

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.

SQUATTERS AND LANDHOLDERS —FIXITY OF TENURE AND DIS- TRICT CORPORATIONS.

"Woe unto them that lay field to field till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!"—Isaiah, v. 8.

It being manifestly the interest of those who are holders of land within the boundaries, by grant or purchase, as well as of every other class of actual settlers, that such property should maintain a steady value in the market, it would appear, at first view, an extraordinary circumstance to find the majority of the landholders united with the squatters in the present movement for "fixity of tenure" in favour of the latter; a measure which would render freehold and leasehold possessions alike valueless. Of what value, comparatively, would any man's present estate be (to attain possession of which he has perhaps struggled for half a lifetime, or appropriated the accumulated savings of his family), if the immense tracts of land occupied by our great squatters are to be handed over to them in perpetuity, without purchase? If the new doctrine of the *Atlas*, as to the duty of the state in reference to public lands—namely, to "*part with them quickly, and leave the quantum of the appropriation to each individual*"—if this principle should ever be acted upon, it must be manifest that the properties of existing proprietors, immense as some of them now are in extent, would dwindle into insignificance. What, for example, would the estates of all the Macarthurs amount to, under this new principle, compared with those of Benjamin Boyd, of W. C. Wentworth, or even of Mary Macintyre? They would be as a mere trifle in the comparison.

There is, in London, a clever manufacturer of maps, named Arrowsmith (every little boy is acquainted with Arrowsmith's *Atlas*). Well, this gentleman has recently published a new map of Australia, which professes to be a little more minute than former productions of the kind. In this map appears a division of territory, about the size of half a dozen German principalities, and this terri-

tory is there named "*Boyd's Country*." How it came to receive this appellation is of little importance. It may have originated with Mr. Arrowsmith himself, in his desire to pay a compliment to a gentleman from whom he may have received valuable information; or it may have been smuggled into the drawing by Messrs. Boyd in anticipation of the establishment of their much desired "fixity of tenure." At any rate, there it stands on the map—an admirable illustration of our contemporary's new principle of "*leaving the quantum of appropriation to the discretion of each individual!*"

The *Atlas* itself is very plain on this subject. "Here," it says, "we are met by the outcry of monopoly; you take up all the land—you leave nothing for the poor. Why should one man have ten thousand acres—another none; Alas! it is a question we cannot answer till we have discovered the reason why evil is permitted in the world.

Ask of thy mother earth why oaks are made
Taller or weaker than the weeds they shade;
Or ask of yonder argent orbs above,
Why Jove's satellites are less than Jove."

Thus the landholders and leaseholders, and small squatters are as mere "satellites" revolving round the large squatters who are compared to Jupiter himself; the relative importance of each class being as much a degree of fate as the magnitude and motions of the heavenly bodies!

It is indeed no wonder that the *Atlas* "cannot answer" the question why one man should have 10,000 acres, another none! It is easy enough to understand why in old established countries one man should hold large possessions, the fruits of early conquest, or the accumulation of centuries of family skill or industry. But why such monstrous disproportions should exist, all at once, in a country which we all entered on terms of perfect equality (qualified only by the means which each brought of honestly purchasing what was needful), cannot be answered but upon the Robin Hood scheme of morality—

"That they should take who have the power,
And they should keep who can."

"But (continues the *Atlas*) never was there a more groundless apprehension than that the appropriation of the lands at present occupied would exclude the poor. Two-thirds at least of the vast Continent which we inhabit are wholly unknown to us, and have never been viewed by the eye of civilized man. With

this boundless expanse before us, how ridiculous does it seem to see the Colonists infected with the miserly spirit of their Government, and squabbling about hundreds and thousands of acres, when a territory which cannot be occupied for generations, spreads its boundless expanse before them. Whilst we are counting Mr. Boyd's or Mr. Wentworth's stations, and complaining that while we pay a high rent for a house in Sydney, they pay only license and assessment, before us lie thousands of plains and vallies enough to form the sheep-walk of the world, on which the grass withers and the rain evaporates, without contributing ought to the comfort or profit of man."

