MARITZBURG
AUCTION COMPANY,
LAND VALUERS AND GENERAL AGENTS.
W. FRANCIS, Manager.

THE MARITZBURG AUCTION COMPANY
Have on hand, for Sale, at Wholesale rates:
American Hickory Spokes, Spokes, Felloes, Shafts, Stockholm and Coal Tar, Boers' Meal, Maize Meal, Yellow Wood Plank and Scantling, Pontac, Sherry, Claret and Champagne, Dials, Ceiling, and Flooring Boards, Cut Currants and Raisins, Nutmegs, Cloves, Cinnamon, Pepper, Ginger, Cayenne, Sweetmeats, and Mixed Teas, 1in., 1½in., and 1½in., Salt Alg a Bay, Rock Salt, and Saltpetre, Wagon-wood, Mouldings and Cornices, 2½in. to 5in., Paraffin, Composite, and Stearine Candles, Saddles, Ladies' and Gents' Bar Lead, Natal Sugars—Treacles, Counters, and Crystallized Natal Sugars, Moreswood's and Scotch Corrugated Iron, 8ft., 7½ft., and 5ft., Boer and Leaf Tobacco, Mealie Shellers, Winnowing Machines, Mottled and Yellow Livery Soap, London Bar and Rod Iron, Iron Axles, Potted Fish, Vinegar, Naval Rum, Rieims, Skins, Whipsticks, and Tows, French and Cape Brandy, in bulk and case, American Axes, and Chairs, Red and Green Seal Gin, Cape Smoke, Enchantress, Empress, and other Stores, Rotterdam Cheese, Black Boots, Basins, Glassware, Wagon Cloth, Newport Wagon Canvas, Anti-friction Grease, Saxoline Oil, Wool Packs, and Mill Sacks, Paint, and Paint Oils, Portland Cement, Cups and Saucers, Cornet, and Flutes, Coals, Moles, Pungions, &c., &c., &c.
American Cotton Gins. American and Natal Ploughs. Cape Seed Oats.

TAKE NOTICE! TAKE NOTICE!
THE Undersigned has pleasure in making it known that he has now
OPENED HIS NEW STORE
With a First-class Assortment of
OILMAN'S STORES, GROCERIES, &c.,
And that he is also expecting further additions to his Stock by early arrivals. "Small Profits and Quick Returns" is the principle on which the Business will be conducted. with civility and prompt attention.
COUNTRY ORDERS RECEIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION.
In addition to the above, will be always kept on hand:
PARAFFIN OIL (best), WAGON GREASE (in tins), WOOL PACKS AND GRAIN BAGS, WAGON CANVAS, &c.
Wool, Hides, and other Produce purchased for Cash at Current Rates, or taken in exchange.
C. C. GRIFFIN,
"THE CORNER"
Of Commercial Road and Longmarket Street.
Pietermaritzburg, December 19th, 1873.

PEACE AND PLENTY!
GREYTOWN MONTHLY SALES,
ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1874,
At Ten o'clock sharp,
THE Undersigned have received instructions to offer, by Public Competition, the following STOCK, consisting of:—
Thirty Large TREK OXEN.
Twenty MILCH COWS, with CALVES.
Twenty Head of YOUNG CATTLE.
The above Stock can with confidence be recommended as well worth the attention of Stock Farmers. Transport Riders, and others, being all of the BEST BREED, and WELL INCLOATHED, and above from several large herds.
ALSO, AT THE SAME TIME.
A new Buck Wagon. Cap-tent Wagon.
THREE WHEELBARROWS.
AND SUNDRY OTHER ARTICLES.
ALL TO BE SOLD WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST RESERVE.
HELLET & MENNE,
Auctioneers.

MEMORIAL FUND
FOR
The erection of a Monument to the Memory of those who fell at Bushman's Pass.
CENTRAL COMMITTEE:
The Mayor of Pietermaritzburg, The Mayor of Durban
H. C. Parker, Esq., H.E.C., M.L.C.
R. E. Ridley, Esq., M.L.C.
J. W. Winter, Esq., M.L.C.
A. Fass, Esq., M.L.C.
W. Field, Esq., M.L.C.
E. Tomlinson, Esq.
G. O. Matterson, Esq.
J. Kelly, Esq.
H. Williams, Esq.
R. H. C. Fisher, Esq.
J. N. Wheeler, Esq.
W. E. Bale, Esq.
J. De la Mare, Esq.
J. Macfarlane, Esq., R.M.
C. A. Woodroffe, Esq.
F. B. Hill, Esq.
A. K. Murray, Esq.
F. W. B. Leuch, Esq.
J. Reynolds, Esq.
E. Owen, Esq. (Hon. Treasurer).
J. H. Spence, Esq. (Hon. Secretary).
T. J. E. Scott, Esq.
The Committee being desirous to give the whole of the inhabitants of the Colony an opportunity of subscribing to the Fund, all the Banks in Durban and Pietermaritzburg have kindly undertaken to receive subscriptions.
Subscriptions will also be received by Messrs. F. De La Mare, W. E. Bale, and J. N. Wheeler, who have undertaken the duty of collecting within the City; by Mr. Spence, Hon. Secretary; and
EDWARD OWEN, Hon. Treasurer.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS SHALL APPEAR IN THE PAPERS.
December 1st, 1873.

