

# The Weekly Register

OF POLITICS, FACTS, AND GENERAL LITERATURE.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

VOL. IV.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1845.

No. 83.

## THE POLITICAL REGISTER.

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

## THE INSOLENT OF THE SQUATTING ORGAN, AND ITS DEFICIENCY IN ARGUMENT.

"If I speak truth, I must repeat what I have said to you; and as for lying, whether a philosopher can do it or not, I cannot tell, I am sure I cannot do it."—More's Utopia.

It is an old practice for the advocates of a bad cause to have recourse to personal abuse, when they have been worsted in argument. If any friend of the squatting movement hoped for better things from the constellation which illumines the pages of their *Atlas*, the experience of three months must have convinced him that, in this respect, "the thing that was shall be, and that there is nothing new under the sun." For our own part, we did hope to find in our new contemporary an able opponent; the advocate, indeed, of a cause that no strength of intellect could sustain, because of its being opposed to the eternal principles of justice which are engraven on the tablet of every man's mind; but an advocate capable of covering the weakness of his cause by the skill of his dialectic; and of making out a case that should require nearly equal skill in the writer who should undertake to unravel his sophistries.

We confess we have been disappointed. From the first number to the last the whole argument in favour of the opposition appears to amount to three propositions—that Sir George Gipps is the representative of a clerk in the colonial office—that he is a "paltry functionary" who means to ruin the colony; and that the colony wants responsible government, and his recal. These propositions are surrounded indeed by a great quantity of tiresome and unmeaning verbiage, intended probably to pass among ignorant persons for philosophical discussion, but we do not believe that it is possible to extract any thing definite from this mass of words, except the propositions we have enumerated. Indeed the whole might be reduced to mere personal vituperation against Sir George Gipps, who, whatever faults he may have, that are known or unknown to the public; whatever offence he

may have given personally to the leaders of this faction; will be admitted by all who know anything of the matter, and assuredly by posterity, to have devoted greater talents, and more assiduous labour, for the benefit of the colony than all the squatocracy put together.

Previous to the appearance of the *Atlas* we had gone over the whole question between this faction and the public. We had demonstrated, as we thought (and certainly to the complete satisfaction of a few of the most enlightened men of whom the colony can boast), that the question was not so much one between the squatters and the governor, as between the public and the squatters; that the claim to "fixity of tenure" set up by the latter, was a monstrous encroachment upon the public rights; that the waste lands were the property of future immigrants and of posterity, as well as of the colonists of this age; and that even as between squatter and squatter, justice required the interposition of government to prevent the sharks from devouring the small fry.

This argument, which really goes to the root of the question, has been treated by the faction with "contemptuous silence," as their organ of Saturday last informs us, until at length from this silence, and "from its incessant and wearisome repetition, it has found favour with some well-intentioned persons," and can be passed over no longer. A curious method of "finding favour" truly! to tire one's friends by "incessant and wearisome repetition!" The argument itself, says the *Atlas*, is most "absurd," but its constant and tiresome repetition, instead of making its absurdity more and more manifest, has caused it to find favour with "persons from whom better things might have been expected!" Most complimentary this to the good sense of the colonists! But, lest any one should suppose we are in jest in giving these as the words of the *Atlas*, and for other reasons which shall follow, here is the passage at length:—

"Had Salmasius or Mr. Boyle had any thing to give, the victories of Milton and Bentley, though still indisputable, would not have remained undisputed; and to put a Governor clearly in the wrong, is only to point out a forlorn hope to every greedy sycophant, or hungry aspirant, by venturing on which nothing can be lost in reputation (sup-

posing him to have any), and much may be gained from so unequivocal a manifestation of good will. From some quarter of this kind an argument has been put forth, which, from the contemptuous silence with which it has been treated by the squatters and their friends, and from its incessant and wearisome repetition, has found favor, we believe, with some well-intentioned persons from whom better things might have been expected. It is therefore time it should be answered; and surely a more absurd argument in itself, or a more impudent one considering the quarter from whence it proceeds, cannot be imagined. That argument is, that the squatters seek to monopolize the lands of the territory, and thus to deprive posterity and after comers of any advantage from them."—(*Atlas*, p. 133.)

