

Mr. Wentworth seconded the motion. Mr. Cowper said, he must oppose this measure altogether, and he thought it best to do so at the present stage by preventing if he could its introduction. He had many reasons for opposing this measure. One of these was, that the advantages sought could not be obtained under it, even if it were passed; another was, that it was at variance with the understanding which had been come to by the House on a previous occasion, that the general question of education should not be brought forward again during the present session, either directly or indirectly. Many gentlemen had left town under the impression that, in accordance with this understanding, the question of education would not be again brought forward; and he must say, that he thought it would be unfair to bring it forward now. It might be that the honourable and reverend member might not have been aware, at the time he withdrew his resolutions, that the Corporation did not possess these powers, or that they might be applied by so short a measure as that which he had proposed. But he objected to the measure: because, although brief itself, it was comprehensive in its objects. It applied powers to these Corporations at once, which it was matter for serious consideration whether such powers should be applied. The Corporation Act gave no power to the City Council, or to the Council of Melbourne, to raise a rate for the support of schools; and this Bill did no more than to give a power for making orders and by-laws. The Legislature must consider and determine what property should be assessed for the purpose, before any rate could be levied; and until the Legislature had decided this, and in doing so had gone through the whole question of education, the Bill would be wholly inoperative. And to re-open the question which weeks ago had been withdrawn from the consideration of the House for the present session, by the honourable and reverend member, would, he thought, be unfair. It should be remembered that petitions had been presented against the system of education proposed by the honourable and reverend member; but because the honourable and reverend member had withdrawn his resolutions, the statements of the petitioners had not been heard or considered. It had been hinted, that the building of schools would afford employment to distressed mechanics; but he did not think this argument had any weight. It was allowed that it was the Legislature only which could decide on any system of education to be pursued and if the Legislative Council should hereafter decide on having one general system, much larger buildings would be required than in the present system were continued; while on the other hand, if each sect went on, in consequence of the extension of the powers to the Corporation, to build schools for themselves, it would be prejudging the question, going a great way in fact towards deciding it in favour of the present system. He did not think it necessary to go into the question now as to what system should be pursued; but he relied on the sense of justice of the House, to adhere to the implied pledge, to the understanding that the question of education should not either directly or indirectly be brought on again this session. On this understanding the Council had voted the money requisite for

maintaining the present system for the ensuing year; no evil therefore could arise from delaying the present measure, and no good could come, for seasons he had before stated from passing it. He should therefore move that the bill be read this day six months.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded this motion, expressing his surprise that the honourable and reverend member should have brought this measure forward without its having been solicited by the Corporations.

Mr. Therry said, that the question now before the House had nothing whatever to do with any Church or system. The only question was whether this Bill should be read a second time, and although the honourable member for Cumberland had stated that he had many reasons for objecting to this Bill, he was at a loss to gather from the very general observations which the honourable member had made, what those reasons were. As to any understanding which might have been come to, or any implied pledge, he was not a party to it. No doubt that a petition was presented against the system proposed in the resolutions which had been brought before the House by the honourable and reverend member for Port Phillip; but the honourable and reverend member had not pressed the discussion of these resolutions during the present session, and there the matter had ended. The simple question now was, whether the powers granted to the District Councils, by the Act of Parliament, should be given to these Corporations, which in Sydney and in Melbourne occupied the same positions as these Councils elsewhere. And he thought that nobody could be more competent to the proper exercise of these powers than those immediately interested in their proper exercise—those to whom the corporate offices were entrusted by the people, with the exercise of the other powers attached to those offices. The resolutions proposed at an early part of the session had reference to the establishing of a particular system of education; this Bill had not, and he could not see why these Corporations should wait until the battle of education had been fought—for one year, or perhaps for two years—before they were placed in possession of those powers which it was the object of this Bill, in accordance with the intention of the Act of Parliament, to give them. And he could not but complain that the honourable member for Cumberland should have applied the petition, which was directed against the system proposed in the resolutions which had been withdrawn, to this Bill, which had no particular system in view. The Council would be quite justified in carrying out the intention of the Act of Parliament, by giving this power to these Corporations; and admitting the intention of the Parliament to be such as had been laid down, he considered that the House was bound to support the measure now before it. Procrastination was the thief of time: and, in this case, procrastination would be the worst error they could commit. If they were to listen to the suggestion, that it was unfair to proceed with business because some honourable members had chosen to absent themselves on their own business; they might as well stop all business at once; it might as well be argued against going into the consideration of the Monetary Confidence Bill

