

Visitors to the Moanatahi mine are informed that Saturday is the day they will be admitted, between the hours of 11 and 12, and that a fee of one shilling or upwards will be taken, in aid of the Thames Hospital funds.

The plates and flooring of the building on the Goods Wharf to be used as a store by the owners of the s.s. 'Rotomahana,' are in position, and the building will soon be completed.

The Native Lands Court continued its sitting yesterday, before Judge Horn. The business was confined to succession claims, and a number of memorials were adjusted in favour of various claimants.

By a Gazette Extraordinary, issued on the 27th ultimo, the next session of the Assembly is further prorogued under the hand of His Excellency until the 15th day of June next. A Gazette of the 29th ult. contains regulations under the 'Protection to Animals Act,' already issued in these columns; notice that a fee of £5 5s shall be paid to Revising Barristers appointed under the Building Societies Act, 1876; notice of prohibition of importation of cattle, sheep, &c., from the Australian colonies; notice authorising the taking and laying down of a road in the Heretaunga block, Hawke's Bay; notice that H. C. Lawler, Esq., has been appointed revising officer for the electoral districts of Manawatu, Bay of Islands, Marsden, Rodney, Waikanae, City of Auckland East, West, Franklin, Newton, Otago, Eden, Wairaki, Waipā, Waikato, and Thames.

Mr H. Menzies, hospital wardman, writes to 'The Editor': 'Sir,—In justice to myself I trust you will allow me space in your columns to vindicate the action I took in the dispute about my application for an increase of salary as wardman in the hospital. I again say that the said advance was promised me. I am quite aware that I labour under the difficulty of contending against a powerful opponent, but I trust that, having truth and justice on my side, the public will at least acquit me of the charge of falsely accusing anybody.'

'One swallow never makes a summer.' Two of these birds we have been informed lately made their appearance at Mercury Bay. They were identified by Mr Wigmore, J.P., whose testimony was confirmed by that of his brother. The fact, if all grounds of mistake can be excluded, is noteworthy as determining some uncertain theories connected with the migration of birds. Ornithologists will be interested in tracing the probable wanderings of these migratory fellows. We believe that the Acclimatisation Society of Auckland has offered a reward of £50 to any person who will successfully introduce the Australian swallow into this province. If the statement above made be warranted by the authority of the observers, the event is certainly one of great scientific and agricultural interest.—Herald.

The Grey River Argus has the following paragraph:—'The present yearly valuation of Dunedin is £228,917. At ten years' purchase, this makes the value of real estate in Dunedin £2,289,170. This is a wonderful advance from an uninhabited scrub and swamp 29 years ago.'

The following telegram from the manager of the Moanatahi was posted in the company's office in Auckland yesterday by Mr F. A. White:—'Grahamstown, Thursday, 10.16 a.m. Half ton very fine specimens just broken, leaving splendid show of gold in leading stage of new run.'

Messrs Cosgrave and Co. have purchased the large stock of Messrs Stewart and Anderson, wholesale drapers, clothiers, and general warehousemen. The stock is of a most extensive and varied description, and is being offered to the public at a large discount upon the English cost.—Advt.

The fish nuisance, as it is called, has for some time past been the subject of complaints which have not been confined to one side. By order of the authorities, the place for cleaning fish has been removed from the wharf to the neighbourhood of the Wynyard Pier, and the fishermen complain that Wynyard Pier station is not only too far from the centre of traffic, but that it is impossible for them often, especially to get their fish landed there. Fish curers feel this. The fish have to be first landed at the Queen-street wharf, and then split and made ready for carting, they have then to be carted to the Wynyard Pier, and then transferred to the proper place for smoking. The result is that the fish, in a great measure, become spoiled, and a valuable marketable commodity becomes deteriorated. It has been suggested that the place for cleaning fish should be transferred to the neighbourhood of the Queen-street wharf. A man should then be appointed to keep the premises thoroughly cleaned, and a small tax, of say 3d or 6d per week, could be levied on the fishermen to defray the expenses of this man.—Herald.

At a meeting of the directors of the Alburnia Gold Mining Company, held in Auckland yesterday afternoon (says last night's Star), it was decided to declare a dividend, payable on Thursday, the 12th instant. The amount has not been officially stated, but on all it will be 2s 6d per share.

