

thought displayed by Captain Daldy in taking exception to the exorbitant nature of the valuations, would have involved the payment of a considerable sum to the County when the collector paid his visit. The Act of last session provides that any part of a county, or counties, not less than 200,000 acres in extent, not containing less than 100 electors, may be created into a separate county upon memorial to his Excellency, signed by not less than three-fifths of the electors of such proposed new district. The memorial requires to be laid before Parliament within ten days after the next sitting following its presentation, and if no resolution opposing the formation of such new county is passed by both Houses of the Assembly, the alteration will become necessary on the day after the conclusion of the session of Parliament, and the new county is thereby created. The next question to be decided is the apportionment of the assets and liabilities between the old and the new counties, and this is provided for in the Act. If the Councils refuse to agree and determine as to what part of the county property is to become the property of the new Council, or what part of the rates, liabilities, engagements, interest, sinking fund of loan, &c., revert to the new county, the Commissioner of Audit will hold an inquiry into and decide the matter after the expiration of two months. Where this course is not necessary an agreement in writing between the parties shall be final, so far as the counties interested are concerned.

The Press Agency have perfected their arrangements with the telegraph department, and we are to be put in possession of cable communication after midnight, in order that European news received in the Australian colonies about that hour may appear in the New Zealand morning press simultaneously with its publication in the Australian press. This is a step in the right direction, and one that we have long advocated more than once. We must congratulate the Agency on the diligence they have shown in this matter, and their desire to place the New Zealand press and public in possession of the latest foreign news as well as inter-colonial and provincial district news each day. We received the following message in reference to the arrangements made with the telegraph department by the Agency yesterday afternoon:—“Offices open one-third a day, if necessary, to-morrow and following mornings for Sydney's midnight messages. Telegraph department cannot undertake delivery; you will therefore require your own messengers between 1.30 and 2 a.m.”

The Wellington Waste Lands Board have reconsidered their decision not to grant a block of land situated at Wakakaha in that province to the newly-formed Wellington and Masterton Small Farms Association. It will be remembered that we gave the memorandum of the basis of this Association, the object of which is to enable a number of would-be settlers to procure a suitable block for occupation, with such assistance as deferred payments and aid towards making roads as the Waste Lands Board are disposed to afford. The Board at first declined to entertain the request of the Association, but we notice that at a meeting of the Board held on the 17th inst., in Wellington, a deputation from the Association again waited upon them, and a Mr. Renale explained that they had been requested to do so with a view of getting the former decision of the Board reversed. He explained on behalf of the deputation that the members of the association were a body of men possessed of small capital, sufficient for enabling them to settle upon and improve bush lands, and that if the land applied for was not granted there was very great danger that they would leave the place and settle in other provinces, where the land laws were more suitable to their views and circumstances. Mr. Bunny, after the point had been fully discussed, tabled a motion to the effect that the previous resolution of the Board be rescinded, and that consideration of the application be discussed at the next meeting of the Board.

The Baptist Church anniversary tea meeting will be held in the Church, Shorland, this (Tuesday) evening.

An accident, fortunately attended with no injury to life or limb, occurred to the winding gear attached to the main shaft of the Golden Calve mine a few days ago. Owing to some wrong conception on the part of the engine driver, instead of lifting the cage from the bottom of the shaft, it was lifted from the top shaft, and before the mistake could be rectified came into collision with the pulley heads, not only injuring them, but causing breakage to the engine clutch and other portions of the machinery. The work of restoration is now in Mr. Judd's hands, and will be completed in a few days, when winding will be resumed. As regards the mine can be had through the Galomian workings, the working of the mine is not necessarily stopped.

The Rev. W. Rice is announced to deliver his lecture on “The Orators and Poets of Ireland,” at the Theatre Royal, on the evening of Friday next, the 1st proximo. We are sure we may look forward to an intellectual treat of no ordinary character from the high reputation of the rev. lecturer, both in Auckland and throughout the Australian colonies and New South Wales. The Rev. W. Rice has been the guest of Father Chastagnon for a few weeks, and is expected to leave for America by next outward mail steamer.

