CABLEGRAMS.

EUROPEAN.

LONDON, January 25.

A FENIAN has been arrested whilst embarking at San Francisco for Australia.—it is believed with the intention of blowing up Australian prisons with dynamite.

LONDON, February 3.—Lord Derby has accepted the offer of the Wolverine for service in New Guinea—the New South Wales Government undertaking to refit her.

Sir F. Dillon Bell, Agent-General for New Zealand, has invited the other Agents-General to make objection to Austria's proposal to establish penal colonies, so far as the Pacific is concerned.

LONDON, February 4.—Hon. J. Goschen, speaking at Edinburgh, said that the union of the colonies was essential to the Empire.

A man has been arrested who is believed to be implicated with Gilbert, now in custody in connection with the dynamite outrage at the Tower.

The Chinese outworks at Kelung have been captured by the French, with a loss of 11 killed and 53 wounded.

IT is expected that Italy will occupy Suakim, a town on the Red Sea.

Portugal has seized the banks of the Congo.

Mrs Dudley, the woman who shot O'Donovon Rossa, is regarded as a heroine in the United States. Up to the present, Rossa's medical attendants have been unable to extract the bullet.

LONDON, February 4.—The cargo of mutton ex Kaikoura from New Zealand was placed in the market in good condition.

Pilberts, the mate of Cunningham, who was arrested yesterday in connection with the Tower outrage, has been identified as one of those suspected of being concerned in the explosion at King's Cross Station last year.

LONDON, February 5.

It is stated that an agreement has been concluded between the British and Italian Governments, under which Italy will help England to establish a government in the Soudan, and will occupy Massowah, and perhaps Suakim.

England is likely to contribute to the cost of annexation in New Guinea, but has delayed making any statement as to the amount pending the adjustment of boundaries.

The death is announced of Mr James Winter, of Melbourne, from inflammation of the lungs.

Twenty-five thousand shares having been taken up in Mr Reginald Brett's Financial Company, of Adelaide, it will probably be floated.

The shipment of frozen meat ex R.M.s s. Kaikoura is realising 4½d per lb.

Lord Sherbrook, whose wife died in the early part of November, has re-married.

A telegram is to hand from Lord Wolseley, stating that the Mahdi has captured Khartoum through the treachery of some of General Gordon followers, and General Gordon is probably a prisoner.

Further intelligence has been received showing that Khartoum fell on the 26th of January.

Sir Charles Wilson, with a detachment of the Royal Sussex Regiment, arrived at Khartoum by steamer from Metemneh on the 28th ult.

He found the city occupied by the enemy, and he forthwith returned, but under a heavy fire from the river banks.

The steamer was afterwards wrecked below the Shehukli Cataract.

All on board were saved, and landed at an island, from which a steamer had been sent to their rescue.

The fate of Gordon is as yet uncertain.

Sir Charles Wilson, finding that he could not get to Khartoum, attempted to return, but during the passage two of the steamers stranded. The crew and escort were safely landed. During the journey they were frequently attacked by the rebels from the banks.

LONDON, February 6.—The Chinese have sustained several defeats in Tonquin recently. The French troops under General Negreer are now advancing on Langson.

The Recidiviste Bill has passed its second reading in the French Senate. M. Roussean contended that recidivistes would be an acquisition to the colonies. France is unanimous in demanding that convicts should be relegated. M. Berengers scheme which would have largely superseded the present bill, has been rejected.

The cathedral at Jacobstadt, town of Russia, in Finland, has been dynamited.

Sir Chas. Dilke states that Count Munster, the German Ambassador at London, was, on January 26, instructed to convey the British Government's protest against the German annexation of north New Guinea as being contrary to the promise made by the German Government to England.

Prince Bismarck contends that the recent annexation by England of a part of northern New Guinea is at variance with the assurance given by Earl Granville. The latter replies that this step was rendered necessary from a fear of filibusters.

The feeling of public indignation and disgust pervading all classes of the people regarding the miscarriage in the Soudan is unparalleled, and in consequence consols have declined a half per cent.

Profound sympathy is expressed on the Continent at the failure of Lord Wolseley's expedition to rescue General Gordon.

The London papers, referring to the British position in the Soudan, are unanimous in declaring that retreat is impossible. Most of the journals advise that strong reinforcements, consisting of Indian native regiments, be despatched to Souakim, thence opening a road to Berber.

A Cabinet Council is to be held to-day to consider the Soudan position.

Sir Chas. Dilke, President of the Local Government Board, speaking at Paddington last night, announced that Lord Wolseley has telegraphed that there is no cause for anxiety as to the position of the British troops at Gakdul and Metemmah.

It is reported that 2,000 of Gordon's followers were massacred, and the Palace at Khartoum was completely gutted by the rebels.

LONDON, February 6.—Information has been received that four Portuguese war vessels have occupied the mouth of the Congo River.