which was to be brought forward to-morrow notwithstanding that the preparation of that Bill had cost months of anxious labour and enquiry. If the House should come, as he hoped it would not, to a division on this question, he should feel bound to vote with the honourable and reverend member and to support the motion for the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. Wentworth said, that he must confess that the statement of the honourable member for Cumberland was in perfect accordance with his recollections of the proceedings, which took place at the time the resolutions, first proposed by the honourable and reverend member for Port Phillip, were withdrawn: namely, that the question of education was not to be received either directly or indirectly during the present session. He agreed too in many of the propositions of the hon. member for Cumberland; he thought with him, that by giving power to the Corporations to build school-houses, the Council would be beginning at the wrong end. It was clear that by the Act of Parliament power was given to the Legislative Council to lay down some principle for the carrying on of education throughout the whole territory; and he thought too that the Legislative Council was bound to exercise that power, and not to allow any system to be carried on which had not been agreed to by the House. He did therefore think that this Bill should not now be read a second time. At the same time, he held himself unfettered as the wind as to the vote which he should give when the general question should be under consideration; he should vote for that system which he thought best, most economical, and most likely to be harmonious and most beneficial and effective; whether the system should be the system at present pursued, which he believed was that of each sect having its own schools, or whether it should be one general system for all sects. He wished it to be distinctly understood that he did not pledge himself to any course—he had not yet made up his mind, and he should use his discretion when the question came to be determined. Until some plan was laid down by this House, however, he thought it inopportune that any power should be given to these Corporations to erect school-houses.

Doctor Lang replied; after which the House divided, when there were

For the Amendment..... 11
Against..... 9

Majority..... 9
Bill to be read that day six months.

The Speaker said, he was sorry to have to state that Mr. Elwin, the Chairman of Committees, was so unwell that he was not able to attend to his duties in the Council.

The Estimates were in consequence postponed till Tuesday.

The Friendly Societies Bill was considered in Committee, and was ordered to be engrossed, and read a third time on Thursday. Several orders were postponed.

The Light House Bill was considered in Committee, when the following table of charges was adopted.

	£ s. d.
On every ship or vessel above 50 and not exceeding 100 tons, employed in the coasting trade, from one Port of New South Wales to another, the ton burden	0 1 4

On every steam vessel, the ton burthen.....	0	1	4
On every ship or vessel above 100 tons, and employed in the coasting trade, from one Port of New South Wales to another, the ton burthen.....	0	1	2
On every other ship or vessel, the ton burthen.....	0	0	2
Coasting vessels in ballast not to be charged.			
Bill to be engrossed and read a third time on Friday next.			

The Insolvent Act Amendment Bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday week.

The Ports and Harbours Act Amendment Bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday next.

FRIDAY.

Several returns were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Windeyer presented a petition from the inhabitants of Scone and Murrurundi, complaining of the clause of the Act of Parliament, which enacts that the districts shall pay one half of the police expenses.

The Attorney General said that the petition should have been directed to the Imperial Parliament, as the Council had no power to amend an Act of Parliament.

Mr. Windeyer concurred in the opinion, that the Council had no power to amend the act, but they might propose amendments, and he hoped they would shortly do so.—Petition read and received.

Mr. Windeyer presented a petition from the magistrates of the district of Muswellbrook, praying for a police magistrate. He would be very happy to see them have a magistrate, and pay for him themselves.—Petition read and received.

Mr. Windeyer in moving the second reading of the Monetary Confidence Bill, admitted that it was very imperfect in all its details. What he contended was for the main principles of the Bill, which were two in number. The first was that the Government might safely interfere with its credit, to aid any large number of persons who might be called upon to pay large debts at a time when there was a great scarcity of money. If people were suffering merely from an ordinary depreciation of property, he would be inclined to agree with those who would have things left to regulate themselves; but it was a well known fact, admitted even by the opponents of the measure, that the present distress is greatly caused by the want of confidence—the panic that prevailed. Prices from being fictitiously high had become fictitiously low, and the question was whether there was any thing objectionable in the government stepping in to prevent property from being sacrificed, by guaranteeing ultimate payment of the debts, and thus restoring confidence. When a similar panic existed in England in 1793, Mr. Pitt introduced a motion to authorise his majesty to issue Exchequer Bills, which were given in the security of chattel property. Now we did not propose to go so far as this, he proposed that the solid security of land should be given for these bills. He did not think with Mr. Salting and others, that the government should fold its arms and allow the property of A. B. and C. to fall into the hands of D. E. and F. without doing something to protect the former. He granted that the

