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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 DISTRICT COUNCILS.

A CORRESPONDENT, learned in the law, who agrees with us as to the policy of incorporating the districts of the colony, calls in question the correctness of our exposition of a passage in Blackstone, quoted by the *Atlas* in support of the opinion that a majority of the Council can annihilate the Corporation by surrendering their charter to her Majesty.

We argued that the "Council" is not the "Corporation," but only its representative, for certain purposes, of which "suicide" is not one; that though certain acts of the Council are doubtless legally binding on the Corporation, they are, or ought to be, only such acts as the Council is expressly empowered by law to do on behalf of its constituents; and that though it does appear from Blackstone that a Corporation itself can commit suicide, it does not appear that the Council of a Corporation is authorised to commit murder: consequently that if a majority of the Council were to commit suicide, by resigning its charter, the Corporation itself would still subsist, and would have power, and be in duty bound, to elect members in the room of such as go off.

Our correspondent, in reply to this, asserts that a Corporation does *all* its acts by its Council, and that consequently an act of suicide done by the Council, is the act of the Corporation. But we deny the major proposition. All the acts of a Corporation are not done by its Council. The annual election of Councillors, for example, is not performed by the Council but by the body corporate. This at once invalidates the argument. But granting for the sake of argument that all the ordinary acts of the Corporation were done by the Council, it would not follow that a mere majority of the Council could annihilate the corporation, unless such power were expressly given to it by law.

But, with due submission to our learned correspondent, we will go farther, and admit both propositions. Grant that the power of self-destruction is inherent in the Council,

and that the act of surrender is legally made out, and duly signed and sealed, there is still a third party to be consulted, namely, the party to whom the surrender is to be made—the Queen. Suppose her Majesty should refuse to accept the surrender. What then would become of the act of the majority? Why, it would be null and void, and the Council would be compelled to resume its functions, or pay the penalty, and give place to others better deserving of public confidence.

That her Majesty would be advised to refuse acceptance of those surrenders is hardly to be questioned, if we look to the consequences that would, or might, result from accepting them. All the Corporations are more or less in debt. The Sydney District alone owes, we believe, upwards of £1100. The aggregate of those debts would amount to a large sum. In accepting the charters, her Majesty would of course have to accept the debts also; and these must be paid either from the public funds of the colony, or out of the taxes of the empire. It is easy to conceive what reception an estimate for paying off the debts of those Councils would meet with from the Legislative Council; and to charge them to the British treasury would be entirely out of the question.

It is clear therefore that no surrender could take place without the Queen's consent; because in accepting the charter, her Majesty would necessarily accept all liabilities connected therewith; and there is every possible reason for believing that such consent would not be given; as well as every argument of general policy against such a really suicidal act on the part of the government.

We argued, further, that as our Corporations are not created by Charter only, but also by Act of Parliament, a majority of the Council might commit suicide, but could not repeal an Act of Parliament.

To this it is answered that "the Corporations are not created by Act of Parliament, but that the Act empowers the Governor to create them by letters patent." No matter; the power proceeds from the parliament—the creation has taken place, in accordance with the power delegated; those institutions are now, therefore, as much a portion of "the constitution" of the colony as the Legislative Council, or any other body or matter called into existence by the Governor in virtue of this Act. In the face of this Act of the

Imperial Parliament no Governor, in behalf of her Majesty, dare accept of such a surrender as is proposed in the *Atlas*.

We still, therefore, maintain, subject to better advice, that no such surrender can possibly take place; that if the attempt were made the Corporations would be bound to fill up the places of the retiring majority; and that if the Corporations failed in this their duty (as well as their interest) the Governor would be obliged in conformity with the Act 5 and 6 Victoriae, cap. 76., s. 46 to proceed to "nominate persons duly qualified to fill the vacancy."

