

Obourne Mason
George Street
Parramatta

THE STAR,

AND WORKING MAN'S GUARDIAN.

No. 11.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1844.

Price 1d.

Small Grants.

WELL might Mr. James Macarthur observe, "had the colony proceeded upon sound principles from the first, how much more prosperous, how superior in character, and every other respect, would it have been at this moment." We fully agree with him, that the colony has not been managed on sound principles, and that grievous mistakes have been committed. And in our humble opinion one of the most fatal errors into which the Government ever fell, was the abandonment of the small grant system. We candidly admitted in our last the evils which formerly accompanied that system, but upon calm reflection we are of opinion that it might be renewed with considerable advantage to the numerous immigrants who have arrived of late years. Nor, indeed, would it prove detrimental in any way to our large land-holders, for as the country becomes cleared and cultivated, the value of their own properties will increase in due proportion. "Whatever," says Adam Smith, "increases the fertility of land in producing food, increases not only the value of the lands upon which the improvement is bestowed, but contributes likewise to increase that of many other lands, by creating a new demand for their produce. That abundance of food, of which, in consequence of the improvement of land, many people have the disposal beyond what they themselves can consume, is a great cause of the demand both for the precious metals and the precious stones, as well as for every other convenience and ornament of dress, &c., &c." By adopting measures, therefore, to cultivate the waste lands, our colonial aristocracy would take the most effectual means of advancing their own interest. Without an increasing population to consume their surplus stock, or to give encouragement to manufactures, what is the value of their immense landed property? Truly they may boast of being "monarchs of all they survey"—the land on every side may be theirs. But destitute of an honest and industrious peasantry, their extensive possessions will become valueless. It is then with a view of preventing so fearful a consummation, that we are advocating the claims of the immigrant, and we feel assured that, under well devised and judicious regulations, small portions of land might be bestowed upon them with advantage to themselves and families, as well as the colony generally.

An intelligent correspondent, a few weeks since, suggested that grants should be given to immigrants, in proportion to the capital which they possess, and that no grant shall exceed 2000 acres, nor be less than 320. To prevent the possibility of colonial sharpers and usurers from becoming possessed of the land, our correspondent further proposed that the grants should be made out so as to put it out of the power of the head of the family to alienate the property from his descendants, till it has been in the possession of the family for

at least a period of 100 years. There is a great deal of sound sense in this suggestion, but it scarcely meets the case which we have in view. Our object at present is not so much to induce others to come, as to make provision for those who are now in the country. And, therefore, what we would recommend is the formation of a society to carry out the following objects :

1. To petition the Home Government to abolish the absurd and unjust land regulations now in force, and,
2. To bestow upon immigrants now in the colony grants of land not exceeding 100 acres to each family, in such situations as may be most favourable for agricultural operations.

Our demand is moderate, and it is but just and equitable, while it is intimately connected with the moral and political advancement of society. We do not object to any legal method of preventing parties from disposing of their grants, as we think that circumstance would restrain those individuals, who did not intend to cultivate and improve it, from applying for land at all.

By asking too much from the Government, we may in the end obtain nothing, and, therefore, we would confine our requests within a moderate limit. And we would submit, that 100 acres of land, selected near a river or in a part of the country adapted for agricultural purposes, would prove far more useful to an industrious family, than 1000 acres chosen without due discrimination. Many people, led away by the mania for stock, under-value the land altogether, and speak of agriculture as if it were unsuited to the climate. We know there is a great deal of land perfectly useless, when considered in relation to the wants of the immigrants—we know that the seasons are uncertain and sometimes unproductive—we know that at certain periods, such for instance as the present, the farmer is not paid for his labour. We candidly admit all this; but let it be recollected that we must not judge of the resources of New South Wales by the prevailing difficulties. In all countries, the farmer is liable to the distress and annoyance which necessarily arise from bad seasons. We must take the average of a term of years, and then form our estimate of the value of land and its productions. Now for instance take one of the principal articles of consumption—wheat. It appears from a return lying before us, that the price of wheat from 1827 to 1836, varied from 4s. 4d. to 10s. 8d. the bushel—the average being about 7s. And will any one assert that 7s. a bushel is insufficient to pay the farmer? From the best authority, we have ascertained that with prudent management, 7s. will amply remunerate the settler, and if in good seasons, he can store up his superabundance to meet the deficiencies of less productive years, he will be a still greater gainer.