successors of the present race of proprietors might arrive at prosperity; but what had property done for him? or what had he to do with it? The government had encouraged the speculations that had brought the colonists into this difficulty—the government got their money in a Jewish manner. Government-land was going, going, going, at five shillings, and would soon be raised to twelve shillings—then it was going, going, going at twelve shillings, and would soon be raised to twenty shillings, and thus the people were tempted to get as much of this valuable commodity as soon as possible before the price was raised. Thus were they duped, and he did think it was the duty of government to release them from the difficulty in which it had plunged them. He admitted that the government should be secured. If that could not be done the bill must fall to the ground, but seeing that the government had fixed the maximum price of land at one pound per acre, he did think that one-third or one-fourth of that sum was fully secured upon such land. They had evidence before them, that a very large sum of money from £100,000 to £200,000 was locked up by the panic, which would be invested if confidence were restored. It was urged against the scheme that the amount of relief would be small, as most of the lands of those in debt were already mortgaged. He admitted that those who had no property must go down, but there were many who, like himself, had one-half of their estates mortgaged at 10 and 12 per cent., who would pledge the other half to pay off the old mortgage, and thereby get rid of the high interest they were obliged to pay. But if the scheme should fail—if the interest should not be paid to the Government, it would really be a political benefit, as it would bring back some of the enormous quantities of land formerly alienated from the Crown, which were so disproportioned to the amount of the population. The other principle in the Bill he confessed came in a somewhat more questionable shape, but he did not think it a wrong principle. The mischief that had arisen from similar measures, was that a greater amount of paper had been issued than was necessary for the wants of the population. But if that over-issue could be guarded against, the evil would not exist. We had seen one-half of the banks of the Colony broken up without any loss from the non-payment of their notes, merely from the circumstance that they had been issued by gentlemen having large properties, which were pledged for the payment of these notes. It appeared from the evidence taken before the Committee, that three-fourths of the bills discounted in the banks were renewals of old transactions; that, consequently, only one-fourth was for good transactions. Now he did not blame the banks for this, but he did think the Government ought not to leave the banks that tremendous power over the circulation of the country. It was evident that the banks just issued notes for their own convenience, the question then was whether some plan might not be devised by which the circulating medium might be free from the influence of the panic of these gentlemen, and some plan by which a limited sum might be issued in notes secured upon real property, and payable for taxes, something in fact like a National Bank.

He thought such a principle might be adopted with safety and advantage.

Mr. Elwin said, it was the confidence and security that was the cause of the contraction of the circulation. He apprehended the only object for introducing such a measure as this was that persons pressed for money might go to a Government Office for the means of paying the claim. If his security were good, he might receive the money at private offices. But at the Government Loan Office he only received a debenture which secured him a certain yearly interest, some £50 a-year—a document which he could only look upon as a mockery. Then as to the land board notes. These notes would immediately find their way to the banks—they would be carried thence on Monday morning to the Colonial Treasury and cash would be demanded for them. But where he would ask was this cash to be found? Could the Governor be expected to give up so large a portion of the revenue to pay those notes? Would his instructions allow him to do so? He was really astonished to see any man in his senses bring forward a measure so incomplete and imperfect in all its parts. The notes were made a legal tender, but what was the necessity of this when they were payable in cash at the next door? He must say that of all the measures he had seen this was the most imperfect and absurd.

Doctor Nicholson rose to second the motion. It was found that similar convulsions in other countries had been relieved by their governments; he considered, therefore, that they were bound to follow such examples. If the mania had been caused by individuals who were unworthy of credit in the first instance, it was certain that the evil had extended to persons having abundant of goods and possessions, but who, from the existing convulsion could not realise sufficient to meet the liabilities of the moment. He contended that the present subversion of things arose not from the want of means but from the inability to convert the several kinds of property into realities. The want of public confidence was the main ingredient of our distress. Sheep were that day so'd with the wool on their backs at 2s. 1d. a-head. The honourable member concluded by invoking every member of the House to aid in devising the best means of relief to the Colony in this crisis.