THE SCHOONER SHAMROCK— "OBLIQUITY OF VISION."—THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

WE are compelled, occasionally, to deviate from the path of politics, in order to make a stand in behalf of the Queen's English, which is sometimes strangely perverted in the columns of our contemporaries. Indeed if people do not take care, the newspaper language of this colony will soon become as unintelligible to Englishmen as that of America has long since been to all who are without the pale of the Union. Cobbett somewhere says that a Whig in America is the same thing as a Tory in England; and as things go with us at present, *patriotism* is synonymous with *oligarchy*; "responsible government" with *petty tyranny*; "retrenchment," with *private patronage*; and public spirit, with personal intrigue. And it is not appellations only which are threatened with undergoing this change, the whole vocabulary is in danger of being revolutionized. For example, the *Sydney Herald* has been for some months past engaged upon the words "obliquity of vision," with the view of changing their meaning. These words, according to Johnson and the old authorities, mean *seeing crookedly*. As applied to a high public officer, they would, under this signification, characterise one who deviated from the strict line of public duty in forming his decisions; who was more anxious to oblige his friends than to guard the rights of the public; who would look to the right, and to the left, in search of "cases of hardship" to alleviate, instead of looking straight forward to the one and undivided

object of a good statesman—the interest of the public. Such conduct as this would be manifested by one who was chargeable with “obliquity of vision.” Quite the reverse, however, is the meaning which our contemporary wishes to attach to the words. If a governor threatens to take away a squatter’s license for the misconduct of his dependents, how much soever the safety of public morals may depend on the act, it is “obliquity of vision.” If he propose to equalize the demands made upon the tenants of the crown—no matter how clearly just such equalization may be—straightway it is “obliquity of vision.” If he enforce the payment of quit rents, due to the public by the holders of land, again this is “obliquity of vision.” If he refuse to exchange one portion of land for another—good land for bad—(an act which it does not appear the law empowers him to do), then again it is “obliquity of vision.” If he decline interfering with the due course of law to restore to the owners a vessel condemned by the Customs for smuggling—then it is “obliquity of vision.”

Now, as a simple colonist, content with our mother tongue as spoken and written for two centuries past, we protest against this systematic warfare with the dictionary. We maintain that the course to which this term “obliquity” has been so often applied is the very reverse of oblique; that it is, in fact, the only *straight forward* course that could have been adopted; and that, had the Governor, instead of thus looking in a direct line to the public advantage, diverted his eye to this “great hardship” on the right, and to that individual “grievance” on the left, he would have been justly chargeable with the “obliquity of vision,” which in the cases referred to, we think is not attributable to him. To take the last of these cases, the *Herald* says: “the correspondence respecting the seizure of the schooner *Shamrock* affords another proof of that singular obliquity of vision with which his Excellency Sir G. Gipps views all questions where public and private rights are concerned. Can any reasonable man say that he for a moment believes that Messrs. Campbell and Co. have done anything for which they ought to be so heavily punished as they will be by the seizure of the *Shamrock*.”

The case is hard, no doubt; for nobody believes that Messrs. Campbell and Co. are smugglers. Still the interests of society, of Messrs. Campbell themselves, and of every fair trader, require that smuggling should be put down. But the master of the *Shamrock*, the person to whom Messrs. Campbell confided their schooner, was caught smuggling—smuggling too from their vessel. The law says—and we think most properly—that under such circumstances, the vessel shall be forfeited; and any interference of the Governor with the due course of law, on the ground of the innocence or respectability of the owners would, we think, be most unjustifiable.

The shipmaster was caught smuggling from the ship. That is enough for the law, and for the public. If Messrs. Campbell and Co. entrusted the command of their vessel to an improper person—to a smuggler—they did so at a great risk, and they are likely to pay dearly for their ill-placed confidence. We regret their misfortune, as we should regret that of any other respectable firm; but seeing the enormous extent to which such frauds and

malpractices have been carried, to the injury of every individual in the community—the villains themselves excepted, we cannot but rejoice at every capture that is made, and at every example of severity that may exercise a salutary influence on the minds of such “ultra free traders” for the future. And we should indignantly censure any public officer, who, before bringing the law to bear on the guilty parties, should “look obliquely” to see that the interests of no respectable friend were in the way of such examples, being made.

