

The Weekly Register

OF POLITICS, FACTS, AND GENERAL LITERATURE.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

VOL. I.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1843.

No. 17.

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.

SUGGESTIONS FOR AN IMPROVED SYSTEM OF IMMIGRATION.

CICERO tells a story of the "old man Cato" who when he was asked by some one what would best conduce to the improvement of his private estate? answered "Bene pascere." To feed well those who work upon it. What secondly?—"Satis bene pascere." To feed them sufficiently well. What thirdly?—"Bene vestire." To clothe them well. What fourthly?—"Arare." To plough.

The very reverse of this policy seems to have hitherto prevailed among the proprietors of estates in New South Wales. "Cheap labour" has been our first maxim—"short rations" our second—Bad slops at a high price" the third, and "NOT TO PLOUGH" the fourth. Some there are who have never assented to these maxims, but that they have been held by the majority is certain. Hence the unwillingness of labourers to proceed into the interior—hence the fact that estates are not improved.

Our whole emigration system has hitherto had no basis but avarice—no object but individual gain; so far at least as the Colonial proprietors are concerned. It has never been their wish to see a comfortable and contented, people settled around them, enjoying a fair share of the same comforts as themselves. The transition of an industrious labourer, from the position of a servant to that of a settler, has always been viewed, not with pride, but the most heartless jealousy by his former employer; and means almost incredible have sometimes been taken to retard this change, so delightful to a philanthropic mind. The government, in its regulations for the disposal of waste lands, has but too often lent itself to this system of injustice and folly, and the consequence is that the system has worked its own destruction. Emigration, so far as this country is concerned, is for the present at an end.

It therefore becomes a serious question—and one of the first importance to all of us—how this great continent is for the future to be colonized? The dullest must, by this time, be aware that the system of pouring in upon us ship loads of mere labourers, in

order to reduce the wages of those already in Colony, cannot be pursued much further. The interests of the immigrants themselves as regards their comfortable settlement, must be embraced in any future scheme; and the sooner the attention of the government and the legislature is directed to this branch of the subject, the better it will be.

It is no little satisfaction to us to find that in the Legislative Council, composed as it is of persons, most of whom were warm supporters of the old suicidal system, better views are beginning to be adopted; and it will gratify us not a little if we find that these views prevail in the Report of this year's Immigration Committee. In the meantime we cannot avoid noticing a "plan for obtaining voluntary information" from persons of the middle class of life, relative to the prospects of the small farm system in this Colony, which has been invented by Mrs. Chisholm; a lady whose exertions in behalf of female immigrants while immigration lasted, and since, have done so much good.

The plan is to circulate a number of printed queries among persons who have accumulated a little property by means of honest industry, to which the parties are to append their answers, giving a history of their progress since their arrival in the Colony—their statements to be attested by the clergymen and magistrates of their districts respectively. The objects are "to prove that the advancement of the Colony depends in a very great degree on due encouragement being given to persons in the middle class of life" to convince the Home Government of "the wisdom and economy of giving pecuniary aid and support to a system of colonization that shall have for its object the moral advancement and welfare of the people," and to manifest the stability of the Colony by "shewing that the master who lives on his station—who superintends his farm—can succeed even under the great disadvantage of the present high price of land."

We have a few of these authenticated papers before us, and so far as they go, they prove (what we have never for a moment doubted, from the time our attention was first directed to the subject,) that the small farm system is peculiarly adapted to this Colony, so much so, that without its encouragement Australia can never become a great nation.

Mrs. Chisholm has submitted her plan to the Government, offering her own services gratuitously, as well for this purpose as for forwarding families into the interior; provided the expense of postage and a clerk are granted her. The economy of the day seems, however, to grudge even this trifle, but the projector of the plan is determined to carry it out, with or without aid; and with an uncommon enthusiasm has placed her own children under the charge of the Archbishop, that she may devote the whole of her time to the public service in this her imagined vocation.

It will not be creditable to the Government if so much enthusiasm in a good cause is lost to the country for want of encouragement. There may be, and we believe there is, occasionally, something crude and visionary in this lady's projects, but the Government has the power to modify and regulate them; then as to the *working* of them, it has been already demonstrated to the public, and officially admitted, that she is capable of doing more with little means, than any other individual in the community.

