

# The Weekly Register

OF POLITICS, FACTS, AND GENERAL LITERATURE.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

VOL. IV.

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No. 92.

## 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 NEW GRIEVANCE.

SOME weeks ago we adverted to the somewhat singular, though easily to be accounted for, circumstance, that the landholders of the colony, whose interest it must be to maintain the value of property, were yet to be found, for the most part, ranged on the side of the squatter faction, whose measures tend to render all existing freeholds valueless. In this part of the colony the infatuation still continues; or, if people are gradually opening their eyes to the real state of the case, there has been hitherto no public demonstration of the fact. The settlers in the Port Phillip district are wiser in their generation. The evil, fortunately for them, has been brought more closely to their doors, and they have not been slow to detect and expose it.

In our last publication we noticed the representation made to the Governor, by a gentleman from Melbourne, that in the Port Phillip district squatting extends to the very boundaries of the town, and that the squatters in such localities, holding precisely the same description of land as the landowners, and at the same distance from the market, for only ten pounds per annum, are enabled to undersell their less fortunate neighbours, whose farms have cost them, in many instances, as high as twenty-three or twenty-four pounds per acre. This representation is fully confirmed by a notice which appears in a recent number of the *Port Phillip Herald* of a station for sale, six miles from town, with a small lot of cattle, and "130 TONS of OATEN HAY, one stack of wheat, and three STACKS of STRAW," and by an article in the *Patriot* of the day following, from which the following is an extract:—

"We have heard strange accounts of runs bought and sold as high as £400; and yet the occupier, though asking such a price for his mere ticket of occupation, cannot agree to pay £10 a year. Again we hear of very extensive runs, upon which only a few cows and some teams of working bullocks are kept, but that large quantities of hay, potatoes, and wheat are grown thereon, close to water carriage, at Western Port; and that

the produce of the £10 a year squatting licenses is not sheep, cattle, wool, or fat, but hay, potatoes, barley, and wheat. Again we beg to draw public attention to the fact, that the squatters within the counties of Bourke and Grant grow large quantities of all sorts of farm produce, in addition to feeding their flocks and herds, to the ruin, not only of the farmer who has paid for his land, but to the ruin of the land and labour fund."

Facts innumerable of this description might be quoted with respect to squatting stations all over the colony. Many of the "oppressed squatters" who tell us they cannot afford to pay £10 a year for their stations, are not ashamed to let off small portions of their runs to sub-squatters, and to pocket £50, £80, or £100 in cash or produce, as rent for the same. Here again is another injury to the bona fide settler and landholder, and a robbery of the public purse. It would be a great mistake to suppose that this grievance is confined to the district of Port Phillip. It is quite prevalent in most other parts of the colony; and if it does not excite so much observation here, this arises from the circumstance that the crown lands in this district are at a greater distance from the towns, and do not therefore come into such immediate contact with the actual land and leaseholders.

The fact being established that such an unequal competition exists, it would be an insult to the understanding of our readers to waste a line in proving the reality of the grievance of which the Port Phillip settlers complain. It is too obvious to be doubted or denied. Nor is the injustice confined in its operation to the immediate sufferers from such unequal competition. The public are the principal sufferers. The person who advertised the station in the *Herald* was guilty of a public fraud. He sold or offered for sale that which was not his. In like manner the party who, according to the *Patriot*, received £400 for his run, pocketed £400 of the public money. The land was not his; the purchase money therefore could not be his. It belonged of right to the public funds, and, virtually, the public must be taxed to make it good. Nor is it here that the mischief ends; for as the *Patriot* justly observes—"Let us ask this one plain question of any dispassionate man—who will buy land of the crown, even at 2s. 6d. per acre, whilst they can choose out 12,800 acres of land, cultivate whatever

quantity they please, and not pay one sou for the use of such land; the only money paid being well covered by the grass fed off by the sheep and turned into wool—the true Alchemy which changes the grass of the field to gold?" The answer must be plain—nobody will buy land at any price if they can obtain it in large quantities for nothing, or next to nothing, with the prospect of a "freehold and inheritance;" and it may be that this has more to do with the present state of the land fund than even Lord Stanley's one pound an acre Act, which has been so liberally assailed.