PHILIP FERREIRA,
Auctioneer, Appraiser, Translator, and Conveyancer,
22, CHURCH STREET, PIETERMARITZBURG.
GRAND
FURNITURE SALE!!!
PHILIP FERREIRA
WILL SELL
ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1874,
At Eleven o'clock a.m.,
AT THE MART, 22, CHURCH STREET, A CONSIGNMENT OF
SUPERIOR FURNITURE.
CONSISTING OF
An Elegant Walnut Drawing-room Suite, Green Repp.
" " " Green Satin.
" " " Crimson Satin.
" Mahogany Dining-room Suite, Leather.
Six Treadle Sewing Machines.
Folding Chairs; Coffee Tables; Work Tables; Whatnots
Footstools; Pillows; Musicstools; 100 gross best Soda and Wine Corks, all of the best London make.
TO BE ON VIEW ON JANUARY 20 AND 21.
Pietermaritzburg, January 15th, 1874.

IRELAND & CO.
Are landing ex late Steamers, a fresh supply of
GENT.'S, BOYS' AND YOUTHS' HATS,
In the most desirable shapes.
Black and Drab Soft-crown Putney.
" " Regents.
Black, Brown, and Assorted Milans, Yankees, and Kossuths.
Black and Drab Stanhope and Walworth.
" " Chesterfield.
Cloth Caps, in neat makes.
Gent.'s and Boys' Moleskin clothes, in the best never-sticking kinds,
Gent.'s Fancy Silk and mixed Suits.
Gent.'s neat Walking Coats.
Gent.'s Merino Coats, Double-breast, Kensington, and Oxford shapes—neat.
Stout Cambridge Gord Trowsers, a never-tearing material.
A fresh supply of Best Wool Shirts, Goliath and other sizes.
Oxford Shirts and Collars. Ford's Eureka.
Gold Studs. Pearl Studs.
Belts, Elastic and Leather.
Braces, Berlin and India-rubber.
Piccadilly Collars. Puggaries.
Cambric Handkerchiefs.
Socks, Merino and Cotton in variety.
Indian Gauze and Merino Undershirts.
Lambs' Wool Pants, and Military Half-hose.
White Kid Gloves. Ties, assorted.
Scarves, Fancy and Black Silk. Bows.
Ladies' Kid Boots, in best makes.
A constant supply of every desirable requisite for a complete Outfit either for the Diamond or Gold Fields.
A pair of our NUGGET NAILED WATERTIGHTS will put Customers upon a good footing, and a good understanding.
WE CANNOT GUARANTEE IMITATIONS!
All Goods marked in Plain Figures. Prompt Cash Five per Cent. Discount.
IRELAND & CO.,
18, CHURCH STREET, PIETERMARITZBURG,
IMPORTERS OF GENTLEMEN'S, BOYS', AND YOUTHS' CLOTHING, HATS, BOOTS, ETC., OF EVERY DESIRABLE DESCRIPTION.
LEISURE HOUR and SUNDAY AT HOME, 1873, by present Steamer.

OSTRICH FEATHERS.
The highest cash Market Price given for Ostrich Feathers, Wool, Hides, and other Produce, by
DILL & CO.

TO SAILMAKERS, &c.
WANTED, TWO GOOD HANDS. Apply to R. W. Jackson, Tentmaker, Commercial Road.
December 29th, 1873.

FOR SALE,
A neat Five-roomed COTTAGE, with Kitchen, Pantry, Stable, and Out-offices. There are two Erven of the best land in the City, with large Gardens, well stocked with Fruit Trees. Immediate possession can be had. For price and particulars apply to
J. W. WINTER, Church Street.

NEW LEEDS PREPARATORY BOARDING SCHOOL,
Conducted by Miss STEAD.
THIS SCHOOL will be REOPENED on TUESDAY, JANUARY 22nd, 1874.
TERMS—Five Guineas per Quarter.