We learn that Mrs. Chisholm is now at Illawarra selecting farms, upon improving leases for a number of families who are awaiting her report to go and settle in that district. We heartily wish her success.

THE CURRENCY.

"The nation in whose exchequer a florin shall remain when the treasuries of others have been emptied, shall be the nation in the world which shall remain, finally, mistress of the battle field."

ALGAROTTI.

In preceding articles we endeavoured to shew that all schemes for issuing government paper money, including that of Mr. Windeyer, have been based upon the idea of Mr. Law, namely, that the means and solvency of a government are only limited by the amount of property in the country, and that the government may safely issue notes on the security of that property, so long as it keeps its issues within the amount of its security. We attempted to prove that this idea was founded upon a fallacy, inasmuch as it is clearly impossible to increase the currency of a country beyond its mercantile wants, without producing a depreciation in the parts which compose such currency; and that the introduction into this country of such a scheme is particularly objectionable, because

here the currency is already—badly distributed indeed, but in the aggregate—far in excess of the wants of the population. We proved also from history, that wherever such a currency had been adopted ruin and wretchedness followed as the invariable consequence.

It is with satisfaction that we perceive all our contemporaries adopting the same views; nor have we met in society a single individual disposed to stand up for the new scheme. We may safely presume, therefore, that the Council will put off the second reading of the "Land-board Notes and Pledge Certificates Bill" for six months; as it can hardly be supposed that the members would force a measure upon the country, which has received condemnation from all quarters, excepting, perhaps, a few who desire immediately to profit by it.

But even in regard of these, we cannot see what immediate advantage they would derive from it. If their lands are in a position to be mortgaged to the Government for one-fourth their minimum value, what is there to prevent the proprietors now from obtaining money upon them from private parties to the same amount? We have never heard that there was any difficulty in mortgaging unencumbered property. On the contrary, it is well known that an immense quantity of land is mortgaged for more than its full value. Those who at present complain most of the "monetary confusion" are persons who have already mortgaged all their property, and cannot pay the interest; but we are totally unable to see what advantage they would derive from a measure of this kind, which can only apply to property which is unencumbered. There are, no doubt, individuals who have property unencumbered, who would find it convenient to receive government loans upon it; but we deny that persons in this comparatively happy condition are proper subjects for a special enactment of this kind. Those are the happy few, who ought to assist the less fortunate to bear their burthens, rather than to come upon the parish themselves in this manner.

But the truth is, we fear, there is an ulterior object in this bill. It contemplates the growth of a landed interest, in connexion, with the squatting interest, which may one day be powerful enough to cancel all such mortgages and contracts with the Government. We have seen to what lengths members of the legislature themselves have gone in dealing with private contracts of this sort. The vast majority of the Council, indeed, vindicated itself and the Colony from all participation in such schemes, but it cannot be denied that even those dishonourable schemes were popular among influential individuals throughout the country; and that the authors were, and are now applauded for their conduct in introducing such measures. It is, therefore, a fair conclusion, that the same influential parties would go even greater lengths with the view of cancelling contracts with the government, entered into at a period of "monetary confusion," like the present.

Nor is this any thing new in the history of Colonies. In the beginning of last century, the Legislature of New York (then a British Colony) issued a large sum in Bills of credit, which was so managed that the whole was absorbed by the Governor,

the Council, and the members of the House! This proceeding was so barefaced, that it produced, in 1720, a circular order from the ministry to Colonial Governors forbidding them to consent to any emission of Bills of credit, except for necessary charges of government. Within the present century, a series of monetary confusion schemes were adopted in the state of Kentucky. A majority of the influential men and leading politicians found themselves bankrupts; and encouraged by their numbers and their influence, they resolved to avoid the payment of their debts and still retain the property, which in law and justice belonged to their creditors. They prevailed upon the legislature to enact "stop laws, relief laws, tender laws,"—and when the Court of Appeals declared those laws to be unconstitutional, the bold bankrupts by whom they had been enacted passed an act abolishing the court, and established a new one. The old court declared that act also to be unconstitutional. Two separate Courts of Appeals contended for the supreme jurisdiction of the state, which seemed for some time on the brink of a civil war. Happily the party which contended for the faithful performance of contracts finally prevailed.

