

THE INSOLVENT LAW.

Much dissatisfaction continues to be felt by the solvent portion of the community with the operations of this enactment, which is described as holding out a regular encouragement for fraud and dishonesty on the part of debtors. We have said before and do so now, that this opinion is rather premature, and that the effect of the law has not yet been experienced in its fullest extent. Doubtless, it affords the utmost facilities to debtors for filing their schedules, but it also interposes considerable difficulties before they can obtain their certificates from the Court.

Hitherto, we apprehend, that the act has been imperfectly understood, and its administration rather lax. Some examples, however, we are glad to see have been made of nefarious debtors, and many others we have reason to believe will follow, and we are persuaded that the more strictly the act is examined into, the greater protection will it be found to afford to the public. We are far from saying however, that it yields the necessary security in this respect; but this we can safely advance, that its merits are not yet appreciated. In the mean time we say, let its provisions be rigidly enforced, and any instance of dishonesty or chicanery punished with the utmost severity. It is not so easy to commit a fraud which shall remain concealed from the scrutiny of men of activity and business habits, and when such shall be the case, and a dishonest intention proved, let the punishment be certain and prompt. In the meantime, the utmost publicity should be given to the examination of debtors, and the whole proceedings of the various Courts. By this means the public would have the satisfaction of knowing whom to avoid in future, and also whom to encourage. The prevalence of bankruptcy and the shameless effrontery with which people avail themselves of it, certainly show the wretched materials of which colonial society is composed, and furnish a sufficient reason for the general want of confidence which exists among the community. There is no adage so true as that "honesty is the best policy," whether in a moral or pecuniary sense; and yet how great must be the charm which rogery holds out to weak and erring humanity, when men will continue to pursue its crooked courses in the very teeth of a maxim recommended by the experience of all time.

THE DISTRICT POLICE AND PUBLIC WORKS BILL.

TUESDAY next has been fixed for the second reading of this bill, when the reception it will meet with from the members of Council, and probably also its fate, will be ascertained. The opinion of the public in regard to it is already well known. However much men may dislike being taxed, still when the money by that means raised is expended on objects of national utility, such as the construction of roads and bridges it cannot with any show of reason be objected to. So far therefore as the bill provides for this purpose no great display of opposition to it need be expected, but most unfortunately, with this measure has also been combined another with an object very different, namely, the imposition of a tax upon the community to defray the expense of police and goals. This part of the bill is exceedingly unpopular, and we regret that his Excellency should risk what is really beneficial and useful, by tagging to it a power to raise taxes from the people to forward an object which he must have known they would resist to the very death. The attempt to impose on the people the burden of supporting the police and the erection of goals, is, we think, exceedingly unjust, considering from what peculiar circumstances their services are required, and we would advise the people to petition against it, only that we feel convinced the Governor will not be able to carry it through the Council. We hope the other part of the bill which is calculated to be of great public utility, will not be lost from its being mixed up in the same enactment with a measure with which it has no necessary connection.

LOCAL NEWS.

Prize Fighting.—We understand that sparring matches, or lessons in the noble science of self-defence, as it has been called, have been frequently exhibited lately in Maitland, with the ultimate object, as we have heard, of getting up a prize fight; such at least has been reported to us, but we have not learned the particulars, neither indeed have we made any exertions to obtain them, not intending to mention such exhibitions at all, unless for the purpose of condemning them in the strongest possible terms. Prize fighting was, a few years ago, a favorite amusement in England, amongst blacklegs, sharpers, and what is called the swell mob, but owing to the rapid spread of information and education among all classes of the people, and the exertions of the police to enforce the law against such practices, we rejoice to say that it is now curtailed of its fair proportions, and in a fair way of being, as it ought to be, banished from the land. Any attempt to introduce such exhibitions with all the low villany, the noisy dissipation, and the gambling scenes to which they lead, cannot be sufficiently reprehended; and we trust that the police of the colony is too watchful, and the public

sense of propriety too strong ever to permit such a misfortune and disgrace to be inflicted upon the community. The advocates for such exhibitions, for nothing is so bad that will not find a defender, tell us forsooth that they tend to strengthen the virtue of courage amongst the people. They certainly are calculated to make men more ferocious, but that kind of courage which is likely to be of use either to themselves or their country, is not strengthened by witnessing scenes of brutal cruelty, and the display of the most selfish and degrading passions which prize fights invariably call into action. So far are such practices from being connected with the public spirit or the warlike courage of a people, that the Romans declined in political and military glory as the sports in the Amphitheatre became more frequent and sanguinary in their character.

