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COLONIAL POLITICS.

THE TWENTY-POUND-ERS.

The *Australasian Chronicle*, whose talent for music is well known, has, it seems, transformed the *Conservative Duet* of the *Australian* and the *Herald* into a *Pope and Tory Glee* for three voices, by striking in with his own treble against the *Twenty-Pounders*, and thereby leaving us entirely alone to advocate the cause of the people. Now, we are not in the least sorry at being left alone. We never care for company, when we feel conscious that our cause is good; but we are sorry to see the professed advocates of liberal opinions deserting their colours—and at such bidding too! The *Chronicle* tells us, indeed, that the disfranchising clause, as interpreted by himself and his new friends, will not be extensive in its operation; there being but few cases to which it will apply. On the contrary, it will disfranchise half the agricultural constituency of the colony.

But the *Conservative* gloss is quite inapplicable, and cannot be admitted for one moment, as we shall show presently. On what principle then is the value of any house ascertained in any town or city? Why, unquestionably from the average rental of such houses in that town or city. And what is it that gives houses in such localities the precise value they maintain? Why, unquestionably their adaptation for business, either as shops, warehouses, or stores, or as the private residences of persons of all classes who ply their several occupations or pursue their professions in such localities. Any person, therefore, at all conversant with the subject, will be at once able to determine the precise value of a house of any description in any given locality in a town, and the annual rental it will bring. The precise annual rental of a house in any town or city will depend indeed not a little on the particular street or neighbourhood in which it is situated. A house or shop in George-street, for instance, will give a much higher rent, as a place of business, than one equally good in Macquarie-street; and a private dwelling-house in *Quality-street*—there is such a street in Leith, and there are several in Sydney, although they go by other names—will be rented at a much higher rate than if it were situated on the Rocks.

But the case of farm-houses in the interior is totally different, and what we desire to know, supposing the *Pope and Tory* gloss to be admissible, is what is the principle on which the value of such houses, apart from the farms they stand on, is to be determined? Are they to be valued as if they had stood in one of the principal streets of this busy metropolis? Are the assessors to say, when they come upon some agricultural tenant's skilling in the interior, with the pigs and decks inside and outside of it alternately, and everything else in a state to leave it doubtful whether it was intended for man or for beast—are the Assessors in such a case to say, "Now what would this

here skilling give if it were standing at Moore's corner," that is at the intersection of King and George Streets, Sydney, where the Commercial Bank stands? "There is no doubt whatever that if it stood there it would very soon be let either as a blacksmith's shop, or a fruit-stall, or a ginger beer manufactory, or a coach office; and the question is, what would it give for any of these purposes? Why, the very least it would give in such a locality would be a hundred a-year, and the actual occupant is therefore entitled to his vote five times over."

Now we should have no objection, practically, to this mode of determining the yearly value of the dwelling-houses of small settlers and tenants in the interior; for only suppose it standing on its own bottom at "Moore's Corner," in the City of Sydney, and the veriest bark-but in the Colony would be worth at least 20l. a-year. But although such a mode of determining the value of dwelling-houses in the country would be perfectly justifiable in the event of so iniquitous a construction as the "Pope and Tory" trio recommend being put upon the fifth section of the New Charter, we candidly admit that it would in reality be a miserable evasion of the law; the value of household property in Sydney being no criterion whatever of its value in the country. It is the situation—enabling the occupant to carry on his business or to pursue his profession advantageously—that gives its peculiar and accidental value to household property in Sydney. But a farm-house in the interior, having no such accident of situation in its favour, has no value whatever, as we have shewn already, apart from the farm it stands on, and is therefore incapable of a separate valuation. At the same time, the situation of the farm-house, as enabling the occupant to carry on his business as a farmer on a piece of land rented for 20l. a-year, which he could not occupy without such a house, gives it an accidental value to him, just as it would have done to the Sydney occupants if transplanted to "Moore's Corner," and tenanted by a blacksmith, a fruiterer, a gingerbeer maker, or a coach-office keeper in this busy city. In short, the intrinsic value of the property is as much thrown out of the question in the one case as in the other—the real market-value of the house in Sydney cannot be ascertained without taking into account the favourable accident of its situation, and neither can that of the small settler's farm-house, without taking into consideration the land it stands on, with which it is as inseparably connected as the one side of the horse of Hudibras was with the other.

It would be the grossest injustice, therefore, to the agricultural constituency of this Colony to attempt to value their farm-houses apart from their farms. We defy any valuator in the Colony to show us in what way the value of a farm-house can possibly be ascertained on so absurd a principle. It would be very easy indeed to shew what rental they would bring, or

rather what rental they would not bring, if attempted to be let in this way; for we are quite confident that on such terms three-fourths of the farm-houses of the Colony would not bring six-pence a year of rent, for nobody in his senses would have them on such terms, even as a gift. In short, it is quite impossible to ascertain the annual value of a farm-house in the interior without taking into account that of the land it stands on. If the latter is rented at 20l. a year, the house is precisely of that value to the occupant, for it enables him to carry on his business and earn his livelihood as a farmer, which he could not otherwise do. It is of no consequence whatever whether the house is a substantial weatherboarded-house, or merely a log-cabin or even bark-but; in either case it is worth twenty pounds a year to its occupant, for it enables him to cultivate a farm of that rental, which he could not otherwise do.