Such might be the result of a division in our future House upon a Bill to cancel Government mortgages; but as there is nothing in the commercial character of this country to authorise us to boast a superiority over our transatlantic kinsmen, it is exceedingly probable that such a bill would some day be brought in; and it might become law. At any rate with the existence of such mortgages, would always co-exist the temptation to get rid of them; a time would come when the interest would be difficult to be met; and any indulgence shewn by the Government, to the mortgagors, would only—as in the case of the quit rents—strengthen the temptation.

But whatever our readers may think of this view of the question, the objection to the scheme on the ground that it would establish a depreciated currency is we conceive unanswerable. The history of all such schemes is the same. The French assignats, the paper currencies of Austria, and Russia, of the American Colonies, and of the United States, though varied in their details—all arrive at the same calamitous conclusion, because they are all built on the same false principle. To those examples quoted in our former articles, let us add a brief notice of the American paper currency.

The currency of British America at the commencement of the Revolution, consisted entirely of coin, and was estimated at about five millions of dollars. Paper money was issued by Congress and the States for the purpose of carrying on the war. So long as the amount of paper did not exceed the amount of coin the notes remained at par. But 5,000,000 of dollars were spent the first year, and new issues became necessary. "A depreciation instantly commenced, and betrayed itself by a rise in prices, which soon became, if we regard only their nominal amount, extravagant and outrageous. It was in vain that Congress and the States declared their notes to be a legal tender for all payments, and perfectly equivalent to coin. It was in vain that Congress and the States enacted the most tyrannical laws for the

regulation of prices, and denounced one price in paper and another in coin, as wicked, traitorous, and a sure sign of disaffection. These double prices soon became perfectly established. By the year 1780 the issues of paper by Congress alone, amounted to 200,000,000 of dollars, and the depreciation stood at forty of paper for one of coin. It was to no purpose that Congress, yielding at last to the necessity of the case, issued a new set of Bills, by which the depreciation of the old ones was acknowledged. This public acknowledgment of the worthlessness of its paper, was fatal to its credit, and it fell, almost at a leap, to 200 for one, and very soon to 1000 for one. At this rate nobody would take it; and it dropped silently out of circulation."—(*Hist. of Banks*, p. 40.)

It is from a state of real "Monetary Confusion" like that above described that we are desirous of preserving this country; which can only be done by rejecting every species of currency which is not either gold or silver, or which is not representative of, and immediately convertible into those metals.

AUSTRALIAN BIOGRAPHY.

No. 15.—THE SECOND MEMBER FOR SYDNEY.

WILLIAM BLAND is a native of London, and the son of a medical practitioner of late celebrity in that city. Having undergone the necessary preparation, the subject of our notice entered the Royal Navy as a surgeon, which position he held for some time, till sailing up the Persian Gulf, a quarrel ensued between him and the purser of the ship. The latter challenged Mr. Bland,—they fought, and the purser fell at the first shot.

Bland's second in this affair was Mr. Randall, the first lieutenant of the ship. They were both tried at Calcutta—found guilty of manslaughter; Bland was sentenced to transportation for seven years, and Randall for eight. In terms of this sentence, Mr. Bland arrived in New South Wales in the year 1814, but was shortly after emancipated, and resumed the practice of his profession.

In 1817 he married the daughter of a gentleman engaged in missionary labours. In November of that year, a Mr. Richard Drake, of the East India Company's service, who had touched at Sydney on his voyage to Bengal, made use of Mr. Bland's friendship and hospitality to seduce his wife; and with a consistency worthy of such baseness, declined to notice the messages which Mr. Bland, in the first transports of his rage, sent him. On the 3rd of March following, Mr. Bland brought an action for criminal conversation against Drake, and obtained a verdict—damages £2000; a large sum, but a very inadequate compensation for an injustice for which no reparation could be made; and to which it is but fair to trace subsequent irregularities, in themselves indefensible, as to their cause.