Private advices from Levuka (says the Herald) state that it is pretty well understood that the Government had decided upon retaining Levuka as the capital of the group. The fact of this becoming patent has given a great impetus to the building trade, and various directions merchants and landowners have commenced to erect permanent buildings, in lieu of the temporary erections that have so long prevailed.

At a sitting of the Auckland Presbytery, held on Wednesday, the Rev. D. Bruce said it would be necessary to hold a special meeting of the presbytery, for the purpose of considering a call to the Rev. J. Hill, from the Presbyterian congregation of Lyttelton. He had received a telegram to the effect that the call had been prepared but could not be dispatched until after the meeting of the Presbytery of Canterbury, which would be held that week. The call would doubtless arrive in Auckland on the 10th instant. It was decided that an adjourned meeting of the presbytery should be held on a day to be selected by the clerk.

Events which have transpired since the prosecution by Inspector Gamble of several butchers for using unstamped weights, &c., seem to show that the prosecutions were unjust. Since then some two tons of unjust and unstamped weights of various dimensions have been carted to his office for adjustment and stamping. The milkmen also appear to have been in the habit of drawing upon the kindness of the public, for since the event referred to about 500 milk measures of various kinds have been brought in for the purpose of being proved and stamped. Inspector Gamble should turn his attention to the stopping of evil practices in connection with the firewood and coal trades.—Herald.

There has been some 'scandal' in the City of Virginia, in Nevada, owing to the conduct of a young gentleman who lately left his father's house, having exhausted his credit in the place, and who telegraphed the other day to his parents, 'Your son Walter was killed in a falling case. In reply, a telegraphic order was sent for £50 dollars, with the request, 'Bury them.' The young gentleman pocketed the money, and had 'an elaborate press.' When in a condition for writing he sent his father the following note:—'I have just learned that an infamous scoundrel named Barker sent you a fictitious account of my death and swindled you out of 150 dollars. He also borrowed 15 dollars from me, and left the country. I writes to inform you that I am yet alive, and long to see the old parental roof again. I am in somewhat reduced circumstances, the accumulation of the last five years having been lost—a disastrous stroke operation—and if you would spare me 200 dollars I will be ever thankful for your favour. Give my love to all. A few days later the erring youth received the following dignified reply from his outraged parent:—'My dear son,—I have believed you once, and that's an end of it. I am durned to have any more transactions with a corpse.—Yours in the flesh, Father.'

During the month ending March, 1877, there were 21 deaths registered within the city of Auckland. The number during the corresponding month of 1876 was 27 deaths. There were nine deaths in the hospital during the month of March, 1877.

It will be within the knowledge of many of our readers that, owing to the unhappily infelicitous alliance between Mr John Ebenezer White and Alice Mary Josephine White, his wife, several divorce suits have been from time to time commenced in the Supreme Court, with the object of procuring a dissolution of the marriage. We believe that no fewer than two suits have been begun at different times by Mr White, and three by Mrs White, but they have all dropped through from some cause or other, though the parties have not been reconciled to each other. Another action has, however, been commenced by Mr White which is in a fair way of coming to trial, the citation having been served upon Mrs White, respondent, and George Bennett, co-respondent. Mr White does not seek for damages, but petitions for a dissolution, both a *mensa et thoro* (from bed and board), and a *vinculo matrimonii* (from the bonds of marriage). Two or three days are allowed to the respondent and co-respondent to plead to the allegations set out in the plaintiff's petition, and we hear that the former intended to set up a distinct denial, and counter charges. Mr T. Buddle has been retained as counsel for the plaintiff, Mr Dufray for the respondent, and Mr Tyler for the co-respondent.—Auckland Star.

The following special dispatch was sent by telegraph to the Boston Globe:—'Salon, February 12, 10.55 p.m.—Professor A. Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, lectured on his invention, at Lyceum Hall, this evening. The lecture was one of a course of the Essex Institute, and about five hundred persons were present. Professor Bell briefly explained the construction of the instrument, and sketched his studies of the system of transmitted sounds. An intermittent current was first sent from Boston by Thomas A. Watson, Professor Bell's associate. This caused a noise very similar to a horn, from the telephone. The Morse telegraph alphabet was then sent by musical sounds, and could be heard throughout the hall. The audience burst into loud applause at this experiment. A telephone organ was then put into operation in Boston. 'Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgotten' and 'Yankee Doodle' were readily heard throughout the hall, and heartily recognised. Professor Bell asked Mr Watson for a song, and 'Auld Lang Syne' came from the mouthpiece of the instrument almost before his words were ended. Mr Watson then made a speech to the audience. He expressed himself as having more confidence in the success of his invention than he had before.