Leaving our worthy brother of the *Chronicle*, therefore, to exercise his musical talents in composing a suitable tune for the following "Pope and Tory" Glee for three voices, and merely giving him a hint in passing to set the parts for his two associates on rather a low key, as their *Conservative* pipes have got sadly broken since the late City election, we would advise the *Twenty Pounders* of the interior by all means to keep up their spirits; as we shall never refuse either to defend their interests or to warrant them success, even with such odds against us as three to one. During the late war, an Irish soldier happened to see three of the enemy's stragglers in the Peninsula up a fruit-tree, which they were so busily employed in plundering that they never observed him till he had secured all their three muskets, which they had left on the ground at the foot of the tree. Then moving to a respectful distance, Paddy shouted to the soldiers to come down, and, pointing the pieces at them, ordered them to march before him to the British camp, otherwise he would shoot every one of them. The helpless Frenchmen of course obeyed, and when the British officer, who welcomed Paddy and his three prisoners to the camp, asked him how he had managed to take so many? "Och," he replied, "and did'nt I surround them?" Now if we have not surrounded our three contemporaries and brought them into "the camp," as a spectacle to the Colony for attempting to plunder the *Twenty-pounders* of their just rights, when they ought to have been defending them, we don't know well what to call it. Now for their song.

ELECTION SONGS.—No. 2.

(For three Conservative votes! To be sung, in character, at the Victoria Theatre.)
Australian Down with the *Twenty-pounders*,
Down, down with 'em all!
Herald Lay them all as flat as flounders!
Let them go to the wall!
Chronicle Down they go,
All in a row,
Merrily, merrily O!
Australian Down with the *Twenty-pounders*!
Chronicle Down they go!
Herald Lay them all as flat as flounders,
All in a row!
Australian Down, down with 'em all!
Chronicle Merrily, merrily O!
Herald Let them go to the wall!
Chronicle Merrily, merrily O!

REPRESENTATION OF PORT PHILLIP.

In addition to the candidates already mentioned, (Mr. Thomas Walker and Dr. Nicholson,) it is rumoured that several others are likely to come into the field. Mr. McDermott, of Sydney, a well-known political agitator, purposes, it is said, offering himself for one or other of the interior districts of this province, and Mr. Curr, of Circular Head, the well-known hero of the "Cook-maid" romance, is talked of as likely to offer himself as a representative for Melbourne. A very numerous party of electors have it in view to invite Mr. Wills, of Lucerne, to come into the field, either for Melbourne, or the County of Bourke; Dr. Thompson is talked of for the County of Grant, and one of the Messrs. Henty, for the County of Normanby.—*Patriot*.

For the other portions of the district, the following names are mentioned.—Messrs. Ebdon, Foster, Griffiths, Moore, and James Simpson.

THE HUNTER.

(Abridged from the Maitland Mercury.)

MR. A. W. SCOTT.—At meeting of Mr Scott's friends was held on Thursday last, for the purpose of promoting his return to the Legislative Council for the Northumberland Boroughs. E. C. Close, Esq., presided on the occasion. Mr. Scott's exposition of his political principles was amusing and ambiguous enough. The following is a specimen:—

The three great questions which would have to come under the consideration of the Legislative Council were those of religion, education, and the general welfare of the colony; and particularly with reference to these boroughs (cheers). He honoured every one of every class and condition who held any decided form of religious worship, and he claimed the same privilege for himself; he could never think of exercising any interference with those persons whose religious convictions were founded upon conscientious motives. He most ardently wished for the wide diffusion of knowledge amongst the people, and he should use his most strenuous exertions to attain that object. Knowledge was power, and power of the noblest kind; it created man as it were anew, expanded and enlarged his mind, and made him truly independent. Was it not to the extension of knowledge they owed the British constitution, their national liberties, and the recent popular reforms in the representation of the mother country. With respect to the general welfare of the colony he should endeavour, as their birthright, to introduce into the institutions of Great Britain; he should urge the opening of more free ports, the formation and extension of roads, the construction of bridges; the necessity of steam navigation, and of railroads (cheers), in order that they might have quick and regular communications all over the colony; for regularity and despatch he looked upon as the very soul of business (cheers). He wished distinctly to state that he had expended upwards of 350l. in laying down a line and taking accurate levels for the formation of a rail road from Newcastle to Wallis's Creek Bridge. This, when carried into execution, would afford profitable employment to hundreds of men, and give an impetus to the boroughs hitherto unknown (cheers).

So all that Mr. Scott promises is non-interference with the religion of others. Entire civil equality is a phrase that does not occur in his vocabulary. A person in the body of the meeting inquired if Mr. Scott would support the present Church Act? But Mr. Scott had previously retired into the room, and probably did not hear the question; at all events no answer was returned.

REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNTY.—Dr. James Mitchell, of Cumberland Place, Sydney, is about to offer himself as a candidate for the representation of the county of Northumberland in the new Legislative Council. Dr. M. is a large landholder in the county and the proprietor of the colonial cloth manufactory.

STOCKTON.—In addition to the number of workmen now employed by A. W. Scott, Esq., at this thriving place, we are glad to learn that a considerable body of artisans and labourers arrived on Sunday morning