In connexion with this subject we cannot help noticing the fuss that has been made within the last few days, respecting the threatened shutting up of the Registrar General’s Office. We subscribe to all that has been said and sung about the importance of this office, and the public injury that must result from its discontinuance. But we dwelt upon all this at the time the Council was discussing the matter. The government officers also put the thing in all possible shapes before the Council. The Governor again and again informed them that he had no funds applicable to the support of the department, unless they were voted by the Council; and now after all, people are astonished that the office is likely to be closed, and urge his Excellency to incur the personal risk of keeping it open “unconstitutionally,” without any public vote of money for the purpose. His Excellency may do so—we trust he will do so, if any safe means occur to him, whereby it may be done; but with a recent example before him of a motion for a warrant, and a still more recent threat respecting the appropriation of fees in the Courts of Requests towards the payment of salaries, we apprehend his Excellency will see clearly that in continuing the Registrar’s Office, he is safe from all future responsibility in the matter.

It is a deplorable thing that the public should be exposed to such risk from the freaks of a faction; but it may be that the colonists require to suffer in order that they may be brought to a proper sense of the consequences of suffering selfish and designing men to guide the helm of the state; men who, if we may take their own estimate of one another (see a late correspondence between the Port Phillip members and their constituents), seek to effect nothing by their public acts but their own private interests.

THE SAVINGS BANK.—OVERDOING THE BUSINESS.

REALLY our “opposition” friends are going quite beyond the mark. Their zeal will defeat its object. It is amazing to what an extent people are gullible, but still a story usually requires some foundation in order that it may be believed. The tale we are about to notice is as purely imaginative as that of the government of Barataria in Don Quixote. It is as follows:—

“The *Atlas* desires to call down public reprobation upon the circumstance of the Manager of the Savings Bank receiving, in those difficult times, a salary of eight hundred pounds a year paid out of the earnings of the poor; and this too, at the express instance and permission of Sir George Gipps.....

Every man in the Colony (except Sir George Gipps and Mr. Miller himself) must see the length and breadth of this very gross job. For any one to pay £800 for services which he can get equally well performed for £400 were foolish. To sacrifice the welfare of the many to the selfishness of one, were blameworthy. But for the Government to waste in favoritism the money of the confiding poor, is a spectacle of naked wickedness.”

Now if this were true, we should be as ready to “call down reprobation upon the circumstance” as the *Atlas*. In point of fact, we did complain of the amount of Mr. Miller’s salary years ago, when the salaries generally were higher than at present, and before the *Atlas* was born. We still think it by far too high, but this is not the point to which we now refer. The effort of imagination to which we would direct attention is the assertion that these “eight hundred pounds a year” are “paid out of the earnings of the poor at the express instance and permission of Sir George Gipps.” Now the truth is that Sir George Gipps has nothing more to do than the *Atlas* has with the fixing of Mr. Miller’s salary. A very moderate degree of inquiry would have convinced the writer of this, had his object been the discovery of the truth, but it is obvious that truth had nothing to do with the article in question. The grand object of the *Atlas* is to hold up the Queen’s representative to indignation as “a spectacle of naked wickedness,” and finding in the almanac that his Excellency’s name is at the head of the Savings Bank, as it is at the head of the Australian Library, of the Mechanics’ Institute, of the Australian Club, and other useful institutions, it was held quite moral and just to forego all inquiry into the actual management of the Bank, and to fix the salary upon the Governor as a “very gross job,” in the hope that if the statement should not be deemed worthy of detection here, it might have its effect elsewhere. Such, we are of opinion, will even now be the case, for in future when the *Atlas* “calls down public reprobation” upon “gross jobs” and “spectacles of naked wickedness,” people will remember that he cried “wolf” when there was no wolf, and the effect will be, that if he should ever pounce upon a real “job,” his readers will still think they are, as in the case of the Savings Bank, being amused with the creations of the writer’s imagination.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

By the *Ann Grant* his Excellency the Governor has received a number of Despatches from the Secretary of State. It is reported that among other things his Excellency has received a *carte blanche* to deal with the squatting question, which, unless it is intended to settle it by Act of Parliament, we hope may prove correct. Lord Stanley also considers the Lien on Wool Act contrary to the law of England, and intimates that her Majesty will be advised to disallow it in 1846. The Insolvent Debtors Bill is also very properly objected to, but as it was only passed for two years, it will be allowed to expire; and the Governor is instructed to withhold his assent from any similar measure in future.