There are goals and goalers, as 'Snyder' goes on to prove, as follows:—'The goals in both islands vary as much in quality as they do in size and material. There is, for instance, a goal at Greytown and fifty yards across the Grey river there is a goal at Cobden, which is in Nelson. Greytown is in Westland. One goal would have answered both places for all purposes. But Westland was jealous of Nelson, and the authorities had a goal of their own, where they kept their prisoners as cold, and as damp, and as miserable, and as hungry as circumstances would admit. The Nelson dignitaries out of aggravation made their prisoners snug and comfortable. Had a large room well warmed and a library of light and pleasant reading, with a liberal dietary scale, and a public house quite handy. So when a digger, or a bushman, belonging to Greytown wanted a justification which was likely to terminate in a forty-eight hours,' he paid sixpence to the ferryman to cross him over to Cobden, and there he would enjoy his supper and come out of prison all comfortable and right again. Once a compositor, who was also a reporter, belonging to a Greytown paper, was seized for debt at Cobden and sent to prison for a month. The next day a pair of asses were ferried over to him and he carried his time in setting up type which he sent back to the office when ready for the press. The prisoner set up letters in type, and wrote leading articles, which praised up the god officials to the heavens, and heaped no end of abuse on those at Greytown. The result of this was that a hot dinner and tea were sent into him every day from the public house adjoining, and he left prison with an illuminated testimonial presented him by the warders. The latitude allowed to prisoners in that goal and the indulgence granted resulted in one of the prisoners having been found working a private still.

In another goal, further south than Greytown, the then Governor of it was a cabinet maker by trade; and I know that before he left it was discovered he had set his prisoners to making chairs and tables in the rough, which he finished off and polished up himself and then sold them to the furniture shops at all profit to himself, as the labor was done for nothing, and the timber worked up was charged to the Provincial Government as being required for the purpose of teaching the prisoners a trade.'

It was never very clearly understood what Sir George Grey and Mr Macdrew were to do when they got to England as delegates from the Otago Convention, and, perhaps, it is quite as well that that very vague mission is not likely to be undertaken. The ill-health of Sir George Grey is now made the ground for abandoning the project, and the petition adopted by the Convention are to be sent by post. This is a more prosaic and common-place way than that proposed of sending them in charge of plenipotentiary ambassadors, but we have no doubt it will be equally effective. In the meantime the Council of the Convention is to remain 'as an organisation to watch the interests of the colony against the efforts of Centralists.' In other words, the Convention has quietly 'fizzled out.' There is no rebellion, no bombast, and if Sir George Grey wishes to shed his last drop of blood behind the last bulwarks of provincialism, it will only be in harmless parliamentary metaphor. The great change of administrative and legislative organisation in New Zealand has been thoroughly effected, and the last vestiges of opposition have vanished from the scene. And we doubt not that by this time everyone is completely reconciled to the change, and has ceased to regret a past state of things which in its time had served useful ends, but which the progress of the colony had outgrown.—Australasian.

Party feeling at Wellington runs high, and the two candidates for Mr Pease's vacant seat in the Assembly have been affording the readers of the daily papers much amusement. Their speeches were very full flavoured, and neither Mr Travers nor Mr Hutchinson stuck at trifles. The papers having expatiated one side or the other, gave cause to the latter to read the editors a lesson on their duties, as if they did not know them best themselves, and if they did not know them better any attack on the writer in the New Zealand Times, known as the 'Intelligent Vagrant.' As a specimen of Mr Travers' style, his remarks on the 'Vagrant' are appended:—'I feel that in the matter of dirt throwing I am not a match for my opponent. If I engage in such work I fear that I shall myself very much in the position of a man who kicks a pig because it happens to have touched his coat, and by the collision casts mud upon it, the chances being that the pig runs through his legs and captures him into the gutter. Therefore, since I do not want to be captured by the pig who has chosen to run against me, I shall let him pass. (Laughter.) Moreover, gentlemen, as far as throwing dirt is concerned, my adversary is a greater dirt than that I am, or shall ever attempt to be, and I shall therefore let him alone for the future.' Commenting on this, the New Zealand Times remarked that Mr Travers 'inferentially called the Vagrant a pig.'—Lyttelton Times.