The Press.—We have been told, but we know not with what truth, that the *Observer* Newspaper is to be transferred from Sydney to Maitland. This would certainly be a strange mutation, but we are led from the quarter whence we received our information to place considerable reliance upon its accuracy.

Wreck.—As the steamer *Rose* was proceeding from Newcastle to Sydney last week, the commander shaped a course along the coast for the purpose of inspecting a wreck which he had seen on the previous trip, but, which the boisterous state of the weather had then prevented him from examining. About two miles to the northward of Black Head, midway between Newcastle and Sydney, a cutter of about twenty tons burden was discovered beached, and Captain Pattison sent his second officer on shore to inspect the wreck. The bows of the vessel were stove in and she was embedded about four feet in the sand; her mast and rigging were lying by her side. She was painted black with a red stripe. On shore were seen three jack-screws, a dozen shovels, and a hand saw erected on the top of an old earthenware crate, which from the reflection of the sun had the appearance of a distance of a white flag, and was mistaken for a signal. The rudder found a short time ago about eight miles to the southward of Newcastle, is supposed to have belonged to this unfortunate vessel.

Birth-day Rejoicings.—Her Majesty's birth-day was kept up with considerable spirit in Maitland, and the loyalty of its inhabitants displayed in such a manner as shewed that our "Sovereign Lady" was not forgotten by the inhabitants of this distant corner of her dominions. During the day we observed several flags hoisted, and as night set in the loyalty of the inhabitants found vent in the firing of muskets and pistols, and the exploding of squibs, crackers, and other fire-works usually displayed on such occasions. An attempt was made during the early part of the evening by a disciple of Galen to send up a fire balloon, but the essay was unsuccessful as it caught fire before it could be elevated above *terra firma*. Many houses and factories were illuminated in honor of the joyful occasion. Several transparencies tastefully executed were also exhibited, and during the evening many a bumper was quaffed to the health and happiness of our beloved Queen.

The Ball.—The Annual Ball will be given at Cox's Hotel, East Maitland, on Wednesday the 29th of June next.

Sale of Milking Cows, at Newcastle.—We are requested to state that the sale of twenty broken-in quiet milking cows, advertised to be sold by Messrs. Turner and Martyr, at Newcastle, this day, has been postponed to Tuesday the 7th of June next.

Light Weight.—We beg to call the attention of the Chief Constable to a grievance which has been frequently brought under our notice, namely, the deficient weight in which many articles of daily consumption are supplied by the vendors to the public, and particularly by some of the bakers. In the minds of most people there is generally such a repugnance to be made the objects of imposition, no matter to what trifling extent, that we are persuaded that we need only mention the chance of their being so, to put them on their guard against it. With this intention we recommend all householders to be provided with weights and scales, by which they can at once ascertain by decisive proof, whether the articles supplied are of the legitimate weight.

Private Watchmen.—As the inhabitants of the western part of West Maitland are now blessed in the services of a Watchman, we shall take the liberty of hinting to that important functionary, that he would better discharge his duties by ceasing to call aloud the hours as he wanders from either extremity of his beat. The practice is a nuisance to private families, without being of any advantage to the public, for it serves to give thieves and housebreakers notice of the precise whereabouts of the nightly guardian, and enables them to form their schemes accordingly.

State of Her Majesty's Gaol, Newcastle, 24th May.—For trial, ninety males and five females; remanded, four males; other stations, four; hard labour, six males and two females; solitary confinement, three males; debtor, one; confined, fifteen males and one female; Assignment, eighteen females. Total, one hundred and twenty-nine and twenty-six females.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the To the Reverend W. Gazette. Stack.

Sir—In your paper of Saturday appears another of those highly improper articles, reflecting upon me, in which you are so fond of indulging; in the course of which you accuse me of obstinacy in not settling my quarter's account due to our office, but you neglect to inform our readers how the debt which I refused to pay, and which you threaten to bring into the court of requests, has been contracted.

I am perfectly ignorant of any claim you have against me, except for papers during the quarter not yet expired, and for advertising the resolutions of the several church meetings at Patrick's Plains and Maitland. With respect to your paper, I paid you for the first quarter in advance, and when the second quarter commenced I did not expect to receive any more papers without a further advance, which I had no intention of making; but, as you continued to send them after the expiration of the quarter, I took them in—purposing to pay you, in the usual way, at the end of the quarter. This second quarter has not yet terminated, and I am not aware of any claims you have for unusual indulgence, or why I should pay for your papers before you have received them. Your first quarter was taken on your own terms, your second was never even ordered, and will be paid for, as I pay for other newspapers, after value has been received. An advertisement, payment for them should be made, not by me personally, but from the several church funds. And, under all the circumstances of the case, you have no right to expect that church money should be so appropriated. You should recollect why those advertisements were inserted in your paper.