This is all very fine, and the only fault it has is, that it is destitute of common sense. Suppose every individual colonist to select his 100,000 acres out of this "boundless expanse," and squat down upon them, the land would doubtless suffice for the present population, but what would result? Why that there would be no society, no government, no education, no morality, no religion, no law; and all being master squatters, even the *quasi* proprietor of "*Boyd's Country*" himself, would find nobody to tend his sheep! Already have the squatters passed the bounds of civilization to an extent which ought never to have been permitted. The squatting advocates themselves put forth in terrific colours the state of the population beyond the boundaries as respects religion and morality, in order to shew that something should be done for them, and now the *Atlas* when pressed to extend equal justice to the settlers and the squatters, would send the former into the "boundless expanse," and thus increase the evils an hundred fold. The writer must have been reduced to the very last shift for an answer before he formed the idea of scattering a few thousand individuals over the "boundless expanse" of this continent!

To return to the point from which we started, it would, we repeat, seem an extraordinary thing to find the landholders of the colony engaged in a measure tending to revolutionize society, and reduce their property to a nominal value. It is to be accounted for, however, from two or three circumstances, which, for the sake of those at a distance, we shall briefly advert to.

1. It is certain that in a great many cases our landholders are themselves squatters, and that in supporting the squatting movement

they are simply seeking to "lay field to field," without the necessity of purchasing.

2. The estates of many proprietors are so deeply mortgaged and so unproductive, that there is every probability that they may eventually slip through their fingers altogether, and in that case a large squatting station secured

"To me and to my heirs for ever"

furnishes a very good *dernier ressort*.

3. Another principal reason why many of the landholders unite with the squatters in the present movement, is in order that the former may have the assistance of the latter in opposing the District Corporations. Were these institutions established, the appropriated lands would, of course, be required to contribute their due share to the public funds. It would hence be necessary to make a great portion of them productive, which the proprietors, being engaged in other speculations, are unable or unwilling to do. Hence the opposition to these Corporations—hence the ill assorted union between a portion of the landholders and the squatters.

But while each thus studies his own personal interests, it is the duty of the public to watch the proceedings of both, for even if it were not evident from all their acts that this faction have formed designs injurious to the community at large, the very alliance of such apparently conflicting interests ought of itself to create a suspicion that the objects they seek to attain are neither just nor expedient.

With respect to the measure for incorporating the districts, the opposition to it can only arise from an unwillingness to make a fair contribution, according to the extent and value of each one's property, to the funds for local expenditure. In every other point of view, social, moral, and political, these institutions tend to that which is good; and even in this, wherein all the objection seems to lie, equity and justice cannot be denied to belong to them. "The only nations," says de Tocqueville, "which deny the utility of provincial liberties are those who have fewest of them; in other words, those who are unacquainted with the institution are the only persons who pass a censure upon it." When, therefore, we see volumes of arrant nonsense—for nothing else has been—put forth in opposition to this wise measure, we must either pity the ignorance of the writers, or despise their subserviency to the real opponents of the measure, who are those holders of large tracts of land who would decline bearing their due and proportionate share of the public burthens.

Let us take a single instance to shew the extent to which, in a single locality, the public suffer from the present unequal system of taxation. There is on the very boundary of the city of Sydney an estate consisting of about 3000 acres. On this estate there is not, so far as we can learn, a single acre in cultivation. It does not bear mansion or cottage, or even a slab hut. Though alienated from the crown it is of no use whatever to the public. On the contrary, it is of positive injury, because it drives suburban settlers to a greater distance from the market for their produce. It is a tax upon their industry, a tax upon the whole public, for roads and police, and it does not contribute one farthing towards these purposes. The proprietor resides, we believe, in London, so

that he does not even contribute by indirect taxation upon his individual consumption towards the public expenditure. In point of fact, it amounts to this, that the colony pays a large sum to this gentleman as a premium upon his absenteeism and upon the unproductiveness of his estate. We pay for police and gaols, and lawyers and judges to secure to him possession of a property which stands (remember 3000 acres on the very boundary of the city) a public nuisance. Now, on the other hand, were the Sydney District Corporation in active operation, this property would be made to contribute a considerable amount towards the improvement of the district. It would thereby relieve the burthens of the inhabitants. The proprietor might be induced to come and reside on it—to build upon it and cultivate it; or if this were not agreeable to him, he would be compelled to cut it up into smaller portions and dispose of it to those who might be inclined to build and cultivate, and thus promote the cause of civilization.

