

The Weekly Register

OF POLITICS, FACTS, AND GENERAL LITERATURE.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

VOL. I.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1843.

No. 8.

To Correspondents.

"THE AUTHOR OF TARQUIN."—*We regret that this young man should have had the indiscretion to send us a splenetic letter, in return for the kind and honest literary criticism and advice which he sought and received. Such miserable self-conceit can only be cured by time and repeated disappointment.*

"THE HEADS BY MOONLIGHT" *if possible in our next.*

THE POLITICAL REGISTER.

"It is of great importance in a State—not only to guard Society against the oppression of its rulers, but to guard one part of Society against the injustice of the other part. Justice is the end of Government.—It is the end of civil Society"—HAMILTON.

THE DISTRICT CORPORATIONS.

We regret to see that considerable opposition is being made in different parts of the country, to the establishment of the District Corporations, and Petitions have been got up, where, perhaps, petitions were never before heard of, praying for the suspension of this part of the Act of Parliament "until the times get better." This opposition appears to us not only unwise in itself, but in reality a waste of time and talk, to say nothing of paper and parchment. If a body of men were to meet and petition for the suspension of Magna Charta, and the Habeas Corpus Act, they would be considered as unqualified to enjoy the privileges of these laws, and fit only for the madhouse. And yet what difference is there between such a proceeding and that of the persons to whom we refer? Has not an Act of Parliament already decreed the formation of these Corporations? And has not the Queen's Charter been put forth instituting them, and appointing their first officers? Supposing then, for a moment, that these Corporations were not desirable, what power is there in this Colony sufficient to repeal an Act of Parliament or suspend Her Majesty's Letters Patent?

We perceive that the greatest objection urged against the measure is, that part of it which compels every District to pay one-half the expence of its own police; and no doubt the expence of police in this country is a grievance and a burthen difficult to be borne; but, after all it is one of those grievances that we cannot avoid. We must, for the sake of our lives and properties, have that burthen—

We do now bear it; and if it is not laid upon our shoulders by direct assessment, it is effected by the much more expensive and objectionable system of indirect taxation. There cannot be two opinions upon the question, whether money spent on the spot, and under the eyes of those from whom it has been collected, will be spent more usefully and economically, than it can be by Government, at a distance perhaps of some hundreds of miles? Who can be so well qualified to judge, as those whose lives and property are to be protected, of the amount of force required for that protection, and the sum necessary to keep up such force? By what other means can each District be charged with its fair and just proportion of the expence?

It will of course be urged, that there ought to be a reduction of the general taxation of the Colony proportionate to the taxation of the Country Districts. This is indeed a proposition which we do not dispute, and here is the point to which these petitioners ought to have directed their attention, rather than to the accomplishment of impossibilities. The Act of Parliament leaves no room for doubt upon this subject. Here is the clause:—

"And be it enacted, that one-half of the expence of the Police establishment of the said Colony (exclusive of the Convict establishment) shall be defrayed out of the general Revenue arising from taxes, duties, rates and imposts within the said Colony, and the other half shall be defrayed by assessment upon the several districts of the Colony, in such proportions as shall be from time to time fixed by the Governor and Legislative Council, and as soon as any Bill shall have passed the Legislative Council, and shall have been assented to by the Governor for appropriating any sum to the service of the Police for the year then next ensuing, and for apportioning an equal sum among the several districts of the said Colony, it shall be lawful for the Governor to issue warrants under his hand, directed to the Treasurers of the several District Councils, requiring them within two calendar months from the receipt of the warrant, to pay an amount equal to the sum assessed upon that district, to such person as the Governor shall appoint to receive the same, out of any monies in their hands belonging to the district."

The clauses immediately following, enact that each District Council shall assess and levy the amount required by a fair and equal rate upon all property within the District;

and that unless the amount be paid within the given time, it shall be lawful for the Colonial Treasurer to levy the same by distress and sale of the goods of the District Treasurer.

