

Commercial.

THE SHAREMARKET.

The following are the Thames Stock and Mining Association's quotations from 6.45 p.m. 17th October to 12 o'clock noon October 19th, 1874:—

Table with columns: COMPANY, SALES, SELLERS, BUYERS. Lists various companies like Caledonian, Old Whau, Cure, Watchman, Bright Smile, City of London, Bird-in-Hand.

POST OFFICE NOTICES.

For Auckland, per p.s. Golden Crown, to-morrow, at 2.30 p.m. For Southern Provinces, per p.s. Taranaki, to-morrow, at 2.30 p.m.

EDMUND COOK, Postmaster. Post Office, Mary-street. October 19, 1874

TELEGRAPH NOTICE.

The Steamer Otage is expected to leave Hokitika at 2 a.m. on Wednesday, the 21st instant. Telegrams for the Australian Colonies or Europe (via Java Cable) will be received at this office for transmission to Melbourne up till noon of the 21st inst.

JOHN BULL, Officer in Charge. Telegraph Office, October 19th, 1874.

NEW PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL

PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO BUILDERS AND OTHERS.

TENDERS will shortly be invited for the ERECTION of a NEW PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL at Auckland.

Working Plans and Specifications will be ready for inspection about a month from this date.

J. WILLIAMSON, Superintendent, Chairman of Public Buildings Commissioners.

Superintendent's Office, Auckland, 15th October, 1874.

NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND.

THAMES AGENCY.

UNDER Policies of the NATIONAL insurers have the best security against loss or damage by fire. The Capital of the Company is ONE MILLION STERLING, and the whole of the profits are invested in the Colony for the benefit of Insurers.

That the Company enjoys the confidence of the public is shown by the marked success of its first half-year's operations.

Lowest rates charged. Claims PROMPTLY and LIBERALLY met. 67111 WILLIAM DAVIES, Agent.

LAIRD—On the 14th inst., at Cambridge, the wife of Mr. Wm. Laird, of a daughter.

The Evening Star.

PUBLISHED DAILY AT FOUR O'CLOCK P.M.

Recurrent.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1874.

THE only charge on the sheet in the Resident Magistrate's Court this morning was against an unfortunate inebriate, who was dealt with in the customary manner.

We (Herald) are glad to learn that T. Russell, Esq., may be expected to return to Auckland per s.s. Hero, due in Auckland from Sydney on the 22nd.

THE fortune of the late Baron Anselmi de Rotschild is estimated, according to "Galignani," at more than a thousand millions of francs, equal to £40,000,000 sterling.

THE manager of the Imperial Crown has come upon what is apparently a large reef in the cross-cut, running from Tooke's towards the flat. The reef is full of mounds, and minerals indicative of the proximity of gold.

A MEETING of the members of the Thames Choral Society is called for this evening, to be held at the Academy of Music. It has not yet been decided that the society is to repeat the concert given lately, and we understand that this point will be determined upon to-night.

DURING the passage (a rough one) of the Mania from Auckland to the Thames on Saturday a valuable draught horse, the property of Mr. Henry Rawden was lost overboard. It is thought that the horse swam ashore on Chamberlain's Island. It is to be hoped that this is the case, since the loss of the animal would be a great loss to Mr. Rawden, who values the horse at over £60.

THE murder of the Maori woman named Henrietta Te Puni at Orakei has startled the Maories in that settlement, and the culprit is likely to receive European justice, as will be seen by a reference to our telegraphic columns, where an account of the affair is given. The murderer would appear to have entertained for his unfortunate victim an attachment which was unreturned, and repeated denials to his suit culminated in her death. It is to be hoped that the murderer will meet with his just deserts.

THE native owners of land at Parawai within the Highway District, who refused at one time to pay the rates and were to be sued for them, have, through the intercession of Mr. Mackay, arranged to meet the members of the Board this afternoon in the school-room, Parawai. We believe such explanation will be made to the natives, who up to the present, cannot see why they should be called upon to pay rates, as will lead them to pay their portion towards the expenses of the District Board. This difference of opinion has been the cause of the objection of the natives to allowing the cutting proposed through the hill leading to the Upper Kauaeranga.

