

Commercial.

Table with market data including 'THAMES STOCK AND MINING ASSOCIATION' and 'SALES' for various commodities like City of London, Britannia, etc.

POST OFFICE NOTICES. For Southern Provinces (for transmission per s.s. Ladybird) on Wednesday next.

SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENTS. Casual Advertisements preceding the leader are charged at the rate of SIX SHILLINGS per inch for each insertion.

J. COSGRAVE & CO.

BEG to Inform the Inhabitants of the Thames that, owing to Excessive Shipments to Hand and Expected, THEY FIND IT NECESSARY TO CALL A SALE OF THEIR DRAPERY AND WINTER CLOTHING AT OWEN STREET, AND AT THE CASH PALACE, In Albert Street, Grahamstown.

The STOCKS in both these Establishments, VALUED at £20,000, Have been RE-MARKED, and will be Offered to the Public AT COST.

THE SALE COMMENCED LAST SATURDAY.

BIRTH. MORROW.—On the 21st, at the Prince Arthur Hotel, Shortland, the wife of Charles Morrow of a son.

DEATHS. BRISB.—On the 26th instant, at Parawai, Mary, wife of George Bryers, aged 35 years.

TIDE TABLE. Table with columns for JULY—AUG., Rises Sets, and H.M. H.M. for various days.

THE Evening Star.

PUBLISHED DAILY AT FOUR O'CLOCK P.M. Resurveyed. MONDAY, JULY 26, 1875.

OUR Wellington correspondent repeats the rumour which has been reiterated so often of late, that Mr Stafford is likely to assume the leadership of the Government at the end of the session.

have his loyal and cordial support, Mr Bowen said it was a great surprise to the Ministry as to the House. We are bound to believe, therefore, that no understanding had been come to regarding a coalition Ministry.

A LONG correspondence has been laid before Parliament explaining the way in which the four million loan was negotiated, and the relations which have existed between Sir Julius Vogel and the Crown agents.

THE Taranaki News is "glad to see the growing feeling in English speaking communities that where a woman has suffered a serious injury from a man that the law does not or cannot redress, that she may take the law into her own hands."

THE Rev. V. Lush gave notice yesterday morning that the collection to be made on Sunday morning next will be devoted to the support of what is known as the Home Mission Fund.

THE subscribers to the Thames Mechanics' Institute are invited to attend this evening to hear the annual report and elect officers, &c. We believe that although as compared with the kindred Institute at Auckland, which is almost in a state of collapse, the Thames Committee will be able to show favourably there are certainly some things which might with advantage be attended to, and which we hope the meeting will not fail to urge upon the incoming officers.

THE following occurs in a letter from the Dunedin correspondent of the New Zealand Times:—"We have had a Church of England bazaar for the last few days, on a very novel principle. It is in aid of the organ fund of the new church of St. Matthew. A large number of really nice-looking girls stand behind the various stalls, all dressed alike, and with a distinguishing "mob cap," of a very pretty pattern; but the feature of the bazaar is, that no one is importuned to buy this article or that. You can buy anything you like, or leave it alone. The result has been a large audience nightly, and when the bazaar closed, over £700 had been received in four nights. This should be an example to all church people desirous of holding bazaars throughout the colonies."

There were two cases heard in the Resident Magistrate's Court on Friday, in which judgment was reserved till today to give time to the parties to prepare for appeals. This morning by arrangement came to between the learned counsel for the parties to the different suits, and with the consent of the Resident Magistrate, judgments were again deferred, but His Worship said he would give his decisions in the cases on Wednesday, 28th instant.

to the reader of sporting tendencies, but it affords also much valuable information on agriculture and outdoor subjects generally. If the funds at the disposal of the Committee are not sufficient to enable them to undertake the additional expense, some of the present papers and magazines might be given up. We should certainly suggest the suppression of Lloyd's as the first step, and from what we can see, the Athenaeum is not much read; the two together would suffice to pay for, at any rate, one daily paper, and the readers could well afford to give up one or more magazines to enable the Field to be supplied; the Quarterly and Westminster are both taken in, and one (we should suggest the latter) might easily be dispensed with. The sum saved, and the least stupid of the shilling magazines also being given up, would give more than the amount required, and a want much felt be remedied, with scarcely anyone being annoyed. Another thing we would draw attention to is the fact that old papers are allowed to accumulate in such masses as to be a great nuisance—we mean the Auckland papers. These from their number are practically useless, should anyone wish to refer to them beyond the last month's issue, and would, if referred to, prove a source of immense trouble to the librarian. Would it not be much better if they were disposed of as waste paper?

