

Public Auction Sales.

THIS DAY. At 11 o'clock.

JOHN LEYDON Has received instructions from Mr CHARLES SCHULZE, who is leaving the Thames, to sell, on the premises, Dairy-street, HIS substantially-built FOUR-ROOMED COTTAGE, erected on a splendid freehold allotment, together with Furniture and Effects, consisting of Chest of Drawers, Cheffonier, Sofa, Tables, Chairs, Pictures, Beds and Bedding, Looking Glass, Crocker, Cutlery, &c., and other articles too numerous to particularise.

THIS DAY. At 11 o'clock.

GELLION AND CO. Will sell at the Yards, Rob Roy Hotel, Parawai, SIX HEAD OF CATTLE 15 Stores Pat Calves and Pigs

THIS DAY. At 11 o'clock.

UNREDEEMED PLEDGES FROM AUCKLAND.

MESSRS. GUDGEON & CO. Will sell at their Rooms, as above, CONSIGNMENT of Clothing and Jewellery, Christmas Gears, Poultry, &c. N.B.—Poultry for to-morrow's Sale must be entered early.

Medical.

DR. ROWBOTTOM MAY BE CONSULTED DAILY at his Residence, Pollen-street, Grahamstown, from 9 to 10 morning and 6 to 8 evening. Midwifery and diseases of women and children particularly attended.

NOTICE.

DR. PAYNE being compelled by ill-health to seek a few days rest, the following gentlemen have kindly consented to assist:—Dr O'Flaherty will attend and prescribe for patients calling at the Hospital between 11 and 12. Dr Rowbottom will kindly assist with some of the out-patients. Mr Hall has charge of my books, and will repeat any medicine required, &c., etc.

For Sale.

A BARGAIN. FOR SALE, at London price, an AMERICAN ORGAN, recently imported and warranted in perfect order: one-and-a-half rows of vibrators, knee swell, &c.—Apply to C. J. BROWN, at Mr BISHAW'S.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

WATCHES! WATCHES! CLOCKS, JEWELLERY, GOLD AND SILVER CHAINS, GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES, LOCKETS, OPERA GLASSES, SPECTACLES, &c., &c.

THE whole of my beautiful and carefully selected stock will be SOLD OFF at whatever it will fetch!

SALE TO COMMENCE AT ONCE AND CONTINUE TILL THE NEW YEAR!

My place of business will be closed during the New Year's holidays, will open again on January 10th, with a splendid stock of NEW GOODS!

selected by myself in Sydney, comprising French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Indian Goods. Watches continue to be spoiled as usual, as per agreement, by ANDREW LEDINGHAM, WATCHMAKER, OVEN-STREET, GRAHAMSTOWN. Sign of "the Clock." Time taken every week by observation.

Wanted, a First-class WORKMAN; Good wages given.

CHEAP BOOTS AND SHOES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR.

M. WHITEHEAD Calls the attention of the inhabitants of the Thames to his Large Stock of Ladies', Gents', and Children's BOOTS AND SHOES, OF THE BEST ENGLISH AND COLONIAL MANUFACTURE, which are offered at reduced prices.

"NONE NEED BE WITHOUT A PAIR OF BOOTS."

A good assortment of every kind of Durable Boots and Shoes to select from, and all to be sold cheap.

A Lot of GIRLS' ELASTIC and LACED BOOTS at 4s 6d Pair, and others too numerous to particularise.

M. WHITEHEAD, POLLEN-STREET, SHORTLAND.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

A N "IMMENSE" Stock of useful and Ornamental FANCY GOODS suitable for Prizes, Christmas, and New Year's gifts. Heads of Families and School Teachers will do well to INSP. OF THE STOCK EARLY. A very OBEAP line in Note Paper and Envelopes, 40 per cent. BELOW the usual selling prices.

Splendid value in TOBACCO, CIGARS, MEMBERSHIP PIPES, &c., &c. Best & Best of Plain Vests, 7d per doz. Tin Boxes, 25s, 25s per doz. A still further REDUCTION in larger quantities.

COUTTS' ACETIC ACID, Wholesale and Retail. "BARRY'S TRICOPHEROUS," Is 3d per Bottle.