THERE appears no certainty of the next Colonial prize firing being held at the Thames yet, for we understand the Government have been making enquiries at New Plymouth of a similar character to those forwarded to Major Cooper (referred to by us in a previous issue). The chances are, however, in favor of the Thames, should no native or private difficulty come in the way. At present the range recommended by Major Cooper is the delta between the Thames River and Kauaeranga Creek, firing into the hill. The locality, with little expense, could be made very suitable both for firing and camping purposes. The claims of the Thames are, certainly, as far as existing circumstances go, much greater than Taranaki: for, while the former has four Volunteer Companies, averaging 60 men each—one Naval Company about 120, two Cadet Corps say 30 each: making 420, with a civil population of about 10,000—Taranaki has one Volunteer Company about 30 strong and one Cavalry Corps about the same strength—their militia we believe is about being disbanded. Their civilian population totals about 2000.

IN MEMORIAM.

It is with extreme regret that we notice the death of the Rev. Mr. Stewart Wilson, who took leave of this world at his residence, Parawai, yesterday. The rev. gentleman was well known, and, where known, liked and respected; for, to an affable and gentlemanly bearing he added a true earnestness in the good work which he had set out on life's journey to perform that begot for him esteem and admiration. The gap which Mr. Wilson's sudden death has left in our community will be the more felt because he has left the mark of his labors behind. He was a most enthusiastic supporter of total abstinence, and spent much of his time and energy in endeavoring to spread its principles, of the goodness and benefit of which he himself held so firm a conviction. As a preacher the deceased was deservedly liked, because his sincerity was apparent. Mr. Wilson's family on the Thames consist of a wife and child. The funeral will take place to-morrow, and the members of the order of Good Templars (to which deceased belonged), will follow the body to its last resting place.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Stomach, Liver, and Bowels.—In all painful affections of the stomach and disordered actions of the liver and bowels, one single box of these Pills will demonstrate that they possess regulating and renovating powers in a high degree. They speedily restore the appetite, lessen the unpleasant distention of the abdomen, and so prevent inflammation of the bowels and other serious abdominal ailments. Holloway's Pills afford the greatest comfort to the dyspeptic invalid, without harassing or weakening the most sensitive constitution, or interfering materially with the studies, pleasures, or pursuits. The simplicity and efficacy of this treatment has evoked the gratitude of all classes in both hemispheres and commanded a sale for these purifying Pills unprevalent in medical history.

WINTER CLOTHING, consisting of Gentlemen's Overcoats, Real Mackintosh Coats, are being sold to suit all purchasers at JOSEPH MORSE, Thames Cloth Hall.—ADVT.

EVERY description of Dyeing and Cleaning done on the shortest notice at the Thames Dyeing Establishment, near corner of [Richmond and Rolleston streets].—ADVT.

OUR VOLUNTEERS.

NAVAL BRIGADE BOAT.

Some time ago the Thames Naval Brigade gave Mr. Savage an order to build a boat, the necessity for which has been long felt, as an essential portion of the Brigade property; indeed, there has always appeared something exquisitely absurd in the fact of a body of men claiming to be denominated "naval," when their daily experience of naval matters was confined to the pleasant prospect of a mud flat. This want of acquaintance with the watery element was not due to the Brigade, as in the younger days of the company the cost of a boat would have been more than it could have supported. As soon, then, as a way was seen through which to obtain the object, a boat was ordered. That boat is nearly completed, and there can be no hesitation in pronouncing it a graceful (and withal substantial) specimen of naval architecture. The boat is forty feet in length; and her beam measures six feet six inches, taken from the inside. She is built ostensibly with the idea of being used as a serviceable man-of-war gig, and, we should say, will answer the purpose admirably. She will carry two masts, the sails, two French lug sails and a jib, but can be worked with oars if required. It is estimated that she will carry thirty passengers comfortably, and the seats and "fixings" at the stern have been so constructed as to want nothing in the shape of elegance or comfort. She will be launched in about two weeks from to-day—not sooner, as, during the interim, the work of completing the "outward show" will be performed, the masts put in and sailing gear attached; while a number of other smaller matters have to be attended to. Subsequent to Major Gordon's report being sent in, the Government communicated with the Naval Brigade to ascertain what the cost would be for the construction of two boats, with the idea, presumably, of contributing towards the expense of two. Therefore, if the Government grant such a sum as would be equal to half of what it would cost to build two boats, the Brigade will be in a position to have a gunboat—that is a boat which will be at least strong enough to carry the guns of the Brigade, the present one not being sufficiently stout. This is very much needed, and it is to be hoped that the need will soon be supplied.