This case is only one of thousands which might be cited with slight variations, and it at once explains the anomaly of the coalition between the landholders and squatters; the opposition which the excellent measure for incorporating the districts has met with; and the real bearing which this measure would have upon the revenue and expenditure for local improvements, in equalizing burthens which, at present, are extremely unequal and unjust.

THE REPRESENTATION OF ST. VINCENT.

THE representation of the Counties of St. Vincent and Auckland being vacant by the departure of Captain Coghill for England, Mr. Lowe, the barrister, and editor of the *Atlas*, has announced himself as a candidate, in an address which is only remarkable for an utter abandonment of all principle, and a complete subserviency to, what he conceives to be, the popular notions of the day. "District Councils," "quit rents," "rent of sections," "squatting licenses" all are thrown overboard without discussion, as being things "oppressive," "superfluous," "ruinous," "exorbitant," "grasping," and so forth. The addresses of the Camden candidates were certainly had enough, but this one is the consummation of political profligacy. It rouses one's indignation to see a gentleman of Mr. Lowe's undoubted learning and eloquence prostituting both after this manner, and striving to outdo the most desperate of the faction in hostility to every thing like social order, wise economy, and public justice.

We trust, therefore, that the electors of the district will find some more eligible representative than one who in jumping from one extreme to another has clearly made up his mind to "give up to party what was meant for mankind;" and whose professions of regard for public liberty are most effectually belied by his having so recently instituted a "privilege" prosecution, which has made our legislature a laughing stock to other nations.

Might not the people of the country districts find among their own body men of sense and independence to represent them, without seeking them in the Supreme Court, thereby converting the senate into an arena

for the display of *nisi prius* tricks? If not, the sooner such a system of mock representation is abolished the better it will be for the colony; for it is manifest that the true object of legislation is lost sight of when the house is turned into a forensic bear garden instead of an assembly constituted for the "peace, welfare, and good government" of the colony.

In noticing Captain Coghill's resignation, it may be satisfactory to many of our readers to know that that gentleman who was carried away with the stream of opposition, while in the Council, is one of those "well-intentioned persons" who, according to the *Atlas*, have been led by the "incessant and wearisome repetition" of the arguments against the squatting movement to see its dangerous tendency; that he devoted the latter period of his abode in Sydney to a careful study of the question, and that on his arrival in England he is likely to do his best to counteract the movement in that part of the empire. His plain unvarnished tale might not be a match for that of the Hon. Francis Scott, if the latter had an inch of honest ground to stand upon, but this is not the case; and notwithstanding the shameful lukewarmness of the actual colonists, in suffering the squatters to take the representation both here and at home entirely out of their hands, we are confident that there is too much good sense in the people of England not to scout the pretensions of the faction the moment they are made truly aware of them.

THE CANDIDATE'S ADDRESS.

You gentlemen of Auckland, and of St. Vincent too, If you'll listen for a moment, I will tell you what to do;— Captain Coghill as you know, has put his ship to sea, So in his place, pray have the grace, if you please, to think of me.

A candidate, a candidate, is again upon his legs, And of you, dear electors, he very humbly begs, That you will think of all he'll do, of all that he has done, Since he began to blaze away, of the 'Atlas,' the great gun.

What valour he hath shewn, even aldermen can tell, How chivalrous his spirit, knows full many a naughty belle; And officials shrink, whene'er they think, how this same savage Bob, Has cut to chips, the valiant Gipps, and Gardener too, the snob.

His principles you know full well, but simply they are these— He hates the District Councils, and the squatters seeks to please; He thinks that they should have the Land, and for it nothing pay, And that the public, vulgar dogs, should not stand in their way.

The farmer to his plough should keep, despite the government, And live away, and nothing pay—why should he pay his rent? 'Twas a bargain when he took the land, but what indeed of that? If the Government has long forborne, the Government's a flat.

The many things which he has writ, the people all have read, From his very flimsy poesy, to his prose of dreary lead— His eigrams without a point, his satire without gall, The smallest chit, which he has writ, the people know it all.

Captain Coghill could not speak a word, but he can speak full well, And of your wants, electors dear! the Council he will tell; And salaries he will cut down, for since Therry's got the bench, Which he desired, his breast's been fired, with ardour to retrench.

