

The Weekly Register

OF POLITICS, FACTS, AND GENERAL LITERATURE.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

VOL. IV.

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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.

THE PRETENSIONS OF THE SQUATTERS.

"The principles of true politics are those of morality enlarged; and I neither now do, nor ever will, admit of any other."—BURKE.

It is a subject for congratulation that, at length, we have been able to bring the advocates of the squatocracy down from their stilts to deal with a plain question in intelligible language. They now begin to find that to clothe dull generalities in obscure verbiage has as little effect with the public, as to assume "airs" that only expose them to ridicule. Accordingly in the two last numbers of the *Atlas* we are furnished with the first specimens of argument that have appeared on that side. In our last number we dealt briefly with their attempt to remove from the squatters to the government the charge of monopolising the lands; and proved that there is no parallel between the cases, inasmuch as the right of the government is a legal right, the exercise of which is necessary for the interests of the public, whose trustee the government is; while the claim of the squatocracy is an illegal claim, which has for its object private interests only.

Following up its defence, the *Atlas* of last week proceeds to examine "what are the pretensions of the squatters," with a view to shew that they seek only what is moderate, and not the domination of which fears have been expressed.

"On the very threshold of the investigation (says our contemporary) we are met with a falsehood so glaring that we ought almost to apologize to our readers for noticing it. That falsehood is, that the Squatters claim to be possessed at this moment of an inheritance in their stations. The only two statements we have seen put forth in support of this monstrous assertion are, that Mr. Benjamin Boyd, in his speech at the Royal Hotel, said he considered his stations to be as good as a fee simple: and, that in the Bill introduced by Mr. Cowper, it was proposed that no payment should be made for the use of crown lands. As to the first of these statements, we were present at the meeting at the Royal Hotel, and can safely take upon our-

selves to say that Mr. Boyd never said anything of the kind. As to the second, the whole force of it consists in the ingenious suppression of the words, 'except as hereinafter provided,' which refer to a portion of the Bill in which the assessment is re-imposed."

We dislike to bandy the abusive expressions contained in this extract, but we are compelled at the outset to protest against putting assertions into our mouth which we never dreamed of. Neither we, nor any one on our side, has ever said that "the squatters claim to be possessed at the present moment of an inheritance in their stations." We have always had a higher sense of their cunning than that. To say that they seek grants from the crown "at the present moment" would indeed be a "falsehood;" but who has ever made such a foolish statement? We cannot trace it beyond the columns of last Saturday's *Atlas*. On the contrary, whoever has read our articles on the subject knows, that it is not the "present moment" but the "future" that has engaged our solicitude with reference to this movement; and we are quite sure that men of both parties are by this time satisfied that our anticipations are well founded. That the squatters have an eye to the ultimate possession in fee simple of their runs is clear from all their acts since they became a party.

To begin with Mr. Benjamin Boyd; we too were present at the Royal Hotel when he held forth on the subject, and we distinctly heard him say that he looked upon his stations "as a freehold and an inheritance to him and his." The *Sydney Herald* of the next morning makes him say that, "when he took possession of the stations which he now held, he looked upon them, to a certain extent, as freeholds," which is substantially the same thing. If, then, he did not say "anything of the kind," let the *Atlas*, if it dare, tell us what he really did say, and then we shall know how to deal with it.

With respect to the alleged "suppression of the words except as hereinafter provided" in Mr. Cowper's Bill, it is precisely on a level with the interpolation above noticed; that is, both proceed from the writer's own prolific imagination. We had occasion twice or three times to quote the infamous clause in the bill alluded to, and we not only did not suppress the words referred to, but we expressly stated that the exception referred to an assessment upon stock (see *Register*,

vol. iii., p. 181). So much for the ingenuousness of our adversary! So much for the men of straw which he amuses himself in manufacturing, in order that he may have a second amusement in knocking them to pieces! Still the clause in the bill remains a damning proof of the mad ambition and extravagant designs of this dangerous faction:—

"II. And be it enacted that, except as hereinafter provided [namely, by a yearly assessment on stock], NO FEE, RENT, ASSESSMENT, TAX, OR OTHER PAYMENT, SHALL BE TAKEN OR DEMANDED FROM ANY LICENSED OCCUPANT OF LANDS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF LOCATION, ON ACCOUNT OF HIS OCCUPANCY OF ANY SUCH LANDS."