SCOTTISH PRIZE FIRING.

The second and final stage for the aggregate prize presented by Volunteer John Muir to the Thames Scottish Volunteers came off on Saturday at the Kauaeranga Range. The day was very unsuitable, being wet and stormy. The highest scorer in Saturday's match took Captain Murray's medal, previously held by Sergeant Girvan; this was Volunteer Fergie, with an excellent score of 46 points, at 400, 500, and 600 yards, five shots at each range, and no sighting shot. The aggregate prize was won by Captain Murray, with 94 points from 30 shots. The principal aggregate scores in the two matches are as follow:—

Table with columns: Name, 400 yds, 500 yds, 600 yds, Total, Aggregate. Lists Capt. Murray, Vol. Fergie, Cor. McLeod, Vol. Downie, Vol. Gorrie.

NOVEL DISEASES.

The medical officer to the General Post Office (England), in his report on the candidates for miner appointments in that department during the last year, gives a few samples of replies of candidates in making their written statements as to their medical histories:—"It is to be hoped that in future years the effects of compulsory education may be shown by rendering such replies among the things of the past:—1. Father had a sunstroke, and I caught it of him. 2. My little brother died of some funny name. 3. A great white cat drew my sister's breath, and she died of it. 4. Apoplexy. 5. Parasles. 6. I caught Tiber fever in the Hackney road. 7. I had gonorrhoea. 8. Burrulger in the hed. 9. Rummitanic panes. 10. Shortness of breath. 11. Carracatic fever. 12. Indigestion of the lungs. 13. Sister died of compulsion. 14. Pistoles on the back.

EXPLANATION.—A man was boasting that he had never married for twenty years, and had never given his wife a cross word. Those who know him say he didn't dare to.

GALVANIC ELECTRICITY WITHOUT CHEMICAL ACTION.—Mr Fleming has constructed a new battery, in which the metallic contact of dissimilar metals is entirely avoided. The arrangement consists of 36 test tubes of sodium pentasulphide, all well insulated, alternating with one another. But strips of alternate lead and copper connect the neighbouring tubes, by which means the terminals are of similar metal, and a current of sufficient intensity to violently affect a quantity of galvanometer obtained. The potential increases, as in the ordinary galvanic arrangements, the number of cells employed, until 60 cells showed an electro-motive force exceeding that of the same number of Daniell's elements. In this new battery the acid lead is positive to copper, while in the sulphide it is negative. Mr. Fleming further shows how, by using the single fluid nitric acid, and the single metal iron, a similar battery can be reconstructed, provided one-half of each iron strip was rendered passive. This is an important discovery; for it seems to revive the theory that chemical action is not necessary in a galvanic apparatus to produce electricity.

STAR TELEGRAMS

THE ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN PRESS TELEGRAPH AGENCY.

AUCKLAND, Saturday. Paora Tahaere (Paul, the friendly Orakei chief), brought intelligence to the police to-day that a barbarous murder had been committed at his settlement. A detective immediately accompanied him to the place, when the following facts were gathered:—A young woman named Henrietta Te Puni was on Tuesday evening going from one wharf to another, when a native, known by the name of Newton, called to her to return with him to a wharf. She at first refused, but eventually went to his wharf, situated about 210 yards from that where the young woman lived with her friends. A little girl followed, and found them sitting on the wharf together, apparently in angry conversation. The man frequently urged the woman to marry him, but she would not consent. Shortly after the little girl heard Newton call out in native words, "The woman is dead." There was great consternation among the natives, and the murderer was seized and secured. The body of the woman was found to be liberally covered with bruises; and it is conjectured, as there are no cuts about her body, that the neck was broken. The natives have already held an inquest, and returned a verdict of "Guilty" against the prisoner. On the detective's arrival, Paora gave the accused into his custody, and ordered a boat to be manned to bring them to town. By this means the prisoner arrived in Auckland about three o'clock. The age of the murdered woman is about 24. The prisoner, who is short and heavily tattooed, is apparently over 30. He seems very unconcerned about his position.

