

The Weekly Register

OF POLITICS, FACTS, AND GENERAL LITERATURE.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

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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.

COLONIAL RIGHTS, INTERESTS, AND DUTIES.

"Right is the child of law: from real laws come real rights; but from imaginary laws, from laws of nature, fancied and invented by poets, rhetoricians, and dealers in moral and intellectual poisons, come imaginary rights, a bastard brood of monsters, gorgons, and chimeras dire.....the mortal enemies of law, the subverters of government, and the assassins of security."

Jeremy Bentham.

IN our last publication we endeavoured to warn our readers against the dangerous principle of *conditional* loyalty to the Sovereign of the empire which has been put forth as a "constitutional principle" by the advocates of our oligarchical faction. We took it for granted that there were, among our fellow colonists, men who agree with us in thinking that there is a middle and safe course for British subjects between the two extremes of "divine right of kings" on the one hand, and the "right of subjects to dethrone tyrannical princes" contended for by that faction on the other. Whatever arguments may be adduced in favour of the latter axiom in the abstract, it is certainly no axiom of the British Constitution. There may be times and circumstances, when resistance to constituted authorities is lawful. When oppression reaches a certain point, nature will rise up and assert its rights in defiance of all human laws. But in proportion as such cases of insufferable oppression do not often occur, the extreme remedy ought seldom to be resorted to. Revolutions are the medicine of the constitution, not its daily bread.

Now we deny that in the government of this colony there has been any extreme oppression whatever, at least during the last two administrations. We have been called upon for no "ship-money." The parliament has passed no "stamp acts"—our tea has not been taxed without our consent—the money of the colonists has never been expended upon imperial objects. The executive power has indeed suspended the operation of one of our laws, but this has not been in assertion of any *high royal prerogative*, but at the bidding of the *people's representatives*. In a word, we have no acts of oppression to complain of, such as have driven people to rebellion in

other countries, nor can the whole of our "grievances" put together be compared for a moment with the least of the principles for which the people of England and America fought and conquered.

Were the British government to levy a duty on stamps in New South Wales—were it to tax our tea for British purposes, and without the consent of our representatives—were it to call upon us in the same way to contribute to pay the expense of a war with France, even then it might be a greater folly to rebel than to submit, but at all events we should have constitutional grounds for resistance of some kind. But what have we of this kind to complain of? We have never been called upon, either constitutionally or unconstitutionally to contribute one shilling to the support of the British government. During the greater part of our existence as a British colony, we were supported almost entirely with British funds. Even now a considerable sum of money is paid out of the British treasury for the support of our convict and military establishments, and every penny of taxation, direct and indirect, raised within the colony is levied by our own representatives, and appropriated to strictly colonial purposes.

The only one of our alleged "grievances" that appears to have any reality is the old one of the "police and gaols." For our part, we should at once put this down as a very serious grievance—in common with the whole remains of the late convict system. But does not the every day conduct of those who make all the clamour about this grievance prove that they are not sincere in the opinion, which it is their policy to express? Were they not clamorous against the discontinuance of transportation and assignment? Did they not, many of them, after it had been discontinued, petition unconditionally for its revival? Are they not now memorialising the government in favour of a new system of transportation, which would entail upon us the expense of new convictions as well as the expense of an enormous extra police and not less enormous gaols? These facts belie all their assertions respecting the police and gaol grievance; so that in fact the only real claim that we have upon the government is rendered nugatory by the inconsistency and misconduct of those whose duty it was temperately and consistently to enforce it.

There does exist indeed another and a still

greater grievance, for which the government is answerable, but which appears to have escaped the researches of the Land Grievance Committee; we allude to the improvident systems that have existed of alienating and permitting the occupation of crown lands. This is a grievance that will weigh down the energies of the colony for ages to come. Previous to the commencement of the squatting system, the greater portion of the best description of land within the boundaries was granted away in enormous quantities to persons, some of whom certainly deserved every encouragement that was consistent with sound policy, but by far the greater part were mere adventurers, having neither the means, nor the inclination, to cultivate these enormous wastes, or to perform any of the social duties attached to the possession of extensive landed property. By reason of this wasteful alienation, the colonists engaged in pastoral pursuits were speedily driven to seek for pasture beyond the boundaries. The first that attempted this kind of life were poor persons, who soon improved their condition so much as to excite the suspicion or jealousy of the larger proprietors, who under the pretence, probably in most cases well enough founded, that the then squatters were a class of sheep stealers, obtained a law to put them down. Out of this arose the present system of licensed squatting, which, had not the same wastefulness prevailed in the allotment of stations which had done so much injury in the case of the grants, might have been not only a source of wealth, but also a means of increasing our population, and promoting the advancement of colonization.