We feel convinced that the great impediment to the

advancement of agriculture in New South Wales, is the careless and slovenly manner in which the land is cultivated. People merely scratch over the soil and cast in their seed, expecting a good crop without any further exertion. Nothing, however, as we have been told in the recent elections for District Councillors, can be done without industry and perseverance. Ploughing the land carefully, and throwing upon it all the manure to be procured, is the only sure and certain method of improvement. To effect this, we look to the small rather than to the large landholders, and there are instances which we could mention that have been attended with singular success. One honest and industrious family, not many miles from Parramatta, settled on a little farm of fifty acres, a few years since, and by hard labour and unremitting diligence, they have cleared the land and improved a considerable portion of it, laying out part for a garden and part for the cultivation of maize, &c. By good management they have reared poultry, purchased a cow or two, and obtained many little comforts. And now, what is the result? Why, notwithstanding the extreme depression of the times, and the unfavourable state of the weather, they are still enabled to make a living. By pursuing a similar course, we hesitate not to affirm that other families, accustomed to agricultural and horticultural labours, might secure for themselves an honest maintenance. The only difficulty in an undertaking of this kind, is the commencement—a man must have a small capital to purchase agricultural implements, and provisions for the first six months at least. And doubtless, there are many immigrants now in the colony who have saved sums of money by "the sweat of their brow," and who, if the system of granting were revived, would gladly remove their hard-earned savings from the Bank, and expend them on the soil of Australia. This would certainly tend to advance the interest of society in many ways. Money, now lying

useless would be put in active circulation, and labour, which is now unemployed and unproductive would be turned to the noblest account. With respect to those individuals who may not have the means of commencing operations of this kind, we would suggest the propriety of small loans from the Saving's Bank, at a moderate interest, the principal to be repaid in five years. We know of no measure which would be more likely to give general satisfaction to the country, than the one which we have proposed. There is a feeling abroad, that the immigrants have been most shamefully deceived and ill-treated, and that something ought to be done for them. This measure ought to emanate from the Government of the colony: it should in fact go to England as the recommendation of Sir George Gipps. We need scarcely remark that such a circumstance would be a satisfactory refutation of the widely circulated statement, that the present is a "grab-all" admin-

stration. It would be published to the world as a measure devised by one who felt for the people and was anxious to serve them. We, for our parts, are determined not to be led by the nose by Mr. Wentworth in such matters. We must, in these critical times, think for ourselves. Men, now-a-days, are so led away by private interests and personal motives, that there is a great deal of spurious patriotism abroad. It is necessary, therefore, "to prove all things," and "to hold fast" only that which is sound, reasonable, and just.

In concluding these rather hurried remarks, we feel much pleasure in quoting a few observations from Mr. James Macarthur's speech at Goulburn. The principles laid down by him are exceedingly good, and we do hope that whenever he is called upon to participate in the public affairs of the colony, he will boldly and fearlessly advocate them within the walls of the Council.

"In 1831, the granting of land was put a stop to, and sale by auction at an upset price of 5s. per acre substituted in its place. Many experienced colonists objected to the introduction of this new principle, which was the first step in the application of the Wakefield system in this colony. They had recommended that the rich lands upon the banks of navigable waters or elsewhere within reach of a market should be set aside for arable purposes; that the pasture lands should be divided off into tracts sufficient for carrying on sheep-farming advantageously, and that emigrants coming to the colony at their own expense should receive either a grant of land for arable purposes, or be allowed to select portions in grazing districts for homesteads, renting the adjoining lands at a rate proportionate to their estimated value, and with a right of buying up the lands so rented at any time within twenty years at the price fixed upon them. This principle he (Mr. M.A.) had supported in 1831, and he saw no reason to depart from the opinion which he had then formed and had ever since entertained. Had this principle been acted upon from the foundation of the colony, together with loans for emigration raised in England at a less interest, and had the revenue arising from the Crown lands, either for rent or for purchase, been in this manner applied to the introduction of married couples, the population of the colony at this time would, at a moderate computation, have amounted to more than a million of souls. Immediately after the introduction of the system of disposing of the Crown lands for ready money at a minimum of 5s. per acre, the value of their wool in the English market rose so high that the flockowners had large sums of money at their disposal, more especially from 1833 to 1835; these sums they applied to the purchase of Crown lands, and in the general improvement of their estates, to the great and manifest advantage of the colony at large. This flourishing state of affairs led to the most exaggerated statements of the actual wealth of the colony and the facilities it afforded for investing capital with advantage. *Emigrants with capital flocked out in numbers under the influence of the most delusive anticipations.*"

Local Intelligence.

