

The Evening Post.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1868.

The French are ridiculed because they profess to fight for an idea, but nothing can be more ridiculous than the mongrel sentiment for which so many of our Wellington colonists are contending. Men walk up and down the beach blating about "self-reliance," and in the same breath congratulate each other on the spirited doings of the East Coast friendlies, regret that the blue jackets from the Blanche were not up in time to assist, and grumble at the Charybdis for lying idle in our harbor when her hands, thrown into the Wanganui Front, might render good service just now against Titoko Waru.

What is self-reliance?

What it originally meant we know. It meant when Mr. Weld propounded it that the colony should keep its own peace by means of a force of picked men, sufficiently numerous, to be within handy call whenever and wherever disturbances arose, and sufficiently trained to be able to do their work effectively. But even this self-reliance—which deserved all the praise it received—was not to be a thing born in a day. The colony was swarming with troops, and while they were gradually being withdrawn, time for securing the requisite efficiency was afforded. This was a "self-reliance" of which the colony might boast, and on which, had it been carried out, it could have depended. A very different thing from the "self-reliance" of to-day.

What is self-reliance as it now presents itself?

On the East Coast, self-reliance means reliance, not on ourselves, but on friendly natives; reliance on men, of whom it has

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been persistently bawled into our ears that there are none—that friendlies and rebels are both alike. Reliance on the Rosario offering the protection of her presence to the Bay of Plenty settlers in case of need. Reliance on the blue jackets of the *Blanche* and their rockets. Reliance on the 18th turning out (as they did in Napier lately) should the town be attacked. Reliance, in fact, on almost every extraneous aid that can be procured—a few volunteers, and a score or so of constabulary, being all the real self-reliant quota which the colony contributed, until the Government foolishly sent up Colonel Whitmore. Self-reliance on the East Coast has been an absurdity. Whatever credit is due to the operations there certainly cannot be a cause for glorification to the self-reliant principle, since we have there relied upon almost everybody but ourselves.

On the West Coast, we have been more self-reliant—but not self-reliant in the original sense. When trouble arose there the self-reliant force was not in existence. We had *neither a sufficiently numerous nor effectively trained force*. The disaster at *Turo-turo-mokai*, which emboldened the rebels, is proof that the greatest want of ordinary precaution existed. The gallant captain and many of his men at once paid the penalty of their contempt of danger by their lives, but so far as the colony is concerned the penalty is still in process of settlement. That our self-reliant force was neither numerous nor efficiently trained, all the subsequent events indisputably prove. The recruiting sergeants under Captains Page and Buck are ample enough evidence of the smallness of the original force their efforts were directed to strengthen: the results of *Ngutu-o-te-manu* and *Te Ruaruru*, are unfortunately equally conclusive as to the inefficiency of the force taken into action—of the inefficiency of a force sent into action at the double straight from the streets of Wellington. Is it not true that self-reliance then

ington. As it has been said, the 18th became so much at a discount that Wellington clamoured that the 18th should be removed as a garrison to Wanganui, and is it not equally sure that on that garrison the town of Wanganui chiefly relies for protection in its threatened hour of danger? Not having been self-reliant in its original sense, it is folly to bow down and reverence the sham the Stafford Ministry have set up in its place. It is true wisdom to restore the original shrine before such an emergency arises as shall leave us no alternative. Retreat! Retreat! Retreat! has been the only action of the force on which we are relying. Retreating until they are now frightened if Tito merely puts pen to paper, and therefore likely to continue retreating until they find themselves between the Imperial troops and the river. "Self-reliance," forsooth! We are not acting out a policy of self-reliance in the smallest degree. We are only bawling and blating about an idea, the thing itself having long since ceased to exist. We want to see the true self-reliance idea carried out. We want to give the levies a little space at any rate to learn not only to "shoulder" the rifle, but to "fire" it and to hit the enemy with it. And because we want to do this—because we want to become thoroughly self-reliant, we say it is the duty of the Governor to get down the troops from Australia to our temporary assistance, and not let ruin and devastation spread while we are making up for our lost time. The Government have been destroying the self-reliance force year by year; they have plunged the colony into an expensive war by their want of preparedness; and in view of the retreating policy still pursued, it is their duty to accept all the aid they can get, to prevent the rebels becoming more and more jubilant and successful—whether such aid be that of the friendly natives; of the blue jackets which the

Charybdis is ready to land ; of the troops new garrisoning the towns and ready for service in the field, if the Government would but advise the Governor to issue his orders ; or of that other regiment in Australia now expectantly awaiting his Excellency's call, but as yet awaiting it in vain.