There was to have been a public meeting at Ohinemuri on Saturday to consider the question of agricultural leases, but we are informed, there was no meeting, a sufficient number of persons interested not answering to the invitation.

The result of the examination for the University scholarships was made known this afternoon. The following are the successful candidates:—W. H. Barnicoat, Nelson College, scholarship in classics; C. Brandon, Wellington College, scholarship in physical science; E. N. Brown, Christchurch College, Christchurch scholarship in classics; G. H. Ballard, Nelson College, scholarship in mathematics; C. M. Edgar, Auckland College, two scholarships in physical science; J. H. Harkness, Nelson College, scholarship in classics; W. H. Herbert, Christ College, Christchurch, scholarship in classics and a scholarship in mathematics; H. B. Kirk, Wellington, two scholarships in physical science; W. V. Milton, Christ College, Christchurch, scholarship in classics; K. H. Reid, Auckland College, scholarship in mathematics; F. A. Thompson, Nelson College, scholarship in mathematics; J. W. Twentyman, Christ College, Christchurch, scholarship in classics and scholarship in mathematics; J. P. White, Nelson College, scholarship in mathematics; K. Webb, Wellington College, scholarship in mathematics; E. Webb, Wellington College, scholarship in physical science. The following lose the scholarship they now hold, through not having made the 2000 marks required for the continued tenure of the scholarships:—J. H. Barnicoat, Nelson College, 1846 marks; K. M. Edgar, Auckland College, 1607; C. Lowe, Otago University, 1619; W. V. Milton, Christ College, Christchurch, 1897; R. H. Rattray, Auckland College, H. Salomon, University of Otago, retains his scholarship as he made 2413 marks.

At an inquiry re the Flaxman fire, the jury returned a verdict that there was nothing to show how the fire originated.

FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

WELLINGTON. Saturday. Mr Stafford is likely to accept the leadership of the Government after the session.

The present Ministry will carry their measures despite the Opposition.

The effect of the debate last night was to strengthen the hands of the Government.

The Evening Post warns Sir George Grey that persistence in opposition will entail political ruin.

Our Volunteers.

THE monthly Church Parade of the Thames Naval Brigade took place yesterday morning. There was an excellent muster, with band, and the blue jackets were accompanied by the Parawai Native Volunteer Company, who seem to take pleasure in turning out on all occasions with their comrades belonging to other corps. The parade assembled at the Naval Brigade Hall, and before proceeding to church, Major Cooper presented the Marksmen's badges to members of the Brigade and to members of the Native contingent. He remarked that the Navals possessed more marksmen than any other company (19), and the Maories were second. Lieutenant Bennett received three stars with his badge, as being the highest marksman in the district. Besides Lieutenant Bennett the following received badges:—P. O.'s G. A. Brown and J. A. Gordon, Seaman Geo. Clarke, Sykes, Armstrong, Grundy and Nelson; these were all Representatives of the Colonial Rifle Firing for 1875. There were besides—Seaman W. Fagg, W. H. Potts, Geo. Wallace, Hori Matene, V. Savage, R. McVay, G. W. Henderson, and Bandsman J. Hope. Three members entitled to badges were not present. We understand that about twenty-five members of the corps went to Auckland on Saturday night to attend the funeral of their late comrade, Seaman Stone, an old and highly esteemed member of the Brigade. It is probable that the whole Brigade would have gone had the notice been given earlier. The number of badges presented to the Native corps was eleven, the lieutenant and sub-lieutenant being amongst the recipients.

STAR TELEGRAMS.

PER PRESS AGENCY. AUCKLAND. This day. Arrived: Lutterworth, from London, after a voyage of 103 days. She has thirty passengers—all well. No Government immigrants. A passenger named Stevens died during the voyage.