In this the government has been to blame—deeply to blame; but this error has been not as is pretended by the present clamourers in oppressing the squatters, but in allowing them too wide a range, and too much indulgence. Its errors consist in its having given an undue encouragement to those who first engaged in this occupation at the expense of all that were to follow in the same career; and in having caused other industrious pursuits within the colony to be thrown into the shade, that all might seek their fortunes in squatting beyond the limits. Its merit is that it has seen and acknowledged its error. The new regulations against which so much has been said and written, are intended in some measure to check the evils of this lax system. We have repeatedly shown that the

principle of these regulations (without reference to the details) is one of pure justice between colonist and colonist. *This has never been directly denied—it cannot be denied.* But the present opposition movement turns entirely upon this point, that the government is supporting the small squatters and the settlers against the encroachments of the large squatters. If this be its crime, may it never repent! but thus far may all governments walk in its footsteps.

Before the oligarchical faction seek to obtain the control of the crown lands, and before the colonists aid them in this enterprise, it would be well for the public to institute some inquiry of these men as to the *kind of administration* which they have in view, whether it be the sweeping "fixity of tenure" over indefinite tracts of country which we heard contended for at the Royal Hotel and elsewhere? When this information is obtained, and when a few of the "patriots" have set the example of giving up a portion of their runs and agreeing to pay into the public treasury a yearly rent per section for what they retain the use of, we may then consider whether, in the present state of things, our rights would be better protected by the faction than by the government.

But although, as colonists and subjects, we have no serious grievances to complain of, such as drove the English, Americans, and French into revolution, it is quite certain that we are now as completely on the road (not perhaps to revolution, because we are powerless, but) to *rebellion*, as were either of the above nations a few years before the breaking out of their respective revolutions. In our last publication we proved from Burke that the parliament of Paris overflowed with loyalty in 1789. Like our squatters' parliament they said "give us only power, and you shall see how loyally and liberally we shall provide for the public service." The king yielded to their demands—to all their demands—and in 1793 they called him a tyrant and cut off his head. The first movements of the American revolution were infinitely less daring than those of our faction. In 1725 a dispute occurred between the governor and council and the assembly of Massachusetts respecting the governor's negative on the choice of a speaker, and some other questions of prerogative. The points were at first agitated with great warmth, and two advocates were at different times sent to England to represent the case of the assembly. After a full discussion of the question in London the decision was given entirely unfavourable to the assembly; an explanatory charter was issued to that effect; and yet (says the historian Grahame, vol. iii, p. 120) although of eighty representatives of the people no fewer than thirty-two voted that the charter should be rejected, and though a similar opposition was made by four members of the Council, "in both these chambers a resolution was carried for accepting the charter, and expressed in terms of loyalty and satisfaction that imported rather the reception of a favour than the resignation of a right." Is this the "tone and temper" of the majority in our assembly?

In 1740 the people of New Hampshire, like our Port Phillip friends, had a "grievance." They wished to have a government of their own distinct from that of Massachusetts. In the following year they obtained this boon,