LONDON, February 6.—No details have come to hand regarding the capture of Khartoum, Press telegrams from the Soudan having been stopped.

The Cabinet have given Lord Wolseley complete discretion, promising him every assistance he may demand, and stating that England will strive to save Gordon if living.

The "Observer" states that Lord Wolseley has been instructed to suppress the rebellion if General Gordon is dead.

The Italian Government are prepared to send 35,000 troops to the Soudan if necessary.

LONDON, February 7.

Accounts to hand respecting Sir Charles Wilson's expedition from Metammeh to Khartoum state that to him the palace at the latter place appeared to be wrecked, and it was the general opinion that Gordon had been killed; but the Mahdi's messenger, who came to Sir Charles Wilson with a summons to surrender, asserted that he (Gordon) was alive.

LONDON, February 8.

Information from Khartoum has been received that the English troops under Sir C. Wilson approached to within 200 yards of the rebels, and that only the flags of the latter could then be seen. Their batteries kept up a hot shelling, but the troops were compelled to retreat, and this was effected partly by strategy.

Some of the reports state that Gordon was killed, and that there were fifteen days' hard fighting; while others say that two Pashas betrayed General Gordon, but he was still alive and defending Khartoum.

Lord Wolseley telegraphs to the Horse Guards that he is sending a messenger to ascertain the fate of Gordon.

Lord Wolseley states that the Shukri tribes have joined the Mahdi; therefore both banks of the Nile are hostile.

Telegrams announce that a British convoy has reached Gubal (Gakdul) on the road to Metammeh.

LONDON, February 9.—Mr Reginald Brett's Financial Company of Adelaide has been floated, and all the shares allotted.

The claims of Victoria against the Oriental Bank estate have been settled.

The Agents-General, pending the issue of a blue book, are unable to advise their Governments regarding the German white book issued on the New Guinea question.

The Agents-General have cabled to their respective Governments the postal proposals which have been formulated by the British postal officials, relative to England obtaining a larger share of colonial postages. One of the causes of the deadlock at the Lisbon Postal Conference is that Germany is opposed to Australia being represented, fearing that such representation would increase British influence at the Conference.

LONDON, February 9.—The French forces under General Négrier have captured a Chinese camp near Langson. The French casualties in the recent engagement with the Chinese near Langson were 80 killed and wounded. A mutiny broke out amongst the crews of the French fleet at present stationed off the island of Formosa, but was eventually suppressed.

It has transpired that Earl Granville has informed Pasha Fehmi, the Egyptian Finance Minister, now in London, that England intends to evacuate Egypt, but it is impossible at the present time to fix the date of the withdrawal of the troops.

There is a deadlock at the Postal Conference at Lisbon. Australia is allowed one vote. The delegates are now leaving.

The wheat market is steady. Off coast cargoes for transhipment to the Continent are worth 36s. Cargoes to arrive in February are quoted at 36s 3d.

M. Rousseau considers that Cayenne would be a suitable place for the relegation of recidivistes.

The "Times," in an article on the annexation in New Guinea, denounces the arrogance displayed by Prince Bismarck in the matter, and urges Earl Granville to adhere to the present extension of the British protectorate in that island.

It is announced that the following reinforcements have been ordered to Egypt:—The 20th Hussars and three battalions of Guards from England; four battalions of infantry from Malta and Gibraltar; and two battalions of infantry and a cavalry regiment from India.

IT is stated that the Government intend to despatch reinforcements to the number of eight thousand to the Soudan, under the command of Major General Newdigate, and that the force will proceed to Suakim, and thence to Berber.

Lord Wolseley telegraphs that nothing is known as to the fate of General Gordon, and as regards Sir Charles Wilson and party, he believes they have been rescued from an island near the Shabukli cataract.

It is reported that the Cabinet have instructed Lord Wolseley, in the event of General Gordon being dead, that the campaign be continued until the rebellion is quelled. A detachment of artillery has arrived at Gubal.

It is stated that 600 men of the Canadian Militia are coming to England to do garrison duty in the place of the troops being despatched to Egypt.

LONDON, February 10.—The cargo of frozen mutton, ex steamship Coptic, from New Zealand, has arrived in good condition.

LONDON, February 10.—The French authorities intend to relegate 30,000 recidivistes.

It is reported at Gubat that General Gordon was killed on the morning of January 27th.

Lord Wolseley doubts whether General Gordon is still defending the Palace at Khartoum.

Osman Digna is massing his force at Tamat.

ROME, February 4.

A second Italian expedition, destined for Massowah, in the Red Sea, will leave Naples on Sunday next

ROME, February 9.

The Italian Government have decided that, if requested, assistance shall be afforded England in the operations against the Mahdi.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 3.

The Porte has sent a strong protest to Rome against the recent annexations by Italy on the Red Sea coast.