SONNETS DEDICATED TO SENATORS.

NO. IX.

EXPOSTULATORY.

Most painful 'tis to see a man of merit
Mixt up with creatures of such sorry grain,
That Satire's self almost disdains the strain
Of which they are the theme! and hence my spirit
Feels irked in its just indignation, when
I mark thee, Boyd, thus batting the same ball
As Wentworth and his scaramouches—all
The meanest or most impudent of men!
But thou hast a clear spirit, and a mind
In its capacities of noble size;
A heart, when not misled, that hateth lies,
Private and public—brave and frank and kind;
And gifted thus in spirit, mind, and heart,
Think what thou might'st be, scorning what thou
art!

NOT TOM CAMPBELL.

NO. X.

"An I may do it in a mask, let me play the Lion too."
Bully Bottom.

A Clerk foredoom'd all common sense to cross,
Who draws a Bill up while he should engross.
Adapted from Pope.

Sure Cumberland, at length, must feel ashamed
Of thee, her Folly's representative!—
A conscious dunce! yet not content to give
Thy vote in silence—no; thou wouldst be famed
For something, and so caldest a Bill—conceived
In the true spirit of—"it sounds more clever,
To us and to our heirs, my Lord, for ever:"
And eke a speech, of mental tapeworms weaved.
I doubt not thou canst tell when wool is good,
Or count correctly in a shearing pen;
Yes; and when flies shall have sufficient ken
To comprehend a mountain's magnitude,
Thou shalt be fit to legislate for men,
As well as sheep; but, C——r, not till then.

NO WOOL-GATHERER.

ACTS OF COUNCIL.

THE Governor has been pleased to direct, that the following Extracts from a Despatch No. 156, Dated Downing-street, 28th October, 1844, addressed to his Excellency by the Right Honorable Lord Stanley, Secretary of State for the Colonies be published for general information.

Extract No. 1.—PREFERABLE LIEN ACT.

The Act No. 3, dated the 15th September, 1843, and intituled "An Act to give a preferable lien on Wool from season to season, and to make mortgages of Sheep, Cattle, and Horses, valid, without delivering to the mortgagee," is a measure so irreconcilably opposed to the principles of legislation immemorally recognised in this country, respecting the alienation or pledging of things moveable, that under any other circumstances than those in which the colony has unhappily been involved, it would not have been in my power to decline the unwelcome duty of advising her Majesty to disallow it. The same circumstances may, perhaps, furnish an apology for an enactment, tending so directly to give unwonted facilities for borrowing money, and increasing the evil of excessive credit, under the penalties of which the colonists have so long and so severely laboured. But while I am ready to admit that embarrassments so overwhelming may have justified innovations otherwise indefensible, I must not less distinctly deny, that they afford any valid plea for a permanent departure from those established rules, to which all theory and all experience alike lend their sanction. The disasters of New South Wales will ere long have passed away, but there will remain on the Colonial Statute Book, a Law, expressly authorising transactions which the Law of England regards as affording the conclusive indication of fraud. It is a law which will place society at the mercy of any

any dishonest borrower, and which will stimulate the speculative spirit which it is so important to discourage.

The official transcript of this Act was received at this office, on the 22nd July, 1844, consequently, on the 22nd July, 1846, it will become unalterable by her Majesty's authority, unless disallowed before that day. I have therefore to acquaint you, that unless the intelligence of the repeal of this law shall reach this Office by the 22nd day of July, 1846, it will, on the approach of that day be disallowed by the Queen in Council.

Extract No. 2.—SOLVENT DEBTORS ACT.

Tha Act No. 4, entitled, "An Act to prevent the waste of the property of Debtors under the process of law," may be vindicated by the apology I have already mentioned. As that law will expire in little more than two years from its date, the Queen will not disallow it: but neither can her Majesty be advised expressly to sanction it:—Until it shall have expired by lapse of time, it will therefore continue to operate. But you will understand yourself as being distinctly prohibited from again assenting to a law enabling a Debtor to continue in possession of his property, and to avoid the ordinary legal responsibility to any one of his creditors, under shelter of a license granted for that purpose by his other creditors. Such an enactment in favour of the Debtor and against the dissentient Creditor, could not be incorporated into the permanent code of any country without the subversion of all faith in the ordinary dealings of mankind, and engendering abuses hostile alike to commercial security, and to public morals.