Sir John Richardson is reported to have moved, at a late sitting of the Southland Wasté Lands Board, 'that all deferred payment sections open for selection in Southland be advertised in the leading newspapers of each provincial district in New Zealand, and for one month in certain weekly newspapers in Australia, and he further suggested that sketches maps of the lands sold and those open for sale should be circulated through the colonies. Of these large ideas the motion for advertising was adopted, and the other was shelved.

CABLE MESSAGES.

(REUTERS SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.)

MELBOURNE, April 4th. 'Atlas,' writing in The World, says the Prince of Wales is about to visit Australia and New Zealand.

The Combined Team are all out for one hundred and fifty-nine runs. The English won by four wickets.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

CONOMANDEL, Thursday. The Tokatai Company have 160lbs of picked stone to-day.

The Junction claim, Prescott and party, have 120ozs from 16 tons of stuff.

SOUTHERN TELEGRAMS.

(PER PRESS AGENCY.)

WELLINGTON, Thursday. A Gazette to-day notifies a sitting of the Court of Appeal to be held at Wellington on May 14th.

Major Atkinson and family left for Taranaki last night in the 'Hinemoa.' The Premier will probably be absent from Wellington three or four weeks, and may address his constituents, but nothing definite is known at present.

WANGANUI, Thursday. At a well attended public meeting last night it was unanimously resolved to hold a colonial regatta on the Wanganui river next January. A first class committee was appointed, including members of the County and Borough Councils, Road and Harbour Boards, and influential citizens.

NEW PLYMOUTH, Thursday. RAILWAY STAKES.—One mile and a-half. Flora No. 2, 1st 4lb; 1st, Mamama, 8st, 2; Flora Macdonald, 9st, 3. Flora made the running for half the distance, when she gave place to Opawa, who won a good race by a couple of lengths in front of Mamama.

CONSOLATION STAKES.—One mile: Ada, 1; Elsa, 2; May Moon, 3.

FORCED HANDICAP.—One mile: Resolution, 8st, 1; Flora Macdonald, 7st 10lbs, 2; Mamama, 8st 2lbs, 3. Bide-ava (8st 2lbs) also ran. Resolution won by a length from Flora Macdonald.

CHRISTCHURCH, Thursday. The land sales for the month realised £89,982.

The general entries for the autumn meeting close on Saturday next. At the interview between the Minister for Public Works and the Chamber of Commerce yesterday, the former said a tender had been accepted for the erection of public buildings in Christchurch, and that the Government intend to send a Commissioner to the Sydney Exhibition, but it was not decided yet who it would be. The desire was to get some one whose knowledge would be of practical service to the colony.

In the Supreme Court to-day, Hamer, for stealing a cash-box from the Clarendon Hotel, received seven years; Hester Knight, for stealing post letters, three years; Carson, charged with arson, was found not guilty; Wademan, charged with embezzling, sentence deferred; Jacobson, formerly clerk of the National Bank, for embezzlement, one year; Stewart, obtaining money under false pretences, two years; Messiter, stealing post letters, two years.

DUNEDIN, Thursday. At the Supreme Court to-day, Alice Lavin, for larceny, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour; Walter Rogers, for horse-stealing, two years; Charles Brodie Cooper, for forgery, to five years; William Brown, for an unmentionable offence, to five years; Walter Filmer, for larceny, to two years; Letitia Baker was found guilty of burglary at Oamaru, and sentence deferred.

In the Police Court this morning, Dodson, of the Empire Hotel, was charged with keeping open after ten o'clock on Sunday night. The question was regarded as a test one, and judgment was reserved.

A lad 12 years of age, son of George Grant, accountant, was gored by a bullock this morning, while standing on the lawn at his father's house. The animal rushed through a fence, and tossed the boy into the air, injuring him so much that little hopes of his recovery are entertained.