A Government Gazette, issued at Wellington on the 14th instant, contains a notice under the Native Lands Act, that a sitting of the Native Lands Court will be held at the Thames on the 30th instant, for the purpose of investigating claims, &c., also, the sub-divisions of the hereditaments comprised in the Crown grants. Edward Walker Fyvie, Esq., and Harala Patene are appointed trustees under the Maori Real Estate Management Act, 1867, on behalf of Terereha Kahutopuni, an infant-in-law, in the intestate estate of Eparaima Te Wheoro, of Coromandel. Wiremu Turiporo and Tautoru Tana are also appointed trustees on behalf of Hoani Kiba, an infant-in-law, in the intestate estate of Kiba, of the Thames. The appointment of Ratahi Kaua as a trustee on behalf of Mereana Kaua, Henaro Kaua, and Wahene Kaua, in the intestate estate of Hira Kaua, of auckland, is gazetted. J. Tapia is appointed trustee in the intestate estate of Tapia, intestate of Auckland. The appointment is gazetted of Joseph Tapia in the intestate estate of Maru Omamania, of the Bay of Islands; Hare Puhikura is appointed trustee in the intestate estate of Makareta, of the Bay of Islands; the appointment is gazetted of Maika Aporo and Mere Haku as trustees in the intestate estate of Werahiko, of the Bay of Islands; Te Wana Tana is appointed as trustee in the estate of Kau Te Aroha of Hokianga; the appointment is gazetted of Petero of Hokianga; Apora Tuhaere and Te Otene Kikohi are appointed trustees in the intestate estate of Timoti Tikohi Murumutu, of Mangonui; Timoti Puhiki is appointed trustee in the intestate estate of Hohepa Poutama, of Mangonui. The Crown grants of Waikua are cancelled by the consent of the Executive Council. The bridge over the Waikato river is gazetted as a public road.

A meeting of the Hill Testimonial Committee was held in the lecture-room of the Mechanics' Institute last evening. There was a good attendance. Mr. Wm. Davies occupied the chair. The address prepared by a sub-committee was adopted; and, after the transaction of some routine business, the meeting was adjourned till Wednesday evening, at 8 o'clock, at the same place.

An accident occurred yesterday to a child which might have terminated fatally. It appears that, as Captain Wright, of the Grahamstown Fire Brigade, was proceeding along Brown-street yesterday morning, at about 11 o'clock, his attention was called to something moving in the water-tables, which at the time contained a depth of about 2 feet of water. He went across the street, and then discovered that the object was a child about eighteen months old. He, of course, rescued the little one from his perilous position, and was able to hand it over to the care of his father, who came up at the moment. Credit is due to Captain Wright for his forethought, as a few minutes more would have sufficed to drown the little thing.

The following is the state of the Thames (Goldfields) Hospital for the week ending 28th May, 1877.—Remained, 15; admitted, 1; discharged, 1; died, 0; remaining, 15. The diseases are as follows:—Rheumatism, 1; chronic encephalitis, 1; paralysis, 2; bronchitis, 3; scrofula, 1; gonorrhoea, 2; tumour, 1; softening of the brain, 1; epilepsy, 1; dyspepsia, 1. Remaining—Males, 14; females, 1; Out-patients, 36.

Some account of the Russian army in Besarabia is given by the *Evening*. It is stated, says our contemporary, “in information from a trustworthy observer who has just returned from the spot, and who has been there since the mobilisation began. He estimates the number of the troops at 140,000, but nothing is more difficult than to estimate the number of such large masses of troops, and it will be seen from the details supplied to us that he has conducted his observations with unusual care. Although he estimates the troops at 140,000, he notes that the artillery and the staff are out of proportion to that number, and judges that the Russian commanders are calculating upon having 300,000 men at their disposal, whether it is their plan to draw more men from Russia, or to incorporate troops from Roumania and Servia when their advance is begun. It is noteworthy, also, that strategic centres have been established in Roumania, arrangements having been made for the reception of 80,000 men at Galatz, Buzau, and Kalarah.”

The correspondent of the London Telegraph thus describes the appearance of Abdul Hamid, the present Sultan of Turkey:—“A thin, unhappy face, the dark whiskers, beard, and moustache of which only served to increase the deadly hue of the sallow cheeks which they accompanied, a meagre, somewhat round-shouldered body, a lank, lean, weakly frame—such were the characteristics of the Sovereign of the Ottoman. I know that in the West an idea prevails that Eastern nations are cantious by birth; that the saddle in their cradle, their house, their home, and that the Grand Turk himself, seated on a magnificent Arab must necessarily be the very model of the Saracen monarch of old. Yet I must dispense the pleasing illusion, and say at once that Abdul Hamid would have been—if appearances are to be trusted—much more at home in a comfortable carriage. The steady slaughter of the cowbirds, continued for ages as a State policy, has reduced the House of Osman to a group of seven grown males. Murad, Hamid, Mahoud, and three still younger brothers, besides Yussef (the son of Abdul Aziz), and all these men descended from one man, and all were suspected by physicians of inheriting the same family curse, a tendency to brain disease under circumstances of excitement.”

