Public Auction Sales

THIS DAY. At 11 o'clock,

JOHN LEYDON Has received instructions from Mr CHARLES SCHULTE, who is leaving the Thames, to soll, on the promises, Davy-street, H IS substantially-built FOUR-ROOMED COTTAGE, erected on a splendid Free-hold Allotment, together with Furniture and Effects, consisting of Chest of Drawers, Cheffo. nier, Sofa, Tables, Chairs, Pictures, Beds and Bedding, Looking Glass, Crockery, Cutlery, &c., and other articles too numerous to particu

THIS DAY.

At 11 o'clock.

GELLION AND CO. Will sell at the Yards, Rob Roy Hotel, Parawai,

SIX HEAD OF CATTLE Fat Calves and Pigs

> THIS DAY. At 11 o'clock.

UNREDEEMED PLEDGES FROM AUCKLAND.

MESSRS. GUDGEON & CO. Will sell at their Rooms, as above, CONSIGNMENT of Clothing and Jewel-A lery, Christmas Geese, Poultry, &c. N.B .- Poultry for to-morrow's Sale must be 1st DAY entered early.

Medical.

DR. ROWBOTTOM

MAY BE CONSULTED DAILY at his Residence, Pcllen street, Grahamstown, from 9 to 10 morning and 6 to 8 evening. Midwifery and diseases of women and children particularly attended.

NOTICE.

DR. PAYNE being compelled by ill-health to seek a few decembers. to seek a few days rest, the following gentlemen have kindly consented to assist:— Dr O'Flaherty will attend and prescribe for patients calling at the Hospital between 11 and

Dr Rowbottom will kindly assist with some of the out-patients. Mr Hall has charge of m books, and will repeat any medicine required

For Sale

A BARGAIN.

FOR SALE, at London price, an AMERI-CAN ORGAN, recently imported and warranted in perfect order; one-and-a-half rows of vibrators, knee swell, &c.—Apply to C. J. BROWN, at Mr BENSHAW's.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

WATCHES! WATCHES!

CLOCKS, JEWELLERY, GOLD AND SILVER CHAINS, GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES, LOCKETS, OPERA GLASSES, SPECTACLES, &c., &c.

HE whole of my beautiful and carefully selected stock will be SOLD OFF at whatever it will fetch !

SALE TO COMMENCE AT ONCE AND CONTINUE TILL THE NEW YEAR!

My place of business will be closed during the New Year's holidays, will open again on January 10th, with a splendid stock of NEW GOODS!

selected by myself in Sydney, comprising French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Indian

Watches continue to be spoiled as usual, as per agreement, by

ANDREW LEDINGHAM, WATCHMAKER, OWRN-STREET, GRAHAMSTOWN, Sign of "the Clock." Time taken every week

Wanted, a First-class WORKMAN; Good wages given.

by observation.

CHEAP BOOTS AND SHOES FOR

OHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR. M. WHITEHEAD

Calls the attention of the inhabitants of the Thames to his Large Stock of Ladies', Gents', and Children's BOOTS AND SHOES,

OF THE BEST ENGLISH AND COLONIAL MANU-FACTURE, which are offered at reduced prices,

"None need be Without a Pair of Boots."

A good assortment of every kind of Durable Boots and Shoes to select from, and all to be sold cheap.

A Lot [of GIRLS' ELASTIC and LACED BOOTS at 4s 6d Pair, and others too nume rous to particularise.

> M. WHITEHEAD, POLLEN-STREET, SHORT LAND.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

AN "IMMENSE" Stock of useful Ornamental FANCY GOODS suitable for Prizes, Christmas, and New Year's gifts. Heads of Families and School Teachers will do well to INSP CT the Stock EARLY. A very CHEAP line in Note Paper and Unvelopes, 40 per cent. BELOW the usual selling prices.

Splendid value in TOBACCO, CIGARS, MERRSCHAUM PIPRS, &c., &c.

Bell & Black's Plaid Vests, 7d per doz.

Tin Boxes, 250, 2s per doz. A still further REDUCTION in larger quantities, COUTTS' ACETIC ACID, Wholesale and Retail. "BARRY'S TRICOPHEROUS," 1s 3d

per Bottle. AST Please NOTE the ADDRESS,-CENTRAL TOBACCO AND FANCY GOODS DEPOT,

(Next door to the Central Dispensary),

MARY-STREET, near to the Post Office.

SERVICES

CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF SACRED SONG, "I M M A N U E L,"

AT THE GRAHAMSTOWN WESLEYAN CHURCH,

THIS (MONDAY) EVENING, 23nd Instant, Commencing at 8 o'clock.