SUAKIM, February 3rd.—A force consisting of eighty British Hussars, and some Egyptian troops, which was despatched hence to Handoub, to burn it down, had effected the purpose, and were returning to Suakim, when it was surrounded by a large body of rebels. Heavy fighting ensued, but the Hussars and Egyptians succeeded in effecting their escape, with the loss of eight men killed, five of whom were Hussars.

CAIRO, February 4.

Colonel Freemantle, commanding the troops at Suakim, telegraphs to headquarters that the officer in command of the force of Hussars and Egyptians which made the sortie upon and burnt Handuk exceeded his instructions.

CAIRO, February 7.

Latest telegrams from Korti state that General Earle's progress towards Berber is unopposed, and that the steamers from Gubal are able to patrol the river and obtain supplies.

CAIRO, February 9.

NEWS is to hand from Korti that a British convoy was recently attacked near Gakdul by a body of rebels numbering over a thousand. Heavy fighting took place, with the result that the rebels were repulsed after a severe shelling from the British guns.

The Italian expedition despatched from Naples has occupied Massowah, in the Red Sea, without resistance, but the Egyptian officials formally protested against the occupation.

CAIRO, February 10.

Sir Charles Wilsou, who was wrecked while returning from Khartoum to El Metemmeh, has been rescued from an island on which he landed near the Shabukli Cataract, and, with his detachments, has reached El Metemmeh in safety. He has since arrived at Korti to confer with Lord Woleeley,

More troops are being despatched from Korti to Gubat.

KORTI, February 9.

General Gordon was killed while leaving his home in the city. He was betrayed by Faramh Pasha, commander of the Soudanese troops.

Captain Lord C. Beresford succeeded in rescuing Sir Charles Wilson after a sharp action with the fort below the Shabukli Cataract, during which a shot from the fort penetrated the boiler of the steamer under his command, but which was successfully repaired under fire.

SUAKIM, February 10.

News has reached here that Osman Digna is massing a large force of Mahdites near Tamai, between this place and Berber.

BOMBAY, February 10.

The reinforcements of troops to be despatched to the Soudan from India will consist of Indian native contingents.

NEW YORK, February 3.

The assailant of O'Donovan Rossa is a hospital nurse named Dudley. It is supposed her act was prompted by indignation at the recent action of dynamitors in London. Her sanity is doubted in some quarters. Rossa's wound is not a fatal one.

NEW YORK, February 4.

Partisans of Rossa stigmatise the woman Dudley as a British emissary, sent to take Rossa's life.

[SPECIAL TO MELBONRNE "AGE."]

LONDON, January 26.

SOME negotiations have recently taken place between the Colonial Office and Prince Bismarck, on the subject of German annexation in New Guinea. Mr Murray Smith, the Victorian Agent-General, has endeavoured to ascertain the result of these negoiations, but, up to the present, has not succeeded.

It is reported that the British Government intends annexing the whole southern portion of New Guinea now claimed by the Dutch, and that Major General Scratchley will be appointed Governor. It is also expected that the subsidy will require to be increased.

It is stated that England will not interfere with the Soloman Islands.

A German White Book on the New Guinea question is being issued.

The Egyptian Negotiations.

LONDON, January 29.—The English press deplore the concessions recently made by the British Cabinet, and which will practically have the effect of reviving the dual control in Egypt.

The Marquis of Lorne and Imperial Federation.

The Marquis of Lorne is canvassing the Agents General of the various colonies with the view of obtaining their support to an Imperial federation scheme.

French Forces for China.

The Governors of the various French colonies have received directions to enforce the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act in their respective colonies. The forces thus raised are intended for service in China.

AUSTRALIAN.

PERTH (West Australia), Feb. 6.—Three arrests have been made in connection with the recent murders at the Union Bank, Roebourne.

SYDNEY, February 11.—A verandah in George street fell on the footpath yesterday. Several persons were underneath at the time. One was killed, and the others were injured more or less severely.

GORDON OF KHARTOUM.

O! England, weep!—weep tears of woe,
Thy noblest son is slain—
Not on the battle field he fell,
Not on the open plain.
O, weep for that lost Majesty,
Thou ne'er shalt know again.

Over the desert waves of sand,
Thy noblest blood is shed,
The hero of a hundred fights,
The peerless one is dead.
Weep for the hero of Khartoum,
His blood is on thy head.

Weary and sad our hearts are bow'd,
In wailing o'er the brave,
Weary and sad our sons return,
Too late—too late to save
And only breaking hearts shall mourn
Over his early grave.

O! Britain, weep—weep tears of woe,
Thy noblest son is slain—
Not on the battle field he fell,
Not on the open plain.
O, weep for that lost Majesty,
Thou ne'er shalt know again.

W. R. WILLS.

THE PORTFOLIO OF MINES.

WELLINGTON, February 7.