Can there be two opinions as to the meaning and effect of such an enactment? Why is it that here, and throughout their agitation, the squatters have been so anxious to have the charge for occupancy removed from the land to the stock, unless it be that they hope to extinguish, by prescription, the crown's right to demand a rent for the use of the land? Is any one so simple as to believe, or will any one (save the writer in the *Atlas*) have the hardihood to assert, that there is no remote object—no meaning or purpose in this anxiety about doing away with the rent or licence fee?

It appears singular that the *Atlas* forgot a third statement which leads to the same conclusion as the other two as to the squatters, ultimate designs. We allude to Mr. A. Boyd's reply to Lord Stanley, when his lordship asked him if the squatters would be satisfied with a lease? To which Mr. Boyd tells us he answered with Pope—"My lord—

"It sounds more clever
To me and to my heirs for ever."

Why did the *Atlas* forget this "statement?"—was it that, unlike the speech at the Royal Hotel, it was printed in an authentic shape, and that there was consequently no room for subtractions and interpolations, such as those by which he falsified the other facts quoted?

The *Atlas* says of the squatters that "government never pretended to tax them except with a view to their mutual security and protection." This is perfectly true; and every farthing levied for this purpose has been appropriated accordingly; if not with a result, in all cases, satisfactory even to the government, at least with the best judgment that could be brought to bear upon the sub-

ject. The border police are no doubt far from being what could be wished, but the sweeping assertion of the *Atlas* that "they are the greatest thieves and the greatest drunkards in their districts," is utterly unfounded. We defy our contemporary to prove it, or the existence of any state of things approaching to it. But although it is true that the government never "taxed" the squatters except for their own protection, it is also true that the government always demanded a "rent" for the occupancy of the land, and as an acknowledgment of the crown's right; that from the first this was the object and intention of the squatting license; and the point which we chiefly maintain against the squatters is, that it is the interest of the colony that this right of the crown should be upheld. And let us not be taunted about "prerogative." Were it the crown or the commonwealth the argument would be the same. We say let not public property be lavished on private individuals.

But, continues the *Atlas*—"What are these extravagant, these exorbitant demands, which ought, if we believe some people, to alarm every well-wisher to the colony? The first request of the squatters is..... that the upstart minions of the Colonial Office would cease to levy upon them a tribute in the name of her Majesty, sanctioned by no Parliamentary assent, stamped in the die of slavery, and moulded in the mint of oppression; a tribute which, since the time of the worst and most unfortunate of the Stuarts, no English Sovereign has dared to ask, no English subject has stooped to pay."

What stuff is all this? "Tribute," "slavery," "oppression!" Does the writer mean to say that the crown has no legal right, with or without "parliamentary assent" to demand rent for its lands? We are surprised that a paper supposed to be chiefly conducted by lawyers should put forth such pitiful nonsense as this. Why! this is worse even than "privilege law" itself! Englishmen do stoop to pay their rents even to the crown; although we are ready to admit that crown tenants are generally very bad tenants. It is not many weeks ago since we cited a whole host of acts of parliament passed since the revolution of 1688, from which it appeared that numbers of the nobility and aristocracy of England were tenants of crown lands, and that they were in the habit of "stooping" to petition their landlord for favours and indulgences as tenants. At the same time we are willing enough to admit that, if the crown lands are to be leased, it would be advisable for the government, as well as for the public interest, to lease them upon some principle "sanctioned by parliamentary assent," if it were only in order the more effectually to put a stop to the quibbles of lawyer politicians on this side of the water, who will always be ready to appeal to that undefinable thing "the constitution," against any measure, however just, proceeding purely from the local government, or from the Secretary of State. Of this, however, the squatters may rest assured that, whatever the parliament may enact upon the subject, they will never obtain, as they never ought to obtain, more favourable terms than those promulgated by the present government; against which such a violent and unprincipled outcry has been raised.