You had inconsiderately published mis-statements on church matters, which were injurious to my character, and certain, if uncontradicted, to prejudice very materially the church collection in this town. To these misrepresentations were replied, by stating the plain truth; you refused to believe me, and re-published the calumny in an article of the most extraordinary kind. I sent you a second letter, containing the fullest explanation. This you refused to publish.

It was necessary that the public should understand the truth, both with regard to Patrick's Plains and Maitland; and as you were determined to publish the arguments and statements on your side of the question only, and I was unwilling to bring our local affairs into the Sydney newspapers, I had no recourse but to publish by advertisements the resolutions of the several church meetings. From these resolutions, all our readers have learned that the friends of the church in both places were satisfied with our conduct in every particular, and I continue to enjoy in the discharge of my duties their sympathy and support, and that your representations were entirely false and unwarrantable.

Those resolutions were published to remove the wrong impressions produced by your own mis-statements; they were published to repair the mischief which was your own wanton act. In fairness you cannot ask any remuneration for them from the church funds. Had you given—as after your strange conduct, you were particularly expected to give—a liber subscription to the West Maitland Gazette, your peculiar connexion with these advertisements might have been overlooked; but, when called on by a deputation from the committee you did not offer the smallest contribution.

And it is truly ridiculous, that the man who arrogated the right of judging my conduct, and who accused me of seeking my own comforts, and neglecting the interests of my congregation, when I had really been making very large sacrifices for the church, that this man should not only refuse us the smallest contribution to assist in a work which he professes to think so desirable, but once more publicly insult me because I will not pay him a paltry sum which he claims, not for services rendered to me personally, but for church advertisements, which his own rashness in publishing mis-statements, and his unfairness in refusing to publish my letter of explanation, compelled me to insert.

However, Sir, you have now given us the power of judging with what justice you lay claim to the reputation of so much public spirit, and with what truth you profess so much zeal and anxiety about providing church accommodation; and if, after this, you still insist upon payment for your advertisements, you shall receive it.

If this letter does not appear in your next paper, a copy of it will be sent to the *Herald*. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant, W. STACK. Your obedient servant, Hunter River Gazette.

JERRY'S PLAINS.

This district has of late been favoured with fine showers. The river on Saturday and Sunday rose upwards of seven feet. Farmers enticed by the present favourable aspect of the season, are busy ploughing and sowing. Much difficulty is experienced in procuring wheat, and barley for seed.

Landholders on the north-side having partitioned out their flats in small cultivation farms the Plains are assuming an enlivened appearance; it is much to be wished that those on the south-side would come and do likewise; the prosperity of the district is much retarded by the circumstance of so many thousand acres of land being only occupied as sheep and cattle stations.

In a memorial lately forwarded to his Excellency respecting the communication between Jerry's Plains and the adjoining townships, it was stated, that a good and direct road may be formed from this township towards Patrick's Plains, by which the high stony ridges of the present tract may be totally avoided. I am happy to state, that by the personal gratuitous exertions of the Messrs. Alcorn, of this place, the road has not only been marked, but cleared, so that gentlemen driving their tandems, or four in hand, will not meet with obstacles from the state of the road on this side of the river. Perhaps the proprietors of the soil on the other side will make the public their debtors by marking a new line of road on to Patrick's Plains, so as to avoid the Long Hill.

NEWCASTLE.

From our Reporter.

Shipwreck.—The Harbour Master of Newcastle has reported the wreck of the *Recovery*, a schooner, which sailed a few days ago for Sydney, laden with coals. One seaman was drowned, the master and four men were saved. The *Recovery* sailed from Newcastle with a fair wind for Sydney, but before she got as far as the heads she was caught in a terrific southerly gale, and was obliged to put back—the wind continuing to blow with much violence, the master was constrained to take in all sail and leave her to the mercy of the elements; the current set her in towards the land and she was driven ashore within a mile or two of Newcastle. The officer of Customs went to see the wreck and found that the vessel had parted, one half lying about one hundred and fifty yards from the other. The attachment which a dog shewed to the vessel is worthy of notice, as we always understood that dogs formed their attachments to persons and the feline race to places. This poor animal would not leave the wreck with the sailors nor any one else, and was led home by Mr. Bolton, from the scene of the disaster. The owner of the vessel, an old lieutenant in the navy, it is said, had invested all his capital in building and fitting her up; he is therefore compelled to begin the world afresh, but with a certain portion of acquired experience minus the vigour of youth. The shipwrecked sailors found a temporary asylum under Mr. Jackson's roof.

