

The Colonial Observer.

OR, JOURNAL OF POLITICS, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND RELIGION, FOR THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 158.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1843.

Vol. II.

COLONIAL POLITICS.

THE MELBOURNE CORPORATION.

SMALL communities are usually much more subject to petty bickerings on the part of those who may be called public men than large ones. In large communities the bad feelings of individuals have room to expatiate, and being spread over a much more extended surface they fall with greatly diminished virulence on particular members of the community; but in small societies these feelings are pent up and concentrated, so to speak, and are, therefore, ever and anon ready to be discharged in full force on whatever luckless wight happens to have incurred the ire of the wrathful vituperator.

The case of the Melbourne Corporation, as compared with the City Corporation of this metropolis, affords an apt illustration of the truth of these remarks. Here the City Corporation was merely a nine-days' wonder, which every body talked of for a time, and then left to find its proper level, among the many institutions, both public and private, of a busy, bustling, money-making community. It was not sufficiently prominent, as one of the numerous objects in the field of vision in this comparatively large metropolis, to engross the attention of any class of persons; it was not of such exclusive importance that any even of the *irritable genus*, we mean the public press, should get heartily angry at it on any account. Except in the recent case of the Sabbath-desecration bye-law, which our worthy civic authorities have had the good sense to expunge from their municipal statute-book, in accordance with the publicly-expressed wishes of a large portion of the more respectable classes of the citizens, our City Corporation have been left to pursue the noiseless tenour of their way, as little noticed by the community, and certainly as little vituperated in any quarter as if they had all the while been fifty fathoms deep under-ground cutting a tunnel under Church-hill from the Cove to Cuckle-bay.

And, perhaps, there is nothing that would impress an intelligent stranger with a stronger idea of our far greater importance as a Colonial capital, when compared with our incorporated sister at Port Phillip, than this very fact. The circumstance of a corporation having been granted to the good town of Melbourne seems to have completely turned certain people's heads there. It has been the all-engrossing subject of their press ever since. It is quite evident, indeed, that certain of their editors have never had a sound sleep since it came into being; and the fame into which they have worked themselves up in the first instance, in the hope of working-up the community also, on every petty occasion on which the merest shadow of a handle could be laid hold of to drag the proceedings of its members before the bar of public opinion, in the way of right-down, insensate and dis-

gusting vituperation, bordering often on absolute blackguardism, would appear perfectly marvellous to the great majority of our readers, who hear of the Sydney Corporation only occasionally as one of the many subjects that engage the public attention in these sheep-boiling, bank-breaking, and General Insolvency times. In short, the prodigious fuss which the Melbourne press has all along been making about the Melbourne Corporation reminds us of a little girl who for the first time has become the owner of a great doll, almost as big as herself. It engrosses all her thoughts; it engages all her attention; it is the only object worth either thinking or speaking of in her little world.

Much of this contemptible state of things has arisen, we believe, from the disappointed vanity of Mr. George Cavenagh, the editor of the *Port Phillip Herald*, who was for some time the nominal editor of the late *Sydney Gazette*. We say *nominal* editor; for nobody here ever gave him credit for ability to write anything that any body of any mental ability whatever would condescend to read. In point of intellectual standing this worthy stood at zero; his mind was a perfect vacuum. But such men, it is well known, are not incapable of ambition. Their good opinion of themselves and of their fitness for being leaders and guides of the public, is generally in the inverse ratio of that of the community; and Mr. George Cavenagh, having been disappointed not only in not obtaining civic honours himself, but in seeing them (which was unspeakably more mortifying) conferred on a brother-editor, who had at one time been his own subordinate in connection with the public press, has accordingly been spurring forth his illnature and his petty malignity on every occasion: on which the proceedings of the Corporation could either be misrepresented or traduced. The benefit which the provincial capital might have derived from the harmonious working of that body never seems to have given him a thought, provided he could gratify his own petty and unworthy feelings by his incessant endeavours to create confusion, and to bring individuals in the Council, who, to say the least, deserve well of the community, into unmerited disrepute.