On the 24th September, 1818, Mr. Bland was brought to trial on a charge of libelling the Governor (Macquarie) by the composition and publishing of various letters and verses, contained in a manuscript book dropped on the Parramatta Road, and thence brought to light. The information contained several counts; upon two of which—one a copy of

verses signed "Lavater," and the other an anonymous letter signed "The Farmer"—the prisoner was convicted, and sentenced to be imprisoned for twelve calendar months; to pay a fine of £50, and to give security for his good behaviour for two years after; himself in £200, and two sureties in £100 each; and to remain imprisoned till the fulfillment of the sentence.

We have not been able to ascertain what was the nature of these libels. If we may give credit to the *Sydney Gazette* of the time, they "were conceived in malignity, and brought forth in the blackest ingratitude;" but as the *Gazette* was then under a Government censorship, little importance is to be attached to this opinion, or to the "agitated feelings" of the writer, when he had the misfortune to listen to their recital in court. At any rate Mr. Bland underwent the full term of his imprisonment in Parramatta Gaol for the offence.

Since that time Mr. Bland has been known chiefly as a successful medical practitioner, and as the corresponding member of the Patriotic Association. In the latter capacity he wrote a series of very able letters to Mr. Charles Buller, jun., M. P., advocating the concession of representative institutions to this Colony, based upon a very extended scheme of elective franchise. He has since, however, thought proper to recant many of the opinions put forth in these letters, at least so far as to go the full length with his friend Mr. Wentworth, in measures at direct variance with the principles laid down by himself in this correspondence.

In June last he was elected one of the members of the Legislative Council for the City of Sydney, but has not been more than a few days present in his place, in consequence of ill health.

Mr. Bland writes with fluency, and is a close reasoner, but in his attempts, hitherto, at public speaking, he has altogether failed. Apart from the defects in his character, to which we have thought it unnecessary to do more than slightly allude, Mr. Bland enjoys a reputation for benevolence, particularly, in connexion with his profession, which few men, if any in the Colony, possess in an equal degree.

We believe he has never withheld his purse or advice, when either was wanted in aid of any philanthropic enterprise, and his private benefactions have been equally numerous.

The New South Wales Magazine, for November, 1843. Sydney: Reading.

WE had to complain that the earlier numbers of this useful periodical were deficient in political matter; we almost begin to fear that the conductors are falling into the opposite extreme, and that for the future we shall have it all politics. Five political essays, besides a report of the proceedings of the Legislative Council, are assuredly one half too much for one month; the literary matter being, of course, deficient in proportion. Indeed the present number has more the character of a monthly newspaper than of a magazine in the established acceptation of that term.

The leading article is a continuation of the article on Banking formerly noticed, and develops the writer's ideas of a Government Bank—protective duties—and the price of land. This plan of a State Bank is of

sufficient importance to require a separate notice. The second article, upon Emigration and Colonization, contains some good suggestions respecting the allotment of small farms; but its suggestions are, in some respects, visionary and impracticable. Passing over the Port Essington and Monetary Confusion Reports, the latter of which receives a severe but just castigation, we come to a beautiful extract on the "Social Economy of a Beehive," followed by a droll "Scene on Detachment Duty in Ireland," and a continuation of the "Treatise on the Influence of Winds," two chapters of which had already appeared. "Flecting Thoughts" are just what they profess to be. "What is to become of the Colony?" is the title of an essay which does not answer that question, but is nevertheless well written.

A Review of Nagel's *Shaksperi Conglomerofunidogammonia* is just to that humorous writer; but the critic's laudations of Mr. Marsh as a composer "of the highest order," in noticing the recent concerts, only heap ridicule upon that very respectable teacher and accompanist, by covering him with honors to which he himself has too much judgment and good sense to prefer a claim; and destroys all faith in the musical erudition of the critic, whose intended kindness could lead him into so ludicrous a mistake.

Domestic Intelligence.