Bushrangers.—The ruffians who escaped from Nobby's a few days since, accompanied by the soldier, have been all captured, and are now safely immured in Newcastle Goal.

The Military.—We have to announce the arrival of a detachment of the 99th regiment, which we trust is a prelude to our having the head quarters of that corps stationed at Newcastle; from what we have already observed of this small detachment, the discipline observed in the regiment appears to be strict.

Lieutenant Fraser, and the detachment under his command, having been relieved by the soldiers of the 99th regiment, embarked on Wednesday last on board the steamer *Mailland*, for head quarters. We regret the absence of Lieutenant Fraser, who was much respected by the inhabitants, although his duties required an officer of quite a different temper.

The Steamers.—The steam-boats come in very early since they have come out of the dock. The *Rose* was at the wharf yesterday morning at a little before five, and the *Thistle* this morning (Thursday,) at half-past four o'clock. What a rosy berth the Postmaster and the Agent of the Iron boats have, to be obliged to be out of bed these cold winter mornings, at four o'clock, awaiting the arrival of these vessels. Sir George Gipps may banter the Postmasters about the commission they get for doing their duty; we can assure him that the Postmaster at Newcastle ought to have a salary of £100 a year in addition to his commission. His Excellency may rest assured that he would find some difficulty in procuring another person who could or would do the duties of that office so efficiently as they have been performed by Mr. Flood, for the last three years.

PATERSON.

From our Correspondent.

Capture of Bushrangers.—It seldom happens that I sit down to pen a letter with more pleasure than I do this, especially as all in the district are concerned in the subject of it. On Saturday last, about ten in the morning, Sullivan, our chief constable, received information that the three felons and the soldier who had decamped from Newcastle, well armed, were in some part of our district. He immediately prepared himself and others of his force, not for the field but for the bush, and, taking with them a confidential black, started in pursuit. They had not been many hours away before the black got upon the bushrangers' trail, and successfully followed it up till he brought the police right upon them, in a scrub at the junction of the Allyn and Upper Paterson Rivers. The chief constable, as soon as he saw his game before him, reconnoitred for a few minutes, and then gave his men orders, who immediately levelled their pieces at the bushrangers' heads, Sullivan at the same time desiring them at the peril of their lives to deliver up their arms and surrender. The soldier presented a pistol at the chief constable's head, but did not fire, and after a little consideration prudently gave up his arms; the rest followed his example. They were immediately ironed and brought down to our lock-up, and safely secured. On their persons were found gentlemen's coats, trousers, waistcoats, pistols, silk handkerchiefs, and likewise in their possession a saddle. Too much praise cannot be given to Sullivan and the men under his charge for their alacrity in apprehending these men: the time which elapsed, from their starting to their return, being not more than eight or nine hours. This shews the efficiency and benefit of having retired soldiers of good character as constables, as they can both walk or march quicker, and handle their muskets better, than civilians. As this is the third or fourth time that Mr. Sullivan has been successful in securing bushrangers immediately after their entering our district, the inhabitants could do nothing better than make him (by subscription) a small present in token of the estimation entertained for his services. Two of the men that accompanied the chief constable in this expedition are prisoners of the crown: one, of the name of Evans, a ticket-of-leave holder; the other, of the name of Moss, who has taken a bushranger before, single-handed. The conduct of these men will no doubt be noticed in the proper quarter, and such encouragement given to them as their services require. By-the-by, two of the bushrangers are ex-pirers from Norfolk Island.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS.

From our Correspondent.

A very large quantity of rain has fallen within the last eight days in this district, and water, if not feed, is now abundant. The late period of the season at which this relief has arrived prevents the luxuriant vegetation which would have been the consequence of this accession of moisture under different circumstances; but in this country there are a variety of winter plants that spring up after rain in the cold season, which will supply stock with feed until the influence of spring be again felt on the pastures.

The blacks are still very troublesome in the New England district, rushing and spearing cattle whenever they can find an opportunity.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

TO A LADY PLAYING ON A HARP AND SINGING.

The Lyre of Greece when Sappho strung
With all the touching strains of love,
Tis said, descending seraphs sung
In viewless choros far above.

EXTRACTS

TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES BY FIRE.

About half-past eight o'clock this morning, the inhabitants of Auckland were thrown into the utmost consternation, by the outbreak of fire in the office of the Surveyor General, in Official Bay.

