

Committee with a President, Treasurer, and Secretary, whose duty it would be to organise various entertainments for raising money. Mrs Broad, who was proposed as President, declined on the ground that her domestic duties would prevent her from attending the meetings regularly, and Mrs G. A. Macquarie was then, unanimously elected and kindly consented to act as President. Mrs Broad agreed to act as Hon. Treasurer, and Miss McGee as Hon. Secretary. The election of a working committee was left over until the next meeting. It was resolved, however, to take steps at once to have a Christmas Tree on an unusually grand scale, and a Cake Show in some large hall, as soon as possible. It was stated that the young men of the congregation would have a committee of their own and intended getting up concerts and probably an Art Union.

THE Wellington correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times* gives us the following sinister paragraph:—"A peculiar question is likely to be tabled shortly in the House. A certain section of the members has been actively engaged to-day in endeavouring to find some members outside that circle who will consent to father the query in order that it may not seem too pointed. The question is as to the age, length of service, and religion of the officers in a particular department who have respectively been dismissed and retained, the object being to show that all officers belonging to a certain religious body have been retained in the service, while those selected for dismissal were in every case outside this favoured sect. A private meeting of members holding particular religious views was held this morning, when it was decided that notice should be given of a question to the effect stated above, with the view of eliciting and exposing the facts as they were alleged to be. Considerable difficulty has been experienced, however, in finding a member willing to 'bell the cat' in this matter, and as the promoters of the movement are reluctant to appear in it personally lest they should seem to be actuated by sectarian prejudices, it is not unlikely that the attempt to drag the facts into daylight may fail, for the simple reason that nobody relishes the unpleasant and somewhat invidious task of moving in the matter. Regret is expressed that Mr Goldie is not here, as he would probably have taken up the question with the utmost zest." Of course there is only one religion in the colony to which this paragraph can apply. "Jew, Turk and Infidel may enter here but not a Papist." Can it be possible that the hue and cry raised by a "Justice of the Peace" and the rest of the pack in the correspondence columns of the *Dunedin Star* has really obtained attention? If so troubled times lie before the Catholics of the colony, and it is hard to say where the matter may end. Nothing will satisfy the mob alluded to short, for instance, of the gallows and ripping knives of her Satanic Majesty Queen Bees. Such agitations as that referred to, however, are generally got up in favour of men not worth their salt as the saying is, and in whose favour nothing rational can be advanced.

THE result of the Baccarat case appears to have been rather fortunate for the man who lost it. Sir William Gordon Cumming, although cashiered from the army, has been married upon the spot by a most devoted, beautiful, and wealthy young lady, and has been accorded an enthusiastic reception by the tenants on his ancestral estate in Scotland. And, by the way, the young lady being wealthy, is it not a pity she did not marry Sir William some little time before, at least, if it be true that he did cheat at cards, and that he did so because of pecuniary embarrassment. There is, however, some doubt on the subject of which we would give Sir William Gordon Cumming the full benefit. It is the unhappy Prince of Wales, who has come in for the heaviest share of blame. The whole country seems to have been turned loose against him, and both in Press and pulpit his misdoing is severely denounced. As it becomes a loyal subject, we are glad to see that Her Majesty the Queen does not permit the disgrace of her son and heir to prey upon her mind, as it might be feared she would. It is announced, for example, that she is about to attend publicly to hear Madame Melba sing in opera. Under the circumstances the event must be taken as significant.

THE Queensland shearers' strike has come to an end, another warning to men to look before they leap. A good deal now depends on how the pastoralists make use of their victory. The opportunity offers of effecting a lasting settlement, if they have the wisdom to avail themselves of it. On the other hand the world of labour is again admonished, by the failure of such partial efforts, of the necessity for general combination, and they at least will not fail to profit by the lesson. The victors, therefore, need not be over jubilant.