Proceeds to be devoted to the Fund now being raised for laying on GAS to the Church. Tickets, 1s each, to be had of Messrs HETHERINGTON, COX, MEAGHEM, and members of the Choir.

SPORTS.

 ${
m A}^{
m uckland}\,{
m R}^{
m acing}\,{
m C}^{
m LUB}$ 

ANNUAL

SUMMER MEETING! BOXING DAY, AND 1st AND 2ND JANUARY, 1879.

> WILLIAM PERCIVAL, Secretary A.R.C.

THAMES ANNUAL RACES.

THE MEETING to be held at the Queen's Hotel This (Monday) EVENING is for the purpose of Receiving ACCEPTANCES for

BOROUGH PLATE HURDLE RACE

2ND DAY-COUNTY PLATE HURDLE BACE.

Also, ENTRIES for the 18T DAY-

FLYING STAKES, 10 sovs; entry, 30s 2nd Day-TROTTING RACE, distance, handi-

cap, 10 sovs, 2½ miles; second horse to save stake; entrance, 30s; without qualification. The Stewards are requested to bring in their Lists, as all Subscriptions must be paid in to

the Treasurer To-night. GEO. HARCOURT.

Volunteer Notices.



THAMES NAVAL BRIGADE.

(Monday) Evening, at 7.30 sharp, for business, at which all Members are special particularly requested to attend. E. T. WILDMAN, Captain.

THAMES RIFLE GALLERY, BROWN-STREET, GRAHAMSTOWN.

VOLUNTEERS, ATTENTION! MAGNIFICENT PICTURE will A be shot for this week, viz.,

"THE BOATSWAIN'S MATE." The usual conditions—the highest score in any six consecutive shots.

Meetings.

MU., A.D. I.O.C. F.,

LOYAL CHARLES BRUCE LODGE, No. 5373.

Lodge will be held at the Masonic Hall, [Queen-street, Grahamstown, on Mon-DAY EVENING, December 22, at 7 o'clock. Business-Election of Officers and Surgeon. W. H. JENKIN,

LOYAL WAIKATO LODGE, No. 5444.

THE Financial MEETING of the above Lodge will be held at the Odd Fellows' Hall, Richmond street, on TUESDAY Evening, December 23, at 7.30 o'clock. Business-Payment of dues. CHARLES AHIER,

Secretary.

Wanted.

MAN, who understands making Concrete and Building Houses, Also a Man who thoroughly understands the Manufacture of Soda Water and a person to Manage a Hotel in the country. JOHN WILSON, Apply Dec. 20th, 1878. Grahamstown Office.

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

NO UPHOLSTERERS. — Wauted a good h hand. Apply to T and H Coars 2" h hand, Apply to T. and H. Cooke, 67 Queen street, Auckland.

MRJ. H. JEFFERSON has just received the AUSTRALASIAN of November 16, and SKETCHER of November 23.

SHIPPING.

PORT OF THAMES .- Dro. 21. INWARDS. Rotomahana, s.s. 139, tons, Farquhar, from

Auckland, with passengers.

TIDE TABLE. TIDE Riscs Sets | Morn Even и.н. н.н. і н.н. н.н 16 Monday 17 Tuesday 18 Wednesday 19 Thursday

Moon's |AGE { Last Quarter, 17th, 2.42 pm...

MAILS.

For Auckland, per s.s. Rotomahana this day, at 5 p.m. For Taranaki, Southern Ports, and Australian Colonies (for transmission per s.s. Tairoa), to-J. E. CONEY, Chief Postmaster.

NOTICE.

EMPTHORNE, PROSSER, AND CO., beg to intimate that their Warehouse. Shortland-street, Auckland, will be closed from the 25th Dec., 1878, to 2nd Jan., 1879, inclusive, for the purpose of Stock Taking.

Thames Advertiser.