In this extract the reader will perceive that a portion of the same scurrility which had been previously heaped upon the Governor in such abundance, has been reserved for us, who, apart from the usual salutation at a ball or levee, and one or two letters upon public business, never had any communication with his Excellency, direct or indirect. In the face of as perfect an independence of character as ever man exercised, it is here broadly insinuated that somebody has something "to give," that somewhere there is a "greedy sycophant or hungry aspirant" who is ready to write for pay; that from "some quarter of this kind" our argument above referred to has been put forth; and that "surely a more absurd argument in itself, or a more impudent one, considering the quarter from whence it proceeds, cannot be imagined."

Very gentle hints and polite insinuations these, "considering the quarter from whence they proceed!" Do these people then really affect greater disinterestedness, or a higher position in any respect than we can lay claim to? Are they aware that they themselves have but picked up the bribe that we despised? Do they forget that the squatocracy were compelled to undo their pursestrings before the press would yield them a single sheet of their production? Can they deny a fact that throws their lying insinuations to the winds—a fact known to all our friends—that our voluntary support of the measures of government has been all along in the very teeth of our pecuniary interests, and while struggling with means quite inadequate to our undertaking? Then as to our alleged

"impudence" and the "quarter" from which our argument proceeds—what is the meaning of all this? Is it to convey to their parliamentary advocates in Britain the notion that a person whose writings circulate there in their third and fourth editions, and whose colonial writings, such as they are, have been read daily throughout the colony for the last six years—and read with approbation too—is an obscure individual, who—like so many others—would be entirely unknown but for his "impudence?" Or would they suggest that there is some personal inferiority of position on our side that should warrant any of our contemporaries to treat our arguments with "contemptuous silence?" We will not brook this thing. Is it *Atlas*, himself, for example, the *redacteur gerant*, late of Port Macquarie, with whom we might be supposed ambitious to exchange "quarters?" Or his coadjutor, the renowned warrior—the Hercules, whom, after his memorable attempts to snatch the girdle of chastity from our Amazons, and to cleanse the Augean stables of the Viceroy, hath been sent by the squatocracy to steal the golden apples of the Australian Hesperides?—Is it to persons like these, forsooth, or to wild extravagants who would have been degraded to the rank of slaves under Solon's laws—or to hunters after salaries, vacant chairs, and speakerships *not vacant*, that we are to look up as to "a quarter" which it were "impudence" for the lawful son of an honest gentleman to assail? No, no, whatever respect we may voluntarily offer to authority lawfully constituted, our "sycophancy" does not extend either to impertinent upstarts, or to the hirelings who maintain their cause.

"Ambubiarum collegia, pharmacopole,  
Mendici, mime, balarones, hoc genus omne"

If persons of this stamp, in becoming public writers, will do themselves the honour to discuss public questions in the language of gentlemen, we may endeavour to deal as courteously with them as a proper contempt for their character will allow, but let them not attempt by lying insinuations or groundless epithets to bring us to their own level, lest they find to their cost that where we are impregnable they themselves may lie peculiarly open to assault.

The reader will excuse this unwonted digression, caused by the gross impertinence of our adversary. To return to the argument; the *Atlas* itself admits that our reasoning against the sweeping designs of the squatocracy "has found favour with some well-intentioned persons." This is something, certainly. We have not then laboured in vain; our adversaries being judges. The writer goes on to say that "it is, therefore, time it [the argument] should be answered," in order no doubt to bring back those "well-intentioned persons" whom we have perverted, and to prevent other sheep from straying in like manner. All this is reasonable and fair;—no doubt it is high time the argument were answered—and the only misfortune in the matter is that the *Atlas* does not answer it. The writer indeed makes the attempt, but he sets out by such a barefaced begging of the question, that had we not often observed how far the writer calculates upon the ignorance and gullibility of his readers, and their mystification by means of long sentences, we should have been struck with amazement at his intrepidity. After