It has already been reported that six or seven Russian ships, under an admiral, are lying in the bay of San Francisco, ostensibly wintering there, but it is not generally known that three or four days after they entered the port, four English war steamers from the China station, also entered the Golden Gate, and apparently intend also to winter in those pleasant quarters, where there is direct telegraph communication with England. Of course as England and Russia are at peace there is not the slightest reason to suppose that the arrival of the two fleets about the same time was anything more than a curious coincidence; but it is one which will not a little reassure her Majesty's liege subjects in these colonies. The Russian and the English crews will no doubt fraternise and enjoy their winter quarters amicably, and should events cause a sudden departure of the Russians before the winter is over, probably the Englishmen would feel too lonely to remain long after the others.—*Wellington Argus*.

“Autolyus,” a contributor to the Nelson Times, says:—“I know one or two persons in Nelson who never read the newspapers. They say so, and I—in duty bound—believe them. But let one of these non-readers arrive by steamer, and his name being Begg appear in the passenger list as Begg. Let this happen, and see if that individual is not down on the paper office an hour after publication for an explanation and correction.”

The following appears in a late issue of the Melbourne Age:—“An English correspondent, whose position entitles him to know that of which he writes, states in a letter by the incoming mail as follows relative to the visit of the Prince of Wales to these colonies:—“The visit of the Prince of Wales to Australia is considered as settled thing. The names of the special for the different papers are generally mentioned in Press company. Dr. Russell will complete his knowledge of the world by a visit to the Australias on behalf of the Times, Henry will represent the Standard, Forbes the Daily News, Drew Gay (who went out to India for the Daily Telegraph) will again represent that journal, and Messrs Simpson and Johnson the Illustrated News and Graphic.”

“Paddy, my boy,” said a gentleman to an Irishman, whom he observed fishing away at a deep pool, “that must be a favourite stream for fish.” “Faith, an' sure, it must be that same; for I have been standing here this three hours, an' not one of them will come out of it!”

THAMES NAVAL BRIGADE ANNUAL BALL.

The annual ball of the Thames Naval Brigade was held last evening in the hall, Beach Road, Grahamstown. The place was very gaily decorated with bunting and evergreens. At the lower end of the room was the large New Zealand flag recently bought by the Borough Council, and lent for the occasion. On either side were the banners representing the navy and merchant services, and other flags distributed at intervals, conspicuous amongst which were the Naval Brigade colours, which were pendant at the upper end of the room. Support was given to the guests, which was needed for the occasion, and also gaily decorated.

There were thirty-seven couples present, but several of other Volunteers' corps were conspicuous by their absence, and only two uniforms were noticed amongst those engaged in dancing. The following dances were arranged on the programme:—1st part: Quadrille, galop, waltz, lancers' polka, mazurka, waltz, lancers' galop, schottische, lancers' polka, mazurka, and waltz. 2nd part: Quadrille, galop, polka mazurka, quadrille, Highland schottische, waltz, lancers' waltz, galop, valse, quadrille, polka mazurka, galop.

The supper was provided by Mr. Drew, of the Queen's Hotel, and was very enjoyable, but the dancing was the principal attraction. The accommodation was under the superintendence of Captain Dowd, who took a great interest in arranging everything for the satisfaction of the guests. The orchestra was provided by Mr. E. Owen, and Mr. G. N. Dransay conducted as usual.

CABLE MESSAGES.

(REUTERS' SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.)

THE WAR.

SIEGE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

ROUMANIA GUARDED BY RUSSIA.

TURKEY'S DEMANDS UPON HERB.

LONDON, May 26.

Bismarck, after a short leave of absence, has returned to Berlin, and has had a conference with the Emperor of Germany.

The official journal has assumed a friendly tone towards the new French Minister.

Diplomatic relations between Germany and Italy are very intimate.

So far from making any demonstration at Constantinople demanding Ministerial modifications, Constantinople has been placed in a state of siege.

The Russian troops in Roumania are moving westwards towards Servia.

85,000 troops are concentrated in the upper and middle portions of Roumania.

The Danube will still probably be impassable before the middle of June, owing to recent heavy rains.

