

covered in the bed of the Kowarau river near Cromwell and very heavy finds are reported, one dredge having a remarkably good return; a rush has set in.

SATURDAY, JULY 24.

The Prince of Wales yesterday opened the National Gallery of British Art erected by Mr. Henry Tait which contains his collection of pictures presented to the nation. The New Zealand contingent of troops are about to quit London on their return to the Colony, they were entertained at Hatfield House. Miners who have returned from the new gold-field in British Columbia state that the gold extends for 300 miles along the river Yukon, the district is described as the most desolate mining camp in the world. Mr. Seddon sails on his return to New Zealand *via* Brindisi, on the 1st August. The steamer *Si Hong Ann* foundered in the Straits of Malacca, one hundred and ten persons were drowned. Kauri timber is being shipped from Kaipara to South Africa. The Minister for Railways has decided to make a reduction in the freights of certain articles from October 1st, the most important of which is frozen meat and that charged on goods between Lyttelton and Christchurch.

MONDAY, JULY 26.

In the House of Lords the Marquis of Salisbury said that while he was willing to inquire into the working of the Irish Land Act he declined to upset it. At the London wool sales competition was strong and general, prices are unchanged. At the Bisley shooting competition several New Zealanders won money prizes. One hundred and ninety-five engineering firms in London employing 15,500 hands have granted the demand for an eight hours day. According to the Minister for Education there are about 30,000 children of the school age in Victoria who are growing up without education. A returned digger from the Klondike rush (British Columbia) states that 200 died of starvation on the fields during the last three years. As a result of the rich find by the Electric No 2 dredge near Cromwell, a rush has set in, and every inch of the Kowarau River has been pegged off. Sharp shocks of earthquake were felt throughout Hawkes Bay on Saturday, notably at Napier, Waipawa and Woodville.

TUESDAY, JULY 27.

The New Zealand Shipping Company has ordered two large steamers for the produce trade. Wilson Barrett, the famous actor, sails for Australia in January next; he has been guaranteed £10,000 for 100 performances. President McKinley has given his assent to the new American Tariff Bill which comes into operation immediately. The Czar and Czarina will officially welcome the Emperor and Empress of Germany on their visit to Cronstadt on August 7. Five thousand miners are reported to be starving at Johannesburg owing to the closing of the mines. Very rich quartz has been found near Gundagai, New South Wales; a sample of stone from a pocket was estimated to contain £2,000 worth of gold. Four men who were arrested in connection with the Orange procession riots in Melbourne were fined in sums ranging from £5 to £1. It is announced by Mr. Seddon that as the result of inquiries the shipping companies trading to New Zealand intend to reduce the dairy produce freights. The Minister for Railways has gone to Hawke's Bay to inspect the line affected by the late flood. Mining prospects looking bright in Central Otago; great activity at Lawrence, Alexandra and Cromwell.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28.

It is reported from Madagascar that General Gallieni, the French President has expelled an English missionary named Hall, alleging that he incited the Hovas to rebel against the French. In the House of Commons Mr. Chamberlain stated that urgent disputes between Great Britain and the Transvaal had been removed. It is feared that a rupture is likely to occur between the United States and Japan if the former annex Hawaii. Wheat quotations have advanced 1s during the week. Heavy rains have fallen in New South Wales, the crop prospects are assured. A gallant rescue is reported from Kalgornie, a box of dynamite ignited down a shaft nearly suffocating the miners below, several others from above descended 150 ft. and rescued them; the rescuers are in a bad state from the effects of the fumes. The examination into the affairs of the J. G. Ward Farmers' Association was concluded yesterday. The New Zealand football team are meeting with great success in Australia.

BOOK NOTICES.

MESSRS. LOUIS GILLIE AND CO., 75 Liverpool street, Sydney, have sent us the following works:—

The Aborigines of Australia their origin, customs, language. By Roderick Flanagan. Neatly bound in cloth, price 1s; post free, 1s 3d.

The aborigines of Australia, like our own Maoris, have been for years a rapidly disappearing race, and are now reduced to a comparative handful. It must be admitted, however, that the natural intelligence of the aboriginal natives is by no means of a despicable order, and they can boast of not a few qualities deserving of more careful development than they have yet received at the hands of the white man. Such, at least, is the impression conveyed by a perusal of Mr. Flanagan's book. The author deals, not only with the origin and language of the natives, but also with their habits, modes of life, and characteristic racial qualities, and his account of the race is as interesting as it is complete. There is still a wide difference of opinion as to what particular branch of the human family the Australian aboriginal belongs. Mr. Flanagan's view is that at some period "in the dark backward and ahym of time" these people possessed at least a few germs of civilisation, which it is possible to conceive as having been soon lost under the conditions which the struggle for existence imposed on them in their new home. The book is written in a clear and readable style, and contains a great