Oh! take him then, electors dear, and he to each will swear, What wild did, to get a vote, to one or two, declare— That he was ready day or night, ('twas said in homelier speech.) To go behind Sir George's back, and then to kick his breech!

TWO SONNETS

ADDRESSED TO JAMES MACARTHUR, ESQ., OF
CAMDEN.

NO. I.

I give thee credit for an honest aim,
That thou, with some few more, didst interpose
Between this country and its maniac foes,
The influence of thy fair untarnished name.—
The foulness of their principles might shame,
If he stood forth alone, the worst of those
Who now, a grasping horde, fiercely oppose
All who would urge 'gainst their's, the public claim.—
They seek to rob the public, and to gain
For them and theirs, this goodly continent:
Selfish, disloyal, and oppressive, bent
By any means their object to attain;
Of faith and freedom do they loudly rave,
Yet strive to plunder, trample, and enslave.

NO. II.

Thou may'st not be a warrior, and a terror,
Defying to fierce fight an alderman;
Thou may'st not be a chivalrous fair man,
Denouncing women for some fancied error;—
Thou may'st not be a squatter-bard, and revel,
In making fabled woes and sufferings plain;
Thou may'st not e'en from thine own party gain,
The fame of being a bitter, clever devil;
But still thou may'st have an opinion, surely,
And, as an honest man, express it too;
If thou with rogues wilt not have aught to do,
Why thou may'st say so, and not look demurely;—
But then the rogues, as sure as corks will float, sir!
Will strain a little point to cut your throat, sir!

ENGLAND.

HER Majesty has conferred the Garter, vacant by the death of the late Duke of Grafton, upon the Earl of Powis.

A rumour, says the *Dublin Statesman*, has been for some time gaining ground, that a sum of £100,000 will be asked for and granted in next Parliament, for the erection of a great university in Ireland, in which cheap education will be afforded on a system of secular instruction, in which also professors of all denominations will be eligible, and where degrees of all kinds will be conferred.

We have learned from a quarter likely to be well informed, that Sir Robert Peel meditates a decided legislative measure in regard to the system of tenure of land in Ireland. The exact nature of this project has not yet transpired; and certainly it must be admitted the question is one beset with difficulties. But that some change is meditated, the communication made to us places beyond doubt.—*Dublin Evening Post*.

The Rev. Rowland Hill was taken suddenly in the shop of a Mr. Borrow at Windermere on the 14th November, and was great difficulty carried into an adjoining room, where he expired about half an hour afterwards, in the presence of two medical gentlemen. The verdict of a coroner's inquest was "that the deceased died from some inward fit."

The anxiously looked for Brevet will take place in Jan. 1845.—*London Paper* Nov. 18.

The *Morning Post* announces the probable remodelling of the Ministry. The First Lord of the Admiralty, the Earl of Hadington, the President of the Board of Control, the Earl of Ripon, and the Postmaster General, the Earl of Westmoreland, have expressed their desire to retire from their high offices. Lord Stanley, it is rumoured, is likely to succeed Earl Ripon, and Mr. Gladstone to pass from the Presidency of the Board of Trade to the Colonies. The Earl of Dalhousie, Vice President of Controul, to be President; and Mr. Caldwell, member for Clitheroe, to fill up the vacancy. Lord

Ellenborough to be First Lord of the Admiralty.

The *Examiner* says the celebrated Mr. Newman has fairly embraced Popery, notwithstanding Mr. Gladstone's exhortation to him and others of the same opinions, to keep his place in one church and his faith in another, and having made his election of Rome, "the question is whether more than half Oxford will not follow their leader."

City Council.

MONDAY.

Alderman Maedermott presented a report from the water committee, on various applications from various portions of the City for water pipes to be laid on. The report was favourable, and further stated that all difficulty as to procuring money on loan was removed, as £6000 or more might be had at six per cent.

The report was received.

Alderman Wilshire presented a petition from certain inhabitants of Swan-street, praying that the City Surveyor might be instructed to give a level to the street.