As a worthy coadjutor in this pitiful system of uncalled-for personal attack and unmeasured vituperation, Mr. Cavenagh has all along had the zealous co-operation of a well-known member of the Melbourne Corporation, Mr. Councillor Stephen. Mr. S. was for some time Registrar of the Supreme Court in this Colony during the government of Sir Ralph Darling, but he forfeited his government office as well as the esteem of all reputable men at head quarters by certain disreputable proceedings in which he was particularly engaged, in the famous case of *Jane New*, a female convict, (the wife of a butcher in Parramatta,) whom it seems he had taken under his special protection. The evil which this gen-

tleman's connection with the Melbourne Corporation has inflicted on the community, in absolutely paralyzing that body, and in wasting its time in the hearing of frivolous charges which, when brought to the question, he uniformly fails to substantiate, has been very serious; for it requires no superior ability, but merely a peculiar disposition, to prove an obstructive in any public body. We have looked occasionally into the correspondence and other documentary proceedings of the Melbourne Corporation, and we have also occasionally had its public acts under our review, and we are free to state that in neither the one nor the other have we seen anything to lay that body open to the censure of the press. In both respects it will stand a comparison with our own City Corporation, and lose nothing; and the rigid economy with which its business has hitherto been managed might serve as a lesson, we think, to our own City authorities, especially in these times of universal depression.

At the same time we feel bound to state that the Government are not a little to blame for the comparative success that has attended the petty and contemptible efforts of a few disappointed and evil-disposed individuals to weaken the hands of the Melbourne Corporation and to neutralize its zealous endeavours to promote the general welfare and comfort of the inhabitants; and we fear that those jealousies of small communities to which we alluded in the outset are not a little chargeable with less result. Why, for instance, has his Excellency the Governor made the invidious distinction he has hitherto permitted to subsist between the Sydney Corporation and that of Melbourne, in investing the Aldermen of Sydney with the Commission of the Peace, while those of Melbourne have hitherto been denied that cheap but important distinction? If even the Superintendent of Port Phillip is not superior to the petty influences of a small community, why should his Excellency the Governor insult the citizens of Melbourne by refusing to the men whom, by their free and unbiased votes, they have entrusted with the management of their Corporation, the same honour and office as he has voluntarily conferred on the Aldermen of Sydney? If his Excellency has been informed that the Southern civic dignitaries are not equal, either in intellect or standing, to those of Sydney, we are prepared to meet the unworthy insinuation with a flat denial. And if his Excellency should urge that it might not be quite palatable to certain folks who are in the habit of "playing the second fiddle" at his Port Phillip parties, to elevate to the magistracy particular individuals whom such Australian Paganis dislike, we beg to remind him that it is not these individuals, but the unoffending citizens of Melbourne, whom he is thus treating with marked disrespect, by refusing to place the men they have elected to office and honour under his own act, in the same position as the one to which he had spontaneously raised the worthy Aldermen of Sydney.

REPORTS OF SPEECHES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Sydney, August 21, 1843.

Sir—Having been occasionally present at the debates in the Legislative Council, I have been not a little surprised at the very inaccurate reports of the speeches of certain honourable members, as reported in the columns of your daily contemporary. Whether it arises from accident or design I do not know, but the fact is certain that while the lengthy speeches of certain members, with all their deck-load of irrelevant matter and mere twaddle, have been reported *verbatim et literatim*, those of others, whether better or worse is not the question at present, have been regularly *Burked*, and although men of fair understanding, they have been made occasionally to talk stark-staring nonsense. I know it has happened occasionally at home that when the Press have had a *down* upon any particular member, they have either not reported his speeches in the house at all, or reported them in such a way as to render both speaker and speech absolutely ridiculous. As you do not profess to give the whole of the speeches of the members of council, which your narrower limits would not admit of, and merely give a digest of these speeches, my remarks cannot of course apply to you. But as the public generally like to see the whole of the speeches, and to digest them themselves, I must enter my protest as an individual of that public against the system I have described, and warn those concerned that if their reports should not be conducted in future with a greater degree of fairness and impartiality, there are others besides myself who will very soon be at the trouble and expense of employing a competent Reporter for the express purpose of Reporting the Speeches and other proceedings in Council, and having them printed by themselves for circulation at a rate sufficient to cover the expense. The subject has been made one of conversation in certain quarters already, and those concerned may rest assured that the idea will be acted on shortly unless the press, as it now is, does its duty and reports the speeches of all and sundry with fairness and impartiality. It is the people and not the press who have sent their representatives into Council, and the people have therefore a right to hear what they have got to say for themselves. It would be intolerable for the Press to usurp a *veto* upon the choice of the people by allowing only such and such members to be heard through its columns, and by passing silently or summarily over the observations of others. There is a work published at home called the "Mirror of Parliament," containing all the speeches and all the proceedings in both houses. There are many in the Colony who would willingly subscribe for such a publication here, during the Sessions of Council, merely to get rid of whole cart-loads of daily nothings. Ver. Sap. Sat.

I am, Sir,

Your constant reader,
FRANCIS FAIRPLAY.

