

Edmund Gibson  
George Street  
Narranmatta

# THE STAR,

## AND WORKING MAN'S GUARDIAN.

No. 7.

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Price 1d.

### Hunter River Steam Navigation Company.

#### NOTICE



THE Company's Iron Steamers, "ROSE" and "THISTLE," will leave Morpeth for Sydney, during the winter months, at Eight instead of Seven o'clock in the morning, between the 1st April and the 1st October.

FRANCIS CLARKE,  
March 21. Manager.

#### For London.



THE first-class brig "WILLIAM STOVELD," 187 tons register, has the whole of her dead weight on board, and is now loading with wool. For freight of light goods, or passage apply to Captain Davidson, or to  
LYALL, SCOTT, AND CO.

### Burton's Purge.

As the human frame is exposed to diseases, so is the body politic; and as in the one case skillful treatment and proper medicines are required, so also are they necessary in the other. Different diseases, however, need different remedies, for how much soever, in modern times, we have improved in scientific attainments, no panacea or universal medicine has hitherto been discovered. Mankind in all ages of the world, anxious to surpass their ancestors in knowledge, have been searching after forbidden mysteries, and hence, in every country, a multitude of quacks, both medical and political, has arisen. Thus, while in the medical world, the empiric has boasted of his pills and nostrums for the cure of all diseases, the political quack, on the other hand, no less sanguine in the efficacy of his favourite measures, has discovered his Reform Bills or his Relief Bills as a sure and certain remedy for all the complaints in the body politic!

New South Wales, as well as all other countries, has experienced the evils of quackery, and we doubt not that when the present generation has passed away, and its deeds are duly registered in the temple of Fame, it will be found that the present age was not destitute of its quacks. Political quackery, indeed, existed at an early period in New South Wales, and amongst its former Governors, we can still recognise, in the impartial pages of the "Government Gazette," the laxative nostrums of Macquarie and the astringent remedies of Darling.

It is true that we have, hitherto, escaped the quackery of Usury Laws and Pfandbriefes, but upon referring *a posteriori* to the baneful consequences which have resulted from Mr. Burton's celebrated Insolvent Act, we cannot but conclude that Burton's Purge, as it is now familiarly denominated, has proved a most injurious piece of quackery to our body politic. When we reflect upon the drastic properties of this violent medicine, we are forcibly reminded of an anecdote told by D'Alembert. "The following apologue," says

he, "made by a physician, a man of wit and of philosophy, represents very well the state of medical science. Nature," he observed, "is fighting with the disease; a blind man armed with a club, that is the physician, comes to settle the difference. He first tries to make peace; when he cannot accomplish this, he lifts his club and strikes at random; if he strikes the disease, he kills the disease; if he strikes nature, he kills nature." Now every one knows that Mr. Burton is one of the most exemplary and worthy men in the colony, but notwithstanding all his piety and excellence, he has dealt a blow at the interests of the body politic, which missing the "disease" has disorganized the very "nature" of the community.

"Nor engine, nor device polemic,  
Disease, nor doctor epidemic,  
Tho' stored with deleterious medicines  
(Which whosoever took is dead since),  
Ee'r sent so vast a colony  
To both the under worlds as he."

The good intentions of Mr. Burton in prescribing his famous Purge, we fully appreciate; nay, we go farther—we acknowledge the service that he has rendered to the state in saving many an honest and respectable family from destruction. But, having admitted this, we must cease to commend, for upon an impartial review of the effects produced by the operation of his medicine, we can only conclude that it was a remedy too powerful for our body politic to bear. Already languishing under the weakness occasioned by the abstraction of our capital for the purposes of immigration, the system required soothing and nourishing rather than strong purgatives, and hence we cannot be surprised if, in too many instances, Mr. Burton's nostrum has matured the phthisical disorders under which the poor patient was labouring.

The evils of the Insolvent Act may be classed under three heads: first the want of confidence it has created throughout the community; secondly the vast quantities of valuable property which it has prematurely forced into the market; and thirdly, the sad manifestation of immoral principle which it has occasioned.