A lengthy discussion took place upon a report from the District Surveyor, enclosing a letter from the City Solicitor, recommending proceedings to be instituted against Charles Morris, for erecting a fence across Bourke street, in the city of Sydney, as for a nuisance. The decision of the Council was, "that the fence was an obstruction, and that the District Surveyor should be directed to instruct the City Solicitor to proceed as directed by the 82nd clause of the Incorporation Act."

On the motion of Mr. Fisher, the assessment lists was ordered to be immediately advertised by the Town Clerk, in order that the citizens might appeal if dissatisfied.

Domestic Intelligence.

ILLICIT DISTILLATION.—On Monday afternoon, Mr. D'Arcy, inspector of distilleries, having received information that a small cask of rum had been placed on the car which runs between Newtown and Sydney, with directions that it should be delivered to Mr. Hilson, Cottage of Content, Pitt-street, proceeded to that house, where he arrived just as the cask was delivered, which he seized on suspicion that it had been illicitly distilled. Mr. Hilson denied all knowledge of the transaction, stating that he was merely giving it house-room for a person named Shepherd, who had placed it on the car.

CHESS CLUB.—A Chess Club has just been formed in Sydney, the members of which meet at Mrs. Butler's on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Captain Moriarty, the port master, is president; Mr. R. Windeyer, M.C., vice-president; and Colonial Surgeon Richardson, treasurer. The rules are founded on those of the St. George's Chess Club.

ONE OF THE FAIR SEX.—At the breakfast given at Port Phillip to Dr Lang, Mr. Mortimer was appointed by the ladies, who had subscribed for a new surplice for the Doctor, to present the same to him; Mr. Mortimer prefaced his speech by stating that he was deputed by some of "fairest of his sex" to present, &c.—*Standard*.

IMPORTATION OF MINERALS FROM SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.—Two parcels of lead ore and maganese ore have been received here from the above colony. The former assayed well, and sold at £9 per ton. For the latter, which is of fair quality, £6 per ton is demanded.—*Liverpool Courier*,

THE QUEANBEYAN MAIL ROBBERY.—On Tuesday William Thompson, publican, Liverpool, was brought before the Sydney police court, charged with being an accessory to the passing of some cheques, which had been stolen from the Queanbeyan Mail when it was robbed about three weeks ago. The prisoner having asserted that he could find the person who passed the cheques to him, he was allowed bail for six weeks, himself in £80, and two sureties in £40 each.

THE LATE SUICIDE.—The inquiry into the circumstances attendant on the death of the late Edward Mahoney, of York-street, terminated on Monday, and the result was that the unfortunate widow was discharged, there being no evidence to warrant a committal.

COLONIAL SCULPTURE.—MR. ABRAHAM. We are gratified to find that the talents of our colonial sculptor, Mr. Abraham, are beginning to be appreciated by some of the leading men of the city. Since we had the pleasure of visiting the Royal Hotel to examine a few specimens of Mr. Abraham's sculpture not many weeks have elapsed, but during this brief period the sculptor has given us tangible proof of his industry and success, in the variety of busts which now crowd his studio in different stages of completion. The busts exhibited at the Royal Hotel consisted of those of Charles Windeyer, Esq.; Dr. Nicholson; D. O'Connell, Esq.; and a daughter of Sir Thomas Mitchell. In addition to these, Mr. Abraham can now exhibit to his visitors an array of well-known faces modelled in clay, among which will be found those of His Excellency the Governor: the lady of the Honorable E. Deas Thomson, Colonial Secretary; Mr. Justice a'Beckett; Robert Lowe, Esq., Barrister-at-law, Dr. Bennett, and Mr. Chambers. The likenesses in all are excellent, and it would be difficult to say which is the best. Sir George Gipps is modelled in his official dress, Mrs. Thomson in modern drapery, and the rest with the usual folds of fanciful drapery, thrown around their shoulders, having their throats exposed. But Mr. Abraham has not only been happy in his likenesses, he is equally happy in the boldness and freedom of his handling. The marked and striking features of His Excellency are portrayed with astonishing power—and even the difficult task of moulding Mr. Lowe's face from the peculiarity of his all but shut eye-lids, has been ably mastered the bust in fact looks like a cast of a Greek statue. We would advise all lovers of the arts to pay a visit to Mr. Abraham's studio, corner of Elizabeth and Market-streets, where we can assure them of a warm reception, and the pleasure of an introduction to some of the magnates of the land. With the exception of those exhibited at the Royal Hotel, the busts are all in clay; and, as we think they have a better effect at this stage of their progress than when cast in plaster of Paris, we can only say to those who may wish to judge for themselves—make your visits as early as possible.—*Herald*.