The Fraser Libel Case.

QUEEN V. REED AND BRETT.

The libel case, Queen against Reed and Brett, was commenced at 10 o'clock this morning, before Judge Arney.

Messrs. Gillies and Hesketh appeared for the prosecution; Mr. McCormick for Reed and Mr. Rees for Brett.

The following special jury were empanelled:—Robert C. Taylor, James Dillworth, J. C. Firth, Robert Walker, Thomas F. Masfield, Charles J. Pye, Charles Tothill, W. J. T. Bell, William J. Taylor, Edward Bartley, T. B. Cameron, Barton and Ireland.

Mr. Tothill wanted to be excused on the ground that he was Secretary to the Quartz Mining Protection Society, but the objection was not allowed.

Mr. C. F. Firth was elected Chairman. The Registrar is now reading the indictment.

Mr. Hesketh opened the case for the plaintiff. In doing so he referred to the rights of defendants giving evidence under the plea of not guilty, which had been put in. He maintained that they could not go into the question of character, but must confine themselves to showing that a libel was not published, or not published maliciously. He spoke of the liberty of the press, and said that liberty had been protected and recognised for years past, but when journals descended to malice or licentiousness they must be checked. He contended that the remarks on Mr. Fraser went altogether beyond fair comment.

Mr. Macdonald, the first witness called, proved Mr. Fraser's remarks on Manning's case; also, that he was not in the habit of dealing lightly with specimen stealers; on the contrary, in one case he had imposed a greater penalty than the law allowed.

Questions were asked by defendants' counsel relative to the meeting of Mr. Fraser's friends held afterwards, but was ruled inadmissible.

The case will probably not conclude to-day.

The Court adjourned at one o'clock for half an hour. On re-assembling one jurymen was absent, and returned at quarter to two. Captain Fraser was the next witness examined. He deposed that he presided in April last in the Court when the charge was brought against Manning for a breach of the Quartz Crushing Regulations and Inspection Act. Manning was represented by counsel. He (Fraser) adjudicated and found Manning guilty, and inflicted the full penalty allowed by law. He made some remarks on the getting up of the case against accused. (Witness gave an account of the words). The police were present. He had seen issues of the Auckland Star containing the libellous matter complained of. Those produced were the papers. The last referred to an article which appeared in the Thames Star. Witness never wrote nor inspired that article. He did not know who wrote that article until the writer told him. The writer was here to admit the authorship. His motive for making the remark in Manning's case was that the police were not justified in procuring commission of crime to secure convictions for similar offences. The Court was crowded that day. Witness in commenting on the police remarked that there was no pollution in Manning's crime—that he had no ill-feeling against defendants. He looked upon one as a personal friend; the other, as the man that paid him (Witness) his salary.

Cross-examined by Mr. McCormick—The reason he did not direct a prosecution against Cash for refusing information was because the machine owner was about to undergo the penalty of his

crime. The opinions expressed on the conduct of the police were witness' opinions still. The Court was well filled. There might have been specimen stealers present. It was not the first case heard. The Bank of New Zealand had been convicted and fined under the same Act for delaying to make entries. After the articles appeared in the Star he made it his business to read the opinions in all the papers. He found one action enough at a time. He had taken no proceedings against any other paper. He did not know what might yet be done. (Applause while making these remarks, which was instantly suppressed.) He had been at Hikutaia some time before. Numbers of miners went up. He knew them all.

Captain Fraser was further cross-examined. He said three leaves containing notes taken by him in Manning's case had been extracted from his note-book. He could not produce them. He believed the notes were in the possession of defendants. (Mr. Rees here boiled up).

Captain Fraser repeated his belief on examination, and said he had authorised no one to take them (the notes). Only the Clerk of the Court and the police had access to them.