Before the awful crisis arrived, credit was almost unlimited. Any man with a good coat on his back, and a tolerable address, could procure property to an amount truly astonishing. Thus, a few years since, it was no uncommon thing for a person of no capital to take a first-rate house, lay in a stock of goods, and commence business on a magnificent scale. The Banks, too, were most accommodating, so the speculator could proceed *ad infinitum*, never considering that a day of reckoning might arrive at some period or other. The settler, unconscious of the true position in which he was placed, drove his carriage and four, cracked his champagne and feasted his friends; while the merchant, feeding his imagination on the successful nature of the enterprise in which he was engaged, extended his speculations further and further, till like the watery circles

which he was wont to make in the days of his youth, they disappeared from his sight and ended in nothing. What with unlimited credit, therefore, on the one hand, and bank accommodations on the other, the colony was, indeed, going finely ahead, and the system, which prevailed amongst the higher classes and the aristocracy of the land, was but too faithfully imitated by the middling and lower orders of the community. All was joyous as the wedding bell, but, suddenly, when no man expected the sad catastrophe, the airy phantoms vanished, and those parties who for many a year had been sailing on under the prosperous breezes of borrowed capital, were doomed to the rocks and quicksands of disappointed ambition. Without going into the causes which produced this calamity, it is sufficient for our purpose to remark on the present occasion, that at a period when the colony was beginning to feel the withering and blasting influences of that pernicious system under which it had too long existed, and when, perhaps, some healing measure might have been devised to arrest the distressing pestilence which was coming upon us—then we say—at that most inauspicious period—Mr. Burton propounded his scheme for curing the country, by administering a medicine which scarcely a strong and sound constitution could bear! The old Sangrado remedy of blood letting and hot water was nothing to it! Confidence was going, but this medicine accelerated its departure. To the operation of the Insolvent Act, in a great measure, we must attribute the want of confidence which prevails, and so long as unprincipled men can wipe off their debts in so easy a manner as under that law, the only secure method of carrying on business is on a most limited scale or for ready money. We know that a great deal of this evil is attributable to the facility with which Insolvents have procured certificates—for which, of course, Mr. Burton is not responsible, as that depends principally upon the creditors themselves. But we object to this system of certificates at all. If men have become morally and legally bound for the payment of certain sums, in our opinion nothing ought to release them from that obligation; but if at any future period of their lives, they shall have amassed property it ought to be considered their creditors'—no matter if half a century has elapsed.

Another effect which Mr. Burton's Act has produced, is the premature sale of vast quantities of property. This evil, we admit, is not wholly owing to the Act. Whether the Insolvent Act had existed or not, the crisis must have thrown property of all kinds into the market. What we contend, however, is that the Insolvent Act has tended, contrary to its original design, to dissipate rather than preserve the effects of the Insolvent. If time had been allowed, many a man would have struggled on with his difficulties and finally overcome them, but such has been the sad infatuation of trustees in general, that sheep, cattle, horses, lands,

and all kinds of property, have been hurried to the market, until at length there is no longer a demand and consequently they have only a nominal value. When between one and two thousand parties have declared themselves insolvent since the Act came into operation, and when, in every part of the colony, forced sales have occurred, we cannot be surprised at the result. That such things, however, should have taken place at all, is to be regretted, inasmuch as those very properties which in a few years would pay all the debts of many insolvents and leave a comfortable maintenance for their families, have been sacrificed and lost for ever. And after all, creditors have received little or nothing; whereas if the debtors had not been driven into Court, they might have paid in some estates 20s. in the pound. Several instances have occurred, in which it would seem that individuals had been appointed trustees for the sole purpose of mismanaging the affairs of the insolvent. It is painful to mention names, and, therefore, we pass on to notice the moral effect which Mr. Burton's Act has produced. In England, where a high feeling of honour and integrity exists, insolvency is looked upon with horror and dismay. Men use their utmost exertions to prevent it, and when through unavoidable circumstances they are compelled, as a last resource, to avail themselves of legal protection, they retire from the busy circles of society and sink into obscurity. But what has been the result in New South Wales? Why, so familiar has insolvency become, that it is treated as a matter of laughter and ridicule. Parties talk of "filing their shovel," or "joining Colonel Kerr's regiment," with as little concern as possible. Indeed, from the conduct of certain individuals, it might be concluded that the poor creditors were the last persons whose interests ought to be regarded. Whoever has had occasion to visit the Insolvent Court, must have noticed the apparent unconcern and indifference with which matters are passed over, and the continual noise and talking which distract the business of the court. These, and a thousand other circumstances prove beyond a doubt that Mr. Burton's Act is a decided failure, and that it has augmented, rather than diminished the miseries of the people. For Judge Burton himself we entertain high regard, in his capacity as a Judge and a member of society, but in certain matters of a political nature, and more especially in that piece of quackery, the Insolvent Act, we are opposed to him. If the Legislative Council, instead of spending so much valuable time over usury laws and pfandbriefes, had resolved itself into a committee of the whole House, for the purpose of going deliberately into the workings of this Act, they would have rendered an important service to society. It is the opinion of many intelligent men that the Act must be modified, if not wholly repealed, as it has been clearly shewn that it is inapplicable to the state of society in New South Wales. Even at the Cape of Good Hope, where it was first tried, it did not work well, and the Attorney-General stated that the Council there had been forced to make considerable alterations in it. Let us then profit by the example set us, and when the Council meets, petition for a full enquiry into the merits of this Act, and particularly with reference to the "Voluntary sequestration," the mode of appointing "trustees," and the facility of obtaining "certificates," for, from the 3rd, 13th, 48th, and 94th sections, all the mischief has arisen.