Turkey has called upon Roumania to act with the Porte. The question was referred by Prince Charles to the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies, who replied that the Roumanian Government, having unsuccessfully endeavoured to induce the Porte and other great powers to recognise the neutrality of Roumania, a Convention had been entered into with Russia. The Sultan has issued an address to the Turkish army, saying that he will defend the integrity and independence of the Empire to the uttermost, and, if necessary, will himself take the sacred banner and lead his army.

The Kheive, in compliance with the Porte, promises to send an Egyptian contingent, under the command of Prince Hussein Pasha, his third son, to assist Turkey, but cannot aid with his revenue, which he has pledged to foreign bondholders.

A large number of Egyptian troops are already on the Danube.

The San Francisco mails were delivered on Monday.

Late Indian papers brought by the Suez mail state that Colonel Valentine Baker is on the Staff of the Turkish Commander-in-Chief on the Danube.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

AUCKLAND, Monday.

The ‘Amberst,’ brigantine, which left for Wangarua on the 17th instant, put back last night with the loss of sails, having been battling against the heavy gales since leaving.

The missing schooner ‘Aspasia,’ supposed to be wrecked on the West Coast, has been heard of. She was in Rotomua Sound on the 17th, and is therefore probably safe.

The new Native Lands Bill is being printed in Auckland. It will be published before the meeting of Parliament, which is fixed to take place about the middle of July.

The half-yearly meeting of the Auckland Steam Packet Company was held to-day. A very unfavourable balance-sheet was presented. The loss on the sale and working of the ‘Llewellyn’ was £8,543 0s 6d; on the stranding of the ‘Pretty Jane,’ £1,093 0s 7d; and on the sale of the hulk ‘Albion,’ £368 15s. The net earnings of the boats, after all repairs, was £23,480 2s 10d. The profit and losses accounts show a debit balance of £9,554 9s 8d.

An important pawnbroker's case was heard in the Police Court to-day. James Baa, pawnbroker, was fined 20s, and £2 6s 6d costs, for refusing to give duplicate tickets to Fanny Weston, who had lost the originals, and had obtained a declaration to that effect, signed by a Justice.—Defendant pleaded not guilty, and said, in defence, that he had always understood the Act required a declaration for every article pawned.—Mr. Barstow, B.M., said that if that were so a most disproportionate expense would be thrown on poor people, as there was a Government stamp of 2s 6d for each declaration.—It transpired, in evidence, that complainant had paid her 3s 6d for seven declarations.—Half of the fine was ordered to be paid to complainant.

Judge Fenton gave judgment to-day in the case of Lewis and others v. Rogers, hotel-keeper, of Otahuhu. The claim was 30s, for damage to a buggy through the negligence of defendant's servants.—Judgment for plaintiffs, costs, £6 5s 6d.

SOUTHERN TELEGRAMS.

(PER PRESS AGENCY.)

WELLINGTON, Monday.

A poll of ratepayers for and against Climo's drainage scheme for the city of Wellington resulted as follows:—Ayes, 538; noes, 239.

It is stated on good authority that the report circulated about a disagreement amongst Ministers is absolutely incorrect. During the late frequent meetings of the Cabinet, all the members being present, Ministers have cordially agreed on the measures to be submitted to Parliament. Their bills and financial arrangements are in a forward state.

It is expected that the Financial Statement will be made very early in the session, which will probably open on the 19th July.

The Government has for some time been in communication with Sir W. Jervois and Colonel Scratchley, Royal Engineers, with a view to obtain their professional opinion on the defences of the New Zealand harbours.

Latest advices render it most probable that these officers will visit New Zealand after reporting to the Victorian Government.

The Governor, accompanied by the Hon. C. C. Bowen, will leave in the s.s. ‘Hinemaru’ for Lyttelton next Monday. The Governor is to lay the foundation stone of the Christchurch College, and will return to Wellington in about a week.

Henry Bryant, basketmaker, Willis street, shot himself dead this morning. He had been drinking for some time. About half past nine a.m. his wife heard a shot in the bedroom, went in, and found

deceased sitting in a chair and a wound behind his right ear, a pistol lying near him. He leaves a family of several children.

NELSON, Monday.

The ‘Phoebus’ arrived here last night, having been compelled to put back through stress of weather. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday she experienced a terrific north-west gale, and on the morning of the latter day her main topmast blew away, and they had to put the helm up and run before the gale. At midnight it somewhat abated, and Captain Kennedy, considering that he had not enough coal left to make the passage to Sydney, determined to run for Wellington. He says he never experienced a fiercer gale.