MONDAY, DEC. 23, 1878. TURNING THE FIRST SOD

OF THE

THAMES VALLEY RAILWAY SATURDAY was a red-letter day in the pistory of the Thames. It ushered in a new order of things, which will enable us to take a fresh lease of life. " It is a long ane," we are told, "that has no turning." The district has for some time past been under a cloud, but let us venture to hope that the turning point has at length arrived, the silver lining dawned, and that ere long we may have no cause for complaining on the score of progress and prosperity. The work just inaugurated promises to be the harbinger of that prosperity to which we have long looked forward as the result of the opening up of our lands by an hopes be realised, we shall have cause to thank the Grey-Macandrew administration for the inauguration of this work, and t was, therefore, to be expected that the citizens of the Thames would vie with each other in their efforts to do honour to the gentleman representing the head of that administration, when it was ascertained that he intended to comply with our wishes in the turning of the first sod of the projected line of railway, uniting the Thames with the fertile valley which links it with the interior. In accordance with arrangements made, the Colonial Government | steamer | 'Hinemoa' | left Auckland | at 7 a.m. on | Saturday for the Thames, having on board Sir George Grey and his Private Secretary (Mr Wm Mitchell), and the following invited guests: -E McMinn, Esq, MHR, Waipa; Thomas Peacock, Esq, Mayor of Auckland; Capt Wilson (of the Cape of Food Hope), and Mr Wilson; Mr and Miss Melton (Parnell), Councillors J Waddell and Fleming (Auckland), and Mr P A Phillips, Town Clerk of Auck-- Δ large number of others had been invited, but the uncertainty of steamer accommodation, and other matters. prevented their acceptance of the invitations issued by the Thames Valley Railway Committee. The steamer was off Tararu bout 10.30, and at 11 o'clock the little p.s. 'Ruby' proceeded to the Government MEETING will be held in the Hall THIS teamer to land the guests, his Worship the Mayor, Mr Davies (Chairman of the Harbour Board), Mr A. Bredie (County Chairman), and Mr W. Carponter (Chairman of the Parawai Highway Board) accompanying. Arrived at the Goods Wharf Sir George Grey and the visitors were received by members of the local bodies, and at the shore end by members of the Railway Committee, the band of the Thames Scottish playing suitable airs and the guns of the Naval Brigade firing s

salute at the time. The wharf and entrance were gaily decorated, and carriages were in readiness to convey the visitors, the committee, and local bodies, &c, to the site fixed upon for the ceremony of turning the first sod of the railway, on the beach midway between Shortland and Grahamstown, a little below highwater mark. The places of business were losed, a half-holiday having been arranged for, and various decorations met the eye as the long line of carriages bore the guests and members of local bodies to the place prepared for the ceremony. Here an enclosure had been constructed, accommodation for some children who were to sing on the occasion. Under a shed at the end of the avenue the spade and wheelbarrow to be used by Sir George Grey

in the turning of the sod were in waiting, The attendance of spectators was very large not less that 1,500 adults being present, n addition to the 500 school who, under the leadership of Mr Grigg their conductor, introduced the proceed ngs with the singing of two verses of the

National Anthem. The Chairman of the Thames Valley Railway Committee then read and presented to Sir George Grey the following

address:-To Sie George Grey, K.C.B.,-SIR,—This Committee, in asking you o turn the first sod of the Thames Valley Railway, desire to express to you the great satisfaction which they, in common with every inhabitant of the District, feel on the present occasion, which is the happy termination of a long and arduous agitation commenced more han six years ago, and carried on without much encouragement. Notwithstanding the want of success which attended their efforts to obtain a favorable consideration of this question for many years, the Committee never lost sight of the object they had in view, but took every opportunity of pressing it upon the attention of the Government of the day, but still without any result until you sir, appeared upon the scene, and announced to the people of the Thames that you considered the scheme to be not only practicable, but reasonable, and a project deserving the attention of the Legislature of the Colony and of capitalists seeking profitable investments From that time until the last session of Parliament the prospects of the Thames Valley Railway continued steadily to improve, when your Government took the decided step of placing it on the schedule of railway works to be undertaken by the colony of New Zealand. This recogniion of a scheme no less useful than necessary redounds much to the credit of vonr Government for juctice, impartiality and foresight, and we now have the pleasure to invite you thus to crown an undertaking which already owes so much to your advocacy, by making a formal

commencement of the work. For the Thames Valley Railway Committee,
JAMES KILGOUR,

Chairman. Sir GEO: GREY said he was very much bliged for the address just presented to im, and very happy to be present on such an occasion as that, when the work they had been striving for for years was about to be practically started. (Cheers) Sir George Grey then proceeded to turn the first sod. A gangway had been un out from the small platform erected, alongside which were some turf sods very handsome wheelbarrow of rimu manufactured by Mr F. Dann), and varished, was standing near, and a light spade of ordinary make, the silver implement ordered for the occasion not being finished. Sir George proceeded to handle his tools in a workmanlike manner, He dug a good sod, put it into the barrow and wheeled it back to the shed, instead of putting it over the "tip," amid the heers and complimentary remarks of the pectators, by whom the greatest enthu-

ilasm was manifested.
Addresing Dr Kilgour, Sir George made a short speech—on silence being restored - the purport of which our repre entative (who was not near enough to hear distinctly and was entirely unable to write just at that time by the pressure about him) understood to be that he trusted the railway thus inaugurated vould prove a blessing to the community and a convenience for the commerce of the inland districts, and that it would conduce to make this one of the finest ports in New Zealand.

