

SHIP NEWS.

ARRIVALS.

August 6—APHRASIA, steamer, Lawler master, from Melbourne.
 11—GOVERNOR LA TROBE, cutter, Cannon master, from Melbourne, with a general cargo.
 12—DEVONSHIRE, schooner, Sutton master, from Melbourne, with a general cargo.
 12—APHRASIA, steamer, Lawler master, from Melbourne.

DEPARTURES.

August 10—APHRASIA, steamer, Lawler master, for Melbourne.
 4—GOVERNOR LA TROBE, cutter, Cannon master, for Melbourne.
 6—APHRASIA, steamer, Lawler master, for Melbourne.

MELBOURNE SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

August 6—Diana, cutter, Bryson, from Launceston.
 6—Paul Pry, schooner, Jenkins, from Launceston.
 7—Anne, barque, Simpson, from Sydney.
 7—Scout, brig, Gwatkin, from Launceston.
 9—Corsair steamer, Foxton, from Corner Inlet.

CLEARED OUT.

August 6—George Fyfe, ship, Pike, for Sydney.
 6—Mary, cutter, Mickleburg, for Western Port and Launceston.
 7—Royal Saxon, ship, Longe, for Madras.
 9—Adelaide, brig, Dryden, for London, with 479 bales wool.
 9—Australasian Packet, barque, Nicholls, for Sydney.
 9—Caroline, brig, Woodin, for Hobart Town.
 11—Will Watch, schooner, Harding, for Launceston.

VESSELS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT PORT PHILLIP.

FROM ENGLAND.

Christina, (spoken with on the equator)
 Lady Kennaway.
 Caroline.
 China, 638 tons
 Countess of Wilton, Hentwell master
 Elizabeth, from Liverpool
 Southfieldsaye, with emigrants, from Plymouth
 James Lemon, 200 tons, Stone, to leave Bristol in January.
 Ramanpooter, 500 tons, via Sydney, with emigrants
 Andromeda 450 tons, Cottish master, via Launceston
 John Campbell, 350 tons, White master.
 Maria
 Florentia
 Windsor Castle, steamer
 Deva.

FROM SCOTLAND.

Thomas Arbuthnot, 600 tons, Brown master.
 Alcmena
 India, 493 tons, Campbell master
 Huklanga, 141 tons, Williamson master

FROM SYDNEY.

Raphia Pate, barque
 Matilda
 Alexandria

FROM HOBART TOWN.

Trigoniol, schooner, Biscoe master
 Flying Squirrel.

FROM LAUNCESTON.

Tamar, schooner, Bell master
 Challenger, schooner, Robertson master
 Minerva, 15 tons, Reid master
 William Hughes, Robinson master.
 Lady Emma, Backland master

Geelong Advertiser.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1841.

GOOD TIDINGS.

INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF STOCK.

It is good news that the price of wool continues steady in the English market—it is good news that Port Phillip will soon be an independent colony—it is good news that Sir George Gipps' tyranny will soon be at an end—it is good news that the Aphrasia is carrying all before her—it is good news that the season is highly favorable for agricultural operations—it is good news that our exports will soon turn the scale against our imports—it is good news that there is an abundant supply of labor in the market—it is good news that the Trust and Loan Companies have commenced operations;—but the CLIMAX of all good news, is, that a decided rise of fifty per cent. in the value of sheep has taken place within the last few days!

The unnatural depression which has weighed down the energies of our settlers, is now removed, and the grazing interest will soon acquire a due degree of renovated prosperity. The reaction appears to have taken place simultaneously throughout the whole country; so that we have some reason to hope that the squatters will find that they have been "more frightened than hurt" by the late panic.

To prove that these remarks are not gratuitous assumptions, we have only to refer to the two principal sales of the week for verification. Mr. Fisher disposed of fifteen hundred ewes, without any right of run and no lambs given in, at twenty shillings per head. The superiority of these animals may not doubt partly account for this high price at the present time, especially as the purchaser had bought some of the same breed some years ago, and was aware of their value. Several other circumstances, however, combine to prove that a decided advance has taken place in the price of stock generally; and we know that several parties are anxious to purchase at present, and willing to give upwards of twenty shillings per head for well-bred sheep. Inferior descriptions are not in demand. The other sale alluded to above was that of a flock of ewes purchased by Mr Wedge of Portland Bay, at the price of twenty shillings per head.