"The second request of the squatters (says the *Atlas*) though not like the former one

humiliating, is a moderate and equitable one—it is FIXITY OF TENURE. They ask to be relieved from the terrible state of uncertainty in which they live; they are anxious to be able to stand upright in the presence of a Commissioner, to differ from him in opinion, to refuse to laugh at his jokes, or even to decline his acquaintance, if he be an objectionable person, without being subjected, for any of these offences, to utter and irremediable ruin."

The "moderation" and "equitableness" of this request depends entirely upon the meaning of the words "fixity of tenure," which, so far as we know, requires itself to be fixed. What, in fact, do the squatters mean by fixity of tenure? It is not a moderate lease of eight, sixteen, or twenty-four years, for that has been offered to them upon most easy terms, and they have spurned it. It is not a freehold, for the *Atlas* gives the lie to all who accuse the squatters of any such pretension. Mr. Benjamin Boyd, indeed, looks upon his runs as a freehold and inheritance to him and his. Mr. Archibald Boyd, whose praises are being sung by the squatters all over the colony, seeks a grant "to him and to his heirs for ever;" and Mr. Cowper brings in a bill to abolish all payment of rent for crown lands; but the *Atlas* rejects these pretensions, so that we are absolutely at a loss to know what the squatters would be at. The nearest guess that we can make at their meaning, supposing them to have a definite object, is that which we have already hinted at, namely, that they desire to enjoy these lands free of rent in the meantime, and to transmit them in like manner to their heirs, who may ultimately set up a right to hold them by prescription against all other citizens; the right of the crown being virtually or actually extinguished. If this is not what the squatters mean by "fixity of tenure," let them tell us plainly what they do seek, and we shall adopt their own exposition; until they do this we shall judge of their designs from their acts, and upon that judgment denounce "fixity of tenure" as a monstrous public robbery, which every colonist, who seeks not to share in the spoil, but only desires security for his person, and protection for the fruits of his industry, should exclaim against and oppose in every possible way.

But, continues the *Atlas*, "does the squatter ask to have this fixity of tenure upon unreasonable terms—does he wish to enjoy the land and pay nothing for it? So far from this, he is willing and anxious to leave the terms of his occupation to an assembly, one-third of which is at the disposal of the crown, and all whose proceedings are voidable at the will of the Governor."

To this it should have been added that the other two thirds, and of course the majority, are themselves squatters or deeply interested in that pursuit. With respect to the "will of the Governor," one of their leading objects is to neutralise that will, by making the government "responsible" to this same squatting majority. It is a perfect farce, therefore, for the squatters to talk of the "reasonableness" of leaving the terms to an assembly identified with themselves, and which has already decided the question in their favour.

"But, thirdly, (says the *Atlas*) the squatter asks for a right of pre-emption, that others may not reap where he has sown, or gather where he has scattered." Here, at length, there is some shew of justice; and, accord-

ingly, both the government and the public are willing to come to terms with the squatters, so that they may be enabled to hold their stations for a certain number of years against all intruders, and at the termination of their lease, to purchase a homestead, and renew their lease of the whole for a certain number of years more. We contend that this proposal is not simply fair to the squatters, but that it is extremely favourable to them; and that if they had nothing in view but justice and fair dealing, they would accept the boon with gratitude.

We have heard it offered as an objection to the new system that it would bring into the treasury a very large sum of money. No doubt of it; and at this the public should rejoice, as a means of avoiding heavy taxation, and of promoting extensive and systematic colonization, without incurring the burden and responsibility of a loan, and without pressing hard, in any way, upon any class of the community. The money would flow into the public treasury only if squatting were successful; and if it be successful, the money ought so to flow in, because the lands on which the exchangeable articles are raised are the property of the public; the proprietor being strictly entitled to the rent (or surplus after all fair claims of the producer are satisfied), and to the purchase money of such portions as may be alienated in perpetuity.

The *Atlas* concludes—"We gladly take our leave of this part of the subject, hoping to find in the general discussion of the best way of dealing with the waste lands of the Colony, a more agreeable task than that of defending her dearest and best interests against the invidious calumnies of those who ought to be the foremost to support them."