JERRY'S PLAINS.—THE CROPS.—We have just had another very heavy fall of rain, and the weather continues moist and gloomy. It seems to be the general opinion that, short of a flood, we cannot have too much wet at this season of the year, to lay in, as it were, a good supply against the scorching months of summer. The wheat still looks well, some of it probably a little too forward, in consequence of the forcing season, and so as to be in danger from a September frost. We would advise persons whose crops may come into bloom, before the frosts may be considered gone, to prepare themselves with a number of ropes, to enable them to sweep the field (in the event of a frosty night) before the rising of the sun. This plan has been resorted to with success in other parts of the colony. The ropes should be stretched across the field, each overlapping, as it is called, the other about a yard, and each about two fingers thick, or thicker, and about twenty yards long; then placing a man between each two ropes, with one in each hand, let the whole line set off at a quick pace, dragging the ropes along the heads of the wheat. If done well, it will so far shake off the feathery particles of frost as to prevent any material injury to the crops.—*Mercury*.

tried it "a Legislative Council and Assembly," but the British Parliament had adopted the first designation, and he thought that in doing so they were strictly correct. The body was both a council and an assembly; but it was an established maxim that where a combination was effected between two bodies, the less honourable should merge into the more honourable, and not the more honourable into the less. This maxim had been acted on in the present instance, for the eye of the law a Legislative Council was more honourable than a Legislative Assembly, and consequently the smaller section of the body had absorbed, as far as designation was concerned, the more numerous and popular section of the legislature. As therefore the legislative body created by the act was a council, and not an assembly, their Speaker was entitled to all the rights and privileges of the president of similar bodies, except where these were withdrawn by special provision. And as there was no clause in the act depriving their Speaker of the right of speech enjoyed by the Lord Chancellor in the House of Peers, and by the presidents of Colonial Legislative Councils, it would be a direct violation of the act under which they were constituted, were such a rule to be adopted. The Attorney-General spoke at great length on the precedent furnished by the House of Commons; but he never thought it necessary to meet the argument of the member for Sydney, by showing that the precedent was applicable.

Dr. Lang was decidedly of opinion that, considering the constitution of the house, the practice of the House of Lords was as much a precedent as that of the House of Commons. And he had not heard anything advanced on the opposite side of the question to convince him that the council had the power to deprive the Speaker of the right of speech. No did he think that, in a body so limited in number, any practical inconvenience would arise from the exercise of that right, provided the time for its exercise were prescribed. In such a body as the House of Commons it would be productive of great inconvenience, were the Speaker to possess the right of speech; but he did not see the expediency of depriving the Speaker of this council of that privilege.

Mr. Terry urged that the title itself indicated the duties of the office, and the restrictions to which the holder of that office was subjected. The special provision that the Speaker should not vote except in the event of an equality, he considered as implying that he should not take part in the discussion.

Mr. Wentworth did not think Mr. Terry's law on the subject very sound. It was the maxim of law and of common sense that the intention of a law should be determined from its express provisions, and the fact that an express provision was contained in the act, depriving the Speaker of the right to vote, led to the certain inference that every other deprivation intended would be made the subject of express enactment.

After a lengthy discussion, in which Mr. Foster, Mr. Cowper, Mr. Walker, and several other members took part, the house divided, when there appeared in favour of the original rule 21, against it 6.

The 46th clause was struck out on the motion of Dr. Lang, who contended that it was an insult to the house to suppose any member of it capable of the conduct alluded to. Sufficient precaution had already been taken to preserve order in their debates, and such a regulation was altogether unnecessary.

The rule was as follows:—

"That no member shall speak disrespectfully of the Queen or any of the Royal Family, or person administering the Government of this Colony; nor shall he use unmannerly or indecent language against the proceedings of this house, or against particular members; nor shall he speak beside the question in debate."

The council sat to a late hour, but nothing further of any importance was transacted.

A notice appears in yesterday's *Gazette*, intimating that if any prisoner of the crown be found in Sydney, contrary to regulations, he will be sent to Cockatoo Island. Holders of assigned servants are also reminded that they are not to give passes to such assigned servants to remain in Sydney for more than one week at any one time.

THE PRESENT DEPRESSION—ITS CAUSES AND ITS REMEDY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL OBSERVER.

SIR—In addressing you on the extensive subject indicated by the title of the present communication, it is not my intention to weary your patience with a long dissertation on the multifarious accounts that our colonial political economists are daily furnishing us, of the origin of the disease: nor shall I advert at any considerable length to the empirical prescriptions of these Quack Physicians for the restoration of soundness to the body politic. They all seem to me to be applied only to the excrescences of the disease, while the fundamental cause of our monetary embarrassment being left in all its unmitigated strength, no attempt is made to secure the community against the recurrence of similar evils.