### Local Intelligence.

#### The Squatters.

On Tuesday last, a meeting of highly respectable and influential gentlemen, connected with the pastoral in-

terests of the colony, was held in the Saloon of the Royal Hotel, for the purpose of taking into consideration the recent Government notice respecting Depasturing Licenses which has caused so much excitement. The principal speakers were Messrs. Wentworth, Boyd, Kemble, Walker, Nicholson, &c., most of whom censured, in no measured terms, the proposed alterations of the Governor and Executive Council. The regulations which appear to have given so much offence, were the demand of a separate license and a fee of £10 for each separate station or run, and the limit which is to be set to each station or run, after the 1st of July, 1845, viz., that it shall consist of no more than twenty square miles of acres. We cannot agree in the *ne plus ultra* opinions of many of the speakers, although we think that his Excellency and the Executive Council have chosen a most unfortunate period for the promulgation of the above mentioned regulations, when it is well known, owing to the sad depreciation in the value of wool and stock of all kinds, our graziers are on the brink of ruin. Mr. Wentworth, whose strong personal feelings towards the Governor since his famous discomfiture in the New Zealand land job, are well known and appreciated, could not lose so favourable an opportunity of pouring forth a volume of vile and scurrilous abuse against Sir George Gipps. To give our readers a specimen we must quote the following passage of Mr. Wentworth's speech: "He (the Governor) would leave them at last without a shilling in their pockets; he would leave them ere long no doubt, and he trusted, that a reverberating yell, which would speak plainly the feelings and curses of those whom he had oppressed, would follow him." This astounding remark, we are told, was received with applause, although there were some gentlemen present loyal enough to express their disapprobation of so gross and infamous attack upon her Majesty's Representative. We cannot but regard Mr. Wentworth's personalities as disgusting in the extreme, and calculated to injure the cause which he has espoused. If he had confined himself to the business of the meeting, no one could have objected to his arguments, so long as they were advanced in a candid and gentlemanly manner; but to step out of his way for the mere purpose of vilifying Sir George Gipps, manifested bad taste in the extreme. To talk of the present Governor's measures, as being harsh, oppressive, and tyrannical, is most absurd on the part of an individual, who to the knowledge of the whole colony, endeavoured to perpetrate (in purchasing an immense territory of land from the uninformed New Zealanders without any adequate value) one of the most tremendous jobs that has ever been heard of since the days of Sir Robert Walpole. After the severe castigation which Mr. Wentworth experienced from his Excellency on the occasion to which we have alluded, we cannot but regard his declamation "as full of sound and fury—signifying nothing."

But at this most interesting meeting, where were Messrs. J. and W. Macarthur? Their absence, on such an occasion, is to be lamented, as from their long residence in the colony, and their intimate acquaintance with its wants, they are admirably qualified to give an opinion on the question now under discussion. Other men of talent and influence took no part in the proceedings, but whether we are to attribute their silence to the extreme violence of some parties, or to an approval of the Governor's regulations, we are at a loss to conjecture.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE GRAZIERS.—Mr. Charles Smith, with several of his friends, have commenced making arrangements for salting beef on a large scale for the English market. It is intended by them, not

as an opposition, but as an auxiliary to the present Salting Company, to salt down only the prime parts, to boil down the other pieces, and after the tallow has been extracted to employ the residue in fattening pigs. Mr. Smith proposes, as soon as the arrangements are complete, to give the stockholders at the rate of a penny per lb. by the carcass for prime fat bullocks.—*Herald*.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—As Mr. Thomas Halloran, of Ultimo, was proceeding to Liverpool, he was stopped by a bushranger, who robbed him of £7, besides his horse. While the robber was conducting Mr. H. into the bush he discovered another man tied to a tree.

THE TREADMILL.—According to the returns on Saturday last, the total number of men confined in this place of punishment was 113, namely, eleven free men, twenty-four soldiers, and eighty-three convicts under sentence, all of whom are employed grinding and dressing flour, at 1s. per 100 pounds. When the wheat has been previously cleaned, the charge is only 9d. per 100 pounds.

LIBEL.—Dr. Tierney has been committed at the Police Office for a libel on Dr. Dugan, respecting some advertisement published by Dr. T., charging Dr. Dugan with unskilful treatment while attending a case of child-birth, in which both mother and child died.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH.—On Sunday last an infant female child of Mr. Barton's, who resides in the neighbourhood of Liverpool Street, came to an untimely end by falling into an uncovered well, on the premises of Mr. M'Donnell, of the same neighbourhood. This is the second case of the kind it has been our painful duty to record within the last month.

