

ted, we can only then call our committee together, and dispose of the money received in any way they think proper.

EMIGRATE! EMIGRATE!—Swift describes a fat man in a crowd, puffing and blowing with the heat and pressure, and breaking out into very unsteady remarks on the number and condition of those who were the immediate causes of his distress.

A notice to the following effect was issued this morning by the Postmaster-General:—As there is reason to believe that, under some misapprehension of the law, a practice has for some time existed of forwarding consignees and other letters out of the United Kingdom by contract packet boats otherwise than through the Post-office, the Postmaster-General thinks it quite necessary to point out that such a practice is in direct contravention of the law, and that, whatever may be their nature or destination, can be legally sent out of the United Kingdom by packet boats otherwise than through the Post-office; and any infringement of the law in this respect will render the parties liable to a prosecution.

It has been usual for some years for the consignees of vessels to send letters, free of charge, by steps in which they had the chief interest, but the practice is one to which the Post-office authorities have lately objected, and the circumstance has given rise to the wholesale opening of letters found on board merchant ships, in order to the return of the same to the writers. The public mind has all at once become excited on the subject of letter-opening at the Post-office, and hence, in all probability, the appearance of this above notice.—Morning Post.

CLOSING OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; RIOTS AND DISORDER; MOTIONS AND COUNTER MOTIONS; DESECRATION OF THE SABBATH!

The Washington correspondent of the New York Express, gives the following description of the closing scene in the American Congress:—

At forty minutes past eleven o'clock, at night, the house is but little better than a riot; all business is sacrificed. Would that the people could look down upon their representatives—Bridam appears to have been let loose in earnest, whilst the place of rendezvous is the Representatives' chamber. The noise is stunning, nearly all are talking, scolding, laughing, and some are smoking upon the floor of the house. Though midnight, all the galleries are full, and many of the crowd are ladies! Justice is done the majority of the members in the house not twenty will ever be required.

A motion was made again for a call of the house.

Mr. McConnell called for the yeas and nays, and Mr. McConnell was just the man for such a row as this. He was aided by the Carrys of Maine, the Rathbuns and Russells of New York, and the most rowdy members of the house.

Mr. Smith entreated the house to hear him for one moment. He was put down by cries of order.

Mr. Wentworth asked for a suspension of the rules, that his colleagues might be heard.

Mr. McConnell cried out at the top of his voice—G. G. Wentworth—go it long legs. You are a damned sight better looking fellow than you are taken to be.

The disturbance of these and other members was proceeding at such great length that the speaker, the chair being temporarily occupied by Mr. Hopkin—being refused to entertain a motion of Mr. McConnell for the yeas, nays, and a call of the house. Five of his fellow labourers

in this miserable mischief of the night, the worst and most disgraceful ever practised in a legislative body, took an appeal and called for the yeas and nays. But eighteen members rose for the yeas and nays, and the appeal by a large majority was laid on the table.

It was now past midnight, and Sabbath morning, and such a Sabbath morning with such a scene had rarely been. The sofas that time the hall were full and some of them were more than full. The pages were under the tables and about them, and the clerks and messengers entirely worn down with fatigue. Up to this hour three hours and thirty minutes had been occupied in calling the yeas and nays!

R. Rheet, of S. C. the disunionist, with a sort of "good lord, good devil" appeal, soon after twelve o'clock, exhorted the house not to legislate upon the Sabbath! It was time to go home.

Mr. Vance, of Ohio, one of the most venerable, respectable, and useful members of the house, hoped if the gentleman from South Carolina had any religious scruples about remaining here he would go home. That member, he said, fronting to Mr. Rheet, had been endeavouring for the last four hours, to obstruct the regular business of the house, and succeeded by the aid of others, and it was at this hour, and after such conduct, that he called upon the house to abandon the business and go home.

Mr. Rheet, nothing ashamed, said that what he had done he would do again. He had been endeavouring to preserve the constitution?

New motions were now made to adjourn, and for a call of the house, and the yeas and nays ordered upon each motion as before. In the midst of all this confusion the voice of McConnell was heard with impious calls upon his lips, and the most insulting language addressed to members all around him.

Mr. Saunders, of N. C. threatened to turn him over to the Sergeant-at-Arms if he did not preserve order.