TIMARU, Monday.

Another shocking accident occurred to-day. Mr. J. F. Nixon was found dead, about a mile from Timaru, with his brains blown out, and a gun lying by his side. Parts of his head were found twenty yards off. The deceased was a new arrival here, and is said to be a retired officer. He has relations at Dunedin. An inquest will be held this evening.

THE HIBERNICA.

HOWARTH'S Hibernica was again well patronised last evening, when the Academy of Music was comfortably filled in all parts. The entertainment had been announced as a benefit given by Mr. Howarth in aid of the building fund of the Convent Schools, Shorland. The Hibernian band gave their services on the occasion, and the members of the H.A.C.B. Society attended in the gay regalia of the order. The band played some excellent selections of music in front of the Academy before the entertainment opened. The programme was an excellent one, and included some of the company's most attractive selections. The members of the troupe are some of the most versatile that have ever visited this district. They are not only talented, but numerically strong, and give the more satisfaction the longer they remain. The sections into which the panorama is divided are interspersed with really clever songs and dances, and an appropriate dialogue runs through the whole, in which the troubles and perplexities of an Irish carman in love are humorously delineated by Mr. Cohan, Kitty O'Connor, the object of his affections, being sustained by Miss Poirier, whose rendering of the ‘Shamrock of Ireland,’ that dear little shamrock, was quite a feature in the entertainment, although we must confess to having heard it given with even more expression and pathos. Mr. D. P. Howard's Dutchman—Hor Von Kratyhoustcroft—was well worth seeing, and is perhaps the best delineation of the kind we have seen at the Thames. His Tontonic eccentricities are not overdone, and he sustains the interest in his part throughout, which is saying a great deal. The other parts were well rendered, and the descriptive lecture by Mr. Howarth much appreciated. Of the views we have already said so much that little remains to be added. They were again highly appreciated by the audience, and loudly applauded for their artistic finish and excellence.

We have much pleasure in announcing that Mr. Howarth has consented to remain at the Thames two nights longer, the wet weather of last week having prevented many from visiting his entertainment who would no doubt have done so if the evenings had been fine. We would cordially recommend those who have not been already to go and see the performance during the last two nights. The company fully deserve all the eulogium passed upon them, and the generosity of the proprietor in setting aside last night's entertainment as a benefit deserves to be recognised by bumper houses during the remainder of his stay, to-night and to-morrow night, when great changes will be introduced in the programme.

MINING MATTERS.

MOANATAIRI.—No breaking down of the reef took place yesterday in the drive from No. 9 winze. As there was abundance of quartz for the general crushing, and the single stamper was engaged in reducing specimens for the Alburnia company, breaking down is postponed till the single stamper is at liberty. This will be to-day. The tributors, Dunn and party, working the Redan section, crushed 26 tons for 2600s 10dwt gold at the Kurauhi battery. Whisker and party completed a crushing for 1180s 3dwt retorted gold. An interesting and perhaps important fact has just been demonstrated by Mr. Heron, assayer at the Bank of New Zealand, being no less than the existence of rich silver ore within the Moanatairi Company's limits. Some short time since Henderson and party, tributors, working a portion of the Dureka claim, were gratified by the quantity of amalgam produced from a quartz crushing, but chagrined to find, on melting the metal, that the greater portion was silver. This led them afterwards to eschew that leader. From a sample tested, the leader gave at the rate of 3000s silver and 10z gold to the ton. The return is wonderful, and should induce enterprise to work it. The lode, however, is small where the sample test has been taken out (two to three inches thick), but if the bulk of the quartz in the reef is anything approaching the return given by the sample, it will pay handsomely. Silver ore is not treated as gold by wet battery process, but by calcination, and needs the erection of suitable furnaces. The fortnight's yield of 2,030s retorted gold, or an average of 40s 9dwt per ton. The mine throughout is looking well, and the machinery is all in good working order.—ROBERT COLES, Manager.”

VICTORIA TRIBUTE.—Hearst and party, working a section of this lode, in Hape Creek, crushed 30 loads at Bull's battery, for the yield of 460s 10dwt of melted gold.

WATCHMAN TRIBUTE.—Mears and party crushed at Bull's battery 24 tons, for 450s 10dwt retorted gold.