Of what utility, then, are meetings and petitions in the face of these enactments? There is no power existing in this Colony to suspend, or set aside, or repeal an Act of Parliament, nor do we believe that the Governor has any power to nullify or suspend the operation of the Charters or Letters Patent, which he has already issued in the Queen's name, in terms of that Act.

But, if it were possible for these Petitioners to obtain from the Legislative Council that relief from taxation which they seek, we think the Council would do a most serious injury to the country by granting their prayer; an injury which, perhaps, a century or two would not repair. We know well the strength of the "no taxation" argument. It is one that has ever carried weight with it, and ever will. But no society can exist without taxation—least of all a free society—and we must, in spite of us, submit to the universal rule, or relapse into barbarism. But of all systems of taxation that effected by municipalities has been found to be the least objectionable, and the most beneficial to the taxpayers; and these institutions have besides tendencies which make their establishment extremely desirable, independent altogether of their powers of taxation.

In the first place Corporations are the best possible schools of politics. They are, as it were, small republics within the state, in which the electors and the elected learn their respective duties, and become better qualified for the exercise of their higher political franchises. These institutions afford an outlet, or safety valve as it were, for public feeling, and an organ by which local grievances may be made known, and remedies sought. In addition to all this they form a convenient medium of communication between the Districts and the general Legislature of the country. These are advantages, which no wise legislator should overlook, all experience having proved that they are indispensable to every system of well regulated free Government. The opponents of Municipal Institutions must, therefore, be either extremely ignorant and short sighted; or their patriotism must be at a very low ebb.

Again, the Act of Parliament charges the

municipalities with the care of public education. Is this a matter which we can afford to leave any longer in its present state? Throughout the length and breadth of the land are thousands of young children, among the finest ever created, and they are growing up—in numberless instances—in total ignorance of the God that made them, and of their duties to society. The present assizes at Berrima have furnished more than one lamentable example of this system of neglect, which it is truly frightful to contemplate. And is this state of things to be allowed to continue to some indefinite period, that we may, forsooth, avoid some little "taxation?" What matter that £30,000 per annum are voted for clergy, and half as much more for schools, if this system of savage education is allowed to continue. Rather sweep away altogether this item from the civil list—leave religion to take care of itself as it always best does—and vote assistance to the local authorities, obliging them by enactment to give a sound moral education to every child within their districts, agreeably to some uniform plan adopted by a board in Sydney, lawfully and equitably appointed.

We maintain, whatever assertions to the contrary may have been made, that the present time is particularly favourable for the commencement of these Institutions. There is a loud cry among the higher classes of society for more immigrant labourers, while a committee of the Legislative Council, after investigating the matter, reports that there is a vast quantity of unemployed labour already in the Colony. Now the effect of putting the District Councils in active operation would be to reconcile this apparent contradiction—to afford labour for all that are at present unemployed, and to make room for ten times the number more, thereby making the revival of immigration desirable and practicable, neither of which it is at this moment. Nor would this be all. The weight of the local land tax would compel the proprietors to turn land to some profitable account—by cultivating it for themselves, by parting with portions of it on conditions favourable to the small capitalist, or by letting it at small yearly rents, on clearing leases or otherwise. By this means extensive colonization would be carried on, the wilderness would become habitable and fruitful, and education and good morals would take the place of vice and ignorance, which is still so deplorably prevalent. For these reasons then, to which we might add others equally cogent, we cannot but deprecate the opposition that is being made to the establishment of these valuable institutions; and we trust, if those on whom the first municipal honours have been conferred shall prove in any way unwilling to discharge the duties of their position, that no time will be lost in supplying their places with others who are disposed more readily to serve their country.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COLONY.

DOCTOR LANG has given notice that he will move on Thursday next, a series of Resolutions, having for their object certain changes in our Political Constitution. The first of these is to the effect that the recent Act of Parliament is in several important particulars inadequate to meet the actual wants of the Colony. The second proposes to extend the

franchise to tenants of land of the yearly rent of twenty pounds. The third, that the elective franchise should be extended to the licensed squatters; and the last, that Sydney is not adequately represented in this Council, and that it ought to return four members.