Mr. Lowe repudiated the analogy between England in 1793 and 1816, and this colony. He maintained that the calamitous condition of the Colony arose from a miscalculation of its resources, and from the opening of adjacent settlements, Port Phillip, and South Australia, whereby the transitory value of stock was assumed to be the permanent value. If the Government were to become a loan company, and in default of payment, were to levy on the mortgagors, much odium would necessarily attach to it. The report of the Committee was adverse to the evidence. The Bill was illegal, and if passed, the Governor was precluded by Act of Parliament from giving his assent to it. The Bill was, moreover, unconstitutional, inasmuch as it would give to the Government a power which it ought not to possess. It was absurd to argue of Prussia relatively to this Colony—the former being one of the most poverty-stricken places on the face of the earth—within the last ten years land had fallen in.

value three-fourths, and other departments proportionately. It were better to do nothing at all than to press so objectionable a measure as the one proposed.

Mr. Berry thought that the Governor ought to have introduced this measure of relief, seeing that through the policy of the government the Colony was reduced to its present misery.

Dr. Lang could not reconcile the statements that the Bank coffers were full, and that all kinds of property were sacrificed. He considered that the present government had disclosed more quackery than all the preceding governments for the last twenty years. He thought that the primary question should be, whether it was not the bounden duty of the government to rescue the country from that distress into which they had plunged it. The member for Durham had acted like a skilful physician to the Colonial Treasurer, and as a confessor to the Colonial Secretary—he had extracted from both the secrets of their respective ailments. The government had been a Doctor Sangrado—by encouraging land sales, it had applied the hot water—and the banks afterwards, had applied the bleeding system, till the patient might be said to be *in extremis*. He should like to know in what the despotism of this country differed from that of Prussia? The Government here was particeps criminis in the present calamitous state of the country; and he maintained that the government was bound to do something in order to save the colonists from destruction.

The Colonial Treasurer moved an adjournment till Wednesday next, which, upon a division, was carried.

For the motion.....	12
Against it	11
Majority	1

City Council.

WEDNESDAY.

Alderman Flood presented a petition from Mr. J. White, Superintendent of the Water Works at Soldier's Point, praying that he might be provided with a dwelling on the spot where his duties require his attendance, the building in which he now resides, being about to be taken down, the petition was received, and ordered to be referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Ryan presented a petition from 234 inhabitants of Sydney, praying for a general reduction of the salaries of the officers of the Corporation, from the Mayor downwards, and the entire abolition of some offices, including the whole of the collectors.

Mr. Thurlow opposed the reception of the petition, in doing which, he hoped he would not be accused of want of courtesy to so large a body of citizens. The fact was, after having heard the signatures read, he had not recognised the name of even one of the numerous merchants, and other gentlemen of respectability in Gipps Ward, whence the petition came. It appeared, certainly, that the petitioners were all rate payers, but they were those of the lower ranks, and he hoped the Council would not be carried away by a mere show of numbers, for if such petitions were listened to, there would be no end of them. The petition assigned no reason for the sweeping measure which it proposed; it

advanced no ground on which such a measure could be supported; but merely contained the blank request that such a scheme of retrenchment should be acted upon, leaving the Council to devise the means of carrying on the public business, without the services of a sufficient number of officers for that purpose, as best they could. It was an uncalled for attack on the paid officers of the Council, and an insult to every member thereof, as it implied that they were not competent judges of what officers were necessary, and how much they ought to be paid.

Alderman Burdekin agreed with Mr. Thurlow. If salaries were reduced so much that men of character could not be got to fill the various offices, the City would be a loser instead of a gainer by the reduction. In the present position of affairs, he would be sorry to see the salaries raised, but at the same time he saw no room for a reduction. The proposal to dispense with collectors was absurd. The way to make the rates light (if they were to be paid at all) was to have collectors to see that the rates were uniformly collected, when of course they would fall more equally than if some were allowed to escape, which, he supposed, was the hope of the petitioners.

Mr. Ryan replied; after which the motion was put, and the petition was thrown out.

Alderman Flood presented a petition from twenty-one tenants of the Market, praying that they might be allowed to expose their goods for sale until eleven o'clock on Saturday night. He moved that the prayer of the petition be granted.