and, curious enough, the office was bestowed upon a Mr. Wentworth, "a popular inhabitant of the province" says our authority (Grahame III., 244). The change was highly grateful. "Wentworth's elevation was hailed by his fellow citizens as *the deliverance of New Hampshire from contempt and dependence*" (*ib.*). They soon however changed their minds, the popular governor became all at once extremely unpopular, and the colonists "having vainly petitioned for his removal from office, they would gladly have dissolved the government, and put themselves under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, had it been in their power" (*ib.*). Still they had not, up to this period, begun, like our patriots, to talk of "dethroning tyrannical princes." As a proof that even so late as 1749 the American assemblies were less bent upon revolutionary proceedings than our dominant faction already is, we may mention the fact that "Allen, a member of the provincial assembly [of Massachusetts] having vented some coarse disrespect against Governor Shirley, in one of his speeches, and declined to make what the House considered a satisfactory apology, was expelled from his seat for this act of contumacy. (Grahame III., p. 333.) What this "coarse disrespect" was the historian does not inform us; we may, however, safely take it for granted that it came short of the language that we have heard applied to the Governor of this colony during the past session of Council; and it is still clearer that our Council in its reception of such language fell far short of the loyalty as well as the decency of a colony then maturing, and on the point of asserting, its claim to independence.

At a still later period, in the year 1754, a celebrated member of the Assembly of Pennsylvania, and afterwards a chief agent in bringing about the American Revolution, Benjamin Franklin put forth his famous plan for a Federal Union of the American Provinces. But this plan fully respected the royal authority as delegated to the king's representative. "Application was to be made for an Act of Parliament to establish in the colonies a general government, to be administered by a president appointed by the crown, and by a grand council, consisting of members chosen by the several provincial assemblies." "Responsible government" for colonies was not yet thought of. "The whole executive authority of the general government was committed to the president. The power of legislation was lodged jointly in the grand council and president; the consent of the latter being requisite to the advancement of Bills into laws..... These legislative ordinances were to be transmitted to England for the approbation of the king; and unless disallowed within three years after their enactment they were to remain in force."

Such was the respect paid, by the future republicans of America, to the royal authority; a few years previous to their declaration of independence.

Indeed the tendency to a revolution in those colonies was not nearly so visible as it is in our own case. Hume who wrote in 1759-62 held that "England might still preserve dominion over her colonies during some time." Neal (*Hist. of New England.*) was of opinion that it would be "impossible for New England to subsist of itself for some

centuries of years," and ridiculed the idea of a rebellion as a thing "not to be supposed." Raynal, a philosophical writer of a later period, when the dawn of the revolution had appeared, held a confederation of the American colonies against England to be "perfectly delusive and chimerical" (*Raynal's America*).

The first person who appears to have really foreseen the result of the contests between the people of America and the government was a sensible Swede, named Peter Kalm, the friend of Linnæus, who visited North America from 1748 till 1750. This traveller expressed an opinion that "the English colonies in North America, within the space of thirty or fifty years hence would be able to form a state by themselves, entirely independent of Old England." And it is remarkably curious to note one of the principal reasons which led this sensible writer to a conclusion which was then generally deemed absurd. This traveller anticipated a revolt in the American colonies because "that many people can never be contented with their possessions, though they be ever so great, and will always be desirous of getting more, and of enjoying the pleasure which arises from change; and their over great liberty, and their property, often lead them to licentiousness."

Truly men are the same in all ages and countries! Were our oligarchs "contented with their possessions" we should not have heard the revolutionary language which has disgraced the legislation of the last two years, exceeding as it does, by far, the language heard by Peter Kalm among the American colonists in 1750.

The time will of course arrive, when it will alike be our interest and that of Britain that a separation should take place. But we are not yet ripe for this harvest, nor can we be so until our population is at least tripled. It is by far more the interest of the colony, than it can be that of Britain, that we should remain united to the empire. None but desperate gamblers—like the leaders in this movement—can have any interest in embroiling the colony with the government. The government has and can have no interest but in the welfare of the people generally—the squatocracy have a great stake, as they tell us truly, in the question, and whatever they may gain by the fall of the die the public will lose. It is for the latter then to say under what banner they are resolved to fight.

THE CROWN LANDS.

THE *Southern Queen* of Thursday contains a scheme for the disposal of crown lands, by leasing them for a term of 75 years, renewable at any time during the continuance of the lease, on the payment of a renewal fine, proportioned to the unexpired interest of the lessee.