The first of these propositions is somewhat too comprehensive. We do not think that the existing constitution is inadequate to meet our wants. It may have, and certainly has, its defects, but these are not such as to essentially affect the working of the Constitution. To the second proposition we yield our cordial assent. We only regret that the qualification proposed is still too high. To the third proposition we are entirely opposed, both upon principle and expediency. Upon Principle, because we can see no reason on earth why the £10 tenant of the laird of Dunmore should have no vote, if the £10 tenant of Queen Victoria is permitted to have one. This is nothing but another bungling effort at Class Legislation, that curse of society in every age. Why should the squatter have a distinct privilege that the settler or citizen does not possess? But this resolution is opposed to expediency as well as to principle. There is too much squatting going on, and too little Colonization. The squatters may be viewed by many as the "pioneers of civilization"—they may be regarded as large contributors to our Colonial wealth; but they must also be looked upon in very many instances as reckless and unprincipled scramblers after wealth, who have by their deeds of cruelty brought shame and disgrace—and may yet bring heavy judgments—upon the Colony. Squatting beyond the boundaries has been proved to be a brutalizing occupation. We remember on one occasion having heard Sir George Gipps describe the squatters as a class of highly educated men—graduates of Cambridge and so forth; and all this is no doubt correct. If we meet these persons in society when they come to town, they seem polished enough, and sometimes sentimental. But begin to converse with them *tête à tête* about the tenure of their property and they will be found to a man disposed to assert claims to the public lands which are utterly inconsistent with public justice or wise policy. And if you further interrogate them respecting the unhappy aborigines, you will in nineteen cases out of every twenty, hear sentiments which ought to make a christian shudder. The outrages endured and perpetrated by squatters beyond the boundaries are every day becoming more frequent, and the murders committed cry to heaven for redress, if not for the abolishment of the whole system. Witness the last number of the *Maitland Mercury*.

"A party of whites, twenty-three in number were out after a tribe of wild blacks, who had been committing depredations at several stations on the Barwin. They were camped for the night, and had lighted a fire; and two of the party remaining up on guard, the remainder retired to rest, thinking themselves quite secure from any attack, as it is very unusual for the aborigines to carry on their aggressions in the night. The party were, however, surprised by the blacks, who commenced the attack by throwing in a shower of spears and clubs, and kept up the fight for a considerable time in a similar manner, carefully avoiding close quarters, until they were eventually beaten off. *It had not been ascertained whether any of the aborigines had*

been killed. Of the whites, one, a stockman, had his brains dashed out; another, Mr. Hallen, superintendent to Mr. Lawson, M. C., was speared in the back, and died from the effects of the wound in five days after; while three others were wounded, one dangerously in the thigh, though it was hoped his wound would not prove fatal, and the other two slightly. We have reason to fear that the above melancholy event is only one of a series of fatal encounters that have occurred between the squatters and the aborigines, on the rivers in the north-west, during the last six months. We are not in a position at present to be more explicit, but we have strong grounds for believing that during that period at least fifty human lives have been sacrificed."

The same tale, with some variations, has been told of every squatting district in the Colony. And it is this lawless system of shooting and being speared that Dr. Lang proposes shall be honoured with special political privileges not possessed by *bona fide* settlers!

With respect to squatters within the bounds of civilization, we have no objection to their being placed on the same footing as other tenants. That is let the qualification be lowered to £10, or let the licence be raised to £20, and then they may vote, but until the system of squatting beyond the boundaries is placed on an entire new basis, so as to check the lawless conduct of both races of savages, we shall protest most strongly against any such special concession as that proposed. If premiums are to be held out at all, they should rather be awarded to the *bona fide* settler, than to mere "birds of passage."