We quote the following from last night's Auckland Star:—

TAURANGA, Thursday. A vote of censure on Captain Morris, M.L.H., was brought forward at last night's meeting, but the chairman declined to entertain it, the meeting not having been convened for the purpose of discussing their member's policy. The chief knoaks, and three native policemen, by orders of the Commissioner, proceeded to Omokoroa to interview the natives obstructing Mr Gellibrand in his farming operations. They returned yesterday unsuccessful, and reported to Mr Brabant that when loading their boat with Mr Gellibrand's posts, in order to replace them on his land, from which the Pirirakans removed them, a large body of natives interfered and prevented them. Being greatly outnumbered, knoaks and the policeman left.

NAPIER, Thursday. The project to build a theatre is likely to fall through, as the projectors state the shareholders must purchase the site they have fixed upon, and must also accept the plans of Ben Smith. People are clary. In the meantime the Oddfellows purpose enlarging their hall, to convert it into a commodious theatre capable of holding 1,000 persons.

2,000 claims to vote have been received by the Returning Officer for the electoral districts of Otago and Napier, but of these 400 are natives in the Otago district. Should they get on the roll, the effect will be Mr Sheehan will be able to swamp the European vote, thereby ousting Mr Ormond.

Writs have been issued by the Repudiation Party contesting the titles of settlers to lands held by them. Seven cases are against Kinross, three against Sutton, and three others against Newton.

Sunday, the 16th instant, is to be set aside as Hospital Sunday for the benefit of the Napier Hospital. The Chicago Minstrels left Gisborne early this morning, after a most successful season.

MINING MATTERS.

MOANATAHI.—The shot yesterday morning brought down the usual complement of half a ton of specimens, while the stope to the westward furnishes quartz of high grade crushing and many gold stones. On the specimen run above the timbers, from the face for 15 feet back, there remains in view gold sufficient to furnish the quota of specimens for days to come. Breaking down the reef in the course of the drive has been resumed, and the dig on the hanging-wall shows the reef to continue its course in strength. Sinking the main shaft progresses, the contractors being in good country, and they are now down 30 feet.

MOANATAHI TRIBUTE.—McBarry and party, working the section upwards on the 132 feet level, obtained low choice stone, which realised, at the company's battery, 48ozs 12dwts gold.

MIDDLE STAR TRIBUTE.—Hayes and party crushed 5 tons, at the Piako small mill, for the yield of 3ozs 8dwts gold.

PIAKO.—Gold and party forwarded 6 tons to the Piako small mill, from Grove's Bank, and realised 3ozs 12dwts gold.

SALVATION.—The shareholders lodged 18dwts gold.

UNITED PUNING ASSOCIATION.—The new underground balance-bob has proved most successful. Additional weight, to the extent of eight tons, has been sent below, still further increasing its beneficial effect in working the engine, while its effect in the saving of steam power was demonstrated by the whole of the boilers throwing off steam at the extra pace of four strokes per minute, a feat never before achieved. The saving will be notified when the minimum of power required is positively ascertained. In the meantime the undertaking is an unqualified success.

CHOWN PROCESS.—Mr Dawson, the manager, has had a cleaning up of the mine, and put it into working order, commencing operations from No. 2 level, where there is a section of the specimen leader nearly intact. This promises to be a good commencement under the new regime.

AUCKLAND SUPREME COURT.

CRIMINAL SITTINGS.

YESTERDAY.

(Before His Honor Mr Justice Gillies.)

FORGERY.—Henry Collins (32) pleaded not guilty to an indictment, charging him with forging a cheque in the names of Messrs Combes and Daldy, on the 2nd of February.—Isaac Harrison, of the Waverley Hotel, remembered prisoner coming to his house on the second of February, and borrowing a pound note, saying that he would pay him the next day. He lent him a second note, but not on the cheque. He held another cheque up to the light, and said that it was not good, he had forged it himself.—George Cann, cook at Mr Canning's, found the cheque on the pavement about six o'clock in the morning. He took it to Messrs Combes and Daldy.—William Crush Daldy, junr, knew the prisoner, who had been in the employ of the firm as a bushman. The cheque produced was not signed either by witness or his father.—The jury found the prisoner guilty. His Honor reserved sentence.

