

CABLE MESSAGES.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL.) AUSTRALIAN. MELBOURNE, Saturday. For the races the weather was splendid. The Governor was present. Hurdle Race—Dutchman, 1; Foster, 2; Fritz, 3. A good race; ten horses started. Ascot Vale Plate—Potra, 1; Chesterfield, 2; Caracacus, 3. Won easily. Brunswick Stakes—Darwile, 1; Tom Kirk, 2; Nina, 3. Nineteen started; won by a length. St. Ledger—Bosworth, 1; Wellington, 2; Lordship, 3. Seven started. Time, 3mins. 19secs. The s.s. 'Assam' arrived at the Heads this afternoon, where the Suez mails were transhipped to the 'Arava', which has sailed for New Zealand. The Cabinet has decided to postpone the issue of the Victorian Government Loan in London rather than accept low terms. The Australian Colonies border duty question is now in a fair way of settlement. Nothing has yet been settled regarding the Peninsula and Oriental Company's tender for the Victoria Suez mail service, pending the receipt of advices from England. A grand military and naval review is to be held in Melbourne at Easter.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.) CITY WEST NOMINATION: A SCENE: HOT CONTEST EXPLORED. AUCKLAND, Saturday. At the City West nomination to-day, Peter Dignan was proposed by Mr Duningham, and seconded by Mr Leahy. Mr Goldie was proposed by Mr J. C. Firth, who made a most able speech against denominational education, reviewing the long struggle in Auckland for the present system. Mr Dignan and Mr Goldie addressed the electors, and the show of hands resulted: For Mr Goldie, 200; for Mr Dignan, 40. Mr Leahy demanded a poll for Mr Dignan, but the people seconded it; and after the vote of thanks had been given to the Returning Officer, Mr Swanson demanded a poll for Mr Dignan, but was told it was informal, and should have been asked for by two. Mr Firth said our Catholic friends have been guilty of an informality, but we will not take advantage of it, but will give them a good beating. On the term Catholic friends being used it elicited protests from a number present, and some of the audience crowded round the platform gesticulating. Mr P. Darby and others addressed the meeting; and ultimately, when all was quiet, a poll was fixed for Tuesday. Both parties talk of bringing electors from the Thames, and the seat will be hotly contested. The German man-of-war left under steam to-day for Samoa. The new iron steamer 'Rose Casey' proceeded on her first trip to the Hot Springs and Mahurangi this morning. The little steam launch 'Ida', formerly the 'Transit', left for Russell last night, and arrived there this morning. She runs as a ferry steamer between Russell and Kawakawa and Patu. The steamer 'City of Cork' takes excursionists to the Orakei native meeting to-morrow. John Warnock, sailor on a steamer on the Waikato river, had his foot crushed in the paddle wheel, and had to be sent on to Auckland in great agony. The Bishop has accepted the resignation of the Rev. Mr Hassard, incumbent of St. Matthew's, now in England. His congregation are now unanimously in favour of the appointment of the Rev. Mr Hill, now officiating. Thomas Pelican, a stableman at Mr P. Quick's, fell from the hay loft and broke his collar bone and sustained other severe injuries, so that he is not expected to recover. An influential committee has been appointed to collect for the Kaitangata relief fund. At the Kaipari brigantine 'Augusta' is loading timber for William Smith, contractor for the Hokitika harbour works. The timber is heart of kauri, a good deal being 50 and 60 feet piles. The 'Darcy Pratt' cleared the heads yesterday, consigned to Mr Smith, of Hokitika. She takes 104,000 feet.

SOUTHERN TELEGRAMS.