We think that we are justified in attaching great importance to these transactions, as being the most favorable symptoms that have yet appeared of a revival. The price of stock we consider to be a good index to the state of affairs in general. Our flocks and herds form the principal item in the amount of the "assets" of the colony, and in proportion to the rise or fall in their value, must the solvency of the colony be affected.

A rise in the value of land will be sure to follow; indeed it has already commenced, and allotments in Corio have changed hands at unusually high prices during the week.

"THE RAG."

The Melbourne papers have been engaged in a struggle for supremacy for the last six months, and the warfare has been carried on by the belligerent parties with unabated zeal, untiring patience, and ever-wakeful vigilance. Remote, as we are, from the scene of conflict, we care little for the result of the fight; we are only spectators, and from our elevated tribune in the amphitheatre, can look down with complacency upon the ensanguined arena whereon the gladiatorial combatants contend for victory. As spectators, however, it is our duty to see fair play, and we cannot resist an occasional exclamation of 'habet' or 'non habet' according as the fortune of the day favours the respective champions.

To be plain, the Melbourne newspapers are engaged in a silly dispute about their respective circulations,—a matter of no consequence in itself, for the best paper has not always the greatest number of subscribers, and quality is not always the companion of quantity. We believe the three oldest papers are very nearly alike in point of circulation, and the public can form the fairest estimate of their various peculiar merits; we have no feelings of rivalry to gratify, and can afford to be impartial without any sacrifice of interest. Our regard for the purity and independence of our profession, however, induces us to notice a practice which tends to bring disgrace upon the whole newspaper press, and which is never resorted to by any respectable paper or 'leading journal,'—namely, canvassing, or dunning people for subscriptions or advertisements. Although this practice is allowable at the first starting of a newspaper, yet we NEVER SOLICITED a single subscriber nor a single advertisement,

and we have found the benefit of acting upon the maxim that INDEPENDENCE IS THE BEST POLICY. The Gazette, although it makes the boast (however erroneously) of being the "leading journal," &c. has revived the disreputable practice, and has introduced it for the first time into this district, in order to prop its declining popularity. Whatever schemes may be resorted to by our Melbourne contemporaries, we shall never follow their example, but stand or fall beneath the banner of Independence. The system thus introduced is only fit for omnibus cads, bellows-menders, or barkers.

Gentle reader! did you ever go thro' Holywell street for a short cut? or did you ever venture your carcass within the precincts of Nonmouth street or Rosemary lane? If so, you must know that a "barker" is a barefaced fellow who lays hold of you by the collar, drags you into a dark den, the window and door of which are curtained with all descriptions of unmentionables, bails you up in a corner, and holds you fast until you purchase some of his goods "all as better as new."

To those who have not had the felicity of seeing the creature in its native haunts, we are happy to announce that a very fine specimen of the genus may now be seen in Corio, where a slight difference in its habits, however, is observable; for, instead of waylaying you in the street, it will pay you a domiciliary visit—take possession of your premises—refuse to take 'No' for an answer—and bounce you out of your presence of mind, until you consent to patronise the "leading journal of Port Phillip."

The Gazette most egotistically fancies that since its enlargement it has proportionally advanced in the good graces of the public. What an egregious mistake! "The more the rag is patched, the greater rag it grows."

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE BLACKS.—The dead body of an aboriginal black was discovered on Saturday last, between the Barrarbool Hills and Lake Modewarre. He had been shot, and there is a train of circumstantial evidence against a black youth named Bon Jon, although, in the present state of the law, he will most probably escape justice. Bon Jon was at one time attached to the Border Police, and several months ago he seduced the leubra of the deceased, who belonged to the Colac tribe. The injured black kept on the trail of Bon Jon for a long time, and prowled around the camp of the police, watching for an opportunity to be revenged. The two enemies had probably met in the bush, when Bon Jon shot the deceased, but whether wantonly or in self-defence will probably never be cleared up. It is not known how the black became possessed of the fire-arms. The prompt and careful manner in which the affair has been investigated, reflects great credit upon the Commissioner. The body was even exhumed for the inspection of the government surgeon; but nothing further is likely to be elicited.