The Legislative Council will assemble, for the despatch of business, on the 28th day of May next.

According to the last returns, the grain held by Government consisted of 39,014 bushels wheat, and 6,640 bushels maize.

TALLOW.—We are happy to find that the tallow exported from New South Wales, has been favourably received in the London Market. The Brokers consider its quality good, and state that care and attention will make it a first-rate article. They calculate that they could dispose of 2000 tons annually without affecting the market. We need scarcely remark that the immense importance of this matter demands the immediate attention of the stockholders, but let them beware of mixing beef and mutton tallow together, as they are used in England for very different purposes.

SAVINGS' BANK.—We were sorry to notice several typographical errors in the article on the Savings' Bank, which appeared in last week's number. The subject of lowering the rate of interest in this colony is one of so important a nature, that it should not be lost sight of.

PROVISIONS.—Amidst all the calamities and disasters of the colony, it is a most pleasing circumstance to find that the necessities of life are so cheap and abundant. Whilst by our carelessness and extravagance we have brought much trouble and misery upon ourselves, Divine Providence has favoured us in a remarkable degree by sending refreshing showers and fruitful seasons. Although, therefore, many families have been deprived of the rate of wages to which they were formerly accustomed, the exceedingly low price of provisions has almost made compensation for the reduction in their actual receipts.

### General News.

#### South Australia.

By the Augustus we have received South Australian papers to the 27th March. There is nothing in them, however, of importance. The South Australians are still sanguine, and apparently with good reason, as to their future prosperity. The papers before us are filled with extracts from English, Sydney, and Hobart Town papers, which had been recently received at Adelaide, and which has been published with the view of encouraging the colonists, by shewing the remunerating prices which their produce found in colonial and home markets. The principal topic of discussion is "the mining interests" of the colony, and there can be little doubt that the production of metals will be an important feature of South Australia.

At the Cattle Market, on the 20th March, there were 12 fat oxen, which realised 1s. 6d. per stone; 8 working steers, £4 to £6 10s.; 346 sheep, 6s. to 7s., and 70 lambs 3s. to 5s.

**Port Phillip.**

Mr. Young, the Sheriff, left Sydney on Saturday last, for the purpose of proceeding overland to Port Phillip, for which district he is a candidate in the next election. There is no doubt about the success of Mr. Young: the contest, if any there be, will be between Mr. Acton Sillitoe and Sir Thomas Mitchell, and from what we can gather the chances appear in favour of the former, whose sound and correct views on the question of Separation, are regarded with favour by the right thinking portion of the community.

**Van Diemen's Land.**

We have received the Hobart Town papers to the 30th March. An important libel case, *Gregson v. Dobson*, had been tried before the Chief Justice and a common Jury (that being the defendant's right of selection), composed of highly respectable and intelligent individuals. The substance of the declaration was as follows:—"That upon Mr. Gregson being appointed a member of the Legislative Council, Mr. Dobson had written a letter to the Lieutenant Governor Sir John Franklin, remonstrating against the appointment, and charging Mr. Gregson, in distinct terms, with having committed forgery and perjury—the former by altering surreptitiously a document produced before Messrs. MacLachlan, Orr, and Garrett, arbitrators chosen to decide certain differences existing between the plaintiff and defendant—and the latter by having put in to the said arbitrators a written document, to the truth of which he had sworn." Damages were laid at £5000, for the full amount of which the Jury returned a verdict. The trial commenced on Tuesday the 12th March, and was adjourned on the close of that day to Friday the 22nd, when the trial was resumed, and occupied the court the whole of 23rd and three following days. Throughout the trial the greatest anxiety prevailed.

Wheat was averaging 3s. 6d., fine flour, 8s. 6d. per 100 pounds; seconds, 7s. 6d.; and potatoes, 5s. 6d.

**Parramatta Police.**

*Jane Shaw* and *Selina Brown*, both assigned to Captain Weston, J. P., of Liverpool, were charged with the following disorderly conduct.