*Outlines of Geography by J. H. RUCKER,
Sydney, Trood, 1845.*

This little school manual is carefully compiled and neatly printed, and ought to be acceptable to the "youth of Australia," for whom it is designed. The meagre and often incorrect descriptions of Australia which are to be met in most geographies required, (at least for the use of the schools of this country), that a work of the kind before us should be published. Mr. Rucker has supplied the desideratum, and, upon the whole, we think he has done it well. It may be, indeed, that he has somewhat overdone it, and that the comparatively large space occupied by "Australasia" will give the child a proportionate, and therefore incorrect notion of the importance of this division of the globe. We do not mean that too much is said of this country, but that somewhat too little is said of the others. This inconvenience may, however, be obviated by the judicious teacher, and the section alluded to is valuable as supplying information interesting to Australians, and not to be met with in similar abridgements.

SINGULAR NARRATIVE.—Three men have arrived in the *Britomart*, who have performed a long and involuntary voyage. Their adventures have all the interest attaching itself to perils and dangers of the sea, and include, besides, an account of recent Admiralty works upon our northern coast, which will be news to our readers. The story of these poor fellows is taken from their own mouths, and will need no embellishment from ourselves. Their names are James Doherty, James Davison, and Alexander Rains—all working men. They left Port Macquarie, in New South Wales, (about three hundred miles north of Sydney), in a hatchboat, of fourteen tons burden, on the 11th of July last, at eight o'clock in the morning, for Camden Haven, (a distance of only a few miles), to fetch a load of green wattle bark for Mr. Daniel M'Ginness, tanner, of Port Macquarie, and reached the mouth of the haven in the evening; but a squall springing up from the Westward drove them out to sea. Neither of them understood the mangement of a boat, nor were they properly supplied with sails, having only an old tarpaulin, which little answered the purpose. In the morning they had drifted a hundred miles to the southward, and could clearly see Port Stephens, at a distance of about ten miles. The westerly gale again rising, drove them out of sight of land in about two hours. They had neither watch nor compass, but having a general idea that they should make for the west, determined to steer for the noon-day sun—the position of which they supposed to mark that point. We need hardly say that this unlucky blunder led them due north. They had but little provision on board, not having anticipated a long absence, and for the first three days their alarm and anxiety was such they eat nothing subsisting only on a half-pint of brandy; on the fourth and fifth days, they had each a half-pint of tea and a mouthful of bread; but the tinder from which they had obtained a fire becoming accidentally damp, they were not, afterwards able to boil water. They then subsisted on uncooked flour and water, but

on the tenth day, the supply running very short—in fact, being almost exhausted (they had only one bottle of water), they lived each upon two ounces of flour daily, which they mixed with salt water and a little sugar, using the single bottle of fresh water only to moisten their lips once a day. The weather was for the most part stormy; but though rain fell on every side, not one drop gladdened the devoted boat. They still plied the oar, and endeavoured to urge forward their little craft by sails made of their blankets, which were all from time to time blown away. Thus, monotonously, passed twenty one days of anxiety, and of semi-starvation, and, strange to say, without the least dissention, but not without alarming dangers. The man Rains twice fell overboard, and on one occasion was only saved by his companions catching at him as he rose in the water by the boat's side. The accident was occasioned by a wave striking the boat suddenly during a violent storm. At ten o'clock on the 21st day, they were taken up by the *Governor* of London, Captain Williamson, carrying cedar from Sydney, for the Cape. They had been signalling her for three hours. So little did they know their position, which was nearly opposite Moreton Bay, three or four hundred miles to the north of Port Macquarie, that they had taken the *Governor* for the *Mary Ann* a vessel which had left for Sydney on the same day as themselves. The Captain and his crew treated them with the kindness they so much needed. They were in a miserable state, even as regarded clothing, having had but one change with them.—*South Australian Register.*