With respect to the last of the proposed resolutions we need hardly say it has our hearty concurrence. No man can say that the City of Sydney is adequately represented by two members, nor is it any argument in favour of the present scheme of distribution to say that the Government officers, who are members, reside in Sydney. So also do several of the members for Port Phillip, but still they are not our representatives, nor have we that direct control over their votes, which we should have if they were chosen by the Citizens. But approving of the resolution itself, we cannot see why it should not have been introduced by the honourable member in the form of a "Bill to alter the number of members of the Legislative Council," agreeably to the fourth section of the Act of Parliament. The Council has not the power to alter the Act of Parliament, or to extend the franchise as proposed in the other resolutions; but it clearly has the power to alter the number of members of the Council, and that ought to be a distinct proposition from the others, which appeal to another tribunal. The following is the clause of the Act of Parliament bearing upon this point.

"And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor and the said Legislative Council of the Colony of New South Wales, by any act or acts to be hereafter passed, to alter the divisions and extent of the several districts and towns which shall be represented in the Legislative Council, and to establish new and other divisions of the same, and to alter the number of Members of the Council to be chosen by the said districts and towns respectively, and to increase the whole number of the Legislative Council, and to alter and regulate the appointment of Returning

Officers in and for the same, and make provision in such manner as they may deem expedient for the issuing and return of Writs for the Election of Members to serve in the said Legislative Council and the time and place for holding such Elections: Provided always, that such number of the additional Councillors as is equal to one-third part of the whole increase, or if such increase shall not be exactly divisible by three, such whole number as is next greater than one-third of the whole increase, shall be appointed by her Majesty, and the remaining additional members of the Council shall be elected by the inhabitants of the Colony in like manner as the elective Members first constituted under this Act."

Thus it is clearly within the power of the Council itself to institute the last of the alterations in our Constitution proposed by Doctor Lang. We should, therefore, be glad to see this last resolution detached from the others, and introduced in the form of an enactment to the same effect.

Domestic Intelligence.

NEW ZEALAND.—When the first intelligence reached us of the fate of our countrymen at the Wairau, the natives then in Nelson, and their number was considerable, were under great apprehension for their safety, and hastened away to their respective homes as quickly as possible. Three men from Queen Charlotte's Sound, who were the first hearers of the ill tidings, were all that remained, and they, after making their depositions before the magistrates, went to Wauka-pa-wauka, where five canoes from the Sound, laded with potatoes and pigs, were staying. The assurance they received from these three men that they would incur no danger by coming on to Nelson, quieted their fears, and on Wednesday they all arrived here, and were followed the next day by two canoes belonging to the pah. The greater portion of the Maories who visit us belong to the tribe of which Rauparah is the chief. Although they do not view the late massacre with the same horror as we do, because such events have been too common in their history, yet we sincerely believe, they have but little sympathy with the murderers. We have been assured that the power of Rauparah is very limited, and only kept up by fear arising out of old associations. The party of five men who undertook to come round by land from the Wairau, arrived in Nelson on Wednesday evening. Owing to the late heavy rains, they found some difficulty in crossing the rivers, and suffered privations by the delay which this occasioned. The men who were despatched from the extreme survey station on the Waiti, fortunately fell in with them, and were able to render them timely assistance. Nothing has been heard of Stokes or Burton, who were missing.—*Nelson Examiner.*

FATAL ACCIDENT IN THE HARBOUR.—On Wednesday afternoon, during a sailing match in the harbour, one of the boats, the *Breeze*, was caught by a sudden squall, and immediately went down. Of four persons who were on board at the time, we regret to say, two were drowned, namely, Mr. Batten, a broker and commission agent, and Mr. Curtis, one of the chief clerks, in the Union Bank. Both gentlemen were highly respected, and their premature death has inflicted much

grief in a numerous circle. Mr. Curtis had been but a short time married. An inquest was holden on Thursday, at the Blue Bell, Erskine-street, on the body of Mr. Richard Batten, and a verdict of "accidentally drowned" returned. The jury at the same time recording a vote of censure on the crew of the pilot boat, who were within a short distance of the *Breeze* when the accident happened, but who made not the slightest effort to afford any assistance to the unfortunate men.