IT is thought in the best-informed circles that there is truth in the rumour that Mr Larnach will be called to the Upper House in the course of a month or two, and that he will then relinquish the portfolio of Mines and retain only the portfolio of Trade and Customs held by Mr Reynolds. It is thought not unlikely that the portfolio of Mines will ultimately be held by a member for a goldfields constituency. Messrs Cadman, Seddon, and O'Connor are freely mentioned in connection with the appointment. It will be remembered the former was a strong favourite for the position during last session.

NORTH ISLAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Tenders For the First Section to be Called for Next Month.

IN the course of conversation with one of our reporters to-day, the Hon. Mr Ballance said he had now got the consent of the natives to the progress of the North Island trunk railway and roads through the King Country. Tenders would therefore be called for the first section of the line, extending southwards from Te Awamutu on the 1st of March next. The length of this section would be fifteen miles. Mr Ballance also expressed the intention of the Government to cut up and settle the land along the railway route in small farm sections. He said he believed they would have the co-operation of the natives in that district. The natives are, he added, exceedingly friendly, and express nothing but the most friendly feelings towards the Government and himself personally, believing that he would act honestly respecting themselves and their lands.

In addressing a public meeting at Westport last Friday night, the Premier spoke on general politics, though Mr Menteith, M.H.R., detected a personal application in his remarks. Mr Menteith, in moving a vote of thanks, said he had been taken by surprise at the evident drift and tendency of the address. He had certainly not come prepared to meet anything like a direct attack on himself. He hinted, however, at the possibility of a dissolution at no distant date, and said the people would do well to be on their guard. He was compelled to believe that the Premier's address was designed to undermine his (Mr Menteith's) influence with his constituents, and this he resented as being inappropriate to such an occasion. The Premier disclaimed any such intention, and treated lightly the suggestion as to the possibility of a dissolution. The present Ministry were not going to be got rid of so easily.

GREAT SCULLING MATCH.

Hanlan Beats Clifford.

SYDNEY, Saturday.

THE sculling match between Edward Hanlan, of Toronto, Canada, and Thomas Clifford, of Illawarra, New South Wales, for a stake of £500 a-side, was rowed over the Champion Course, Parramatta River, this afternoon. Heavy rain fell before the race commenced, and the water was consequently smooth. The race resulted in an easy victory for Hanlan by fully eight lengths. He led from start to finish, and was never asked to pull. Clifford rowed gamely throughout, but without effect. Time: 22mins. 5secs.

Hanlan's previous victories are so well known that they scarcely require repetition. Before he met William Beach last year he had rowed twenty races in wager boats, and had never been beaten once. Beach, however, as everyone knows, succeeded in wresting from him the much-coveted title of Champion of the World. This induced Hanlan to remain in Australia much longer than he had originally intended, to retrieve his lost laurels. The first match has proved an easy victory for him, but he has yet to row Beach for the championship, or to take the title from Clifford in the event of the latter defeating Beach. The Clifford-Beach contest for the championship is fixed for Saturday, 28th inst., and four weeks thereafter Hanlan is to row against Beach, while should Clifford win the first-named match, Hanlan will compete with him for the championship and £500 a-side on 18th April next.

ANNEXATION OF SAMOA.

German Flag Hoisted at Apia.

Deputation of Chiefs to New Zealand.

BY the arrival of the mail steamer City of Sydney we are placed in possession of fuller and later details of what has been transpiring in Samoa. From our own correspondent's letter dated 26th January, and other sources, we obtain the following narrative of events:—The German man-o'-war Albatross has been lying at Apia, on the island of Upolu, and under its approval and protection the German flag was, on the 23rd January, hoisted there by the Consul, Dr. Stübel. At the same time he issued the following

Proclamation.

"Be it known unto all Samoans that for a long time past the Government of King Malietoa has done that which produces bad feeling and disrespect towards the German Government, and has repeatedly broken the agreement between the German and Samoan Governments. On this account I have thought fit to take steps for the protection of the persons and property of Germans, and consider it proper to take possession of (*jaamau*) the town and district of Apia, in which are Malinuu and the harbour of Apia, and to hold them as by the authority of the Government of Malietoa and the German Government, in proof of which the flag of the Emperor of Germany has been hoisted at Malinuu; and to declare that the German Government only has at this time authority in the places before mentioned. Samoans, I state distinctly to you that only the land called the *Elecle Sa* (neutral territory) has been taken possession of, and that no other part of Samoa has been taken possession of; and it is well for you to know that what has been done has not been done in unkindness to Samoa. The German Government is desirous that the Samoan Government should be strong, and continue friendly towards the German Government. After the present difficulties have been removed, the land at present taken possession of will be given up again (*tatalaina*). I request you not to be anxious, but to put confidence in the German Government, and in me, in which case Samoa will prosper.

(Signed) DR. STUBEL,
German Consul-General.

23rd January, 1885."

The proclamation is made in the Samoan language only, and the above is a translation giving the substantial purport of the extraordinary document. It is considered at Apia that the German Consul has violated the rules of the municipality, and the English and American consuls at once issued the following protest, and had it posted all over the town:—

"We, the Consuls of the United States and Great Britain, do hereby make known that we will insist upon the rights of the Convention being observed, and deprecate force being used.

