

THE PRESS.

"Nihil utile quod non honestum."

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IS SEPARATION NECESSARY?

admission, of the most important nature, the *Times* has made. That journal has given its adhesion to our view, that there can be no temporary separation of a colony. If we separate, we separate for ever; and instead of having one country capable of expanding into a great nation, we must have two petty states whose mutual rivalry and jealousy will probably seriously cripple the expansive power of both. Let us keep this before us—that we are legislating not only for the present, but for the future.

The great example which it is urged we should follow is that afforded by the colonies of Australia. Let us endeavor to draw a correct parallel between our case and theirs.

The jurisdiction of New South Wales may be said to have originally extended over the whole continent of New Holland; at least there were no set bounds or limits to the colony. Western Australia and South Australia were founded on portions of that territory in which no occupation had as yet taken place, and the foundation of the latter was defined by geographical boundaries by Act of Parliament. Port Philip was colonized by settlers from New South Wales and Tasmania, and was governed from Sydney until it had actually become a separate colony. By becoming a separate colony, we mean, that the Custom House, Post Office, Supreme Court, &c. were all local; that it had direct communication and trade with England, that, in fact, all the business of the place and all the political interest of the place had really concentrated in the local capital, Melbourne, instead of the distant and nominal capital at Sydney.

The great fact to be borne in mind is that the Separation in the Government simply followed a Separation which had taken place in fact long before. Victoria became a separate colony from New South Wales, not by the act which separated the Governments of the two communities, but by the previous history and existing condition of the settlement, which the political necessities of Government simply followed or succumbed to. Precisely the same may be said of Moreton Bay.

So soon as there was a commercial and political independence of the community, and the union with New South Wales had become one of which nothing but the name and legal ties remained, then Moreton Bay clamoured for and obtained a separate Government.

In both these cases one of the distinctive features was, that it was the subordinate community which demanded Separation, because it felt that its interests were being sacrificed to the older settlement. The spirit which led to the dismemberment of New South Wales was the same spirit as that which drove Hawke's Bay to get free from Wellington, and Marlborough from Nelson, and Southland from Otago. It was the outport which felt its interests sacrificed to those of the metropolis.

Again, we must remember in these cases there was no possibility or even supposed possibility of changing the seat of Government. No one fancied that any alteration of the seat of Government from the shores of Port Jackson would satisfy the wants of Melbourne and Geelong. The same may be said of Brisbane in Moreton Bay. It was a case of Separation or no Separation;

there was no rival scheme of any kind possible or suggested.

Now is there any kind of analogy between that state of things and the present condition of New Zealand? New Zealand never has had one metropolis which stood to her in the position in which Sydney stands to New South Wales. The five settlements of New Zealand were in reality what Mr. Fox called them—*five distinct colonies*. They had each its own capital, own direct communication with England, its own central Post Office, owning no allegiance to any head central office; its own Courts of Law; its own Custom House, and so on. Not the slightest claim of any kind can be urged by any one town more than another to be the seat of Government of the whole. The Auckland people claim the seat of Government simply as a matter of trade. It is a good speculation for them. They have never ventured to urge any claim on political grounds. In fact, the placing the seat of Government at Auckland at all was always thought a gross injustice to Wellington; and as to the Middle Island, it had no existence as a colony at the time.

A state of things is here disclosed for which there is no analogy in other colonies. The nearest approach to a similar state of circumstances is in the colony of the Windward Islands, where the unity of the colony may be said to be merely nominal, and to be represented by a Governor-in-Chief, with an almost nominal jurisdiction, the several islands being each under its own separate Government.

The proposal to separate from the Northern Island, then, involves two things: it involves not only the separation of one part of the colony from the other, but the amalgamation of the part that remains into one, and the amalgamation of the part separating into one. When Victoria separated from Sydney, it was a homogeneous mass which flew off; here the mass is anything but homogeneous: and it was a homogeneous mass which remained; but here a part left is still more disunited than that which leaves it.

The problem then presents new features not precisely analogous to any which has preceded it, and receiving little light from former examples.

That the character of the populations in the two parts of the colony are different; that different laws prevail; that different languages are spoken, are no conclusive arguments for Separation. Were it so, there could be no unity in the Government which presides over Ireland, Scotland, and England; or in that which rules the English and French population of Canada; or in that which governs the Caffre, Hottentot, Dutch, and English population of the Cape: or in that which combines the Negro and European elements in the West Indies.

The geographical features are no obstacle; for there is more communication between Nelson and Wellington than between Nelson and Canterbury, and twice the intercourse between Nelson and Auckland than there is between Southland and Nelson.

There is but one conceivable permanent obstacle to a union between the various parts of the colony, and that is—permanent hostility of interests, requiring a permanent difference of political action. But no such hostility of interests has ever existed.

All the provinces have the same career, the same task—to colonise these Islands as speedily as possible, under much the same circumstances. There are no greater differences of circumstances in New Zealand than those between the agricultural and mining and manufacturing populations at home.

Such differences of occupations and interests tend rather to produce a closer and more comprehensive unity in a people, by enlarging the field of its sympathies and its experience, and teaching how not an identity of interests, but a mutual reliance of different interests one on another, is the bond which cements communities into a united nation.

THE WEST COAST.

The following letter from Mr. Haast to his Honor the Superintendent contains full details of his late expedition to the West Coast:—

Makarora Bush, March 3, 1863.

Sir—I have the honor to communicate to you that I returned last night safely with my whole party, from my expedition to the West Coast to this our starting point, having reached the sea on the 20th February. As without doubt it will interest you to become acquainted as soon as possible with the natural features of the country traversed by me, till at present entirely unknown, I beg to offer you the following preliminary report, before continuing my researches in another direction.

From Messrs. Wilkin and Thompson's station on the Molyneux, I travelled along the shore of Lake Wanaka, as far as the station of Messrs. Stuart, Kinross and Co. Here Mr. W. Young, Assistant Surveyor, joined me as topographical assistant, who, at my request, had been attached to me for this expedition by the Chief Surveyor. Having ascertained that it would be impossible to continue my journey overland to the head of the Lake with my horses, I availed myself of the kindness of Mr. H. S. Thomson, partner of the said firm, who placed a boat at my disposal during my stay in this part of the country.

In order better to understand what I have to say in the sequel, it will be necessary to give a general outline of the features of Lake Wanaka and of the river by which it is formed. This beautiful lake, about 27 miles long, and on the average 2½ miles broad, much indented, and of which the upper portion for a distance of 2½ miles lies in our province, is formed by a fine river, to which the Maori name of Makarora has been preserved. This fine lake, quite different by its low position and other features from our other Alpine lakes, has also the peculiarity that the river at its entrance, unlike our other lakes, has not formed any extensive swamps, well grassed land reaching to the very margin of the water, which, had we no other proof, would be alone evidence of its great depth. There is no doubt that it lies equally in the remarkable rent or fissure in which, in the Province of Otago, the Molyneux flows, being in fact its continuation to the north.

The Makarora, which during its whole course runs S.S.W.* is joined three miles above its entrance into the Lake by another main branch, which I called the Wilkin, containing about an equal amount of water as the former river above its junction. The valley of the Wilkin, coming from the central chain, for several miles runs nearly in a W. and E. direction; it then divides in several valleys, of which the most southerly seems to come from the northern continuation of Mount Aspiring or its neighborhood, and the most northerly to keep a S.E. by S. direction.