Mr. Little seconded the motion, which was carried.

Alderman Flood presented a petition from J. Donaldson and W. Harding, contractors for the supply of street metal, praying for the continuation of their contract for another year.

Mr. Little moved, that the petition be received, and referred to the Board of Works.

Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, which, after some opposition, was carried.

On the motion of Alderman Broughton, the Town Clerk was directed to enter a minute in the books of the Council, declaring a vacancy in the office of Auditor in consequence of the insolvency of Mr. A. Campbell.

The Town Clerk read a report from the City Surveyor, on the improvements in Argyle-street, in order that the Council might be enabled to judge of the propriety of proceeding with those improvements which had been discontinued by the Government. The report suggested the propriety of increasing the width of the excavation to the whole breadth of the street, before proceeding with the same; as, at its present width, the passage, when opened, would be comparatively useless as a public thoroughfare, except for foot-passengers; besides which, the stone would have to be cut to waste; whereas, by increasing the width, valuable stone would be obtained for building purposes. At the increased width, the completion of the work would cost 10,000*l.*; at the present width, 4000*l.*

On the motion of Alderman Broughton, the Council went into Committee on the Hawkers' and Pedlars' Bill, when the remaining clauses were gone through, and the license fixed at 4*l.* per annum.

The Council then resumed, and on the motion of Alderman Broughton, the Bill was adopted, and ordered to be presented to a member of the Legislative Council, by the Mayor and the City Solicitor.

The Council then proceeded to the election of an Inspector of Slaughter-houses, when Mr. E. B. Foster was duly elected.

The Council next proceeded to elect a Collector for Cook Ward, when the choice fell on Mr. John Layton, the former collector, who had resigned in consequence of Dr. Bland having declined to incur any longer the responsibility of being security on his account. Mr. Barker, however, had intimated his willingness to become security for Mr. Layton, in the event of his re-election.

Mr. D. Jones moved that the salary of the Mayor for the present year be 700*l.*

Alderman Flood seconded the motion.

Mr. Coyle thought that 500*l.* was a sufficient salary, considering the depression of the times. He moved as an amendment, that 500*l.* be the salary of the Mayor.

Mr. Jenkins seconded the amendment.

Mr. Woolley moved, as a further amendment, that 600*l.* be the salary of the Mayor, the same as it was last year.

Alderman Broughton seconded the amendment. He thought it would be very unbecoming to give the chief magistrate of the city a salary lower than that of an inferior officer, which would be the case if the first amendment were carried. The salary of the Mayor would then be lower than that of the Superintendent of Police.

Mr. Taylor said, he was an advocate for retrenchment in most cases, especially in times like these; but in the present instance, he thought the worse the times the more the Mayor ought to receive, as the calls upon his purse for charitable purposes would be greater.

Mr. Holden said, he had another amendment to propose, which was in quite a different spirit from its predecessors, inasmuch as it did not contemplate the amount of the Mayor's salary at all, but simply that he should have no salary whatever. Unlike other Corporations, that of Sydney had no endowments, and as long as that was the case he would be opposed to the payment of a salary to the Mayor, or any other salaries which were not absolutely necessary.

Mr. Holden's amendment was not seconded.

Mr. Thurlow would recommend members to look to the Legislative Council for a precedent, the Speaker of which body received £750 per annum, although his duties had reference to only a few months in the year, while those of the Mayor extended over the whole period. As to endowments, the way to obtain them was to act liberally.

Mr. D. Jones withdrew his motion in favour of Mr. Woolley's amendment, which latter was put and carried.

On the motion of Mr. Thurlow, seconded by Mr. Woolley, distress warrants were ordered to be issued against certain persons in default of payment of rates.

Public virtue is the only life and soul of States; genius founds empires, public peace preserves them, but selfishness is their destruction.

LITERARY REGISTER.

AUSTRALIAN S.ENERY.

(From the "Kangaroo Hunt," an unpublished poem.)

