

A correspondent of the *Hawke's Bay Herald* writes as follows: "I happened to be walking in the cemetery to-day when a poor woman, frantic with grief, asked me what she should do. She had come to pay her Sunday visit to the grave of her little girl, who had been buried about a year. Since the burial the authorities had inquired if the parents intended to buy the grave, and the answer was in the affirmative; but, being poor people, they have hitherto been unable to do so. This morning the poor mother was horrified to find the grave of her child open and empty, while the coffin had been taken out and laid on the grass out of the way. Is there a single excuse or reason that can justify such a proceeding in the free and humane Colony of New Zealand?"

In a riot at Omagh several Orangemen and Leaguers were wounded. A number of arrests have been made.

O'Donnell has been committed for trial. Messrs. Fullerton and Pryor, American lawyers, have been engaged to defend him, and 80000dols. have been subscribed towards his defence fund.

The London night police are now armed with revolvers. Intelligence is to hand from Cabul that further fighting has taken place between the Ameer's troops and the rebel Ghilzais, resulting in the defeat of the former with heavy loss.

The following is reported from West Clive, six miles from Napier: Early on Sunday morning a boy going out with milk found a woman lying in the ditch at the side of the road. He recognised her as Mrs. O'Reilly, aged 36, a servant at the West Clive Hotel, her brother (Hall), being a wheelwright in the same township. The woman was taken to her brother's house, but though every effort was made to restore animation she died in half an hour. It appears that deceased, together with her brother and a Mrs. Diamond, left the hotel on the previous night at half-past 8 o'clock, intending to see the latter to her home, a mile down the road. The night was dark, and it was raining; and after going a little way deceased said that she could not go any further, but would wait till Hall returned. Hall wanted to take her into a neighbouring cottage, but she refused. When Hall returned he could not see her, and imagined that she had returned to the hotel. The hotel people, on the other hand, supposed that she had spent the night at Hall's and no uneasiness about her was felt.

A remarkably strong but brief earthquake, preceded by a considerable noise, occurred in the Queenstown district at eight minutes past 10 on Sunday night.

A meeting which was arranged to be held by the Irish National League at Milltown, Malbay, County Clare, has been prohibited by the authorities.

The ill-success of the French forces at Tonquin is causing immense dissatisfaction in France. The Left Party are demanding the convocation of the Chambers, and the position of the Ferry Administration is regarded as critical.

The grand military funeral of Mete Kingi took place at the Mission Cemetery at Putiki yesterday afternoon, in the presence of 5,000 spectators, and 1,100 Maoris from all parts of the North Island. The pall-bearers were 12 chiefs of high rank, including Major Kemp, Wi Farata, and Renata, of Hawke's Bay. The Native Minister, the Mayor of Wanganui, Mr. Watt (M.H.R.), Mr. Lewis (Under Secretary), and other officials, and a crowd of Europeans and Maoris followed the coffin from the *pah* to the grave.

King Alfonso has been received by President Grévy. He was hoisted by the people along the entire route to the President's mansion.

Harry Thomas, a customer of the branch at Heathcote, where he carried on business, entered the Melbourne office of the Bank of Victoria a day or two ago, and mounted a table in the centre of the chamber, shouting "Revenge!" Then, drawing a revolver, he attempted to commit suicide, firing first at the ceiling and then at his head, inflicting a serious wound, which, however, is not expected to prove fatal.

A conference of the Irish Land League authorities has been held in Leeds under the presidency of Mr. Parnell. Improved organisation machinery was agreed upon. A public meeting was held in the evening, and was attended by a large number of English sympathisers. Mr. Parnell was absent through a cold.

#### WEDNESDAY.

A fire at Otahuhu yesterday morning destroyed four buildings. The insurances are as follows:—Arden, butcher, on fittings and furniture, £100 in the Boyal; Unglas, on building, £150 office unknown; Todd, on furniture, £75 in the National. The heat of the fire melted the telegraph wires, interrupting communication with the South for several hours.

It is transpired that President Grévy has apologised, in the name of France, to King Alfonso for the manner in which his Majesty was received by the people on his arrival in Paris. The President made the apology, as the King was most indignant, and was preparing to depart immediately.

The stables belonging to the Exchange Hotel, at Havelock, were destroyed by fire on Monday afternoon. Above the stable was aloft where was a quantity of hay, access to which was gained by a ladder. Two of the proprietor's children, aged five and seven years respectively, were seen coming down the ladder, and immediately afterwards the place was on fire. The building was insured in the Norwich Union for £100. In the lean-to of the stables a quantity of beer was stored, and this, with some farm produce, was totally destroyed, and was uninsured.

The reports of the discourtesy shown to King Alfonso by the inhabitants of Paris have created much dissatisfaction and ill-feeling towards the French in Madrid. Anti-French cries have been raised by the populace and placards posted in various parts of the city; and the French Embassy is under military protection. Great preparations are being made for an ovation to the King on his return.

Professor Dickey, in a letter to the *Times*, contends that the action of Mr. Service in preventing the Irish informers from landing in Australia was in defiance of the law.