On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the weatherboarded hut, near the Leigh, by Captain Fyans, Crown Commissioner, accompanied by Dr. Clerke, on the body of a man who was found dead in the bush about three miles from the hut. One of Mr. Fisher's servants found the body on the Sunday previous; at first he thought it was a man who had fallen asleep, and he tried to awake him. The body was found at a short distance from the road, lying with its face downwards, and no marks of violence could be found upon it. The man had evidently met his death from natural causes. It is supposed that he was going up the country in company with some teams of Mr. Wells's; that he had lingered behind, and perhaps gone to sleep; but of course the exact circumstances of his death can only be matter of probable conjecture.

ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday evening a party of sportsmen sailed down the Barwon, with the intention of spending a day or two on the lakes; on Thursday, however, a melancholy occurrence took place, by the accidental discharge of a loaded piece. The party were in the act of landing on the shore of the lake, when, in the hurry of handing out

the fowling-pieces, the lock of one of them (it is supposed) caught upon a thwart of the boat, the gun went off, and the shot struck one of the party, named Kirk, under the chin, and shattered his lower jaw in a dreadful manner. Great hopes, however, are entertained of his recovery. No real blame can be attached to any one; but the occurrence is another proof that the greatest precaution should be used in handling fire-arms, and especially in not leaving them cocked and capped.

THE CONCERT.—This entertainment, through some want of arrangement, has been postponed for another week, but we have every reason to believe that it will be given on Monday, the 23rd, without fail. The public will, we are sure, forgive the want of punctuality in the present instance, and will patronize the Concert not the less heartily when it does take place. Monsieur and Madame Gautrot deserve to be well supported, not only on account of their talents, but for the very spirited manner in which they have hazarded their success in so limited a community.

MARCH OF INTELLECT.—The following paragraph appeared in the Port Phillip Herald of Tuesday last. Verily, the schoolmaster is abroad! "The Corsair got aground on Monday night at some distance from the present encampment, at Corner Inlet, which, however, was attributed to the depth of the water being considerably effected by the eclipse of the moon, which our readers may remember was on that evening totally obscured for some time." [We wonder if this was penned by the ex-Secretary of the Mechanics' Institution.]

THE JETTY.—We have often had occasion to complain of the listless manner in which this piece of work was conducted; but of late, we must admit that it has "made way" considerably. The enormous blocks of stone, some of them nearly a ton weight, which have been conveyed from the quarry to the beach, show that the gang have not been idle. We must still, however, condemn the local authorities for their neglect in not superintending its progress, and directing the energies of their underlings in a more efficient manner. The exertions of private individuals in forwarding this good work, ought to put the officials to the blush. The wharf is now blockaded with masses of stone which cannot be easily handled with the rude instruments which are in use; and we understand that proper tools are lying idle in Melbourne, which ought to be procured immediately.

SPORTING.—There is an unusual quantity of game to be found at present within a short distance of Corio. The late rains, and the flooded state of the creeks, by dislodging the waterfowl from their haunts, may be supposed to be one of the causes of this abundance.

Captain Grey has entirely and unconditionally abolished the Scab Act in South Australia. Being a "new chum," he does not know what he is about. The settlers have petitioned him to pass some sort of enactment in lieu.

MIDNIGHT MARAUDERS.—We had hopes that this gang of mischievous youths had been broken up; but we have heard of a number of their gallant exploits lately, which redound greatly to their credit. If the police would only keep a sharp eye upon them for a few nights, and lay a few of them fast by heels, the spirit of "brickism" would soon be broken.

CORRESPONDENCE.

JUDGE WILLIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GEELONG ADVERTISER.

The cause of complaint against His Honor the Judge, which I treated of in my former letter, would not have had any perceptible effect except upon the wounded vanity of the INCAPABLES; but the second and grand offence—the offence which cuts deepest and extends farthest—is the Judge's call upon the Magistrates to be up and doing. He calls upon them to arise and attend at their post of duty; an honorable call. But the barbed arrow that rankles in the breasts of these magnates is, that they ought to attend to learn their DUTY. This plain direction, this positive order, in fact, has occasioned a host of enemies against the Judge. Thanks to

the powers that be, the colony is fairly inundated with J. P.s, from the overseer of the Colonial Secretary's stock through all intermediate grades up to the man of sense, of intelligence, the gentleman. Sorry am I to say that the J. P.s of the latter class are only exceptions to the list of boy magistrates—stock-keeping magistrates—shop-keeping magistrates—medical magistrates—and ex-military and ex-naval magistrates. I need not adduce to His Honor how totally unfit the majority of them are for the stations they are placed in; yet my humble tribute shall be added to His Honor's just and proper reproof, which was highly called for, ay and yet is, and will remain so until the colony receives in a Lieutenant-Governor—a man of talent and of energy, and who will be above the vile practice of parasitically filling offices of trust, profit, or honor.

