

THE MACQUARIE AND THE BARWON, OR, THE BLIGHT AT BATHURST.

A Metrical Tale, comparing the advantages of the two Settlements of Bathurst and Geelong. Dedicated to, and accepted by, His Honor the Superintendent.

THE HERMIT OF GEELONG.

The drought has burnt up Bathurst plains, The river's head is dry, Man and brute weep blood for rain, It comes not to their cry. Clouds, storms of dust, rise from the plains, Away the whirlwinds fly, The choking ox, mad with pain, With bleeding nostrils die. No tree, no green; no cooling breeze Both purge the tainted air; A scalding rheum flows from the eye, And blindness enters there. Then famine knock'd at every door, And ruin enter'd the tainted air; All silent grew the social hearth, Husk'd merry childhood's din. Then want and crime went hand in hand, Bushrangers stalk'd abroad; They snatch'd the food the starving band Of sufferers could not guard. They seize their clothes, they seize their steed, The last left on that farm, They tear the blankets from the bed The wedded wife leaves warm. "And are they gone, those dreadful men? And can all this be true?" "It is, it is, and by the God That made me, I'll go too. They shall not live—I'm ruin'd now— Don't hold a desperate man— The children? nurse them on the ground, And feed them, if you can."

GIPPS' LAND.

about preparing to start on his return to Gipps Land to resume the survey of the interior of the country, and to measure the different special surveys which have been taken in that locality. Three assistant surveyors are to be sent from Sydney to Gipps Land to act in co-operation with Mr Townsend, who is to have the charge of the department in that district. The site of the township has been fixed not as originally intended on the site of the Port Albert Company's settlement on the river Albert, but on the west point of the bay into which the Tarrā Rivulet flows, that being found from soundings taken on the spot, the only place throughout the Inlet at all adapted for shipping stock. The site is said to be by no means well adapted for a township, but it is the best which could be obtained. The country in the vicinity of the township is described as a useless barren track, covered with dense tea scrubs, intersected here and there with salt water

marshes, and a few fresh swamps, it is doubtful therefore whether the special survey gentlemen will take much by their bargains.—Patriot.

LEGISLATION FOR THE ABORIGINES.

The following important intelligence has come to hand through a very circuitous channel, namely, the "Royal Gazette of British Guiana," of July 10th 1841. The document is a despatch from Lord John Russell to the Governor of Western Australia, relative to the propriety of receiving the evidence of aborigines without the administration of oaths. Lord John Russell, being favorable to the system, forwarded a copy of the despatch to the Governor of British Guiana, that he might frame a similar enactment for that colony. To the best of our knowledge, the document has never before been published in any of the Australian papers:—

Extract of a Despatch (No. 64.) addressed by Lord John Russell to Governor Hutt, Western Australia, dated 30th April, 1841.

The act No. 8, to allow the Aboriginal Natives of Western Australia to give information and evidence in Criminal cases is not only unobjectionable, but is an evident improvement on the former Law, so far as provision is now made for the admission of the evidence of the aborigines without an oath. To exact Oaths of men to whom the sanctions of Religion are unknown, and who do not even recognize the elementary truths on which all Religious belief must depend, is a manifest absurdity. Either the deponent must go through what to himself appears an unmeaning ceremonial, and to others a profanation, or the Courts must be excluded from receiving all the testimony of the persons as to matter of fact, lying within their direct personal knowledge, and which they may have no motive to conceal or falsify. The escape from the dilemma is obviously to receive their unsworn testimony, leaving the Courts to make any deduction from the weight and credit due to the witness, which the avowed absence in his mind of the religious sanctions of truth may require.

But I think it impossible to measure before-hand, and to prescribe by positive rules, the extent of that deduction. This Act determines that the unsworn testimony of a Native is never to be regarded as conclusive, unless it be supported by strong corroborative circumstances. Probably, without any enactment; this rule would be observed by every Court and Jury. It is, in fact, seldom disregarded in this country, the simple assertion of a witness, that a crime was committed by the accused party, is, in the absence of corroborative circumstances, inconclusive; because it is scarcely possible to suppose the absence of that kind of corroboration, when the statement itself is true. Thus the Act may, in this respect, be said to introduce no real innovation. But though this may be in one sense the fact, yet it does not follow that such will be the practical effect of this kind of legislation. By laying down a general rule for appreciating the evidence of Aborigines, which is not extended to the evidence of other persons, it affords an apology, for such a practicable administration of the Law as may virtually exclude them from the protection of it. To have enacted that the Courts should make, in each case, such an abatement from the value of the evidence, as the want of the oath might seem to the Judge and Jury to require or justify, would have been the more convenient course.