It appeared that that gentleman, in addition to the services of the two young ladies now before the Court, employed on his establishment a third female, who, happening to be an emigrant, a continual bickering was occurring between her and Miss Shaw—that female entertaining a most despicable opinion of any one who did not arrive in the colony in what she termed "the regular way, as she had done." On Sunday afternoon the harmony of the kitchen tea talk was abruptly put an end to by Miss Shaw flinging in the said emigrant's face the fragments of a sup of best Hosonskin, accompanied by the gentle insinuation "that some like tea," in consequence of some opinion being expressed not exactly in accordance with her orders, the noise of the melee that ensued reached the drawing-room, and on Captain W's repairing to the scene of action and descanting upon the impropriety of the proceeding, he was informed by Shaw, that she was "true independent:" she cared not for him or the terrors of the Parramatta Bench, nor Mr. Elliott to boot, or even Sir George himself. Upon her being ordered to the watch-house, Brown, equally ready to make a character for herself, insisted upon becoming a female "Pylades" and accompanying her friend, Shaw, and, as a reward for her attachment, was permitted to accompany her friend in a two month's sojourn at the factory.

**THE GOVERNOR.**—His Excellency spent several hours last week at the Female Factory. What the exact object of the visit was, we have not yet ascertained, but we have every reason to believe that these periodical visits are highly beneficial to the moral welfare of the institution. We do hope that his Excellency will take some measures to employ the women in the Factory in such a manner, as not to militate against the interests of those individuals in this town, who depend upon washing and needlework for their subsistence.

**Port of Sydney Shipping Intelligence.**

**ARRIVALS.**

From Adelaide, yesterday week, having left the 30th March, the barque *Augustus*, with 3035 bags wheat, 244 bags flour, 80 bags oats, &c.  
From Launceston, on Monday last, having left the 2nd April, the brig *Union*, with grain, &c.  
From London, on Monday last, having left on the 16th of November, and Dartmouth, the 10th December, the ship *Cremona*, with a general cargo.

From Launceston on Tuesday last, having left the 6th April, the brig *Dawson*, with wheat, &c.  
From Launceston, on Tuesday last, having left the 23rd March, the cutter *Resolution*, with wool, &c.

**DEPARTURES.**

For London, on Saturday last, the ship *General Hewett*, with colonial produce.  
For Moreton Bay, on Saturday last, the steamer *Sovereign*, with sundries.  
For Port Phillip, on Saturday last, the brig *Diana*, with sundries.  
For the South Sea Islands, on Thursday, the brig *Bull*, with part of her original cargo.

**NEW INSOLVENTS.**

WM. WILMINGTON, storekeeper, county St. Vincent.  
JAMES KEMBLE, Kent Street, Sydney, mariner.  
JOHN DOW, Arden Hall, county Durham, grazier.  
JOHN FERNLEY, grocer, Lower George Street, Sydney.

**Colonial Literature.**

**The Wedding Day.**

[From the Port Phillip Herald, March 26.]

"Not one, by Heaven, but each, like statues fixed,  
Speechless and pale, stared in his fellow's face."  
RICHARD III.

"Many years have now passed away, and most of the persons engaged in the following scenes have sunk to the silent grave, since the incident I am about to relate took place."

Thus began a hoary man, an aged settler in a northern district—while a small party of neighbouring bushmen sat around his hospitable hearth.

"I was a young man at the time," he continued, "and the circumstances, to which I was myself an eye-witness, have left a vivid impression on my mind, which time can never wear away."

"Mr. Devoraine, who was a foreigner, arrived in the colony among some of the earliest settlers. His farm was situated about fifteen miles from one which my father then occupied, and, of course, we very soon became intimate."

"He was a man in the decline of life, of gentlemanly appearance and address, of a kind and humane disposition, and an elegant and sensitive mind:—but care had worn deep furrows on his brow, and a settled expression of melancholy shaded his still handsome and interesting features. He had been a widower for some years, and the sole comfort and stay of his advanced age, was one only child, a gentle and a lovely girl. Rosa Devoraine was scarce sixteen on their arrival in the country. Among the fairest, she would have been reckoned beautiful—among the most refined, elegant and accomplished. It will hardly then be a matter of surprise, that in those rude and early days, when feminine grace and beauty were considered by the striving settler as things lost to him, and to be forgotten for years—perhaps for ever—the appearance of this young and amiable being, created a sensation not easily to be repressed, among the younger portion of the neighbouring colonists. As she grew older, she waxed lovelier, and many there were who sought her hand and heart. My poor brother Frederic was among the number, and I believe Devoraine entertained much esteem for him, and rather countenanced his suit; but he failed in making an impression on the young and lovely Rosa."

"One evening, I had ridden over with him to L—, and the night coming on dark and stormy, we were prevailed on to remain till morning. Devoraine, who was warmly devoted to his native land, was in the midst of an enthusiastic panegyric on its resources, and its beauties, when he was interrupted by the announcement of a stranger."

"The new comer was a young man of prepossessing appearance, with an air of breeding that at once pronounced him a member of the polished world. His name, he said, was Clifford, that he had lately arrived from England, and intended, after he had seen something of the country, if it pleased him, to commence farming."