stating our argument as above, he proceeds—"Now, if any one will attentively consider the numerous and undeniable grievances connected with the lands of the territory, he will admit the proposition, as soon as it is stated, that *all these grievances resolve themselves into a monopoly of these lands being vested in the hands of the Government.*" Here are two propositions taken for granted, both of which we have repeatedly denied, and which, therefore, in making any pretension to "answer" our argument, our contemporary was bound to prove. We deny, first, that there are "numerous grievances" existing upon the subject; and, secondly, we deny emphatically that the protection of those lands, by the government, from the encroachments of the squatters, is any grievance at all? What, therefore, is the value, as against us, of any reasoning founded upon propositions the truth of which we have denied to "incessant and wearisome repetition?" We equally deny the statement that the government "is about to exact so much for licenses as to leave the squatter no alternative, in the event, which must occur some time or other, of a fall in the price of wool, between *ruin or rebellion.*" If a station of 12,800 acres is not worth a rent of £10 per annum, in any "event," the sooner the squatters are *ruined*, or rather the sooner they cease to squat, the better. No government ought to give any encouragement whatever to so unprofitable a waste of time and means. With respect, however, to the threatened alternative—"rebellion"—we would have them to reflect that it is a dangerous game to play at, and that the winners are sometimes more unfortunate than the losers. Instead of being the oppressed men that they pretend to be, there is no class of colonists that may be said to be at present so "well off" as the squatters. It is the opinion, even of certain squatters, that the rent of a station should be at least twice the present amount. Lord John Russell, who, when colonial minister, was certainly indefatigable in the duties of his office, was of opinion that £50 should be charged for a station; this might be too wide a jump to make at once from £10, but, unquestionably, it would be infinitely less extravagant than the propositions put forth by the "Royal Hotel gentry," or the squatting bill brought in by Mr. Cowper. Compared with these Lord John Russell's "purge" would be justice itself. But it is not the *amount* of the rent, about which we differ, but the *principle* of preventing *public* property being misappropriated by *private* persons. The *rent* of an estate will always regulate itself by nature's unerring laws.

The rest of the article before us is a pitiful attempt to show that the monopoly of land, which we deprecate in the hands of the squatters, is actually exercised by the government. This in the first place is not true, for there is now in the hands of private persons land to be disposed of far exceeding the amount for which purchasers of any kind, or at any price, can be found. But if it were true, there is no parallel in the cases, because the government, in this case, is not an individual proprietor, but the public trustee, acting for the whole community. To reduce the principle contended for by the *Atlas* to anything like equity or justice, it would be necessary to settle matters as Solon did at Athens, that is to cancel all existing

arrangements, and make a fair and equal partition of the lands among all the inhabitants. This is not indeed what the squatocracy mean, because their object is not equity or justice, in any shape, but public plunder and domination; not "responsible government" in its legitimate sense, but a *government subject to themselves and subservient to their interests*; still the abstract principle of "responsibility," which it suits their present purpose to contend for, will unavoidably be taken up by others who will carry it to its legitimate termination, "liberty and equality," which are synonymous with anarchy and confusion.

It is to prevent these extreme alternatives, anarchy and a scramble on the one hand, and the domination of an oligarchy on the other, as well as that it may possess the means of extending colonization, that the government holds possession of the unalienated lands, and only parts with them in certain quantities and on certain conditions; and it is precisely because the government is becoming more strict in this respect than heretofore, that is, because it begins to perform its duty to the public more faithfully, that we support it. If the *Atlas* can shew us that it would be just or politic in the government to reward its friends, or soften the wrath of its foes, by donations of the public property, we may then be prepared to fall in with its views on land monopoly. At present we must, at the risk of being "tiresome," and with the hope of catching a few more "well-intentioned persons," repeat that no man ought to be favoured by government more than another; that the duty of government is to enforce its land regulations with the utmost strictness, uniformity and impartiality; that any deviation from this rigour (as formerly in the case of quit rents) is a great injustice to the public proprietor; and that these principles once departed from, there is no safe, no just, no honest alternative, but in the extinction of the crown's right, accompanied by an equal division of the territory among all its inhabitants.