Here then is a "grievance," or rather a whole series of "grievances connected with the crown lands," but which escaped the observation of the famous Land Grievance Committee. Not even the Port Phillip members, who were ready enough to pledge themselves to "separation," or any thing else to oblige their constituents—not even the member for Melbourne himself thought of having this grievance embodied in the report. Imaginary grievances were then the order of the day. Real grievances were so few in number that those really existing, even this conspicuous one, escaped notice. It is, however, not the less real, and it is one which, from its very nature, calls loudly, and must incessantly call, for a remedy, until such is provided.

In this, however, as in all things belonging to the Australian land question, it is easier to discover the evil than to point out a remedy. It would be neither wise nor politic to prohibit the squatters from cultivating a portion of their runs. On the contrary, it would be desirable to see a greater proportion of the capital and industry of the colony gradually turned into this channel. Nor should we propose to grant the advantage of an agricultural monopoly to the suburban settlers of Melbourne and Geelong. This would be to choose the greater of two evils. What then should be done to protect the settler from an unfair competition and the public funds from the loss occasioned by this species of smuggling? Two ways occur to us by which this protection might be afforded—either by an assessment upon the produce raised on crown lands, similar to that levied upon live stock; or by a distinct rent upon such crown lands as are used for agricultural purposes. We fear that neither of these amendments would be popular with the "freehold and inherit-

ance" gentlemen, but it is quite obvious that some such arrangement is required, in justice both to the purchaser of land and the public; for no one can fail to perceive that, if squatters, paying only a nominal rent, are allowed to use, let, or sell portions of their runs for agricultural purposes, the land purchasers will be driven out of the field, and a stop will be put to all other land sales whatever.

The transfer of stations, by sale or otherwise, is also most injurious to the public, and should be prohibited in the strictest manner; and all such transactions nullified.

### COLONIAL PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

A GLASGOW paper states that "A proposal will be made in the next session of parliament to consider the propriety of adding a representation of the colonies to the Imperial Parliament."

We do not learn who is the author of this scheme, or what are its details, but we cannot help suspecting that there will be found more of Utopianism than of sound policy in it. For example, suppose that this colony had a representative in parliament, he must be some gentleman living in England—some Francis Scott—who knows nothing about us but what interested parties here may inform him; or he must be some colonist—some Archibald Boyd—who has deep interests of his own (mayhap a freehold "to me and to my heirs for ever") to prosecute.

Again, who are to be the electors? The Legislative Council?—An admirable constituency this truly! Or, the body of the colonists? In the return of members to the Legislative and District Councils they have quite as much electioneering as they have time or inclination to attend to; and much more than they have yet shewn an inclination to perform well.

It would be premature to say more on the subject at present. We shall, however, watch the progress of this scheme, and do justice to its details when they are duly promulgated.

### SONNETS DEDICATED TO SENATORS.

#### NO. XV.

"The devil is in that moon for mischief."

BYRON.

The spirit of the moon, as to and fro  
She paced upon a mountain in her planet,  
(Which, though it seems from hence as you could  
span it,

Is there no pimple,) looked at length below,  
And listening, to her mooncalves said—"Even so:  
I felt conaturally, that you din meant  
Some Lunar triumph! Botany Bay's St. Vincent  
Is saddled with our earthly Euphuist, Lowe!"  
Wherefore, ye Statesmen of the Squatting Stations  
Be joyful! but, as doubtless he will soon shine'  
I warn ye, on those luminous occasions,

To take your dinners with ye, if you'd soon dine!—  
Now shall your cause be mantled in orations  
Brocaded with the very best of Moonshine!

NO "MINION OF THE MOON."

### SUPREME COURT.—(CIVIL SIDE.)

THURSDAY.

(Before their Honors the three Judges, in Banco.)

*The Bank of Australasia v. Thomas Chaplin Breillat, Chairman of the Bank of Australasia.*

The Solicitor General moved for and obtained a rule nisi returnable on Tuesday next, calling upon the defendant to show cause why the above-named case should not be tried at bar.