PLANK.—A find of gold again occurred in the slope east of the shaft, and a consequent improvement at the battery, which, however, was stopped from noon yesterday. The pump was stopped for a short time on Saturday to fix the lower rods. This has been accomplished, and pumping resumed, as well as work on the lower level. Sinking the main shaft will now be carried on as quickly as possible.

ALBURNIA.—Crushing the general tonnage has been completed, the specimens being now treated by the single-stamper. 50lbs weight were broken down yesterday, and added to the parcel. An interim retorting will take place this day, and the residue from the bords and quicksilver will be added on Thursday.

WATERLOO.—Crushing towards the month's return is shaping well at the battery, and will be an improvement on previous yields. The drive on No. 6 reef is now in far enough, and the rise started to connect with the winze already partially down from the upper level. The last ten feet in the winze has been superior to the portion above, and with good country to finish the rise in, the quantity of good grade rock to be taken out will add much to the next month's yield.

POLICE COURT.—YESTERDAY.

(Before W. FRASER ESQ., B.M.)

WANDERING ANIMALS.—Caleb Kneebone was charged with a breach of the Borough by-laws by allowing some pigs to mander in Taratu Road on the 23rd instant.—Defendant's son appeared and pleaded guilty.—Fined 5s and costs, 1s.

WOMEN'S QUARRELS.—ASSAULT.—Margaret Murdoch and John, her son, a lad of about 12 years of age, were charged with assaulting one Elizabeth Richards, at Tapu, on the 18th instant.—Defendants pleaded not guilty.—Mr. Macdonald appeared for complainant, and Mr. Dodd for defendants.—Mr. Macdonald, in opening the case, said that both parties resided at Hastings, Tapu Creek, and while complainant was passing Murdoch's house both defendants attacked her. The female defendant struck her violently with a 4-lb tree stick, inflicting some cuts; while the boy set a large dog at her. He was instructed to prove that the complainant had not given any provocation whatever.—The plaintiff, a respectable looking girl of about 16 years old, was examined, and deposed she knew the defendants. Witness resided some little distance from them. About 2.30 p.m. on the 18th instant, both defendants assaulted her while she was passing their residence. A Mrs. Bowden, who saw the whole affair, lives near witness's house, on a hill. When witness was going down to the township she had to pass the defendants' house, where the boy was scraping gum. He said to his mother: “Do you know what mother Holt told Mrs. Hawkes about me?” Witness did not say anything. The mother told her son to set the dog on to witness, and to knock her brains out. Witness said: “Will you?” to which the boy answered “Yes.” The dog caught hold of her, and she threw a stick at him. Witness never gave any provocation. The female defendant was encouraging her son to annoy her. Witness was 17 years of age, and Mrs. Holt was her mother. Mrs. Murdoch held her and beat her with a big tree stick. Mrs. Bowden saw witness getting assaulted, and said to the female defendant, “Are you going to kill her?” but defendant said, “Shut up,” and used some bad language.—By Mr. Dodd: Witness did not call the boy a “thief.” No one was present at the time the assault was committed except the actors and Mrs. Bowden. Witness was positive there was no one else present. Witness's family have been on bad terms with defendant's for the last two years, but this was the first occasion on which an assault had taken place. She never threw a brick at the younger defendant.—By Mr. Macdonald: Witness screamed out for help, and some of the inhabitants came to her assistance. Sarah Bowden deposed she lived at Tapu. She saw Mrs. Murdoch's house and saw most of the assault. At first when she was leaving her house her attention was attracted by seeing the girl standing near defendant's house for about a minute. The younger defendant hit the girl, while the female defendant was clapping her hands. The dog was also biting the girl. The dog was a large brindle. Witness was alarmed, as she thought the girl would be torn to pieces. During the assault Mrs. Murdoch called complainant ill names. A neighbour called Mrs. Meinberg when she heard the screaming turned round the corner to see what was the matter, but when she saw who it was went home again. Witness was on good terms with both parties in this case.—Mr. Dodd: What is the distance between your house and the defendant's? Witness: Surely you know: it is a mile, half-a-mile, or five hundred yards.—Witness: I told you before I did not know; I never came here to answer such a question, and I will not. I'm not a surveyor. Why didn't you get it measured yourself.—Jane Holt, mother of plaintiff, deposed she saw the chief portion of the assault through her end window. Witness heard screams, and ran down to Murdoch's house. She found her daughter with her hair hanging down and distorted, and her nose bleeding considerably. The dog's teeth went through her daughter's dress. Witness saw the female defendant strike her daughter with a large stick. Witness received two blows on her face