ASSAULT.—To Kiti, a native, pleaded guilty to a charge of violently assaulting a native, by biting out a portion of his lip, and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

TRUE BILLS.—True bills were found in the cases of John Kelly, Hans Jansen, G. Grey, David Pike, Jane Kelly, and Jas. Nicholls, To Pati (murder), Eliza Hughes, William Gibbons, Patheriter: James Gordon, indecent assault; P. McGrath, violently assaulting his wife; Thomas Boyle, arson; Thomas W. Boulton, forging and uttering (five charges); and Joseph Ferris, forgery and uttering.

FORGERY.—Henry Collins was brought up to receive sentence. The prisoner expressed sincere regret at his foolish conduct, and hoped his Honor would take into consideration his previous good character. His Honor commented upon the seriousness of the offence, and sentenced the prisoner to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

BRIBERY AND ENTERING.—Joseph Ferris (39) and Albert Carroll (31) were arraigned upon an indictment charging them with breaking and entering, on the 7th January, the dwelling house of John G. Secombe, and stealing therefrom certain articles of wearing apparel, implements, &c., value £10. Ferris pleaded guilty, and Carroll pleaded not guilty.—John Carroll Secombe, brewer, of the Kyber Pass Road, deposed that in addition to his own house on the premises there is that which was occupied by his father, but which he had not used for some ten months past as a dwelling-house. There were goods left in the house—pictures, waterproof coat, leggings, a meat-chopping machine, and crockery. The house was left seemingly fastened, and the key was in his possession. Detective Grace called upon him, and they went to the house, when they discovered that it had been entered, and missed a number of things, a list of which he presented to the Court.—Mr Secombe recognised the articles.—William Trobey remembered prisoner calling at Mr Mills' shop to sell a machine and glasses in January. He carried the things in a bag. He did not purchase them.—Martin Grace, detective officer, arrested Ferris on the 3rd Feb. Carroll was already in custody on another charge. He found a paw ticket for the three pictures on him. He made a list of the missing articles.—To prisoner: I have never seen you about Mr Secombe's premises.—His Honor recalled Detective Grace, who stated that the prisoners had been frequently together, and were under the surveillance of the police.—The prisoner then addressed the Court as some length, and admitted selling the things, but had not the remotest conception that they were stolen goods. He was deceived by a professional engineer.—His Honor having summed up, the jury considered the evidence, and found the prisoner guilty of receiving and disposing of the goods, knowing them to have been stolen.—Ferris said he unfortunately got drunk, and was drawn into it by Carroll, and Carroll said he was never on the premises.—His Honor said he would reserve judgment in the case of Ferris, as there was another charge against him. With regard to Carroll he was an old offender, and was still undergoing sentence. The judgment of the Court upon him would be, therefore, four years' penal servitude.

RETRIAL FROM THE PRISON.—David Kelly (69), Jane Kelly (47), and James Nichols (68) were arraigned upon an indictment, charged with stealing the sum of £39, the property of John O'Connor, shoemaker, on the 28th January last, in Chancery-lane.—David Kelly said he did not take the money. Jane Kelly said she was drunk and asleep at the hour of the robbery, she had, therefore, nothing to do

with it. She had been sober ever since.—Nichols pleaded not guilty.—John O'Connor, the prosecutor, deposed that he was a shoemaker, of Whangape, and on the 27th of January he came to Auckland, partly on business and partly on pleasure. He lodged in Grey-street, and on the following (Sunday) morning he went for a stroll down Queen-street, with notes, gold, and orders in his pocket, amounting to £60. He met the female prisoner, Mrs Kelly, by the Greyhound Hotel, who said she felt poorly, having been up all night, and she requested him to shout. Her husband, Kelly, the shoe-black, and Nichols, a trotter man, were opposite, and on seeing him they said, 'There's Jack; now we are in for a drink.' He knew them of old, and tried to avoid them. Mrs Kelly hung about him, and said she was dying for a drop. She desired him to give her the price, and she knew where to get the 'cratur.' They went to Commercial-street, and at Kiordan's they had sundry drinks; he got very funny in the head, and Mrs Kelly wished him to go home with her; her little house was up a hill; but he was not inclined. He gave her money to get breakfast; she grumbled, and he gave her more. She then wheeled him into Chancery Lane. The other prisoners were there, and other drink was brought in and drunk; he believed Nichols fetched the beer and brandy. He then gave them money to get dinner with, and remembered no more until he picked himself up from the floor late in the evening, when he found that all his money had passed from his pockets. Mrs Kelly said to her husband, 'I told you you do not touch the man's pockets.'—Mrs Kelly here burst into tears, and said she was as innocent as the babe unborn.