NOTICE.
HIS EXCELLENCY the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR will have much pleasure in receiving Visitors on TUESDAY AFTERNOONS, between the hours of Three and Five p.m.
W. H. BEAUMONT,
Private Secretary.

SEEDS! SEEDS! SEEDS!
ARRIVED PER MAIL STEAMER, THE CHOICEST PARCEL OF
Vegetable and Flower Seeds
Ever imported into Natal, personally selected from one of the First Wholesale Seedsmen in England. Now on Sale by
WILLIAM RISLEY,
NURSERYMAN AND SEEDSMAN,
PIETERMARITZ STREET.
Can also be had of
Messrs. HARWIN & RISLEY,
CHURCH STREET.

PIANOFORTES
BOUGHT, SOLD, OR EXCHANGED;
PIANOFORTES
TUNED AND REPAIRED;
By R. B. MOORBY,
Pietermaritzburg.

The Natal Witness.
PIETERMARITZBURG, FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1874.

THE *Mercury* of the 10th instant publishes the following letter:—

THE COOLIE QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Natal Mercury.

SIR,—Allow me, through the medium of your paper, to call the attention of your readers to an article on "The Legislative Question," published in the *Witness* of 2nd January, under "Heads of News from 24th November to 2nd January."

It there stated that, "in spite of the promises made to Mr. Shepstone at the pseudo coronation, the Zulu King has sent word to the Natal Government that the labourers must find their way through the disputed territory, claimed by the Transvaal Government and by the Zulu King, as they cannot be permitted to trade through Zululand."

No such message has been received by the Natal Government, up to the 20th October, when the Legislative Committee brought up an ad-interim report; based on the recommendations contained in that report, an address to the Lieutenant-Governor was passed in the Legislative Council on the following day, "requesting His Excellency will be pleased to take immediate steps for carrying out the arrangements necessary to open such routes for the safe transit of labourers to and from the colony, as may be found practicable." &c.

The result of which was the appointment of Mr. John Dunn as agent in the Zulu country, who is making preparations to supply food to labourers at stations through the lower part of that country, and a movement is being sent from the Natal Government to Noesvingel, informing him that this route is open for his people.

"In the absence of the Governor, who was employed suppressing the rebellion, the representatives of Victoria—one of whom is a member of the Executive Council—had the Protector of Immigrants, instructed to frame and pass a law directly at variance with, and in contradiction to, Earl Kimberley's instructions."

This is wholly contrary to fact; the bill was framed by the Attorney-General, and considered clause by clause by His Excellency, in the presence of several members of Council, one of whom was the senior member for the county of Pietermaritzburg; this was done after the Governor's return, and before it was sent to the Legislative Council. After the bill was published in the *Gazette*, Mr. Ridley sent to the Attorney-General, who had charge of the bill, certain suggestions for amendments, some of which we adopted in committee. With regard to the resolutions of the junior member for the city, to whom reference is made in his attempt to impose the supply of labour, I am sure every coast member would have rejoiced in his success, and have supported him heartily if they thought his resolutions would have led to any practical result; but to say the coast representatives became the opponents of the resolutions, is characterized by the same truthfulness as the other statements, as shown by the published report of the debate, in the *Witness* of the 16th December last.

I leave your readers to draw their own conclusion as to the motives which could induce so reckless a publication of misstatements.—I am, &c.,

JOHN T. POLKINGHORNE.

Mr. Polkinghorne would have been nearer the truth had he commenced the third paragraph of his letter thus: "No such message has been received by the Natal Government, *as far as I am aware.*" If he fancies that because he is a member of the Executive Council he knows the secrets of the Native Department, he is wholly mistaken. Our information came from a source that compels us to believe it is spite of Mr. Polkinghorne's statement. And we find that information of a similar character had been given to the *Colonist*, for the Editor on the 16th December, in an article on the failure of the labour supply from Zululand says: "Labour, if to be had, must be looked for living elsewhere. Is it as the *Times* correspondent supposes, to be from Amatonga or the tribes further north? *How are we informed, Colonists? who help is Nos. and Mr. Polkinghorne? Let his help, if any, will not be given.*" Then, again, on the 20th instant, the same writer says: "Among other results of Mr. Shepstone's expedition to coronation ceremonies, it was stated that the Zulu Chief had agreed to such terms as would ensure us a supply of labour from the tribes to the north, but it is understood that he now discovers any arrangement of the kind, in events, so far we have had no relief from that quarter." Whatever may be the effect on the Zulu King of the utter failure of the Langalibalele rebellion, and the capture of the Chief, we do not know, but it is certain that he had, up to the close of the year, been repudiating any engagement to facilitate the passage of labourers through his territory. It is very probable that now Cetywayo may be disposed to allow John Dunn to do something to secure the continuance of his salary of £300 a year.