(Signed) T. CANISIUS, United States Consul.
W. CHURCHWARD, Consul for Great Britain."

Our correspondent says: "From these proceedings there is likely to be a lively time at the meeting on Friday of the municipality, and the end will be that the Germans will withdraw the German consul from the municipality. The Germans here are doing all in their power to dethrone the king, and dispute the power of the chiefs. From an interview I had with Swemon, the governor of the island of Upolu, and a number of other chiefs, they said they intend to go to Auckland in the schooner Fleetwing with Mr J. Lundon to see the Governor of New Zealand. Whether they will carry out that intention or not I am not in a position to say, but there is some likelihood of their going to Auckland. The Fleeting will leave here for Auckland in about 14 or 16 days from the 26th of January. At the date of writing, it was believed in Apia that the Germans intended to take similar steps to the above at Tonga, the object being to intimidate the natives and pave the way for annexation to Germany. The effect at Samoa, however, will be to drive them to seek British protection, and it was expected that the native Parliament and King would sign a petition to the Government of New Zealand praying for annexation to this colony."

WELLINGTON, February 9.

It is rumoured in political circles that as an outcome of the recent Anglo German negotiations on the subject of annexation in the Western Pacific, England would be willing and is a little anxious that Germany should give up her vested interests in New Guinea, and take the supremacy at Samoa. Some of the Australian colonies, no doubt, would gladly accede to such an arrangement; but others, among which New Zealand is of course included, looking upon New Guinea as a white elephant compared with other groups, are strongly inclined to resent any such arrangement. Communications are passing between the several Governments on the subject, and it is likely they will combine to formally protest against such an agreement being entered into. The New Zealand Government have already taken action in this direction, and through the Agent-General have entered a protest against any steps being taken in the direction indicated.

PACIFIC ANNEXATION.

The Anglo-German Negotiations.

LONDON, February 7.

IN connection with the question of annexation of islands in the Pacific the following particulars have been published:—

In August Prince Bismarck intimated to the Imperial Government that Germany would protest against the northern portion of New Guinea being annexed by Great Britain. To this intimation Earl Granville replied that the limit of the British annexation would only be the southern coast, and in September he informed Prince Bismarck that, in consequence of pressure brought by the Australian colonies, the British Government decided to protect all unoccupied territory, except a small piece at the north of the island. Prince Bismarck objected to this, and in October Earl Granville reverted to the first intention of only annexing the southern coast.

In December the Hon. Mr Meade, one of the Assistant Under-Secretaries of the Colonial Office, who was despatched to Berlin by the Foreign Office to make arrangements for the meeting of a convention to adjudicate upon the rival claims to the Pacific Islands, proposed at Berlin that Great Britain should possess exclusive protection over New Guinea, and that Germany should be recognised as having a protectorate of New Britain, New Ireland, and York Islands. He also proposed to neutralise the remaining unoccupied islands of the Pacific, and specially referred to Samoa and Tonga. He further suggested that England should offer a small concession in Africa to France, providing the latter gave up all claim to the New Hebrides. Prince Bismarck refused to agree to this. Earl Granville answered that the proposed annexation of the northern portion of New Guinea by Germany would lead to strained relations with the colonies. Prince Bismarck replied that the internal policy would be unaffected so far as Germany was concerned, and he insisted on the fulfilment of the promises in October.

In January Earl Granville again protested against the German annexation of the northern portion of New Guinea, prior to the appointment of the proposed Commission, and at the same time intimated that England had now extended her protectorate as far as the Huon Gulf. He also charged Germany with intriguing for Samoa. On receipt of this Prince Bismarck instantly wired that the proposed extension to the Huon Gulf would probably involve a collision of interests. Earl Granville explained that he was unaware that Germany desired any of the territory to the southward of the gulf named, and he also admitted that there was a treaty which provided that neither England nor New Zealand must annex Samoa at present.

The Death of General Gordon.

THE positive news of General Gordon's death has caused a feeling of universal regret. Although ever since the news of the fall of Khartoum was received there has been little hope that its gallant defender had escaped, people have found it hard to believe that the man who has led a charmed life and come scatheless through so many perils, had fallen at last. General Gordon had, in fact, infected the public mind with a half belief in his invulnerability. However, he died as a brave man would wish to die, at the post of duty, and the manner of his death lends glory to his achievements, for it proves what a set of scoundrels the General has had to deal with in Khartoum, while beset with courageous and fanatical enemies without. This Faramh Pasha is presumably an Egyptian, who had been appointed to the command of the native levies. His treachery may have been prompted by hate of the Christian invaders and the victors of Tel-el-Kebir. Secure in the possession of Khartoum, and in his power to keep the Arab hordes out, General Gordon has moved freely about the city, and according to-day's despatches, it was when leaving his house that he was set upon by the traitors for whose safety he has imperilled his life all these months. Language is inadequate to denounce, and British justice too merciful to punish as it deserves, the treachery of Faramh Pasha, but that his career will be a short one, and his end no less summary than that of the commander he has betrayed we may trust to Lord Wolseley and the British soldiers who are with him.