SYDNEY DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The Council met at their rooms on Saturday afternoon, at the usual hour, when the Warden reported that he had waited with a deputation of the Council upon His Excellency the Governor, in pursuance of the resolution passed to that effect at the last meeting, and had urged upon His Excellency the necessity of some assistance being granted in the shape of a loan, to enable the Council to proceed with its business until an assessment could be levied. This application, however, had been unsuccessful: for the Governor, although he expressed the greatest readiness to assist them as far as in his power, regretted his inability to do so in this matter. His Excellency argued that in order to give them a loan he would have to place the sum asked for in the Estimates, and take a vote of the Legislative Council upon it in the same manner as if it were a free money grant and it would be impossible to assent to this proceeding without many applications of a similar nature, so as to render it utterly impossible for the Government to meet them. After hearing the report of the Warden, the members entered into conversation as to the course which they ought to pursue, under the present circumstances; the only question being, whether they would suffer the operations of the Council to stand in abeyance, or would make an effort to bring it into operation by raising a cash credit by becoming personally responsible for so doing. Nothing definitive was agreed upon; but as the question was one of so much importance, it was determined upon the motion of Mr. Kemble, that the further consideration of it should be postponed until the next day of meeting, and that due notice should, in the mean time, be sent by the Secretary to the whole of the members, with a request that they would attend. The standing orders of the Coun-

cil were next read over and approved, and the Council adjourned.

CARRIAGE ACCIDENT.—On Tuesday morning, between ten and eleven o'clock, as the carriage of R. Campbell, Esq., was proceeding up Bridge-street, the horses became restive, when opposite the Colonnade and dashed the carriage against the pillars, three of which was displaced by the violence of the shock. Mr. C. Cowper and child, who were in the carriage, fortunately escaped without any other inconvenience than considerable alarm: but we regret to add that the footman sustained a severe fracture of the leg. The coachman, by dexterously slipping from the box on to the backs of the horses, escaped injury.

SEIZURE OF TOBACCO.—On Monday last a quantity of tobacco was seized on the premises of Mr. Fearnley, George-street, by Capt. Browne. It weighed about 400lbs., and was purchased according to Mr. Fearnley's statement, from Captain Hayle, of the *Waterlily*, at 2s. 9d. per lb.

TRAGEDY BEHIND THE SCENES.—On Tuesday last, Messrs. Torning, Deering, and Mereton, belonging to the Victoria Theatre, were brought before the Bench on the complaint of Mr. Lazar, the Manager of the Company, on a charge of having broken the Queen's peace by threatening to strike the complainant. From the evidence given, it appeared that the defendants, while standing in the vicinity of the Theatre Treasury, imagined they heard the complainant telling the proprietor that they were snobs, and never had played in respectable houses at home. The defendants had also heard the complainant insinuate, that a gold watch, lately stolen from the Theatre, was still in the possession of the Company. It was alleged in defence that all that took place was a challenge to fight out the affair if Mr. Lazar chose to become the assailant; and that they had each, in violation of the agreements on which they had emigrated, been all but thrown on the world without the means of support, in consequence of the complainant's conduct to them as performers. Mr. Brennan, who heard the case, having intimated that it would be dismissed, unless the complainant was prepared with evidence to show that he apprehended danger in future, the latter deposed to that fact, when each defendant was ordered to enter into his own recognizances, in £50, to keep the peace towards the complainant.

THEATRICALS.—Nothing has transpired during the past week to require any particular notice from us. At the City Theatre we have had an agreeable variety of light pieces, suited to the means and appliances of the establishment. For all purposes of general dramatic exhibitions, of course no comparison will hold between this Theatre and the Victoria; but with a succession of well chosen farces, comediettas, light operatic pieces, &c., the play-going part of the community may pass a very pleasant vacation at the City.

WINDSOR DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The following appointments were made by this body on Wednesday:—Samuel North, Esq., Treasurer; Charles Langley, Esq., Surveyor; Mr. Samuel Gallaway, Clerk. The Treasurer to become bound himself and sureties in the sum of £1000, and the Clerk in the sum of £100.

CUSTOMS' DUTIES.—The following are the schedules to the Bill for amending the Customs' Duties, which is now before the Legislative Council:—Flour or meal, per cwt. 1s. 3d.; Grain, wheat, per bushel, 6d.; All other sorts of grain, 4d.; Sugar, unrefined, or molasses, per lb. ½d.; Refined, not the manufacture of Great Britain, per lb., 1d.; Wine, the produce of an British Colony, per gallon, 6d.; Not the produce of any British Colony, 1s. Goods not the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom:—Bacon, pork, hams, or tongues, beef, cheese, carriages, clocks, artificial flowers, furniture, gloves, gunpowder, glass, horses, mares, or geldings, japanned or lacquered ware, lace, perfumery, skins or furs, silks, silver or gold, manufactured turnery ware, and watches, 15 per cent., each. Goods not enumerated above, of every description except tea, 10 per cent.; Tea, 5 per cent.