(PER PRESS AGENCY.) ARREST OF AN ENGLISH FORGER ON THE SHIP 'LORRAINE'. WELLINGTON, Saturday. Arrived: The New Zealand Co.'s ship 'Lorraine,' from London, 101 days out. She experienced fine weather on the passage. She brings 23 passengers and a full cargo, consigned to the N.Z.S. Co. Henry Stebbing, one of the passengers charged with forgery, in Lincoln, England, was arrested on arrival by Detective Hoeking, who was sent out by steamer from England in pursuit. The 'Loch Ferguson' also arrived from London, 96 days from the Start Point. She had fine weather during the passage. She brings a full cargo, and no passengers, and is consigned to the New Zealand Shipping Company. DUNEDIN, Saturday. Hurdle Race, 80 stms.—Dyersley, 1; Kildare, 2; Loyalty, 3. A protest was entered against Dyersley for foul riding. Forbury Handicap.—Fond Play, 1; Templeton, 2; Sinking Fund, 3. Mr C. N. Roberts, whose mysterious disappearance is causing so much anxiety in Auckland, was manager of the Bank of New Zealand at Tauranga from October, 1873, to March, 1877. During that time he made many friends, and sincere regret will be felt if any misfortune has befallen him. Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Sudden change of temperature sorely try all persons subject to rheumatism, sciatica, the dolerous, and many other maladies severely less painful, though of shorter duration. On the first attack of stiffness or suffering in any muscle, joint, or nerve, recourse should immediately be had to fomentations of the part with the ointment, and the use of the pills, which will be found to be of great service in all such cases. The pills simultaneously taken, rectify constitutional disturbances and restore the strength. No remedies heretofore discovered have proved so effective as the Ointment and Pills for removing gouty, heretic, and scrofulous attacks, which afflict the aged, and are usually hereditary.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS.

Per s.s. 'Huro.' The International Exhibition is progressing rapidly. 630 men are employed. The Commission received through Hunter's Agency a cable message respecting the intention of the Admiralty to send some valuable scientific instruments for exhibition, and the space which the French Government have notified as being required by France. The Sheepbreeders' Association of Victoria intimated their desire to take part in the sheep show. The probable dates of the special shows in connection with the Exhibition will be: For sheep, somewhere about the latter end of September; for flour and vegetables, October; for poultry and birds, November; for cattle and fat stock, December; for horses, January. The only date definitely fixed is that for the special show of wool, which is to take place in December. The actual recommendations of the London Commission are that 110,000 square feet of space should be reserved for Great Britain alone, 64,000 square feet for France, and 100,000 square feet for other European countries—in all, 274,000, or 94,000 feet in excess of the approximate area originally allotted to British and foreign exhibitors. At a recent meeting of the Commission it was decided that the Exhibition should be open during the hours of daylight only. Mr H. W. Kenny, director of the Australasian and American Home News, in a letter, says it is the desire of a large class of American producers and manufacturers to take part in the Exhibition, and efforts are being made in Congress to have a commissioner from the United States sent to Sydney. The Mayor's fancy ball was one of the most gorgeous displays ever made in Sydney. It took place in the Exhibition building on the night of the 19th. Nearly 2000 persons responded to the invitations. The building was well filled, and a more resplendent scene could not be secured. Nearly all the costumes were new, and very few theatrical dresses were noticeable. His Worship was present in his robes of office. He was accompanied by Mrs Roberts in fancy dress, Miss Roberts as Little Red Riding Hood, and Miss Alice Roberts as a flower-girl. The aidmen were in official garb, and many members of the Legislature were observable in the dress specially got up for the occasion. The Ministry assembled in force. About 10 o'clock the Governor, with the Hon. Lady Robinson, Capt. St. John, Mrs St. John, Miss Robinson, and the Hon. H. S. Littleton appeared. The Governor appeared as Captain Cook, a character that becomes him to perfection. One of the most impressive costumes in the assemblage was that worn by the Hon. Lady Robinson—Britannia. The sub-committee of the National Association are pushing on their work in the collection of exhibits for the Great International Exhibition at Sydney. The space asked for is 150 feet by 60 feet. Some 2000 circular letters have been sent out from the committee to producers and manufacturers throughout the colony, and the issue is still going on. The idea of collecting all the exhibits in Bowen Park, for a brief exhibition, before sending them to Sydney, is meeting with much favour. The Commissioner of Police received a telegram on the 18th instant, from Cooktown, stating that a man named Peter Doolan, a labourer, was found murdered on the night of the 15th. Strong suspicion is attached to a woman named Arnold and a man named Maloney. The woman was arrested, and there were marks of blood upon her. The man was also caught. The report of the surgeon-superintendent of the 'Devon,' immigrant ship, states that many passengers came out with a view of getting relief from some disease—several were hospital patients up to the time of embarkation.

CHINA.