Having ascertained in former years from the West Coast Maories that a pass exists at the head of Lake Wanaka, by which former generations had travelled across the island, but not being able to gather anything positive about this road from them, I went on my journey up to the Waitemate bush to consult an old Maori on the subject, with which I was informed he was well acquainted. From him I heard that the track lay by this latter branch of the Wilkin, and that it would bring me in two days to the mouth of the Awarua River on the West Coast; but when on the spot, and examining the physical features of the country, I was led to the conclusion that there was some error in his description. Observing at the same time that the main chain at the head of the Makarora was singularly broken, I thought that the remarkable rent, in which also the Makarora was flowing, might possibly continue through the central chain, I determined therefore to cross the Alps at the Makarora, and the result has shown that my anticipations have been verified.

We tracked our boat to the Makarora bush, a distance of seven miles from the Lake, and started from there carrying with us four weeks provisions on our backs.

* All the courses of rivers, &c., are calculated from the true North, if not stated otherwise.

The valley of the Makarora for about 12 miles is 1½ miles broad on the average; to the foot of the mountains the vegetation consists of grass and scrub, whilst the rugged mountains on both sides are clothed with forest from their base to an altitude of 4500 feet, above which the rocky pinnacles rise abruptly. On ascending the river further, the deltas of two opposite tributaries meet, covered with forest, and through which the river pursues its winding course. For two miles this vegetation prevails, at which distance another important stream joins the main river from the east; the valley opens again, and a flat of about four miles long occurs, covered with grass, which offered us good travelling ground. Above the termination of this open spot the base of the mountains on both sides approach nearer and nearer, till at a distance of 1½ miles they form a gorge, the river rushing between immense blocks of rocks, which lie scattered in its channel, and on the mountain sides. Twenty miles above the mouth of the Makarora it enters the fissure coming from the east in a deep chasm of vertical cliffs from the central chain, showing by its semi-opaque bluish colour its glacial origin, but the rent still continues in the same direction, a tributary which I have called the Fish Stream flowing through it, joining the Makarora on the entrance of the latter. After half a mile travelling, we found it impossible to proceed up the bed of this stream, vertical cliffs rising abruptly from the edge of the water, which falls down over immense rocks. We were therefore obliged to ascend to a considerable altitude on its eastern bank, and to continue our journey through dense bush along the steep sides of the mountains. After travelling for three miles, partly over very rugged ground, we again met the Fish Stream coming from the west, and still flowing in a deep and rocky channel; but observing still the opening before us, we again went forward in the same direction, and arrived in another mile on the bank of a very small watercourse, which we followed for about a mile. Observing that its banks consisted of debris, about 15 feet high, sloping as it seemed to me to the north, I ascended, and found to my great satisfaction that the level of the swampy forest had really a slight fall in that direction. Soon the small water holes between the sphagnum (swamp moss) increased, a small watercourse was formed, which ran in a northerly direction, and thus a most remarkable pass was found, which in a chain of such magnitude as the Southorn Alps of New Zealand, and where no break or even available saddle occurs during their course north of this point in our province, is probably without parallel in the known world. After three observations on this pass, calculating the average stand of the barometer at the sea level, and the altitude of Lake Wanaka (974 feet) as given by McKerrow of Otago, with which my own observations closely correspond, the altitude of the pass is 1612 feet above the level of the sea, or 638 feet above Lake Wanaka. As before stated there is properly speaking no saddle over which a traveller has to go, being only obliged to cross from one watercourse to another, ascending a bank of about 15 feet of loose shingle thrown across the rent, and arriving on a flat of very small slope, covered with open forest, which in half-a-mile brings him to another small watercourse flowing north. I may here add that at this point the mountains on both sides reach their highest elevation, being covered with perpetual snow and glaciers of large extent. This singular break in the central chain accounts in a great measure for the low position of Lake Wanaka, and its fine and peculiar climate, notwithstanding there is evidence that in the glacial period glaciers extended also to this lake, as shown by the high sloping terraces in the Makarora, cut in the mountain sides to an altitude of at least 5000 feet, besides many other indications. On the evening of January 24th, we reached a larger stream, which I named the 'Leading Stream,' coming from the W., being soon joined by several tributaries from the E. For three miles we followed this stream, flowing in a N.N.E. direction through a comparatively open valley, with occasional small patches of grass on its sides, and arrived at its junction with a larger stream of glacial origin of the size of the Makarora which came from the eastern central chain, and to which, after your direction, I gave my name. Next day, accompanied by Mr. Young, I ascended the mountain, which I named Mount Brewster, as a topographical station and for geological examination, the glaciers of which give rise to the 'Haast,' Makarora, and Hunter, the latter forming the head waters of Lake Hawea. I may here state that all glaciers, as far as I have observed them, on the western side of the Alps, belong to the second order, the mountain sides being very abrupt, and the valleys short and steep. On the slopes of Mount Brewster, from an altitude of about 6000 feet, we had a most magnificent and extensive view over the Alps, from Lake Wanaka in the south, to the Moorhouse range in the north-east, as far as the coast ranges, and it was with no little pleasure that I recognised many peaks in the central chains, which I had observed near the sources of the rivers forming Lakes Ohou, and Pukaki, being thus enabled to connect last year's survey with the present. It became evident to me, looking over the large extent of country drained, that the river before it reaches the east coast must be very considerable; and another

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peculiar feature concerning the Alps was revealed, to which I shall devote a few words. From the sources of the Rakaia to the southern termination of the Moorhouse range, the Alps consist of one main chain, sending off divergent chains which become gradually lower; but here a change occurs; at the southern end of the Moorhouse range, the Alps divide into two almost equal chains, of which the eastern one extends along the western bank of the Hopkins to Mount Ward, from whence it turns in a S.W. by W. direction towards Mount Brewster. On the western side of the fissure, the continuation of Mount Brewster is to be found in Mount Stuart on the western side of the Makarora. The western chain of the Alps commences also at the end of the Moorhouse range, which latter, near the sources of the Hopkins, loses considerable in altitude, but afterwards rises again to a great height, being formed by a magnificent range which I called the Gray Range. It runs in a S.W. direction, till it is broken through by the main river after the junction of the Clark, the broad valley of the latter occupying the space or basin between these two Alpine chains. After this second break on the left side of the river, the Alps again rise to a considerable altitude, covered with perpetual snow, and which as it seemed united again at Mount Stuart, running down in one longitudinal chain towards Mount Aspiring, the southern point of our boundary, but it is notwithstanding true that the Alps, south of the Moorhouse range, begin to lose their continuity, being broken in sharp pyramidal peaks, seldom attaining an altitude of 10,000 feet, with deep but generally inaccessible saddles between them.

When returning on the evening of the 26th January from our mountain ascent, heavy rain set in, which continued almost without intermission till February 13th, and during which time, under many difficulties, we were able to advance only 11 miles down the river, watching a favourable opportunity when the river fell to cross from one side to the other, when necessary. This part of our journey occurred unfortunately at the same time when we crossed the most inaccessible part of our route, being in fact the most rugged piece of New Zealand ground over which, during my long wanderings, I ever passed before.

From the junction of the leading stream with the Haast, the valley of the latter is still so broad and the fall of the water comparatively slight, that rapids are formed, allowing us to follow the riverbeds, crossing and recrossing from side to side; but then it seems as if the river had cut across the range, both mountain sides presenting exceedingly steep slopes, whilst the river at the same time continues to flow in a succession of falls and cataracts, which continue for about 6 miles. On both sides of the river the rocks rise perpendicular, and the small channel through which the water finds its way is still encumbered by enormous rocks, often several tons in weight, amongst and over which the river falls roaring and foaming. At the same time the mountain sides, which we were continually obliged to ascend and descend, for many hundred feet, were partly covered with blocks of rock of equal magnitude, the large fissures between them often overgrown with moss and roots, the latter sometimes rotten, so that a hasty step threw the heedless between the fissures, giving him great trouble to extricate himself. No level place of sufficient size to pitch our tent was here to be found, either on the hill side or in the river bed, except in places liable to be flooded, as, to our discomfort, we found out on this occasion during the night. Amongst other curious places we were camped for eight days under an enormous overhanging rock, with a vertical precipice of 150 feet near us, and the thundering and deafening roar of the swollen main river, forming here a large fall as its companion.