I could point out to His Honor, that if their malice towards him should render it necessary, fully sufficient cause to eject a few of these honorary esquires,—men, who would never have been noticed or thought of but for their timeserving and detestable qualities. But vale, I say, to these rank oligarchs. I can assure His Honor, and I do so advisedly and after due consideration, that, although he has formed a numerous body of enemies amongst the barristers, the magistrates, and their toadies, yet, to counterbalance this, he has gained the hearts of all good citizens all LOVERS OF ORDER, all those who worship or delight in JUSTICE. He may rely upon this body of the people as the truest, surest, and safest support, particularly for this one simple but grand reason, that his conduct has been throughout devoted, I may say incessantly devoted, to the good of the community over which providence has thought him worthy of being placed. This will support him cheerfully through the petty annoyances of the evil disposed, and will allow him to pass by the sneers of the vile and the malignant (whether they come through the broadsheet or the pamphlet) with which he may be assailed.

I perceive that the violent Editor of the Gazette thunders out his ire in threats of what he will do. But let him pass: one trait of his former conduct will satisfy any one as the worth of his accusations. In August or September, 1839, when Mr. C. J. La Trobe was officially announced as about to take charge here, this potent Editor, without knowing anything whatever of His Honor the Superintendent, at once denounced him as a spy. If Judge Willis escape free from his attacks, he will be about the only man of any note whose fair fame has not been wantonly assailed. I have heard that His Honor is favorable to the liberty of the Press; but I as well as himself feel that liberty and licentiousness are very, very wide apart, and therefore should be treated differently.

Before closing this letter, I cheerfully add, that every trial which has come before His Honor, so far as I can collect, has fully satisfied the public,—that is to say, his conduct on each trial has done so; and although the Gazette impugned his behaviour on the occasion of the trial of D. C. Simson, yet in that case the public generally bore him out in his opinion. One of the jurors told me in court that the jury were not satisfied of the guilt, and therefore gave way to mercy. And what did the Club do?—why, almost unanimously expelled the accused. Now, I beg to observe, if these gentlemen had not thought as His Honor did they would not have expelled him, but on the contrary have voted him an address (or some such token), as they did in the case of J. Simpson, Esq. His Honor's hasty proceedings towards that upright and highly respected magistrate, is the only part of his conduct since he came to Port Phillip which has caused the people of Melbourne any regret.

I am, &c.,

PHILO-JUNIUS.

POETRY.

SIR GEORGE GIPPS WILL VISIT CORIO.

FROM THE "AGE."

"Notwithstanding several impediments, we understand that Sir George Gipps will pay a visit to Port Phillip this season.—(Sydney paper.)"

Notwithstanding the depths of the sea—
 The snags in the river Ohio—
 The earth's gravitation—the moon's apogee—
 Notwithstanding the distance to Owhyhee—
 Sir George Gipps will visit Corio.

Notwithstanding the wind's in the south—
 And tho' the expense may be high, oh—
 Tho' the bar of the Yarra has chok'd up its mouth
 And the Irish assizes are ended at Louth—
 Sir George Gipps will visit Corio.

Notwithstanding the numberless ills—
 Which flow from the letters U I O—
 Notwithstanding the number of secret stills—
 And the dreadful effect of the newspaper quills—
 Sir George Gipps will visit Corio.

Notwithstanding the Packet's a barque—
 And the Turks are no longer in Scio—
 Notwithstanding that Moses was once in the dark—
 And the ship might be struck by th' electric spark,
 Sir George Gipps will visit Corio.

Notwithstanding the wretched bad times—
 The three-year's blockading of Rio—
 The price of brown sugar—the Treaty of Emu—
 Notwithstanding the plot in the reign of King James
 Sir George Gipps will visit Corio.