NORFOLK ISLAND.—At present, the whole convict discipline at Norfolk Island is under the charge of an officer engaged in the trial of series of experiments suggested by himself. For reasons in no degree incompatible with the respect due to that gentleman, it is proposed to relieve him from that charge. An officer, to be called the Superintendent or Commandant of Norfolk Island, will proceed to that place as soon as may be practicable, and will be the bearer of detailed instructions for his guidance in the discharge of his official duties. This officer, will, however, be placed under the immediate authority of the Governor of Van Diemen's Land. For that purpose the island will be detached from the Government of New South Wales, and annexed to the Van Diemen's Land Government. A proper military force will be stationed at Norfolk Island, and the convicts there will be employed under the direction of an officer of the Ordnance, in any necessary repair or enlargement of the barracks for the reception of that force. They will also be employed in preparing the necessary lodging for the reception of the total number of convicts whom it is intended to place on the island. Agricultural labour for their own subsistence will, of course, be an occupation which must be deemed of primary importance.

LABOUR IN THE INTERIOR.—A contribution to the public welfare, of a most important kind in the present crisis of our affairs has just been made by Mr. Boyd of the Royal Bank, who has engaged and forwarded at his expense to Twofold Bay, a number of families to be employed on his property in that neighbourhood. Those hired at £18 5s. were all superior mechanics, carpenters, and stonemasons, &c. Those at £12 and £10 were labourers and shearers. In addition to the money wages thus secured to them, they are each to have a weekly ration of 10lbs. of flour, 10lbs. of meat, 2lbs. of sugar, 4oz. of tea, 2oz. of tobacco, with half a ration each additional for the wives of the married—with the exception of tobacco, which Mr. B. considers it would be wrong to encourage the fair sex to make use of, in any one of the offensive forms. Besides engaging these upon his own account, Mr. Boyd has granted a free passage to Twofold Bay to 150 persons, each of whom on landing will be provided with 10lbs. of flour, 10lbs. of meat, and ½lb. of tea to enable them to proceed into the interior. An act of such disinterested and such unusual benevolence deserves much praise.

FIRE.—Between twelve and one o'clock on Wednesday morning, as Inspector Higgins was passing at the corner of Pitt and Bathurst-streets, his attention was attracted to the premises occupied as a druggist shop, by Mr. D. R. Shearer, by the upper portion of the premises appearing to be on fire. An alarm was immediately given, and an entrance

effected, when it was found that a quantity of materials of the most inflammable description had ignited, and in a few minutes longer it is highly probable the whole premises would have been one mass of burning ruins, as independent of a number of cans of turpentine, oils, and other liquids adapted for burning, there were several casks of pitch, rosin, inflammable gums, together with a very considerable quantity of cotton, tow, surgeon's lint, &c., steeped in turpentine, with a due proportion of sky rockets. Soon after the fire had been got under, an examination of the premises it appeared that the fire had commenced in the lower part of the house, and that there was a complete train of communication between it and the upper portion of the building, by means of a quantity of lint, cotton, and tow, all of which was well saturated with a glutinous composition of Venice turpentine. The House and stock are insured in the Mutual Fire Association, whose engines were promptly on the spot and ready for work. An investigation took place the same day respecting the origin of the fire, and an aborigine who resides in a skilling attached to Shearer's premises, was brought in and remanded till Thursday. A warrant was also issued by Mr. Windeyer for the apprehension of Mr. Shearer, on affidavits made by Messrs. Hancock, the Actuary of the Mutual, and Robertson, the Surveyor of the Alliance, when Shearer was taken into custody and lodged in the receiving watch-house. The case was resumed on Thursday, and occupied the court till past three o'clock, but the only additional facts of importance elicited were, that some cotton, sprinkled with gunpowder, had been discovered on Wednesday; also, that a handkerchief, containing fourteen small bottles partially filled with expensive oils and perfumes, was found lying in an iron mortar in the yard, that the value of these oils was £5, and that the whole property on the premises was £500, a great portion of which is at present unsaleable. It is insured for £1000. On Friday Shearer was committed to take his trial for arson.