The general direction of the river after its entrance into the fissure is for 5 miles N.N.W., after which it is joined by another river of considerable size, which I have named the "Wills," coming with a W.S.W. course from Mount Ward. As it was impossible to cross this river, even in fine weather, being very deep, we had to watch an opportunity to cross to the left bank of the main river, above the junction of the Wills. From this point we travelled for 6½ miles in a N.W. direction, steep mountain sides, vertical cliffs, waterfalls and cataracts, enlarged by the heavy fresh, being still the usual features of the country. But we could already observe that we came to lower regions, totara, rimu, matai (black pine), often of fine size, became mixed with the figus (black birch) forest, which hitherto, without intermission, clothed the mountain sides. Fern trees soon made their appearance, forming small groves in the deep moist valleys, and which, considering we were still in the heart of the Alps, gave a strange aspect to the scenery around us.

At last we left this region of rocks, precipices, and cascades behind us, and a fine river entered from the W.S.W., which I called the "Burke." We reached the confluence of it on the evening of February 12; fine weather set in at last, and the barometer showed me that we were only 250 or 300 feet above the sea level. The River Burke is broad and deep, and has a slow course at its junction, the main river, the fall of which is more rapid, having as at the Wills thrown a bar across its entrance, by which the level of these tributaries has been raised. From this spot a most magnificent view over the southern termination of the distant Moorhouse and Gray ranges was obtained, the more beautiful, as the gorges on both sides of the valley were covered as heretofore to an altitude of 4500 feet with forest, and the foreground consisted of fine pine trees, which lower down the valley grow on the bank of the main river.

It was only on the morning of February 14th that we were able to continue our journey; the Burke, although little flooded, we found to be impassable, and the main river above its junction, after several trials, we also found still too high to be crossed; we had just finished making a catamaran of dead trees to cross the Burke, no flax-sticks being obtainable to make a mokihia, when at last the falling of the main river allowed us to cross safely. After the junction of the Burke the course changes again, the river running for 7 miles in a

N.E. direction; the valley opens more, and the fall of the water is much less, offering good fords, so as to allow us to use the shingle banks to travel on. Now and then small grass patches of a few acres in extent appear. It was towards the middle of the day when we observed that the river before its junction with another large river, namely, the Clarke, set against its left bank, keeping close under vertical cliffs to this junction, and that afterwards the united waters continued to flow in the same way. I determined therefore to cross this important river above the junction, but when we came to its shingle bed, which is here about a mile and a half broad, we found the water of the first branch much discoloured. The day being hot and the sky cloudless, I mistook this occurrence for the usual discolouring of a glacial stream near its source, from the effects of a hot day; we therefore proceeded, and after some difficulty found a ford over this first branch, but branch after branch succeeded, each one larger than the former, and it was near evening when we were trying to cross the last branch which proved to be the largest; several times we failed, but at last succeeded. Although we crossed in the Maori fashion, with a long pole between us, two of my party were washed away when near the opposite bank, and had to swim to shore with their loads on their backs. Had I not taken the precaution to have none but experienced swimmers in my party, a sad accident might here have happened. As I afterwards discovered, the river at our first crossing had been still in a state of fresh, and although on returning from the West Coast we found the water low and clear, the river, according to marks set, having fallen considerably, we had still to cross it in five branches, some of them very deep, broad, and swift. The size of this important river, which drains the Southern Alps, from opposite the Muller glacier to the N.W. slopes of Mount Ward, is at least equal to that of the Rakaia in the plains. Its valley is about two miles broad, which, six miles above the junction, is divided into two main branches; on its western bank a fine grass flat occurs, about 1000 acres in extent, where we camped, and which is a real oasis in this constant wilderness of forest. This is without doubt the open grass country of which some old Maori spoke to me as existing in the interior, judging its value not by its extent, but by the great number of wekas (wood-hens) and kakapos (ground parrots), which up to the time of our arrival had here enjoyed an undisturbed existence, and which constitutes this spot a true Maori Elysium.

After travelling two miles over this open grass flat, we again arrived on the bank of the river, below the junction, being here divided into two branches. Although the mountains on both sides continued to be very high and covered with snow, from which numerous waterfalls descend, the river has now a much slower course, being, when flowing in one stream, 300 to 400 feet broad, and

To be continued.

IMPORTANT FROM TARANAKI.

By the Storm Bird which arrived in Lyttelton about 3 o'clock this morning, we have received Wellington papers to the 28th inst., containing the following important news from Taranaki:—

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

Some excitement prevailed in town on Wednesday last, when it transpired that a force of military were under orders for Waireka. On that day bullocks and carts were pressed for immediate service, and other signs given which meant that a movement to some part of the Province was intended. On Thursday morning at 8.30 o'clock, 300 of the 57th Regt., under Colonel Wurre, C.B., together with Lieut. Ferguson and a detachment of the Royal Engineers, marched off by the Great South Road towards Omata. His Excellency Sir George Grey, General Cameron, and suite, followed. The troops reached Waireka at 10 o'clock, and encamped on Wilkinson's farm, near the Southern boundary of the Omata block, where a stockade is to be erected. A number of the Taranaki tribe have been for several days at Wairua, a native settlement between Omata and Tataraimaka, who no doubt were surprised by the sudden occupation of the territory said by them to be theirs by conquest in 1860-61, and it has given rise to considerable conjecture as to their intentions. The smoke of large fires, supposed to be signal fires, was seen at Tataraimaka and beyond it after the arrival of the troops. It was bringing back old times when the well-remembered picket bugle call of the Volunteers was sounded on Thursday evening, and 120 men were told off for inlying picket and blockhouse duty, and were marched off to their respective posts. The regulation system of guards and pickets has been re-established, the Volunteers alone having as yet been called upon, but as some of the blockhouses are now garrisoned by them, a portion of the Militia, we presume, will have to take a share of the duty. The detachment of the 65th, under Captain Gresson, came in from the rifle practice ground at Waiwakaiho on Thursday, and is stationed in the Marsland Hill Barracks and Mount Elliot. Six of the Volunteers, under Sergeant F. Mace, have been appointed mounted orderlies to attend upon the Governor and General Cameron. We understand that the road will be at once made by the military between the Putoko pa and the Omata stockade. It is quite impossible to say what will be the issue of His Excellency's movements at Omata, or whether the natives will interfere with him, but it is not probable that they will.

Sir George Grey, General Cameron, and staff, together with the Colonial Secretary and the Native Minister, have daily visited the camp and the Putoko. It is said that on Thursday two delegates from the Taranakis met the Governor at the Putoko. We have not been made acquainted with the object nor of the result of their mission, but hear that they told His Excellency that they claimed all the European land around the town, when Sir George replied that they had better also claim the sun moon and stars. We hear also that they informed His Excellency that they should be willing to give up Tataraimaka if all the runmangs north and south wished it, and if he gave Waitara to them.

LATEST FROM THE CAMP.

The military have commenced a redoubt on Wilkinson's farm, on a hill overlooking the Putoko, and surrounding country, which they are rapidly constructing. Natives are to be seen on one of the spurs of the ranges.—*Taranaki Herald*, March 14.

The 'Taranaki News' of the 19th contains the following:—"The Harrier arrived this morning, just before our hour of publication, bringing 200 of the 70th Regt. We have been favored with a sight of the 'New Zealander' of yesterday's date, which states that 100 men of the Artillery are also destined for Taranaki to serve as a mounted force. They, however, have not arrived by the Harrier, and there is a report that the Airedale has been taken up for an intermediate trip which may have relation to bringing them." The 'Wanganui Chronicle' says that several armed parties of Waitotaras and Ngatiruanuis have gone north to the scene of action.