At length, a belt of cedars tall
 On a scooped ridge, and interlaid
 With bushwood of the thickest shade,
 And with the rankest vines,—is all
 That, interposing, hides a scene
 Where hunter ne'er hath bootless been.
 'Tis entered—and a noise upsprings
 Of lashing boughs and rushing wings,
 In a desultory throng,
 Before, athwart, along,
 What birds their varied plumes display!
 Many and beautiful are they!
 The dove, with pinion burnished bright,
 Hurries far in sounding flight;
 And the parrot tribes unfold
 Their pointed wings of verdant gold—
 Like a volant chrysolite:
 And flocks of jays, in loud alarm,
 Mount the trees from arm to arm: *
 While a thousand twittering things
 With speckled tails and streaky wings,
 And crimson backs, and bosoms bright
 As sunset's glory in the sky—
 Or sparkling in the checkered light,
 Or gleaming o'er, or glancing by,
 Amaze with brilliancy the sight.
 Beings so gorgeous, they might seem
 Wrought from the splendors of a dream!
 With these, the noisy chaffer still,
 And the ground-parrot, screaming shrill,
 The whining quail that skims the bush—
 The soaring pic and the dodging thrush—
 Precede the hunter as he pushes
 Through clinging vines and crackling bushes,
 And sternly chides the loitering dog
 That scents the wild cat in the hollow log;
 Or he that in pursuit would fly
 As the duaralli † rushes by.

Soon as th'at woody belt is pass'd,
 While yet its margin shades the last,
 As floating loose against the sky,
 A prospect wide and vast
 Swims dimly on the wondering eye!
 Dimly for morning's mist, in heaps,
 Yet on its every outline creeps
 Here slopes their brushy breasts display;
 There steepy ridges loom
 Out from a sea resembling gloom,
 With peaks of iron grey,
 And bank you glen, that 'neath their throng
 Of shadows, broken broad and long,
 Winds like a giant's path away:
 Full in its midst a water-course
 Leads the eye to its flashing source,
 Well'd in yon pile, that, wedged between
 The valler's lips, shuts in the scene.
 Its bare back cuts the northern sky
 From the forward-straining eye:—
 Thence jutting bluffly forth its grey
 Bald cliffs their time-hewn caves display;
 Broods o'er the whole a dread repose,
 That far a pleasing horror throws:
 While wonder deems, that in the glooms
 Lingering round those rocky domes,
 Wildest spirits delight to dwell
 And brew the charm and mutter the spell!
 Ever she hears on such cavernous site
 A whisper by day and a moan by night;
 Though not the faintest breathing air
 Shall give the dry moss to quiver there.
 Who loveth not at such perilous height
 Sublime to be, like an eagle alight:
 Fittest scene whereon to try
 The mental gold of Poesy;
 Or woo the mood that wings the soul,
 And raps it to the given goal!
 There brightens memory's tearful eye—
 Enthusiasm, kindling clear,
 Warmeth even apathy:
 And, to her nearer heaven, there
 Religion best prefers her prayer.

CHARLES HARPUR.

* On being started from the ground, where they feed, these birds fly heavily, and with much clamour, to the lower branches of the nearest tree, from which they hop to a higher and a higher, as described in the text, rounding the trunk at each stage of ascent, until they reach the tree top—when thinking themselves safe, it would seem, they quickly look down upon you.
 † The name which the blacks of the Hunter give to the animal commonly called the Kangaroo-rat.

The English Aristocracy.—A high class, without duties to do, is like a tree planted on precipices; from the roots of which all the earth has been crumbling. Nature owns no man who is not a martyr withal. Is there a man who pretends to live luxuriously housed

up; screened from all work, from want, danger, hardship, the victory over which is what we name work;—he himself to sit serene, amid down bolsters and appliances, and have all his work and battling done by other men? And such man calls himself a noble man? His fathers worked for him, he says; or successfully gambled for him; here he sits; professes, not in sorrow but in pride, that he and his have done no work time out of mind. It is the law of the land, and is thought to be the law of the universe, that he, alone of the recorded men, shall have no task laid on him, except that of eating his cooked victuals, and not flinging himself out of the window. Once more I will say, there was no stranger spectacle ever shewn under this sun. A veritable fact in our England of the nineteenth century. His victuals he does eat; but, as for keeping in the inside of the window,—have not his friends, like me, enough to do? Truly, looking at the corn laws, game laws, Chandos clauses, bribery elections, and much else, you do shudder over the tumbling and plunging he makes, held back by the lapelles and coatskirts; only a thin fence of window-glass before him,—and in the street mere horrid iron spikes. My sick brother, as in hospital maladies men do, thou dreamest of Paradise and Eldorados, which are far from thee. "Cannot I do what I like with my own?" Gracious heaven, my brother, this that thou seeest with those sick eyes is no firm Eldorado, and Corn Law Paradise of Donothings, but a dream of thy own fevered brain. It is a glass window, I tell thee, so many stories from the street! where are iron spikes and the law of gravitation!—*Thomas Carlyle's Past and Present.*