Please NOTE the ADDRESS.—CENTRAL TOBACCO AND FANCY GOODS DEPOT, (Next door to the Central Dispensary), MARY-STREET, near to the Post Office.

SERVICES.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF SACRED SONG, "IMMANUEL," AT THE GRAHAMSTOWN WESLEYAN CHURCH, THIS (MONDAY) EVENING, 23RD INSTANT, Commencing at 8 o'clock.

Proceeds to be devoted to the Fund now being raised for laying on GAS to the Church. Tickets, 1s each, to be had of Messrs HERRINGTON, COX, MINORSM, and members of the Choir.

SPORTS.

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB. ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING! BOXING DAY, and 1st and 2nd JANUARY, 1879. WILLIAM PERCIVAL, Secretary A.R.C.

THAMES ANNUAL RACES.

THE MEETING to be held at the Queen's Hotel THIS (Monday) EVENING for the purpose of RECEIVING ACCEPTANCES for the 1st DAY—BOROUGH PLATE HURDLE RACE

2nd DAY—COUNTY PLATE HURDLE RACE. Also, ENTRIES for the 1st DAY—FLYING STAKES, 10s; entry, 30s

2nd DAY—TROTTING RACE, distance, handicap, 10 sows, 21 miles; second horse to save stake; entrance, 30s; without qualification.

The Stewards are requested to bring in their Lists, as all Subscriptions must be paid in to the Treasurer to-night. GEO. MARCOURT, Secretary.

Volunteer Notices.

THAMES NAVAL BRIGADE. A MEETING will be held in the Hall THIS (Monday) EVENING, at 7.30 sharp, for special business, at which all Members are particularly requested to attend. B. T. WILDMAN, Captain.

THAMES RIFLE GALLERY, BROWN-STREET, GRAHAMSTOWN. VOLUNTEERS, ATTENTION!

A MAGNIFICENT PICTURE will be shot for this week, viz., "THE BOATSWAIN'S MATE." The usual conditions—the highest score in any six consecutive shots.

meetings.

I.O.C.F., MU., A.D. LOYAL CHARLES BRUCE LODGE, No. 8373.

THE Annual MEETING of the above Lodge will be held at the Masonic Hall, Queen-street, Grahamstown, on Monday EVENING, December 22, at 7 o'clock. Business—Election of Officers and Surgeon. W. H. JENKIN, Secretary.

THE Financial MEETING of the above Lodge will be held at the Odd Fellows' Hall, Richmond-street, on TUESDAY Evening, December 23, at 7.30 o'clock. Business—Payment of dues. CHARLES ABIB, Secretary.

Wanted.

WANTED, a Steady, Active MAN, who understands making Concrete and Building Houses. Also a Man who thoroughly understands the Manufacture of Soda Water; and a person to Manage a Hotel in the country. Apply to JOHN WILSON, Grahamstown Office, Dec. 20th, 1878.

WANTED, a good GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply to Mrs D. H. BARLON, Mount Pleasant, Parawai.

WANTED, a good GENERAL SERVANT.—Wanted a good hand, apply to T. and H. COOKS, 67 Queen-street, Auckland.

M.R.J. HERRINGTON has just received the AUSTRALASIAN of November 16, and SKETCHER of November 23.

SHIPPING. PORT OF THAMES.—Dec. 21. INWARDS. Rotomahana, s.s. 130, tons, Parawai, from Auckland, with passengers.

TYDR TABLE.

DECEMBER. H.M. H.M. Morn Even

10 Monday 11 11 11 11 11 20
17 Tuesday 11 11 11 11 11 20
18 Wednesday 11 11 11 11 11 20
19 Thursday 11 11 11 11 11 20
20 Friday 11 11 11 11 11 20
21 Saturday 11 11 11 11 11 20
Sunday, 15th, high water, morn, 5.35; even, 6.3.

Moon's Age. Last Quarter, 17th, 2.42 pm. New Moon, 24th, 9.3 am.

For Auckland, per s.s. Rotomahana this day, at 5 pm. For Taranaki, Southern Ports, and Australian Colonies (for transmission per s.s. Triton), to-morrow. J. K. COOKE, Chief Postmaster.

NOTICE.

KEMPFORNE, PROSSER, AND CO., beg to intimate that their Warehouse, Shortland-street, Auckland, will be closed from the 25th Dec., 1878, to 2nd Jan., 1879, inclusive, for the purpose of Stock Taking.