fund of interesting information about the primitive inhabitants of Australia. The following extract, describing the construction and properties of the boomerang, may not be uninteresting to some of our young readers:—"The boomerang may be formed of any tough, heavy piece of wood, and is about three-eighths of an inch thick in the middle, gradually tapering off towards the extremities, and rounded on each side from the centre until brought to an edge. Construction:—Let A B E be the arc of a circle; the chord A D E equals 18 inches; the perpendicular, B D equals 17 inches; the width, B C 3 inches. Thus constructed, the centre of gravity will fall exactly on the edge of its concave surface at C. When used as an offensive weapon it is usually thrown with the convex side outwards, but when intended to return it is held in the reverse position, although it will probably act in either position if properly managed."

Bible History; containing the most remarkable events of the Old and New Testament, prepared for the use of Catholic Schools. Strong boards, cloth back. Price, 1s. Post free, 1s 3d.

This is a perfect little book of its kind. Its object is to give a comprehensive account of the events recorded in the Old and New Testaments in a form that will be interesting to children, and it certainly fulfils its object. It is as full and complete as a history and as interesting and attractive as a story-book. For the convenience of teachers the matter has been divided into paragraphs, and questions have been added to aid the pupil. A summary of the contents and a list of the patriarchs will also be found a valuable addition. The chapters are short and pithy, and the work is embellished with numerous illustrations, which are far above the pictures generally found in books of the kind. We have no hesitation in most warmly recommending this little work; in point of print, paper, illustrations, cheapness and general excellence it is all that the most exacting teacher could desire.

A Guide to Confession and First Communion. By Rev. Father Woods. Price, 2d. Post free, 3d.

This is a very simple but very practical help to a good Confession and a worthy Communion. Though intended primarily for children it will be found useful and helpful to the faithful of all ages. In addition to directions and advice as to Confession and Communion it contains also a beautiful method of assisting at Mass. The little work is now in its fifteenth thousand, which shows that its value and usefulness have been very generally recognised.

INTERCOLONIAL NEWS.

THE foundation stone of the new Cathedral, Wattle Square, city of Bendigo, was laid on Friday, June 24, by Bishop Reville in the presence of a large gathering of prominent citizens and clergy. The funds for the erection of the magnificently designed building, which is to be known as the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, are secured from the magnificent bequest by the late Rev. Dr. Backhaus. Prior to the ceremony, a special service was held at St. Kilian's Pro-Cathedral, where pontifical High Mass was celebrated by Dr. Reville, and Gounod's Mass of the Sacred Heart was sung by the choir. Dr. Reville, in laying the stone, was presented with a handsome silver trowel, and also received an illuminated address from the prefects of the Holy Family and promoters of the Sacred Heart, which bore reference to the auspicious occasion. In the cavity in the stone was placed a silver casket, appropriately inscribed, and containing valuable mementos of the occasion. At the conclusion of the ceremony, in returning thanks for the presents, Bishop Reville said that the new cathedral would supply a long-felt want, and would be a noble monument to the old pioneer of the Catholic religion who had by his generosity rendered such a ceremony possible. That day they were doubly blessed, for his Holiness the Pope had forwarded a cablegram conveying his blessing on the proceedings, and they had received the blessing of God in the way of abundant rain for the refreshment of the earth. Messrs Reed, Smart and Tappin are the architects for the building, and the first contract is in the hands of Messrs Cochrane and Sons.

His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne (says the Melbourne correspondent of the *Monitor*) intends to visit Rome early next year. Dr. Carr has not been to the Eternal City since he came to Victoria. Catholics throughout this country will be glad that his Grace will have a respite from his heavy and unceasing labours. The years of his administration have been momentous ones; he saw the development and the collapse of the great Melbourne boom, and the unparalleled depression which followed. Under his charge the Cathedral of St. Patrick grew to its present noble proportions, and before his Grace leaves for Rome he will have the honour and happiness of consecrating and formally opening the building for public worship. An insolent and aggressive Protestantism has caused to remember Dr. Carr's sojourn in Melbourne; throughout Victoria, not to say Australia, his name has become "familiar as a household word." His brilliant and masterly expositions of Catholic doctrine, and his invincible defence of the Church's dogmas against all critics have made Catholicism respected in Victoria. They have silenced completely the aggressors, who have a discreet fear that even worse may befall them, if they venture out again. The bitterness of the "know-nothing" crowd may have been accentuated by defeat, but the liberal-minded Protestant who would rather think good than evil of his neighbour, welcomed the dispelling of false notions and ancient myths, and the disproof of wretched calumnies. It is said by some who could not possibly know anything about it that his Grace is to be made a Cardinal. I give the information for what it is worth. If the hat were conferred Victorian Catholics would be overjoyed; for the Archbishop is universally and deservedly loved by his flock.

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