An attempt was made by the military, seconded by several volunteers, to cut off the fire at the junction of the secretary's office and the custom-house, by pulling down the Commissioner of Claims' office, but every attempt at this proved unavailing.

As to the occasion of the fire, various reports are extant; but the one most credited, is that the carelessness of some carpenters who were employed in the Surveyor General's office, having left a fire burning for the purpose of melting some glue during their absence at breakfast, and it is supposed from thence it originated.

The estimated loss is from £1500 to £2000. The whole of the documents, charts, plans, instruments, &c., that were deposited in the Surveyor General's office, were totally destroyed; we are happy, however, to add, that the principal and most valuable portion of the instruments are in use in the field.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the officers and seamen from the French frigate L'Aube, who were unremitting in their exertions. Amongst the most active in saving the property, and in attempting to extinguish the flames, we observed the Colonial Secretary, Major Bunbury, Captain Richmond, F. Mathew, Esq., J. Coates, Esq., Sheriff, the officers of the garrison, the military, and many of the inhabitants of Auckland.

Juvenile Invention.—A little boy dropped his drumstick into a well. In vain he entreated papa and mamma, the gardener, the footman, the coachman, the cook and housemaids, to go down into a well to recover a drumstick. In this distress a brilliant expedient occurred to Master Francis. He secretly carried off all the plate from the sideboard, and threw it down the well. Great was the consternation when the plate was missed, and active the search for the robbers. In the midst of the alarm and confusion Master Francis runs in out of breath with the news that he has found the plate. Where? is the cry. "Down the well," replies Francis, "I see it quite plain, shining at the bottom, spoons, ladles, bread baskets, salvers, and all." The family hurry to the well, at the bottom of which, sure enough, the plate is seen. A ladder is got, a servant descends, and the plate is brought up, but just before the last article is fished up, Master Francis gently whispers to the servant at the bottom, "As you are down there, John, I will thank you just to bring up my drumstick along with the soup ladle.—Examiner.

Men have Health in their power.—In the most of instances, man has health greatly in his own power, for even a moderate regard for the decencies of life is usually followed by a fair share of health and comfort; but when men and women neglect themselves and their children, one and all of them are rendered doubly liable to disease and death. It may be said that typhus fever and many other infectious diseases generally originate in depots of poverty, profligacy, and filth; and every medical man can testify that, under such circumstances, the great majority of severe cases prove fatal.

If people were as much alive to the importance of their domestic duties, and to a becoming conduct in life, as they are to those gratifications which pander only to their animal appetites and propensities, they would, to a certainty, be much more comfortable, healthy, and happy, and would very seldom be subjected either to the sweeping scourge of pestilence or to the direful effects of famine. Famine and pestilence usually accompany each other, and are very generally the consequence of all those moral outrages which degrade and disgrace human nature.—Reid's Philosophy of Death.

French way of Treating a Seducer.—Dr. R., one of the most eminent physicians of Paris, attended the wife of an avoue (attorney-at-law), near the Tuileries. The husband having been informed that the Doctor was too attentive to his patient, took an opportunity of looking into his wife's secretaire during her absence, and there found several letters of this disciple of Galen. He immediately called on the Doctor, and telling him of the discovery, demanded that he should give up the letters which the lady had sent to him. This was at first refused, but the avoue being a man of spirit, resorted to threats, and obtained the letters. "This is not all," said he, "I do not think my wife worth fighting for, but if you do not instantly pay me 6,000 francs by way of indemnity, I will horse whip you in public." The Doctor, after many grimaces, paid the money, which in less than an hour was handed over by the husband to the Bureau de Bienfaisance, for the poor of the arrondissement. He then went home and quietly put his wife out of doors, telling her that she might if she pleased join her seducer. Either the lady was repentant, or the Doctor was unwilling to add to his loss of 6,000 francs the expence of supporting her, for she has gone into retirement, and the avoue is much admired for his magnificent donation to the poor of his district.—Paris Correspondent of the Globe.