Hopcraft's examination was very short. He merely stated that Fraser neither wrote nor inspired the articles which appeared in the Thames Star.

Not cross-examined. Mr. Workman is now called.

WELLINGTON, This day. Governor Ferguson will, if he can, arrange to visit Adelaide on his way to Europe. Marquis Normanby is expected to arrive here a few days after Sir James Ferguson purposes to leave, namely, 26th or 27th.

The weights for the Wellington Cup are—Tambourine, 9st. 6lb.; Templeton, 8st. 4lb.; Lochinvar, 8st.; Traiton, 8st.; Batter, 7st. 12lb.; Premier, 7st. 9lb.; Flat Catcher, 7st. 6lb.; Wainui, 7st.; Guy Fawkes, 7st.; Hercules, 6st. 12lb.; Roro, 6st. 12lb.; Rangit, 6st. 12lb.; Toi, 6st. 12lb.; Voltaire, 6st. 10lb.

PORT CHALMERS, This day. The Southern Cross, from Hobart Town, brings news that Lurline is advancing in favor for the Melbourne Cup.

FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

COROMANDEL, This day. The Union Beach got some specimens this morning; more are expected. The black reef is looking first-rate.

The Tokatea got some specimens on Saturday. The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on Saturday next. There will likely be stormy questions asked relative to not calling for tenders for supplies. Shareholders should send proxies.

Correspondence.

[These columns are open to all correspondence of public interest, but we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of writers. Correspondence must in all cases be authenticated by the real name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.]

THE THAMES HOSPITAL INQUIRY.

To the Editor of the EVENING STAR. SIR,—I would like to ask in a general way if there is any likelihood of the indefatigable editor of the "leading morning journal" discontinuing to harp on the subject of the sub-committee and all their villainy. I confess to an admiration for a man who wishes manfully to set himself right in the sight of his fellow men; but I do think that man is an abomination who, whenever he can see a friendly chink open, will whine through it, and try to justify his own petty faults by abusing others—like a whipped school-boy endeavoring to shift the blame from himself by heaping it on the shoulders of another.

Jock.

THE FRENCH PEOPLE.—Albany Fonblanque, writing of the election of Louis Napoleon as President of the French Republic, said:—"It is idle to rail against the caprices, more seeming than real, of the French choice. We must not get into a rage with the nature of things, as did Sir Joseph Banks when he boiled fleas, and was wrath when they did not bear out a theory by turning red. 'Fleas are not lobsters, d— their eyes.'"

A WONDERFUL THING.—What wonderful things professors discover now-a-days. One of them has found out lately that "Nystagmus, or oscillation of the eyeballs, is an epileptiform affection of the cerebellar oculo-motorial centres." We have given some attention to the subject ourselves, but we confess that we didn't know it was so bad as that. No doubt it hurts, too. Cut it out, and paste it in your hat, so you won't forget what sort of a thing a nystagmus is.—American paper.

STILL SOMETHING NEEDED.—A piously inclined Oakland gentleman, while going down stairs in the dark, stumbled over a slop-bucket, water-pitcher, or something and immediately indulged in a "spontaneous ebullition of feeling," as he afterwards called it. His mother-in-law, who is very deaf, was at the other end of the house, and remarked that "John still needed the refining influence of church socials."

BISHOPS.—Doctor Paris somewhere observes that the originals of the cabbage and the cauliflower are not to be recognised in uncultivated nature. A bishop of the present age has no more likeness to a bishop of the New Testament and the Primitive Church than a cauliflower or a red cabbage is like any spontaneous production of the field. It has taken 1,800 years to bring bishops to their present figure. The horticulturist can show nothing like it in the aggrandisement of gooseberries. The cultivation is simple enough, too—hot housing and the manure of mammon.—Albany Fonblanque.

POISONING IN INDIA.