We are perfectly satisfied that our contemporary is glad to relinquish "this part of the subject." It is a much easier and safer course for the advocate of a bad cause to adhere to "the general discussion," and to put forth high sounding language, which is likely to be admired, if not understood, than it is to grapple with facts, such as we are in the habit of dealing with. The defections which our arguments have confessedly caused from the enemy's camp (see *Atlas* of Saturday week) have forced our adversary for once to abandon the "general discussion," in order to deal with the facts of the question; and seeing that he has made out so poor a case for his clients, we are not surprised that he "gladly takes his leave of this part of the subject," and scurs once more into the clouds, where he hopes to move beyond the reach of our powder and shot. It shall go hard with us, however, if we do not, even without the aid of Captain Warner's "long range," succeed in bringing him once more to the solid earth, and in fixing him there until the whole colony shall join the "few well-intentioned persons" who have already had their eyes opened, in confessing that neither he nor his faction have a leg to stand upon.

MISSION TO THE ABORIGINES OF PORT PHILLIP.

THERE has just been printed, by order of the Legislative Council on the 23rd December last, a correspondence between the Government and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, relative to a new plan for the civilization of the aborigines of Port Phillip,

and for imparting religious instruction to the white population.

The first document is a letter from Lord Stanley to Sir George Gipps (1.), transmitting a letter from the Secretary of the Society containing a project for the maintenance of the proposed mission; (2.) a Report from Mr. Latrobe on the condition and prospects of the population in the Port Phillip district; and (3.) a letter from the Commissioners of Land and Emigration, giving their opinion with regard to the project. The first-mentioned document also requests the opinion of his Excellency the Governor on the proposal of the Society, which proposal is substantially as follows:—

1. The object is to maintain the knowledge of religion amongst the whites, and to impart it to the blacks by one and the same agency.
2. For this combined effort are required, as a beginning, eight clergymen and four schoolmasters.
3. The expenses to be borne jointly by the Church of England Societies and the Colonial Government, viz.:—

Expenditure by the Government—for	
Four Missionaries, say.....	£ 1200
Four Schoolmasters, say each on a salary of £150.....	600
	1800
Expenses to be borne by the Church Societies.....	
	1200

Total per annum for the Mission £3000
It is further proposed that "Village Reserves" should be set apart for the use of the mission, that two clergymen and one schoolmaster should be stationed at each of the four following stations, viz., Western Port, the Goulburn, Mount Rouse, and the River Loddon, one of the missionaries to devote himself to the blacks and another to the whites, to take the respective duties by turns.

Fully appreciating the liberality of the society from which this proposal comes; and deeply concerned as we are at the deplorable state of both the white and black population in the interior, we have had too much experience of the abortive, and even mischievous character of similar missions, with endowments, at Wellington Valley, Lake Macquarie, and elsewhere, to entertain any very sanguine hopes as to the result of this scheme. There is besides this financial inconvenience likely to arise from entertaining the proposal, that numerous applications of a like nature might be immediately expected to proceed from other bodies of Christians, which applications could not probably without causing great excitement, be refused.

The appropriation of land for this purpose is not only contrary to the Crown Lands Act, but is also liable to the objection pointed out by the Commissioners—"that in new countries, where ordinary land will not yield a rent, the possession of such land, if it be cultivated by the Missionaries themselves, would divert them from their proper office, and detract from the public respect due to their character; and if unimproved, would effect injury to the surrounding country, and be an obstacle to its settlement."

It would be idle to conceal the difficulties that stand in the way of a measure of this kind; at the same time, it is clear that something should be done to ameliorate the condition of the bush population, and the agitation of the matter may result in some practical good.

SONNETS DEDICATED TO SENATORS.

NO. V.

Like Cases, with a Dose of Physic.

John Wroe* mistook a drumming emptiness
In's spiritual bowels, for a call
To play the Seer; and N—, no less
Art thou mistaken, when, with mind so small
Thou dar'st in Legislative strains to bawl?
Nay more so; seeing, that with this, in thee
A bastard pride abhors that Liberty
Should be the heritage alike of all!
No doubt, thine hand's obstetrically skilful,
And potent to unload a desperate feeder;
Nevertheless, though sick, Australia's wilful,
And begs thee, as a Doctor, not to heed her!
Poor Wench! already of much quackery pill-full,
She greatly fears some scheme's afloat to 'bleed'
her.

ANTI-STATE-PHLEBOTOMY.