Then Mr. Polkinghorne flatly contradicts the quotation he gives in the fifth paragraph of his letter; yet our statement is practically correct. Whatever may have passed between the representatives of Victoria County and the Governor, we know not; but we do know that His Excellency was misled, that he believed that the Coolie Bill was in accordance with Earl Kimberley's requirements, but has since discovered that it is in opposition to His Lordship's instructions, and has sent the bill back to the Council to be altered, so as to comply with these instructions to some extent.

Mr. Polkinghorne no doubt thinks it both clever and convenient to thrust upon Sir Benjamin the responsibility which honestly ought to fall on his own shoulders. Having read the bill over, clause by clause, to the Governor, Mr. Polkinghorne washes his hands of it, and throws all the onus on His Excellency. But he does not tell the readers of the *Mercury* how impossible it was for Sir Benjamin, with all the cares of office on his shoulders, just after a month's residence in the military camp, to be prepared to form an intelligent opinion regarding the bill, especially when no sufficient attempt was made to acquaint His Excellency with Earl Kimberley's very positive instructions on the subject.

Mr. Polkinghorne is not only unjust to the Governor, but he makes a statement about the Attorney-General, which is both ungenerous and untrue. He says "the bill was framed by the Attorney-General," and thereby imputes to Mr. Gallwey any faults that may have been in the bill. This could only be done by suppressing the facts of the case. If Mr. Polkinghorne wished the truth to be known, it would have been better to have stated that he and Mr. Saunders waited on the Attorney-General, and gave him their opinion what ought to be the leading features of the bill, that Mr. Gallwey framed the bill as they dictated, and contrary to his own views on the subject. This short statement would have saved Mr. Polkinghorne from the charge of ungenerousness in putting the blame on the Attorney-General which he ought to have borne himself.

Then the assertion is untrue, for the Attorney-General did not frame the bill, as it was submitted to the Council. He did not insert a provision to give £30,000 from revenue to the employers of Coolies,—indeed, it is an insult to that gentlemen to suppose he could have penned a clause so incoherent and illogical.

Were we to imitate Mr. Polkinghorne's mode of conducting an argument, we would keep back the truth and simply deny that Mr. Ridley sent any suggestions to the Attorney-General. But such is not our style. The suggestions were sent to the Governor, and by His Excellency sent to the Attorney-General. The following was the most important amendment:—

In addition to the payments required by Clause 40 of Law 2, 1870, the Lieutenant-Governor may require the person to whom any Indian Immigrant is assigned under Law 2, 1870, to pay such further annual sum as on inquiry the Governor may consider necessary to repay two-thirds of the cost of such immigrant, and the said cost shall be estimated on the cost of introduction, including all expenses to the date of assignment, the interest of the money which may have been placed to the credit of the said Board, under Clause 8 of this law, at the rate of five per cent., the probable cost of return passage, and all other expenses attendant on Indian Immigration not provided for by Law 12, 1872.

And when it was offered to the committee it was rejected by the Coast members. As a consequence of this rejection the Governor was compelled, by message, to send back the bill to the Council for the insertion of the following clause, which, as our readers will perceive, is practically the same as had before been rejected:—

The said Trust Board shall also prepare and submit to the Legislative Council annually, an estimate of the immigration expenses for the year, including return passage; and should it be shown that the annual payments, under Law 2, 1870, indenture fees, and payments which are now or may be hereafter payable by employers of Indian Immigrants, are insufficient to meet the employers' quota of two-thirds of the expenses for which the Trust fund may become liable under Section 7 of this law, then the Lieutenant-Governor shall be, and is hereby, empowered to increase such annual or other payments by such sum or sums as may be necessary for such purpose, calculating, as an estimate, the proportion of Indian Immigrants who may claim a return passage, on the average, as shown in the return of Indian Immigrants from other colonies.

It was desired to get the Coolies at a fixed sum, which might have been half their cost, or even less, and there was great reluctance to give the Governor the power he possesses under the above clause.

Regarding Mr. Fass' resolutions, the following were the two first:—

"1. That in the opinion of this Council it is desirable to uphold and strengthen the power of the Lieutenant-Governor, as Supreme Chief over the Natives, especially in such directions as will promote their industrial training; and it is therefore recommended that His Excellency should require the younger part of this population to contribute their labour to the Public Works of this colony, on the payment of reasonable wages and rations.

"2. That all Natives occupying Crown Lands, not within Location, should be required to pay rent for the same, on the terms of a yearly tenancy."