We understand that his Honor the Superintendent waited yesterday on his Excellency the Governor, to present a petition numerously signed by the inhabitants of this city, that his Excellency would immediately endeavor to procure the aid of Imperial troops. His Honor urged upon his Excellency, as the wish of a large class of the community, that we should at once request from the Governors of the Australian Colonies the troops stationed there. His Excellency, although inclined to accede to this request, could not do so without the consent of his responsible advisers. The Ministry, after a long deliberation, announced that they did not feel justified in advising his Excellency to adopt the course suggested.

In the midst of our war troubles and stagnation of business, another event occurs which we cannot help looking upon in the light of a great misfortune for Wellington—we allude to the cessation of the mail service by way of Panama. No one can attempt to deny that this service has been most efficiently carried out. The vessels employed could not have been surpassed, and have kept their time with wonderful punctuality. The officers, carefully selected, have won the esteem and confidence of the public ; every attention has been paid to the comfort and convenience of passengers, and certainly no better manager could be procured than our respected townsman, Captain Benson, who, during his residence amongst us, has won golden opinions from all classes. Yet the company has not met with the support it deserved, and, for the last fifteen months,

has been merely carrying on at a great loss in the hope that things would mend, This hope has proved fallacious, and the steamers will now proceed to England. The advantages conferred upon New Zealand by this service have so often been pointed out, that it is needless to particularise them here ; but we will sadly miss the fleet of steamers which twice a month gave our harbor such an animated appearance. It is possible that on the completion of the great Pacific Railway from New York, some of our enterprising American Cousins may take up this line with San Francisco for a terminus, instead of Panama, and we sincerely trust that they may. In parting with the subject, we cannot avoid expressing our regret at the dispersion of the little band of gentlemen who filled the company's offices on shore—some of them are our personal friends, and all of them are esteemed by their numerous acquaintances. We can only say we wish them all success in their future career, whatever it may be.

A meeting of the Benevolent Society was held on Tuesday afternoon. Present—Messrs. Crawford (Chairman), Levy, and Woodward ; Revs. Ewaki, Kirk and Stock. Paid in by Mr. Crawford—Mr. Thomson, £1 ; by the Rev. A. Stock, £1 ; by the Rev. W. Kirk, sums under 10s, 7s 6d ; by the Rev. W. Ewaki, Hon. E. W. Stafford, half-yearly, £2 10s. Two cases of distress were relieved.

We have received the prospectus of a Fine Arts Exhibition, to be held in Dunedin in January ensuing, under the patronage of his Excellency the Governor. The committee comprises the names of most of our leading fellow colonists, and their desire is not only to promote a taste for the Fine Arts generally, but to encourage the production of pictures and other works of colonial artists. The Exhibition will be held on the ground floor of the new Post Office.

We (Taranaki Herald) have much pleasure in stating that our fellow townsman, Mr. Gervase Disney Hamerton has successfully passed his examination before his Honor Sir George A. Arney, and been admitted a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand. Mr. Hamerton was a pupil of Mr. Arthur Standish, and afterwards of Mr. Izard, of Wellington, from whose office he passed. We understand that it is his intention to practice in New Plymouth.