It was naturally expected that the meeting of the new Legislative Council, combining as it was supposed to do, all the intelligence and talent of the country, would lead to the development of some great and judicious project for the ultimate recovery of the country; but so far as the proceedings of that body have yet gone, they appear to be as much in the dark and as completely nonplussed when called in to administer to the relief of the exhausted patient, as any of the newspaper editors or anonymous correspondents, whose prescriptions they seem to have adopted as the basis of their *materia medica*.

The first measure that has been brought formally under the notice of the legislature—the Solvent Debtor's Bill—is one of the most unsound in principle, and will be found the most pernicious in operation, that could have been devised. And it is to be regretted that the first banting produced by the new council, should have turned out such a monstrosity. If the bill has any principle at all, it is that "time is money," and the Council having it not in their power to produce the latter in any other form, they stamp its substitute as the current coin of the realm, and render it a legal tender between debtor and creditor! But although a man's own time may be money, there is some reason to suspect that it will be found to be a very unsatisfactory medium of exchange, especially when instead of the debtor paying it to his creditor, the creditor is to be compelled by law, to give it to an indefinite extent to his debtor. The principle avowed by its framers is that it is the duty of the legislature, to arrest a revolution arising naturally out of the current of past events, with a view to effect some sort of stereotype of the remaining traces of the past condition of the inhabitants of the Colony. "The master is becoming the servant, and the servant the master," says Mr. Wentworth, "and will the Council look on and see this revolution completed without an effort?" Decidedly they could not adopt a wiser and a juster policy. They are the representatives of the servants as well as of the masters, and instead of legislating for class interests, their duty is simply to stand by and see fair play between man and man.

"Some" it is said, "are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." So it is in point of fact; but the first and the last are abortions or accidents merely, which it is the object of sound legislation rather to repress than to encourage. The proper object of legislation should be to see that those who have the capacity to achieve greatness, should have every facility for its exercise; while no bar should be put in the way of those who by the accident of birth or otherwise, may have been placed in a false position, descending to their proper level. To avert by legislative enactments the natural results of human action, is an unwarrantable interference with the moral government of God, which can never be productive of other than mischievous results.

We see the baneful consequences of legislative interference for this object in the Mother Country, in the pernicious working of that master-piece of legislative wickedness, the law of Entail, which I would earnestly recommend to the patronage of Mr. Wentworth, as still better adapted to the object in view; merely reminding him that any one who should succeed in introducing such a law, would gain an indisputable title to the maledictions of posterity.

The Solvent Debtor's Bill is avowedly an act designed only for temporary operation. As such it is a barbarous solecism in legislation; which ought in all circumstances to be conducted on fixed principles. But if enactments dictated by views of temporary expediency alone are open to objection, much more objectionable must such acts be if the object they contemplate is to be secured by the infliction of positive injustice, as is obviously the case with the Solvent Debtor's Bill.

The panacea of Mr. Murray—the remission system as contradistinguished from the bounty system of emigration—is based on a fallacy. Give land for emigrants, says the sapient representative of the southern counties, but do not send the money out of the country.

The fallacy is so obvious that we wonder any one could fail to discover it. In the one case the colonial government pays from the land revenue to the shipper the expense of conveyance; in the other the emigrant pays it, and gets it back from the colonial government; and where is the difference? It may, however, contribute to swell the tide of emigration, now at its ebb, if such an arrangement could be effected, and there would be some guarantee that the emigrants would possess a small amount of capital. So far the system would be an improvement; but it is quite clear that as much money would be sent out of the country in the one case as in the other.

Dr. Nicholson's loan for immigration is one of the most preposterous nostrums under present circumstances that could have been promulgated. It is admitted that there is a redundancy of labour, and it is therefore the first duty of the legislature to adopt some measures to employ that labour. The promotion of colonisation may be an abstract duty of communities, but that duty is to be discharged with a proper regard to certain fixed principles; and the first principle of colonisation on an extensive scale ought to be that an organised system should be set in operation such as would secure immediate employment to whatever number of emigrants may arrive. This therefore is the object demanding primary attention, and if this is neglected, and immigration revived without the necessary preparations here for extending the field of labour, the influx of wealth attendant on emigration will produce anew the system of exorbitant speculation which recently prevailed, and will lead a second time to the same state of depression we are now suffering.