Two up-country members—Mr. Becker and Mr. J. C. Boshoff—supported the resolutions, but not one word of encouragement came from a coast member. On the other hand, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Barter, and the Colonial Secretary opposed them, and they were withdrawn. If Mr. Polkinghorne was disposed to support Mr. Fass, why did he not say so.

Then Mr. Polkinghorne makes a dark allusion to our motives. But he lacks the manliness and honesty to speak out on the subject, if he has really anything to say. Suspicion and innuendo seem to be more congenial weapons.

Mr. Polkinghorne writes sagaily, and his doing so will not be a matter of wonder to our readers when they learn that we had exposed the mistaken course he had taken in the Coolie question. But we hesitate not to say that in thus giving him offence, we earned, though we are afraid we will not get, the thanks of the planters. Had Messrs. Saunders and Polkinghorne been sent to the Secretary of State, it would most certainly have been vetoed, and Coolie Immigration would have been indefinitely postponed. But fortunately, at the last moment the real state of the question was brought before the notice of the Governor, and important alterations have been made in the bill, which the coast members had previously resisted, which will make the bill more acceptable to the Secretary of State. It is, however, still far from meeting His Lordship's requirements, and may still be disallowed.

It has been decided to appoint an additional Magistrate for Pietermaritzburg County, and one for Durban County also. In the absence of any more general and efficient scheme, the decision is to be commended. There can be no doubt that the Magistrates of the two Boroughs will have full occupation in attending properly to the administration of justice in their Courts when the jurisdiction is confined within the precincts of the respective boroughs. The population of the towns is increasing, and the development of crime more than keeps pace with the addition to the people. In both towns, the class "loafer," who is so steady a customer of the Police and Magistrate, is gradually swelling its numbers of both sexes, and it is certain that the year that class will become more numerous and more criminal.

A larger population also means more civil cases at the Magistrate's Court. And these as well as the criminal cases occupy much more time than formerly, because lawyers and agents are more frequently employed. And though an advocate before the Magistrate frequently has charge of the most hopeless cases, yet he must do a certain amount of examination and speaking for the fee he receives; for it would not do to return away a client nor to give offence by not being able to do a considerable amount of talking in every case.

We understand Mr. Jackson, who has been so long and honourably connected with the Magistrate's Court of the Tugela Division of Victoria County, has been appointed Resident Magistrate for Durban County. We have not heard that the appointment has yet been made for Maritzburg County, but shall be content if the choice falls on some one as efficient as Mr. Jackson.

These officers, it is to be hoped, will not be stationary, but will hold a Court once a fortnight at three or four localities. Mr. Jackson should be stationed at Pinetown; but it has not yet been decided where the Maritzburg Magistrate will reside. In the latter case, the northern part of the county will be the district assigned for his jurisdiction, Mr. Hawkins, at present having charge of the southern part.

It seems necessary that the new Magistrate should hold a Court at Lion's River, at York, or perhaps Kremer's, on the Umgeni, and at some convenient point that will afford to the Camperdown, Sweet Home, and New Leeds residents most facilities.

The benefit that will be derived from the additional Magistrate in this county will entirely depend on the person selected. A firm, decided man is wanted, one who will have influence and authority with the Kafirs because they are convinced that his orders will be obeyed, and that disobedience and crime will be quickly and severely punished. Such men are not so easily obtained as your namby-pamby aspirants for office, who never give a judgment without hesitation, who apologise to a Kafir when it is their duty to pass sentence on him, and whose demeanour and voice when sitting in judgment suggest anything but decision and firmness. Such Magistrates do more harm than good. There are too many of them in the colony already, and it would be a public calamity if one more should be appointed.

We wonder if it is intended that the Volunteers who were on the Langalibalele Expedition will be allowed wait as long for their pay as those who went to Zululand? We would also like to know on what grounds the practice can be defended of paying the official bigwigs their large hauls for travelling expenses without delay, while those who need the little they have to get are kept waiting? It seems to us that it would be quite possible in such a case to make an effort to allay the disgust and dissatisfaction of the Volunteers by endeavouring to pay them at once the money they have so well earned. Perhaps, we will be told the accounts will be paid as soon as they are sent in, and that they cannot be paid until presented. But has the Commandant of the Volunteers been requested to facilitate matters, or has he again been ignored? Major Giles would do well to take steps to press forward the payment of the Volunteers, as we can assure him many of the members will ill put up with further neglect.

On Monday last the Volunteers who went with Mr. Shepstone to dance attendance on Cetywayo could at last have got their money. But, in keeping with the entire bad management in this case, steps were not taken to inform the Quartermasters that they could obtain the money on that day. Will the same negligence be observed in this case, and insult, or at least neglect, be added to injury. We sincerely hope not.