"His conversation was extremely sensible and entertaining, and he seemed to be possessed of a fund of information and anecdote."

"He rode over with us on the following morning to our farm, and as my father knew something of his

connexions, he invited him to remain sometime, which he accordingly did. His winning manners soon secured him a numerous acquaintance, and as he represented himself as still a minor, and under the tutorage of a guardian, from whom he produced letters, he delayed making any purchases until he should become of age;—but desiring to settle somewhere in our neighbourhood, he was always cordially received by all the settlers about."

"He constantly visited L—, and to the mortification and chagrin of my brother, and many others, became the favoured lover of Rosa Devoraine. The numerous letters he produced, as having received at various times from home, confirmed his respectability and the reality of his expectations—and old Devoraine, who considered his daughter's happiness, as the main object of his life, sanctioned their intimacy—and on Clifford's attaining his majority, a despatch having arrived from his guardian, requesting him to make arrangements for the transmission of his fortune, which was something very great—a day was appointed for the union of the young couple. The ceremony was to be solemnized privately at Devoraine's residence, by a Catholic clergyman, from Sydney, (for they were of that religion) and but a few intimate friends were invited to attend it, among whom were my father and myself."

"The day at length arrived, and my brother, whose disappointment weighed heavily on his mind, we left at home, in an extremely nervous and indisposed state of mind."

"Devoraine was in high spirits, and warm as his manner usually was, he welcomed us with a fervency that betokened an unwonted flow of spirits, and of happy emotions."

"Clifford looked handsomer I thought, and the blushing Rosa more beautiful, than I had ever seen them before. They stood side by side, in their bridal robes,—a fair picture of human beauty and love,—the old man, apart, gazing upon his lovely child, with all the rapture of a devoting parent,—and the ceremony commenced."

"But few words had escaped the lips of the officiating priest, when the door of the apartment was burst open, and my brother wild with agitation rushed in."

(To be concluded in our next.)

**British Extracts.**

**Ireland.**

(From the "Hobart Town Courier.")

The British Association for the Promotion of Science held its last annual meeting at Cork, when the statistical section of the Association brought forward some facts in reference to the political and social condition of the Irish people, which can scarcely leave any surprise in the minds of those who consider them, at the convulsed state of Ireland. It appears from the information collected by the British Association, that—"Of the total population of Ireland, amounting in 1841 to 8,175,124 persons, or 1,472,739 families, nearly one-half of the rural population, and more than one-third of the civic population, are found to be living in the lowest state, namely, a cabin of a single room. In the next class, but little superior in comfort, are about the same proportion; and the number living in comparative decency and respectability are about 16 per cent. in the rural, and thirty per cent. in the civic districts. This (says the "Atlas") fully bears out the view of the miserable condition of the mass of the Irish population, suggested by the facts stated in the reports of the Irish Poor-law and Railway Commissioners. A population of 4,000,000 living in single-room cabins or cellars and low lodging houses, and feeding upon lum-pers or wet unwholesome potatoes; another 2,000,000 slightly better off, but still living on potatoes, and considerably below the standard of a respectable English pig; and 2,000,000 only approximating to a tolerable condition, on a level with the labourers and artisans of other countries; these, we fear, are the lower stages of the social pyramid which is crowned by a few thousand absentee or spendthrift Orange landlords, lawyers, clergymen, and political adventurers."

It appears further, from the enquiries of the British Association, that a large proportion of this suffering Irish population remains plunged in a state of deplorable ignorance. In the county of Mayo as many as 73 per cent. of the males, and 87 per cent. of the females are unable either to read or write. In the best educated county, Antrim, as many as 21 per cent. of the males are deficient in these common attainments.

The number of children actually attending school did not exceed in all Ireland 509,950, or about one quarter of the number between the age of 5 and 15.

It is an old remark, that caprice or any unsubstantial cause may excite individuals, but masses can only be moved by causes which are real and substantive. Applied to Ireland, this general truth may show to us that it is not O'Connell's eloquence, or the adventitious influence of his name, which convulses Ireland; but that it is misery and its concomitant ignorance which makes his agitation effective, and the labours of the British Association have added to the many demonstrations of the degree of that misery—the extent of that ignorance.

We are well aware that the restoration of a community to a healthy, economical, and social condition must at all times proceed from causes operating within itself, and that Ireland might be relieved of the burthen of two-thirds of its population without any sensible lasting benefit, unless such a measure were accompanied by circumstances favourable to its national industry and elevation of character. But, as a part of a sound policy in respect to that country, judicious and well-conducted emigration must appear, to any one who reflects upon it, indispensable; and we cannot but regret that this resource should be turned to so little account by the Imperial Government. It is painful to contemplate that picture of human misery and degradation which Ireland suggests; and then, on the other hand, to turn our eyes immediately around us to boundless capacities of supporting human life which Australia presents; and to consider that Ireland is wretched through want—Australia embarrassed by superabundance! Surely there must be something unsound in that policy which exhibits such contrasts within the same empire, and we cannot but wish a departure from it.