Steam v. Sails.—The Toulonnais of the 21st instant (December) publishes a long article in which it proves the superiority of a steam navy over a fleet of sailing vessels, and calls on the government to lose no time in arming a considerable number of steamers of 450-horse power and upwards. "We cannot but deplore," it says, "every instant lost in realising that object. The superiority of steam is so incontestible, and it is so clear to us that a fleet of thirty steamers of 500-horse power, and twenty of a lesser force, carrying an army of 20,000 men, would command the coasts of the Mediterranean in spite of all the fleets of Europe, that we scarcely conceive it to be necessary to adduce reasons to prove it." The Toulonnais then contends that the expedition of Bonaparte against Egypt would have produced a very different result if the expeditionary army had been seconded by a naval army of steamers. "France," it says, "would be still in possession of Egypt, and the East would not be at present on the eve of a revolution." The Toulon journal afterwards proceeds to demonstrate with what ease the trade of Great Britain could be destroyed in the Mediterranean were the government to adopt the plan it proposed; and concludes by shewing the immense advantages afforded by steam in making an invasion on the enemy's shores or in defending one's own coasts.—Times.

An old Newspaper.—There is nothing more beneficial to the reflecting mind than the perusal of an old newspaper. Though a silent preacher, it is one which conveys a moral more palpable and forcible than the most elaborate discourse. As the eye runs down its diminutive and old-fashioned columns, and peruses its quaint advertisements and by-gone paragraphs, the question forces itself on the mind, Where are now the busy multitudes whose names appear on these pages? where is the puffing auctioneer, the pushing tradesman, the bustling merchant, the calculating lawyer, who each occupies a space in this chronicle of departed time? Alas! their names are now only to be read on the sculptured marble which covers their ashes! they have passed away, like their forefathers, and are no more seen! From these considerations the mind naturally turns to the period when we, who enjoy our little space of existence in this chequered scene, shall have gone down into the dust, and shall furnish the same moral to our children that our fathers do to us. The sun will then shine as bright, the flowers will bloom as fair, the face of nature will be as pleasing as ever, while we are reposing in our narrow cell, heedless of everything that once charmed and delighted us.

Kindness of her Majesty.—Her Majesty upon all occasions, when the circumstances have reached the Royal ear, has evinced the greatest kindness towards those persons employed in any department of the Royal household who may have been overtaken by sickness or misfortune. A short time since, a man named Huggins, a porter (a very subordinate situation in the Lord Chamberlain's department, under the superintendence of Mr. Sanders, the general inspector of porters), died, leaving a widow totally unprovided for. The destitute condition of the bereaved woman having reached the ears of the Queen, her Majesty immediately commanded that the sum of ten pounds should be given to the widow, and that she should be employed in some situation in the Castle, in order that she might have some provision for her future wants.

The Grave of Mozart.—A letter from Vienna states that when it was a question, a short time since, of erecting a monument to Mozart in the cemetery of Maximilien, in the Austrian capital, where he has been interred, application was made by the minister of the interior to his widow to know where his grave was situated. Her reply was that she could not tell; that when he died (5th December, 1791) his body was taken to the cemetery, according to the mode then adopted for single citizens, without any person accompanying it as mourners; that she had quitted Vienna immediately after, and had been twenty-two years absent; and that all her efforts to discover the exact spot where her husband lay had been fruitless. The government had decided that the monument shall be erected as near the probable spot as can be conjectured.—Galignani's Messenger.

Matrimonial Lottery.—At Samarang, the second town in the island of Java, there exists a species of matrimonial lottery, which gives rise to many singular speculations. Orphan children, rich as well as poor, are all brought up in a public establishment. The most profound silence as to the fortunes of these children is enjoined to every person in or about the institution. These fortunes are placed under the management of persons at Batavia, on whom a similar injunction of secrecy is imposed. The female orphans are kept in the establishment until their marriage. Every man possessing an annual income of 730 florins, or two florins a day, is at liberty to choose a wife from among them, but the amount of her fortune is not made known to him till several days after the marriage. A servant of the military hospital at Samarang lately selected one of these damsels with a fortune of 65,000 florins. Since his good luck, the applications for wives from the asylum have become very urgent; for a report has got abroad that there is a marriageable girl still left, who will bring with her a prize of 200,000 florins.

We seldom find people ungrateful so long as we are in a condition to serve them.

Not Particular.—One of the candidates at the late election in New Orleans, on being asked what his principles were, replied naively, "O, I'm in favour of all the great ruling features and principles of the present day, except a wife."—Of course he lost his election.

Men Of Genius.—There are some features which, in people of genius, are always the same. They are uniformly dissatisfied, restless, longing after something better, nobler, higher, than the present life. They are awkward in little things, benevolent, modest, yet ambitious, with violent passions, and a long train of virtues or vices, according to the direction which these passions happen to take.

The Irishman's Cat.—A short time ago, a poor Irishman applied at the churchwarden's office of Manchester for relief; and upon some doubt being expressed as to whether he was a proper object for parochial charity, he enforced his suit with much earnestness:—"Och, your honor," said he, "sure I'll be starved long since but for my cat." "But for what?" asked his astonished interrogator.—"My cat!" rejoined the Irishman. "Your cat! how so?" "Shure, your honor, I could her eleven times for sixpence a time, and she was always at home before I'd get myself self."