LYTTELTON.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT,
March 31, 1863.

[Before W. DONALD, Esq., R.M.]

Gosnell v. Murphy.—This was an action to recover the sum of £15 15s from the defendant for board and lodging. Mr. D'Oyley, who appeared for the plaintiff, stated that the amount was a balance of account for board and lodging at the Victoria Hotel from the 27th July to 13th September, 1862, and from 13th to 27th January, 1863. Defendant had said that he should receive money from Mr. Gee, and would pay the plaintiff as soon as he did so, but afterwards broke his promise. Defendant said he considered it to be an overcharge, and denied having boarded in the hotel. He acknowledged having had about ten cups of tea, and occasionally a kind of meal, but certainly not one for which he could be expected to pay 35s. per week. From plaintiff's statement it appeared that if defendant did not eat heartily he took it out in other refreshments. Judgment for plaintiff for £12 12s. and costs.

Ward and Reeves v. Rich.—to recover the sum of £17 1s. 9d. for printing and advertising.—Settled out of court.

Slinger v. Thomson—to recover the sum of £1 6s. balance of rent on cottage in London-street. No appearance.

Lyon v. Hervine.—This case was adjourned from last week. The parties not appearing, plaintiff was nonsuited with costs.—[By telegraph we learn that this case was settled by arbitration in favor of defendant.]

Trade Report.

'Press' Office, Tuesday night,
March 31, 1863.

We mentioned a day or two ago that maize had made its appearance in the market, and that more was likely to make its appearance. We think it right to mention that one parcel of exceedingly fine looking maize has turned out to be full of weevils, and there is cause to fear that the whole of the importations from Sydney will be more or less affected by this curse to the miller. At all events it may not be undesirable to caution purchasers, in order if possible to prevent the permanent establishment in this colony of an insect which has been found to inflict such heavy loss to the millers and storers of grain in Australia.

The corn trade still continues dull, but without alteration in price. There is at present a disposition to purchase wheat for the Wellington market on account of so many vessels leaving the Heathcote for Wellington in ballast, to return with timber; but present prices will not pay half a freight, consequently nothing has been done.

Cattle are still changing hands at former rates. We hear one lot of 110 head of fair mixed fat and store cattle delivered on the north bank of the Rakaia fetched £9 10s per head. Also, a lot of inferior store cattle delivered on the north bank of the Rakaia fetched £7 5s per head. Two large mobs of good fat and store bullocks are reported as on their way from Nelson to the South, but it is questionable if a large portion of the beef will pass us without finding customers at good prices.

Mr. H. E. Alport effected a sale this day of the

lease of Essex House in Cashel-street, under instructions from the Sheriff. The property did not fetch its value from an erroneous impression as to the powers of the Sheriff to grant an assignment. A parcel of furniture was afterwards submitted, but only a small amount of business done.

Shipping.

Lyttelton, March 31, 7 p.m.

ARRIVED.

The Mary Ann Christina.

IN HARBOUR.

Shalimar, Allen, loading wool for London
Mermaid, Rose, loading wool for London
Avalanche, discharging.
Volga, loading wool.

Heather Bell, Wood, ready for sea.

EXPECTED ARRIVALS.

Steamer Stormbird, Mundle, from Wellington. Expected hourly.

Steamer Gothenburg, Mackie, from Melbourne, via Dunedin. Expected hourly.

Steamer Airedale, Kennedy, from the northern ports. Expected hourly.

Steamer Geelong, from the southern ports.

Ship Huntress, from London, with immigrants.

Brig, Louis and Miriam, shortly from Sydney.

Sylph, from the Chatham Islands.

Vistula, from Melbourne.

EXPECTED DEPARTURES.

Brig Heather Bell, for Sydney.

RIVER SHIPPING.

Lyttelton, Tuesday evening, March 31.

Steamer Mulloch, Symmonds, for the Heathcote, with general cargo.

IN HARBOUR.

Maid of the Yarra.

Annie.

Eagle.

Margaret.

Australian Maid.

Waterlily.

Nymph of the Seas.

Herald.

Fawn.

Maid of the Mill.

Foam.

City of London.

Heathcote Ferry, Tuesday evening

March 31.

PASSED INWARDS.

Sarah.

Monarch, steamer, from Lyttelton.

Julia.

Excelsior.

MARRIED.

On the 31st March, at Christchurch, by the Rev. James Buller, Captain Alford, of Port Chalmers, to Miss Elizabeth Marison, of Christchurch.

SALES THIS DAY.

Messrs. Nathan and Co.: coal, Holloway's medicines, sponge, flour; unreserved clearing sale of boots, shoes, drapery, clothing, wines, spirits, and groceries, at the City Auction Mart. Sale at noon.

Messrs. Olivier and Son: furniture and effects, in High-street, adjoining Mr. Grant's. Sale at noon.

Advertisements.

THIS DAY.

CITY AUCTION MART.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1.

100 TONS COAL,

UNRESERVED!

HOLLOWAY'S MEDICINES,

UNRESERVED!

ONE CASE SPONGE,

UNRESERVED!

ONE AND A HALF TONS FLOUR.

MESSRS. L. E. NATHAN & CO. are instructed to sell by Unreserved Auction, in the Mart, on the above date—

100 Tons Coal

An invoice of Holloway's patent medicines

1 case sponge.

One and a half tons of flour.

Without any reserve.

Sale at 12 o'clock.

DWELLING HOUSE containing six rooms, with garden of one acre, stable and shed, &c., situate in Lichfield-street, Christchurch, to be Let.

AIKMAN & WILSON.

BUILDING SITES, CHRISTCHURCH, fronting Colombo-street, near the proposed Railway Station, to be Let.

AIKMAN & WILSON.

POSTS AND RAILS; Stockyard posts and rails £6 to £8 per 100, and fencing posts and rails £4 4s. to £4 10s. per ditto, delivered on the Waimakariri opposite Felton Ferry.

AIKMAN & WILSON.

23 ACRES LAND fronting Racecourse Road, near Kaiapoi, fenced in and cultivated; to be Sold, price £230.

AIKMAN & WILSON.

BLACKSMITH'S FORGE COMPLETE, anvil, bellows, tools, lathe, drill, and with the latest improvements iron and steel, for Sale by

AIKMAN & WILSON.

FULLY EXPECTED AND RICHLY DESERVED.

The following article from the 'Times' expresses what we will venture to state will be the unanimous verdict of England on the address of the House of Representatives:

THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND.

The peculiar constitution of the colony of New Zealand has become a matter not only of local, but of imperial importance. We have given the colony a bad constitution, and we are, with some justice, called upon to make good such evils as can be traced to the faulty machinery which we ourselves have created. The constitution of New Zealand has been framed on the assumption, to which in its abstract form it is very difficult to give assent, that government is such a good thing that it is impossible to have too much of it. In this small country—far smaller than it appears in the map, since the interior of the Northern Island is occupied by inaccessible mountains—we have created a complete system of double government. Each province has its governor and its Assembly, and there is besides another government and two Chambers to exercise jurisdiction over the whole. As if this was not sufficient, we have created yet another government besides all those. The governor in New Zealand is a constitutional king, whose duty it is to exercise the functions of a King of England in the period immediately following the Revolution of 1688, during which the royal veto had not yet fallen into disuse. Perhaps the most important part of the functions of the government consists in managing the warlike and turbulent race who inhabit these stormy islands. It is above all things the affair of the settlers, whose lives and property must pay for any error that may be committed in the treatment of the natives, and yet, while absolutely overloading the people of New Zealand with a superfluity of governmental machinery, this, the most important subject of all, is withdrawn from the local Parliament, and vested entirely in the governor. Thus the people have no voice in what may be called the foreign policy of the State. The responsibility for a war with the natives is taken from them, and a subject which requires above all others local knowledge and experience is placed, without any responsible advice, in the hands of a governor who must, at any rate at the commencement of his career, be profoundly ignorant of the native character. Of course, the effect of such an arrangement has been to deprive the governor in case of war with the natives of much of the moral support which it is in the power of the colonists to give him, and to furnish them with a very convenient excuse for taking no share in a war about which they have not been consulted. We are glad to find that this evil is about to be put an end to, and that in the way which we have always maintained was alone practicable.