Mr Peacock, Mayor of Auckland, said he had very great pleasure on behalf of the people of Auckland in congratulating the Thames on the proceedings of that day. There would have been a much greater attendance of Auckland visitors. but for some uncertainty regarding the steamer and the day. He need not dilate on the importance of railway works. That was recognised everywhere, and the bene fits felt. Auckland people were aware of the importance of opening up the country The energy which had been displayed in bringing the work commenced that day to a practical issue was deserving of success industrious class and aided by rail- and he could assure them they had the way communication. Should our sanguine good wishes of the people of Aucklaud.

Mr J. W. Melton expressed the plea sure he felt at being present to represent the Borough of Parnell. After the speech of Mr Peacock it would be unnecessary for him to say much, but he would reiterate that they had the good wishes of the burgesses of Parnell in this undertaking. He regretted that the Mayor (his successor), Mr Coleman, was prevented by illness from attending today and occupying the position he (Mr Melton) did. He would again say he congratulated the Thames people on the result which had attended their exer-

Mr McMinn, M.H.R. for Waipa hoped to be able some day to congratu-late them at the other end of the line on the completion of the work begun that day. He was sorry there was no other representative from Waikato present, but the fact was they were nearly all farmers in Waikato, and it was very inconvenient to leave their homes at this season. The Thames had a warm friend in the Premier, who had always done what he could for the district, and particularly in regard to the railway and other matters during the late session of Parlia-

Mr A. J. Cadman, Chairman of the Coro mandel County Council, congratulated the Thames people that day. He hoped it would not be many years before the Coromandel people would be able to invite the Thames to assist in a similar work at heir end of the peniusula.

Dr Kilgour read an apology from H. Brett, Esq., ex-Mayor of Auckland, con-gratulating the Thames people on the work of that day, and regretting that he and Mrs Brett were unable to avail them selves of the invitation to be present. Three cheers were then given for the isitors in a hearty manner, and the band played a selection of music.

The school children than sang the folowing:-

MY OWN NEW ZEALAND HOME. [By J. Grigg, Thames, 1875.] I love my home, my happy home, In fair New Zealaud's isle— The glory of the South, where all The face of nature smiles; Where noble forests crown the hills, And streamlets thread the vales

And mighty ocean circles round

And breathes refreshing gales. Chorus—My happy home, my happy home, My own New Zealand hou l love to stroll on summer's morn, Before the sun is high,
And gather flowers and ferns and moss,
And chase the butterfly;
At noon to shelter 'neath the trees,

And hear the tui's song,
And then, 'ere evining spreads her veil,
Homeward to speed along. Chorus-My happy home, my happy home, My own New Zealand home.

I love to wander by the shore, Beside the flowing tide, And watch the seabird's graceful flight, And ships with sails spread wide The pleasant school and busy town Are full of charms for me, While on this British Southern soi I dwell content and free.

CHORUS—My happy home, my happy home, My own New Zealand home. (The hymn was much admired by those present, the tune being specially comnended by musical connoisseurs for its sweetness and softness of cadence. The Thames Scottish Band rendered the horus accompaninent.) At the conclusion of the local anthem, for which great credit is due to Mr Grigg, the composer, Sir George Grey proceeded to the raised ground where the children were assembled, and thanked them for their singing of the anthem. After some cheering Sir George addressed the children, stating that he was very happy to see them Their presence gave him unfeigned pleasure. He hoped they would preserve their smiling faces and cultivate a habit of using gentle words. Their smiling faces showed they had happy homes, and if they used gentle words they would know that a soft answer turned away wrath. He would impress upon them obedience and respect for their parents, so that when they became mothers and fathers they would know how much pleasure that gave to parents. He hoped they would grow up to be virtuous, and strive to make the country of their birth one of the greatest and happiest on the face of the earth. Not only great in material wealth, but great in regard to viriue and intellect and all that tended to render people happy. He saying a few words to them that day.

