

At the gathering of veterans in Wellington on Saturday our genial weather prophet (says the *Post*) appeared as a commander of the Royal Navy, with three Crimean medals; a well-known figure in the colonial museum was a captain in the 14th Regiment; Dr. Grace was recognised by an old man who had fought against the Maoris as the medical man who had taken out 'that bullet the beggars gave him'; Sir George Whitmore was reminded by one greybeard that he had scouted for him in the Urewera country, by another that he was his bugler, by another that he had carried despatches for him, and yet by another with the exclamation: 'Oh, by George, sir, but you used to drive us along in them days!' Then it came as a surprise to learn that some of the most peaceful of acquaintances about town were men with military pasts. Inspector Pender, for instance, carried despatches through the Valley of Death the day after the 'noble Six Hundred' made their famous charge, and was one of the few Britishers who were present at the battle of Tchernaya (Crimea), fought by Sardinians and French against the Russians. There was also John O'Donnell, of New Plymouth, who wore the plain cross which he won in England as far back as 1854 for having been for two years the best shot in the 55th Regiment. He went through the Crimea, and was also 12 years in India.

PRIOR to his departure from Balclutha for Dunedin Mr. John Dunne, an old and highly-respected resident, was entertained at a farewell dinner. The function took place in McKenzie's Hall, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. The guest of the evening (says the *Clutha Leader*) had not only been a familiar figure in our midst, but had been intimately associated with the public and private life of the town for half a life-time. The assemblage was representative of all parts of the district. Several persons who were unable to attend sent letters of apology. In proposing the toast of the evening, the Mayor, who presided, delivered a fitting and deserved tribute to the worth of his old friend Mr. Dunne. He spoke of him as a private citizen and as a public man, and bore testimony to his large-hearted hospitality and kind-heartedness on the one hand, and his zeal and impartiality and far-sightedness on the other. Not that their guest was a paragon of perfection for he made mistakes like the rest of them, but let them be pointed out to him and he would be the first to acknowledge them. His loss to the borough would be keenly felt, and, while that might be the gain of some other place, he hoped his absence would be temporary. In replying to the complimentary speech of the Mayor and the eulogistic remarks of other speakers, Mr. Dunne frankly confessed that was one of the many pleasant nights he had spent in Balclutha. He accepted the function as a public demonstration that he had won their esteem and regard. The kindly expressions of the evening he and his family could never forget. Though he was going to Dunedin he was not going into business, and his absence would be only temporary—remarks which were greeted with applause, which were renewed when he said he had no intention of resigning his office as a borough councillor till the end of his term, when he would probably stand for Mayor. A number of other toasts were honored in the course of the evening.

THE TROUBLE IN CHINA.

THERE has been little change in the condition of affairs in China during the past week. It is reported that the Emperor has appointed Li Hung Chang and three others to negotiate for peace. The whereabouts of the Dowager-Empress is not very certain, and her opinion on these appointments would be of interest at the present time. If the Emperor is the nonentity he is reported to be, the terms which his agents might make with the representatives of the Powers would probably be repudiated by the Dowager-Empress and her party. The United States Special Commissioner and the German Minister have informed Li Hung Chang that it was not possible to discuss the terms of settlement if the question of punishing the Dowager-Empress and her advisers were excluded. Under these circumstances that strong-minded lady and her friends will deem it wise to keep out of the reach of the Powers for some time. The position is a very delicate one, and will have to be dealt with in the most careful manner so as to avoid international complications.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Ex-President Kruger arrived at Delagoa Bay last week, and from thence will leave immediately for Europe. It is said that the departure of Mr. Kruger has disheartened the Boers, and there is every prospect that there will be a general surrender in a very short time.

Lord Roberts has issued a proclamation. He states that Messrs Kruger and Rietz, with the archives, have reached Delagoa, intending to sail for Europe. Mr. Kruger has resigned the Presidency, severing his official connection with the Transvaal. His desertion of the Boer cause is a proof of the hopelessness of the struggle. Fifteen thousand Boers are now held prisoners, not one of whom will be released until all in the field surrender unconditionally.

The Commander-in-Chief announces that intervention must be regarded as impossible, that the Empire is determined to complete the task undertaken, and that any lingering doubt on this point that the Boers may hold must be dispelled by the permanent manner in which the Republics have been occupied and annexed. He intends to vigorously suppress guerilla warfare by every means which the customs of war may prescribe. He points out that the measures he may be required to take will prove ruinous to the country, entailing endless suffering.