The details of this scheme, we are bound to say display much ingenuity, and seem logical in the abstract. One practicable circumstance, however, seems to have escaped the writer (Mr. Charles Lowe); he appears to have forgotten the often demonstrated fact that the *crown* can never deal with its tenants, in the summary way that individuals can; that every act of authority of this kind (as in the case of sales for the payment of quit-rents) is construed into an

act of great tyranny by the interested, a construction with which the ignorant always readily sympathise; although such acts are really imperative duties required of the Executive Government for the public interest.

Besides this, the plan of renewals for portions of land disposed of to third and fourth parties by the original lessee appears to us complicated and fraught with future litigation; a thing which, with all due respect to the author's profession, we hold in extreme dislike.

But the great defect of the scheme appears to lie in this, that it does not apply to "lands occupied exclusively for depasturing," out of which lands, however, nearly all the difficulty with which we are beset arises. To give the squatters seventy-five years' leases of their immense runs would be perfect ruin and destruction to the colony—would amount to an abdication of the throne as far as the colony is concerned; and is altogether a thing not to be thought of for a moment. The proposition that "Whatever plan may induce stockholders to extend their exertions, and lay out their capital, cannot fail of increasing this great source of national wealth," is one of those fallacies which we thought it impossible for a person of this writer's clear intellect to entertain, it being directly opposed to every received axiom in economy. No "inducement" ought to be held out by government to follow one occupation more than another, every man being ready enough to follow that which he finds most profitable and convenient. What would our contemporary think of the policy of bringing in "A Bill to induce" all the citizens of Sydney to become shoemakers, and to 'lay out their capital' in purchasing leather and tools." Yet the two propositions are precisely similar. People follow sheep farming because it happens to be profitable. When this shall cease to be the case, they will readily withdraw their capital, and lay it out in agriculture, in wine making, in manufactures, or whatever else circumstances may suggest as likely to "increase their store." To foster any one of these, at the expense of the rest, would be an act of egregious folly, fraught with the most mischievous consequences. It is incalculable the amount of misery that these "inducements" have inflicted on mankind in other countries; the English corn laws are a memorable example; and it would not be difficult to prove that even in this colony the progress of population, cultivation, and general improvement has been much retarded by the *undue* encouragement already given to that which requires no other stimulus than the mere fact mentioned by our contemporary that it is "the great source of our national wealth."

For these reasons, notwithstanding the originality and ingenuity of our contemporary's scheme, we cannot admit its applicability to the present very difficult and important case—the method of disposing of our waste lands.

PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY.—State of the Female Factory, Parramatta, on the 1st February, 1845:—Under colonial sentence, 59; not under colonial sentence, 266; in solitary confinement, 2; in hospital, 22. Total number of Women, 349. Total number of Children, 120.

IS WENTWORTH A PATRIOT?

A Patriot is one who has no aims
 Dividual from the Public Good! whose heart
 Is of his country's a fraternal part!
 Whose interest on that country's altar flames!
 A Patriot is one who has no Self,
 Dividual from his People!—tell me then,
 Is Wentworth such, amongst Australia's men?
 Where's Hampden's wisdom, Marvell's scorn of self?
 What, though a Faction's magnates, when they're mellow,
 Trumpet him forth—"a Patriot!" What, though all
 The "brandy-faced," when they behold him, bellow
 "A Patriot!" Yet, however loud he bawl
 About his country, 'twere as fit to call
 Maize dumpling gold, because forsooth—'tis yellow.

AN AUSTRALIAN.

Domestic Intelligence.

CAMDEN ELECTION.—His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified for general information, that Roger Therry, Esquire, having in due form resigned his seat in the Legislative Council for the electoral district of the County of Camden, a writ has been issued for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Council for the said district during the continuance of the present Council, and that the following arrangement has been made for the said election, viz.:—chief polling place, or place of nomination, Berri-ma; day of nomination, 24th February, 1845; polling day, 27th February, 1845; return of writ, 6th March, 1845.