Left sitting.

POLICE COURT.—YESTERDAY.

(Before W. FRASER, Esq., R.M.)

FURIOUS DRIVING.—Thomas Mills was charged with a breach of the Borough By-laws by driving his 'bus at a furious rate in Pollen-street, 'bus at the 30th ultimo.—Defendant pleaded guilty and was fined 6s and costs.

ITEMS OF MAIL NEWS.

AFAIRS IN MEXICO.—CORTINA ARRESTED.

CITY OF MEXICO, Feb. 10th.—Pending the counting of the vote in the presidential election which has just taken place in this republic, General Diaz has been sworn in as President *ad interim*. The ceremony, which took place in the National Palace, was attended with marked pomp, beyond what is usually witnessed here. Presidential electors for Diaz have been chosen, and so far as is known, he has received an immense majority of votes all over the country. Don Jose Mata, who before 1863 was Mexican Minister in Washington, has been appointed Secretary of the Treasury.

MATAMOROS, via Brownsville (Texas), Feb. 25th.—General Canales, Governor of this state, entered the city with about 1,000 men. General Cortina was arrested yesterday by express order of Canales, ostensibly because Cortina had not obeyed orders from the general government to go to the city of Mexico. Canales, on his way here, took from Cortina's ranch about 300 horses and several hundred horses. The general impression is that the entire property of Cortina will be confiscated. There has been a long-standing rivalry between Cortina and Canales as to the control of this state, and it is believed that Canales will strip Cortina of his wealth and remove all his friends from official positions on the frontier, and thereby dispose of what has been a powerful impediment to his entire political control of the state of Tamaulipas.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27th.—The Electoral Commission met at ten. Hurd stated that no counsel would appear for the objections to the Republican certificate, and then submitted reasons why the commission should reject that certificate, holding that the Republican form of government must exist in a state to give validity to that state. He maintained that if legal disabilities were imposed and intimidation practised a Republican form of government was not maintained, and he proposed to show by testimony taken by the House Committee that both conditions existed. Hurd held that as the constitution of South Carolina required registration of electors, and the requirement was utterly ignored, the election was void. Hurd said the presence of troops overawed the people and prevented a free expression of their will.

Field has introduced his bill to provide for an acting President in case of failure to declare an election. A motion to reject the bill was defeated and the main question ordered on its passage. The bill passed, 10 Democrats voting against it, and Purman for it.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27th.—Vanderbilt's will was offered for probate to-day, when a protest was entered by some of his relatives. The hearing was set down for two weeks to-day.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 27th.—At an extraordinary council of ministers yesterday, the Czar presiding, and General Ignatieff present, it was decided to demobilise the Russian army when peace is signed between Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey.

LONDON, Feb. 27th.—The whaling steamer 'Spitzbergen' was lost near Bergen with all hands, numbering twenty-two persons.

THE SILVER COMMISSION.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26th.—The Tribune's Washington special says the silver commission holds its final meeting to-day, and will present its report on Tuesday. The majority have agreed to recommend the adoption of the double standard, fixing the proportion at 15, the present standard of silver to gold being 16 to 1. The change is recommended to put the value of silver coin on the same basis as the coinage of European nations. The extent to which the silver dollar shall be received as legal tender is yet undecided, and it is uncertain what will be the decision of the commission on this point. Boutwell will report in favour of a single gold standard, being in the minority of the commission.

PROPOSED REDUCTION OF THE ARMY. The Tribune's Washington special says: The Army Appropriation Bill will be reported soon. It will provide for a reduction of the military force to 20,000. A section will be added forbidding the use of troops in any State election. Republicans are inclined to accept the reduction, but oppose the latter section, and thus a compromise bill will probably be effected, and an extra session of Congress will be unnecessary.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN TURKEY AND SERBIA. CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 26.—The agreement between the Porte and the Serbian Envoy is concluded. Prince Milan will address a letter to the Sultan that he has accepted the Turkish conditions, except those claiming equality for the Jews in Serbia, and the right of the Porte to be

diplomatically represented at Belgrade. The Sultan will grant Prince Milan a new firman, determining the future relations of Serbia and Turkey.