#### THE DISTRICT COUNCILS.

It has been said by some ancient, and often repeated among the moderns that History is Philosophy teaching by examples. Believing in the wisdom of this remark, and conceiving that the proceedings of parties in this colony, even those of the highest pretensions, display a lamentable forgetfulness both of philosophy and history, we shall continue to illustrate passing events by those that have gone by. And indeed it is surprising enough how much alike the proceedings and motives of public bodies have been in different ages and countries. We have recently offered examples of this from the annals of Greece and Rome, of England, France, and the United States. We will now take a glance at Canada, in which forming, like this colony, an appendage of the British crown, we may expect to find still more exact coincidences with our own existing circumstances. The authority we quote cannot be an exceptional one to our adversaries, inasmuch as he is an uncompromising advocate of "responsible government" for colonies—we allude to the late Lord Durham, her Majesty's high commissioner to Canada, during the recent suspension of its

constitution. In his famous report\* to her Majesty, Lord Durham distinctly approves of the object which the Canadian Assembly had in view in its war with the executive, which he says was "for the purpose of obtaining the powers inherent in a representative body, by the very nature of a representative body." The responsibility of the executive to the representative government is the chief power thus characterised. Lord Durham, therefore, must be a writer after a "patriot's" own heart. Yet while he justifies their cause, he passes a severe condemnation of their conduct, which will be found to have been strikingly similar to the conduct of our Legislative Council. He says the assembly "must be censured for having, in pursuit of this object, perverted its powers of legislation, and disturbed the whole working of the constitution. It made the business of legislation, and the practical improvement of the country, subordinate to its struggle for power; and, being denied its legitimate privileges, it endeavoured to extend its authority in modes totally incompatible with the principles of constitutional liberty."

One of these objectionable "modes" was precisely that which has been successfully adopted by our baneful majority, namely that of setting at nought the act of parliament under which they sat.

Another part of the Canadian Assembly's conduct which is censured by Lord Durham was the opposition to municipal institutions. Not only did they refuse to incorporate the county districts, but the act for incorporating the city of Montreal having expired, they refused to renew it. His Lordship's remarks in connexion with this subject are so instructive, and shed such admirable light upon the conduct of our own political leaders, that we cannot refrain from quoting them at some length.

"But in describing the means by which the Assemy obtained and attempted to consolidate its power, I must not omit to direct particular attention to that which, after all, was the most effectual—and which originated in a defect common to the system of Government in all the North American Colonies; it is the practice of making Parliamentary grants for local works—a system so vicious, and so productive of evil, that I believe that until it is entirely eradicated, representative Government will be incapable of working well and smoothly in those Colonies.

"I know, indeed, of no difference in the machinery of Government in the Old and New World, that strikes an European more forcibly, than the apparently undue importance which the business of constructing public works appears to occupy in American legislation. In speaking of the character of a government, its merits appears to be estimated by the public works which it has carried into effect. If an individual is asked how his own Legislature has acted, he will generally say what roads or bridges it has made,

or neglected to make, in his own district; and if he is consulted about changes in a constitution, he seems to try their soundness by calculating whether his neighbourhood would get more and better roads and bridges, under the existing or the proposed system. On examining the proceedings of a Legislature, we find that a great proportion of its discussions turn on such questions; and if we look to the budget, we find that a still greater proportion of the public money is applied to these purposes. ....

"In the British colonies, in none of which is there any effectual system of municipal government, the evil has been carried to the greatest height, and exercises the most noxious influence. The great business of the Assemblies is, literally, parish business; the making parish roads and parish bridges. There are in none of these Provinces any local bodies possessing authority to impose local assessments, for the management of local affairs. To do these things is the business of the Assembly; and to induce the Assembly to attend to the particular interests of each county, is the especial business of its county member. The surplus revenue of the Province is swelled to as large an amount as possible, by cutting down the payment of public services to as low a scale as possible; and the real duties of Government are, sometimes, insufficiently provided for, in order that more may be left to be divided among the constituent bodies. 'When we want a bridge, we take a judge to build it,' was the quaint and forcible way in which a member of a provincial legislature described the tendency to retrench, in the most necessary departments of the public service, in order to satisfy the demands for local works. This fund is voted by the assembly on the motion of its members; the necessity of obtaining the previous consent of the crown to money votes never having been adopted by the Colonial Legislatures from the British House of Commons. There is a perfect scramble among the whole body to get as much as possible of this fund for their respective constituents; cabals are formed, by which the different members mutually play into each other's hands; general politics are made to bear on private business, and private business on general politics; and at the close of the parliament, the member who has succeeded in securing the largest portion of the prize for his constituents, renders an easy account of his stewardship, with confident assurance of re-election.