The painful impression caused by the news of General Gordon's death is relieved by the intelligence that Sir Charles Wilson and the force at Mettemmeh are safe. Captain Lord Beresford, whose gallantry at the bombardment of Alexandra won him the bravos of the Admiral in command, is once more found the leader of a kind of forlorn hope. Lord Charles is one of those officers who have made the British name famous throughout the earth. He is in his element where bullets fly thick, and there is hard fighting to be done. A disaster to Sir Charles Wilson and Colonel Stewart's force would be a more lamentable event than the death of even so brave a man as General Gordon. Many men whose lives were equally precious have indeed already fallen in the difficult and fruitless endeavour to rescue that remarkable but headstrong man, whose character fills the popular mind with admiration—who was as brave, high spirited, and utopian as Garabaldi, and as restive under control. General Gordon's instructions in setting-out for Khartoum precluded him from doing what he has attempted to do, but which men of calmer judgment knew to be impracticable. The Cabinet informed him, and he expressed his approval of their policy, that they would not undertake the government of the Soudan. His mission was solely an ambassadorial one to negotiate for the withdrawal of the garrison and the erection of a government by the most powerful among the chiefs. He was received with open arms, and, so far as can be seen, he might have left Khartoum as easily as he entered it if he had been inclined to adhere to his instructions. But it is hard to judge of this. His position was a singular one, and by its exigencies, rather than of his own volition, he may have been driven into the policy which has ended so disastrously. We know this, at least, that as an officer and a soldier he acted in a manner that has shed lustre on the British name, and the nation will be ready to forgive his faults and the consequences they have entailed, in reverence for a man whose every action was prompted by a stern conscientiousness and whose unselfishness and devotion to duty for duty's sake sets an example worth many sermons to this self-seeking and mercenary age.

A correspondent of the "Pall Mall Gazette" has called attention to the alarming mortality among bishops' wives. It appears that at present there are six bishops who are widowers, five who have been married twice, and one, the Bishop of Liverpool, who has been married three times.

There are to be contests between teetotal and publican candidates at Dunedin Licensing elections.

ANGLO-COLONIAL NOTES

[FROM THE AUCKLAND "STAR'S" LONDON CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, January 1.

Annexation.

THE news of the German annexation in New Guinea has raised a storm of indignation throughout the length and breadth of England, and the papers have been flooded with letters from all sorts of people denouncing the action of the Government in no measured terms. Even papers which usually support the Government have turned against the Ministry, and the policy of Lord Derby in stopping English annexation and then allowing Germany to plant her flag where ours should be has been, to say the least of it, very severely criticised. Directly the country had ceased to pour out the vials of its wrath upon the devoted head of the Government, it was rumoured that Lord Derby would soon resign his office as Colonial Secretary. Whether this report is true or not, I cannot say, but I know this much—that nothing would give more satisfaction to a very large party of politicians than to see Lord Derby superseded by a man of power, ability, and judgment. Lord Derby's whole tenure of office has been one long repetition of glaring errors, and his policy with regard to each of our colonies may be described as slow, imbecile, and weak. As soon as Earl Derby's retirement was spoken of the name of his successor was freely given. It is said that Lord Rosebery is desirous of filling the post, and we cannot wish to see a better man to succeed Lord Derby.

Confiding Colonists.

A recent number of "Truth" gave some extracts from a Melbourne paper of the "impressions" of Thompson, the bookmaker, who visited England last racing season. Thompson seems to have been drawing the long bow considerably during his interview, for he says that the leading bookmakers in England "are gentlemen, and are treated like gentlemen," and that "jockeys are swells, and keep their valets." If Australians believe this, they will believe anything.

The Frozen Meat Trade.—Arrival of the Elderslie from Oamaru.

On the 19th of December the steamer Elderslie, from Oamaru, arrived safely at the Victoria Docks with a cargo of 22,961 sheep, 660 half carcases, and 14 carcases of lamb, all of which are reported to be in excellent order. On the following Monday a number connected with Lloyd's and the owners and charterers of the vessel inspected the steamer and her cargo. The sheep are consigned to the Australian Company (Limited), so that no New Zealand importers were present; but Mr Martin (of Turnbull, Martin, and Co., of Glasgow), one of the owners of the vessel, Mr A. Langbridge, Mr J. Wotherspoon, under whose inspection the Elderslie was built, and several other Australian merchants, looked over the ship, and afterwards lunched together on board her. The arrival of the Elderslie was noticed in all the papers, and several of the dailies had leaders on the frozen meat trade the day after she arrived. The "Morning Post" says:—"The arrival of the Elderslie with its unprecedented consignment may be said to mark a new departure in the frozen meat trade. Hitherto ships have been fitted only partially with refrigerating chambers, and only a comparatively small cargo of sheep taken on board. Neither shippers nor breeders were particularly sanguine of their ability to carry the new enterprise through; hence the export of what will now be regarded as very small consignments of frozen mutton. But at last the experiment has been tried on a really gigantic scale, and complete success has attended it. We may expect now the arrival of a regular series of cargoes of New Zealand and Australian mutton equal in size to that which now lies in the Victoria Docks ready for consumption."