The following is the New Zealand casualty list:—Killed in action Private Bradford, Private Byrne, Sergeant Gourley, Private

J. Connell, Private H. J. Booth (of the first contingent), Private L. E. Smith (second contingent), Captain Harvey and Private S. Macdougall (fourth contingent), Lieutenant Bradburn (third contingent). Died from enteric fever: J. M. Pason, H. Burroughs, J. Jenks, J. A. Hempton, R. W. Morris, L. M. Tarrant, T. G. Anderson, J. Wyllie, J. H. A. Brock, M. McKinney, D. F. McIntosh, W. J. Berry, R. McIntyre, T. L. Scott, J. F. H. Saxon, W. Anderson, T. W. Poole, C. H. Moeller, W. J. Goodland, K. Garrie, C. Wiggins, C. B. Tosswill, C. H. Enderby, A. M. Reid, F. Bourn, R. H. B. Upton, W. C. Colvin, and F. Broome. Besides these a large number, perhaps 60, have been invalided home.

THE AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC CONGRESS.

THE Catholic Congress in Sydney devoted Thursday of last week to a number of papers dealing with education, including one by his Grace Archbishop Redwood on religion as an essential feature of primary education.

The Evangelical Alliance of Sydney issued a protest against the Governor of New South Wales attending in his official capacity High Mass at the dedication of St. Mary's Cathedral. In doing so and listening to Archbishop Redwood's attack on Protestantism, (which, by the way, he never made) his Excellency did what the Queen by her Coronation Oath is precluded from doing. Very probably, but the Governor of any of these colonies has a perfect right to attend any religious service he pleases. It was only the other day that a Catholic Governor left Tasmania, after spending some years there. It is even said that the Prince of Wales is not above attending Catholic services when staying on the Continent. The Governor very likely received the protest of the Alliance with the consideration which it deserved.

A paper prepared by Mr. Mulhall, the well known statistician, was read at the Congress. It showed that of 1459 millions of people in the world at the end of 1898, 501,600,000 were Christians, made up as follows:—Roman Catholics, 240,000,000; Protestants, 163,300,000; Greeks, 98,300,000. As to the interesting question, which phase of Christianity, Roman Catholic or Protestant, increases numerically faster, there was no doubt the principal Protestant nations advanced with great strides, while Catholic countries show little or no increase yearly, but, making a general survey of Christendom, it would be found the figures were pretty equal.

At the concluding sitting of the Congress Archbishop Redwood stated that it was intended to hold a similar gathering every three years.

On Saturday a *Requiem* High Mass was said in St. Mary's Cathedral for those who had suffered death in China.

OBITUARY.

MRS. ANN RYAN, NELSON.

I regret to record the death, at the Nelson Convent, of Mrs. Ann Ryan (writes a correspondent), at the age of 68 years. The deceased had been for many years matron of the infant portion of the orphanage in charge of the Sisters of the Missions, and was one of the oldest settlers in Nelson, having arrived here with her parents in the ship *Martha Ridgway*, in 1842. She had always enjoyed good health up to a year ago, when it began to fail, but she persisted in remaining at her post until about three months ago. During her illness she was carefully and lovingly nursed by the Sisters of the Convent, who did all in their power to alleviate her sufferings. During her illness she received the last Sacraments and was quite prepared for her end. Her death was a singularly peaceful one, taking place on Sunday, August 26. Her brother, sister, and her eldest daughter (Mrs. E. C. Young, of Christchurch), together with several Sisters, were with her to the last. Her remains were removed to the church on Tuesday morning, and the funeral took place from there at 10 o'clock on the same day. The Rev. Father George Mahoney officiated both at the church and the grave. The funeral was attended by many relatives and friends, a number of the Sisters, and all of the girls from the Convent Schools, who marched in procession to the cemetery. The coffin was covered with beautiful wreaths and crosses, sent by sympathising friends. Deceased will be much missed by very many, for she was of a most kindly and charitable disposition. One of her daughters is Mother St. Philomena, of the Christchurch Convent.—*R.I.P.*

Wanted, about 50 clerks to help read testimonials *re* Tussicura. Sole manufacturer, S. J. Evans, 2s 6d.—*.*

A shipment of the beautiful Sterling Bicycles—chain, chainless, and free wheels—has just been received. They are more beautiful, if possible, than ever. Intending purchasers of bicycles should certainly see the Sterlings before deciding on any other. Morrow, Bassett and Co., Christchurch, Ashburton, and Dunedin, sole agents.—*.*

Evening Star, June 22, 1889, says:—"Messrs W. Gawne and Co. of George Street, have sent us a sample of Worcestershire Sauce manufactured by them, which is in no respect inferior to the imported article, so long celebrated for flavouring sauces and as an agreeable addition to grills, fish, and steaks. We can safely recommend it as a valuable addition to our rapidly developing local manufactures. The bottles are neatly labelled and ornamental, not only for home use, but for exportation; and we hope the manufacturers will realise a demand equal to the merits of the savoury article they have produced."—*.*

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