COURT OF REQUESTS.

MR. COMMISSIONER CHEEKE delivered the following judgment on Thursday, which is, doubtless correct in the abstract, although it is certainly contrary to our recollection of the expressed intentions of the framers of the Act.

On the 25th of last month, when engaged in hearing arguments on motions for new trials, tried before me and two Assessors at the late sittings of the new jurisdiction (the £30), certain points were mooted and urged by some of the advocates of the Court as to the jurisdiction. I, of course, being taken by surprise, could not properly decide then the points, and therefore took time to consider—entertaining, however, at the request of the several advocates, the motions for new trials, subject to such points taken. Since then I have seriously considered the points mooted, and weighed the several arguments urged, and I have arrived at these opinions:—That in respect to the first point (that mooted by Mr. Thurlow, both at the trial of the cause, and also on motion for a new trial) under the 5th section of the Act 6 Victoria, No. 15, that the Court *has not the power given* under that clause to hear and determine according to equity and good conscience, the terms of the clause being, "Actions also to the amount of £30, of the NATURE AUTHORISED by this Act, SHALL be held and determined." Thus the only reference to the prior clause (where the power is given to try all actions according to equity and good conscience) is as to the "NATURE authorised by this Act;" and I find it laid down in Bac. ab. title Stat. vol. vii., p. 452, by Mansfield,

C. J., when a power is given by a statute, to enquire, hear, and determine, it always means according to the course of the common law; see also the preamble of the Act, wherein it is stated that the jurisdiction of such Courts shall be extended as *thereinafter* mentioned. With reference to the second point, whether the Act gives me, as Commissioner, power to grant new trials (except as to when difference of opinion exists between the assessors), I am sorry to say I am constrained to decide that the Act of Council *does not give* the Commissioner such power; I say I am sorry, because I imagine that some injustice may be done, either on account of the unintentional misdirection of the Commissioner, or by the sometimes capricious verdict of the Assessors; I am not, however, here for the purpose of complaining of or cavilling with the Legislature, who passed this Act, as in their wisdom they thought proper; they perhaps imagined that although the Court not possessing the power might occasion slight injustice to some, yet that the delay and expense of motions for, and new trials, might tend to greater hardship and injustice to the many; and as the Court was established for the sole purpose of speedy justice and small expense, that that may be the reason for their withholding the power. I find that new trials in superior Courts are only allowed as a matter of practice (now almost immemorial to the several Courts), no Act of the Legislature having been passed for that purpose; and although Courts of superior jurisdiction may claim that inherent right, yet Courts of inferior jurisdiction cannot, in my opinion, claim that same privilege, they being bound and governed solely by the Act of the Legislature, which constituted such Courts and brought them into existence. With respect to the latter part of the fifth section, as to reserving any points for the decision of the Judges of the Supreme Court, I conceive that the Legislature must have meant only such legal points arising at the trial of any case in which the Commissioner may entertain doubts—not as to matters of this nature, when the very constitution and power of an Act, and the constitution of the Court, is brought into dispute. It is, therefore, my intention not to reserve any of these points for the decision of their Honors the Judges, but leave any of the parties if they think proper to apply to the Supreme Court for a mandamus calling upon and directing me to hear such cases according to equity and good conscience, or a new trial. I must, therefore, order and direct that all the verdicts recorded at the last sittings do stand and be carried into execution.

APPOINTMENTS.—His Excellency the Governor has appointed Alexander Johnstone, Esq., of Kerrenbollock, Mount Emu Creek, Port Phillip, to be a magistrate of the territory and its dependencies; also, Thomas Callaghan, Esquire, Barrister at Law, to act as a Commissioner for hearing and reporting on claims to grants of land, in lieu of Roger Therry, Esq., appointed a judge of the Supreme Court; also, John Hubert Punnnett, Esq., the Rev. Dr. Gregory, and Patrick Hill, Esquire, Colonial Surgeon, to have the control and inspection of the Institution for Destitute Roman Catholic Children, and to bind and put to be apprentices any children admitted into the said Institution.