DOCTOR WILSON OF BRAIDWOOD.—Information has reached town of the death of this gentleman. From his urbane manners and his devoted attachment to agricultural pursuits, his death will be a public loss.

SEIZURE AT LIVERPOOL.—A seizure was made a few days ago at Liverpool, of one hundred gallons of rum, at the stores of Mr. J. D. Gordon, which had been smuggled, and which that gentleman could not account for. An investigation of the matter is about to take place.

Mr. Horsey, one of the gentlemen in the Principal Superintendent of Convict's Office, has been appointed Superintendent of Hyde Park Barracks, vacant by the death of Mr. Small.

NEW INSOLVENTS.—James Merritt, Sydney, butcher. Samuel Penn, of the Surry Hills, gentleman; debts, 281l. 5s.; assets, personal property, 20l.; balance deficiency; 261l. 5s. Spencer Wallis, of Sussex-street, Sydney, musician; debts 136l. 14s.; assets, personal property, 20l. 10s.; balance deficiency, 116l. 4s. Archibald Campbell, of Sydney, accountant and land-owner. G. Coke, of Bathurst-street, Sydney, engineer. Richard Jones, of Sydney, merchant. A. Clugstone, late of Kent-street, Sydney, and afterwards of the Moruya River, mariner; debts, 918l. 17s. 3d.; assets, personal property, 6l.; good debts, 105l. 10s. 10d.; bad and doubtful debts, 261l. 10s. 9½d.; well worth 85l.; balance deficiency, 722l. 6s. 4½d. Mr. J. T. Hughes, who some time since sequestered, filed his schedule as follows: debts due by insolvent, 201,146l. 13s. 9d.; balance in favour of the estate, 141,863l. 6s. 3d.; total 343,010l.; assets, landed property, 281,650l.; personal property, 28,080l.; outstanding debts, 26,280l.; total—343,010. John Jones, of the Parramatta Road, brickmaker: debts, 1164l. 9s.; assets, personal property, 105l. 16s. 3d.; outstanding debts, 2l. 18s.; balance deficiency, 1,055l. 14s. 9d., exclusive of 1,017l. 14s. of bad and doubtful debts. William Newton, of Upper Pitt-street, Sydney, wheelwright: debts, 413l. 11s. 3d.; assets, landed property, 250l.; personal property, 27l. 9s.; balance deficiency, 136l. 11s. 3d.; John Cheeseman, late of Pitt-street, Sydney, now of Union-street, Balmain, butcher: debts, 70l. 2s. 1½d.; assets, personal property, 3l.; landed property, 50l.; outstanding debts, 7l. 8s. 3½d.; balance deficiency, 15l. 13s. 10d. George Mackay, of

Concord, farmer: debts, 271l. 10s.; assets, personal property, 8l.; outstanding debts, 26l. 10s.; balance deficiency, 257l. William Mason, of the Barwin River, settler: debts, 1234l. 7s. 1d.; assets, personal property, 203l.; outstanding debts, 1025l.; balance deficiency, 6l. 7s. 1d.; Kelly M'Keon, of Chippendale, joiner: debts, 36l.; assets, personal property, 6l.; balance deficiency, 30l. W. J. Morris, George-street, Sydney, bookseller, on petition.

COLONIAL SHAG TOBACCO.—We are glad to learn that Mr. Walthall's new article is becoming quite a favourite with the public, and we hope ere long that the importation of cigars will not be carried on so extensively as heretofore, as the article in question, in point of mildness and fragrance, is said to be equal to the far-famed Havannah cheroot. We have had the opinion of an "incorrigible smoker," who has tried it for a week, and on contrasting it with the expense of cigars, finds, even at Mr. Walthall's retail price, a saving of 700 per cent., is effected. We are also pleased to find that Captain Cape carries with him in his next trip to Moreton Bay a small quantity of this manufacture, and we doubt not, from the good taste of the "puffers" of that district, that he will bring an extensive order both for this article and "Van Twiller's genuine Dutch pipes," now by right of patent manufactured also in the Colony.—*Mercury.*

PORT PHILLIP.