Mr. Wentworth's usury bill is another superficial application, intended merely to skin over the wound which we should rather seek to cure, by getting at the root of the evil; even although the latter process should be a more tedious one. The high rate of interest is only the effect of a cause not far to seek, and till that cause can be removed or counteracted, it is folly to attempt to better the matter, by authoritatively declaring its result illegal. The high rate of interest is another of the heads of the same hydra of speculation, which the enormous influx of capital at once generated and sustained. The evil was aggravated by the absence of every species of investment except bills; so that the banks themselves had to employ their surplus capital in the same vortex of speculation. The hazardous nature of such investments raised the rate of interest to its enormous pitch. For, as the possessors of available capital are just as ready to indulge in golden dreams as any other class of men, it was very natural that they should refuse advances, even on prudent and rational operations, except at something approaching the rates of interest commonly obtained; and so interest rose on all transactions very near the speculation point; and though the surrounding atmosphere has since fallen below zero, the rate of interest remains at its unnatural elevation.

In the brief references above made to the causes of the present monetary derangement, we have partially anticipated the subject of a remedy. We require something to control the tendency to speculation; something especially to prevent the banks from heightening the fever, by directing their available capital into the same swollen tide. The want of such a check disables the banks from giving the assistance they might on occasion of an emergency. It is only by a fortunate accident that even the Bank of Australasia is able in the present crisis to render the assistance that it has done. And but for that assistance the derangement would have been aggravated to an extraordinary degree. Now while seeking to obtain immediate relief, we should also guard against the recurrence of similar calamities, and any plan of relief likely to be permanently beneficial must combine these objects. A very simple plan naturally suggests itself—The formation of a public fund in the form of a loan secured on the ordinary revenue, say at 4 per cent, to be applied to purposes of internal improvement. Let this loan be managed by a board responsible to government. The increase or contraction of its amount should be regulated by the legislature. It should be distributed to the district and municipal councils for the purpose of carrying on works of public utility, subject to the approbation of the board, who would take security from the local councils for payment of the interest. The capital would not require to be repaid, but its investment would require to be strictly confined to such works as would yield a return, or at least should be very sparingly applied in the first instance to other objects. The powers of taxation conferred on the local councils would be a sufficient guarantee for the payment of the interest.

The benefit that would arise to the community from such a plan, would be incalculable: facility of transit to the best market would be secured to the colonial produce;—the surplus labour of the colony would be

* The fortunate accident alluded to was, that the bank had been sufficiently late in making a call to have the money in hand when the crisis came that would otherwise most probably have been invested in the usual way had it been available.

set to work;—a source of employment, capable of indefinite extension in proportion to the emergency; would be open for emigrants on their first landing;—the land of the colony would rise in value;—capitalists would find it their interest to emigrate;—and their capital would more generally assume the form of funded stock than that of letters of credit, to meet which the English merchant sends out manufactured goods to a market already glutted;—the banks would have a safe investment for their available capital, and would not be tempted to enter again on the career of extravagant speculation which we have lately run;—the rate of interest on this investment would form the standard for other investments of a permanent nature equally safe—the interest on first-rate mortgages would of itself speedily fall to that standard. The usury law would be unnecessary; the obstacles in the way of renewed immigration would be removed; the evils attending a copious emigration would be obviated;—and a career of prosperity would open on the country unexampled in the history of colonisation.

A loan for the purpose of immigration secured on the land revenue would be productive to a limited extent of some of the benefits pointed out; but it is objectionable in present circumstances, inasmuch as no revenue would arise immediately from its appropriation—and this should be a condition essentially necessary in any plan for securing immediate relief from the present depression. When the present confused state of the elements of society, should at length be succeeded by a harmonious adjustment, and the frame-work of the machine had got into working trim, a second loan for that express object could be contracted with the greatest benefit to the community at large. But at present the contraction of a loan for the purpose of emigration exclusively, would be an act of absolute insanity. It is some consolation to think that such a project, though attempted, would be found impracticable.

Having pointed out what I conceive a more rational scheme for the recovery of the colony, from its present monetary depression, than any that has yet been propounded; hoping that the hint may be improved on in the proper quarter; and apologizing for the extent to which I have trespassed upon your columns, I now leave the subject to be digested by your readers, and remain, &c.

J. H. B.

A sale of occupation licenses will take place at the Colonial Treasury, on the 21st September next. The upset price of each lot is 5l. per section of 640 acres.

W. H. Wason, Esq., of Broulee, and George Playne, Esq., of Campaspe, Port Phillip, are appointed magistrates of the territory and its dependencies.

SUPREME COURT.—CIVIL SIDE.

Before His Honor the Chief Justice and a common Jury.

JURORS FINED.