THE Thames Advertiser.

MONDAY, DEC. 23, 1878.

TURNING THE FIRST SOD OF THE THAMES VALLEY RAILWAY.

SATURDAY was a red-letter day in the history of the Thames. It ushered in a new order of things, which will enable us to take a fresh lease of life. "It is a long lane," we are told, "that has no turning." The district has for some time past been under a cloud, but let us venture to hope that the turning point has at length arrived, the silver lining dawned, and that ere long we may have no cause for complaining on the score of progress and prosperity. The work just inaugurated promises to be the harbinger of that prosperity to which we have long looked forward as the result of the opening up of our lands by an industrious class and aided by railway communication. Should our sanguine hopes be realised, we shall have cause to thank the Grey-Macandrew administration for the inauguration of this work, and it was, therefore, to be expected that the citizens of the Thames would vie with each other in their efforts to do honour to the gentleman representing the head of that administration, when it was ascertained that he intended to comply with our wishes in the turning of the first sod of the projected line of railway, uniting the Thames with the fertile valley which links it with the interior. In accordance with arrangements made, the Colonial Government steamer "Hisoem" left Auckland at 7 am on Saturday for the Thames, having on board Sir George Grey and his Private Secretary (Mr Wm Mitchell), and the following invited guests:—E. McMinn, Esq, M.H.R., Waipa; Thomas Peacock, Esq, Mayor of Auckland; Capt Wilson of the Cape of Good Hope, and Mr Wilson; Mr and Miss Melton (Parrell), Councillors J Waddell and Fleming (Auckland), and Mr P A Phillips, Town Clerk of Auckland. A large number of others had been invited, but the uncertainty of steamer accommodation, and other matters, prevented their acceptance of the invitations issued by the Thames Valley Railway Committee. The steamer was off Taranaki about 10.30, and at 11 o'clock the little p.s. "Raby" proceeded to the Government steamer to land the guests, his Worship the Mayor, Mr Davies (Chairman of the Harbour Board), Mr A. Brodie (County Chairman), and Mr W. Carpenter (Chairman of the Parawai Highway Board) accompanying. Arrived at the Goods Wharf Sir George Grey and the visitors were received by members of the local bodies, and at the shore-end by members of the Railway Committee, the band of the Thames Scottish playing suitable airs, and the guns of the Naval Brigade fired a salute at the time. The wharf and entrance were gaily decorated, and carriages were in readiness to convey the visitors, the committee, and local bodies, &c, to the site fixed upon for the ceremony of turning the first sod of the railway, on the beach midway between Shortland and Grahamstown, a little below high-water mark. The places of business were closed, a half-holiday having been arranged for, and various decorations met the eye as the long line of carriages bore the guests and members of local bodies to the place prepared for the ceremony. Here an enclosure had been constructed, with accommodation for some 500 children who were to sing on the occasion. Under a shed at the end of the avenue the spade and wheelbarrow to be used by Sir George Grey in the turning of the sod were in waiting. The attendance of spectators was very large not less than 1,500 adults being present, in addition to the 500 school children, who, under the leadership of Mr Grigg, their conductor, introduced the proceedings with the singing of two verses of the National Anthem.

The Chairman of the Thames Valley Railway Committee then read and presented to Sir George Grey the following address:—

To SIR GEORGE GREY, K.C.B.—Sir,—This Committee, in asking you to turn the first sod of the Thames Valley Railway, desire to express to you the great satisfaction which they, in common with every inhabitant of the District, feel on the present occasion, which is the happy termination of a long and arduous agitation commenced more than six years ago, and carried on without much encouragement. Notwithstanding the want of success which attended their efforts to obtain a favorable consideration of this question for many years, the Committee never lost sight of the object they had in view, but took every opportunity of pressing it upon the attention of the Government of the day, but still without any result until you, sir, appeared upon the scene, and announced to the people of the Thames that you considered the scheme to be not only practicable, but reasonable, and a project deserving the attention of the Legislature of the Colony and of capitalists seeking profitable investments. From that time until the last session of Parliament the prospects of the Thames Valley Railway continued steadily to improve, when your Government took the decided step of placing it on the schedule of railway works to be undertaken by the Colony of New Zealand. This recognition of a scheme no less useful than necessary redounds much to the credit of your Government for justice, impartiality, and foresight, and we now have the pleasure to invite you thus to crown an undertaking which already owes so much to your advocacy, by making a formal commencement of the work.