ODDFELLOWS AND FORESTERS.

At a meeting of the Statistical Society held on January 16, a paper was read by Mr Francis G. P. Neilson, F.R.S., giving elaborate statistics of the affiliated orders of friendly societies, the Oddfellows and Foresters. Each order is self-governed, and consists of numerous branches, termed 'lodges' or 'courts' and 'districts,' with a central executive. 'Lodges' and 'courts' are practically local benefit societies, which combine into districts for the purpose of spreading the death-risks over a great number of members. In 1832 the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows consisted of 82 districts, embracing 561 lodges, with an aggregate of 31,042 members. In 1848 the number of members was 649,261, and since then the progress has been steady, the strength for last year being 608,013 members. On January 1, 1846, the Ancient Order of Foresters consisted of 161 districts, 1,614 courts, and 76,990 members. It has since gone on increasing year by year until on January 1, 1876, it had 275 districts, 4,923 courts, and 491,126 members. The comparative development of each organisation, as a whole, has been as follows:—

Table with 4 columns: Date, Number of Members, Increase per cent., and Foresters. Data for 1846, 1866, and 1876.

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The percentage of initiation and secession are higher in the Foresters than in the Odd Fellows, while in the latter society the rate of mortality is largely in excess of that of the former. Until quite recently graduated rates of contribution, according to age, were by no means generally in force, and even now it is feared that in nine cases out of ten the contribution demanded is only just adequate for the youngest age eligible for admission, and is altogether insufficient for the older entrants. In the Odd Fellows every lodge is bound to adopt rates of contribution not below a certain graduated minimum scale, but amongst the Foresters each court is permitted to exercise its own judgment on this important point, so that different degrees of efficiency exist. The average age of members on January 1, 1876, was in the Odd Fellows 36 1/3, and in the Foresters 33 3/4 years. The financial returns for 1875 for the Odd Fellows, including 3,522 lodges and 462,429 members (no returns coming from 5,568 members) were:—Income: contributions, \$451,081; interest, \$12,031; admission fees, &c., \$11,454.—\$474,565. Expenditure: sick benefits, \$307,629; funeral benefits, \$102,295. Similar returns for the Foresters show the following results (included in the returns) 3,816 courts, 459,371 members.—Income: contributions, \$427,110; interest, \$32,875; admission fees, &c., \$14,918.—\$474,903. Expenditure: sickness benefits, \$282,162; funeral benefits, \$38,500.—\$320,726. In the ten years these two affiliated orders have received in respect of sickness and funeral benefits, \$6,226,370. These amounts be considerably augmented if the figures relating to the members of the orders not resident in the United Kingdom were also included. That the executive, notwithstanding its multifarious duties necessitates but a moderate cost, the following statistics giving the average expenses of management per annum of this body show:—Odd Fellows: 1848-52, \$998; 1853-57, \$862; 1858-62, \$944; 1863-67, \$1,004; 1868-72, \$1,267. Foresters: 1866-70, \$1,188; 1871-75, \$1,339. This charge for managing and controlling vast associations of about half a million members each will compare favorably with the cost of any similar organisation extant. Even these expenses, such as they are, are nearly, if not quite, defrayed by the profits realised by the executive of each order in constituting itself the wholesale agent for the supply to the branches of stationery and goods.—European Mail.

WHOLESALE MATRIMONY.

A VERY curious procession took place recently, says the New York Mercury, on East Second-street. It consisted of thirty-two young couples, all of them dressed in the national costume of the Bohemian Czechs. The men wore short jackets, richly embroidered in silk, and the girls' white skirts and crimson jackets, with caps of green velvet, embroidered in gold and silver. The procession, which was headed by a small band, and by a venerable prelate in his full vestments, moved through Second-street to Avenue A, and then through Essex-street to Broome-street, where in the hall of building No. 237, a ceremony such as has never been witnessed before in New York took place. It was only