* It will be remembered that some time ago, this "New Light" of the Old World paid an antipedean visit to our southern Metropolis.

City Council.

MONDAY.

Alderman Flood enquired whether the By-law Committee were yet prepared with any by-law for the regulation of the hackney coaches at present plying within the city.

Alderman Wilshire, in reply, stated, that as Chairman of the By-law Committee he was happy to have it in his power to state, that a by-law for the purpose adverted to was in preparation, and would soon be laid before the Council for consideration.

Mr. Sillitoe presented a petition from the inhabitants of Phillip-street, praying that the footpath in that street, and the gutters in the same, might be cleaned forthwith.

On the motion of Alderman Broughton, the sum of £217 14s. 6d. was appropriated for paying the fixed salaries of the officers of the Corporation.

Six additional days were allowed to the city valuers to complete their work.

The Report of the By-law Committee, including sundry by-laws for the regulation of the Market Wharf and the George-street Market, was considered, when the following scale of fees to be paid for landing at the Market Wharf for colonial produce was agreed to—

	s. d.
Salt, per ton	0 6
Coals, per ton.....	0 2
All unenumerated articles, per boat load	1 0
Manure and fruit excepted. The regulations relative to the George-street Market were referred back to the committee.	

Mr. Sillitoe moved "That the District Surveyor be instructed to report to the Council, on the 1st day of January and 1st day of July in each year, the number and situation of all buildings completed in the city, within the limits of the Building Act, for the six months preceding each of these dates respectively, and to furnish a return of all the particulars relative to the same, which were required from the valuers appointed by the Council on 7th January last; and that the Collectors of Rates for the time-being be directed to furnish the Council with the like information of all buildings beyond the limits of the said act in each of their Wards respectively." After considerable discussion the motion was negatived.

The Report of the Market Committee, dated the 8th instant, detailing the state of

the arrears of rents for stalls in the George-street Market, was adopted.

The Report of the Finance Committee, recommending the payment of sundry accounts, amounting in all to £80 17s. 4d., was adopted.

The petition of John Kellick, of Margaret-place, complaining of an encroachment on his premises, in consequence of the line of the said street being altered, was referred to the General Improvement Committee for their consideration.

The Council next determined that of the nine gas lamps to be paid for by the Corporation, six should be placed at the George-street Market, one at the Town Hall, one at the Corn Market, and the other at the Market Wharf.

The subject of the urinaries in the vicinity of George-street Market was next brought forward, and the means of completing them referred to the consideration of the Market Committee.

The letter of the Colonial Secretary, dated the 11th instant, claiming on the part of the Government payment of a sum of £16 1s. 3d. for provisions furnished to the Sydney police, from 1st October to 31st December, 1843, was taken into consideration, and ultimately referred to the committee which had been originally appointed to investigate the matter.

The letter of Charles Morris, of the 10th instant; as to his alleged right to a piece of land, situate in Bourke-street, Surry Hills, was referred to the District Surveyor.

We learn from Parma, that the theatre of the ancient city has just been discovered at a considerable depth in the earth, and in a remarkable state of preservation. The Government has ordered researches to be made, and has purchased several houses which stand in the way of the operation.—*Illustrated London News.*

The *Revue de Paris* states that—"Admiral Dupetit Thouars, after having received an official notice of his disavowal, addressed, not to the Minister of Marine, but to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, a complete justification of the measures which he had adopted at Tahiti. He was then at Valparaiso, and proposed to return to France. Should he come on directly, he would arrive at Paris before the meeting of the Chambers; but the Ministers, who have no wish to see him, have, it is said, addressed further despatches to him, which will cause him to change his route."

A Good Answer.—A young gentleman who does not live a thousand miles from this city, was in the act of popping the question to a young lady the other evening, when just at the "witching time," her father entered the room, and inquired what they were about. "Oh!" promptly replied the fair-one, "Mr. — was just explaining the question of annexation to me, and he is for immediate annexation." "Well," said Papa, "if you can agree on a treaty, I'll ratify it."—*Boston Times.*

A man of wit once said, rightly enough; "He who finds a good son-in-law gains a good son: but he who finds a bad one loses a daughter."