ERRATUM.—In the Biography of Corneille in last number of the *Register*, occurs a ridiculous misprint. Voltaire, who lived a century later, is made to call upon the poet respecting his Polyucte. It should be *Voiture*, not "Voltaire."

SQUATTER SONGS.

NO. I.

Where the wandering Barwin delighteth the eye,
Befringed with the myal and golden bloom'd gorse,
Oh, a beautiful Squatter came galloping by,
With a beard on his chin like the tail of his horse;
And his locks trained all round to so equal a pitch,
That his mother herself, it may truly be said,
Had been puzzled in no small degree to find which
Was the front, or the back, or the sides of his head.

Beside a small fire, 'neath a fair-spreading tree
(A cedar, I think, but perhaps 'twas a gum,)
What vision of love did that squatter now see,
In the midst of a catch, so to render him dumb?
Why, all on the delicate herbage aquat,
And smiling to see him so flustered and mute,
'Twas the lovely Miss 'Possum-skin having a chat
With the elegant Lady of Lord Bandycoot.

The squatter dismounted—what else could he do?
And, meaning her tender affections to win,
'Gan talking of dampers, and blankets quite new,
With a warmth that soon ruin'd poor Miss 'Possum-
skin;
And Lord Bandycoot also, whilst dining that day
On a bak'd kangaroo, of the kind that is red,
At the very third bite to king Dingo did say—
Oh, how heavy I feel all at once in the head!

But, alas, for the belles of the Barwin!—the youth
Galloped home, to forget all his promises fair;
Whereupon Lady Bandycoot told the whole truth
To her lord, and Miss 'Possum-skin saved in despair!
And mark the result! Royal Dingo straightway,
And his warriors, swore to avenge them in arms!
And that beautiful squatter, one beautiful day,
Was waddied to death in the bloom of his charms!

Domestic Intelligence.

SEIZURES.—Captain Watson, one of the Sub-inspectors of Distilleries, succeeded on Monday in unearthing a fifteen gallon still, at Blackwattle Swamp. The fine was so constructed as to run into the chimney of an adjoining cottage. The Parramatta police also seized an establishment of the same description near that township.

IMMIGRATION.—We learn by a London paper that Mr. Buller had prepared, for the ensuing session of Parliament, a bill on the subject of emigration and colonization; and had received the pledge of the Government that it should have their support.

AMUSEMENT FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—We have been requested to call attention to the festivities prepared by Mr. Stubbs for his friends and audience at Petersham, on Monday next, the liberality of which would seem to indicate the dawn of brisk times again. See Adv. page 132.

INQUESTS.—An inquest was held on Monday, at the Young Prince of Wales Inn, York-street, on the body of Richard Webb, horse-dealer, of York-street. It appeared that on Friday, the 28th February, the deceased was at the Cattle Market, and whilst standing at the slip rail, nine horses rushed out and knocked him down, and one of them trampled on his body, by which he was severely injured in the right side; he was immediately conveyed home. Dr. Fullerton saw deceased immediately after the accident, and attended him after it, and stated that three ribs, the 9th 10th and 11th, on the right side, were broken, one of them projecting inward and slightly wounding the liver; the cause of death, however, was a

rupture of the kidney, to such an extent that it was impossible life could be sustained. The deceased died on Saturday evening, and was attended by Doctors Bland and Wallace, besides Dr. Fullerton. A verdict of accidental death was returned. A second inquest was held at the Royal Oak Inn, Miller's Point, on the body of John Hall, a seaman of the ship *Clarkstone*; the captain of the vessel certified that the deceased had been drunk every day since he came ashore and a seaman of the vessel deposed to having found him dead in his berth. A professional gentleman deposed to the death of the deceased having been caused by apoplexy, arising out of drunkenness, and a verdict to that effect was accordingly returned.