THE ARMY.—We have heard with much regret that some important changes will be made with respect to the Regiments stationed in this colony. It is said that the Home Government have determined to keep only one Regiment in New South Wales, and that the 99th has been fixed upon for that purpose. As soon as the head quarters of the 58th arrive in Van Diemen's Land, the detachments of that Regiment, now at Windsor and Liverpool, will be removed to Hobart

Town. We hear, also, that the Commander of the Forces will in future reside in Van Diemen's Land. If these changes be true, they will prove another heavy blow and discouragement to this colony, for it will be the means of transferring to Van Diemen's Land the annual expenditure of twenty or thirty thousand pounds of British capital.

JUDGE STEPHEN.—An instance of true christian feeling was displayed by Mr. Stephen, the other day, which deserves to be recorded. When Mr. Bent applied to him for assistance, he was amongst the first to come forward in that gentleman's behalf, although when Mr. Bent, some years since, was Editor of a paper in Van Diemen's Land, he had frequent occasion to dwell in terms of great severity upon the public conduct of Mr. Stephen.

HOLLOWAY.—This daring fellow was conveyed to Sydney by a body of the Parramatta Police, under the charge of Mr. Ryan, and delivered up to the authorities at Hyde Park Barracks.

PIRACY.—Our readers will remember an account of piracy, committed by one Ellis and his crew, who feloniously took a vessel (the schooner Hannah), at the Chatham Islands. The case has been tried at Auckland, and Ellis and crew convicted.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—On Saturday afternoon last as Mr. Kemble, of the Sugar Works, was proceeding from the Parramatta Road to Five Dock, he was stopped by two men, who robbed him of £2 10s. in cash, and his horse.

TO THE SUPPORTERS OF PIES.—That well known individual the "Flying Pie-man" is now enlivening Parramatta by his musical cries. His talents for pie making are said to be "hereditary," and he recommends hot-apple pies for breakfast as his father used always to eat them! The Pie-man is one of the most active and industrious men we ever met with, and deserves encouragement.

LYNCH AND HODGES.—These prisoners were brought before the Supreme Court on Wednesday, from the Parramatta Gaol, by writ of *Hebeas Corpus*, obtained in virtue of the *Certiorari*, which was decided by their Honors, after a lengthy argument by the prisoners' council and the Law-officers of the Crown, to be the correct mode, in preference to that of "Writ of Error," of inducing the proceedings before the Court, that are being made to obtain their discharge, in consequence of illegal Conviction. The points of law that are mooted in their behalf are, 1st, That the Governor having, in January last, Gazetted Mr. Rogers (Clerk of the Peace) as Crown Prosecutor, and never having re-gazetted Mr. Cheeke, on his again assuming that office, he was not duly empowered to fulfil its duties, and, therefore, the Court not being legally informed of the offence against the prisoners, or were they charged by the officer duly authorized they were not validly or legally indicted.—2nd, That, as the Criminal Court was sitting in Sydney (in April last) at the same time as the Court of Quarter Sessions in Parramatta, it had no power, being *ipso facto* void, from it being a principle in law, that no inferior Court can hold jurisdiction, unless empowered by some Special Act, while a superior court is sitting. The Criminal Court, being a branch of the Supreme Court, and holding its sittings before one of the Judges—while the Court of Quarter Sessions is an inferior one, and the presiding officer merely the Chairman of the Magistrates. The Attorney-General not being prepared with the necessary affidavits whereon to argue the case, the *Hebeas* was enlarged to Monday next, when Lynch and Hodges will be again brought up, and these important points decided. Should either of the arguments prevail, all the convictions of the Court of Quarter Sessions, throughout the colony, are null, and the prisoners now undergoing sentence passed by it must be at once discharged.

ROBBERY.—Mr. Gosling's premises on Church-hill were entered on Tuesday morning last, and a quantity of valuable plate stolen from them. Three men have been taken up on suspicion.

CAPTURED BUSHRANGERS.—The six prisoners of the Crown who absconded some few weeks since with the cutter "Brothers" at Newcastle, were taken into custody by Corporal Corvell and Trooper Croaker of the Mounted Police, about ten miles inland from the Seal Rocks.