I more decidedly object to the summary jurisdiction of any two Justices of the peace in the case of Aborigines, especially considered as it is with the power of whipping. So great is the difficulty of legislating aright for the protection of savage tribes living in juxtaposition with a race of civilized men, that it is not without great hesitation that I object to any attempt made for that purpose, especially when conceived, as in the present instance, in the spirit of humanity and zeal for their welfare. Yet I must observe that the delegation to Justices of the Peace of summary powers of punishment over the inferior race from which the Colonists of European descent are to be exempted, is a measure dangerous in its tendency, as well as patry in principle. By thus establishing an inequality in the eye of the law itself between the two classes on the express ground of national origin, we foster prejudices and give a countenance to bad men who unfortunately need no such encouragement. It is wise to sacrifice some immediate convenience with a view to maintain the general principle

of strict legal equality, because in the continued assertion of that principle will be found the best attainable security for maintaining just opinions, and a correct moral sentiment, throughout society at large, on the subject of the rights of the native population.

I observe also that the admissibility of the evidence of the natives without oath having been expressly enacted in reference to Criminal Cases, the consequence inevitably follows, that in all Civil Suits their testimony must be entirely rejected. Whether this was an intentional or an unforeseen consequence of the Law does not appear; but whatever the fact may in that respect be, it is a result to be deprecated. The evidence which is admitted where liberty and life are at stake, should not be excluded when proprietary interests only are in question.

For these reasons, I have thought it my duty to advise Her Majesty to disallow this Act also, and the Queen has been pleased to disallow it accordingly. But you will immediately propose to the Local Legislature the enactment of another Law having for its object to dispense with an Oath in receiving the evidence of any Aboriginal Inhabitants of the province who may be unable to appreciate the nature and the obligation of an Oath, qualifying the rule by such general terms as I have mentioned.

If it be thought necessary to enact any special Law to facilitate the administration of Justice in the case of the Aborigines in other respects, that Law should be detached from the Law of evidence, which, properly, forms a distinct and separate title not to be blended with other topics.

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENTS FOR COLONIES.

From the Australasian Record.

It is of the utmost importance to the welfare of a colony, that a good understanding should exist between its inhabitants and its Governor. He is there as the representative of the Sovereign, and as such is entitled to respect; and happy is it both for governor and colonists when their frequent intercourse becomes the means of elevating that respect into esteem. This can scarcely be the case where it becomes the duty of a governor to carry out a policy, dictated to him from home, which is distasteful to the great body of the colonists, and that this too frequently happens is a lamentable fact. Indeed it is almost impossible that it should be otherwise when it is recollected that on entering many of our colonies, an Englishman is deprived of those political rights he enjoys in the mother country, and placed under the government of some military or naval officer, who is responsible only to the colonial minister in this country. With the recollection of representative and responsible government fresh upon him, he becomes naturally jealous of, and soon restive under, the power over which he has no control. Hence arise angry recriminations between the governors and the governed; the first becomes more tyrannical as the other displays his dissatisfaction, until at last the widespread dissatisfaction ripens into open rupture.

The inquiry is important, whence arises all the mischief we have described? Simply from the fact, that the institutions of the colony have not been in accordance with the views or wants of the colonists. The remedy for all this evil is REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. Give to any body of Englishmen the means of rendering their views known on the various objects of government—give to them the means of controlling the application of the taxes they pay, give to them the emulation that is naturally excited among themselves to obtain the honour involved in being members of the representative chamber—and you lay a firm foundation for general satisfaction and the rapid advance of the colony in all the elements of genuine prosperity. Our statesmen are accustomed, and with reason, to boast of the inestimable privileges enjoyed under a representative government. They do not, however, have any sympathy for our colonists who have no such liberal institutions though the subjects of the same sovereign with ourselves, and who most acutely feel their deprivation. If the noble lord who has recently been placed at the head of our colonial affairs will apply his influence and his energies to the introduction of representative institutions into our important Australian colonies, he will entitle himself to the gratitude of posterity, and achieve for himself an imperishable renown. All the elements of power and of prosperity are in Australia; with her immense expanse of territory, with her varied and valuable productions, with her genial climate, with her increasing population of free-born Britons, her prospects are most auspicious; she will be the agent of diffusing the language, the arts, the religion of England through the southern hemisphere; and thus she will exert a mighty influence upon the future destinies of the globe.

But in order that these prospects may be fulfilled, the public opinion of her inhabitants must be expressed through the medium of representative chambers;

thus the wants, the wishes and the feelings of the colonists will be communicated; and peace, order, and confidence will universally prevail. The present welfare and the future prosperity of Australia are in the hands of Lord Stanley, and anxiously do we hope that his measures will be such as to demand our most energetic support.

FOOD OF HORSES.