MURDER.—On Tuesday, last week, three men, attached to the Newcastle stockade iron gang, named James Fitzpatrick, Michael Milligan, and John Fitzgerald, were brought before the police court charged with stabbing a fellow convict, named Peter M'Cormick, on the Sunday evening previous. It appeared that M'Cormick had on Saturday made complaints to the sergeant of the stockade respecting the conduct of Fitzgerald and Fitzpatrick, and that on Sunday Fitzpatrick was seen to receive a knife from Milligan, and heard to say "that he would have satisfaction out of that villain M'Cormick." Milligan also exclaiming that "If M'Cormick had said such a thing of him he would have his b—— life." On Sunday evening, after all the men had retired to rest in the prison, Fitzgerald was seen by a man named Crook to enter the sleeping birth of the unfortunate M'Cormick, and stab him repeatedly, saying, "You villain, I'll teach you to take away my character." M'Cormick called out "murder" several times, till the noise brought in Sergeant Wilson and the guard, who found M'Cormick lying on the ground weltering in his blood, having received no less than five wounds about the breast, besides others in the body. In M'Cormick's berth was found a small knife, wet with blood. The guard took the three prisoners to the watch-house, and removed M'Cormick to the hospital, when in a short time Major Last took his deposition, it being feared he was dying. The unfortunate man lived, however, till last night, when we regret to hear he died. It is said he identified Fitzgerald as one of the men who stabbed him. Fitzpatrick and Milligan denied having anything to do with

the stabbing, though Fitzpatrick admitted having struck him with a piece of pipe-clay. Fitzgerald also denied any participation, and gave a circumstantial account of Milligan's having done so. The three prisoners were committed to take their trial.—*Maitland Mercury.*

SYDNEY MARKETS, THURSDAY.—*Wheat:* The demand continues brisk at from 2s. 9d. to 3s. Thirty-four loads paid dues at the market since Monday. At the Corn Market the prices of wheat ranged from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 1d. per bushel; the average price has been 2s. 10d. per bushel.—*Flour:* The usual business has been done at the mills, and fine flour may be quoted at £8 per ton cash.—*Bread:* The 2 lb. loaf of good quality is still retailing at 2½d., but inferior bread may be had at 2d.—*Maize* is still on the decline, some being sold as low as 1s. 6d. per bushel. A sample of very superior maize is going off in small quantities at 2s. per bushel.—*Oats* and *Barley* remain as last reported.—Since last report sixty-four loads of hay have paid dues, the quality, although still inferior, is better than that delivered for months past. The prices have been from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per cwt.; the average price has been about 3s. per cwt. Ten loads of straw have been sold at from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt., the general price has been about 1s. 4d. per cwt. Sixteen loads of grass have paid dues, and realised from 6d. to 9d. per dozen, the general price is 7½d. per dozen per load. Horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, remain as last reported in regard to price. In consequence of the continued drought there is a difficulty in obtaining good vegetables in any large quantity; another cause of this scarcity is, that the early portion of the season was peculiarly favourable to the growth of vegetables, and caused a great quantity of them to come to maturity at such an early portion of the season, as to leave but few for a supply towards the close. The market gardeners consider that, under these circumstances, they will be in a situation during the ensuing week to make a considerable advance on their present prices. There is a large supply of good colonial potatoes in the market, which are selling to the dealers at from 40s. to 50s. per ton. Seventy loads of fruit have paid dues; the wholesale prices are—peaches, from 10d. to 2s. per basket; apples, from 4d. to 1s. per dozen; pears, from 2d. to 8d. per dozen; quinces, 3d. to 8d. per dozen. Two large cases of the finest grapes ever offered for sale in the market were received yesterday from Camden, grown by Mr. Macarthur; they were retailing at 6d. per lb.; other sorts are from 6d. downwards to a 1d. There is good demand for every description of dairy produce; two tons butter have been sold at from 8d. to 10d. per lb.; and about half a ton of very inferior cheese was readily bought up at 3½d. per pound. Although five loads of poultry have paid dues, the demand is still barely supplied, the prices remain as last quoted, but a rise is expected. Butchers' meat of every description is plentiful, but the prices remain unchanged. There is no cedar worth mentioning in the market, the prices of it and of every description of building materials are on the advance; the cutters of hardwood are now receiving 6s. 3d. per 100 feet, on delivery in Sydney. All other articles remain as last reported.—*Herald.*