MECHANICS' SCHOOL OF ARTS.—The Annual General Meeting of the members of the Mechanics' Institution was held on Tuesday, when the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, and the Auditors were re-elected. The members added to the committee of management in the place of the retiring members were—G. Fullerton, M. D., Mr. A. Hollinshed, Mr. J. Martyn, Mr. T. Trood, and Mr. W. Phillips. The report of the proceedings for the past year was read by the newly elected Secretary, Mr. S. P. Hill. From this it appeared that the number of members had not decreased during the past year, there being altogether 267 members down on the list. The state of the funds was also represented as favourable; but this was accounted for chiefly from the circumstance of the building fund not having been touched. The report further stated that negotiations had been going on with the government, with respect to the selection of an allotment on which to erect a building for the Institution, and that an allotment had been fixed upon; although in a less favourable situation than could have been wished. A negotiation was, however, pending between the committee and the present proprietor of the now School of Arts, which it was hoped would terminate favourably for the Institution. A suggestion was made by Mr. Cape that paid lecturers should be attached to the Institution, when it was stated that the committee had a discretionary power to effect this object. The thanks of the Institution were given to Mr. Duer, the retiring secretary.

BATHURST MAIL ROBBERY.—Two men, who had been apprehended in the township, the one named William Sheffield, and the other John Richards, generally known by the name of Chummy, were brought before the Bathurst Bench for a hearing, charged with the late mail robbery. The driver of the mail was called on, and from his evidence there is very little doubt the right men are in custody. They were remanded for further evidence.

THE BANK OF AUSTRALIA.—A Special General Meeting of the Proprietors of the Bank of Australia was held on Thursday, the result of which was an offer to be made (*without prejudice*) on the part of the colonial proprietors to make up a sum of £40,000, to be given to the Bank of Australasia, together with good bills to the amount of £25,000, and all the securities, which were to have been the subject of the late proposed lottery—on condition of the Bank of Australasia paying off a colonial debt due by the Bank of Australia, of about £40,000.

THE BALLOON.—The inclemency of the weather on the last anniversary of the foundation of the colony, having prevented the ascension of the balloon from Campbell's Wharf, as proposed, it is the intention, of Messrs Pearce and Shipway, under whose directions the proposed ascent is to take place, that weather permitting the balloon shall ascend from Mr. Campbell's premises on Monday afternoon next, at five o'clock. In the event, however, of the weather proving unfavourable at that time, the ascent will be delayed until the following, or first fine day, at a similar hour. A gun will be fired from adjoining the wharf at the moment of the ascent.

ADMISSION OF ATTORNEYS.—By a rule of the Supreme Court, made on first day of the present term, the Master in Equity, Archibald Michie, barrister at law, and Mr. Clements Brent Rodd, and Mr. Charles Lowe, solicitors, were appointed examiners, for the present year, of candidates for admission as attorneys, solicitors, and proctors of the Supreme Court.

APPOINTMENTS.—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Ensign Leslie Jenkins Thompson, of her Majesty's 58th regiment of foot, the officer in command of the mounted police at Goulburn; Alexander Johnson, of Kerrenbollock, Mount Emu Creek; Roderick McKenzie, of Flowerdale, Goulburn River; and Alfred Taddy Thomson, of Yallaypourra, Fiery Creek, Esquires; to be magistrates of the territory and its dependencies.

CRICKET MATCH.—Monday afternoon a match at single wicket came off on the Hyde Park Cricket Ground, between Horner, of the Victoria Club, with Parsfield from the same club as scout, and Clarkson, of the Australian Club, with Davis of the same club as scout. Horner had the first innings, and won the match with three notches to spare. The score was as follows—first innings, Horner, b. by Clarkson, 3; second innings, Horner, b. by Clarkson, 3; total, 6. First innings, Clarkson b. by Horner, 0; second innings, Clarkson, run out, 3. Several private matches of a minor description were afterwards decided on the same ground.

ANOTHER OF THE MILLER'S POINT GANG.—On Monday Police Runner Adson succeeded in apprehending a man named Smith, in Clarence-street, on a charge of being connected with the various burglaries and ship robberies for which Palmer, his wife, and two men named Hamilton and Maher, were committed last week.

NEW MAGISTRATES.—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint the undermentioned gentlemen to be magistrates of the territory and its dependencies, viz.:—Alexander Imlay, Esq., of Twofold Bay, and John Hay, Esq., of Welaregang, Hume River.