(From the Morning Advertiser.)

In the feeding of horses regularity is of great importance. These animals, unlike most others, have naturally a moderate appetite, therefore they require to be fed often, but in small quantities. Yet frequently do we see the direful effects of inattention to this subject. The master leaves his horse to the care of his groom, who from some interested motive, fancies, because he had a good breakfast, he will not hurt should he fast until evening. Then out of compassion, perhaps, he gives the horse his two feeds, one of which he ought to have had in the middle of the day. The horse with an anxious eye, and a voracious appetite, no sooner sees the corn put into the manger, than he bolts it down with the greatest eagerness, and when finished is not unfrequently allowed to fill himself up with water. The consequences are, the horse has swallowed the greater part of his corn whole, the moisture it imbibes causes it to swell which brings on the most excruciating pains, and often terminates in death. Upon opening the body, the stomach is found distended, its coat stretched so thin, that the cohesion is almost destroyed, and has more the appearance of a mucous and slime, than a stomach. In other cases the stomach is found burst, and the contents spread through the abdomen.

To keep a horse in health, it is also necessary that he should have a sufficiency of nourishment, otherwise he will fall into a weak state, dropsical swellings will appear; the circulation of his blood will become feeble, and in the end, the horse will sink under a complication of diseases.

Attention should also be paid to the nature and quality of the food given to this animal. The horse without laborious exercise, merely running about at his own pleasure, is capable of obtaining a sufficient quantity of grass for maintenance, which being his natural food, there can be no doubt as to its wholesome quality; but for a horse destined, for hard work, grass alone will not enable him to undergo severe fatigue. This is owing to the succulent matter it possesses, which produces fatness, and increases the animal fluids which tend to encumber the horse without producing strength, so that this plainly shows grass is not sufficient. In this colony, the principal fodder for horses is hay, and when it is really good, is both nutritious and wholesome, though it ought not to be used until nearly a year old, as new hay is very indigestible. Old hay also is equally as injurious, especially if it is mouldy, as it loses its nutritive quality, and lays the foundation of coughs and other disorders.

In the stacking of hay there is an excellent practice adopted by some persons, that is, sprinkling each layer with a small quantity of salt, which helps to preserve the hay, imparts to it a fine flavour, occasions the cattle to drink the more, and inclines them to fatten sooner, besides their being particularly fond of it.

In foreign countries, barley is commonly given to horses, and is said to agree well with them in improving both their wind and spirit. It is certain barley contains a large proportion of nutriment; but against it the English have always harboured a strong prejudice. Oats amongst us appear to be the most favourite corn for horses, but their being of a coarser nature, it is better they should be mixed with bran, in order to produce that medium, which renders them more wholesome.

French Washerwomen.—Early as it was, the washers by the bridge leading to Bizonas were all at their accustomed work; for theirs is an occupation which knows no cessation, either for the summer's heat or the winter's cold. They seldom wash in the Gave, or in any stream from melted snow; but this little river, the Ousse, which flows from the nearer hills, and joins the Gave, at the bridge of Pau, is said to be more favourable for their employment; and I have seen as many as six and twenty women in one continued line, washing in its waters, besides a great many other groups in different stations on its banks; while the whole village of Dizanos, its fields and hedges, and much of the surrounding plains, were white with the linen blea-

ching in the sun. The great mystery is, how these poor women can continue their operations through the severest winter weather. I have seen them standing barefoot in the water, when the snow was on the ground, and a sharp northeast wind blowing, their aprons and petticoats literally dripping, and no refreshment during the whole day but dry bread, onions, and sour wine. Yet they sat down in groups upon the ground, while they ate this pitiful repast, and chattered and laughed with as much apparent enjoyment as half a dozen English washerwomen over their lengthened tea, with the bright blaze of a kitchen fire sending its comfort to their hearts all the while.

MARKETS.

Table with columns for LONDON and MELBOURNE, listing various goods and their prices.

Table with columns for SYDNEY, listing various goods and their prices.

Table with columns for HOBART TOWN, listing various goods and their prices.

Table with columns for LAUNCESTON, listing various goods and their prices.

Table with columns for NEW ZEALAND, listing various goods and their prices.

Table with columns for ADELAIDE, listing various goods and their prices.

Table with columns for SWAN RIVER, listing various goods and their prices.

Geelong Retail Market Prices.

Table listing various retail market prices for goods like bread, butter, and cheese.

Geelong Price Current.

Table listing price current for various commodities including grain and building materials.

SPIRITS, &c. (DUTY PAID)

Table listing prices for spirits and other duty-paid goods.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Table listing miscellaneous prices for various items like tea, sugar, and gunpowder.

STOCK.

Table listing stock prices for various commodities like wool and fat.

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