The papers on the subject of New Zealand presented to Parliament to August last contain a despatch from the Duke of Newcastle to Sir George Grey which is destined to exercise a very important influence on the future fate of that rising community. The management of native affairs, somewhat assisted by its cognate topic, the cost of New Zealand wars, has at length forced itself on the attention, not only of the Governor, but of the Executive Council, or responsible Ministry, of New Zealand. They have deliberated earnestly on the subject, and furnish the Secretary of State for the Colonies with five propositions for the better future regulation of those two questions. The first proposition is that the governor shall henceforth deliberate on the conduct of native affairs with the advice of the responsible Ministry, and that the notion of setting up himself or any other power between the natives and the General Assembly, with a view to the more efficient protection of the aborigines, shall be altogether abandoned. We are glad to see that the Secretary of State for the Colonies assents to this proposition, admitting candidly that the attempt to vest this power in the governor alone has failed—he might have added, could not possibly succeed. It has always been found that it is vain to withhold from a popular Assembly, freely elected, having the control of the public purse and the Ministry responsible to it, any power which it may wish to possess. The powers which it possesses already are so great and ample that they suffice to wrest from the most unwilling executive anything that it may be disposed to withhold. To devise a form of government which makes it necessary for the governor to obey the deliberately expressed will of the people, and then to attempt to withhold from the control of the people the most important subject of all, involves a gross practical absurdity, and can only end in the compulsory surrender of that which it would have been more graceful and more politic to give up at first, without needlessly creating a struggle in which the success of the popular side is certain and unquestionable.

The result of this despatch is a solemn address to the Queen from the New Zealand House of Representatives of a nature totally unexampled in colonial history. Instead of accepting with gratitude the right conceded to them by the Colonial Minister, the New Zealand Assembly respectfully decline to undertake the task imposed upon them. They recognise the difficulty of governing the two races by two agencies responsible to different authorities, but they cannot accept the power offered them if it is to be attended with any greater liability than at present for their own defence. They ignore the fact that the proposition came originally from their own responsible ministers, and they quote the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in New Zealand at the present moment as a reason why the system under which that unsatisfactory state of affairs has arisen ought to be indefinitely continued. We have never seen a public document less convincing in its statement, or more entirely divested of the graces of modesty and self-respect. The simple meaning is that the colonists have got a good thing, and intend to keep it. They alone of all the people of the earth have the privilege of making war at other people's expense. The quarrels which arise with the natives are their quarrels, not ours. The expense of fighting out those quarrels they claim should be our expense, not theirs. Those on the spot, who have in their hands the power of war and peace, are to have no responsibility; we, separated by the whole bulk of the globe, are to have the whole of it. Hitherto the responsibility has been thought to be a salutary check on power. Henceforth, as far, at least, as New Zealand is concerned, those two things are to be studiously kept apart from each other. We have no wish that the colonists should be called upon to contribute to the expense of the imperial force maintained in New Zealand, but we confess the very strongest desire that our forces should be materially reduced. The colony has now the management of native affairs. If war does not bring troops from England to carry it on and a large commissariat to keep up prices, the settlers will find some means to remain at peace, or, which is the next best thing, to defend themselves. There will be no peace so long as war is attended with gain and immunity from military service. We have a right to demand on behalf of the heavily-taxed people of this country that this burden shall be removed from their shoulders, and we therefore rejoice to find that Sir George Grey, in his speech to the New Zealand Parliament, announces that he has hitherto had no occasion, and hopes to have none hereafter, to employ the military forces in any active field operations. Our policy in New Zealand towards the natives is comprised in a single word—wait. Temporising expedients, delays, dilatory negotiations, all manner of devices which are of little avail in ordinary cases, are of the greatest use when we have to deal with a race that is continually decreasing on behalf of a race that is continually increasing. It is easier to grow into the undisturbed sovereignty of New Zealand than to conquer it.—*Times*, (January 19.)

The 'Morning Post,' of January 22, in an article on the same subject, observes:—"It is quite clear that the General Assembly altogether fails to appreciate the position in which it is placed, and utterly ignores the material fact of the case when it affirms that the memorialists had always been, and ever shall remain ready 'to take as large a share as our means will allow' of the duty of providing for our own defence. It is matter of public notoriety that the settlers of New Zealand have always been forward in the extreme to invoke the aid of Imperial troops and the influx of Imperial contracts. That neither are without their temptations in a colony which is still comparatively in its infancy, we fully and freely admit. But the gratification is one which, palatable as it may be to the receivers, we are unable to afford any longer. That a change of the present system would involve the readjustment of the relations between the two races is likely enough. But it is rather late in the day for the New Zealand Legislature now to disclaim responsibilities for which they have previously exhibited unmistakable hankerings because they find that there are duties attached to them. We can conceive reasons why the Natives should be consulted before their destinies are placed in the hands of the colonists. But if no difficulties exist upon this score, we cannot see how the colonists can consistently decline to manage their own affairs, and, as a natural sequence, to bear their own burdens."

TARANAKI.

The deputation appointed at the public meeting on the 26th February, waited on Sir George Grey by appointment on Wednesday last, Mr. Domett and Mr. Bell being present at the interview. After a few preliminary remarks, they submitted to the Governor the first of the questions they

had prepared. His Excellency said this question was of such great importance that he could not answer it without serious consideration, but decided that the whole of the questions should be read, which was done. His Excellency then requested to have them in writing. The deputation stated that if His Excellency wished the questions to be put in writing, they would re-write them, as in the present form some of them were contingent upon answers that His Excellency might give. The Governor said he wished to have them in writing, as he could then give written answers to them, so that all misunderstanding would be avoided. The deputation thanked His Excellency, and said that would be the course that they would prefer. His Excellency said the questions were of such great importance that they would probably take a considerable time to answer. He regretted that the usual course which had been always followed in every other place he had been in, was not followed in this instance. The custom he referred to was for the leading gentry of the place, whether appointed by a public meeting or not he could not tell, to wait upon him and acquaint him with the state of the place, to tell him what were their grievances and what measures they thought would remedy them. In this instance he was quite in ignorance of the state of things here, and wished to be made acquainted with them and what the deputation would suggest as a remedy. He wished to hear the matter discussed by persons having local knowledge; even where difference of opinion existed he often gained much useful knowledge. The deputation replied that they thought His Excellency was fully acquainted with the position of the settlement, both from the memorials and addresses to His Excellency and Her Majesty, and also from his own officers; but that if he was ignorant of the state of the province, the deputation would willingly give him a written statement of it. With regard to the remedy to be applied to the disease, they had not dared to suggest any, as they understood it to be their duty to lay their grievances before His Excellency, and for him to devise measures to give them redress.

The Governor said he had seen in a memorial to the Queen that Her Majesty's Representative had been forbidden to make roads on the Queen's land. This statement was untrue, and he should be obliged to contradict it: he had not been forbidden to make roads on European lands. The deputation said that it was not their duty to defend the memorial; that if there were any incorrect statements in that memorial, the settlers would, of course, have to suffer for them. With regard to the case referred to by His Excellency, the settlers knew this much, that the men were ordered to commence the road, that the order was countermanded, the rebel natives telling the settlers at the same time that they had forbidden the carrying on of the road.