Things were proceeding from bad to worse. While one member was cursing aloud, and threatening "to bite off the ears" of others, and another was defending the conduct of the madmen in the majority in defeating the District Bank Bill, and others yet were urgent and clamorous to go home and leave things as they were; the speaker of the house made a decision that the first business in order was the bill to extend the charters of the District Banks. This decision created one of the greatest uproars of the night. It appeared to have been avoided as long as possible, and to have been arrived at with reluctance. No sooner was the decision made than a crowd of revolutionary measures followed. Some called for an "appeal" some rose to "points of order," others again for "a call of the house," and two or three for an "adjournment."

At such a time, the speaker of the house deserted the Chair and called upon John B. Weller, of Ohio, to preside! He was just the instrument of petty tyranny and manliness for such a scene, and commenced his "brief authority" of an hour by reversing the decision of the speaker, and deciding that it was Saturday, the private bills had precedence over the public business, and that, therefore, the Bank bill was not in order! This decision pleased the disorganizers greatly and was received by them with a shout.

Mr. Weller was told that it was not Saturday, but the Sabbath, and an appeal was taken from his most intemperate decision, which was using a sacred day to a most profane purpose.

Mr. Bernard of New York, with much coolness and boldness, rose to a privileged question, and demanded of the temporary occupant of the speaker's place, that the speaker should resume the chair.

Mr. Weller refused to entertain the motion. I was idle for decent men to contend much longer in such an arena. The hall of the house of Representatives looked as if it was a very pandemonium where the representatives of ruin, mischief, outrage, and wrong, were predominant.

John Quincy Adams remained to the end, voting always quietly for all the necessary bills before the house and against all the motions to adjourn, and every motion intended to obstruct the business of the house.

John Campbell of S. C. the Chairman of the Committee on the district of Columbia, was also present, entreating, urging, demanding of the house by every principle of fair and manly feeling to proceed to the business before them. He looked the very picture of death, and seems indeed to be standing upon the grave, which will soon give way beneath him, but neither sickness nor eternity could procure any influence.

At 20 minutes to 3 o'clock, the last motion was made to adjourn, and it prevailed by a majority of about 10 in a vote of 135. This ended the last night session of the first session of the 28th Congress. I would not have been one of the majority to have been responsible for such legislation—such scenes of riot and disorder, of drunkenness with wine by some and with passion by others, for all the combined honours of the two houses of Congress—Shame upon such legislation, and everlasting shame upon such legislators. Surely not one of the guilty will escape the rebuke and condemnation of their constituents.

REPORT OF THE PENTONVILLE COMMISSIONERS.

From the Hobart Town Courier.

We have read with much attention the Second Report of the Commissioners for the Government of the Pentonville Prison, which has been presented to both Houses of Parliament. The recent arrival, by the Sir George Seymour, of a detachment of prisoners who have passed the regular course of its prescribed discipline, has extended the interest felt in this new experiment in penal science, to our own island. We shall now have an opportunity of contrasting its practical efficiency, as a penal means of reform, with the system of Probation discipline now in operation here, and to which it is, in some of its fundamental principles, so directly opposed. We shall be able to judge how far the salutary effects, apparently produced, are of a permanent character. We shall be enabled to ascertain how far the change of moral habits and the more profitable direction of thought and impulse, superintended

by a long course of penal exclusion from the world, will stand the test of restoration to the liberty and license of a social intercourse. The results will be looked for with anxiety by many here, and more especially by the high authorities in the parent land whose names are attached to the Report, and who have taken so strong an interest in the establishment and arrangements of the prison, and in the ordinary effects of its discipline. We purpose, therefore, noticing, from time to time, these results, as they become gradually developed. In the mean time, we shall lay before our readers such portions of the report as we believe will prove generally interesting, and comment, in our progress, on the parts and particulars that require observation, as connected with the system of Probation established in Van Diemen's Land, or as affecting the probable success of this novel experiment.

The Pentonville Establishment was opened for the reception of prisoners on the 21st December, 1842; so that its system of discipline has been in operation rather more than two years. This prison, by order of the Secretary of State, is appropriated to the reception of male convicts between the ages of 18 and 35, under sentence of transportation not exceeding 16 years. The term of probationary separation and discipline is fixed at about 18 months, at the expiration of which term the neophytes are transported to Van Diemen's Land, under their original sentences; their position in "the penal colony" to be dependent on their conduct while at Pentonville prison.

No mention is made in the Report of "exiles." The class so denominated is an extension of the original proposition, and has evidently been created by the necessity now felt by Lord Stanley of finding a speedier absorption and disposition of prisoners in the neighbouring colonies. This class, sent out with the single restriction on their freedom of confinement to the Australian colonies, is composed of those whose conduct has been most exemplary and commendable during their probationary term in the prison.