MAILS for England, Cape Colony, &c., to be forwarded by Dobald, Currie & Co.'s s.s. *Florence*, are announced to close at the General Post Office in the city at two o'clock p.m. to-day.

On dit that the choir of St. Saviour's Church intend shortly to give another of their popular entertainments.

ACCIDENT.—On Tuesday evening a native was accidentally run over by a wagon, and crushed to death near Uysdoorns.

The distribution of the prizes won at the recent Swimming Sports, takes place at the Town Hall this evening, at 7:30 o'clock.

EDUCATION.—The holidays are now nearly all over. On Monday next, St. Andrew's School, Pietermaritz Street, will be re-opened by Mrs. Greening.

HONOUR of private boxes and bage must look out! A Post Office Notice says that all such not paid for at the General Post Office by the 1st proximo will be forthwith discontinued.

THOSE who wish to get their letters and papers must not forget to be at the Post Office to-morrow evening from 7 to 8 o'clock, as the office will not be open for delivery at all on Sunday.

The Criminal Sessions for this month commence on Tuesday next, and there are about 40 cases for trial, all three for theft: the prisoners being one European, one native, and a Mauritius negro.

THE NEW LEEDS PREPARATORY BOARDING SCHOOL.—Miss Stead announces that this school re-opens after the holidays on Thursday next, to 22nd instant.

FROM the coast it is reported, we regret to say, that horse-sickness is very prevalent in Durban and the neighbourhood. The disease has not been comparatively free this season from this scourge.

We are informed on good authority that since Wednesday week sale, an offer has been made for all the Cumvoti wool then declared not sold within an 1½d of the reserve on each lot.

SALE.—D. Hulley was engaged yesterday at a sale of household effects, horses, pony, &c., at the residence of Mrs. Lillywhite, gt. I price not obtained.

OFFICES.—Mr. Dill has erected a set of rooms suitable for offices for lawyers and agents, next to Mr. J. Shepstone, jun.'s office, close by the Treasury. Some of these are already taken. It is a capital business situation.

PROSPECT HIGH ACADEMY.—This school, situated on the Mooi River Plains, four miles above Mooi River Bridge, recommences after Christmas holidays, on the 18th instant, under the superintendence of the principal, Mr. C. Harding.

GREYTOWN.—On Wednesday next, Messrs. Hellet & Menne are to hold their monthly sale at Greytown. They announce about 80 head of well-bred, inoculated cattle, wagons, agricultural implements, &c.

"THE INQUIRER."—A long notice appears in another column of a proposal to start a religious and politico-social Journal. Should such a proposed periodical is to be to promote freedom of inquiry into what in really the truth in religion.

The Control Department call for tenders for the usual annual supplies and services at Port Napier and Durban. These tenders have to be sent in to the Control Office by noon of Friday next, the 23rd instant.

APPOINTMENT.—The Lieutenant-Governor has appointed Major C. J. Darnell, late Commandant of the Police Force throughout the Colony. It is understood that the gallant Major will go to work at once with the organization of this Force.

THE LATE SWIMMING SPORTS.—By an inadvertency the following slipped out of our report of these Sports in time:—"Long Diving (distance combined with accuracy); for all under eighteen years—five entries: J. Bakewell 1, B. Francis 2, J. Johnson 3."

GOVERNMENT PAYED SALES are to be held on the 2nd proximo at the following Wagons, Colenso, Hlungwane (Buffalo River), Mount Vernon, Lion's River, New Guelderland, Waggenbetjes Kop, and Boston. Full particulars will appear of these different pounds will be found in Government Notice No. 7, 1871.

TENDERS ACCEPTED.—The Government have accepted the following tenders:—Messrs. Davis & Sons, for printing the *Government Gazette*, for 1874-75; Mr. Bachelor, for supply of milk; Mr. Hoffmeyer, for the Civil Engineer's Department at Pietermaritzburg, and Durban; Mr. P. Hellet for Gaol supplies at Greytown.

SALES AT EXCOUCH.—On Wednesday next, the 21st instant, Mr. M. Cooke is to hold a sale at Tintern, of the household furniture, farm implements, horses, cattle, &c., of Mr. T. Woods. On the following Tuesday he has on a miscellaneous sale, including erven in Estcourt, furniture, photographic apparatus, &c., &c.

PRICE OF CATTLE.—Our reports of cattle sales during the last few weeks show that the price of oxen is rapidly rising. Another instance of this increase of price is the fact brought to our notice that on Tuesday morning last, six head of trek oxen changed hands at £19 for the six—an average of £11 13s. 4d. per head.