The following Gentlemen were fined £2 each for non-attendance as Jurors, viz.—John G. Moore, of Pitt-street, auctioneer; James Melville, of Pitt-street, silk mercer; William George Morris, of Pitt-street, stationer; William Myres, of George-street, shopkeeper; Francis M'Enroe, of George-street, tobacconist; Isaac Moore, of George-street, dealer; and Josua Lovecraft, of George-street, tailor.

CODLIN v. PHILLIPS.

This was an action brought by Charles Codlin, a surgeon, against Henry Phillips, accountant, to recover damages for assault and false imprisonment.

Mr. Fisher conducted the case for the prosecution, and Mr. Windley for the defence.

The Jury retired, and, after about a quarter of an hour's consideration, returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages 10l.

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.

Lady Franklin has caused all her heavy baggage, the chariot, &c., to be embarked on board the *Rajah*. That fine ship sailed a few days ago to Sydney, there to take on board as much cargo as can be readily obtained, and thence she proceeds to Port Phillip, to fill up for England. Sir John and Lady Franklin purpose to join the *Rajah* at that Port, where she will arrive about Christmas, the season, certainly the most preferable, which Lady Franklin prefers to undertake so long a voyage. Sir John and Lady Franklin remain here until that time, in the belief that Sir Eardley Wilmot, being unaccompanied by Lady Wilmot, will apportion to the family of the Ex-Lieutenant-Governor such apartments in the Government-house as can be spared without inconvenience. It is said to be the avowed object of Sir John and Lady Franklin, in adopting this unparalleled measure, to "enlighten" Sir Eardley Wilmot upon colonial subjects. We cannot believe that any such intention can be possible; but we are well convinced that should the calamitously attempt be made, it will be repelled by Sir Eardley Wilmot with the scorn and contempt which so unworthy a proceeding cannot but excite in the mind of a real English gentleman of the old school; and such eminently is Sir Eardley Wilmot.—*Review*.

MARRIED.

On the 21st, by the Rev. Dr. M'Garvie, Mr. James Noble to Miss Mary Alston, of Dumfries, Scotland. After the ceremony the happy pair set off for the residence of the bridegroom, Miller's Point.

SYDNEY DISPENSARY. — On Monday evening, the annual meeting of this Institution took place at the Royal Hotel, the Honorable the Speaker of the Legislative Council in the chair. The Rev. Dr. McGarvie read the report, which stated that during the past year the institution had relieved from twenty to thirty patients daily, and in some cases, from forty to sixty had been attended, many of them at their places of residence, by the medical gentlemen belonging to the Dispensary; although there were however considerable funds at present in the hands of the treasurer in its favour, yet, as it was merely by surffiance that free patients were admitted into the General Hospital, it was of the greatest importance that every means available should be called into operation for the purpose of establishing an hospital connected with the Dispensary without delay. It was stated further that until the Dispensary is made a corporate body, it cannot proceed to fit up as an hospital the buildings at present occupies, but a bill for the purpose of incorporating it had been drawn by Mr. George Allen, and entrusted to Dr. Nicholson to submit to the Legislative Council as early a date as possible. The total number of individuals who had applied for relief during the year was 1842, 160 of whom had been attended at their own houses: of these many had been visited repeatedly at their own dwellings on the same admission ticket. The total number of separate cases treated from 1835 till the end of December, 1842, was 8014, making a total of 9866 cases since 1835. The average number of cases monthly was from 196 in May, to 119 in July. From the treasurer's account it appeared that the total receipts for the year amounted in all to 7841, and the disbursements to 4101; of the receipts 329l. 6s. 6d. was from government, and the residue, 3751, had been realized by private subscription. The following gentlemen addressed the meeting:—Captain Coghill, M.C.; Rev. Dr. Laing, M.C.; Dr. Nicholson, M.C.; W. Bradley, Esq., M.C.; Alderman Wilshire; Mr. H. Macdermott; Rev. John Saunders; Dr. Wallace; Mr. T. Woolley; Rev. Dr. McGarvie; and Mr. Logan. At the close of the business, the chair being vacated, was taken by W. Bradley, Esq., M.C.; when the usual vote of thanks was given to the chairman, on the motion of the Rev. J. Saunders, which being briefly responded to by A. McLeay, Esq., M.C., the meeting dispersed.