We pass over the portion of the Report which has reference to the "state of the buildings and conduct of the officers," with the simple observation that both are satisfactory, and proceed to the "conduct, treatment, and condition of the prisoners."

On this head we shall quote almost verbatim.

"The prisoner, on reception, is apprised of the rules relating to his conduct, and of the duties required of the officers in the treatment of the prisoners. These rules, a copy of which is hung up in each cell, inform him that he is prohibited from communicating with any other prisoner; that he may at any time apply to see a Commissioner, the Governor, Deputy-Governor, Chaplain, or Medical Officer; and that he may communicate any complaint which he may have to make either to them, or the officer set over him; that if he be desirous of sending a petition to the Secretary of State, or other authority, he will be allowed to do so; that he is required to attend chapel, but that his attendance will, at his request, be dispensed with, if he be of a different communion from that of the Established Church, and in that case a minister of his persuasion will be allowed to visit him;—that he may, on reception, send to his friends a letter stating his removal to the prison, and that he is at liberty afterwards to send and receive a letter, and receive a visit, at intervals of three months;—that at the request of his friends events of importance may at any time be communicated to him by the Governor;—that any relation or friend may be allowed to see him at his request, if seriously ill, should the Governor and Medical Officer consider such visit unobjectionable;—that the officers are required to exercise their authority with firmness, temper, and humanity, to abstain from all irritating language, and not to strike a prisoner; but that they are not permitted to converse with any prisoner, except on subjects connected with their duties."

SONNET ON THE PROJECTED KENDAL AND WINANDERMERE RAILWAY.

Is there no hook of English ground secure From rash assault? Schemes of retirement sown In youth, and 'mid the busy world kept pure As when their earliest flowers of hope were blown. Must perish; how can they this blight endure? And must he too his old delights disown Who scorns a false utilitarian lure 'Mid his paternal fields at random thrown! Baffle the threat, bright scene, from Orestes' head, Given to the pausing traveller's rapturous glance! Plead for thy peace, thy beautiful romance Of nature; and if human hearts be dead, Speak, passing winds, ye torrents, with your strong And constant voice, protest against the wrong

WM. WORDSWORTH. Rydal Mount, Oct. 12, 1844.

Let not the above be considered as merely a poetical effusion. The degree and kind of attachment which many of the yeomanry feel to their small inheritances can scarcely be over-rated. Near the house of one of them stands a magnificent tree, which a neighbour of the owner advised him to fell for profit's sake. "Fell it!" exclaimed the yeoman, "I had rather fall on my knees and worship it." It happens, I believe, that the intended railway will pass through this little property, and I hope that an apology for the answer will not be thought necessary by any

Diemen's Land, to receive, on landing, a ticket-of-leave, which will confer most of the advantages of freedom during the remainder of their sentence;—that labour in Van Diemen's Land being in great demand, and wages therefore high, a knowledge of a trade, and the possession of a ticket-of-leave, will enable them, with industry and good conduct, to secure a respectable position in society; that with this ticket-of-leave they may, by a course of honest industry, acquire in a short time means sufficient to enable their families to follow them."

"The second class will consist of those who have conducted themselves well: that these, also, at the end of 8 months, will, on their arrival in Van Diemen's Land, receive a probationary pass which will secure to them only a portion of their earnings and will subject them to many restraints and privations."

"The third class will consist of those who have behaved ill: that such prisoners will be transported to Tasmania's Peninsula, a penal colony, occupied only by convicts and the military guard; that they will be employed on public works in probationary gangs, without wages, and deprived of liberty; and that their families, under any circumstances, will not be allowed to join them."