At the sittings of the Supreme Court, Dunedin, on Thursday last, Henry Garrett, alias Henry Rouse, who pleaded guilty to two indictments, each charging him with housebreaking and robbery, was brought up for sentence. In reply to the usual question, the prisoner said that he was 55 years old. The Judge—To you, Henry Garrett, I must speak in a very different tone to that in which I have addressed any other prisoner which has been brought before me. Your career, as far back as it can be traced, has been one continuous career of crime—not alone in this colony but in other colonies, and at home as well. I feel it to be my duty to see that, for a long time to come, at all events, you have no opportunity for committing crime, or less opportunity than you have recently had. I have before me two indictments on which you have already been found guilty in this colony. You have now pleaded guilty on two indictments—knowing, of course, as you well do, what clear evidence there is against you on each—charging you with the serious crime of housebreaking and robbery. And when I consider, as to one of those cases, the nature of the articles you had stolen—the poisonous drugs which you had selected from the stock in a druggist's shop—I cannot doubt but that for your timely arrest, you would, in all probability, ere long, have been standing in that dock arraigned for the highest crime known to the law. But, for that evil intent, you will have

to answer to another and a Mightier Judge than I am. I feel it to be my duty to pass upon you a sentence which will, in all probability, at your age, prove to be a sentence of life-long imprisonment. Therefore, with Courts of Law—or if not with Courts of Law, at all events with this Court—you will probably never again be concerned. But there is a last and Highest Tribunal before which judge and criminal—accuser and accused—must one day appear. Think of it, I beseech you ; and so thinking, strive to spend the remainder of your days, in the prison to which you will be confined, in preparing for that last and most awful arraignment. If you do that, you may yet feel and prove yourself grateful for the fact that your career of crime has been cut short by what, as I have said, will most likely be a life-long imprisonment. The sentence of the Court is, that upon each of the indictments to which you have pleaded guilty, you be kept in penal servitude for ten years—those periods being cumulative. The convict was then removed.

Twenty-three of the newly enlisted Armed Constabulary let in the s.s. Wanganui, this afternoon, for Wanganui.

The interesting ceremony of a launch might have been yesterday witnessed in Wellington, the paddle steamer Osprey, built for Messrs. Redwood of Marlborough by the Messrs. Seager, of this city, having been sent off the stocks steam up, and all ready for a start. She is an iron boat, 45 feet in length, with 10 feet of beam, and drawing 1 foot 3 inches forward, and 2 feet abaft. Her engines and everything connected with her have been manufactured by the Messrs. Seager. She took a trial trip round the bay, when she steamed with ease 8 knots, the engines working easily and well. She is intended to trade on the Wairau river, towing the Falcon up and down, and will be taken over by Captain Cracknell in a few days.

This is the second steamer our enterprising townsmen have launched from their yard. She proceeded this forenoon to the wreck of the Tyne—having in tow a large boat—to ascertain what chance there may be of saving that unfortunate vessel, or any portion of her cargo.

The Grey River Argus says that a luxuriant crop of grass is growing in the streets of Mohikinui, which only twelve months since presented a lively appearance, and contained, although it did not support, a few hundred people.

A terrestrial paradise for teetotallers is said to exist in the Mount Gambier District, in South Australia, where there is not a single licensed public-house to be found. It is not stated, however, how many unlicensed houses there are.

An accident occurred on Monday last to Lewis's coach, while on its way from Picton to Blenheim. The horses took fright beyond the Half-way House and bolted. The driver maintained his seat for some time, but bit and whippetree both giving way, he was obliged to jump to the ground, which he effected without injury. Father Pezant, who was a passenger, attempting to follow the example, dislocated his ankle. He was conveyed to the Tua Marina Hotel, and obtained the services of Dr. Horne.

The following advertisement appears in the Burrows Express (N.S.N.) :—“Matrimonial.—Wanted, by a presentable girl of nineteen years, to give herself and 2,100 sheep away. Applicants must be tolerably good-looking, and neither widowers nor boys. Money, or worldly property of any kind, no consideration. Respectability of character, and genial disposition indispensable. No following of cousins desired, and no ‘Charleying’ with other girls permitted. Applicants should be in time to secure the clip by forwarding under cover, addressed to the manager of the

Express, proposals, accompanied by portraits.
The strictest secrecy. H.O.S., M.H. Creek,
17th October, 1868.

The Marlborough Express says a telegram was received on Monday last by Captain Bythell, requesting him to forward to Wellington all the carbines and revolvers there. The former being in the hands of the Cadets, some of these promising youths felt disposed to get up a small mutiny, but, better counsels prevailing, we believe the order has been generally obeyed. A similar message was sent to Nelson. We presume the arms are wanted for the use of Constabulary at the Front.