On Sunday, the 20th June, a fire was discovered on board the Lutterworth in the cabin, caused by a defective plate in the stove. After a quarter of an hour's exertion it was extinguished. There were forty tons of powder aboard.

NEW PLYMOUTH. Saturday. The cutter Hero has been picked up off Waitara, abandoned by the crew. Her hull had sustained no damage, but her mast had snapped off, and was in the water, with the mainsail by the side. The sail had two reefs in it. It is supposed that the crew had been picked up by some vessel passing. The ship's papers show that she was, on the 20th, in latitude 39°38 south.

LYTTELTON. This day. Arrived: Ship Oriana, from London, 115 days out. Passengers all well and landed.

PORT CHALMERS. This day. Arrived: Ship Aldergrove, from Glasgow, with 3423 statute adults. All the children had measles, but no deaths occurred from that disease, though nineteen died from diarrhoea. She has gone into quarantine.

CHRISTCHURCH. Saturday. A petition is getting numerously signed here, asking the Mayor to call a public meeting for the purpose of eliciting an opinion as to the policy of the Government in proposing to abolish provincial institutions, and especially with regard to forcing on the abolition without affording the people of the colony an opportunity of exercising their right to vote upon so important an organic change as the Constitution of the colony.

The result of the examination for the University scholarships was made known this afternoon. The following are the successful candidates:—W. H. Barnicoat, Nelson College, scholarship in classics; C. Brandon, Wellington College, scholarship in physical science; E. N. Brown, Christchurch College, Christchurch scholarship in classics; G. H. Ballard, Nelson College, scholarship in mathematics; C. M. Edgar, Auckland College, two scholarships in physical science; J. H. Harkness, Nelson College, scholarship in classics; W. H. Herbert, Christ College, Christchurch, scholarship in classics and a scholarship in mathematics; H. B. Kirk, Wellington, two scholarships in physical science; W. V. Milton, Christ College, Christchurch, scholarship in classics; K. H. Reid, Auckland College, scholarship in mathematics; F. A. Thompson, Nelson College, scholarship in mathematics; J. W. Twentyman, Christ College, Christchurch, scholarship in classics and scholarship in mathematics; J. P. White, Nelson College, scholarship in mathematics; K. Webb, Wellington College, scholarship in mathematics; E. Webb, Wellington College, scholarship in physical science. The following lose the scholarship they now hold, through not having made the 2000 marks required for the continued tenure of the scholarships:—J. H. Barnicoat, Nelson College, 1846 marks; K. M. Edgar, Auckland College, 1607; C. Lowe, Otago University, 1619; W. V. Milton, Christ College, Christchurch, 1897; R. H. Rattray, Auckland College, H. Salomon, University of Otago, retains his scholarship as he made 2413 marks.

DUNEDIN. Saturday. A smart shock of earthquake occurred yesterday at the Taieri, at twenty minutes past 4 a.m.

At an inquiry re the Flaxman fire, the jury returned a verdict that there was nothing to show how the fire originated.

FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

WELLINGTON. Saturday. Mr Stafford is likely to accept the leadership of the Government after the session.

The present Ministry will carry their measures despite the Opposition.

The effect of the debate last night was to strengthen the hands of the Government.

The Evening Post warns Sir George Grey that persistence in opposition will entail political ruin.

Our Volunteers.

THE monthly Church Parade of the Thames Naval Brigade took place yesterday morning. There was an excellent muster, with band, and the blue jackets were accompanied by the Parawai Native Volunteer Company, who seem to take pleasure in turning out on all occasions with their comrades belonging to other corps. The parade assembled at the Naval Brigade Hall, and before proceeding to church, Major Cooper presented the Marksmen's badges to members of the Brigade and to members of the Native contingent. He remarked that the Navals possessed more marksmen than any other company (19), and the Maories were second. Lieutenant Bennett received three stars with his badge, as being the highest marksman in the district. Besides Lieutenant Bennett the following received badges:—P. O.'s G. A. Brown and J. A. Gordon, Seaman Geo. Clarke, Sykes, Armstrong, Grundy and Nelson; these were all Representatives of the Colonial Rifle Firing for 1875. There were besides—Seaman W. Fagg, W. H. Potts, Geo. Wallace, Hori Matene, V. Savage, R. McVay, G. W. Henderson, and Bandsman J. Hope. Three members entitled to badges were not present. We understand that about twenty-five members of the corps went to Auckland on Saturday night to attend the funeral of their late comrade, Seaman Stone, an old and highly esteemed member of the Brigade. It is probable that the whole Brigade would have gone had the notice been given earlier. The number of badges presented to the Native corps was eleven, the lieutenant and sub-lieutenant being amongst the recipients.