ORGANIZED GANG OF ROBBERS.—Three more men are in custody charged with being connected with the Miller's Point gang of robbers, and as two of the party shew a disposition to make certain revelations, it is not unlikely that other parties may be added to their number, and that this gang, whose depredations have for a long time been so extensive and successful, may be finally extirpated from the city.

CORONER'S INQUESTS.—On Tuesday afternoon a coroner's inquest was held, at the "Fortune of War" public house, on the body of Margaret Sullivan, a child, who had been drowned at Neutral Bay on Monday afternoon. Mary Sullivan, the mother of the deceased, residing at Neutral Bay, deposed that between four and five o'clock on Monday afternoon she saw the body of the deceased dead in the water; she had last seen her alive about two o'clock at dinner; after dinner witness went to Mr. Boyd's, where she remained about two hours; on her return home she heard some girls screaming, who told her there was a child drowned; when she went to the water she saw the child's body floating dead; there was a great depth of water where the body was floating; some men who were near the place took the body and brought it to land; witness was satisfied the deceased had been accidentally drowned. Michael M'Cormick, residing at Woolloomooloo Bay, saw the deceased quite well between four and five o'clock on Monday afternoon, near the place where he soon after saw her floating in the water; witness on seeing the body in the water went in and brought it ashore—it was then dead. Dr. D. J. Tierney, of Pitt-street, had viewed the body of the deceased in the house where the jury were assembled; from the appearances presented, witness believed death had been caused by drowning; he observed no marks of violence on the body. The jury found a verdict of accidentally drowned.—On Tuesday evening last, a labouring man named Walpole, residing on the Western Road, went to bed with his wife, taking with them an infant son. Two chairs were placed against the side of the bed to prevent the child from falling to the floor, should he slip out. During the night, it appears that the child had slipped out of bed, and getting between the two chairs, had caught by the neck, where he had hung until strangled. A verdict of accidental death was recorded by the Jury empanelled on the body, on Wednesday.—On Thursday afternoon, an enquiry took place in Mellon's Hotel, Chippendale, on the body of Elizabeth Moon, an infant, when the following evidence was given: William Moon, baker, and father of the deceased, deposed she was nine weeks old; she was put to bed about eleven o'clock on Tuesday forenoon, being then quite well; about three in the afternoon witness went to the bed and found she had worked herself under the bed clothes, and had perspired so freely as to wet the clothes over her; on taking her up she appeared unwell, and becoming worse, Dr. Cates was sent for, and saw her, at ten o'clock at night; she died at half-past nine on Wednesday morning. Mr. John Cates, surgeon, had seen the deceased alive on Tuesday night, she was then labouring under extreme difficulty of breathing, and in a state of great exhaustion; witness prescribed proper medicine for the case; in his opinion death was caused by the accumulation of blood in the lungs, the circulation having

been impeded. The jury returned a verdict of died in consequence of accidental suffocation.—An inquiry took place yesterday afternoon, in Coleson's public-house, corner of Liverpool and George-streets, touching the death of Mary Ann Garnum, aged one year and five months. It appeared from the evidence of the mother that she was washing some clothes between seven and eight o'clock on Thursday evening, when she lifted a boiler full of boiling water off the fire on to the floor for the purpose of emptying it into a tub outside the door; the deceased was then amusing herself at see-saw with another child, at a considerable distance from the pot; witness slept outside to put the tub right in order that the might empty the water into it; while so employed the deceased fell backwards into the boiling water and was severely scalded on the back and sides; witness sprang in, caught hold of her and got her out before the water had time to cover the whole of her body; she immediately plunged her into a barrel of cold water, and took her to the doctor, who directed her what to do, but deceased died about two hours afterwards. Dr. Aitkin had seen the deceased in her mothers arms between eight and nine o'clock on Thursday evening, she was labouring under the effects of a very severe scolding on the back and sides of the body. He directed the injuries to be properly dressed. Death had been caused by the injuries he adverted to. The jury found a verdict of died from the effects of being accidentally scalded.—Another inquest was held at the same place, on the body of Ralph Lomas, a joiner, who had expired in the General Hospital, at a quarter before ten on Thursday evening. John Sutton, a joiner, deposed that he and deceased went to Francis-street, at the south end of Hyde Park, about two o'clock on Thursday, both being perfectly sober at the time, for the purpose of finishing a dormer window in a new house they had been working at. The deceased went outside on the roof (which was very steep, and without any parapet) with his shoes on, for the purpose of nailing a board on; when witness was in the act of boring a hole inside, through which deceased was to drive a nail, witness heard something slide down, and fearing it was Lomas sprang to the window, but before he got there deceased had passed over the edge of the roof, and fell with a tremendous crash on the ground, from a height of upwards of thirty feet, by which he was severely injured on his forehead; he was immediately carried to the residence of Mr. Surgeon Whittell, who, on ascertaining the nature and extent of the injuries, pronounced the case hopeless, but recommended his immediate removal to the General Hospital, where he arrived about three o'clock. Mr. Richardson, Colonial Surgeon, afterwards performed the operation of trepanning, but deceased expired the same evening. Dr. Macfarlane, who had previously known the deceased, saw him in the Hospital; there was a large fracture of the frontal bone all the extent of the right eye-brow; the bone was shattered into small pieces, and a portion of the brain protruded; the covering of the brain had also been injured; in his opinion the injuries described had been caused by a fall, and were sufficient to account for the death of the deceased. The jury found a verdict of died from a fracture of the skull accidentally received.