Hath any one wronged thee? be bravely revenged: slight it, and the work is begun; forgive it, and it is finished. He is below himself that is not above an injury.

Domestic Intelligence.

APPOINTMENT.—His Excellency the Governor has appointed James Chisholm, Esq., of Gladsale, Campbelltown, to be a magistrate of the territory and its dependencies.

POLICE CASE.—On Thursday a young man named Connor, employed by Mr. Samuel Lyons as collecting clerk, was brought before the Police Court, on a charge of having stolen a valuable document from the desk of Mr. Henry Fisher, corner of George and King-streets, on the forenoon of Wednesday, the 26th instant. By the evidence given in the case it appeared that some days ago the defendant went to the prosecutor's premises and delivered the document in question (it being merely a bill of parcels containing the charges for the sale of some certificates of rum which had been sold by Mr. Lyons, at the risk of Mr. Fisher). That on the 26th instant, the defendant called for a settlement of the account, when Mr. Fisher mentioned something about the account being wrong, and it was shown to the defendant, on which the latter took it again into his possession for the purpose of having its accuracy investigated. Mr. Fisher sent for a constable and informed Connor that unless he returned the paper to him, he would give him in charge for stealing the same. Connor, conceiving that the paper was still the property of Lyons, refused to give it up, on which he was lodged in the watch-house, till bailed out by his employer. Mr. Fisher, in giving his evidence as to the piece of paper being a valuable document, deposed that it was worth to him from £7 to £10, because it would be of service in an action brought against him concerning the rum referred to in it. When pressed by Mr. Johnson for the defence, the complainant admitted that the paper had been previously recorded in his books, and that the only circumstance which gave it the value he had assigned to it was, a few figures, which had been jotted on it by his clerk, Crisp; these figures showing the amount really due. The only witnesses in the case were, the constable to whom Mr. Fisher had given the defendant in charge, and the complainant. After Mr. Johnson commenced his address for the defence, the bench stopped him by dismissing the case, and allowing the defendant a copy of the proceedings on payment of the costs of preparing the same. Both complainant and defendant subsequently claimed the scrap of paper about which the dispute had originated; but as it had been marked, and was thus a part of the proceedings, it was ordered to be retained with the other portions of the record.

MURDER.—On Tuesday night last, a black boy, named Harry, arrived at Fyansford, along with some drays. On the previous day the bullock driver had observed a black fellow following the dray, and ordered him away; but he would not go. On the following morning the boy was missing. Soon afterwards two blacks came into town and gave information to the police, that the black, called Long Charlie, had committed the murder, and thrown the body into the well at Major Mercer's suburban allotment. On Thursday search was accordingly immediately made for the body; and on first lawering a drag into the well it was found to be choked up with branches of trees to a great depth; on these being removed the

body was found underneath, but great difficulty was encountered, in getting the body up, as there were no clothes on it. On being brought to the surface, the body presented a disgusting sight: an incision was observed in the right side, through which the kidney fat had been drawn; the hands grasped a thick stick, and it was by the drag fastening on the stick that the body was brought up. Long Charlie, in the meantime, disappeared, and parties of the police were immediately despatched in pursuit. The only motive to the commission of the crime was, that Charlie's lubra had died a few days before, and according to the superstition of the blacks, he was bound to kill some one of another tribe, to obtain the kidney fat. Charlie belongs to the Barabool tribe, and Harry, the deceased, to the tribe around Lake Boloke. The two that gave the information belong to the same tribe as Charlie, and their motive for informing was, that they might get admission into the Native Police.—*Geelong Advertiser*, Feb. 15.

PORT PHILLIP BEEF.—The *Geelong Advertiser* publishes a letter dated Leith, 6th September, 1844, which states that Port Phillip salted beef proves to be of excellent quality, and in prime condition, and sells for ship's stores at 64s. per tierce in bond. The duty is about 6s. per tierce. Of that cured by Messrs. Austin and Bolden, at Port Phillip, every cask was turned out and carefully examined on arrival and again repacked with clean salt and fresh pickle, so that it would now keep for twelve months in any climate; not a piece was found to be tainted.