There appears to be now some prospect of France modifying its scheme for the establishment of convict settlements in the Pacific.

The *N. Z. Herald* publishes the text of a protest made by the Hawaiian Kingdom against the proposed annexation of New Hebrides and other islands of the Pacific by any foreign Powers.

#### THURSDAY.

Mr. William Redmond, M.P., arrived in Kumara on Monday. He received an address, and lectured the same evening to a large audience.

On Sunday afternoon Thomas Corkhill, an old sailor, insisted on having a dip in the sea near Kyle. There was a moderately heavy sea on at the time, and Corkhill was soon in trouble. His mate, M'Pherson, bravely plunged in to try and save him, but Corkhill threatened to drown him if he came near, and M'Pherson had to struggle back to the shore. In making a second attempt to save the life of his mate he became so exhausted in a heavy breaker that he was only rescued from drowning with great difficulty by a third person who was present. Corkhill, thus left to his fate, disappeared. His body was washed up on the beach yesterday.

Sir Stafford Northcote, who is now visiting the North of Ireland, arrived on Wednesday at Belfast, where a *fete* was organised in his honour.

The members of the French Ministry are now squabbling amongst themselves as to who is to blame for the *Alfonso fiasco*. President Grévy threatens to resign.

A patient at the Auckland Lunatic Asylum assaulted another with a broomstick yesterday, fracturing his skull. He has since died of his injuries. The warder has been suspended pending inquiries.

### CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

October 1, 1883.

THERE, seems after all, to be some hope that Mr. Jacobsen's "diamonds" will not prove absolutely worthless, or, to speak more precisely, that his stones, though only crystals, are yet the pioneers of real diamonds to be found beneath the surface of the Alford Forest fields. Such, at least, is the opinion of Messrs. Harris—two gentlemen of experience, who have lately come from the Kimberley (Cape) diamond field, and attended a meeting of the shareholders of the Pioneer and Robinson Companies a few nights ago. They considered that the indications of the Alford Forest crater greatly resemble the Kimberley mines, and that the crystals are as near diamonds as anything short of the real thing can be, and bear the same relationship to those precious stones as lignite does to coal. Instead of sinking shafts, the Messrs. Harris suggest driving into the hills from the level of the river-bed. They exhibited a ring set with 26 of the Alford Forest stones, which was examined with much interest. Ultimately it was agreed that the advisability of amalgamating the two companies should be considered by the directors, who shall also take such steps as they deem right to thoroughly prospect the district. Steps are being taken to register the Alford and United Companies, which were started at the time of the diamond excitement. The discovery of genuine stones would indeed be a great boon to the entire Colony, in these days of extreme depression, which seems, if possible, to become daily more intensified.

The Gold workings at the Ninety-mile Beach are still carried on from Tumutu to Little Rakaia, a distance of about five miles, by a number of parties of two and three, altogether some forty men, who seem determined to test the workings thoroughly before giving them up. At present, however, their labours do not give them more than bare "tucker."

The Lyttelton Harbour Board have declined to take over the "installation" of the N. Z. (Brush) Electric Light and Power Company, as they think that the company have not carried out their arrangements in such a way as to enable them to require the Board to pay the contract price, and to accept delivery of the "installation" in its present condition; that the company have not shown that their lights are of the actual power of 2000 candles per lamp, and that the workmanship and material have not been uniformly of first-class quality; also that they have not been able to supply the clear glass globes originally contemplated. The Board, however, empower their committee to negotiate with any company to light the harbour either by electricity or otherwise. One of the members who opposed the Board's committing themselves to an expression in favour of the superiority of the electric light was—as was very natural, though scarcely impartial—Mr. E. G. Wright, Chairman of the Christchurch Gas Company.

A meeting of ratepayers opposed to the drainage rate has been held at the Commercial Hotel to protest against the excessive rates levied upon the rural districts, which derive no advantage whatever from the sewerage scheme. Mr. Fisher instanced K.S. 21, for which nothing in the way of drainage had been done, and yet the rating was as follows:—In 1881 it was £5 14s 7d; in 1882, £6 5s; in 1883, £23 8s 9d. Capt. Fisher described the drainage done to his property by the drainage works, and he was now required to pay £31 for rates. Mr. John Ollivier opposed the rate on the ground that it was utterly unconstitutional and illegal, and recommended that every man should subscribe his quota, and take the matter into court. A committee was elected to investigate the circumstances, and it has since decided to obtain a legal opinion on certain points regarding the validity of the rate.

The Hospital and Charitable Aid Board have declined to agree to the proposal of the Drainage Board that the Hospital drain shall be connected with the main sewer in Cashel street. The estimate was £450 for work inside, and £461 17s 9d outside the ground. Some of the members were in favour of the work, but considered that they had no funds for the purpose, the Government having granted £1,000 for a new kitchen and offices, and the money should therefore be spent on the object for which it was granted. Mr. Joyce's resolution was carried—"That no person in the service of any institution under the control of this Board be permitted to receive any pecuniary or other presents."—On Friday the Hon. Mr. Dick,