THE Customs' Returns for 1873 and 1872, give the following result:

	1873.	1872.
Value of Imports ...	£1,091,177	£1,027,322
Customs' Revenue ...	54,558	51,383
Value of Exports ...	543,140	543,140
(Colonial) ...	91,337	91,337
...	£634,477	£1,622,787

THE trial of the rebel Chief Langalibalele takes places to-day, under Native Law, at Government House, Pietermaritzburg. His Excellency is to the arrangements made for conducting the case, but it is believed the Court will consist of the Secretary for Native Affairs, four Resident Magistrates, and four Native Chiefs, presided over by the Lieutenant-Governor.

ALEXANDRA PARK.—The band of H.M's 75th Regiment will play in the Park to-morrow afternoon at 4.30 p.m. the following programme:—Mess "The March of Mars," Gounod; Fairy Valse "Blush Rose," Godfrey; Overture "Zampa," Herold; Masurka "Marie," Kuhner; Selection "Lucrezia Borgia," Donizetti; Quadrille "Serenade," Balfe; Galop "Alexandra," Kuhner; "God Save the Queen."

TARDY RECOGNITION OF SERVICES.—Our readers will recollect the complaint made in our last issue by a Natal Carbineer, that volunteers who accompanied the Coronation Expedition to Zululand had not yet received their pay, altho' the pay sheets had been sent in four months ago. We have just learned that since that letter appeared the Carbineers have received their pay. Better late than never.

CRICKET.—A match is to be played on the Oval Camperdown, commencing at 12:30 o'clock precisely. The match is *Lainsod* v. *Dunvegan*. The elevens will probably be:—*Lainsod*—E. P. Parbury, W. H. Beaumont, R. Crutchley, H. Ellis, J. F. Holmes, G. Mansel, H. H. Matthias, J. Rosevearn, J. E. Manisty, W. Hickling, J. Tucker. *Dunvegan*—R. Ireland, W. W. Edwards, A. L. Edwards, A. D. Gibson, D. Taylor, J. Wales, A. Moodie, A. R. Button, G. Macfarlane, F. J. Scott, F. J. A. Scott.

SOMETHING has gone wrong with the drainpipes leading from the roof of the new Court House, and consequently it was discovered that a large quantity of water had collected in the flat portions of the roof. During the last two days workmen have been busily employed removing this water. It is to be hoped that precautions will be taken to prevent a recurrence of such a thing next rain, for the weight of such a cumbrous body of water must greatly injure the roof.

THE OCEAN TELEGRAPH.—The *Mercury* has received from Mr. Hooper the following clearing news of the telegraph:—"The main shore cable contract as regards Mauritius was progressing favourably at the Colonial Office, with which not any difficulty was anticipated." The Chamber of Commerce, Reunion, are unanimous on the advantages of being connected with the great scheme of telegraphic communication, and have petitioned the Government on the subject, recommending a subsidy of £2,500 per annum."

MARITZBURG RIFLES.—The corps mustered for drill and march out on Wednesday afternoon, at half-past five, when there was good attendance, and some efficient drill was gone through. At a meeting of the general committee held the same evening, it was decided that the prize competition for the cup presented to the corps by Mr. C. Levy, take place on Saturday, January 31, at 3 o'clock, p.m. Ranges—200 yards (standing), and 400 yards (any position). Seven shots each range. It was also decided that the fourth competition for Lieut. Sconnes' medal take place on Saturday, February 7, at three p.m. Ranges—150 and 200 yards (standing), and 300 yards (any position. Five shots at each range. The corps will muster at 3.30 to-morrow afternoon, for drill and inspection by the Commandant of the Volunteer Force.