from the boy. She did not know whether any provocation had been given. Witness had quarrels with defendant before this.—Mr. Dodd then addressed the Court for the defence, and contended that great provocation had been given. He was of opinion that some portions of the evidence were false, inasmuch as some sentences did not agree with each other.—Mrs. Meinberg deposed she recollected the 18th inst. She heard some person screaming, and looking round observed that it was plaintiff. As witness saw Mrs. Holt going towards Murdoch's house she did not interfere. She never saw the boy throw a brick at the girl, or vice versa. Witness heard the girl say, “There goes the can for the beer.”—The male defendant deposed complainant was going past his house, when she called him “snake,” “thief,” and was going to hit his little brother. Complainant's nose was not bleeding.—Margaret Murdoch deposed that as complainant was passing she called her son some names. He was at the time scraping gum outside the door, and it was because of the noise they made that she came out to see what was the matter. Witness never made use of bad language to anyone. Holt said that if £3 was paid he would stop proceedings. The evidence of the complainant is utterly false.—His Worship said he had no pity for the female defendant, but he was very sorry for her husband, who was a hard-working man. If the husband promised to remove from Tapu, he would only inflict a light penalty.—Upon the man promising to endeavour to do so, His Worship inflicted a nominal penalty of 20s and costs on the wife. The costs amounted to £4 16s, and the boy was discharged.—The Court then rose.

beat. No more glorious victory could be desired on either side. Cambridge has saved herself from defeat; Oxford has virtually scored a triumph. The occasion is not one for petty jealousies, nor need we raise the question what might or might not have been the conclusion of the contest if the unfortunate *contrelouis* which we have described had not occurred. For many years to come to have rowed at all in the race of 1877 will be deemed more glorious than to have pulled in the winning boat of any other year, and generation after generation of oarsmen who are not yet even boys at school will recount with pride how Marriot, with only six of his crew behind him, and with eleven stone of dead weight in his boat, saved the honour of his flag, and snatched from his antagonists what, but for a most magnificent and almost superhuman effort, must have been an easy triumph.

There is more than one lesson which this gallant struggle ought to teach us. In the first place, it goes far to explain the popular enthusiasm which the University Boat Race always evokes. The annual Water Derby is dear to London and to Londoners because everybody knows that it is decided upon its merits, and because also it exhibits an amount of strength, energy, endurance, and pluck, such as probably can nowhere else be seen. If we may be allowed to compare together two occasions which in many of their features are totally dissimilar, Marriot and his crew struggling bravely on with seven oars are something like Sayers when, with his broken arm, he held out for round after round against his colossal opponent. The British public on that occasion, whatever may have been its opinion as to the prize ring and its surroundings, showed that it could properly appreciate the native gallantry which alone can enable a man to stand up against overwhelming odds. This same heroism, in another and far pleasanter shape, Morlake witnessed on Saturday morning. It is no light matter to row a University race at all. Stern self-denial, early hours, continuous hard work, persistent fault-finding and abuse—all these the oarsman has to stand for week after week. When the trial itself comes, it is far keener than might be supposed. If anyone wishes to know what the University oarsman has to go through, let him test himself by endeavouring to run a quarter of a mile at the top of his speed. Until a man can accomplish this feat without, as the phraseology of the trainer goes, ‘turning a hair,’ he is not fit to row a race. Even when thus prepared the trial itself is terribly severe. The quickest University race on record is that of 1873, when the Cambridge won by three lengths in nineteen minutes and three-quarters. The race of Saturday was rather slow, lasting for more than twenty-four minutes. It is clear that—whatever be the cause or influence at work—the physique of man is far superior to that of the animals; and that, too, in very much the same proportion as his life is longer. No living being but a man, and a man in the perfection of health and strength, could have lasted against the ordeal so trying, as that which Marriot and his crew were called upon to face. Fortunately for ourselves and for the future of those who are to come after us, proofs of the growing vitality of the human race become daily more and more frequent. Weston walks on day after day until a horse, if it were put to walk against him at his usual pace, would fall dead upon the track, while others, stimulated by his example, are found to perform feats of pedestrianism almost as wonderful. Captain Webb swims from England to France, and evokes a rivalry on the part of other swimmers which had hardly before been thought possible. Year after year our trained athletes excel their predecessors by the speed at which they run, the height to which they jump, and the enormous weights they lift. All this culture of the body for its own sake may possibly have in it a certain pagan element; it may possibly have mixed up with it certain not objectionable surroundings, and may, in some cases, tend to injurious excess. But the spirit by which it is prompted is in the main hearty and good, and that this is so the enthusiasm excited year after year by the Boat Race ought sufficiently to testify.