The "St. James's Gazette" says: "The arrival in this country in one cargo of nearly 25,000 frozen carcases of New Zealand sheep is a fact of considerable significance. It shows to what enormous proportions the frozen meat trade is likely to attain, though certain risks and difficulties will stand stand in its way. The ordinary danger of long voyages will, of course, always have to be met, but there are other difficulties to be got over. Until quite recently the refrigerating machines had a habit of getting out of order on very slight provocation, and directly their icy breath was withheld unpleasant consequences ensued. The prejudice in this country against imported meat is largely due to the occasional distribution of cargoes of 'chilled' beef or mutton, the textures and flavour of which are abominable. Even now that the apparatus for refrigerating has been brought so much nearer perfection, there is always a chance of its breaking down during the voyage, and thus spoiling every carcase on board. It is this consideration which made the Elderslie venture so courageous a one. Had her cargo gone wrong, the loss would have been serious indeed." The writer then goes into figures to prove that at present the shipper can hardly make any profit, and concludes by saying, "One important matter needs attention. Many butchers pass off the best imported mutton as English, and sell only the inferior consignments for what they are. And now that New Zealand is getting so good a name for the meat, it is extremely likely that a variation of this device will be resorted to, and its name given to the less fat and juicy products of Australia and the River Plate."

The State of the Market.

Christmas time always has a depressing effect on the price of mutton, for every Englishman thinks it his duty to consume an enormous amount of roast beef at this season of the year. Frozen mutton is now fetching about 5d a lb, some as much as 5½d.

Messrs Ward and Stimpson give the following quotations:—New Zealand mutton, 3s to 3s 4d per 8lbs; Melbourne, 3s to 3s 4d; Sydney, 2s 6d to 2s 10d; River Plate, 2s 6d to 2s 10d; Dutch, 3s to 4s; English (middling), 3s to 4s.

Some of the Elderslie's cargo has been sold, and reached 5½d. The Ruapehu and the Victory are due in about a week and a fortnight respectively, and as each brings a large cargo of mutton, we may expect prices to be somewhat low.

The English Mastership of the Otago High School.

Sir F. Dillon Bell and Dr. Macdonald have at last selected a new English master for the Otago Boys' High School. One hundred and twenty applications were sent in for the post, and the sifting of these took a long time. The gentleman chosen is a Mr Edward Morrison, M.A., who comes from Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh. Mr Morrison is 26 years of age, and has had a good deal of experience in teaching, having been at the Madras College before going to Merchiston. The date of Mr Morrison's departure for New Zealand is not yet fixed, but he will probably leave in the Tainui on January 28th.

Tawhiao's Welcome Home.

The report of Tawhiao's speech at the Blue Ribbon meeting in Auckland on October 22nd has caused a good deal of amusement in London. The "Daily News" of December 23rd contained a paragraph, evidently from the pen of Mr F. W. Chesson, describing the reception of the chiefs in Auckland, in which Tawhiao is said to have stated that he did not see a single drunken man during his stay in England. If Tawhiao did really say this, either his memory or his eyesight must be very deficient; for I remember well how, on Whit Monday last, when I had the pleasure of escorting the chiefs from the Sorata to the city, Tawhiao at one station formed the centre of a circle of drunken stokers who danced round the King with great glee, until the arrival of a policeman on the scene made them sheer off, after giving his majesty three very drunken cheers.

Personal and General.

It may interest you to know that your colony stands high in the rolls of the Salvation Army. This body has now 910 corps, namely:—In the United Kingdom, 637; Canada, 71; United States, 50; South Australia, 35; and New Zealand, 23. Thus New Zealand occupies the fifth place.

The "Pall Mall Gazette" of December 22, 1884, contained a clever article on New Guinea and the Pacific, from the able pen of Mr F. P. Labilliere. This was supplemented on the following day by a letter on the same subject from Mr Frederick Young (Hon. Sec. of the Royal Colonial Institute).

Mr W. Fillingham Parr contributed to the "Morning Post" of December 24th a long and interesting letter on the native population of Fiji.

The "World" gives a curious case of "virtue rewarded" which has occurred lately in Dublin, and been given publicity through the law courts. Some forty years ago, it seems, a servant was enabled, by the bounty of her master, to emigrate to Australia. In 15 to 20 years she saved nearly £2,000, and on her death left the money to her only son, and in the event of his death without issue, to her late master's heirs, who have made good their title to it.