IMMIGRANTS.—Several married couples that arrived by the "Elizabeth" are still disengaged. In the present circumstances of the colony, and more especially whilst the iniquitous land regulations remain in force, we pity the case of the unfortunate married immigrants. Something must be done to remedy these evils.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK.—By the published statement from the Commercial Bank, it seems that the affairs of that institution are not in so deplorable a condition as some parties have delighted to represent. Although the debts due to the Bank appear large, we have no doubt that good security has been taken for many of them. The system of excessive discounting appears to be gradually going out of fashion, and people are reverting to the old ready-money method of doing business. Whilst on this topic, we cannot help noticing the strange remark of the "Herald" last week, that our bankers would soon have no bills to discount. Why, at the present period, they have more than they can discount, and if times become worse, bills will increase in due proportion. We have lately been informed that many good bills have been refused at the Bank of ————. Does this arise from the excess of capital which is said to be lying useless in the coffers of the bank, or from the large number of bills which are constantly renewed? In this colony, unhappily, bills on a large scale have been uniformly received and discounted by our banks, whilst those of the small capitalist and trader have been passed over as unworthy of notice. If the former had been consigned to the flames, and the *bona fide* paper of the honest tradesman been duly discounted, our monetary affairs would be in a much more healthy condition, than they now are.

WOOL AND TALLOW.—The recent sales of wool and tallow have been very satisfactory and encouraging to gentlemen connected with the pastoral interests of the colony. The prices realized at Mr. Mort's sale were as follow: for the wool, 8 bales of washed at 13½d; ditto, 4 ditto, skin at 8½d; for tallow, 7 casks of caul, and 9 of carcase at £29 10s.; 5 of carcase £27 10s.; and 2 of graves at £33 per ton. W. Wentworth, Esq., M.C., has obtained great praise for bringing the best sample of tallow into the market. In the midst of the prevailing "monetary confusion," it is pleasing to find that our affairs are beginning to take a favourable turn, and that many of our large sheep and cattle holders will be able to weather the storm without being reduced to the necessity of filing their schedules.

THE CROPS.—The "Windsor Express" gives rather an unfavourable report of the crops on the banks of the Hawkesbury. Such has been the dryness of the season, that the farmers have been unable to put in their seed, and a great deal of barley and grass has been cut off by the harsh winds and early frosts. We are happy to learn that the scarcity of rain is not universally prevalent, and that in some of the southern districts of the colony, there is a fair prospect of good crops. It has been remarked by competent observers, that unfavourable seasons seldom affect the whole of the colony, and that in some parts, even in the most disastrous periods, the ground yields a fair crop. Mr. James Macarthur gives it as his opinion, that, on an average of five years, the crops are decidedly good. We verily believe that the main cause of the unpromising appearances of agriculture in New South Wales, is more to be attributed to the careless manner of cultivation, than to any defect in the constitution of our climate. In a term of years, it may be a question whether this country suffers more from hot winds and dry weather, than the lands at home from frost and excessive rains. If farmers in this colony would exert themselves to plough their lands properly—to procure water by artificial means—and to pay particular attention to a regular succession of crops, we should not hear so many complaints against the climate or the sterility of the soil.

RAISING THE WIND.—Amongst the numerous experiments for "Raising the Wind," which the present depressed state of the times has given rise to, may be noticed the novel one of caricaturing public individuals. The recent regulations of his Excellency, relative to Squatting Licenses, have afforded a fertile subject for the exercise of this talent; and whilst we must condemn the practice as puerile, deeming the plan of public meetings and petitions by far the most constitutional way of seeking redress, we are not so churlish as to refuse a smile at the ingenuity of the artists; while at the same time that our minds recur to the old saying, "Let those laugh who lose, those who win are sure to laugh." The most recent production of this nature, is from the establishment of Mr. E. D'Barlow, and as a specimen of lithography, is highly creditable.—*Australian.*

DISTRICT COUNCIL.—On Tuesday last, a meeting was held in the Royal Hotel for the purpose of electing four District Councillors, when the following gentle-

men were put in nomination, Messrs. Flood, Unwin, Kettle, Gannon, Burdekin, Sillitoe, Wilford, W. T. Cape, Bones, Johnson, &c. Dr. Nicholson in proposing Mr. Bones, said that it was the intention of the Legislature to petition for a repeal of the Act which created these councils.

BANK OF AUSTRALIA.—We perceive that the recent examination of Mr. A. B. Spark, has caused a split between Mr. Mackenzie and the Directors. The whole affair is so disgraceful to the community, that we do not like to publish the particulars. What will people at home say to these things?

Port of Sydney Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

From Auckland, on Sunday last, having left the 14th April, the brig Tryphena, with 120 tons manganese, 8 casks oil, 2000 feet timber, and a quantity of dye-wood. She encountered very heavy weather, in which she sprung her fore topmast, and had the chief part of her sails split.