"The provincial assemblies being, as I have previously stated, in a state of permanent collision with the government, have never been in the habit of entrusting the executive with any control over these funds; and they have been wholly dispensed by commissioners named by the legislature. The assemblies do not appear to have been at all insensible to the possibility of turning this patronage to their own account. An electioneering hand-bill, which was circulated by the friends of government at the last dissolution in Upper Canada, exhibited, in a very strong light, the expense of the commissioners of the assembly, contrasted with those of the officers of the executive government: but the province of Nova Scotia has carried this abuse to an extent which appears almost inconceivable. According to a report presented to me by Major Head, an assistant commissioner of inquiry whom I sent to that colony, a sum of

£10,000 was, during the last session, appropriated to local improvements; this sum was divided into 830 portions, and as many commissioners were appointed to expend it, giving, on an average, a commissioner for rather more than every £12, with a salary of 5s. a day, and a further remuneration of two and a half per cent. on the money expended, to be deducted out of each share.

"Not only did the leaders of the Lower Canadian Assembly avail themselves of the patronage thus afforded by the large surplus revenue of the Province, but they turned this system to much greater account, by using it to obtain influence over the constituencies. In a furious political struggle, like that which subsisted in Lower Canada, it was natural that a body wielding, with hardly any responsibility, this direct power of promoting the immediate interests of each constituency, should show some favour to that which concurred in its political views, and should exhibit its displeasure towards that which obstinately resisted the majority. But the majority of the assembly of Lower Canada is accused by its opponents of having, in the most systematic and persevering manner, employed this means of corrupting the electoral body."

Here indeed was a pretty state of things, but precisely such a state as we are fast approaching in this colony. The legislation of the last two sessions is fraught with indications of it. Facts so glaring and yet so pertinent, require no comment. They contain an admonition which we ought not to be slow to profit by; and having laid them before our readers, with this view, we conclude with the recommendation of the noble author to whom we are indebted for them.

"The establishment of a good system of municipal institutions throughout these Provinces, is a matter of vital importance. A general legislature, which manages the private business of every parish, in addition to the common business of the country, wields a power which no single body, however popular in its constitution, ought to have—a power which must be destructive of any constitutional balance. The true principle of limiting popular power is that apportionment of it in many different depositories, which has been adopted in all the most free and stable states of the Union. Instead of confiding the whole collection and distribution of all the revenues raised in any country for all general and local purposes to a single representative body, the power of local assessment, and the application of the funds arising from it, should be intrusted to local management. It is in vain to expect that this sacrifice of power will be voluntarily made by any representative body. The establishment of municipal institutions for the whole country should be made a part of every colonial constitution, and the prerogative of the crown should be constantly interposed to check any encroachment on the functions of the local bodies, until the people should become alive, as most assuredly they almost immediately would be, to the necessity of protecting their local privileges."

NEW ZEALAND.—Two hundred soldiers of the 58th Regiment are under orders to hold themselves in readiness to sail for New Zealand, and several gunners of the 99th Regiment have been practising daily, for some time, and will be sent, with some heavy guns, to accompany the troops.

\* This splendid document was not penned by Lord Durham himself, but by one of his secretaries. This well known fact furnishes a complete answer to the nonsense of the "Atlas," about the colonies being ruled by clerks. May not the clerk, as in the present instance, be often superior in intellect to his chief?—Apropos of the "information" possessed by these clerks. In one of its numbers the "Atlas" complains loudly that the Colonial Office obtains no information respecting this colony, except through the Governor, and in the very same number we are informed that the same department is furnished with five copies of each of the colonial newspapers!