Mrs Lingard is playing Pauline in "Called Back" with immense success. On Boxing Day the piece was transferred from the Princes Theatre to the Olympic, where it is now drawing splendid houses nightly.

Mr and Lady Constance Combe are about to make a voyage to the antipodes in order to recruit Mr Combe's health, which has not recovered the attack of typhoid fever, from which he suffered about a year ago. They will sail on January 1st, and expect to be back by the end of April.

That estimable gentleman, Mr Levy, the cornet-blower, has, I learn from an American paper, just entered the holy state of matrimony for the third time. The lady chosen by this eminent musician is Miss Stella Costa, the leading soprano of the Levy Concert Company. Levy has only just been divorced from his second wife Minnie Conway, who is now the wife of a Mr Osmond Tearle.

The "Daily News" of December 29th contained a very interesting account of a visit to New Britain and New Ireland by Mr J. E. Maddock.

The "British Australasian" is publishing weekly a description of the various harbours of Australasia and their peculiarities. Last week's issue contained an accurate account of Port Chalmers, Dunedin, with a description of the various railway piers, quays, docks, and jetties of the port.

Mr S. C. Farr, Honorary Secretary of the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society, is now in London. Mr Farr intends shortly to take out some more salmon ova to New Zealand. I am afraid he will have some difficulty in this, for winter is not the proper season of the year to get the spawn.

A recent number of the "Daily Telegraph" contained an article by "Seafarer," entitled "Kidnapping in the Western Pacific," describing the case of McMurdo and Davies, who were recently sentenced to imprisonment for burning natives' huts in the Laughlan Islands, but were soon after released by Sir William Des Vœux.

The victory gained by the English Eleven in Australia over Murdoch's Anglo-Australian team has given great satisfaction over here, and the "Sportsman" goes so far as to say that it will recover the lost prestige of English cricket, which most of us were not aware was lost.

Mr William Courtney, of Taranaki, who is trying to get emigrants for his district, has taken offices at 79, Fenchurch-street. He has published a circular setting forth all the advantages, climatic and otherwise, of Taranaki.

The Rev. F. H. Spencer (interpreter to King Tawhiao), who was married about two months ago to a daughter of General Hutchinson, is on his way back to the colony with his wife in the Iberia, which left Plymouth on the 26th December. Mr Spencer is booked through to Nelson.

The "Wigan Examiner" of December 27th contained a description of a journey to Lake Taupo from Mr J. H. Burnet, of Auckland.

At the last meeting of the Heckmorduite Naturalists' Society, Mr J. M. Barber exhibited a variety of beautiful New Zealand ferns.

The Prince of Wales has recently granted warrants to seven new lodges of Freemasons in the Australasian colonies; two of these are in New Zealand, No. 2,072, The Zealandia Lodge, Whangaroa, Auckland, and No. 2,073, The Duke of Albany Lodge, Helensville, Auckland.

Postscript.

1st January, 1885.—The papers of to-day contain emphatic denials of the rumoured retirement of Lord Derby, but notwithstanding this, I do not think he is likely to remain much longer at the Colonial Office. His action over the annexation question has made him particularly unpopular.

Shipping and Passenger Notes.

The following through passengers for Auckland left London in the Orient liner Iberia on December 24: Mr and Mrs M. C. Yaxley, Mrs Handyside, and Colonel McEwen.

The following passengers are already booked for Shaw-Savill's Doric from London, January 8:—1st Saloon: Rev. C. W. Garrard, Miss E. Garrard, Mr James Wolfinston, Lieut.-Colonel Gamble, Miss Gamble, Miss Sanderson, Mr John Haddock, Mr W. E. Griffin, Miss M. E. Davis, Mrs E. Jackson, Dr. and Mrs J. H. Allen, and child, Mr L. W. Bates, Capt. Philip Bennett, Mr J. Bruce Ismay, Mr W. H. Hacking, Mr Arthur Gamble, Mr Wolff, Mr and Mrs John Rucker. Second Saloon: Messrs Walter and Arthur Potts, Mr and Mrs L. Booth and infant, Mr F. J. Lightoller, Mr A. E. Tomlin, Mr and Mrs L. Bond, Miss Paton, Mr Alex. McIntosh, Miss Emily A. Carr, Mr and Mrs R. Tullis, Mr and Mrs Wilson and six children, Miss Lucy Darbishire, Mr Francis F. Reynolds, Mr Thomas Coy, Mr John L. Patterson, Mr T J. Davis.

Rev W. Lawes, lecturing at Melbourne on New Guinea, said the climate would prevent the country ever becoming suitable for Europeans. The natural productions of New Guinea were much exaggerated. Only some parts were suitable for cattle-rearing.

The Duke of Connaught is said to be desirous of getting the Governorship of New South Wales, but Mr Gladstone is opposed to the idea