The several members of the deputation then related facts that were within their own knowledge, illustrating the state of the settlement, at some of which His Excellency expressed much surprise, saying he had never known them before. The deputation replied that had the settlers supposed that his officers were so remiss in informing His Excellency of what occurred, they (the deputation) would undoubtedly have made him acquainted with it.

The fact of armed Natives crossing the bush from north to south within the last day or two was mentioned to His Excellency, who said he was assured that these Natives had gone south with the most laudable intention.

The subject of the murder of the boys at Omata was then spoken of, and His Excellency said that, with regard to Manahi, he had every reason to believe that he was not concerned in the murders. If Manahi could be advised to come in and stand his trial, he thought it would be a very good thing, which, if he was innocent, he no doubt would do. With regard to the stolen property, he was decidedly of opinion that any one found with any should be dealt with by the civil powers as the law directs; but thought it very doubtful how the law would deal with such a case.

With respect to the case mentioned by the chairman, which was brought before him as Cattle Ownership Commissioner, he did not think that as the owner had recovered the bullock, it would be advisable to proceed further in the matter. [The case referred to was one in which a butcher in this place had bought of a native a bullock, afterwards proved to have been stolen during the war]. The deputation replied that now they knew His Excellency's desire in the matter, they would use every endeavour to secure the man who had sold the bullock in this case, and any other similar case that might occur. His Excellency repeated that he did not consider this at all a good case to try the question upon; if done, it would be quite against his advice. His Excel-

lency said the whole question was involved in great difficulty. He had found some goods in possession of a Native at Waikato, and was going into the matter at once, but was met by the Natives, who said, "You can't punish us for thieving, while you allow the pakeha to keep our property. There is Commodore Seymour riding about on one of our best horses, and Colonel Gold has just sold two: you can't punish us and not the pakeha." He felt the force of this, and did not proceed further. He thought the law would perhaps cut both ways; that perhaps the best plan would be to find an European with some Native property, and then try the question. The deputation replied that they saw no objection to the question being tried in any way that His Excellency thought best. They must tell him that they knew not a horse or cow taken from the rebels was held by the settlers; every one that was taken was, by a brigade order, directed to be given up to the military authorities. All property taken during the war was considered to belong to Her Majesty, and applied to the use of Her Majesty's troops, while all the property lost belonged to the settlers; the settlers, therefore, were very anxious that the question should be brought to an issue.

In the course of conversation the deputation complained of the thistles growing on Native lands, which the settlers could, and the Natives would not keep down, and which did the former great injury. His Excellency said an opinion had lately been given by the law officers of the Crown to the effect that the Natives were not legally the owners of any land, and he expressed a doubt therefore, whether they could be called upon to perform the duties of land owners.

Respecting the £200,000 a long conversation took place, which can be only summarised. His Excellency stated that he must take the opinion of the law officers upon its bearing, and then submit it to the Executive Council. He was of the opinion, which he still holds, that the settlers should have received compensation in full for their losses, and said as much to Ministers during the Session. The case was not analogous to that of Kororareka. That was a sudden attack upon a town; whereas, here, Taranaki had been deliberately chosen by the Government as the field on which certain questions should be tried which it was deemed necessary to the welfare of the colony to have tried. It was not fair that men should be used like chess-men, and thrown away when not wanted. He had grave doubts, however, whether the Loan Act granted compensation. His Excellency to show the interpretation he put upon it and that he had thought it might be applied to other purposes than making good the settlers losses, said that at one time he had formed a plan involving a large civil and military expenditure, which he had only not brought forward because he found the £200,000 would be insufficient to carry it out. He believed it could be appropriated to other purposes, but would take the opinion of the law officer, by which he must be bound. Mr. Bell stated that if the Executive Council differed on this subject, he should advise the Assembly being called together, and the sense of the House taken upon it, to which His Excellency agreed.

On stating his intention of moving troops to Poutoko on the following morning to make the road, His Excellency said, in answer to remarks about the danger to be apprehended by such settlers as were away from the town, that he felt so sure that he was doing what he had a perfect right to do, that he could not believe there would be any objection. He said, also, that we must, indeed, be in a degrading position if he could not move Her Majesty's troops to any part of Her Majesty's land.

His Excellency stated that the national opinion of the Maori people was that Tataraimaka should be occupied, and he thought these Southern Natives might see the advisability of it. A peace brought about quietly and gradually was better than hostilities.

In answer to a question, His Excellency stated that he was prepared to assist those who wished to go away, to the extent of a free passage, but deprecated this action on the part of the settlers, as the abandonment of the settlement would be the deepest degradation to the British name, and he would be ashamed to govern a colony if such occurred; in fact he should not continue Governor, he should most probably resign his commission. Mr. Hulke said it all arose through bad Government.

After nearly four hours conversation the deputation withdrew.—*Herald*, March 14.

THE WEST COAST.

(Concluded from our last.)

After travelling two miles over this open grass flat, we again arrived on the bank of the river, below the junction, being here divided into two branches. Although the mountains on both sides continued to be very high, and covered with snow, from which numerous waterfalls descend, the river

has now a much slower course, being, when flowing in one stream, 300 to 400 feet broad, and of the size of the Molyneux. Here all the signs of the great floods were visible which had occurred lately, detaining us so long in the gorges; not only were all the rapids and shingle islands covered with masses of drift trees, many of them having still their green foliage, but also along the sides of the river quicksands were prevailing, which gave us sometimes no little trouble. At many places emerging from the forest on a shingle reach, we were greatly disappointed to find that, after travelling a quarter of the distance over which they extended, we found deep backwaters, with quicksands, returning so far upwards from the next point, obliging us to return to the forest along the mountain sides, where travelling is very difficult. The river, after the junction of the Clarke, runs for about nine miles in a W.N.W. direction, when it is joined by a large mountain torrent coming down in a cataract from the western chain. The banks of the river sometimes extending, level for half a mile to the foot of the mountains, are generally covered with dense forest, in which the rimu rivals in magnitude the still prevailing black birch. But small patches of open scrub occur also, which offer occasionally better travelling ground; the soil on many spots is very good, and the river, from the junction of the Clarke to its mouth, favourable for rafting. Now and then a rocky point, the outrunning spurs of the mountains, reaches the river, against which the water sets, and which we had to climb over, but generally a level travelling ground was prevalent. Having passed this important mountain current, which in the smallest fresh would be un-crossable, the river again changes its direction and runs for 6½ miles S.S.W. The forest still continuing to be open, we pursued our way in splendid weather, till we arrived at a point where the river changes its course to the N.W. We had some trouble to cross the point rising almost vertical from the waters' edge to a great altitude, but having conquered this difficulty, we were gratified to observe that the mountains gradually decreased in altitude, and that we were not far from the sea. For 6 miles we continued in the N.W. direction, meeting with the usual travelling ground, shingle reaches with backwaters and quicksands, the forest now beginning to be encumbered with supplejacks, and sometimes mountain sides covered with large blocks of rock, which, as they were very steep, and the whole vegetation interlaced with supplejacks, we had at times hard work. We reached at last a spot where the river had extended in width, and where a large tributary which I named the 'Thomas', entered from the N.E., the valley of which divided the coast range from the higher mountains inland.