From Moreton Bay, on Sunday last, having left the 2nd May, the schooner Piscator, with 92 bales wool. During the passage she was caught in a squall, which carried away her fore topmast.

From Auckland, on Tuesday, having left the 19th April, the schooner Waterlily, with sundries.

From Launceston, on Tuesday, having left the 1st May, the cutter Emma and Jane, with potatoes.

From Auckland, on Tuesday, having left the 24th April, the schooner Thomas Lord, with oil, &c.

From Riatea on Tuesday, having left 6th March, and Auckland 12th, and the Bay of Islands the 24th April, the schooner Shamrock.

From Port Macquarie, on Wednesday, having left on Sunday, the steamer Maitland, with wool and horses.

From Auckland, on Thursday, having left the 19th April, the schooner Marian Watson, with sundries.

DEPARTURES.

For the Whale Fishery, on the 3rd May, the American barque Mars.

For Launceston, on the 3rd May, the schooner Mary Ann, with sundries.

For the Mauritius, on the 3rd May, the brig Union, with sundries.

For Adelaide via Port Fairy, on the 3rd May, the brig Emma, with a general cargo.

For London, on Saturday last, the barque Sultana, with colonial produce.

For Moreton Bay, on Sunday last, the schooner Jane, with sundries.

For Moreton Bay, on Monday, the steamer Sovereign, with sundries.

For Port Phillip, on Monday, the brig Tobago, with sundries.

For Boyd Town, Twofold Bay, on Tuesday, the schooner Harlequin.

For Moreton Bay, on Thursday, the schooner William, with sundries.

NEW INSOLVENTS.

Alexander M'Leod, of New England, settler: Debts, £1783 Os. 2d. Assets, £51. Balance deficiency, £1732 Os. 2d.

John Simpson, of Yass, storekeeper. No Schedule filed.

William Batey Peck, George-street, Parramatta, lately a settler, Debts, £4210 4s. Assets, £118 10s.; outstanding debts, £3 15s. 6d. Balance deficiency, £1087 18s. 6d.

Late Parramatta News.

(From the "Parramatta Chronicle" of this morning.)

Election of District Councillors.

MORE than usual excitement prevailed in town yesterday, as it was the polling day for the District Councillors. A great many electors and other people came from the neighbourhood, and the corner of George and Church-streets was crowded with spectators from an early period. The Court House was opened at nine o'clock, and from the commencement Mr. Pye ap-

peared to be the favourite candidate. At 12 o'clock the state of the Poll was as follows:—

Pye	-	-	-	105
Houison	-	-	-	86
Nichols	-	-	-	72
Kenyon	-	-	-	71
Byrnes	-	-	-	52

When the Poll closed at four o'clock, the numbers were—

Pye	-	-	-	196
Houison	-	-	-	187
Nichols	-	-	-	165
Kenyon	-	-	-	138
Byrnes	-	-	-	116

The result was rather different from what we had anticipated, so far as regards Mr. Kenyon, but as it seems to have given pretty general satisfaction, we are bound to believe that the Electors have chosen the best men in the district. Mr. Kenyon retires from public life with a good grace, being defeated only by a small majority, whilst Mr. Byrnes has to thank himself for being at the bottom of the list. Had that gentleman continued in the field from the first, we have no doubt but that he would have been returned. The Returning Officer will make an official report of the state of the Poll to-day, at twelve o'clock, when the successful candidates will return thanks.

INQUEST.—We understand that an inquest will be held on a certain Leviathan of the press, who visited Parramatta on Tuesday last, for the purpose of reporting the speeches of the candidates and their proposers and seconders. The worthy Coroner of the district will doubtless remit the fee on the occasion and hand it over to the Teetotal Society.

Police Intelligence.

TUESDAY.

Mr. Charles Blakefield, of Church-street, appeared on a summons, issued at the suit of his neighbour, Alexander M'Math, to show cause why he should not be bound over to keep the peace, and be of good behaviour towards all her Majesty's liege subjects, and the said Alexander M'Math in particular. A short hearing of the case perfectly satisfied the bench that the complainant was not a walking realization of that most perfect of all Christian virtues, "meekness," and rather that if any exhibition of this "lamb-like" feeling had been displayed, it was on the part of the defendant, who certainly had been exposed to sundry remarks from M'Math, which were anything but flattering to his public or private character, and, therefore at once dismissed the information with costs.

WEDNESDAY.

The drunkard's list contained two charges. Margaret Doyle and William Durham, a ticket-of-leave holder, who were disposed of by the first being fined 6s. and 1s. costs, or 24 hours to the cells, and the second 10s. or 14 days to the cells.