DOCTOR THOMSON seems to have astonished the people of Melbourne with Metropolitan news upon his return from his Legislative duties. Among other announcements of the papers given upon his authority, was one that Sir George Gipps had received a despatch from England, authorizing him to abolish the Protectorate, and that he had resolved upon exercising the authority thus conveyed. Further, that the despatch had arrived six months ago, and had been shelved by the Governor, until it appeared amongst the documents furnished to the Legislative Council on Doctor Thomson's motion. Another piece of information given upon the Doctor's authority was, that the whole of the stipendiary magistrates were to be discharged, and their duties performed by benches of unpaid justices, and that the Court of Requests actually was abolished.

We fear the honourable member has been dreaming a little on his passage.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

We learn with great satisfaction from the *Adelaide Observer*, that prosperity begins to dawn upon this Colony. The Legislative Council was opened on Tuesday, October 17, by His Excellency Governor Gray, in an excellent speech, from which the following is an extract:—

"I propose to open the proceedings of this, your first session, by placing you in possession of that information regarding the present circumstances of the Colony, which is necessary to enable you efficiently to discharge the important trust which has been committed to your hands.

"In order that I might accomplish this task, in the fullest and most satisfactory manner, I have had ample statistical returns prepared and laid upon the table.

"These returns prove incontestably that the annual produce of the land and labour of this Colony has lately gone on augmenting with an almost unparalleled rapidity; that our manufactories are increasing, and that our internal and external traffic are daily becoming more extensive and important.

"The returns of the agricultural progress of the Colony are particularly gratifying. I am aware that the similar returns, which I laid before the Council last year, excited great attention and satisfaction amongst those who were interested in the welfare of this Province, and the Secretary of State has been pleased to express the gratification which those returns afforded to her Majesty's Government. The agricultural returns for the present year are quite as satisfactory as those for the year 1842, and afford strong proof of the present healthy state of the Colony.

"It is true that the agriculturists are now complaining of what they term a glut of wheat, but it should be borne in mind, that the present abundance and low price of wheat are the result, not, as in some of the older Colonies, of over-importation, and of the consequent competition of the importers of grain, and the producers of it in the country, but of the natural fertility of the soil, and of the industry and skill with which it has been cultivated. Should the produce of the present harvest prove to be so plentiful that it can neither be consumed in the Colony, nor profitably exported from it, and should there be no probability of the speedy resumption of emigration, the settlers will be compelled in future years to devote a greater share of their attention to internal manufactures, and to the production of the numerous articles of export, besides grain, which can profitably be grown here. Abundance and cheapness of all the necessaries of life will ensure cheap productions of every kind in future years; and, I trust, it will yet be found, that the great abundance of agricultural and pastoral produce, which is now regarded by so many as an evil, will prove to be the root of the future prosperity of this country. There can be no reason to doubt, that the same energy, which has in so few years produced such great results in changing a wilderness into fruitful farms, will, now that an opportunity is afforded, equally display itself in striking out new and profitable paths of industry. The return of manufactories which I have laid on the table shows that this change in the community is already taking place."

On Wednesday, his Excellency laid on the table the Financial Estimates for the year 1844, and read to the Council a long and valuable minute in reference to them. His Excellency stated that the estimated expenditure for the year 1843, amounted to £34,084 1s. 10d., whilst that for the year 1844, as shown in the papers before the Council, amounts to only £28,405 16s. 9d. He therefore proposed to effect a saving of £5,777 5s. 1d., in the expenditure of the year 1844. Having made this announcement, his Excellency commented in detail on the most important items in the estimate; at the conclusion of which, his Excellency stated that he had not, in the estimates for 1844, proposed any vote to the Council for the purpose of education; the Government not being yet in possession of sufficiently accurate information regarding the amount of population in the different districts, to form any plan for a system of general education, which is of such