The children again cheered, and

was very pleased to have the pleasure of visitors moved towards the beach, where he carriages were in waiting to convey hem to the luncheen, but the proceedings peing over earlier than was anticipated, and before luncheon was ready, it was arranged that the party should be driven out in the direction of Parawai and the new County road. The decorations at various places along the line of route were admired, and the appearance of the country generally, especially the progress made since Sir George, and others who accompanied him, last visited the road. The party proceeded as far as the native reserves at Totara Point, the verdure and foliage of which was green and refreshing to the eye, although the sun-light and heat, and the dusty road, made the journey otherwise unpleasant. Here the party halted, and the horses were directed to wards Shortland again. - Arrived at the Volunteer Hall, everything was in readi ness for the guests, and the neatness of the hall was a theme of general admiration. The building had been elegantly decorated for the occasion with tree ferns, flowers, and shrubs. Great credit is due

cellent arrangements for the comfort of the guests. The luncheon was prepared by Mr J. Forgie, of Pollen street, and in cluded the delicacies of the season.

LUNCHEON AT THE VOLUNTEER

HALL. The Luncheon Committee, consisting of Messrs Allom, W. Davies, F. C. Dean J. McGowan, H. McIlhone, R. N. Smith and John Osborne, successfully super vised preparations for a cold collation, in the drill-hall, Richmond-street. About 200 attended. During luncheon the Scottish Volunteer Band enlivened the proceedings by the performance of a selection of music. The chair was taken by the Chairman of the Thames Valley Railway Committee, Dr Kilgour, suppor ted on his right by Sir George Grey, the Mayor, Colonel Fraser, and Murray; on his left by the County Chairman, Wm. Rowe, M.H.R. and E. W. Puckey. The elite of the town were there, together with the many distinguished visitors from a distance who came to mark their interest in the pro ceedings. Among the company present were the

ollowing ladies and gentlemen:-J. B. Steedman and lady, James Marshall and lady, J. Thompson and lady, J. Smallman, E. McMinn, M.H.R. for Waipa; J. Wilson, J. B. Strange, B. Greenwood, J. Watson, J. Smith, D. Cloonan J. Hudson, R. Hudson, J. W. Melton (ex-Mayor of Parnell) and Miss Melton P. Peacock (Mayor of Auckland), Hon Hoani Nahe, R. T. Douglas, E.W. Hollis and lady, E. F. Tizard and lady, W. Berry (Auckland) and lady, R. Macfarland, R. Kelly, A. Fleming and lady, Or Waddell (Auckland), Or Fleming (Auck land), Hon. Sir Geo. Grey, K.C.B., Thos Veale, H. McLiver, W. L. Thorburn Henry H. Adams, P. Austin, J. R. Perry W. Deeble, J. A. Cadman, A. Price, J Lynch, G. Price, E. Honiss, F. W. Pau and lady, R. Fraser, R. N. Smith J. B. Mason, J. Osborne and lady G. T. Wilkinson, Samuel Stephenson, S. Young, P. A. Phillips, Town Clerk, Auckland; R. McDonald and lady, G. Symington, R. McD. Scott, G. McCaul, R. Buttle, M. H. Airey and lady, F. A. Pulleine, R. Comer, Jas. Macandrew, Jno. Osborne, A. Lamb, P. Lamb, Lieut Barlow, F. C. Dean (Town Clerk) and lady, Major Withers, Superintendent Thomson, Sub-Inspector Kenny, W Wilkinson and lady, A. Hogg and lady, G. N. Brassey, A. Aitken and lady, W. J. Speight and lady, H. C. Lawlor, R. Kil gour, J. Gibbons and lady, Rev. G Smales. Wm. Souter, Colonel Fraser and lady, Miss Beveridge, Dr and Mrs Kil-gour, Miss Belcher, H. McIlhone, A Brodio (County Chairman), W. Rowe, MHR, E. W. Puckey and lady, A. J. Allom and lady and Miss Allom, Major Murray and lady, Dr and Mrs Payne and Miss Brewer, W. Carpenter and lady, W. S. Greenville, Adam Porter, John Brown, J. McGowan, J. M. Mennie, R. Graham, R. Graham, jun., C. O. Montrose, S. Hetherington, D. H. Perry, D. Miller, D. R. Gellion, W. Carrick, W. Mitchell, (Private Secretary to Sir George Grey), H. Newton, T. W. Gudgeon, R Farrell, J. M. Robson, G. McVey, W. Mc Cullough and lady and Miss Errington, Lieut. Denby, Cr. Harrison (Coro-mandel), Captain Wilson, Mr Wilson, Capt J S Small, E S Morgan, J Kinselle (Auckland), W Davies (Chairman of Harbour Board), H J Lee, C A Robertson (Auckland), Cr Bagnall, Cr Hansen, T Spencer and lady, C Spencer, A Aitken and lady, T Horsbrugh, W M. J. H. Spencer, Cotto W. W Mahoney, J E Smith, A Otto, W Fricker, M Hayman, M Vaughan, and others whose names were not

furnished. After lunch the usual loyal toasts were given from the chair, each being received with hearty cheers.