We pause here, in our quotations, to remark on a serious error into which the authors of the regulations have unconsciously fallen. The statement, made to every individual prisoner, that "labour in Van Diemen's Land is in great demand, and wages high," is no longer correct. It may do much, therefore, in the disappointment of hopes and expectations which every man has been encouraged, by high authority to form, to impair the ultimate efficiency of the system. It may, in fact, under the impression that they have been deceived or misled, destroy, in many instances, the good that long exclusion and a course of moral discipline have accomplished, and induce a fatal relapse into their former train of habit and of action. The statement is evidently founded on a former period in our brief annals, of high but unnatural prosperity, which has passed away, and has been succeeded, as is usually the case, by an almost universal prostration of energy and unprecedented depreciation in the value of property. As a necessary result, the demand for labour is diminished, and the rate of wages proportionably depressed. The operation of this inevitable consequence is still further extended by the vast amount of labour constantly becoming available from our own probation regulations, and which the colony, in its present position, is unable to absorb. The general effect of all this on the "Pentonville men," who were led, by authority that they never thought of questioning, to expect a very different state of things, cannot but be unfavourable in every point of view. Instances have, in fact, already occurred where advantageous engagements have been lost from the exorbitant remuneration which this unfortunate statement has led them to demand; and this, be it remembered, is but one of the train of evils that it manifestly involves. The Home Authorities, therefore, will doubtless see the desirableness, or rather the necessity, of correcting an error so pregnant with disastrous influence on the system which they have, in other respects, so anxiously considered and so carefully matured.

We shall continue our notice of the "report," with such observations as the subject may require.

LOST.

FROM the Race Course, on Friday, the 8th March,—One Red Bullock, branded W on near rump One Red and White Bullock, branded W on near rump, Supposed to have gone towards Bonningyong. Went away with a pole yoke on.

A reward of One Pound will be given to any person who will bring the said Bullocks and yoke, or Ten shillings if without the yoke, to Mr. Napoleon de la Ray, Geelong.

£2 REWARD.

LOST.—One Light Bay Mare, 15 hands high, with a foal by her side about fifteen months old. The mare is branded on the near shoulder S P, and A either over or under, and the foal is branded A on the near shoulder. Also, a Bay Colt, black points, two years old, branded the same as the above mare.

The said Horses were formerly the property of Messrs Smythe and Prentice, and may be running in their neighbourhood.

Any person giving such information as will lead to their recovery, will receive a reward of £2

JAMES AUSTIN. Geelong, March 5, 1845.

One Pound Reward.

STRAYED from Corio, 12th January, a Bay Mare, star on forehead, near hind fetlock white, saddle marks, short switch tail, branded D by near shoulder; DAC under mane.

Any person delivering the same at Mr. O'Farrell's Auction Room will receive the above reward.

STRAYED.

FROM the Farm of the undersigned, Barrabool Hills a light Bay Forester, Filly, two years old, branded JW under the mane.

A Bay Clydesdale Colt, white face and hind pasterns white, one year old, branded JW on the near shoulder.

A Reward of One Pound for each of the above described, will be paid to any party bringing them to the Farm, or giving information where they are to be found.

J. WILLIAMSON. Geelong, March 6, 1845.

THE PORT PHILIP SEPARATION SHEET ALMANAC, for 1845.—Price, 2s. plain, and 2s. 6d. coloured.

one who enters into the strength of the feeling. W. W.

REPLY TO THE ABOVE SONNET.

O thought unworthy of the poet sage; Can the most lovely of terrestrial scenes Be marred, when humankind science intervenes To place the marvels of a recent age By God's old grandours? What can so engage, And raise the mind, as to behold the proud, Long-tameless elements of nature bowed To turn to mortal god their governed rage? How grand to note the use of slightest things! Such formless vapours, as the mountain lake Gives to the warming sun, serve, as man wills To bear him mighty loads on thought-swift wings. At his call only, earth's full glories wake, And echo else were silent on the hills.

MR. O'FARRELL

Will sell by auction, at his rooms, THIS DAY, (26th March) at one o'clock,

TWENTY Sweet Milk Cheeses, from 5 to 12 lbs. each, very convenient for families.

ALSO, One Cask Pickled Salmon And a variety of other articles. Terms at Sale.

JOSEPH TUCKER & PHILIP HIBBITT, Boot and Shoe Makers, (From London.)

BEGS to say that they have commenced business at Mr. Treynor's Board and Lodging House, next door to Mack's Hotel, Corio, where by superior workmanship and punctuality in the execution of every order entrusted to their care, they hope to meet with a share of the patronage of this place.

Messrs T. & H. having been for many years engaged in several of the first shops of the West End of London, they can warrant a boot or shoe of such fit and workmanship as shall be second to none in Geelong.

In thus soliciting the patronage of a discerning public, Messrs T. & H. would further beg to say, that second only to fit and workmanship will be their punctuality in the execution of every order. Geelong, March 25, 1845.

WANTED.

A WHEELWRIGHT, who thoroughly understands his business. Apply to D. RICKETTS, Kardinia-street.

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