WESLEYAN CENTENARY CHAPEL.—On the same evening a meeting was held at the Wesleyan Chapel, Macquarie-street, at which Alderman Allen presided, for the purpose of raising funds for the completion of the Wesleyan Centenary Chapel, York-street. Previously to the public meeting, a number of the friends amounting to about 200 assembled, and took tea in the school-room adjoining the chapel. The Rev. J. McKenny gave a history of the origin and progress of the chapel. In the month of August, 1839, a meeting was held at the Macquarie-street chapel, collections were made, and promises and subscriptions given to the amount of £1,300, for the purposes of furthering the progress of Methodism. It was then thought that the money collected could not be laid out to greater advantage than by erecting a large and commodious chapel in Sydney. Of the sum promised one subscription of £250 was reserved for building a chapel on the Surry Hills. This latter building had since been completed at an outlay of upwards of £300, and had been made over by Mr. Iredeale, (the contributor of the sum above-mentioned,) to the trustees according to the usage of the society. The foundation-stone of the centenary chapel was laid on the 24th of February, 1840, and the building was rapidly approaching completion. Since the commencement of the building, 1245l. 17s. 5d. had been received by private subscription; 1000l. from the government treasury; 841l. from the sale of ground adjoining the chapel; and 120l. as a deposit on the sale of the school-room. The sum already paid is 3183l. 3s. 7d., leaving a balance in the hands of the trustees of 231. 13s. The trustees were, however, under immediate engagement for 1008l. 15s. 5d., besides the amount necessary to complete the chapel. Several resolutions having been moved and seconded, a subscription was

opened to meet this deficiency, when pledges and subscriptions were received amounting to £320. The thanks of the meeting were presented to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

PRICE CURRENT.

Table with columns for 'IMPORTED MERCHANDISE', 'ALES', 'SPIRITS', 'WINES', 'TEAS', 'SUGARS', 'COFFEE', 'TOBACCO', 'FRUITS', 'PROVISIONS', 'GRAIN', 'SOAP, OIL, AND CANDLES', 'METALS, AMMUNITION AND SUNDRIES', and 'PAINTS'. Each column lists various goods and their prices in pounds, shillings, and pence.

Table listing 'ROPE' with items like 'Rope assorted per cwt.', 'Manilla ditto ditto', 'Coir ditto ditto', 'Bleached Canvas per bolt', and 'Unbleached ditto ditto'.

Table listing 'SUNDRIES' with items like 'Stockholm Tar per cwt.', 'American ditto ditto', 'American ditto ditto', 'Kent Hops per lb.', 'Star ditto ditto', and 'Blue ditto'.

COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

Table listing 'BREAD, FLOUR, AND GRAIN' with items like 'Bread per 2lb. loaf', 'Biscuit, No. 1, per cwt.', 'First Flour per 100lbs, cash', 'Second ditto ditto', 'Third ditto ditto', 'Wheat, per bushel', 'Barley, wholesale', 'Maize, wholesale, cash', 'ditto, retail', 'Bran per bushel', 'Oats ditto wholesale', 'Oatmeal per lb.', 'Hay per ton', 'Ditto, Retail, per cwt.', 'Grass, per dozen', 'Ditto, Retail', 'Straw, Colonial, per ton', and 'Chaff per bay wholesale'.

PROVISIONS.

Table listing 'CANTERBURY SUGARS' with items like 'Loaves of 10lb. and Tilters of 20lb. each, per lb.', 'Lumps of 30lb. each, per lb.', 'Crushed Lumps, per ton', 'Fine pieces, per ditto', 'Very fine', 'Molasses, per ditto', 'Butter (fresh) per lb. retail', 'Ditto (salt) ditto', 'Ditto (junk) ditto', 'Cheese per lb.', 'Bacon ditto', 'Eggs per dozen', 'Lard per lb.', 'Beef per carcase per lb.', 'Ditto per joint per lb.', 'Mutton per carcase per lb.', 'Ditto per lb.', 'Veal ditto, retail', 'Pork ditto, ditto', 'Roasting Pigs, each', 'Geese ditto', 'Ducks per pair', 'Muscovy Ducks ditto', 'Fowls ditto', 'Turkeys each', 'Pigeons per pair', 'Potatoes per ton', 'Ditto, per cwt.', 'Ebenezer Coals per ton', 'Soap, (Colonial) per cwt.', 'LIVE STOCK', 'Cattle, mixed, per head', 'Ditto, fat per ditto', 'Milk Cows, per head', 'Sleep, mixed', 'Ditto, fat wethers', 'Horses, draught', 'Ditto, stock and saddle', 'Pigs'.

EXPORTS.

Table listing 'Wool' with items like 'Choice fleeces, per lb.', 'Good ordinary', 'Broken', 'In Grease', 'Sperma, American, per ton', 'Hides, Salted, per lb.', 'Cedar, Good quality, per 100 feet', 'Trenails, Per S.M.', 'Horns', 'Per 123', 'Tips, Per 123'.

CHEAP FUEL.

REDUCED PRICES.