(PER PRESS AGENCY.) A PROJET to place China and the United States in telegraphic communication by means of the trans-Pacific cable is being placed before the Pekin Government by an agent of the projectors from America. It is said that the Japanese Government have promised to render assistance, if the project is adopted at Pekin. The Chinese government is about to start a woolen manufactory at San Chow Fu, the capital of Szechuan. Two German gentlemen have been engaged to conduct the enterprise; the requisite machinery has been shipped from Europe, and the building will shortly be commenced. The first foreign vessel, sailing ship, that has arrived at Wenchow since the opening of the port, arrived there on the 5th ult.—a German barque of 320 tons. The vessel secured a charter, and there is some probability of the development of the trade in foreign vessels. The On Tsi (Native) Insurance Company has issued a statement of its business for the year ending 1st May, 1878, from which it appears that a dividend of 35 per cent was to be paid to contributors, and 11 per cent to shareholders. The China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company has transferred its tug and lightening equipments at Tientsin to a tug company, the reason, it is stated, being that the C.M.S.N. Company cannot make them pay. The dock and foundry at Shanghai are advertised for sale or to be let, and speculation is rife as to the future of the company. The British barque 'Ada' went ashore on the 12th ult, when about 10 miles from Chofoo, and became a total wreck; all on board were saved. At a Court of Inquiry held to investigate the circumstances, the captain's certificate was suspended for nine months. News has been received of the loss of the Portuguese barque 'Venus' while on her way from Macao to Kinohr with a body of troops, to assist in quelling an insurrection in the latter colony. The vessel was wrecked on the coast of Annam, but the crew and passengers were all saved, and taken to Quinchon. The steamer 'Perambuco' was engaged at Saloo to call for them and bring them out to Hongkong. A case was heard at the Hongkong Police Court on Tuesday which may turn out to be a serious matter for the prisoner, who is a Chinese soldier, and perhaps for the Mandarin under whom he serves. He was sent here by the latter to take a woman away into Chinese territory. If the present charge is proved it will amount to an armed attack by Chinese soldiers on a house in a village on British soil. The German steamer 'Madagascar,' Captain Timm, left Bangkok on the 13th November for Hongkong, and has not been since heard of. The London correspondent of the Liverpool Post says he has obtained information from a quarter worthy of high consideration, that Her Majesty the Queen has decided to relinquish the reins of power in favour of the Prince of Wales as Prince Regent.

CRICKET.

The match between the two rival teams was played out on Saturday at Parawai Gardens. Some little time was lost owing to the want of punctuality on the part of one or two members of the T.C.C., but ultimately a start was made, and the two 'not outs' of the previous Saturday assumed the defence of the wickets against the bowling of Lawless and Burgess. The batters seemed determined to give some work to the field, and after some good hits Lawless took the first wicket, and as only two more players had to bat, the Union's first innings closed for 82. Not having scored sufficient runs to have the choice, they were sent in again, and their second innings was even worse than their first, as Hoskins and George, with 19 each, were the highest scorers, and in fact the only players that seemed to make a stand, and their innings closed for 68. The club will have to do a great deal of practice before they can again presume to play the rival club. The members are mostly young men, with practice will eventually make good players. The want of a practice ground is very much felt by both clubs, as the distance to the gardens is too great, and unless a man can afford to pay cab hire in and out, he is too tired after arriving there, and besides many men cannot leave their places of occupation until 4 p.m., or perhaps later, thus precluding them from any chance of practice during the week. We append the scores:— UNION C.C. 1st Innings. Hoskins, b Whitford ... 4 Boxall, run out, b Spencer ... 8 George, run out, b Whitford ... 2 Finney, run out, b Whitford ... 12 G. Smith, run out, b Whitford ... 11 J. Smith, b Lawless ... 19 Mills, b Lawless, b Gellion ... 0 Hunter, lbw, b Gellion ... 0 Lough, b Burgess ... 10 Capps, b Lawless ... 7 Williams, not out ... 9 Extras ... 9 Total ... 82 2nd Innings. Hoskins, b Bull, b Spencer ... 19 Boxall, b Burgess ... 0 George, b Burgess ... 19 Finney, b Whitford ... 8 G. Smith, b Burgess ... 4 J. Smith, b Baxter, b Spencer ... 0 Mills, b Burgess ... 0 Hunter, b Burgess, not out ... 0 Lough, b Burgess ... 3 Capps, b Burgess ... 0 Williams, run out, b Spencer ... 7 Extras ... 8 Total ... 68 1st Innings. Total 2 Innings ... 150 Thames C.C. ... 177 runs 1st Innings. A scratch match was played after the Union's innings, sides being picked by Bull and Gellion. Bull's side went in to bat, and Whitford's first ball disposed of Lawless. Spencer then joined Bull, and some leather hunting commenced, Spencer hitting right and left, and making some pretty drives for 3, 4, and 5 runs, and before being disposed of by one of R. D. Gellion's famous slows, he had put together 50 runs. He contributed the lion's share of the 92 runs made by Bull's side. Gallion's slows were very effective; he took six wickets in a very short time. Whitford and Gellion went to the wickets, until 6 p.m. The former made 13; the latter 11. The fielding was very good during the evening, and as our Ororomandel friends are about to visit us on the 17th of March to play the annual match with the Thames Club, it behoves our Thames cricketers to look well to their laurels, as the Ororomandel men are practising every day, and after polishing them off in December last and again beating a Mercury Bay club, they will no doubt make a hard struggle to achieve another victory. If our T.C.C. could make it convenient to muster twice weekly for practice, it would be something, for without practice it is almost impossible to play well. BULL'S SIDE. Bull, b Whitford ... 8 Lawless, b Whitford b Whitford ... 0 Smith, b Whitford ... 2 Spencer, b Gellion ... 50 Capps, b Hunter, b Whitford ... 3 Lumsden, b Hunter, b Gellion ... 3 Murphy, b Hunter, b Gellion ... 11 George, lbw Hunter, b Gellion ... 0 Lough, b Hunter, b Gellion ... 6 Baxter, b Hunter, b Gellion ... 0 Hoskins, not out ... 1 Extras ... 10 Total ... 92 GELLION'S SIDE. Gellion, not out ... 11 Whitford, not out ... 13