STAR TELEGRAMS.

PER PRESS AGENCY. AUCKLAND. This day. Arrived: Lutterworth, from London, after a voyage of 103 days. She has thirty passengers—all well. No Government immigrants. A passenger named Stevens died during the voyage.

On Sunday, the 20th June, a fire was discovered on board the Lutterworth in the cabin, caused by a defective plate in the stove. After a quarter of an hour's exertion it was extinguished. There were forty tons of powder aboard.

NEW PLYMOUTH. Saturday. The cutter Hero has been picked up off Waitara, abandoned by the crew. Her hull had sustained no damage, but her mast had snapped off, and was in the water, with the mainsail by the side. The sail had two reefs in it. It is supposed that the crew had been picked up by some vessel passing. The ship's papers show that she was, on the 20th, in latitude 39°38 south.

FINANCE MEETING.

There was a meeting of the Naval Clothing and Finance Committee held last Saturday evening to open tenders for blue uniform for the men, when Mr Price's tender was finally accepted. We observe that this Corps has built a shed for their guns at a cost, we believe, of over £21.

Our Mining Reporter.

QUEEN OF BEAUTY. The output of stone from this mine has yielded above the average this fortnight, the company's two mills being nearly equal in their results; Bull's mill on the Karaka working 22 head of stamps contributing 406 ounces, while their own mill at the foot of the Waitotari creek working 20 head, but of greater weight, gave 404 ozs. 10 dwts—total 810 ozs. retorted, which on melting produced 798 ozs. The stone is obtained from No. 1 and 2 reefs, worked from stopes above the low level the quantity requisite is easily obtained, as the crushing dirt is from 14 to 15 feet wide, and towards the

City of London boundary the foot-wall is not touched, but will be taken down as required. The cross-loam is not worked at present. Preparations are in hand for delivery of stone from a large block left in the 150 feet level. The manager, Mr Wilson, has suspended sinking the main shaft for the present. Filling in the stopes as they are worked out is promptly executed by means of passes from the surface.

BRIGHT SMILE. Retorting for this company took place on Saturday at their old battery, where 12 head of stampers have been running for the past fortnight, the return has been the satisfactory yield of 142 ounces retorted gold. Henceforth this mill will be open to public crushings, the company's stuff going to their new mill, which is working in perfect order since the opening on Thursday last. The battery has been placed under the charge of Mr John Somerville.

ALBION. Crushing for this company has been carried on at the Prince Alfred battery with 5 head of stampers for the past two weeks, and has now been stopped, owing to the difficulty of working in the stopes; this will be remedied in a few days; ventilation being secured, stone will be broken out and the milling resumed. The present cleaning up yielded 79 ozs retorted gold, which on melting produced 77 ozs 10 dwts.

GOLDEN CALE. The manager reports that the reef worked on is looking well, and about 14 feet in thickness. The stuff being crushed is wholly from it. Gold is showing through the face from hanging wall to footwall, and is distributed through it. The crushing at the battery is showing up equal to the last—namely, 2 ounces to the ton.

QUEEN OF THE MAY. The usual fortnight's cleaning up at the Una battery, where 16-head stampers have been employed, has resulted in the favorable yield of 256 ounces of gold. This is an excellent return, and will no doubt be accepted as encouraging by the shareholders.

ALBURNIA. The contractors working in the new drive, from the same level as the Whan adit, are in good country, and progressing favourably. This will penetrate under the workings in the Carpenters portion of the company's ground, and will afford 80 feet backs when completed.

CITY OF LONDON. Retorting for this company will not take place till to-morrow.