CITY COUNCIL.—A special meeting of the City Council is summoned for this afternoon. It is rumoured in town, that the Right Worshipful the Mayor intends to resign his office.

NEW INSOLVENTS.—Michael Gaynor, dealer, late of Domain Terrace, Sydney; debts, 842l. 19s.; assets, landed property, nil; personal property, 5l.; outstanding debts, 67l. 11s. 9d.; balance deficiency, 770l. 7s. 3d. Herman Brice and Frederick Horsewell, builders, Sydney Glebe; debts, 304l. 3s. 8d.; assets, landed property, nil; personal property, 9l. 19s.; outstanding debts, 11l. 9s.; balance deficiency, 282l. 15s. 8d.; Charles Cummings Innes, farmer, Spring-hill, Illawarra; debts, 2918l. 2s. 2d.; assets, landed property, nil; personal property, 13l.; outstanding debts, nil; balance deficiency, 2905l. 2s. 2d. Thomas M'Court, Balmain; debts, 55l. 9s.; assets, nil; discharged from debtors' prison. Jeremiah Morris, settler, Greendale; debts, 74l. 18s. 1d.; assets, personal property, 2l. 11s.; outstanding debts, 8l. 4s. 3d.; balance deficiency, 63l. 2s. 10d. Charles Cable Warby, Bathurst; debts, 2016l.; assets, landed property, 1950l. (mortgaged); personal property, 10l.; outstanding debts, 42l. 2s.; balance deficiency, 4l. 18s. Discharged from Parramatta gaol.

HEADS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE.



NO. V. THE REVEREND MEMBER FOR PORT PHILLIP.

JOHN DUNMORE LANG was born at Greenock, in Scotland, on the 25th of August 1799. He received his education at the University of Glasgow, where after undergoing the usual examination he obtained the degree of A.M., in 1819. In 1820 he was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Presbytery of Irvine, who afterwards ordained him with a view to proceed to this Colony as a Minister of the Church of Scotland. He embarked for New South Wales in October 1822, and arrived in Sydney in May, 1823, where, according to the *Sydney Gazette*, he "unfurled the sacred banner of the Gospel in the old public school-room," on Sunday, the 8th day of June, in that year.

In the following September, a memorial was presented to the Governor, Sir Thomas Brisbane, on the part of the Presbyterians of the Colony, praying for such assistance as would enable them to build a Church in Sydney. The memorialists set forth that the Church of Scotland was the Established Church of no inconsiderable portion of the empire;—that the British Government had uniformly countenanced and supported Presbyterian Ministers, even in parts where Episcopacy was the established religion, such as the North of Ireland; that it was desirable that the Presbyterians of the Colony should be supplied with religious instruction; and finally, that the memorialists hoped for assistance on the ground of the liberal support which his Excellency had granted to the Roman Catholics of the Colony, in the erection of their church.

From the tone of the answer given to this memorial, it would seem that Mr. Lang had already made himself in some way obnoxious to the Government. The reply is a curious document, and may be worth preserving:—

"REPLY.

"Gentlemen,—To learn from your Address, that for some time past it has been in contemplation to erect a Presbyterian Church in Sydney, gives me great satisfaction. You will find the intention of easy execution, I trust, since the number of Presbyterians in these Colonies you state to be, at present, very considerable and encreasing daily

"Of the Church of England, one of the glories is her toleration; if, therefore there be aught in her ritual, in conforming to which you feel any repugnance, this Church would be the first to recommend to you to adopt for yourselves the public ordinances, which, in your opinions might tend the most to glorify Religion; it is on this principle that the British Government has liberally encouraged Presbyterianism in the many countries enumerated in your Address: it is on the same principle that she has afforded in this Colony, Pastors of their own Persuasion to our Roman Catholic Brethren, and it was in furtherance of this view that the Colonial Government deemed it advisable to lend her support in the erection of a Roman Catholic Chapel.

