of industrial centres, including the boroughs of Alexandra, Cromwell and Naseby, and the townships of Pembroke, Albertown, Bendigo, Bannockburn, Clyde, Ophir, Drybread, Tinkers, Cambrian, St. Bathans, Hill's Creek, Kyeburn, Hamilton, Hyde, Middlemarch, and Hindon, with a population of about 10,000 engaged in agricultural, pastoral, and mining pursuits. The district contains 39 pastoral runs, producing a yearly return of 2,500 tons of wool. There are besides 550,000 acres of agricultural land, of which 450,000 acres are as yet unsold; the soil is excellent, and the climate adapted especially to the growth of cereals. With facility for communication the value of the yearly produce could not amount to less than a million sterling.

WE regret to record the occurrence at Invercargill on the night of the 4th inst. of a most disastrous and destructive fire. Several buildings were completely destroyed, and a large amount of property lost by it. Among the heaviest losers have been Messrs. Roche and McInerney; and the former gentleman's losses have been the more heavy owing to the inferior quality of one of his safes, which permitted the destruction of several of his business books.

THE Maniototo County Council have passed a resolution asking for the following mining reserves within the county:—Mount Ida, 20,000 acres; St. Bathans and Cambrian, 10,000; Kyeburn, 6000; Sowburn, 2000; Hamilton, 4000; Hyde, 4000; Serpentine, 2000; Hill's Creek, 2000; Garibaldi, 500.

MR. W. E. ROWE, geologist, has made a most favourable report as to the Golden Fleece mine at Reefton. He says the auriferous deposit, extending for miles not yet explored, is rich in gold and contains also lead, silver, iron, and antimony.

THE first tunnel on the Otago Central line is reported to be closely approaching completion.

MR. FORSTER has gone to Osborne, where the Queen is now staying, for the purpose of obtaining a Cabinet Council's approval of certain exceptional measures to be adopted for the punishment of persons who supply the Irish disturbed districts with arms. This inclines us to look for some measures of extraordinary severity, for certainly the Coercion Act has given full power to the Irish executive to do anything within the extreme bounds of pretended humanity towards repression of all kinds. It will be interesting to learn, then, what the measures in question may turn out to be. Is it, indeed, proposed to resort to torture with the special sanction of Her Most Gracious Majesty? or what are we to expect in addition to the provisions already made?

THE Waikaiti correspondent of the *Tuapeka Times* reports the miners of his district as busy at work. A crane has been erected for one gentleman in the neighbourhood which is described as admirably adapted for sinking or stripping ground where no tail-races have been constructed.

A CARGO of fresh butter sent from Melbourne in the s.s. *Europa* has arrived in London in good condition.

THE Waimangaroa and Mokihinui reefs, Buller river, are favourably reported of.

A GENTLEMAN, signing himself "One of the People called Quakers," writes to the *Argus*, taking Sir Henry Parkes to task for his intolerant utterances respecting the late Mr. Fitzpatrick's burial. He says Sir Henry is mistaken in implying that nothing of the kind could take place except among Catholics. As a constant reader of English newspapers, he sees frequent refusals on the part of Protestant clergymen to perform the burial service over the body of some one who had failed to reverence their authority. Until the "Dis-senters' Burial Bill" passed three years ago, graves in the common graveyard of the parish were frequently refused to the people in question, and the father of the writer had been obliged to carry his dead 22 miles from the parish in which he and his children had been born, and bury them among strangers. He adds:—"No, friend Parkes, intolerance is not the exclusive possession of Catholic priests. Nay, the sensation created by the instance of Mr. Fitzpatrick's funeral shows that such acts are rare among them. Certainly, for one such Catholic instance in the British Empire, I will find a dozen Protestant cases of even a worse kind." Meantime, we observe that correspondence on the subject continues in our Dunedin daily contemporaries, in which it has sunk to a very low