Elizabeth Wilkinson, ticket-of-leave holder for this district, was charged by Inspector Fox with being drunk at a late hour on the previous night, in Church-street. Wilkinson in her defence did not deny having partaken of a social glass, but between her opinion and that of Inspector Fox, there was a difference "wide as the Poles asunder;"—she affirming it that so long as she was capable of proceeding to her home, which she was doing when apprehended, she could not be drunk, and he, (Fox) on the contrary, asserting that a walk which was describing alternate but irregular angles from the north to the south side of Church-street, was a proof of anything but devotion to Teetotalism. The Constable's statement prevailed, and as Elizabeth had,

within a very short period, made three appearances before their worships, under similar peculiar circumstances, she was returned to the Factory, being recommended to the favorable consideration of his Excellency for a cancellation of her ticket.

THURSDAY.

The drunkards' list contained two charges, namely:

Sarah Hinds, which being the second offence, was fined 10s. and 1s. 8d. costs, or forty-eight hours to the cells. Hinds considering this a most exorbitant charge in the present days of poverty, magnanimously resolved to "doit" in the cells.

Archabald Michie (ticket-of-leave) was fined 10s., or ten days to the cells.

Elizabeth Newman (free) was charged with drunkenness and being one of those individuals for whose especial behalf and benefit the Legislature passed that enactment which is generally denominated the Vagarant's Act. It being, in the present instance, duly proved that Newman possessed all the qualifications that were necessary to entitle her to free quarters in her Majesty's House of Call for Rogues and Vagabonds, she was awarded a Certificate to secure her domiciliation there, for the period of one calendar month.

Margaret Reed (bond) was charged with drunkenness, which, were a synoptic table of its various species to be made, might be classed under the head "Extra Aggravated" Drunkenness, which, in a domestic, is ever excessively annoying. For the hour of the arrival of a large assemblage of guests to a dinner party, to be the one conspicuously favoured and particularly selected for indulgence in fluids, renders the offence "most flagrant and most horrible. Sentence, fourteen days to the cells.

Joseph Stocks pleaded guilty to drunkenness, fined 6s. and 1s. costs. Michael Forrester (ticket-of-leave) pleaded guilty to drunkenness, fined 10s. Edward Masterson was charged with drunkenness, he pleaded "he was not drunk and he was not sober:" it being his first offence, he was discharged. John Ryan (not the Chief Constable) was charged by Mr. Lucus with leaving his employment without due notice; the prisoner pleaded insufficiency of rations: by the advice of the bench, the prisoner promised to return to his employment.

SUMMONS CASE.

The Queen v. John Horgan, of the Star Inn, Church-street, for breach of the Licensing Act, in allowing drinking after hours. Horgan pleaded guilty to the offence and threw himself on the leniency of the bench. This being his first offence, under these circumstances he was decreed to pay only the costs of the court.

PARRAMATTA.—It is much to the credit of the people of this town, that notwithstanding the fierce contest for honours in the District Council, they have conducted their proceedings with the greatest peace and quietness. We have heard of no broken heads or even broken windows. The arrangements for the election reflect much credit on the prudence of the Returning Officer.

British Extracts.

Ireland.

The public attention is so much drawn to the present critical situation of that "gem of the British Crown," Ireland, that we are desirous of furnishing our readers with the fullest information of the progress of the

O'Connell affair, the result of which, certainly, would seem to promise to bring matters in that excitable portion of the empire, to a crisis. The Irish papers state the proceedings, of course, very fully. It appears that Mr. O'Connell pleaded in abatement—the Attorney General resisted it, but after a long and arduous contest the Court ordered the plea to be received. The Crown then demurred to the plea, and required the traversers to join issue at once. The Court decided in favour of the demurrer, but ordered that the portion of it which contained the plea of "not guilty" should be taken for the whole, and the trial to take place on the 15th January.

A correspondent of the London "Morning Advertiser" writes as follows:—"Great Dan looks well. He appears no ways cast down. On the contrary, he is undaunted and in good spirits, and appears to meet the formidable charges, which would alarm any ordinary mind with alarm and terror, with determined legal resistance. As a proof of this, a landed gentleman of my acquaintance, of ancient Protestant noble family, in the west of Ireland, who is enraged against O'Connell for misleading his tenantry by fine promises about repeal and visionary happiness, informed me that he was present when Mr. O'Connell boldly told the Court that he had ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX THOUSAND WITNESSES to examine, touching matters contained in the indictment, and that, therefore, he would be under the necessity of keeping his prosecutors longer at law than any of the honorable judges, counsellors, attorneys, and jurymen, could possibly live; in fact, that they, as well as himself, would be all dead and under the sod before the termination of those ill-advised, blundered, state proceedings. This announcement has created much speculation and surprise."