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.

For the first time upon record the University Boat Race has ended in a dead heat. Never yet, in all probability, had the result of the Universities contest been more anxiously expected. Since the first race at Henley in 1829 Oxford had succeeded in scoring seventeen victories against sixteen given in favour of Cambridge, and the somewhat hollow triumph of last year, when the Light Blues reached the winning-post five clear lengths in advance, had persuaded the partisans of the Cam that 1877 would see an even record, and that in 1878 the existing tie would have to be broken off. These anticipations were encouraged by the first reports which reached town from the sister Universities. Cambridge got together early in the year a very powerful crew, the great majority of whom were old Light Blues, and the boat soon settled down into that long, steady work which is the one recognised road to aquatic conquest. The favourable impression was more than confirmed by the first appearance which the Cantabs made on tidal waters. Oxford, meanwhile, had not been doing so well. The floods between Folly Bridge and Abingdon had seriously interfered with practice; there had been changes in the boat more frequent and sudden than long experience justifies; and, besides all this, unkindly rumour declared that the Oxonians were badly trained, and rough and lumpy in their style. No sooner, however, did the Oxford ship appear on the Putney course than public opinion instantaneously veered. If the Light Blues had been a fine set of men, as they undoubtedly were, the Dark Blues were even finer, being far beyond the average height and weight, and evidently of enormous strength. Their style was rough but not bad, and it was seen at once that as soon as Darbishire had had them a week in hand they would materially improve. Popular favour, ever fickle, changed her colours, and the betting—for we are sorry to say that there is a great deal more of speculation connected with the University race than we could wish to see—rushed at once to six, seven, and even eight to four in favour of the Oxonians. Opinion was divided, of course, as it always is in such matters, it being apparently the first duty of an aquatic expert to hold a totally different view from that entertained by every other brother of his craft, showing thereby at once his independence, his originality, and his profound knowledge of his subject. In the main, however, the balance leaned decidedly in favour of Oxford. The champions of the Isis showed what they were worth in one or two smart trials with picked crews, and it somehow got about that the representatives of the Cam had been over-trained, and were consequently, in sporting parlance, a little “stale.”

No one, however, foresaw or even guessed what actually was to happen. As soon as the word was given the two crews dashed away at a rattling pace, and Oxford, forcing the lead, forged ahead by a quarter of her length. This advantage, however, was not maintained, and by the time the Boat-house was passed Cambridge had drawn up level. So each crew held its own, neck and neck, stroke by stroke, until Hammersmith Bridge was reached. This memorable viaduct is, and always has been, the crucial point of the race. Boat-racing is far more a matter of certainty than many people suppose, and it has long been accepted as an axiom that the boat which first passes Hammersmith Bridge is—accidents alone excepted—bound to win. This year, however, as the rival crews swept under the shadow of the grand suspension bridge, there was literally not an inch to choose between them. So they tore through the water, rowing as probably crews have never rowed before, until in the lumpy billows of Corney Reach the superior weight and strength of Marriot and his men began to tell, while the Light Blue boat evinced manifest symptoms of distress and fatigue. This was so obvious that the Oxford stroke, with consummate generalship, at once called upon his men. Opposite Oniswick Church the Oxonians were leading; at the Bull's Head they were almost clear; and they shot Barnes Bridge three or four seconds before their antagonists. At this point the race was virtually over, had not a most unforeseen and extraordinary accident occurred, and in the supreme moment of triumph itself snatched the palm from the victors' grasp. The oar of Cowles, bow in the Oxford boat, suddenly gave way. What had happened to it no one could see, but it was evidently useless, and Oxford was left to struggle in with seven oars. The contest that ensued baffled all description. Inch by inch the Light Blue ship crept steadily up, while Marriot, resolved even yet to hold his own, dashed out into a grand lunge, slashing stroke, to which the six unaccustomed oarsmen behind him answered like giants, while a volley of oared shafts arose, such as Englishmen love to shout in honour of a forlorn hope. The tremendous effort was not altogether without its effect. Up to the winning-post itself no one could tell or even venture to guess at the side to which victory had inclined, nor was it till many minutes after the race was over that the decision of John Phelps, the veteran judge, was made known, and that the public heard with astonishment that the thirty-fourth University Boat Race had resulted in a dead

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