Even to this day India is a land of surprises. We can remember the thrill of horror which passed through Britain and all Europe, when, some forty years ago, the revelations of the crimes of Thuggee were published by Colonel Sleeman and others. The Thugs were wise enough in their generation never to place their strangling apparatus round the neck of any member of the ruling race. But the mysterious disappearance of so many native soldiers who went on leave and never returned to their regiments led to enquiry and finally to the discovery, breaking-up and repression of one of the most diabolical confederacies which ever cursed the earth, or blasphemed the name of religion. It was found that Hindoo Society held in its bosom a caste of professional murderers, men actuated to deliberate, stealthily, and oft-repeated homicide, not by cupidity merely, but by the belief that in every life destroyed by their agency they rendered the deity to whom they were devoted, religious service. Prompted as much by fanaticism as by the love of plunder, they would accompany travellers on long journeys, and thrust themselves into groups who they were made anything but welcome, until they could stealthily seize the fatal moment to cast a handkerchief round the neck of their victim, after which the struggle for life, even in the case of the strongest, was but brief, and the result, from the Thugs' coolness and skill begotten of long practice, inevitable. It is no small part of the glory of British rule in India that such a system should, like suttee and organised infanticide, be repressed, and holocausts of future victims rendered impossible. Thousands of persons, destined from their very birth to be devotees of Kallee, and to live by murder, were subjected to needful coercion and converted into such useful members of society as tax and carpet makers. We occasionally see notices of Thug weaving establishments in the Indian papers, but probably few of those who see such notices have read the awful details in Sleehan's and Taylor's work, of the deeds and confessions of many of those who now appear inoffensive in demeanor and have become industrious and well-conducted in the establishments prepared for them. A later surprise was the existence, and the systematic practice of torture by the natives towards each other, especially by natives entrusted with the collection of revenue, or placed in positions of authority over their fellows, however subordinate. The most recent sensation is created by the discovery of the existence amongst the natives of North-western India of a system of stealthy murder, worse even in some respects than Thuggee, certainly more difficult of repression. There is a pretty little plant, common in Ceylon as well as India, well-known to most of our readers. At least they are familiar with the beautiful little red seeds which this "liquorice" plant yields from the pods which succeed the purple blossoms of the leguminous creeper. The seeds are round of a brilliant scarlet color, with a spot of black at the end. They resemble crab's eyes, and we think they are so called. The native goldsmiths have from time immemorial used them as weights. A small Calcutra basket filled with these seeds, or with those flatter and larger ones produced by the Meditiya tree, forms one of the nicest presents that could be sent to England. The seeds, pierced and strung as necklaces, closely resemble coral. Those of the Meditiya, so far from being deemed poisonous, are roasted and eaten by the natives, like grain, or any other pulse. And who could possibly suspect that in the exquisitely beautiful seeds of the leguminous creeper is contained the basis of one of the most insidious but deadly poisons, which can be used by the wicked and revengeful to destroy life—by a slower process, perhaps, but one not less certainly fatal than that which follows the injection into the human circulation of cobra poison. Indeed, the mixture used by the "mild Hindoos" for subcutaneous poisoning seems to combine essentially the same elements as the serpent venom, and the only chance of salvation in each case seems to be instant excision of the part bitten or pierced, or the cutting open and thorough washing of the flesh into which the poison has been introduced. Against the reptile poisoner precaution can be taken: its movements, its expanded hood, its hiss, give some warning, and it seldom attacks voluntarily or without what appears to be immediate provocation. But how can the poor seminude native of India defend himself from the enemy who attacks him, perhaps in his sleep, with no weapon more formidable than a needle tipped with the smallest possible quantity of poison. A puncture is made and the deadly stuff is deposited; is left to rank in the flesh and to produce that fever for which there is no termination but death. In the case which seems to have attracted special attention to what is found to be a wide spread system of poisoning, applied to cattle as well as to human beings, the unconscious victim was attacked when asleep. He is awakened by two blows on his neck, and as he opens his eyes, sees a figure retreating. He feels some pain in the neck, but thinks so little of it that he goes forth to his work. But the poison is in his system, and does its work also, and so effectually that in a few days the man dies from symptoms resembling tetanus, and from the exhaustion of continued fever. Fault has been found with what is deemed the unnecessary publicity of descriptions of the mode in which the poison is prepared and administered, and no doubt there is great danger from the imitative faculty in human nature, as was proved when Bishop in London followed the example of Burke and Hare in Edinburgh. But the benefits of publicity counterbalance every disadvantage. All