Purity.—Purity of heart is of all others the most elevated of virtues. A Greek maid being asked what fortune she would bring her husband, answered, "I will bring him what is more valuable than any treasure—a heart unspotted, and virtue without a stain; which is all that descended to me from my parents."

The silliest fellows are in general the worst of husbands; and it may be asserted as a fact, that a man of sense rarely behaves very ill to a wife who deserves very well.

Although the devil is the father of lies, he seems, like other great inventors, to have lost much of his reputation by the continual improvements that have been made upon him.—Swift.

a pursuit, where it is now only carried on as subsidiary to grazing, and where it is only possible to carry it on in this way. In the course of time, however, when capital accumulates beyond what can be profitably invested in grazing, this irregularity may be partly remedied, in many places, by irrigation. Large tracts of land may in this way be rendered productive, which are now conigned to sterility. In India land is irrigated by water raised from wells. In New South Wales the nature of the country is such, that large tracts of land might be irrigated by constructing dams and conducting the water to the field in canals. Such operations, however, on a large scale will not be profitable in the present stage of the colony. For many years to come it will be more profitable for the colonists to devote their principal attention to the grazing of sheep and cattle, in which they have advantages over all the other nations of the world, and to import all the grain they require, except what is grown in those localities that are favourable to its cultivation, such as the alluvial banks of the rivers in the vicinity of the coast.—Resources of Australia.

IMPOUNDING NOTICES.

At Farnborough, Black Creek, on the 19th May, 1842:—one dark brown and white bullock, branded JS or 3 on near shoulder, OI over J off ribs, piece cut off the off ear, damages 5s; one brindle and white bullock, branded C or O above FT on near ribs, indistinguishable brand on near rump, damages 5s; one red and white bullock, branded JA conjoined on near ribs and hip, E and an indistinct letter like A on off rump, damages 5s. If not claimed, they will be sold twenty-four days from the above date. 10s. 6d.

At Jerry's Plains, on the 7th May, from J. Smith, Esq.—one red poley bullock, piece out of off ear, branded RW near hip, 2 on near shoulder; one yellow brindled bullock, wide horns, 195 off thigh, illegible brand off hip; one red sided steer, white belly and back, white face, H on hip near side, if not recd, they will be sold on Wednesday, 1st June, agreeably to Act of Council. 9s. 9d.

At Muswellbrook, for trespass at Piercefield:—One strawberry sided heifer branded apparently O on off rump, an indistinct brand resembling L over JA on near rump, 7 near shoulder; one white steer, illegible brand on near ribs, IH on off side rump, thigh, and shoulder; one brindle sided steer, irregular brand resembling O on off side, apparently 1 off flank, notch in front and behind right ear; one brown and white poley speckled cow, branded IH on off side rump thigh, and shoulder, apparently F on off ribs; one red poley heifer, branded IH on off side rump, thigh, and shoulder, apparently J on near ribs; one brown snail horned bullock, branded apparently TGG conjoined on near rump. Damages 2d. per head. If not claimed, they will be sold at the Pound, on the 13th June, at noon, pursuant to Act of Council. 12s. 3d.

At Singleton Patrick's Plains, on the 14th May, 1842:—one red heifer, white back and belly, brand on near ribs not 1 gible, cut in off ear, damages 2s. 6d.; one dark brown heifer, indistinguishable brand on off rump, a cut in near ear, damages 2s. 6d.; one red ste r, indistinguishable brand on off rump, damages 2s. 6d.; one red bullock, branded IB over 43 on near ribs, damages 2s. 6d.; one blue and white spotted cow, branded off rump XC, off shoulder GR conjoined, and T over a letter illegible, and spotted female calf, unbranded, damages 5s; one white cow, both ears red, branded off hip IN, off rump M, off shoulder DW, near rump and shoulder brand indistinguishable over 7, and a straw ery bull calf, branded off rump and hip IN; one strawberry cow, branded off ribs like WD, a white female calf, red neck, unbranded; one yellow cow, branded near ribs J-D, off rump LT, off r A, a slit in off ear, white face a red bull calf unbranded; one red bullock, branded A and an indistinguishable brand on near rump, 35 on off rump; one red bullock, down horns, blot-hed brand on both rumps, WH on off hip, near ear cropped; one yellow bullock, branded WS on near rump, 5 on off ribs; one black cow, sail horns, branded like HF on off rump, WB over W on near rump, a r d poley heifer calf by her side; one black cow, branded DW on off shoulder, like I-B on off rump, and a dark red female calf by her side, unbranded; one red and white steer, branded like HB on off rump 224 on off ribs; one dark red bullock, branded 7 over IB or IR on near ribs. If the above cattle are not claimed on or before the 8th day of June they will be sold at twelve o'clock at noon of that day, agreeably to Act of Council. 17s. 9d.