On February 18th, while crossing the last spur which extended from the coast range into the river, we were at last rejoiced to observe the sea horizon, over a large plain covered with dense forest, in which small conical hills only a few hundred feet high rose, and with renewed ardour we continued our journey, but we did not anticipate that still a very arduous task lay before us. From this point we were about six miles distant from the sea, the distance from the confluence of the river Thomas to the mouth of the main river being 10½ miles with a N.W. by N. course. The river bed, which up to the crossing of the last spur had offered us between the mountains occasional single reaches, dry watercourses, open scrub, and comparatively good forest travelling, set now against its northern bank, continuing so to its very mouth. As it was impossible to travel along its banks, we had to keep entirely to the forest, which now became almost impenetrable. At many spots large kahikatea swamps occurred with the usual accompaniments of kiekie, high fern, and a network of supplejacks; at other places the forest consisted of fine rimu trees, but without being its character of west coast density which defies description. It occupied us nearly two days to toil and cut our way through this region, where the river divided into two branches, of which one running in the above named direction, after a course of a mile falls into the sea, whilst the other, the northern one, the right bank of which was still clothed with forest of the same description, found its exit 1½ miles north of the former. Observing here a good ford of about 200 yards in width over the northern branch, we crossed to the island, and soon stood in the surf giving three hearty cheers.

It may be now well to offer a few remarks on the appearance of Jackson's Bay. Without doubt the river at the mouth of which we were standing is sometimes called the Awarua, although the N.W. boundary river of our province bears the same name; but in order to fix its position better I may observe that the most northern point about 12 miles distant, bears N. 30 deg. E. (magnetic) probably Amott point. From here to S. 30 deg. W., a distance of about 35 miles, an extensive plain stretches from the sea to the base of the coast ranges, containing about 80,000 acres of level land, the whole as far as I could observe, covered with dense forests, in which rimu (red pine) and kahikatea (white pine) are the prevailing trees. At the latter point a large open valley comes from the south, which with many other rivers has assisted to form this extensive plain, which in fact is only the large united delta of different rivers which here enter the sea.

Far to the south two other points were to be observed, of which the first, the termination of a mountain, bore S. 62 deg. W. mag.; the other, a very distant one more resembling a sloping table-land, S. 64 deg. W. mag.; two rocky islands, the smaller and nearer one being about 5 miles distant, was lying S. 79 deg. W. mag. from our position, whilst a larger one rising just above the sea horizon bore S. 62 deg. W. The coast range of the river, about 4000 to 5000 feet high, resembling very much the Thirteen Mile Bush range, was nearly to the summit of the highest eminences covered with forest, whilst its continuation to the southern bank rose to an altitude of about 6000 to 6500 feet, equally clothed with forest to the usual height. As far as the eye could reach, the mountains were covered with dense forests, and no peaks visible above 6500 feet high, except

one single conical mountain partly covered with snow, which rose prominently S. 24 deg. W. over the coast range. Another peculiar feature was a number of small conical hills which rose above the alluvial plains distant from any other mountains, and of which I have to speak more fully when treating more fully of the geology of this part of the province. I may thus fairly state that, with the exception of a small flat of 800 to 1000 acres near the head of the Makarora, and one of the same extent on the right bank of the Clarke, no grass land is anywhere to be found. Fagus, (black birch) forest on the mountains, mixed with pines in the lower regions, is the only covering of the country to an altitude of 4500 feet; but notwithstanding, I think that in future years a large portion of it may be made available. Having only seen the southern mouth of the river I cannot judge of the other entrance, but during our stay at the sea shore, the weather being extremely fine, a whale boat or small vessel could have easily crossed the bar, finding sufficient shelter in a small backwater on the south side, but it is very possible that the mouth of the north branch, which brings the larger amount of water to the sea, would probably offer a better entrance. The river is only for a short distance affected by the tides, its fall to the last half mile being still considerable.

Being very short of provision we had to return immediately, and were fortunate to be still favoured with fine weather till we were two days' journey from the Clarke, when the weather became again unsettled, so we travelled on with all speed, crossed the Clarke just in time, and found our small provision depot in good order, and arrived at the junction of the Burke on the evening of 25th February. Showery weather had set in, which, fortunately, rose the rivers only slightly, so that although the crossing was often not without difficulties and we had to travel continually in the rain, we arrived at our starting point, the Makarora Bush, on the evening of March 2nd, having been nearly six weeks absent.

The geology of the country traversed by me has proved to be exceedingly interesting, and notwithstanding I fear to extend the limits of this report to too great a length, I cannot omit to give a general outline of it.

In a former report which I had the honor to lay before you last October, I remarked that a zone of volcanic and eruptive rocks stretched almost without interruption from Timaru to the Kaikoras, surrounding Banks' Peninsula, in our province, like the segment of a circle. After many observations which I was able to make during this journey, I may now state that the sedimentary rocks west of this zone strike generally in its direction, and that the further the observer recedes from the zone the more the rocks become metamorphic. Whilst the metamorphic rocks in the Otago province generally dip at a low angle, we find, as soon as we approach the volcanic region in our province, that they become more elevated. Whilst at the mouth of the Makarora, on its eastern side, metamorphic rocks are still to be found, which strike nearly N. and S., with a dip of 71° towards E. Ten miles higher up the river, true old clay, slates, and sandstones make their appearance, which have not been at all affected by plutonic action. For a long time the strata, consisting of the same sandstones and slates, run parallel with the rent or fissure, varying in their strike between N. and S., and N.N.E. to S.S.W., with a dip of 61° to 82°, generally towards E., although western dips occur also. East of the fissure in Mount Brewster we meet only sandstones and slates, flagstones and pebble beds, while on the western side, opposite this enormous mountain, the rocks have already a much greater metamorphic appearance, being very micaceous, with numerous quartz layers between them, and intersected by a great many quartz veins. If it were not over precipitate, I would pronounce my conviction that this remarkable rent, where the rocks at many spots are dissimilar on both sides, notwithstanding their equal strike and dip, has, in a great measure, been occasioned by a large eruptive zone which runs on its western side, parallel to it, at a distance of two or three miles. It consists of greenstones of great variety, traps with a cryptocrystalline structure, diorites highly crystalline, dioritic porphyries, with large crystals of white felspar (albite), and crystal of black hornblende and amygdaloids with very interesting crystals and concretions. They have broken through the stratified rocks, sending veins through them in all directions. At the contact the changes are highly instructive; fine fissile slates are changed into a black homogeneous rock, or they resemble some of the schaalsteins of the European continent. Sandstones have been changed into cherts of different colours, and all the rocks in the neighbourhood seem impregnated with ferruginous matter. But I may also observe that the change in the great axis of the island, running probably parallel with the Southern Alps, will, without doubt, play equally a great part in the formation of this fissure.

East of this eruptive zone, which four miles below the junction of the Clarke with the Haast strikes across to the northern bank, sedimentary rocks have, although metamorphic, not such a typical character that we can name them real mica slate, gneiss, &c. Their structure is sometimes crystalline, although the former characteristics of sedimentary rocks are not entirely effaced, but west of this eruptive zone, which forms the summit of some of the highest peaks S.W. of Mount Brewster, the strata begin to assume a real metamorphic appearance.

Dioritic slates are followed by very thin bedded mica slates, which, advancing west, becomes more and more crystalline, striking 12 miles from the sea, from N.N.W. to S.S.E., and dipping alternately to both sides, with an angle between 76° and 81°. Advancing towards the coast these mica schists change insensibly to true gneiss, which, near the western termination of the coast range, proves to be a true gneiss-granite, almost vertical, but now invariably dipping to the E. When viewing first the isolated conical hills rising so conspicuously above the plains, I was reminded of similar hills in the Nelson province,

on the plains of the River Grey, rising there to a much greater altitude, and which consist of true granites. My examination has shown that these hills in the plains of Jackson's Bay consist of the same rocks. One of these hills, rising about 500 feet above the plain, near the river, three miles from the sea, and which I called Mosquito Hill (it well deserved the name), consists for the greater part of a beautiful white granite, with large crystals of white felspar (orthoclase), white quartz, and black mica. At other places the mica is replaced by magnificent well-formed crystals of black hornblende. I observed also zones where, besides black mica, white mica, in large concretions, occurs. Another granite, without doubt of younger origin, passes through that first described, in large veins, being finely grained and of a black and white colour; but again are intersected by veins of beautiful crystalline quartz. There is not the least doubt that this granite zone has greatly assisted in the metamorphism and upheaval of the rocks on the western side of our province, and I am happy to see that some former conclusions to which I arrived by induction, have thus been verified.

