

Public Auction Sales.

THIS DAY.

At 11 o'clock.

JOHN LEYDON

Has received instructions from Mr CHARLES SCHWARTZ, who is leaving the Thames, to sell, on the premises, Day-street, a substantially-built FOUR-ROOMED HOUSE, 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, Crockery, 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 Fat 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 Goods, Poultry, &c. N.B.—Poultry for to-morrow's Sale must be entered early.

Medical.

DR. ROWBOTTOM

MAY BE CONSULTED DAILY at his Residence, Pellen-street, Grahamestown, 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 BENSLEY'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, SHORLAND.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

A "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 OBBAP line in Note Paper and Envelopes, 40 per cent. BELOW the usual selling prices.

Splendid value in TOBACCO, CIGARS, MESSERSHAUM PIPES, &c., &c. Best & Black's Fluid Vests, 7d per doz. "Tin Boxes, 25d, 3s per doz. A still further REDUCTION in larger quantities.

COUTTS' ACETIC ACID, Wholesale and Retail. "BARRY'S TRICOPPEROUS" 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 HENNINGSTON, COX, MASON, 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 (Monday) Evening is 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—TROTTER RACE, distance, handicap, 10s, 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. HARCOURT, Secretary.

Volunteer Notices.

THAMES NAVAL BRIGADE.

A MEETING will be held in the Hall (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.

L.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, Grahamestown, on Monday Evening, December 23, at 7 o'clock.

Business—Election of Officers and Surgeon.

W. H. JENKIN, Secretary.

LOYAL WAIKATO LODGE, No. 5444.

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 AHER, 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—JOHN WILSON, Dec. 20th, 1878. Grahamestown Office.

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

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

MR. J. H. JEFFERSON 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.

TIDE TABLE.

SCN. TIDE.

DECEMBER.

10 Monday .. 4.41 7.11 11.11 1.11

17 Tuesday .. 4.42 7.12 11.12 1.12

24 Wednesday .. 4.43 7.13 11.13 1.13

31 Thursday .. 4.44 7.14 11.14 1.14

7 Friday .. 4.45 7.15 11.15 1.15

14 Saturday .. 4.46 7.16 11.16 1.16

Sunday, 15th, high water, 5.35; ebb, 6.35.

MOON'S AGE.—Last Quarter, 17th, 2.42 p.m.

New Moon, 24th, 9.3 a.m.

MAILS.

For Auckland, per s.s. Rotomahana this day, at 5 p.m.

For Taranaki, Southern Ports, and Australian Colonies (for transmission per s.s. Tairā, to-morrow.

J. K. COXBY, Chief Postmaster.

NOTICE.

KEMPTHORNE, PROSSER, AND CO., beg

to intimate that their Warehouse, Short-

land-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-Macdonald 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 "Hineano" left Auckland at 7 a.m. on Saturday for the Thames, having on board Sir George Grey and his Private Secretary (Mr Wm Mitchell), and the following invited guests:—E. McMin, 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 (Parnell), 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. "Ruby" proceeded to the Government wharf to land the guests, the Hon. Sir George Grey, the Hon. Mr 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 Grahamestown, 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 with 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 this 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 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 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 Parnell. 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 Parnell in this undertaking. He regretted that the Mayor (his successor), Mr Coleman, was prevented by illness from attending today 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 McMin, 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 streamlets thread the vales,

And mighty ocean circles round

And breathes refreshing gales.

Chorus—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 fawn's cry,

And then, 'ere evening shadows her veil,

Homeward to speed along.

Chorus—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 seagull'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.

Chorus—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 unfeigned 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, and 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 Tota 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 tree 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 Allom, W. Davies, E. C. Dean, J. McGowan, H. McIlhenny, B. 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 enlivened 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 B. 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, B. McMin, M.H.R. for Waipa; J. Wilson, J. B. Strang, B. Greenwood, J. Watson, J. Smith, D. O'Connor, J. Hudson, R. Hudson, J. W. Melton (ex-Mayor of Parnell) and Miss Melton, T. Peacock (Mayor of Auckland), Hon. Hoani Nabe, R. T. Douglas, E.W. Hollis and lady, E. F. Tizard and lady, W. Berry (Auckland) and lady, R. Macfarlane, L. Kelly, A. Fleming and lady, Cr Waddell (Auckland), Cr Fleming (Auckland), Hon. Sir Geo. Grey, K.C.B., Thos. Yeale, H. McMin, 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, Jns. Macdonald, Jno. Osborne, A. Lamb, P. Lamb, Lieut Barlow, E. C. Dean (Town Clerk) and lady, Major Withers, Superintendent Thomson, Sub-Inspector Kenney, W. Wilkinson and lady, A. Hogg and lady, G. N. Brassey, 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., B. W. Puckey and lady, A. J. Allom and lady, Miss Allom, Major Murray and lady, Dr and Mrs Payne and Miss Brewer, W. Carpenter and lady, W. S. Greenville, Adam Porter, John Brown, J. McGowan, J. M. Menzies, R. Graham, K. Graham, jun., C. O. Montrose, S. Hetherington, D. H. Perry, D. Miller, D. H. Gallion, W. Caird, R. Mitchell, (Private Secretary to Sir George Grey), H. Newton, T. W. Gudgeon, L. Farrell, J. M. Robson, G. McVey, W. McCullough and lady, Miss Errington, Lieut. Denby, Cr. Harrison (Coromandel), Captain Wilson, Mr Wilson, Capt J. S. Small, F. S. Morgan, J. Kinsella (Auckland), W. Davies (Chairman of Harbour Board), H. J. Lee, O. Robertson (Auckland), Cr. Bagnall, Cr. Hansen, T. Spencer and lady, C. Spencer, A. Aitken and lady, T. Horsburgh, 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.