Russia.

THE late measure adopted by the Emperor, respecting the Jews in his dominions, appears to be making a great impression throughout Europe. By an imperial ukase, all Jews living within 50 wersts from the western Russian frontier are ordered to migrate into the interior of the empire. As grounds for this proceeding, it is alleged that the Jews residing near the frontier are given to smuggling; that they have induced Russian soldiers to desert; and some other charges, apparently of a frivolous kind are made against them. This order is now beginning to be executed. The "German Universal Gazette" says—"In 33 towns and boroughs of the western frontier of Lithuania orders were received towards the end of last month by the Jews from Government, that the heads of all Jewish households should declare before the authorities of their abode to which place they intend to emigrate with their families, as Government wants to retain a control over the numerous emigrants. The places to which emigration is permitted have also been strictly prescribed by the higher authorities. They are the seven Governments (counties) of West Russia—Wilna, Grodno, Witepsk, Mohilew, Minsk, Volhynia, and Podolia, where already the Jewish overpopulation is so great that only a dreary future is awaiting these new emigrants. The Governments of St. Petersburg, Finland, Esthland, Lievland, Courland, Moscow, Smolensk, Pleskow, Tver, Novgorod, Olonez, Archangel, Wologda, Jaraslaw, Kosroma, Wladimir, Nishnei-Novogorod, Tambow, Tula, Kasan, Kaluga, Orcl, Kursk, Woronesch, Pultawa, Kiew, Tschernigow, and the Ukraine of Slobod, are particularly cited as being excluded, and the Jews are also reminded that according to the general laws they are not allowed to emigrate to foreign countries. The 33 communities, the smallest of which counts nearly 500 souls, and the largest about 6,000 souls, have been plunged into such nameless desolation that the language of the tenderest compassion can find no words for it. During the last six months these communities have tried every lawful means and every possible channel to modify and to mitigate the ukase; deputies were sent to St. Petersburg, showing by evidence of documents, and testimonials from the authorities, that of 100 smugglers caught, scarcely five were of the Jewish persuasion, and that of the 33 communities 17 had not traded in smuggled goods for the last fourteen years, as if they had foreseen the doleful end; but all these representations were useless, as also the written representations of the German communities without effect.

As regards now the declaration of the place of emigration, which has been demanded by Government from all Jewish family heads, 19 communities, those of Polangen, Krotzingen, Dorbian, Garstrn, Jarubowo, Szaltanten, Skud, Meiswaded, Plungian, Ritowa, Korzian, Wewoszan, Nieustadt-Zugit, Chwedan, Skodwill, Taurroggen, Erswalsk, Rosiane, and Jurburg, have declared that they will not obey this injunction. They declare that they consider their fireside, where they were born and brought up, as their only home; that, with all love for their Russian fatherland, they cannot look beyond this fireside for another home; and if Government intended to inflict an exile upon them, then the same high authority might also designate the final place where the homeless were to find rest, in order that posterity and history should not say that they had by their own choosing deprived the ukase of its cruelty and harshness. This resolution, agreed to by the 19 communities, has been sent to St. Petersburg, and a reply is still expected, although there is altogether very little hope left.

Marriage and Death.

An inquest was held on Tuesday last, at Birmingham, on the body of a widow woman, named Mary Cotton, sixty-six years of age, whose death occurred under the following very strange circumstances:—The deceased lived with her son, Samuel Cotton, a cutler, in Mott-street, Newton-row. On the day preceding her death, her son got married, and took his wife home to his mother, who had been rather opposed to the match, but had become reconciled, and "all went merry as a marriage bell." Whilst they were quietly enjoying themselves around the fire, a knock came to the door, which proved to be the unwelcome harbinger of dissolution and death. A letter arrived from Ceylon, bearing intelligence of the death of a favourite daughter, whom the poor woman was anxiously expecting home. The news brought on violent paroxysms of grief, during which she wished that night might be her last on earth. She prayed God to take her, and hoped if ever she opened her eyes again, it might be in heaven, to behold her dear Maria. At length the parties retired for the night, the mother to her lone and last bed, wishing the new married couple 'good night!' At five o'clock on Tuesday morning, the son got up and went into her room, and said 'mother,' three times, but having no answer, he went to his work, taking his breakfast with him. The bride lay late, but on getting up and going into the room of her mother-in-law, she found her cold and lifeless. The young woman fainted away, and when she revived, found herself on the bed and partly laying on the deceased. She at length found her way out of the house, which, being without a fire, and the shutters unclosed, was dark and dismal. The neighbours were alarmed, and rushing in they found the young bride's agonised statement too true. She had been dead several hours. Circumstances arose which rendered an adjournment of the inquest necessary, and Mr. J. Wilkinson and Mr. Bolton of Bath Row, made a *post mortem* examination of the body, and a verdict was at length returned, after hearing the evidence of both those gentlemen, that death, accelerated probably by excitement, was caused by a deceased brain. Much commiseration was felt for the young woman, whose nerves seemed greatly shaken.—"Birmingham Advertiser," December 20.