MINING MATTERS.

ALBURNIA.—There is a great improvement in the nature of the ground in the 70-feet level, which admits of much speedier progress in driving on the lode. When the manager first recommenced pushing on this drive the ground was very tight, and but slow progress was made, but within the last week the country in the foot-wall has changed into a kind of soft mullock and sandstone. The lode continues of about the same size, with colours of gold to be seen in the quartz, which is good crushing dirt. The winze being sunk on the lode from the level above is down a depth of over 30 feet, with the reef showing gold. The 30z on Dixon's lode is being put down through favourable country, the lode being about 3 feet thick and showing good colours of gold. Retorting for the month took place on Saturday morning at the Herald battery for the excellent return of 615ozs 15dwts retorted gold. About 320 tons and 50wt picked stone were crushed for this amount. The tributors, Bond and party, crushed 3 tons of general dirt for the return of 44ozs gold. MONATIAH.—The winze which this company has been sinking on No. 9 reef from the bottom of the 150 feet level, has holed through to the new level below. The lode has not yet been met with in the level, the last few feet of the winze having been sunk through the slide. During the past fortnight 266 tons of general stuff have been treated for the payable yield of 223ozs retorted gold. CURE.—The manager is still pushing the drive on No. 6 lode ahead, but there seems to be a change in its appearance. No gold has yet been seen in the stone, although there are good mineral indications. A trial parcel has been brought to the surface, which will shortly be forwarded to the battery for treatment. The manager has now started to sink a winze on Gilmore's leader below Davis's tribute block. The leader is about six inches thick, and shows a little gold. CALEDONIAN.—The drive on the western lode in the Otago section is still being continued, the reef being about 2 1/2 feet thick, but shows no gold. The manager reports that the water and gas in the U.P.A. shaft have been rising at the rate of three feet per day during the latter end of the past week. PRINCE IMPERIAL TRIBUTE.—Kinsford and party crushed 87lbs of specimens for the excellent return of 62ozs 14dwts melted gold. They obtained a few pounds of excellent stone on Saturday. LITTLE LIZIE.—Prescott and party lodged 3ozs 13dwts of gold taken from this claim on Saturday.

VOLUNTEER PRIZE FIRING.

The fifteenth quarterly competition for the district belt took place on Saturday, and the result was surprising to a good many. The weather was favourable for shooting, and some good scores were made. The number of competitors was not so large as on previous occasions, which may be accounted for from the fact that a number of riflemen are away at the Nelson meeting. As will be seen from the appended scores, Seaman Hori Matene, of the Naval Brigade, was successful in carrying off the coveted trophy, which makes the third consecutive time that the Navals have won it, and proves to some extent the superiority of their weapons (steel barrels) over those with which the other companies are provided. Seaman Matene wins, in addition to the belt, the sum of £1 0s 3d; Seaman Johns, who was second, gets 16s 10s 3d; Bandsman Hirst (T.N.B.), third, 13s 6d; Volunteer Price, T.S.V. fourth, 10s 1s 3d; and Seaman Frearson, fifth, 6s 9d. We append the scores from 45 upwards:—

Table of scores for the Volunteer Prize Firing competition. Columns include names and scores. Seaman Matene is the highest scorer with 300 points.