EXECUTION OF VIDELLE.—John Videlle, who was found guilty at the last sittings of the Central Criminal Court of the wilful murder of Thomas Warne, underwent the extreme penalty of the law yesterday morning, at the New Gaol, Darlinghurst. Since the time of his conviction, he had been attended by the Rev. Mr. Bourgeois, to whom he expressed great contrition, but, at times, he was very sullen and dogged in his demeanour. In the early part of yesterday morning he displayed considerable obstinacy, refusing to allow himself to be shaved, to have clean clothes on, or to partake of some tea which was sent to him; but by the exertions of the reverend gentleman by whom he was attended, he gradually assumed a more composed state of mind, and proceeded with apparent earnestness to prepare himself by devotion for his approaching end. At a little before nine o'clock, the condemned man commenced his approach to the place of execution, attended by two Roman Catholic priests, the Rev. Messrs. M'Encroe and Bourgeois, with whom he joined aloud in prayer as the mournful procession moved across the gaol yard. He walked up the steps without other assistance than that afforded him by the clergymen, but on his appearance on the platform, he was scarcely able to stand, and seemed intensely agitated. When the fatal noose was adjusted, the Rev. Mr. M'Encroe came to the rail of the platform, and addressed the crowd as follows:—"The individual who is now about to suffer, confesses the justice of the sentence under which he is now about to die. He acknowledges too, that in his case the laws have been fairly administered, and justice rightfully rendered. He repents him of his sins, and prays that God may forgive them, and asks that all here may join in prayer that he may be forgiven." A low and deep "Amen" murmured through the crowd, and after the prisoner had affectionately taken leave of both his spiritual attendants, the fatal signal was given, the bolt withdrawn, and the criminal launched into eternity. There was no feeling manifested by the crowd, and the most perfect order prevailed throughout. We must agree, however, with our contemporaries of the *Herald* and *Australian*, in animadverting on the depraved taste which could lead thousands of females to witness such a scene, and on the disgraceful conduct of parents in allowing their children to become habituated to witness disgusting spectacles of this kind.

NEW INSOLVENTS.—William Abercrombie and John Mackay, of Sydney, merchants, trading under the firm of Abercrombie and Co.; this estate was sequestrated on the petition of Ashford and Daniels; summons returnable on Wednesday, 7th May, 1845. William Elkins, South Head Road, Sydney, market gardener: debts, £47 10s.; assets, personal property, £7; balance deficiency, £40 10s.; Clark Irving, official assignee. William Bourne, engineer, Sussex-street, Sydney, was sequestrated on Thursday, being his second insolvency under the present act: debts, £66 17s. 6d.; assets, outstanding debts, £11 1s. 10d.; balance deficiency, £55 15s. 8d.; John Walker, official assignee. Charles John Bubb, of Swan Reach, near Morpeth, farmer, was sequestrated yesterday on petition and affidavit; Hutchinson Bell, official assignee.