For the Thames Valley Railway Committee, JAMES KILGOUR, Chairman.

SIR GEORGE GREY said he was very much obliged for the address just presented to him, and very happy to be present on such an occasion as that, when the work they had been striving for years was about to be practically started. (Cheers) Sir George Grey then proceeded to turn the first sod. A gangway had been run out from the small platform erected, alongside which were some turf sods. A very handsome wheelbarrow of rimu (manufactured by Mr F. Dann), and varnished, was standing near, and a light spade of ordinary make, the silver implement ordered for the occasion not being finished. Sir George proceeded to handle his tools in a workmanlike manner. He dug a good sod, put it into the barrow and wheeled it back to the shed, instead of putting it over the "tip," amid the cheers and complimentary remarks of the spectators, by whom the greatest enthusiasm was manifested.

Addressing Dr Kilgour, Sir George made a short speech—on a silence being restored—the purport of which our representative (who was not near enough to hear distinctly and was entirely unable to write just at that time by the pressure about him) understood to be that he trusted the railway thus inaugurated would prove a blessing to the community, and a convenience for the commerce of the inland districts, and that it would conduce to make this one of the finest ports in New Zealand.

Mr Peacock, Mayor of Auckland, said he had very great pleasure on behalf of the people of Auckland in congratulating the Thames on the proceedings of that day. There would have been a much greater attendance of Auckland visitors, but for some uncertainty regarding the steamer and the day. He need not dilate on the importance of railway works. That was recognised everywhere, and the benefits felt. Auckland people were aware of the importance of opening up the country. The energy which had been displayed in bringing the work commenced that day to a practical issue was deserving of success, and he could assure them they had the good wishes of the people of Auckland.

Mr J. W. Melton expressed the pleasure he felt at being present to represent the Borough of Parrell. After the speech of Mr Peacock it would be unnecessary for him to say much, but he would reiterate that they had the good wishes of the burgesses of Parrell in this undertaking. He regretted that the Mayor (his successor), Mr Coleman, was prevented by illness from attending to-day and occupying the position he (Mr Melton) did. He would again say he congratulated the Thames people on the result which had attended their exertions.

Mr McMinn, M.H.R. for Waipa, hoped to be able some day to congratulate them at the other end of the line on the completion of the work begun that day. He was sorry there was no other representative from Waikato present, but the fact was they were nearly all farmers in Waikato, and it was very inconvenient to leave their homes at this season. The Thames had a warm friend in the Premier, who had always done what he could for the district, and particularly in regard to the railway and other matters during the late session of Parliament.

Mr A. J. Cadman, Chairman of the Coromandel County Council, congratulated the Thames people that day. He hoped it would not be many years before the Coromandel people would be able to invite the Thames to assist in a similar work at their end of the peninsula.

Dr Kilgour read an apology from H. Brett, Esq., ex-Mayor of Auckland, congratulating the Thames people on the work of that day, and regretting that he and Mrs Brett were unable to avail themselves of the invitation to be present.

Three cheers were then given for the visitors in a hearty manner, and the band played a selection of music.

The school children then sang the following:—

MY OWN NEW ZEALAND HOME. [By J. Grigg, Thames, 1875.]

I love my home, my happy home, In fair New Zealand's Isle— The glory of the South, where all The face of nature smiles; Where noble forests crown the hills, And streams tread circles round, And breathe refreshing gales, Ours—My happy home, my happy home, My own New Zealand home.

I love to stroll on summer's morn, Before the sun is high, And gather flowers and ferns and moss, And chase the butterfly; At noon to shelter 'neath the trees, And hear the fall's song, And then, ere evening spreads her veil, Homeward to speed along. Ours—My happy home, my happy home, My own New Zealand home.

I love to wander by the shore, Beside the flowing tide, And watch the seabird's graceful flight, And ships with sails spread wide, The pleasant school and busy town, Are full of charms for me, While on this British Southern soil I dwell content and free. Ours—My happy home, my happy home, My own New Zealand home.