THE DISTRICT BELT.

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COUNTY CONTRACTS.

The County Council met at the offices on Saturday at noon, for the purpose of opening and accepting tenders for works and supplies of material. With reference to the contract for forming Rewa's hill, near the booms, the Chairman stated that the plans and specifications having been amended, the time for receiving tenders had been extended to Saturday next. The following tenders for constructing seventeen chains of close-paling fencing round the Waio-Karaka reservoir, were then opened:—P. Ferguson, £4 1s 1d per chain; A. Boyer, £3 17s; W. Adamson, £3 14s 9d; G. Dodd, £76 2s 6d (lump sum); J. J. O'Brien, £76 2s (lump sum); Mattheson, £85 (lump sum); Hopkins, £4 0s 6d; Connel, £4 11s 6d; J. Macandrew, £3 12s; P. Clarina, £4 13s 6d; Dennerly and Challis, £67 17s 6d (lump sum); W. Dodd, £4 5s 3d. Mr Macandrew's tender was accepted. No. 2 Section, Katikati and Ohinemuri Road.—Tattersall, £2 17s per chain; Cornes, £4 10s; J. McGuire, £4 10s. Tattersall's tender was accepted. No. 1 section.—W. McCormick, £150 (lump sum); W. Logan, £6 per chain; R. Noble, £5 7s 6d per chain; Halley, £85 (lump sum). The latter's tender was accepted. Supplying 2,500ft twenty-inch iron pipes.—T. and S. Morrin, 15s per lineal foot; Judd and Co., 20s 3d; McCann, 12s 9d; Fraser and Time, £2000 (lump sum). It appeared that all the tenders were slightly informal, and the matter was left in the hands of a committee consisting of Councillors Greenville, Thorburn, and the Engineer, who will meet for the purpose this morning. HAURAKI ENGINEERS. MILITARY ENGINEERING. THE sixteenth lecture, given by the officers of the above corps to the non-commissioned officers and sappers, was delivered by Sub-Lieutenant George Denby on the evening of Friday last, the subject on this occasion being the Construction of Revolutions. The lecturer explained in a clear and interesting manner the uses made of revolvers, the different materials used in their construction, the various kinds usually applied in field revolvers, as gabbons, fascines, hurdles, sand-bags, sods, planks, and other temporary expedients, when none of the first-named were available. He showed how the various revolvers were constructed, illustrating the subject by full-size drawings on the blackboard, and by some excellent diagrams drawn to scale (which have recently arrived from a Royal Engineer officer in England). After the lecture an examination was made of the members touching their knowledge on various matters relating to their duties as engineers. The answers to many of the questions put were promptly and correctly given, showing a practical acquaintance with the subjects recapitulated. Mr Denby, moreover, informed the men that the Government had promised to supply the corps shortly with the means to procure the necessary tools, and that as soon as they could be obtained, the lectures, which had been given from time to time by his brother officers and himself, would then be put into practice by out-door field instruction. A short drill of the company took place in the Drill Hall previous to the adjournment to the lecture room. Captain Small, Sergeant G. Clark, and Sapper T. Keller, are at the Nelson Rifle Meeting, where we have no doubt they will do their level best, with other Thames men, to maintain the prestige of the district. W. H. Hazard, Esq., of Auckland (formerly resident on the Thames, and captain of the Hauraki Engineers), has again presented his old corps with a valuable double-barrelled gun as a shooting prize, the conditions of firing to be settled by the officers. The Haurakis are indebted to that gentleman for many and repeated gifts. The open-handed generosity of such donors as Mr Hazard goes far to encourage emulation and a proper spirit of rivalry in the Volunteer force.

INFANT SICKNESS AND MOR-TALITY.