## SONNETS DEDICATED TO SENATORS.

## NO. III.

## WHO'S THE MAN?

A Doctor! One whose mouth is filled with slang,  
 Not Scripture, such as a flash "Gully raker"  
 Might use, did he his stubborn herd harangue!  
 The same who held it murderously wrong  
 To hang in any case the prison breaker  
 Who brained his guard merely to 'scape from limbo—  
 (Feing primed therein by a Quixotic quaker,  
 Who still in morals will be jumping Jim Crow!)  
 The same who for his scurril venom's sake  
 Is indirectly bonussed by a crew  
 Of public cheats, that win him so to stake  
 His Saintship in their cause.—I say not who  
 This Doctor is—I only say that *wrong*  
 Rhymes with our Senatorial name of —

THE RECORDER.

## NO. IV.

Doll Tearsheet. When wilt thou leave drinking o' days,  
 Jack, and foining o' nights, and begin to patch up thy  
 old body for heaven?  
 Falstaff. Prythee, Doll, remember me not of mine end.

With ample fortune, and no common mind,  
 A heart by nature generous and free,  
 B—d, is not most pitiful in thee  
 To herd with Things as pithless as the wind  
 Even in their noise? To spit thyself abroad  
 With men who spout for patriotic gold  
 Their innate brass—nay, even with such to hold  
 Faction community for Public Fraud!  
 Contemn—abandon them! Be timely wise;  
 Nor sow for honour thus with moral chaff:  
 Stern, watchful Clio has thee in her eyes!  
 And if yon Clique, with logic of their lies,  
 Misdlead you to the end (how'er you laugh  
 Now at the threat), I behold your Epitaph!

TRUTH IN SEASON.

## Original Correspondence.

To the Editor of the "Weekly Register."

SIR,—May I request you will give to the world the result of the *Monster Squatting Meeting*, held here on Wednesday last for the purpose of conveying to A. Boyd, Esq., the thanks of the community for his able and energetic services on behalf of the New South Wales Squatocracy.

The meeting comprised *nine* of that *powerless* body, with a sprinkling of the inhabitants, in all amounting to twenty-five men and two children. The champions on the occasion, were Messrs. Dangar and Stolworthy, (both deeply interested in the issue of the present movement,) who made long rambling speeches about the servility and depredation to which the squatters are subjected; and unsparingly anathematized his Excellency the Governor for promulgating the famous regulations of April last. Had his Excellency been present he must have winced under the heavy fire of such two first class frigates!! The resolutions as they were submitted to the meeting, were drawn up by the aforesaid gentlemen, and showed such a want of orthographical and grammatical knowledge, that the chairman, Helenus Scott, Esq., refused to forward them without corrections—which corrections were made by a "Cambridge Graduate" retained for the purpose, after the meeting.

A stronger argument for a General System of Education could not be adduced than the publishing of the original resolutions. The schoolmaster was truly abroad! The committee appointed to draw up the address met on Thursday, when two drafts were submitted—one furnished by Mr. Dangar, and the other by Mr. J. J. Davis, schoolmaster, who was not on the committee, but whose

services I suppose had also been retained to act as guarantee that nothing should emanate from such a highly respectable body but pure grammar and orthography. After a little discussion of the merits of each draft, such an amalgamation took place as met the approval of all.

The speeches, if such you can call them, were, as they usually are on such occasions, a complete baulking of the question, the real merits of the case were not even hinted at, unless by an anti-squatter, who, singlehanded, bearded the lions in their den. Truly the squatocracy have cause to be proud of their *nine* Singleton coadjutors! At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Dangar proposed, "That a subscription should be entered into to defray the expenses of advertising the resolutions (not the original but the corrected edition):" and headed the list with *one shilling!* The collection amounted altogether to the enormous sum of *seventeen shillings*, and a portion of this sum, be it known, was advanced by some two or three publicans upon "personal security."

In conclusion, Sir, I trust you will not slacken in your endeavours in exposing to the utmost of your abilities the monopolizing and avaricious demands of the present combination. I am, Sir, yours &c.,

W. C. L.

Singleton, Feb. 15, 1845.