THE GAS COMPANY are selling Coke and Breeze at the following reduced prices:—

Table listing 'COKE' with items like 'Delivered at the Works, twenty shillings per chaldron', 'Delivered at the purchaser's door, any where within the city boundaries, twenty-three shillings and sixpence per chaldron', 'To manufacturers and others taking large quantities, eighteen shillings per chaldron, delivered at the Works', 'BREEZE, or SMALL COKE', 'Delivered at the Works, six shillings per chaldron, or twopenny per bushel', 'Delivered at the purchaser's door, any where within the city boundaries, nine shillings and sixpence per chaldron', 'N.B. The chaldron contains thirty-six bushels. Gas Works, June 17.'

FROM VAN DIEMEN'S LAND. ON SALE, at the Stores of the Undersigned.— Seed Wheat (white Lammas) Seed Oats (white) Ditto (grey) Ditto (brown). ALSO, Prime Hunter's River Maize. All at reduced prices.—Terms—cash. GEORGE RATRAY. Bathurst-street West, May 15.

AUSTRALASIAN SUGAR COMPANY. IN consequence of the increased business, and extended connexion of this Company, the Directors, with a view to afford every facility to Merchants, Grocers, Storekeepers, and other purchasers, have taken large and commodious stores in Bank-court, King-street, East, where samples of their loaves and tilters, fully equal in quality to British refined, and of their crushed lump, fine pieces, and molasses, may always be seen, and where terms of credit and all useful information will be given. The pieces are superior in quality to any moist sugar known in the colony. A few packed hogheads and tierces of refined will be always kept in the stores for immediate shipment. Letters or other communications addressed to Clarke Irving, Esq., Manager, will receive immediate attention.

BEST REFINED SUGAR, 3 1/2d. PER POUND.

AUSTRALASIAN SUGAR COMPANY. THE undernamed are the present prices of the Company's Goods:— Fine Loaves and Tilters, 3 1/2d per lb. Crushed Lump, 4 1/2d per ton. Fine Pieces, 4 1/2d to 4 3/4d per ton. Molasses, 4 1/2d per ton. Papering and string extra. TERMS, CASH, on DELIVERY. Packages to be paid for. The same to be allowed if returned in good order. Carriage to Sydney, 7 1/2d per ton. By order of the Board of Directors, CLARKE IRVING, MANAGER, Bank Court, Sydney, June 22, 1843.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

FISHER AND CO. beg to intimate to their friends and the public generally, that they have removed from their Counting-house and Stores at Dixon's Wharf to premises in George-street, between the Commercial Bank and the Stores of Messrs. Peek and Co.; they have therefore to request that all communications in future may be addressed to the Counting-house, in George-street. H. F. will in future have samples of colonial Wine, of his own manufacture, for inspection, and will undertake, free of cost, the agency of parties who have or may make colonial Wine for Sale. FISHER AND CO. George street, August 11.

AN ALLOTMENT OF GROUND to be sold in Middle-street, Chippendale, (12 Allotment,) apply at Mr. Nugent's, baker, opposite St. Leonard's new church, Old Toll Bar. Terms very low.

Letter-press Printing. RECRUITED WITH NEATNESS, ACCURACY, AND DESPATCH, AND ON MODERATE TERMS, AT THIS OFFICE, COMPRISING BOOK WORK, PAMPHLETS, CATALOGUES, CIRCULARS, AUCTIONEERS' BILLS, LAW FORMS, CARDS, BILL HEADS, LABELS, ETC.

THE COLONIAL OBSERVER.

IS PUBLISHED TWICE A-WEEK, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and circulated extensively through this and the neighbouring Colonies; also, in Britain, India, and America. The terms of subscription arc 10s. per quarter if paid in advance; if not paid in advance 12s. will be charged.

Advertisements are charged 2s. 6d. for eight lines, and one penny for each line additional. The number of insertions must be specified in the order. The Quarters end 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December.

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PORT PHILLIP PATRIOT.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and ADVERTISEMENTS for the above talented and influential journal, conducted by Alderman KERR, of Melbourne; at also money in payment of the same are received at this office. The quarterly subscription is 10s. cash, and 13s credit. A few copies of Kerr's Melbourne Almanack on hand.

LAUNCESTON EXAMINER.

PARTIES desirous of becoming subscribers to this influential Journal may have an opportunity to do so by leaving their addresses at this office. All orders will meet with prompt attention. The Examiner is now published twice a week on the evenings of Wednesdays and Saturday, 10s. cash, and 13s. credit, per quarter.

SYDNEY:—Printed and Published at the OBSERVER Printing Office, College-street, (formerly called Jamison-street) for the Proprietor, by Wednesday, August 23, 1843. ROBT. BARR.