

A dispatch from Hongkong, of October 18, says that China is actively preparing to close the port of Canton.

TUESDAY.

Mr. Redmond telegraphs Home that the Australian Convention is a great success, and that Mr. Parnell's programme has been unanimously adopted by it.

The French Government have declined to accept the offered mediation of America in regard to Tonquin.

A consignment of frozen fish from New Zealand was sold retail in the Central Fish Market, London, on September 29. The kinds were principally sea flounder and mullet. The sale was a pronounced success, the mullet realising 8d to 9d each.

The Lyttelton's cargo of frozen meat has arrived in excellent condition, and is realising 53d.

The Melbourne Daily Telegraph states that a man named Knowles, a member of the Salvation Army, has confessed to Major Barker that he (Knowles) murdered F. M. Bates, the actor.

The testing of the Queen of Beauty mine at Makara took place yesterday. The referees were Messrs J. C. Harris (*New Zealand Times*) and H. Blundell (*Evening Post*). Two mining experts were also present. Twenty-one dishes of stuff were washed, with unsatisfactory results, only a few specks of gold being obtained.

Several complaints recently made respecting the treatment of patients at Wellington Hospital, resulted in an interview taking place between the Colonial Secretary and Dr. Hammond, the superintendent. The upshot of the conference was that Dr. Hammond has decided to resign.

The *Wahatip Mail* says:—"Mining generally is beginning to revive as the season advances. The latest discovery is the striking of excellent wash in a tunnel claim at Arthur's Point, where there is plenty of room for equally good claims. A well-equipped party is also out prospecting, and it is believed that some good news will be brought in by them shortly." The Upper Shotover correspondent of the same journal writes:—"I do not remember times being so dull since the West Coast rush; there has not been one single case of anyone opening up anything fresh this spring. The sluicers keep working away, taking advantage of the water whilst it lasts; but unless we have a very wet spring, that commodity will soon be short, as there is very little snow on the mountains to come down."

A serious railway accident occurred on the Essendon line at noon yesterday. A train which was conveying visitors to the races had passed North Melbourne station when the axle of one of the second-class carriages broke, causing the other carriages to upset. Three passengers, who were severely injured, were conveyed to the Hospital, and one of them now lies in a serious condition. Several other passengers suffered injuries of a less serious character.

WEDNESDAY

A fire broke out in A. H. Nathan's warehouse, Queen street Wharf, Auckland, at 9 o'clock on Monday night. The damage by fire and water amounted to several thousand pounds. The upper storey, with its goods, was totally destroyed. The loss is accepted by the insurance companies as total. The salvage will reduce it to about £5000. The other division of the warehouse over Lamb's is intact. The building belonged to John Lamb, and is insured in the New Zealand office for £2000, and is damaged to the extent of £600. Lamb's stock is insured in the New Zealand office for £3000, and is all damaged.

The Marquis Tseng states that France will require a force of upwards of 40,000 troops to overcome the China, Annam, and Tonquin forces combined.

At a public meeting held in London, Major Fergusson strongly urged State aid to emigration to the Australian Colonies.

THURSDAY.

The *Otago Daily Times* says:—"At the meeting of the Irish National Convention in Melbourne, a telegram was received from Mr. Parnell wishing success. Dr. O' Dogherty was elected president. A long series of resolutions were passed deploring the present condition of Ireland, and pledging the Convention to assist in trying to ameliorate it; adopting a petition to the Imperial Government in favour of local government in Ireland; deploring the crimes which stained the recent history of Ireland, and declaring the coercive policy to be a fruitful source of disorder and crime. The next Convention is fixed to be held in Sydney next year.

A violent thunder storm occurred at Invercargill yesterday afternoon. A man named Crisp was killed by lightning at the Elles-road station, and it is reported that two children named Fraser at the Gap road station suffered a like fate.

Mr. Healy, M.P., speaking at Limerick, insisted on the abolition of landlordism.

Proclamations have been issued by the Irish Executive prohibiting the intended meeting of the Irish National League and Orangemen in Fermanagh.

The Otago Land Board passed a resolution last week cancelling the licenses at Silver Peak issued to Messrs. Borthwick, Hertslett, Watson, W. and C. Higgins, and Francis, together with all the deposit moneys paid by them. Mr. Stout, who proposed the resolution, explained the situation very clearly and fully, and argued that the land taken up by the selectors in question must eventually become the freehold property respectively of Messrs. Gellibrand and Co. and Orbell, as it would be impossible for the licensees to pay the amount of debt incurred by them.—An appeal against the decision of the Board will probably be made to the Supreme Court, and this probability prevents us from making any comments on the case. The conduct of Messrs. Clark and Green in leaving the meeting before Mr. Stout had concluded his speech, and without supporting or opposing the motion, has been much remarked on.

It is to be hoped that the appointment, which is announced, of Mr. James Ashcroft to be official assignee under the new Bankruptcy Act for Otago and Southland may be taken as an earnest of the Government's sincere determination to stamp out the dummy system, with exposure of which the name of the gentleman in question is so creditably associated,—and indeed to discover and put down

any other system of dishonest trickery that may be invented instead by a very ingenious class of people.