(The hymn was much admired by those present, the tune being specially commended by musical connoisseurs for its sweetness and softness of cadence. The Thames Scottish Band rendered the chorus accompaniment.) At the conclusion of the local anthem, for which great credit is due to Mr Grigg, the composer, Sir George Grey proceeded to the raised ground where the children were assembled, and thanked them for their singing of the anthem. After some cheering Sir George addressed the children, stating that he was very happy to see them to-day. Their presence gave him unlimited pleasure. He hoped they would preserve their smiling faces and cultivate a habit of using gentle words. Their smiling faces showed they had happy homes, and if they used gentle words they would know that a soft answer turned away wrath. He would impress upon them obedience and respect for their parents, so that when they became mothers and fathers they would know how much pleasure that gave to parents. He hoped they would grow up to be virtuous, and strive to make the country of their birth one of the greatest and happiest on the face of the earth. Not only great in material wealth, but great in regard to virtue and intellect and all that tended to render people happy. He was very pleased to have the pleasure of saying a few words to them that day.

The children again cheered, and the visitors moved towards the beach, where the carriages were in waiting to convey them to the luncheon, but the proceedings being over earlier than was anticipated, and before luncheon was ready, it was arranged that the party should be driven out in the direction of Parawai and the new County road. The decorations at various places along the line of route were admired, and the appearance of the country generally, especially the progress made since Sir George, and others who accompanied him, last visited the road. The party proceeded as far as the native reserves at Totara Point, the verdure and foliage of which was green and refreshing to the eye, although the sun-light and heat, and the dusty road, made the journey otherwise unpleasant. Here the party halted, and the horses were directed towards Shortland again. Arrived at the Volunteer Hall, everything was in readiness for the guests, and the neatness of the hall was a theme of general admiration. The building had been elegantly decorated for the occasion with ferns, flowers, and shrubs. Great credit is due to the Luncheon Committee for their excellent arrangements for the comfort of the guests. The luncheon was prepared by Mr J. Forgie, of Pollen street, and included the delicacies of the season.

LUNCHEON AT THE VOLUNTEER HALL. The Luncheon Committee, consisting of Messrs Allow, W. Davies, F. C. Dean, J. McGowan, H. McIlhenny, E. N. Smith, and John Osborne, successfully supervised preparations for a cold collation, in the drill-hall, Richmond-street. About 200 attended. During luncheon the Scottish Volunteer Band entertained the proceedings by the performance of a selection of music. The chair was taken by the Chairman of the Thames Valley Railway Committee, Dr Kilgour, supported on his right by Sir George Grey, the Mayor, Colonel Fraser, and Major Murray; on his left by the County Chairman, Wm. Rowe, M.H.R., and E. W. Puckey. The elite of the town were there, together with the many distinguished visitors from a distance who came to mark their interest in the proceedings.