### More Shipwrecks.

(From *Lloyd's Weekly London Newspaper* of Sunday, the 26th November, 1843.)

FURTHER accounts were received on Tuesday, of the dreadful havoc occasioned by the violent equinoctial gales of Friday night and Saturday morning last. In addition to the sixty wrecks reported on the books at Lloyd's on Monday, we have to add the following:—The intelligence from Fishguard states that that part of the coast suffered severely from the boisterous character of the gales. A fine vessel called the *Decisive*, Williams, master, for Drogheda, bound from Newport, encountered them severely during the night, and about four o'clock on the following morning it was found she had sprung a leak, and the necessary preparations were made in order to run her ashore. This, however, the crew could not effect, and finding no assistance was rendered them from the shore, they expected every minute to be washed overboard. Five seamen attempted to gain them, but from the small size of the boat, and the tempestuous state of the sea, they failed in reaching the crew; at last a large fishing-boat being procured, and thirteen brave fellows volunteering their services to man her, she was shoved off, and after much difficulty saved the crew of the ship, and landed them safely. It is stated that the agent of Lloyd's refused the life-boat, in consequence of there being no signals of distress flying at the mast-head; we trust, however, for humanity's sake, that such a state is not correct. At Cardigan, the unfortunate poor fellows who were seen clinging to the rigging of a smack sunk off the beach, a few miles distant, as on Tuesday, was reported, all perished. The life-boats were in attendance throughout the night, but the tremendous sea that existed, rendered it quite impossible for them to be launched. Her name is not known. One of the bodies has been washed ashore; it is that of a young man, about eighteen years of age. Three other vessels were lost at the same time, and near the same place. They are the following:—The "*Lavinia*," Captain *Dommy*, belonging to Pool, being caught by a violent gust of wind from N.N.W., ran into the bay for shelter at about four o'clock on Saturday morning, in doing which she struck on the sands and became a total wreck. The crew were all saved, but have lost everything which they possessed in the world. It has also been ascertained, that during the hurricane, the *Mary* of Newry, and the *Packet* of Cardigan, were totally lost, and every one of the crews drowned, which consisted of more than fourteen persons. A fine brig was also wrecked on Cardigan Bar, the crew perished; she belonged to the port of Wicklow. At Southwold a boat has been washed ashore, with some ship's papers in it, and which are found to have belonged to the brig

*Cygnets*, of Stockton, which is supposed to have been lost on the Barnard Sands on Friday night, and the master, Mr. Johester, with all the crew drowned. Off the coast of Suffolk, the vessels which were lost near Lowestoffe during the storm, have been ascertained to be the "*Eleanor*," the "*Meshom*," the "*Neleus*," and a large black schooner. Upwards of thirty individuals are supposed to have perished with them. Out of all the crews only one was saved, he was washed ashore on a piece of wreck with another unfortunate creature, who expired almost immediately on his landing. At Dunbar a valuable schooner, named the "*Branch*," insured in London for £4,000, was lost about three miles to the eastward of the harbour. The crew saved themselves by taking to the boats. She was from Bordeaux, laden with wine, part of which is expected to be saved. The vessel which foundered in the course of Sunday night, a few miles off the town of Weymouth, was called the "*Britannia*," Captain Tate, belonging to Newcastle. From the report made by the master it appears that she was on her passage from Neath to London, when she encountered a heavy gale on Friday evening from the S.S.E., off the Start, in the course of which she lost part of her sail and sprung a leak. It was soon found that she had six feet water in her hold, and was fast sinking, and by eleven o'clock the captain and crew left her to her fate, in the long-boat, and in less than a quarter of an hour afterwards the vessel went down. At four o'clock, on the following morning, they were picked up by a Prussian vessel after much difficulty, it being feared that the boat would capsize from the violent surf. They were afterwards put on board a fishing-vessel, and landed at Weymouth. The Welsh coast was the scene of heavy disasters, near Pwllheli three vessels were wrecked, but their names as yet have not been learned. At Whitby, one vessel was lost, the "*Sarah*," of Yarmouth. At Aberdeen, a fine brig was lost called the "*Margaret*." Near Beaumaris, a vessel was seen to go down off the entrance of the harbour with all hands; and a short distance from Liverpool, the brig *Nile*, of Harrington, supposed to be from Whitehaven for Dublin, sunk off Burmshead, and every one on board with her, reported to be nine persons. Most of the principal harbours are crowded with shipping, repairing the vast number of injuries which they received whilst weathering the storm.