It is announced that the bust of Garibaldi ordered for the Christ-church Museum has arrived from Italy.—Would it not be well to form a gallery illustrative of evolution for its reception?—beginning with a morsel of preserved protoplasm, going through all the reptiles and apes, and ending with this representation of the perfectly developed hero. We do not know, besides, how good society in Christ-church could bring itself to show veneration and worship to the image of a man without a pedigree.

At the meeting of the Otago Land Board on Wednesday, Messrs. Clark and Green opposed the confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting, and which contained the resolution of cancellation. Their contention was that before they had quitted the meeting a motion against cancellation had been carried, and that, supposing all to have been settled, they left to avoid listening to a long speech that Mr. Stout insisted upon reading. Mr. Green persisted in declaring that a vote had been given, and affirmed that otherwise he would have "stopped a week rather than be beaten by a man like Mr. Stout on a motion of that sort." Notwithstanding the opposition made by the gentlemen referred to, the minutes were confirmed. On the application of Mr. Denniston, however, it was decided to grant a rehearing of the cases of Borthwick and Hertslett on the grounds that there had been a misunderstanding in the matter.

The weather on Friday last was most unfavourable for the Catholic picnic at Purakanui, the children nevertheless mustered in force from St. Joseph's and the Christian Brothers' schools, Dunedin, St. Patrick's school South Dunedin, and the Port Chalmers Catholic school. The programme of sports was carried out so far as it was found possible; and St. Cecilia's and St. Patrick's choirs sang some pretty choruses in a highly creditable manner. St. Patrick's Brass Band also performed their part with good effect. His Lordship the Bishop and the Rev. clergy of the Dunedin and Port Chalmers missions were present for the greater part of the day. On the whole the young people managed to enjoy themselves fairly although owing to the constant rain, they did so under difficulties.

Has Mr. Archibald Forbes correctly gauged the loyalty to the Empire of these Colonies? It seems he has published in one of the London periodicals his opinion that so soon as ever the Colonies have been harassed, as he says they are sure to be, by foreign cruisers during a European war, they will protect themselves by separation. And this, notwithstanding the outcry made by our Press against all sympathy with Ireland, as tending to the dismemberment of the Empire. Yet even were the Irish movement aimed at dismembering the Empire in order to secure the welfare of Ireland what would it include more than Mr. Forbes, who no doubt has had an ample opportunity of judging, pronounces to be in the minds of the colonists. The Colonies, he says, would save themselves by the dismemberment of the Empire,—and yet they denounce the danger of dismemberment, and give it as a sufficient reason for Ireland's being required to suffer from such ills as no hostile cruisers could inflict upon themselves. Mr. Forbes is mistaken, then, or else the loyalty of our colonists is a sham, and their outcry against the Irish cause a reckless display of falsehood. If they are not very loyal, in fact, they are grossly hypocritical.

The Melbourne correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times* referring to the Melbourne schools scandal speaks as follows:—"In the meantime letters appear in the papers written by correspondents who do not sign their names, giving instances which they think need investigation. Nothing, however, of a very definite character is stated, but parents are rendered uneasy, and a feeling injurious to the State schools is aroused. The dangers to which attention is directed are inherent in the mixed school principle, and can be avoided only by the strictest supervision on the part of teachers and parents. In some of the State schools in the city the evil of pernicious example is likely to be increased by the fact that children are admitted whose homes are in the most vicious localities, and who are surrounded by a constant atmosphere which cannot have otherwise than a deteriorating effect." This paragraph confirms an assertion made by us last week to the effect that, even apart from all questions of religion, the mixed State schools were dangerous to the morals of children, and such as they could not with any degree of safety frequent.

The *Washington Star* is accountable for the following:—"Victor Hugo told an American visitor recently that he regarded Edgar A. Poe as 'the prince of American poets.' He thinks Mr. Whittier 'a womanly versifier,' Mr. Lowell a 'smart chatterer,' and Oliver Wendell Holmes 'afflictively laughable.'" As it is, nevertheless, known that Victor Hugo, even during his long residence in Jersey, refused to learn one word of English, notwithstanding his professions of universal brotherhood, it is difficult to understand how he is qualified to pass any judgment on the American poets. He surely does not base his criticism on translations. It is, moreover, very foreign to Victor Hugo's habit to speak adversely of any poem of any kind. M. Maxime du Camp tells us his custom has been to praise immoderately any verses sent to him. "I do not know, sir," he is wont to reply, "whether I am a poet, but I am sure that you are,"—and thus, adds M. du Camp, he makes sure of *claqueurs* for his next play.

Messrs. J. A. Park and Co. will sell by auction to-morrow, sections in the Belleknoves Estates, one of the finest situations in the suburbs of Dunedin.

Mr. George Bodley's Star Café Restaurant, Moray Place, Dunedin, offers extremely comfortable accommodation to boarders in the very centre of the city.

Messrs. J. A. Allen and Co. are now manufacturing, at their establishment, Maclaggan street, Dunedin, aerated water and cordials of unrivalled qualities.

Messrs. Begg & Co., Princes street, Dunedin, have opened a circulating musical library, which will be found of the utmost convenience by all musicians.

Mr. I. Martin, Princes street, Dunedin, has received a superior stock of tailoring goods. They will be found of the finest qualities, and suitable to the approaching season.