MINING COMPANIES MEETINGS. KARANGAHAKE COMPANIES. At a meeting of delegates from the All Nations, Prospectors and Maseppa companies, Ohinemuri, held on Saturday evening at the Governor Bowen Hotel, Mr J. M. Macdonald in the chair, the subject of amalgamation was discussed and favorably entertained, but pending an offer from certain gentlemen to erect a 40 stamp mill on property, such offer to be deposited within 14 days, the meeting adjourned.

OHINEMURI AGRICULTURAL LEASES. A deputation consisting of the Mayor, Messrs Wilson, Carpenter, Wallcutt, Brown, Allom, Hennelly, Rowe, Payne, Porter, Bullock and others, met his Worship the Warden and Mr Toke at the Warden's office this morning, to suggest improvements in the Agricultural Lease Regulations.

His Worship read the telegram he had received from the Superintendent requesting him to confer with Mr Toke on the subject, and his answer thereto.

The Mayor said he was induced to send the telegram had with reference to the leases owing to the shortness of the time still remaining. He would have liked to have had a public meeting at which Mr Toke might have been present, but as Mr Toke was under the necessity of going away to-day they had come there to see if anything could be done.

In reply to Mr Carpenter Captain Fraser said that the regulations only referred to Ohinemuri, and could not be brought to an end by a six months' notice on either side.

Mr Rowe said it was an absurdity to pay half-a-crown an acre rent for land to the Natives, the sum was far too large; and the miners by taking the leases were only doing themselves an injury and exciting the cupidity of the Natives by giving more than the land was really worth. They did not want leasehold land but freehold land.

Mr Porter also thought the sum far too large for the rent of land, considering that land just as good could be purchased outright in some cases for 5 shillings an acre. This he knew of a fact himself; he also thought that the amount of land allowed to be taken up was too small in many cases, and that the better plan would be to allow larger tracts of land to be taken up as the distance from the town increased, so might the extent of land taken up be increased. He quoted the case of leases of land at Otago, where the freehold reverted to the lessee after he had paid half-a-crown a year rent for seven years if he had improved the land. And also Nelson, where he himself had had a hand in the regulations.

The Warden considered that the Ohinemuri regulations were more liberal than those of Nelson and Otago—copies of which he handed in.

Mr Brown thought that 50 acres was too little, but the Warden reminded him that there were really only two pieces of good land.

Mr Rowe said he did not object to the quantity—that might be remedied after, but the rent was too much, he thought that one shilling a week was sufficient, and in the event of the Government becoming the lessor the lessee should have the option of buying the land without competition.

Mr Toke was sure that the Superintendent wished most liberal terms to be offered to lessees when the land was acquired.

The Warden said that they couldn't

ask the natives to take less for their land than they asked for their own.

Mr Rowe said that if the natives got a shilling an acre for their land it was more than it was worth, and if the Government bought the land, a shilling an acre rent would pay a very large interest on the sum that would have to be paid for it.

Mr Porter said that if the freehold of the land were subsequently acquired by the Government, the price at which it ought to be sold to the lessee should be the same as the price of the adjoining block.

This Mr Rowe contended was unfair, as some land would be of more value than the land adjacent, and some less, which would give to some an unfair advantage.

The Mayor thought that Mr Porter's plan was a good one and that land within a radius of a mile or a mile and a half should be set aside for miners in small allotments, and outside the radius larger areas might be taken up.

The Warden pointed out the changeable character of goldfields and that what was the township of a goldfield to-day might not be one to-morrow.

After some discussion, with a view of getting something done Mr Toke stated that the fees for surveyors had been made to guard against surveyors' charges, that he thought the fees very low, but was quite agreeable to the clause in relation to them being struck out.

Mr Rowe then made a definite motion that the area allowed be as in the regulations for 6 months, and that the term of lease be the same, viz., 21 years; that the lessee pay one shilling per annum an acre for the first seven years, one and sixpence for the next seven years, and two shillings for the succeeding and final seven years; and at the end of six months the Government Blocks were taken up, report the same with a view of getting the area allowed enlarged. He said that in his country the occupations of miner and agriculturist were often combined, and might be so here.

Mr Wallcutt supported Mr Rowe, and quoted from his experience in what he stated.

Mr Brown did not agree with Mr Rowe. He thought that those who wished land on which to settle, were those who wished to give up mining and retire.