At Jerry's Plains, on the 7th May:—One strawberry heifer, unbranded; one dark brown bullock, white back and belly, branded H on near hip, another brand like I-B; one red bullock, branded like WD, illegible brand off hip; one dark brindle bullock, white back, branded like JR near rump. If not released, they will be sold on Wednesday, the first June, agreeably to Act of Council. 16s.

At St. Aubin's, Scone, May 2, from the Estate of Ward Stephens, Esq.—One white bullock, branded on near ribs KING, near shoulder 5, off ribs AA; one black and white bullock, branded near rump apparently WR, off rump apparently same brand over T and O underneath; one white bullock, red neck and cheeks, branded near shoulder 6, near rump apparently FM conjoined, off thigh like SFB, off ribs M, off shoulder same brand, damages 3d per head; one brindle and white bull, about two years old, no brand legible, damages 10s; one brindle bullock, white back and belly, no brand legible; one red bull, white belly, branded off rump CB, off ribs like CCJ, damages 10s; one red cow, white back and belly, branded off rump like WK, damages 3d; one brindle heifer, white belly, branded off rump like GB over D', near ribs like C X, damages 3d; one red cow, white belly, branded off ribs OO under S, off rump like T, a heifer calf by her side, damages 3d per head; one red bullock, branded off rump like O R in centre, near rump like T M over IB, near ribs like O. Also, from Captain Dumaresq's Estate, on the 6th May:—One black and white cow, branded off shoulder like IF, damages 1s. Also, from the Est of Sato, the 7th May:—one red sided bullock, white back and belly, strawberry neck, branded on off ribs JM over JM off rump. DC near rump ES over 8 damages 1s per head; one brindle bullock, white belly, branded off rump G over H, under b and A L conjoined, off ribs TE conjoined; one white sided bullock, off rump brand not legible, near rump apparently star over W; one light strawberry poley bullock, branded near ribs JA, near thigh J A, off ribs J, off thigh JA; one white cow, brown about the head, branded near ribs over JB, near shoulder brand not legible, off side X, a white heifer calf by her side; one black cow, brand on near ribs MC, near shoulder TW, near rump T over W, with a b indle heifer calf by her side, branded MC near ribs; one red cow, white back and belly, branded near rump CI, off rump ES, off shoulder D over C, with a bull calf by her side, branded near rump CIC over CI; one red cow, white belly, branded on off ribs like R B over, off rump like DC conjoined; one yellow cow, white belly, branded on off rump ES, off shoulder O; one yellow steer, branded on off rump ES. If the above described cattle are not released before the 4th June, they will be sold pursuant to Act of Council. £1 1s 3d.

RETAIL PRICE CURRENT.

Table listing various goods and their prices, including Ale, Beer, Butcher's meat, Coffee, Flour, Grain, Hay, Hops, Hides, Lime, Milk, Porter, Soap, Spirits, Stock, Sugar, Tea, Tobacco, Timber, Vegetables, Wines, and House Rent.

Small farms in the immediate vicinity of the town may be obtained on lease at an annual rental of about 40s. per acre.

TERMS.

SUBSCRIPTION.—Ten shillings per quarter, payable in advance; single number, one shilling. The quarters terminate the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December, respectively. Subscribers who are not resident in Maitland are required to pay six months' subscription in advance, or give reference to a respectable agent in town.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—For eight lines, and under, three shillings and sixpence, and one penny for every additional line, for each insertion. The number of insertions must be legibly written on each advertisement, or it will be continued till countermanded, and charged to the party. Advertisements cannot be received later than twelve o'clock on Friday morning; and orders to withdraw advertisements must be sent to the office before four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, or they cannot be attended to. No verbal communication respecting the insertion, withdrawal, or alteration of advertisements, will be attended to. Advertisements from non-subscribers must be paid for previous to insertion.

All letters must be post-paid.

Printed and published by the Proprietor, THOMAS STRODE, of and at the General Printing Office, West Maitland, in the District of Maitland, County of Northumberland, and Colony of New South Wales.—SATURDAY, May 28, 1842.