The MAYOR (who was received with cheers), said the next toast had been placed in his hands. It was that of "His Excellency the Governor of the Colony."
He believed there were no portions of the
British Empire more loyal than its colonies. His Excellency was the representative here of Her Majesty the Queen, and was only their duty to drink his health.

The toast was received with cheers. A. BRODIE, Esq., said that in proposing the next toast he was placed in rather unfavourable circumstances for doing justice to it, inasmuch as a change in the programme had been made, and he was not aware that it would fall to his lot to propose the Army, the Navy, and the Volunteers, until he entered the What the British army had room. done in former years, and more re-cently what it had done in India, needed no recapitulation from him. What the Volunteers had done in this colony was well known. He saw a very old volunteer before him in the Mayor of Auckland. As to the force here, Premier would have an opportunity of inspecting it himself that evening, and as an old military man he may perhaps

tell us, later on, what he thinks of them. Major WITHERS responded for the army, regretting that he lacked the necessary eloquence to reply to the toast. The deeds of the British army will blazond in history. As to the Volunteers, in this colony we knew what they had done. He was only sorry that his powers of speech were not greater, to enable him to do proper justice to the toast.

Mr GREENVILLE responded for the Navy, and expressed some surprise that any one knew he had formerly been connected with the Navy. He had no doubt that it would, should occasion arise, prove itself as trustworthy in the future is in the past. The Mayor of Augkland and Major

MURRAY, responded on behalf of the Volunteers. The latter again taking the opportunity of acknowledging the support given them by the present Government and especially by the immediate head of that department—Col. Whitmore. Col. FRASER could not refrain from sayng a few words on this toest. - He came

to this colony emphatically as a volunteer. The late Captain Goldsmith and himself, with their men came, when help was needed. Our men felt happy they had done so, he felt happy in his happy home, and if they carried out the work commenced to day they would have a happy neonle. The CHAIRMAN said the toast he had next to propose was that

of their illustrious guest, Sir George Grey (loud and prolonged cheers). He was sure he had but to ask them to drain their glasses and they would respond at once, but the present was not an occasion to be passed lightly over. This had been a great day for the Thames. A great day n so far that they were favoured with the presence of the Premier to initiate an important work for the district. Liong before he came to New Zealand Sir George Grey was a man of mark. He had been Governor of the Cape of Good Hope and South Australia, and the peoples of both rejoiced at his rule. He had not therefore, when he re-entered public life, yet to win his laurels, but as

good of the country. We may differ in opinion from Sir George Grey on many points, but in this we should be united, that in the attempt to open up the country Sir George Grey's policy was one that must be endorsed by all the world. As one instance he noted the case of the Broomhall settlement, in which Sir George and his colleagues took high ground, and said we have men ready and willing round about us, and it is our duty to give these men, who have come so far and suffered so much, an opportunity to obtain and cultivate this land. No political man with whom he was acquainted had achieved such deserved success as had Sir George Grey. He trusted the toast would be drunk with enthusiasm. - He wished Sir George a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New year, and many of them." (Musical Honours.)