Among the company present were the following ladies and gentlemen:—J. B. Steadman and lady, James Marshall and lady, J. Thompson and lady, J. Smallman, E. McMinn, M.H.R. for Waipa; J. Wilson, J. B. Strange, B. Greenwood, J. Watson, J. Smith, D. Cloonan, J. Hudson, R. Hudson, J. W. Melton (ex-Mayor of Parrell) and Miss Melton, T. Peacock (Mayor of Auckland), Hon. Hoani Nahu, R. T. Douglas, E. W. Hollis and lady, E. F. Tizard and lady, W. Berry (Auckland) and lady, R. Macfarland, J. Kelly, A. Fleming and lady, Cr Waddell (Auckland), Cr Fleming (Auckland), Hon. Sir Geo. Grey, K.C.B., Thos. Yeale, H. McLiver, W. L. Thorburn, Henry H. Adams, E. Austin, J. R. Perry, W. Deebie, J. A. Cadman, A. Price, J. Lynch, G. Price, E. Honiss, F. W. Paul and lady, R. Fraser, R. N. Smith, J. B. Mason, J. Osborne and lady, G. T. Wilkinson, Samuel Stephenson, S. Young, P. A. Phillips, Town Clerk, Auckland; R. McDonald and lady, G. Symington, R. McD. Scott, G. McCaul, R. Buttle, M. H. Airey and lady, E. A. Fullene, R. Comer, Jas. Macandrew, Jno. Osborne, A. Lamb, P. Lamb, Lieut. Barlow, F. C. Dean (Town Clerk) and lady, Major Wilbur, Superintendent Thomson, Sub-Inspector Kenney, W. Wilkinson and lady, A. Hogg and lady, G. N. Brassy, A. Aitken and lady, W. J. Speight and lady, H. C. Lawlor, R. Kilgour, J. Gibbons and lady, Rev. G. Smiles, Wm. Souter, Colonel Fraser and lady, Miss Beveridge, Dr and Mrs Kilgour, Miss Belcher, H. McIlhenny, A. Brodie (County Chairman), W. Rowe, M.H.R., E. W. Puckey and lady, A. J. Murray and lady, Miss Allow, Major Allow and lady, Dr and Mrs Payne and Miss Brewer, W. Carpenter and lady, W. S. Greenwell, Adam Porter, John Brown, J. McGowan, J. M. Menzie, R. Graham, K. Graham, jun., C. O. Montrose, S. Hetherington, D. H. Perry, D. Miller, D. H. Gollin, W. Carriok, W. Mitchell, (Private Secretary to Sir George Grey), H. Newton, T. W. Gudgeon, E. Farrell, J. M. Hobson, G. McVay, W. McCullough and lady, Miss Errington, Lieut. Denby, Cr. Harrison (Coromandel), Captain Wilson, Mr Wilson, Capt J. S. Small, E. S. Morgan, J. Kinsella (Auckland), W. Davies (Chairman of Harbour Board), H. J. Lee, O. A. Robertson (Auckland), Cr. Bagnall, Cr. Hansen, T. Spencer and lady, C. Spencer, A. Aitken and lady, T. Hensbrugh, W. Mahoney, J. B. Smith, A. Otto, W. Fricker, M. Hayman, M. Vaughan, and others whose names were not furnished.

After lunch the usual loyal toasts were given from the chair, each being received with hearty cheers.

The Mayor (who was received with cheers) said the next toast had been placed in his hands. It was that of "His Excellency the Governor of the Colony." He believed there were no portions of the British Empire more loyal than its colonies. His Excellency was the representative here of Her Majesty the Queen, and it was only their duty to drink his health. The toast was received with cheers.

A. BODIE, Esq., said that in proposing the next toast he was placed in rather unfavourable circumstances for doing justice to it, inasmuch as a change in the programme had been made, and he was not aware that it would fall to his lot to propose the Army, the Navy, and the Volunteers, until he entered the room. What the British army had done in former years, and more recently what it had done in India, needed no recapitulation from him. What the Volunteers had done in this colony was well known. He saw a very old volunteer before him in the Mayor of Auckland. As to the force here, the Premier would have an opportunity of inspecting it himself that evening, and as an old military man he may perhaps tell us, later on, what he thinks of them.

Major WITTEBS responded for the army, regretting that he lacked the necessary eloquence to reply to the toast. The deeds of the British army will blazon in history. As to the Volunteers, in this colony we knew what they had done. He was only sorry that his powers of speech were not greater, to enable him to do proper justice to the toast.

Mr GREENVILLE responded for the Navy, and expressed some surprise that any one knew he had formerly been connected with the Navy. He had no doubt that it would, should occasion arise, prove itself as trustworthy in the future as in the past.

The MAYOR of AUCKLAND and Major MURRAY, responded on behalf of the Volunteers. The latter again taking the opportunity of acknowledging the support given them by the present Government and especially by the immediate head of that department—Col. Whitmore.

Col. FRASER could not refrain from saying a few words on this toast. He came to this colony emphatically as a volunteer. The late Captain Goldsmith and himself, with their men came, when help was needed. Our men felt happy they had done so, he felt happy in his happy home, and if they carried out the work commenced to-day they would have a happy people.

The CHAIRMAN said the toast he had next to propose was that of their illustrious guest, Sir George Grey (loud and prolonged cheers). He was sure he had but to ask them to drain their glasses and they would respond at once; but the present was not an occasion to be passed lightly over. This had been a great day for the Thames. A great day in so far that they were favoured with the presence of the Premier to initiate an important work for the district. Long before he came to New Zealand Sir George Grey was a man of mark. He had been Governor of the Cape of Good Hope and South Australia, and the peoples of both rejoiced at his rule. He had not therefore, when he re-entered public life, yet to win his laurels, but as the world would say "he was comfortably laid up in lavender at Kawau." It was

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After lunch the usual loyal toasts were given from the chair, each being received with hearty cheers.