"You state the hopes of your present Address to be founded upon this precedent, but before you had touched upon this example, it would have been well to have rendered its application complete; it was not until the British Government had determined upon pensioning Roman Catholic Teachers of her nomination: it was not until two Priests had been resident in the Colony for more than three years, nor until they had proved by the spirit of Christianity, that animates their actions, the care and discretion with which the choice had been effected; it was not until the Roman Catholic Chapel had been carried forward with ardour for eighteen months, and an elegant building to which thirteen hundred pounds had been privately subscribed, languished for want of a further fund; it was not until all these circumstances had preceded that the Colonial Government considered herself justified in extended her munificence to its support.

"When, therefore, the Presbyterians of this Colony shall have advanced by the means of private donations, in the erection of a Temple worthy of Religion; when in the choice of their Teachers they shall have discovered a judgment equal to that which has presided at the selection of the Roman Catholic Clergymen; when they shall have practised what they propose, "To instruct the people to fear God and honour the King;" when by endeavouring to keep the Unity of the Spirit, in the Bond of Peace, in a Colony requiring it more than all others, they shall have shown through their lives the influence of the Holy Religion they profess, then, assuredly will the Colonial Executive step forward, to extend its countenance and support, to those who are following the Presbyterian Creed."

(Signed,) "THOMAS BRISBANE."

"Government House, Sydney,

"Wednesday, Sept. 24th, 1823."

Mr. Lang continued to officiate in Sydney till August, 1824, when he embarked for

England for the purpose of obtaining that aid which he had failed in receiving from the Colonial Government. In 1825 he was created a Doctor in Divinity, and in January 1826, returned again to the Colony, bringing with him another minister, the Reverend John M'Garvie, D.D., for the purpose of establishing a Presbyterian Church at Portland Head.

In 1830 Doctor Lang embarked again for England, with the view of procuring an additional supply of Presbyterian Ministers for Bathurst and Hunter's River. At this time he obtained authority from the Secretary of State to borrow £3,500 from the Local Government for the erection of a College in Sydney, since known by the title of the Australian College. On his return to the Colony in 1831, he brought out a cargo of Scotch mechanics for the purpose of erecting the necessary buildings.

The trustees of the Sydney College, an institution which had been projected just previous to his departure, represent that Doctor Lang broke faith with them in obtaining this loan for a separate institution; on the other hand, Doctor Lang has often complained of the difficulties he experienced from the Local Government in the progress of the undertaking, which caused him to dispose of much valuable property in Sydney to carry it on; and finally to proceed to England again in July, 1833. It was during this voyage that he wrote his "History of New South Wales," a work now in its second edition, and which, notwithstanding its many imperfections and redundancies, has not yet been superseded. In 1834 Doctor Lang returned to the Colony, bringing with him two additional masters for the College, and three Presbyterian Ministers.

In 1835 he established the *Colonist* newspaper, a publication of acknowledged literary merit, but greatly disfigured by personalities, and that boundless egotism which is the Reverend Editor's undoubted characteristic.

Certain schisms and disorders having occurred in the Australian Presbyterian Church about this time, Doctor Lang was again induced to visit England in 1836, whence he returned in November, 1837, bringing out fifteen additional ministers and eighteen schoolmasters. He also brought out a mission for the aborigines, consisting of twenty persons, whom he had selected in Germany, together with a large number of German vine-dressers for Mr. Andrew Lang's estate at Hunter's River. These last, however, never reached the Colony, having been induced to land at Rio de Janeiro, where they remained.

During Doctor Lang's absence on this occasion an act of the Legislative Council having passed for the Government of the Presbyterian Church, which appeared to thwart his plans, he sailed once more for England in January, 1839, visiting New Zealand, and the United States of America in the interval, and returning to New South Wales in March, 1841. Shortly after his return he established the *Colonial Observer* newspaper, over which he still presides. The Government about this time instituted proceedings for the recovery of the money lent to build the Australian College, that institution having proved a complete failure. The rest of the Presbyterian clergy, having been roughly handled in the columns of the *Observer*, became to a man inimical to Doctor Lang, and