## Domestic Intelligence.

A SECOND BOYD MISSION.—It is quite clear we are threatened with another interview between my Lord Stanley and Archibald Boyd, Esq., of New England, Squatter. A meeting was held at Singleton, on the 12th instant, Helenus Scott, Esq., Warden, in the chair, at which Mr. Boyd's position was fortified by a series of approving resolutions containing more than the quantum of blarney and *bunkum* usual on such occasions.

COLONIAL MANUFACTURES AND EXPORTS.—The Committee of the Floral Society, have determined to make arrangements at their show on the 5th of the ensuing month, for the exhibition of all articles of export, as well as such articles and apparatus as are likely to be used in the manufacture of articles for exportation, or home consumption.

FIRE.—On Tuesday afternoon, a report was made at the Police Office that Mr. M. Gannon's premises adjoining the Queen's Wharf, was on fire; on which all the disposable force in attendance at the office were immediately despatched to get the fire-engines put in motion to save the property. The city engines were on the spot where the fire was progressing within fifteen minutes after the alarm had been given, and it was fortunately got under within a few minutes after they arrived. The fire appears to have originated in the chimney, the sparks igniting the shingles. Great promptitude was exhibited both by the police and military on this occasion.

BUSHRANGING.—On Wednesday evening, about five o'clock, two men, armed and disguised with masks, stopped the Southern Mail, at Razorback, and compelled the driver (Barnet) to dismount, while they ransacked the mail-bags and two passengers of their cash.

CAMDEN ELECTION.—A new candidate has started for this county in the person of Mr. John Wild. His declaration of principles is in the following very indefinite terms:—"I shall endeavour to enforce a reasonable economy in all the departments of the Government, and all votes of money for religious and educational purposes for the youth of this rising colony shall receive my warmest and most decided support."

SEMICIRCULAR QUAY.—His Excellency the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council, having deemed it expedient to open and make that portion of the Semicircular Quay at the head of Sydney Cove, in the City of Sydney, hereinafter more particularly described: Notice is hereby given, in conformity with the 34th section, and other provisions of the Act of the Governor and Council, 4th William IV., No. 11, intituled, "An Act for making, altering, and improving the roads throughout the Colony of New South Wales, and for opening and improving the streets in the town thereof," that a survey and tracing, shewing the intended line of the said Quay referred to, are now deposited in the office of the Surveyor General; and all persons interested therein are requested to transmit, in writing, addressed to the Clerk of the Executive Council, within one month from this date, any well grounded objection which may exist to the adoption of the said line, namely: commencing at the north-west corner of section No. 100, and bounded on the south by the northern boundary of that section; on the west by the eastern boundary of the same section, to the northern side of Alfred-street, to its intersection with the line in continuation of Castlereagh-street; and on the north and north-east by the waters of Sydney Cove, as shewn upon the plan deposited in the Surveyor General's Office.—*Government Gazette.*

DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The District Council met on Thursday. The only business transacted was the appointment of Mr. J. H. Baillie to the office of Treasurer in conjunction with that of Secretary. With reference to the debt due to the Commercial Bank, a letter from the Managing Director was read, calling the attention of the Warden to the fact that the cash credit was overdrawn by £34, making the whole debt due by the Council £1037. On the motion of Mr. Cape, seconded by Mr. Macdermott, it was resolved that a letter should be written to the Directors of the Bank, explaining the situation in which the Council was with reference to the Government, and requesting the Bank to allow the matter to stand over for three months, as within that time the Governor expected instructions from home which would enable him to bring the Councils into full operation.

DISTRICT POLICE.—Now that stoppages and robberies are becoming frequent in the suburbs, with the likelihood of their being yet more so as the winter approaches, it becomes a subject of inquiry how far the force out of the city is adequate to the duties of each station, widely scattered as they are. The suburbs are becoming densely populous, and require in the absence of a resident, police officer, a superior class constable to be constantly on the spot; not so much to check the settled inhabitants of these places, as to keep a look out for the refugee rogues and vagabonds, who at present find snug shelter among them.