STEAM-BOAT EXPLOSION.—The "Jamaica Times" says:—"Another dreadful explosion has taken place on the Mississippi, close to one of the landing places in Louisiana, resulting in the total destruction of the steamer "Clipper," and the loss of 43 lives. The concussion is described as having been terrific, and the mangled bodies and writhing limbs are stated to have fallen in various directions 'like the jets of a fountain,' into the neighbouring streets, upwards of 300 yards from the scene of the explosion.

The following Post-office announcement has been made in the English papers:—"Shippers, passengers, and others are informed that her Majesty's Government will despatch from Gravesend, upon the first day of every month, commencing on the 1st of February, 1844, first-class fast-sailing vessels, fitted with every regard for the comfort and accommodation of passengers, and so adapted as to render a regular and punctual communication between this country and the colony. The vessels will load in the London Docks, and will in every case leave Gravesend on the first day of each month.

Varieties.

The Labourer.

A man willing to work, and unable to find work, is perhaps the saddest sight that fortune's inequality exhibits under the sun. Burns expresses feelingly what thought it gave him: a poor man seeking work—seeking leave to toil, that he might be fed and sheltered,—that he might be put on a level with the four-footed workers of the planet, which is his! There is not a horse willing to work but can get food and shelter in requital; a thing this two-footed worker has to seek for, to solicit occasionally in vain; he is nobody's two-footed worker; he is not even any body's slave, and yet he is a two-footed worker. It is currently reported there is an immortal soul in him, sent down out of heaven into the earth; and one beholds him seeking this! Nay, what will a wise legislature say, if it turns out that he cannot find it,—that the answer to their postulate proposition is not affirmative, but negative.—*Carlisle.*

The Poor Woman to her Husband.

BY MRS. L. GRIMSTONE.

You took me, Colin, when a girl, unto your home and heart,
To bear in all your after fate a fond and faithful part;
And tell me, have I ever tried that duty to forego—
Or pined there was not joy for me, when you were sunk in woe?
No—I would rather share your grief than any other's glee,
For though you're nothing to the world, you're all the world to me;
You make a palace of my shed—this rough-hewn bench a throne—
There's sunlight for me in your smile, and music in your tone.
I look upon you when you sleep, my eyes with tears grow dim,
I cry "O Parent of the poor, look down from heaven on him!
Behold him toil from day to day exhausting strength and soul—
Look down with mercy on him, Lord, for thou canst make him whole!"
And when at last relieving sleep has on my eyelids smiled,
How oft are they forbade to close in slumber, by my child!
I take the little murmurer that spoils my span of rest,
And feel it is a part of thee I lull upon my breast.
There's only one return I crave,—I may not need it long,
And it may soothe thee when I'm where the wretched feel no wrong!
I ask not for a kinder tone—for thou wert ever kind;
I ask not for less frugal fare—my fare I do not mind;
I ask not for more gay attire—if such as I have got
Suffice to make me fair to thee, for more I murmur not:
But I would ask some share of hours that you at clubs bestow—
Of knowledge that you prize so much, may I not something know?
Subtract from meetings among men, each eve, an hour for me—
Make me companion of your soul, as I may surely be!
If you will read, I'll sit and work; then think when you're away—
Less tedious I shall find the time, dear Colin, of your stay.
A meet companion soon I'll be for e'en your studious hours,
And teacher of those little ones you call your cottage flowers;
And if we be not rich and great, we may be wise and kind;
And as my heart can warm your heart, so may my mind your mind.

Printed and Published at the Parramatta Printing Office, by Edmund Mason, George-street, Parramatta, and South Grove, Redfern Estate, Sydney.

To be had wholesale and retail of Mr. Cregin, Bookseller, opposite the Royal Hotel, George-street, to whom may be had the back numbers.

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