Sir George Grey, after the prolonged cheering had somewhat subsided, said Mr Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen, your Chairman just now in proposing my health, said I ought to be proud man. Well, I am both proud and thankful to be allowed to live to realise what had almost seemed a vision. The scene of that day reminded him of a vision he had tried to realize years back. It was 35 years since he first visited the Thames. here a few days. He was then greatly impressed with the future prospects of the district, and now realized the impressions which he then formed. (Choers) He now saw a great city rising here. It was not his business on an occasion like this to make a political speech or allude to politics. He might tell them that he had heard it said " Sir George Grey will make a fine speech to you; he will tell you all about the Public Works Policy." he would tell them that he was the first man who introduced the Public Works Policy into the British Colonies. (Cheers.) He was the first man who even proposed that a change should be established first man who recommended the British Government to establish a system which should be carried out in all Her Majesty's dominions-and he, upon his own recommendation and his own advice, pointed out a Public Works Policy which was after wards introduced into this colony. They have done this, and it was as much their duty to make use of it to extend their public works as it was their duty to grind their corn. Well, that subject, introduced by him, raised great disoussion. He had returned to Great Britain, and recollected being present at a dinner party where a discussion arose on the subject as to whether he was right in wishing to spend money on works part of the burden of which would rest on posterity. There were present among others Sir G. Cornewall Lewis, Lord John Russell, Mr Gladstone, and Lord Macaulay. The first three opposed his view, but Macaulay-who was a man of infinite wit in a peculiar way-supported him by saying in opposition to the statement that you have no right to burden posterity with anything-it is a bad system, "We all know of the sufferings of the 100,000 Chinese under Lin. When I (Macautay) heard of it I was painfully affected, but I really believe that the effect of distance is such that an attack of gout in my little finger would have caused very much more trouble and pain to mo," and applying the story to the burdens on posterity said "he did not think they would ever bring the people to think much of those burdens if they were satisfied that the money raised was to be expended for right and legitimate objects. It was like professing an intense regard for those who surround you, but neglecting their de-mands out of consideration for those who might come 300 years honce." But here the time has come. You have created that invisible thing, credit; and it is your duty with it to open up the country-to spend it, not extravagantly but wisely, so that the country may become populous and your right to have that done for you which has been done for other parts of the colory. Do not be led astray by the glittering temptation of wealth held up before you. Whatever

the temptation may be let nothing induce you to part with large blocks of land to people who will make no use of them. The Thames people will not do this. They want to employ themselves, not to be employed by others. The power rested with themselves. When what is necessary for your own wants has been taken, let the whole world have a chance and not the water drinkers only. The way to make men sober was not by restrictive laws. The true way, he believed to make sober, thoughtful, temperate, and, he believed, religious men was to give them the opportunity of making homes for themselves; to give them a chance. One word more, on the work in which we have this day been engaged. May the poin at which we have been working be the starting point of a railway connecting this and the other island.

The Vice-Chairman (John Brown, Esq.) rose to propose the next toast—"Our Visitors"—which he said he was sure would meet with a ready response from the people of this goldfield. They were much indebted to those gentlemen who had come from the Waikato, Auck land and Coromandel to assist them on that occasion. He trusted that they would have the pleasure of carrying out Mr McMinn's wish, by going to Waikato to assist them, in return, to make a success of their end of the line. He also hoped they would have the pleasure of going to Coromandel on the same business, o assist them when they had completed their own line. The wisest policy they could carry out was that of assisting one another to get through New Zealand with their lines of railway, opening up the country, and earrying prosperity with portance. It was the beginning of the was glad to see that those entrusted with end, and he hoped it would be pushed on the arrangements for the day had shown them. This event was one of great imwith all possible expedition until completed. - It was the good intention of the Government to give us the railway They did not like to be under any obligation to the Auckland people, and hoped soon to be able to help them on a similar

occasion. (Drunk with loud cheers.) THOMAS PRACOCK, Esq. (Mayor of Auckland) rose amidst applause to repond to the toast. He said he could assure them he appreciated the hospitality they had extended to him and others that day. The undertaking they had commenced that day was prognant with the most beneficial results to this community He had a high opinion of the efficiency with which they conducted matters. He need only point to their Volunteers and Volunteer Fire Brigades as evidence of this, as well as to their County and Borough officials, who carried out all their undertakings with energy and enterprise (Cheers.) He felt sure the Govern ment would concur in his opinion when he said that they looked after the interests of the Thames people. (Cheers) He had heard words of a jealous tendency between the two places, but he did not think it on that occasion, when Mr Brodie flowers, and shrubs. Great credit is due the world would say "he was comfortably the two places, but he did not think it on that occasion, when Mr Brodie to the Luncheon Committee for their ex. laid up in lavender at Kawau." It was their wish such should arise, was present. (Loud cheers). He

(Cheers) The interests of both were not for the sake of sordid gain, but for the identical—the success of one meant the diality would not diminish, but grow on and on. (Cheers.) He concluded by thanking them for the kindness and hos-

J. W. MELTON, Esq. (ex-Mayor of Parnell), also thanked the proposer for the toast, and made some further remarks, which were insudible at the opposite end

of the room, where our reporter sat.

Mr A. J. CADMAN (Chairman of the Coromandel County Council) was called upon to respond, and in doing so said the committee deserved credit for the successful issue of the arrangements. The Coro mandel people had an interest in the Thames railway, and hoped when the time arrived they would not forget that They hoped others wanted railways also. to see the line extended to Coromandel from the Thames. (Cheers.)