The Mayor (who was received with cheers) said the next toast had been placed in his hands. It was that of "His Excellency the Governor of the Colony." He believed there were no portions of the British Empire more loyal than its colonies. His Excellency was the representative here of Her Majesty the Queen, and it was only their duty to drink his health. The toast was received with cheers.

A. BODIE, Esq., said that in proposing the next toast he was placed in rather unfavourable circumstances for doing justice to it, inasmuch as a change in the programme had been made, and he was not aware that it would fall to his lot to propose the Army, the Navy, and the Volunteers, until he entered the room. What the British army had done in former years, and more recently what it had done in India, needed no recapitulation from him. What the Volunteers had done in this colony was well known. He saw a very old volunteer before him in the Mayor of Auckland. As to the force here, the Premier would have an opportunity of inspecting it himself that evening, and as an old military man he may perhaps tell us, later on, what he thinks of them.

Major WITTEBS responded for the army, regretting that he lacked the necessary eloquence to reply to the toast. The deeds of the British army will blazon in history. As to the Volunteers, in this colony we knew what they had done. He was only sorry that his powers of speech were not greater, to enable him to do proper justice to the toast.

Mr GREENVILLE responded for the Navy, and expressed some surprise that any one knew he had formerly been connected with the Navy. He had no doubt that it would, should occasion arise, prove itself as trustworthy in the future as in the past.

The MAYOR of AUCKLAND and Major MURRAY, responded on behalf of the Volunteers. The latter again taking the opportunity of acknowledging the support given them by the present Government and especially by the immediate head of that department—Col. Whitmore.

Col. FRASER could not refrain from saying a few words on this toast. He came to this colony emphatically as a volunteer. The late Captain Goldsmith and himself, with their men came, when help was needed. Our men felt happy they had done so, he felt happy in his happy home, and if they carried out the work commenced to-day they would have a happy people.

The CHAIRMAN said the toast he had next to propose was that of their illustrious guest, Sir George Grey (loud and prolonged cheers). He was sure he had but to ask them to drain their glasses and they would respond at once; but the present was not an occasion to be passed lightly over. This had been a great day for the Thames. A great day in so far that they were favoured with the presence of the Premier to initiate an important work for the district. Long before he came to New Zealand Sir George Grey was a man of mark. He had been Governor of the Cape of Good Hope and South Australia, and the peoples of both rejoiced at his rule. He had not therefore, when he re-entered public life, yet to win his laurels, but as the world would say "he was comfortably laid up in lavender at Kawau." It was

cellent arrangements for the comfort of the guests. The luncheon was prepared by Mr J. Forgie, of Pollen street, and included the delicacies of the season.

LUNCHEON AT THE VOLUNTEER HALL.

The Luncheon Committee, consisting of Messrs Allow, W. Davies, F. C. Dean, J. McGowan, H. McIlhenny, E. N. Smith, and John Osborne, successfully supervised preparations for a cold collation, in the drill-hall, Richmond-street. About 200 attended. During luncheon the Scottish Volunteer Band entertained the proceedings by the performance of a selection of music. The chair was taken by the Chairman of the Thames Valley Railway Committee, Dr Kilgour, supported on his right by Sir George Grey, the Mayor, Colonel Fraser, and Major Murray; on his left by the County Chairman, Wm. Rowe, M.H.R., and E. W. Puckey. The elite of the town were there, together with the many distinguished visitors from a distance who came to mark their interest in the proceedings.

Among the company present were the following ladies and gentlemen:—J. B. Steadman and lady, James Marshall and lady, J. Thompson and lady, J. Smallman, E. McMinn, M.H.R. for Waipa; J. Wilson, J. B. Strange, B. Greenwood, J. Watson, J. Smith, D. Cloonan, J. Hudson, R. Hudson, J. W. Melton (ex-Mayor of Parrell) and Miss Melton, T. Peacock (Mayor of Auckland), Hon. Hoani Nahu, R. T. Douglas, E. W. Hollis