(To the Editor of the THAMES ADVERTISER.) Sir,—In the interest of the poor little sufferers, and others of bigger stature, allow me to say a little upon the cause of so much sickness and death lately throughout New Zealand. Undoubtedly it is caused by the extraordinary heat and drought we have had this summer, or rather from the large amount of negative electricity in the atmosphere, attributable to the great heat, and because many are not in that vigorous state of health that would resist atmospheric influences. The condition of the atmosphere this summer has been such as to decrease the vitality of the system, and to render it less able to cast out its impurities by the ordinary channels; these impurities, as a consequence, collect in the system and clog it to such an extent that nature rebels and makes extraordinary efforts to rid itself of the foul matter obstructions by means of the body's main sewer, the bowels; then the person is said to be sick, and is sick, very sick sometimes. Now all that is required is to assist nature by imparting vigor to the system, and so help her to carry off the offensive matter. The purging if it is violent may be checked, but can never be wholly stopped without great danger. Now, I know from experience and observation, of not a very short life, some 25 years of which I have spent in hot climates, that there is nothing as an external means of curing bowel complaints and in a great measure preventing their return, like cold water, by dashing it over the patient frequently it braces up and imparts a vigour to the system which of itself will very soon effect a cure. I was therefore very much pleased to find by an article in your Thursday's issue that here and there we yet have men of common sense among the medical profession, and who fear not to exercise it in their practice. I make bold to say that if the system adopted by Dr MacKenna of Victoria had been adopted by the medical men of New Zealand during the prevalence of diarrhoea this season scarcely any of the infants would have died. The doctor himself pays no very high compliment to the medical profession generally. I neither. I have long viewed them for the most part as charlatans far more intent on making money and getting rich than on using their common sense for the prevention and cure of disease, and I cannot help saying that this has been notably the case with some who have practised on the Thames. There appears to be very little more known now regarding diseases and their cure by allopathists generally than was known in the days of Hippocrates himself, and this is the testimony of some of themselves. It is mostly guess work with them. Now, in order to be able to resist sickness and disease it is necessary to have a hardy, vigorous body, and the doctor above referred to has been especially happy in his reference to Indian mothers breaking the ice in order to give their just born infants a cold bath. These mothers know what will contribute to give their progeny a hardy, robust, vigorous constitution, and fear not to use the means. What a contrast to many of the mothers of civilisation, who would not touch the infant with cold water for fear they should kill it. We happened to have one gentleman, a Dr Stewart, at the Cape (when I resided there), a man of common sense, great skill, and (what was desirable also) a man of very moderate charges, who approved of the Indian treatment of newborn infants, and who plunged my own daughter into a bath of cold spring water the moment after she was born. There is nothing like cold water, internally and externally, as a preventative of sickness, and for the cure of bowel disorders. Let the infant have it continually, externally, if you would have it grow up with a hardy, vigorous constitution,—and internally also—from the time it leaves its mother's arms, and if to the water you add one-third milk, the better. The water for drinking should be got from the spring if possible; and if not, it should be boiled and cooled. Tea and coffee little children should never drink, and it would be better for adults if they took less of these beverages and more of cold spring water. Now, as regards the internal remedies for the cure of diarrhoea, &c., I prefer olive oil. Very few know the wonderful properties of that oil, and its benefit to the human system whether in health or disease, but especially in bowel complaints. These disorders were very prevalent at the Cape, far more so than in New Zealand, and very frequently running into dysentery. The universal remedy for them—even in the worst of cases—was olive oil. For an infant a teaspoonful two or three times a day, and for an adult a tablespoonful more frequently, and it was but seldom a death occurred from these diseases when this was the treatment. I recommend the frequent use of olive oil as a sedative and a preservative of health, and I recommend the frequent use of the cold bath externally. By these means any person may be fortified against summer disorders, and will find their general health to be much improved. But there is one other thing that will contribute above all other to good health and cheerfulness, it is this: that whatever may befall mankind in the approaching troubles, which must all increase rapidly now, there is nothing like a firm reliance on the Rock of Ages, Christ Jesus, to give calmness and peace to the mind, and so contribute to general good health. Next to the oil, in summer disorders, rhubarb is the best—the syrup for infants and the tincture for adults; and, when the pain is great, mixed with a little essence of peppermint. To conclude: Every head of a family ought to make himself acquainted with the rules of health and vigour, and not trust too much to the doctors: he would then know what to do in cases of infantile disorders. The rules of health and even the cure of simple disorders are not difficult to know. But ignorance is productive of much evil, temporal and spiritual. When a child of mine was sick I knew what to do, and did it at once. I never allowed sickness to make an intruder on the constitutions of any of my family, but tackled it at once as soon as it appeared. My children are all grown up, and as yet I have had no deaths amongst them, and so would it be with most families did but the parents know the simple rules of health, the cure of simple diseases, and apply them.—I am, &c., WILLIAM WOOD.

THE ZULU CAMPAIGN.