Till at present I have not spoken of any indications of gold, and what may be auriferous rocks. Here, again, the structure of our province differs entirely from that of our more fortunate Southern neighbour, the large volcanic zone having influenced the structure of its more immediate neighbourhood.

I may, notwithstanding, state that there is not the least doubt that a very large portion of our West Coast ranges will prove to be auriferous, although resembling more the Nelson mountains on its western part, and in which ultimately rich gold-fields will be discovered. We were, unfortunately, detained so long by rain in the gorges, that our provisions were sadly diminished, notwithstanding the greatest economy, and thus I was compelled to leave the mining tools behind, which we had carried with us so far. The main river, after the junction of the Clarke, is a true shingle river, where it would be difficult to come to auriferous deposits; but many streams will prove to be auriferous, amongst others the Thomas, and many smaller ones. When in this region we could not lose a single day to ascend one of these tributaries, every spare moment being fully occupied with surveying and geological examination. Should you think it advisable to have this western part of the province prospected, it would be necessary to send a vessel round from Lyttelton, with a good sized canoe, and a few Maoris, so that provisions could be taken up the main rivers. We prospected only at one spot before we crossed the saddle, viz., at the confluence of the Burke. We devoted a few hours to it, and notwithstanding the spot was rather unfavourable, having to take our washing stuff from between loose stones in the river bed, we found in nearly every dish a few minute specks of gold, so that, technically speaking, the colour was obtained. That the western tributaries of the Makarora and the Wilkin are auriferous, has since been proved by some parties of diggers, who only through want of provisions; had to return; but starting in a few days to examine more closely this part of the province, I hope soon to report more satisfactorily on the subject.

The collection of geological specimens for our museum has hitherto been very small, the roughness of the ground not allowing us to carry any quantity back with us; notwithstanding I procured a set of complete but very small specimens, showing the gradations from the granite and gneiss granite into the true graywacke rocks.

In botany, actively assisted by Mr. W. Young and one of my companions, Mr. R. Holmes, I have been able to collect many very interesting undescribed specimens, which will not only be valuable for completing more fully Dr. J. Hooker's admirable New Zealand "Flora," but will also offer a valuable addition to our own herbarium. For the zoological department I preserved several fine specimens of the strigops (kakapo), not only for our own Museum, but also for exchange with other collections. I was besides so fortunate as to obtain an apterix (kiwi) of small size, which I believe will prove to be a new species.

Finally, allow me to acknowledge thankfully the zeal and exertions of Mr. William Young, who, with great perseverance, and under manifold difficulties, conducted the typographical survey, and of every member of my party; everybody submitting cheerfully to the small rations which the long continued wet weather compelled me to enforce, and without which it would have been impossible to obtain the desired result.

I have the honour, Sir, to remain,
Your most obedient servant,
JULIUS HAAST, M.D., &c.,
Provincial Geologist.

To His Honor W. S. Moorhouse, Esq.,
Superintendent Province of Canterbury,
New Zealand.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'PRESS.'

SIR,—The article in Saturday's 'Press' on "Darwin and the Novelists," was a treat, and I, for one, wish you might be prevailed upon to favour the public, your readers, by yielding to them more of such gratification.

My more immediate object is to ask whether Darwin's great theory could not be adopted—without any inconsistency—to apply to the whole living creation *except man*; for we happen to know that man was created in a certain image—in one particular guise, and that he is specially distinguished above all animals. In this way the philosopher's scheme would be freed from the everlasting stumbling block of man being included. It is probably at the outset a mistake to rank man at all among the animals the author has to consider and discriminate. I venture to believe it is a

scientific error terming him animal. But even were there no record of the manner of his origin, the fact of man being reasonable should at any rate raise a question whether the principle of natural selection is not wrongly referred to his body instead of his mind, which is the only mode of making Darwin's theory—however it might be strained—possible of application to human beings. We have some warrant in supposing a progressive, and extending improvement from age to age in *men's minds*, that is to say, in *men*, since the "mind's the standard of the man," whereas we lack data as to any improvement in physical powers. Profane history appears to cover too short a period for affording ground for an opinion on the latter point. However, modern changes progress more rapidly, and in our present highly wrought civilisation we may better hope to witness some resulting change of man's conformation. For instance, we can expect to behold faces needing no razor, and hair "parting" of itself, at the side or over the brow according to one's sex. Possibly it has been already overlooked that a bow legged man is a native horse rider, and those with eyes oblique are creatures born to do two jobs at once.

This age chiefly longs to be able to fly, apparently; and Monsieur de Groof, a mellowed man, I presume, is said to have accomplished already what forms the aspiration of so many. Why should we not expect to find ere long infant Ariels among us?

The fact of man being a creature with a mind affects the theory awkwardly in all aspects. If we shall be what we mostly would be, behold "quot homines, tot sententia" bars the way; for although as a general thing power of flight be agreed to be desirable, yet when the fashion of the wings comes under debate, a stoppage immediately ensues, especially by reason of the ladies' *sententia*, unless a compromise like a kiwi's is effected. Certainly, to judge by the paucity and retrogression of Quaker notions, the aspirations to have wings like a dove's would awake but feeble response.

It may be gravely doubted whether men were ever other than they are in form. I assume that the "principle of selection" relates to utility solely, and for that reason little weight seems due to the opinion of my Lord Monboddo's. Those animals only have the caudal appendage which always or sometimes travel prone along the ground, the appendage serving I opine as balance to facilitate making a turn. Indeed it would be no wonder to me if some accurate inquirer observed that a mouse, for example, with its tail cut off, was at an immense disadvantage as compared with a mouse not so amputated. And this probable fact throws light on the motive of the farmer's wife who we all know, who "cut off their" (the mice's) "tails with a carving knife." However, what I seek to arrive at, is, that man being upright would really obtain no advantage from a prolongation behind. Why then, assume that he ever had any? The assumption that he wore it away by sitting, sounds too little likely to induce us to suppose its former presence merely for the sake of that assumption.

For it will not hold equally with respect to Manx cats and many creatures in precisely the same predicament as ourselves, and who cannot by any one be believed to have sat their tails clean off. Nay, if it is to be yielded that men were once so graced, it becomes fairly questionable whether the appendage did prolong the vertebrae at all. Nothing is without a cause; and surely the former fashion of queues in England ought to indicate something, and the mode in China to this very day. Believe me there must be more in a queue than meets the cursory eye or has hitherto been imagined. A sharp observation might be advisable when the records of the Celestial Empire become some day at length disclosed to barbarian scrutiny; but meanwhile I, apologizing for this long intrusion, must continue crediting myself as one

NIMMER BESCHWEIFT.

Christchurch, 30th March, 1863.

Trade Report.

'Press' Office, Wednesday night,
April 1, 1863.

Messrs. Aikman and Wilson report the sale of 10 acres of land, portion of section 239, situate on the south extension of Colombo-street, one section from the Town Belt, for the sum of £1200. The purchasers are the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association, who intend erecting permanent buildings on the above land for their annual show of stock and implements.

Mr. Ollivier's sale of household effects in High-street was well attended, and fair prices were obtained.

Messrs. Luck and Clark, among recent sales, report the following:—

A plot of land on the Rangiora direct road, being part of rural section No. 1538, for £10 cash.