Dr Kilgour (Chairman) rose to propose the toast of "The health of W.

Rowe, Esq, our representative, Mr McMinn, and other members of the House present." - He could add his testimony to that of others as to the work done during the last session. happened to be present during the session, and it was his duty to be brought into contact with their representatives present, and he could testify Thames. He came down in a little to their diligence, and to the kindness schooner belonging to the Bishop of Lichhe he had received during his stay there. field. He brought him down and left him. They worked hard to promote the he had received during his stay there. They worked hard to promote the welfare of the country. He could say that there was complete accord between the gentlemen before them when anything affecting the good of the country was concerned, just as there was with himself. He hoped they would be in accord in time to come as they had been in the past. (Cheers.) W. Rows, Esq. M.H.U., rose to respond. He said he believed short

speeches ought to be the order

of the day on these occasions.

For himself he had not felt

a happier day for a long time past. He

felt that the outcome of the day was but the result of what they had been looking after for years past, and he saw before him those who had assisted to push it forward years ago. There was Mr Borry and Mr Robertson, both to be classed among the pioneers of the movement, and to-day they saw the outcome of their exertions. He was a firm believer in consistency. He believed that if men formed their convictions they should not let men or circumstances put them aside. He did not seek popularity—he cared nothing for that. His convictions were his guide as to his public duty, and by those he stood. They might have heard something of differences between Sir George Grey and himself-(Question?) They were met to-day on an occasion when old sores could be healed, -when they might take advantage of the occasion to become united. (Hear, hear.) He had differed from Sir George on some occasions, but he might say that on all he had found him intensely desirous to promote the welfare of this community. (Cheers.) He always endeavoured to say to Sir Geo. Grey that he was about to do so and so for the Thames, as representative, and his invariable reply was, "Very well, it is good, it is right, and I will sup-port it." No man had a greater respect or affection for Sir George Grey than he had; but he might say that he would not sacrifice any political opinion of his own in that respect. He was glad to see the Auckland people present, because he did not believe in the reports that they would oppose the Thames getting their railway. He believed that the Parliament of New Zealand desired to promote the best interests of the colony at large; that they did their duty, and deserved every praise. The Hon. Hoani Nahe and Mr McMinn were sterling representatives of the interests of their constituents. He was sorry that the name of the former had been omitted from

Esq.) He said he was glad to meet them that day. He was pleased at the way they had drank the toast of the New Zealand Parliament, although he hesitated about making a speech, for it occurred to him that Sir George Grey had already spoken long enough. (Laughter and cheers.) He was pleased at the opening of the railway, and hoped it would be carried to a successful completion. He was also very glad to hear that the permission of the chiefs of this district had been given to take the land necessary for the railway line. (Cheers.) The railway would do good to the native race as well as to the European. The first railway he saw was the one from Grahamstown to Tararu, He would only say that he was pleased at the proceedings with a view of opening the Thames Valley Railway. (Cheers).

The Hon. HOANI NAME rose to respond

the toasts. (Cheers.)

Mr Greenwood here rose and said he had been requested to say a few words, and amidst much laughter and cheers he told the audience that the day had crowned everything he expected to see in his old

E. MoMinn, Esq., M. H.B. for Waipa,

rose to respond, and was greeted with loud cheers. He said he was proud to

see so many people of the Thames and Auckland, and had to apologise for the Waikato people, as he was the only representative present from that district. Mr Whyte, the Mayor, and a number of others, intended to be present, but as he had already explained, the harvest season prevented their leaving home just now. He was pleased to see them in one respect because they reminded him of the large body of consumers in this district which the railway would open a market for from the Wai-kato, although he did not say so in any selfish way. (Cheers.) He felt sure the settlers of the Waikato would take the same view, and say the same. (Cheers). He their good sense by inviting the presence of the ladies. There was one hon, member of the House who, if he were present, would be rejoiced to see them -he referred to the ladies' champion, Dr. Wallis. (Laughter). These gatherings of constituents were useful, for members were sometimes accused of seeing things in a different light to their constituents; but when the Thames people considered the action of their representatives he was sure they would see this had not always been the case, for they had seen the best side of it. Mr McMinn then said he had a toast to propose before he sat down—the "Health of Mr Brodie," and he paid a high compliment to the County Chairman of Thames (Mr A. Brodie), whom he had met in Wellington. He said that there was not a person present at the County Conference hold there so well versed in the County system as Mr Brodie. He thought he was somewhat proficient in that respect himself, but he himself was a mere child in these matters in the presence of Mr Brodie, and there were others