As the Zulu Campaign seems quite likely to attract more attention than any of the aggressive expeditions recently undertaken by the British, it may not be amiss to detail in a series of leaders some interesting information, derived from personal knowledge, with reference to the origin of the war and the country in which it will take place. The Zulu land is situated on the east coast of Africa, between the twenty-seventh and twenty-ninth parallels of south latitude, and the thirtieth and thirty-third of east longitude, and may be roughly estimated at thirty thousand square miles. It is separated on the south from the colony of Natal by the river Tugela, a fine, clear, rapid stream, more than a mile in width at its mouth. On the north shore dwell the amasomazi, an amiable, though warlike, tribe, speaking the same language as the Zulus, but hating and dreading them, and extremely friendly to the English. They muster perhaps ten thousand warriors, and are divided from their foes by the Pongola river, another fine stream, which joins the Usutu, running from the north-west, and together they enter the south end of Delagoa Bay. To the west lie the Transvaal territories, now British possessions, which are separated from the Zulu land by the head waters of the Pongola, by a portion of the great Drakensberg range, which extends from Abyssinia to Cape Town, and by the Blood river, a stream that flows into the Buffalo river, which in its turn joins the Tugela. The whole of the country is exceedingly broken and hilly, the altitudes increasing as the sea is reached from north on the western boundary: a general elevation of between three thousand and four thousand feet is attainable. Though so broken, locomotion is not difficult, the grades being in few places abrupt, while a great deal of the surface is open grass, and the bush lands scattered about are not, as in New Zealand, impenetrable, but allow waggoners to pick their way through. Moreover, none of the numerous streams which intersect it are of any size, all being easily crossed at numerous points of their short course. The coast lands are tropical in their climate, and are mostly covered with bush, in which the mimosa and euphorbia families take a conspicuous place. Numerous lagoons are scattered about, swarming with hippopotami and alligators. Until quite recently these lands were alive with elephants and other large game, but the hunters have played sad havoc with them, and very few of the former now remain. The coast lands are well adapted for sugar, coffee, tobacco, arrowroot, and other tropical produce. Further inland is open grass, varied with expanses of mimosa bush, and here tobacco, cotton and maize flourish in a surprising manner, and cattle and goats find congenial homes, while many large varieties of bucks roam about unfrequented districts. Still further in the interior, extremely pleasant and salubrious, illness being little known save on the coast, where the lagoons and rank vegetation arising from them render it in summer extremely unhealthy. In addition to the wealth of the natives in cattle—and in that respect they are the richest of all African tribes—and the value of the country for the growth of tropical produce, its natural resources are otherwise very great. The writer has found gold in several places, and coal, iron, and copper abound, but only of the iron do the natives make any use, and that simply to make their assegais or spears. 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CORRESPONDENCE.