GOODS ENTERED INWARDS.
Per CHARENA, from London:—21 cases, 6 Collars & Coal; 1 do, 4 Engines; 2 do, Timber; 10 bales, 9 bales, 50 rs, Mattresses; 1 do, 12 rs, H. & W. Sacony; 128 rs, Schoch Co.; 1 case, Sundries; 1 do, 6 C. Chairs; 4 do, 8 Butcher; 3 kegs, 1 do, 1 bottle, Hers' and Polkinghorne; 1 do, 1 case, Sundries; 1 case, Bros; 111 bgs, Evans & Walker; 1 do, 8 Strands; 2 rs, D. Taylor; 2 pkgs, Sundries; 1 do, C. McPherson; 1 do, 18 rs, Steel, Atkinson & Co; 19 rls, salt, Lappers & Pentelbonnes; 20 rs, Order; 2 rs, 1 pkg, Mulder & Co; 1 case, Sundries; 1 do, 21 cases, Cox, Sears, Johnson & Co; 6 rls, 1 do, 6 cases, Henwood & Co; 6 cases, 1 do, 12 rs, W. A. Murray & Co; 1 do, 2 pkgs, H. & W. Sacony; 2 pkgs, W. A. Paul; 8 rls, 1 do, Clark & Pullen; 88 bls, Order; 1 pkg, Ashton; 1 pkg, Bros; 1 pkg, Bros; 1 pkg, Harvey, Dempster & Co; 6 rls, 1 bl, 10 rls, 12 bls, 2 kegs, 2 bdls, Order; 25 cases, 24 rls, 2 kegs, Pringle, Robinson & Co; 10 pkgs, 10 drms, 2 rs, H. Burrell; 31 cases, 126 rs, R. Barnes; 15 kegs, 10 bells, 23 rs, E. Snell & Co; 2 bxs, Lapperd & Pentelbonnes; 12 bls, 300 rs, E. Snell & Co; 50 bxs Soap, A. A. Smith; 4 bls, Order; 1 case, 2 rs, Cox & Co; 1 bdl, 1 kegs, 2 bdls, 2 pkgs, 10 rs, Order; 2 rs, 10 kegs, 1 bl, 2 cases, 1 rs, Order; 8 rs, J. W. Akermann; 7 cases, 1 rs, Wright, Evans & Maynard; 1 rs, 2 cases, 1 crate, Pearson & Co; 1 bl, 1 bdl, 2 rs, Walters, Johnston & Co; 2 cases, 1 pkg, Bros; 1 pkg, Bros; 1 pkg, Bros;

RATES OF TRANSPORT.—The following are the latest quotations:—Durban to Pietermaritzburg, 5s. per cwt.; Pietermaritzburg to Durban, 2s. 3d. to 3s.; do. Ladysmith, 8s.; do. Newcastle, 13s.; do. Harrismith, 15s.; do. Helvetia, 22s.; do. Ermelo, 22s.; do. Groenstadt, 22s.; do. Wakkerstroom, 22s.; do. Bloemfontein, 30s.; do. Potchefstroom, 25s.; do. Pretoria, 22s.; do. Diamond Fields, 27s. to 28s.; do. Leydenburg, 30s.; do. Lydenburg, 35s.

MARKET PRICES.—Tuesday. Potatoes, 3s. 3d. forage (old), 5s. 6d.; eggs, 1s. 7d.; butter (tub), 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d.; firewood, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. Wednesday: Mealies, 3s. 4d.; do. (old), 3s. 9d.; potatoes, 3s. 6d. to 3s.; forage (new), 3s. 6d.; sugar (light), 3½d.; ducks, 3s. 6d. Yesterday: Mealies, 3s. 4d.; potatoes, 3s. 3d.; forage (new), 2s. 6d. to 3s.; cabbies (500), 7d.; tobacco (boxes), 13½d.; eggs, 1s. 7d.; fowls, 1s. 6d.; ducks, 2s. 6d.; butter (tub), 1s. 4d.; beans, 2s. 6d.; butter (fresh), 2s.; firewood, 2s. 6d.; a draught horse, £9 5s.

COMING SALES.—An extension of time for landed properties is to be held on the 21st instant, at Holliday's mart. The properties to be offered include the farms "Doorn Kop" (1,200 A.), and "Boord Fontein" (3,014 A.), both in the Noodsberg district; "Eland's Vley" (6,243 A.), near Hermannsberg; and the following town properties: portion of No. —, Berg Street, corner let G, of No. 3, Loop Street, portion of lot A, of Commercial Street, No. 1, Greyling Street, lots G, and F, of No. 3, Burger Street, and the Mr. Wolf, corner of No. 56, Burger Street. J. B. Holliday also announces a large sale of furniture to be held during the last week of the current month.

WINE SALE.—At the Corporation wool sale on Wednesday last, there were offered eighty-seven bales (eight washed) and six bags of wool, of this lot only thirty-five bales and six bags were declared sold—buyers being very shy, and the reserves in many cases being high. The following is the official return:—

Lot	1	Cape—B.G.G.	N.G.W.
"	2, 11	do.—F.F.	offered—not sold.
"	3, 4	do.—S.S.	do.
"	5, 6	do.—S.S.	do.
"	7, 8	do.—S.S.	do.
"	9, 10	do.—G.F.	do.
"	12	do.—Fine	N.G.W.
"	13	do.—Fine	N.G.W.
"	14	do.—Fine	N.G.W.
"	15	do.—S.S.	offered—not sold.
"	16, 17	do.—Fine	offered—not sold.
"	18, 19	do.—Fine	N.G.W.
"	20	do.—Fine	N.G.W.
"	21	do.—Fine	N.G.W.
"	22	do.—Fine	N.G.W.
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