SUICIDE.—An inquest was held on Wednesday on the body of Edward Mahoney, who was found by his wife about six o'clock that morning lying on the floor with his throat cut. From the evidence it appeared the deceased was a teetotaler, but had recommenced drinking about a week previous. On Tuesday he had a quarrel with Mr. Crampton, and went home in liquor. He called at McLaughlan's public house and wanted to have spirits, which was refused, and he went away threatening to destroy himself. From the nature of the wound it appeared to have been inflicted by himself. Accordingly the jury returned a verdict of self destruction. The Coroner issued a warrant for the body to be privately buried between the hours of nine and and twelve at night.

THE LATE SUICIDE.—The wife of the man Mahoney, who committed suicide on Wednesday, was yesterday apprehended under a warrant, certain suspicious circumstances connected with the death of her husband having transpired.

DISCOVERY OF AN EXTENSIVE LODE OF COPPER ORE.—An accidental discovery of this precious metal was made some time ago, by our venerated townsman, Dr. Henry White, next to the estate of Mr. William Bowman, in the district of Wellington. Samples of the ore were sent to the Colonial Secretary, who forwarded them to England, where their properties were tested, and proved to be the most profitable description of copper! The beds of ore are supposed to extend for miles in every direction from whence the discovery was made; and a high hill in that neighbourhood presents indications of being a solid mass of treasure!—*Hawkesbury Courier.*

City Council.

MONDAY.

Mr. Fisher enquired if the Mayor knew any reason why the Lighting Committee had not been called together.

Alderman Macdermott, who belonged to the Committee, expressed his willingness to act as convener to the Committee, provided Alderman Wilshire, who was senior Alderman, gave up the chairmanship. At the suggestion of the Mayor the matter was allowed to stand over till Alderman Wilshire should be present.

The Chairman presented the amended Report of the Water Committee, which was received and adopted.

Alderman Macdermott brought up the Report of the Bourke Ward Assessment Com-

mittee, which was received and adopted.

A Report from the Market Committee, respecting the erection of a jetty at the Market Wharf, was received and adopted.

The Report of the Phillip Ward Assessment Committee was brought up, read, and approved of.

The Report of the Assessors for Brisbane Ward was brought up, received, and approved of.

The Report from the Assessors for Cook Ward was also brought up and received, as well as a Report by the Finance Committee, recommending the payment of sundry sums in liquidation of various claims for which the Council was liable.

On the motion of Alderman Flood the half yearly Report of the improvements effected in the streets was read, received by the Council, and ordered to be printed.

The Report of the Gipps Ward Assessment Committee was presented and received.

A Petition from the Valuers of Brisbane Ward, requesting an extension of time, was presented and received. A Petition from several inhabitants of Brisbane Ward against a boiling-down establishment, was also read and received.

Mr. Henderson presented a Petition from twenty-five inhabitants of King and Market streets, praying that a proper service pipe might be laid down in these streets. The memorial was forwarded to the Water Committee.

Mr. Fisher moved, That in the opinion of this Council it is desirable to complete the surface drainage of the streets of this city as speedily as possible, and in order to accelerate this, that in addition to the sum already passed for the repairs of the streets, the sum of two thousand pounds be voted, and raised in the present year's assessment—half in the first half-year, and the other half in the second half-year; to be expended under the direction of the Improvement Committee—exclusively in preparing and laying down surface drainage and kerbing, in the proclaimed streets of the city. That this Council being anxious to appropriate the funds of the city as judiciously as possible, consider that some of the works now performed by day labour should be tested by similar work performed by contract; and that in furtherance of this object, the Improvement Committee be requested to have a portion, if not all work, under this vote, done by contract.

Mr. Coyle seconded the motion.

Alderman Flood opposed the motion, on the ground that to adopt such a motion would be to stultify themselves in regard to their previous proceedings.

Alderman Macdermott was favourable to the resolution, but could not support it, as it had not been brought forward at the proper time.

Mr. Cowlshaw and Mr. Thurlow also opposed the motion, which was lost upon a division.

Alderman Flood moved, That a respectful address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, praying that he will cause deeds of grant to be issued to the Corporation of the City of Sydney of all properties at present in their possession; which, being seconded by Alderman Macdermott, the following Committee was appointed to prepare the address, namely: the Mayor, Aldermen Flood and Macdermott, and Councillors Browne, Josephson, and Ryan.