Le Sage and Gil Blas.—It has been stated, by many Spanish writers, and especially by the Padre Isla, that Le Sage has no claim to the authorship of Gil Blas, but that it was originally written by an Andalusian lawyer, as a satire on two successive Prime Ministers at Madrid. The Padre adds, that the manuscript was confided, by its author, to Le Sage, by whom it was translated into French, and subsequently printed in Paris, the lawyer not relishing the probable consequences of publishing such a work in Spain. There is, moreover, says the worthy father, sufficient internal evidence in the book itself, to prove that it was written during the reigns of Phillip III. and Phillip IV., the Ministers of those Sovereigns being the individuals satirized.—Now, as Le Sage was born in 1677, the year in which Phillip IV. died, he could not have visited Spain as Secretary to the French Ambassador, until the close of that century, or perhaps the commencement of the next, by which time, probably, Gil Blas had been almost forgotten, as the production of an anonymous and unknown author. The recent editor of the Padre's Spanish translation of the work, Don Evaristo Penay Marin, asserts, that it has lately been ascertained, beyond all doubt, that Le Sage never visited Spain, but that he derived not only this, but every other Spanish work published in his name, from the library of the Marquis de Lyonne, Ambassador from Paris to Madrid, in 1656, whose love of the Spanish language induced him to purchase a large collection of unpublished manuscripts, the translation of which afterwards rendered

the name of Le Sage so celebrated. This, he says, is proved beyond all question, by the numerous errors into which the translator has fallen (from an inability to decipher the manuscript), with respect to Spanish names, as well of persons as of places, mentioned in the original.—*Ainsworth's Magazine.*

What Royalty Might do for Art.—Had the Queen of England, with her immense revenue, done a hundredth part for London what the King of Bavaria, with his kingdom of little more than four millions of souls, has done for his capital, which, before his time, was no more than one of our country towns, what a spur would have been given to art in England? What a taste and emulation would have been amongst our opulent nobility? What miracles of painting and sculpture would burst forth from the pregnant, but depressed, soil of British genius: and what happens would be diffused through hundreds of families; what glory would be cast round the national name. There wants nothing in England but this warmth of Royal patronage, to start into universal bloom a Spring and Summer of British Art, such as Europe has not witnessed. Englishmen in this, as in other directions, have genius and energy enough for any thing; but, there wants the sunshine from above, as the vigour of soil from beneath, to call forth the growth of national talent and glory. The King of Bavaria, with means small, compared with those of Royalty, or even the nobility in England, has done more for art than all Europe put together.—*William Howitt's Rural and Domestic Life in Germany.*

The Bowie Knife.—The Bowie Knife, so formidable a weapon both in Texas and the whole South West, is not to be regarded altogether in the light of an engine of human slaughter; since in many other respects it is one of the most useful of articles to the settler and frontiersman. Like the Highlander's *Shieu-dhu*, the same blade which this morning, perhaps, was buried to the hilt in the body of an enemy, or it may be of a friend with whom its owner had a "difficulty," will also serve to-night to carve the venison for supper—to skin and cut up the hunter's game—to extract hooks from the gullets of ponderous red fish when its master goes fishing, or to supply any other need, no matter how small for which a knife can possibly be required. I have heard that a blow from one, well wielded, is sufficient to break a man's arm. I have myself seen skulls of Mexicans brought from the battle ground of San Jacinto, on which Texas gained her independence, cleft nearly through the thickest part of the bone, behind, evidently at one blow, and with sufficient force to throw out extensive cracks like those of a starred glass. This is more true to fact than complimentary to Mexican valour.—*Tait's Magazine for May.*

An Irish Coal-scuttle, with a Conclusion Thereupon.—One word more regarding the Widow Fagan's house. When Peggy brought in coals for the drawing-room fire, she carried them—in what, do you think? "In a coal-scuttle, to be sure," says the English reader, down on you as sharp as a needle. Fo, you clever Englishman, it wasn't a fire-shovel, you heaven-born genius; and you might guess from this until Mr. Snooks called you up to coffee, and you