IN a note to a paper on English Freemasonry recently published by him, and which we quote elsewhere, the Rev. Father Clarke, S.J., writes as follows:—"The following is the oath taken by the Apprentice at his initiation. I can vouch for its substantial but not its verbal accuracy. 'I swear in the Name of the Supreme Architect of all worlds, never to reveal the secrets, the signs, the grips, the passwords, the doctrines, or the customs of the Freemasons, and to preserve with respect to them an eternal silence. I promise and swear

to God never to betray any of them either by writing, by word, or gesture; never to cause them to be written, lithographed, or printed never to make public anything of that which has now been confided to me, or of that which shall be confided to me in the future. I pledge myself to this and submit myself to the following penalties if I fail in keeping my word: They may burn my lips with a red hot iron, they may cut off my hand, they may pluck out my tongue, they may cut my throat, they may hang up my dead body in a lodge during the admission of a new Brother as a scourge for my faithlessness and as a terrible warning to others; then they may burn it and cast its ashes to the winds, to the end that there may not remain a single trace of the memory of my treason. So help me God. Amen.'"

THE Financial statement was delivered by the Hon. J. Ballance on Tuesday evening. A chief point, however, is that there is a surplus of £143,965, from last year, that estimated for the current year being £257,660. The report reaches us only as we go to press. The estimated expenditure for the year amounts to £4,155,105. The surplus will be applied in part to establishing a penny post, aiding settlement of the lands, and paying off a portion of the deficit of 1888. Another point of interest in the Statement is the proposal to substitute for the property tax a graduated land and income tax.

MR DE COBAIN's constituents purpose offering strong opposition to his expulsion from the House of Commons." Well, it would be a pity to deprive them of a congenial representative, if only the decent Members of the House could at all manage to stomach his company.

THE *South Australian Register* of June 2 gives us the following particulars respecting the death of a lady who, a few years ago, was resident for a short time, in Dunedin:—"It was considered unnecessary to hold an inquest upon the body of Mrs Mary Alice L'Estrange, who died suddenly at her apartments, Edinburgh House, Victoria-square, at about 11 o'clock on Friday morning last, her medical attendant, Dr. J. A. G. Hamilton, having certified that the cause of death was disease of the heart. With a few weeks intermission Mrs L'Estrange had resided in Adelaide for about ten months, and was a highly educated and accomplished lady, much esteemed by the many friends who had the privilege of her acquaintance."

THE Paris correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs: The Irish Fund in Paris, as ascertained in connection with the recent correspondence between Mr Parnell and Mr McCarthy, is £40,000. It was £48,000 but Mr O'Brien drew £8,000 for the Relief Committee.

THERE is a meeting of Greek with Greek between Sir Robert Stout and the *Otago Daily Times*. The *Times*, says Sir Robert Stout is as much a boated aristocrat and he himself is, because he owns shares in the New Zealand Pine Company. Sir Robert replies that the leader writer of the *Times* is everything he ought not to be, and threatens him with dire exposure. Sir Robert further declares that, in taking the timber off the land the Company is acting the part of a public benefactor, and, until the season arrives for an even distribution of goods, Sir Robert may as well be left to enjoy his property in peace. We can understand that he loathes the existing condition of things which obliges him to do so; but the circumstances of the times compel him to submit to it. Just as, for instance, he declares he must do as he loathes, if the *Daily Times* compels him by interfering any further with his private concerns. Sir Robert characteristically calls on the community to frown down his intention. The *Times* meanwhile evidently does not like Sir Robert Stout's threat to invade his privacy in revenge and expose the leader writer. He quotes in deprecation the ethics of journalism which, he says, does not permit anything of the kind. The ethics of journalism, nevertheless, varies. In America, for example, we find journalists addressing one another by name—and sometimes a great deal depends on the identity of the writer. Sir Robert and the *Times*, however, appear tolerably well matched, and it cannot fail to be amusing to see the fight between them fought out.

Messrs. Malcolm and Grigg, George street, Dunedin, are the New Zealand agents for Badam's microbe killer, which is said to surpass by far that of the famous Dr. Koch.

Messrs F. Howell and Co.'s action in securing a showroom in a central position (next City Hotel, Princes street, Dunedin) would have been justifiable had it been taken merely to exhibit their English Model Piano. The term "English model" signifies a class of piano specially manufactured by their firm for the purpose of supplying the local demand for a first class instrument at a reasonable price; and as it combines all the most recent patents and improvements contained in European-made instruments, it can honestly be compared with the best English and German pianos selling at from 50 guineas upwards. The price of the English Model is only 40 guineas, and intending purchasers are invited to inspect and criticise the tone and touch, which are simply exquisite. This piano is guaranteed for six years, and to judge from the flattering testimonials will become the favourite instrument throughout Otago. Easy terms of purchase arranged.