Mr Porter said that it was all very well to combine the occupations of settler and miner in England, but here the farms required to be made first which would take the whole of the settler's time without mining.

Mr Payne was never appealed to as a probable settler, and he stated that if he acquired land he should give up mining.

Mr Toke asked if 50 acres would not be sufficient for purely agricultural purposes, of course if the land was only suited for pasture more might be added. He reminded them that the area of Ohinemuri was limited, and that the Superintendent wished to benefit as many as possible.

Mr Porter thought fifty acres too little, and Mr Brown also supported the proposal of 200 acres being allowed, as he thought those who took the land wished to give up mining.

The Warden thought that at any rate for the present fifty acres was enough, that anything which tended to delay the lands being occupied was undesirable, and therefore, as the 3rd of August was so near, they had better leave the question of 50 acres for the time, that he and Mr Toke quite agreed that the rent should be reduced, either to a shilling an acre or, in accordance with the sliding scale proposed by Mr Rowe, and that the scale of fees to be charged should be struck out. He thought that in 7 years it was almost certain that something would be done whereby the freeholds would be acquired with the leaseholds.

Mr Toke acquiesced with the Warden, and the deputation then withdrew.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT THIS DAY.

(Before W. FRASER Esq., R.M.) DRUNKENNESS. Thomas Kelly was charged with having been drunk and incapable in Shortland on Saturday night.

Defendant pleaded guilty, and said it was the first time he had been before a magistrate for drunkenness, and hoped he would be let off as he wanted to get back to Tairua. In answer to the Bench, defendant said he had been a soldier.

The Bench said he could go this time.

CIVIL SIDE. DEERED JUDGMENTS.

In the cases of Morrow v. Sprague and Bennett v. Cassin, in which judgments were reserved, his Worship said the solicitors had agreed to a further adjournment, and he would therefore adjourn the cases till Wednesday, 28th instant.

The Court adjourned.

Correspondence.

These columns are open to all correspondents of public interest, but we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions or views expressed, or for any small errors to which they may be subject, but as a guarantee of good faith.

JUMPING OF THE PROSPECTORS' CLAIM, KARANGAHAKE, OHINEMURI.

(To the Editor of the Evening Star) Sir,—What is the cause of this proceeding? Who originated it, and why was it sought to be done? These are questions which easily strike a person's mind on reading of the reports having reference to the above proceedings, and to a casual observer no doubt are difficult to answer, but to any person who knows, not only the construction of the Warden's Court, but also its tendencies, they are easily enough accounted for. It appears the lawsuit initiated in this case, was settled out of Court by some interested party. The question arises, was it also originated by intrigue, or some other not very creditable means? If so, it is a pity that the whole case was not placed in proper form before the Court, so that the public would become acquainted with the whole case from the beginning to the end of it. However, as far as I can ascertain, there were two reasons upon which it was sought to jump the ground. First, it was alleged that the five men's ground taken up by the Prospectors, and afterwards amalgamated with the ten which they had been awarded, had not been properly so amalgamated. Secondly, it was asserted that the said five men's ground had been marked out and held under

miners' rights obtained before the proper issue of them from the Warden's Office. Technically I don't want to find fault with those proceedings; besides in them I am in no way whatever interested, except in the relation they bear towards the Warden's Department on the goldfield. There for that end I wish to know, if a miner or miners desire to amalgamate two or more claims, and for that purpose placed before the constituted authorities in the Warden's Office such "forms" or documents as are requisite for that purpose (that is to the best of his or their ability), is it the duty or part thereof of such officer to see that the wish of the applicant is fully and legally carried into effect, or is the said officer justified in knowingly allowing some technicality to exist therein, which may afterwards come under the notice of some other official in the department, who, being interested in mining affairs, takes advantage not only of it, but also of his position to institute legal proceedings against those whose titles are affected?

On the second reason herein mentioned I scarcely know what remarks to make that would be pertinent enough to the importance of the subject. It appears the case stands thus: there has been what is called "a miners' right enquiry" about certain "rights" which had been issued. When this affair has been fully investigated, the decision of the Commissioner as to whether they were legally or illegally issued will be made known. The enquiry has ended, but such decision, if any, has not been made public; but mark, nevertheless—solely on the ground that such rights were illegally issued or obtained, the five men's ground referred to was sought to be jumped. "Where was this information obtained?—I ask, point out, where?" It must be assumed that an afterthought on this point decided, to hush the matter up as the wisest course to pursue. But it is to be hoped that in dealing with goldfields matters, His Hon. the Superintendent will not lose sight of such incidents, as only thereby will he be able to keep public servants on the goldfields within the bounds of their official duties.—I am, &c., A. MASON.