NEW INSOLVENTS.—Michael Kellar, of Liverpool-street, Sydney, slater: debts, £99 6s.; assets, personal property, £2; debts due, £7; balance deficiency, £90 6s. Hutchinson Bell, official assignee. Patrick Carroll, of Kissing Point, late a publican. J. Walker, official assignee. Robert Crawford, of Hillend, County of Cumberland, settler. John Walker, official assignee. Moses Solomon, of Parramatta, publican. Edward Knox, official assignee.

CAMDEN ELECTION.—Monday having been the day appointed for the nomination of candidates for the representation of Camden, Mr. Throsby, the returning officer took his seat on the bench of the Court House at Berrima, when John Nicholson, Esq., J.P., proposed Dr. Alick Osborne, who was seconded by G. Gerard, Esq., J.P. Dr. Sharman proposed John Wild, Esq., who was seconded by Cornelius O'Brien, Esq. Dr. Osborne then came forward and explained his opinions, namely, that Government ought to be supported on all occasions consistent with duty. That the territorial and casual revenue should be placed at the disposal of the Legislative Council. That the squatters should be supported; and that he considered Lord Stanley's system of education, the best adapted to the wants of this colony. Mr. Wild, in addressing the meeting, observed. With regard to the Governor, His Excellency was a very gentlemanly man, and were he going to the other side of the water, he would say, God speed him. He was a very good Governor, and he wished they had another. He pledged himself to support that system of education he should deem best suited to the wants of the community. The show of hands was in favour of Mr. Wild, for whom several cheers were given. Dr. Osborne having demanded a poll. Thursday was appointed for the purpose.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY, BY MRS. MEREDITH.
—Neither were we by any means deficient in society, but, with a few memorable exceptions, I soon found that colonial ladies seldom speak of aught besides dress, and domestic events and troubles, "bad servants" being the staple topic. And most gentlemen have their whole souls so felt up in wools, fleeces, flocks and stock, that I have often sat through a weary dinner and evening of incessant talking, without hearing a single syllable on any other subject. Some of our friends had been among the early adventurers who made the perilous overland journeys to Adelaide, with large herds of cattle and sheep, and their narratives were always highly interesting, seeming like a romance, often a most sad one too—after the dull wool-gatherings of more every-day people. Far be it from me, in these slight remarks, to imply want of respect for the worthy enthusiast in wool; still there are times and places for everything. In English society the lawyer does not carry his briefs and special pleadings into the drawing room; the physician dreams not of occupying the attention of a dinner party with his last wonderful cure; even the author refrains from volunteering a recitation of his new book; and surely according to our old-world notions of propriety, the wool-merchant also should sometimes divest himself of the "shop," and not be always encompassed and engrossed by his bales and fleeces. However fascinating may be the company of his "fine-wool sheep" and peerless breed of Merinos, he should not insist on taking them out to dinner. I had to endure a perpetuity of mutton in the wool; whilst choice "samples," tied and labelled with most fond accuracy, were passed from hand to hand, and contemplated with the profound and critical air of a connoisseur passing judgment on a master-piece of art. So long as the conversation conveyed intelligence respecting different parts of the colony, as connected with sheep-farming or other occupations, I could derive amusement and knowledge from it; but the eternity of wool, wool, wool, wearied my very soul. Perhaps some excuse is admissible for this unsocial style of conversation in colonial gentlemen, from the rarity of colonial ladies who are disposed to take a part in any topic under discussion; and many, though not disposed or qualified to express an opinion on general subjects, would feel insulted if you asked their advice how to make butter or cure a ham; thus rendering it difficult to know what they would like to talk about, when the 'servant' stories are exhausted, which usually prove lengthy and very circumstantial.

FURIOUS DRIVING.—Yesterday, a cabman named Thomas Henry Baxter, was fined £4, with 2s. 6d. costs, or one month in gaol, for furiously driving on the Woolloomooloo road about nine o'clock on Thursday evening. It appeared from the evidence of a constable that there was a female in the cab, who was being driven in it against her will, and also that on her leaping from it at the risk of her neck, a man bolted from it and ran off in another direction so as to effect his escape.

JOHN WINTERBOTTOM.—Enquiry having been made from England respecting John Winterbottom, who is supposed to have emigrated to this colony about 1832. Any person who can give information respecting him is requested to communicate it to the office of the Colonial Secretary.