LOSS OF THE SHIP "*AFRICANE*," AND SUFFERINGS OF THE CREW.—By the arrival of the "*Acadia*" steam ship, intelligence has been received at Lloyd's, announcing the loss of the British built barque "*Africane*," Commander Captain Riddle, on the night of the 23rd September, off Cape St. Lawrence, whilst on her passage from North Shields to Quebec. The particulars of her destruction are of a very painful character, two of her crew having been lost in attempting to save themselves, and the remainder being preserved, after enduring the most dreadful sufferings from the want of food and exposure to the weather in a wild barren country. It appears that the "*Africane*" was considered a very fine vessel, of three hundred and sixteen tons burthen, and was the property of Mr. Cowan, the ship-builder of South Shields. Towards the latter end of last June, she left this country with a miscellaneous cargo for Quebec, and the voyage is stated to have been favourable until she made Cape St. Lawrence on the night above-mentioned, when a heavy squall sprung up, blowing towards the shore. Every endeavour, as may be imagined under the circumstances, was adopted by the captain and crew, in order to keep her well off the shore, but the gale increasing to almost two-fold its former violence, completely overruled their exertions, and she at last struck with tremendous fury, owing to the dangerous part of the coast, the ocean for miles either way being thickly studded with large butting crags or rocks, which rise perpendicularly from the sea. The crew instantly on her striking made the greatest possible speed in escaping from out of her, they being in much fear lest she should immediately go to pieces, and they killed by being dashed against the rocks by the foaming and boisterous surf. Fortunately for the lives of these poor fellows, she struck near a kind of outlet, where, by the continued running of the stream, a deep ridge had been worn in the cliff, and through which, fortunate circumstance most of them were saved. One poor fellow, whilst wending his way up, slipped his hold, or footing, and was dashed to pieces; another of the crew, in trying to swim to the cliff, became exhausted and perished. The captain and crew remained on the summit till day break, in the hope of saving some of the provisions, but in this they were deceived, for all was lost. Capt. Riddle encouraged his crew to

proceed on to Cape North, which he noticed was inhabited as he sailed round it a few days previous. They accordingly set out, and proceeded through a dense forest, over high, bleak, and wild mountains, and being unable to save the least provisions they were content to satisfy their keen hunger by eating the wild berries which they found on the rocks. In this state did they remain for entire days, when they at last succeeded in reaching Cape North, where they received the greatest possible kindness from the inhabitants. The captain and crew have since started for England, and the barque, we believe, was insured.

### Varieties.

#### Maids, Wives, and Widows.

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN.—It is time to effect a revolution in female manners—time to restore to women their lost dignity—and to make them labour, by reforming themselves, to reform the world. It is time to separate unchangeable morals from local manners. If men are demi-gods—why, let women serve them! If the dignity of the female soul is as disputable as that of animals—if their reason does not afford sufficient light to direct their conduct whilst unerring instinct is denied, surely they are of all creatures the most miserable; and bent beneath the iron hand of destiny, must submit to be a *fair defect* in creation. But to justify the ways of Providence respecting them, by pointing out some irrefragable reason for making such a large portion of mankind accountable and no accountable, would puzzle the subtlest casuist.

We need not go back to the remote annals of antiquity in order to trace the history of woman; it is sufficient to admit, that she has always been either a slave or a despot; and to remark, that either of these situations equally retards the progress of reason. The grand source of female folly and vice arises from narrowness of mind, while the very constitution of civil governments has placed almost insuperable obstacles in the way of cultivating the female understanding. Yet virtue can be built upon no other foundation.

If women be really capable of acting like rational creatures, let them not be treated like slaves, or like the brutes who are dependent on the reason of man, when they associate with him; on the contrary, cultivate their minds, give the salutary and sublime curb of principle, and let them attain conscious dignity of feeling themselves only dependent on God. Teach them in common with man, to submit to necessity, instead of giving, to render them more pleasing, a sex to morals.

How much more respectable is the woman who earns her own bread by fulfilling any duty than the most accomplished beauty!—beauty do we say? so sensible are we of the beauty of moral loveliness, or the harmonious propriety that attunes the passions of a well-regulated mind, that we blush in making the comparison; yet how few women aim at attaining this respectability, by withdrawing from the giddy whirl of pleasure, or the indolent calm that stupifies and benumbs the faculties.—*Mary Woolstonecraft*.

TRUE RESPECTABILITY.—The poorest being that crawls on earth, contending to save itself from injustice and oppression, is an object respectable in the eyes of God and man.—*Burke*.

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All communications to the Editor to be left with Mr. Cregin, as above.