INFANT SICKNESS AND MOR-TALITY. (To the Editor of the THAMES ADVERTISER.) Sir,—In the interest of the poor little sufferers, and others of bigger stature, allow me to say a little upon the cause of so much sickness and death lately throughout New Zealand. Undoubtedly it is caused by the extraordinary heat and drought we have had this summer, or rather from the large amount of negative electricity in the atmosphere, attributable to the great heat, and because many are not in that vigorous state of health that would resist atmospheric influences. The condition of the atmosphere this summer has been such as to decrease the vitality of the system, and to render it less able to cast out its impurities by the ordinary channels; these impurities, as a consequence, collect in the system and clog it to such an extent that nature rebels and makes extraordinary efforts to rid itself of the foul matter obstructions by means of the body's main sewer, the bowels; then the person is said to be sick, and is sick, very sick sometimes. Now all that is required is to assist nature by imparting vigor to the system, and so help her to carry off the offensive matter. The purging if it is violent may be checked, but can never be wholly stopped without great danger. Now, I know from experience and observation, of not a very short life, some 25 years of which I have spent in hot climates, that there is nothing as an external means of curing bowel complaints and in a great measure preventing their return, like cold water, by dashing it over the patient frequently it braces up and imparts a vigour to the system which of itself will very soon effect a cure. I was therefore very much pleased to find by an article in your Thursday's issue that here and there we yet have men of common sense among the medical profession, and who fear not to exercise it in their practice. I make bold to say that if the system adopted by Dr MacKenna of Victoria had been adopted by the medical men of New Zealand during the prevalence of diarrhoea this season scarcely any of the infants would have died. The doctor himself pays no very high compliment to the medical profession generally. I neither. I have long viewed them for the most part as charlatans far more intent on making money and getting rich than on using their common sense for the prevention and cure of disease, and I cannot help saying that this has been notably the case with some who have practised on the Thames. There appears to be very little more known now regarding diseases and their cure by allopathists generally than was known in the days of Hippocrates himself, and this is the testimony of some of themselves. It is mostly guess work with them. Now, in order to be able to resist sickness and disease it is necessary to have a hardy, vigorous body, and the doctor above referred to has been especially happy in his reference to Indian mothers breaking the ice in order to give their just born infants a cold bath. These mothers know what will contribute to give their progeny a hardy, robust, vigorous constitution, and fear not to use the means. What a contrast to many of the mothers of civilisation, who would not touch the infant with cold water for fear they should kill it. We happened to have one gentleman, a Dr Stewart, at the Cape (when I resided there), a man of common sense, great skill, and (what was desirable also) a man of very moderate charges, who approved of the Indian treatment of newborn infants, and who plunged my own daughter into a bath of cold spring water the moment after she was born. There is nothing like cold water, internally and externally, as a preventative of sickness, and for the cure of bowel disorders. Let the infant have it continually, externally, if you would have it grow up with a hardy, vigorous constitution,—and internally also—from the time it leaves its mother's arms, and if to the water you add one-third milk, the better. The water for drinking should be got from the spring if possible; and if not, it should be boiled and cooled. Tea and coffee little children should never drink, and it would be better for adults if they took less of these beverages and more of cold spring water. Now, as regards the internal remedies for the cure of diarrhoea, &c., I prefer olive oil. Very few know the wonderful properties of that oil, and its benefit to the human system whether in health or disease, but especially in bowel complaints. These disorders were very prevalent at the Cape, far more so than in New Zealand, and very frequently running into dysentery. The universal remedy for them—even in the worst of cases—was olive oil. For an infant a teaspoonful two or three times a day, and for an adult a tablespoonful more frequently, and it was but seldom a death occurred from these diseases when this was the treatment. I recommend the frequent use of olive oil as a sedative and a preservative of health, and I recommend the frequent use of the cold bath externally. By these means any person may be fortified against summer disorders, and will find their general health to be much improved. But there is one other thing that will contribute above all other to good health and cheerfulness, it is this: that whatever may befall mankind in the approaching troubles, which must all increase rapidly now, there is nothing like a firm reliance on the Rock of Ages, Christ Jesus, to give calmness and peace to the mind, and so contribute to general good health. Next to the oil, in summer disorders, rhubarb is the best—the syrup for infants and the tincture for adults; and, when the pain is great, mixed with a little essence of peppermint. To conclude: Every head of a family ought to make himself acquainted with the rules of health and vigour, and not trust too much to the doctors: he would then know what to do in cases of infantile disorders. The rules of health and even the cure of simple disorders are not difficult to know. But ignorance is productive of much evil, temporal and spiritual. When a child of mine was sick I knew what to do, and did it at once. I never allowed sickness to make an intruder on the constitutions of any of my family, but tackled it at once as soon as it appeared. My children are all grown up, and as yet I have had no deaths amongst them, and so would it be with most families did but the parents know the simple rules of health, the cure of simple diseases, and apply them.—I am, &c., WILLIAM WOOD.

THE ZULU CAMPAIGN.

As the Zulu Campaign seems quite likely to attract more attention than any of the aggressive expeditions recently undertaken by the British, it may not be amiss to detail in a series of leaders some interesting information, derived from personal knowledge, with reference to the origin of the war and the country in which it will take place. The Zulu land is situated on the east coast of Africa, between the twenty-seventh and twenty-ninth parallels of south latitude, and the thirtieth and thirty-third of east longitude, and may be roughly estimated at thirty thousand square miles. It is separated on the south from the colony of Natal by the river Tugela, a fine, clear, rapid stream, more than a mile in width at its mouth. On the north shore dwell the amasomazi, an amiable, though warlike, tribe, speaking the same language as the Zulus, but hating and dreading them, and extremely friendly to the English. They muster perhaps ten thousand warriors, and are divided from their foes by the Pongola river, another fine stream, which joins the Usutu, running from the north-west, and together they enter the south end of Delagoa Bay. To the west lie the Transvaal territories, now British possessions, which are separated from the Zulu land by the head waters of the Pongola, by a portion of the great Drakensberg range, which extends from Abyssinia to Cape Town, and by the Blood river, a stream that flows into the Buffalo river, which in its turn joins the Tugela. The whole of the country is exceedingly broken and hilly, the altitudes increasing as the sea is reached from north on the western boundary: a general elevation of between three thousand and four thousand feet is attainable. 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