[P.S.—Please insert this in your liberal journal, and you will much favor many mining friends.]

THE PRINCE AND THE MASONS.

The Pall Mall Gazette of April 27th says:—"As long as English Freemasonry is under the special patronage of royalty, and reckons among its chief officials noblemen, lords-lieutenants, clergymen, and the elite of the licensed victuallers, hotel and tavern-keepers, so long will it continue to exist in this country as a wide-spread benefit society, providing, under aristocratic patronage, for the necessities of its poorer members, comparatively powerless for political purposes, and offering in its official lodge meetings a plausible excuse welcome to many a bourgeois husband for an occasional social and convivial evening, when, with a comfortable sense of having done their duty, the brethren proceed from labour to refreshment, Continental Freemasonry, as appears from a Masonic record of the last century, has always been of a very different character. In France, before the first Revolution, the lodges were hot beds of socialism. Between 1733 and 1780 German Freemasonry became enveloped in a cloud of mysticism, and 'signs' were not sufficient for them without 'wonders.' Ultimately, some lodges, both in Germany and Bavaria, were suppressed by the civil power. With this state of things abroad, English Masons professed themselves thoroughly disgusted; while, on the other hand, French and German brethren united in ridiculing English Masonry as a homespun affair, and as not being, in fact, Freemasonry at all. A question, more immediately interesting to outsiders, is research into past Masonic records, in the practical one of 'What will they do when the Albert Hall is closed to the whole world without? What are the fearful rites and ceremonies which even his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales must observe? Will any brother reported to be admitted? And, if so, how much will they be permitted to tell us? In answer to the last of these enquiries it may be of some interest, to the ladies at all events, to learn that the nearest approach to a reporter authorised by the Masonic brethren themselves to record their doings, is a brother holding the degree of 'Intimate Secretary' obtained by curiosity. This privileged individual is named Joabert, so called after an eminent lord-in-waiting at the Court of King Solomon, and highly in favor of that sagacious but Mormonical monarch, who, so goes the tradition, peeped in the door of the chamber where Solomon the Wise, and Hiram, King of Tyre, were seated in Council. Joabert's inquisitive eye was seen twinkling through a chink in the door by the sharp-sighted Hiram, who, being a short-tempered person, was for slaying him there and then; Solomon, however, interceded for his life, and made himself responsible for the zeal and discretion of his servant Joabert; who, having thus made himself acquainted with so much of their Masonic secrets, was thenceforward permitted to be present at their meetings in his newly created official capacity of Intimate Secretary, without a salary, it is true, but decked with a pretty bright red ribbon, and a beautiful sword to protect himself against any villain who should dare to stir up him into a confession of such mysteries as he might be compelled to witness. Should somebody pick Joabert's pocket of his private memorandum-book on Wednesday next, the non-Masonic world might yet be informed of the secret rites performed at the installation of the illustrious Grand Master. But for the too curious Joabert himself, his mouth is sealed by an unpleasant penalty attached to his oath of inviolable obligation, which is (to name the least among a few cherry punishments) "to have his heart torn in pieces, and the whole of his previously mangled remains thrown to the wild beasts of the forest. Taking these circumstances into consideration, we are not likely to hear much from the 'Intimate Secretary,' Joabert. Had the real original Joabert been a gentleman of the late Charles C. F. Greville type, the secrets of Freemasonry would long ago been published to the world at large in three volumes, under the title of 'The Joabert Memoirs: a journal of the reigns of King Solomon the First, and King Hiram, of Tyre; by the late Joabert, Intimate Secretary to those Sovereigns.' Mr Henry Reeve, Registrar of the Priory Council, is welcome to the idea. Perhaps he may be able to catch the Joabert of the present day, whoever that distinguished individual may be, as he quits the Masonic Council Chamber in the Albert-Hall."