### SONNET,

ON THE POLITICAL AND MORAL CONDITION OF AUSTRALIA IN 1845.

Dedicated to his Excellency Sir George Gipps, in testimony of the writer's belief in his having endeavoured throughout his administration, by wise and decided measures, to prevent (politically and morally) those evil influences which have tended in the greatest degree to produce that state of things which is deplored in the poem.

My country! I am sore at heart for thee!  
And in mine ear, like a storm-heralding breeze,  
A voice against thee gathers warningly!  
Lo, in what hands seem now thy destinies!  
Hands grasping all, through party means, to seize  
Some private benefit: and what should be  
Thy Freedom's dawn, but gives ascendancy  
To lawless Squatters, and the Hacks of these!  
Woe waits a land, where men are wise or brave  
For naught but self! Where even the best aside  
Are thrusting honesty to don the knave!  
Where worth is trampled on by vulgar pride!  
And where all beauty of the mind, decried,  
Hangs dying o'er a Mammon-delved grave.

CHARLES HARPUR.

### Parramatta District Council.

WEDNESDAY.

The Warden stated that, since the Council last met, he had received a communication from the Colonial Secretary, the purport of which was, that by the Council's account of their receipts and disbursements during the past year, while it happened that the whole of their revenue had arisen from tolls received in the district, much of it seemed to have been expended on objects but slightly connected with the maintenance of the roads; and called notice to a letter from the Council, in which it had been stipulated, that they would only disburse the sums so raised from the tolls for the purpose alluded to; that his Excellency, in entering into an agreement with the Council to hand over these to that body, gave no authority for their being otherwise devoted; and that the agreement entered into between the Council and the Government was only for the year 1844. Under such circumstances, his Excellency regretted he could not authorise the further handing over of the tolls to the Corporation, until an assurance had been given that the amount spent on other objects than the roads was to be refunded, and that in future it should be solely applied to them.

To this letter it seemed a reply had been made by the Council, respectfully submitting that they were unaware of having misappropriated their revenue, and an answer to their letter was also read, by which it appeared that the payments considered by his Excellency as improper to be charged against the tolls, were the salary of the Secretary and Treasurer, the rent of Council Chamber and furniture, and that the charges for stationery, advertising, law expenses, and sundries, were questionable ones; although he was willing to admit that some portion of them might have been incurred in respect of the roads.

On the Council going into Committee to consider these letters, the members were unanimously of opinion that explanations could be offered on the whole of these points which would satisfactorily convince the Governor that no unnecessary expenses had been incurred; and it was finally agreed that the Warden should be requested to address his Excellency, giving explanation of the items objected to by him. After which, the Council adjourned till Monday, by which time it was expected an answer would be received from the Colonial Secretary.

### SYDNEY COLLEGE.

MR. BRAIM, the head master of this institution, having obtained leave of absence for the purpose of visiting England, the students presented him, on Tuesday last, with a farewell address, together with a piece of plate bearing this inscription:—

"VIRO

DOCTISSIMO ET DILECTISSIMO

Thomæ Henrico Braim, Armigero,  
Collegii Sydneiensis Archididascalo,  
In Angliam redituro,  
Studentes ejus Collegii  
Flentes et Sperantes  
Die Aprilis vigesimo dedere secundo  
ANNO MDCCCXLV."

The duties of Head Master will be performed during Mr. Braim's absence by Mr. J. B. Laughton.

### Domestic Intelligence.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—The *Government Gazette* of yesterday contains a proclamation by his Excellency the Governor, proroguing the Legislative Council to Tuesday, the tenth day of June.

APPOINTMENT.—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Edward Brown Addis, Esquire, to be the Commissioner of the Court of Requests to be held at the Town of Geelong, for the county of Grant, under the provisions of the Act of the Governor and Council, 6 Victoria, No. 15. Also the undermentioned gentlemen of the district of Port Phillip to be magistrates of the territory and its dependencies, viz.:—Thomas Baynton, of Darlington, Mount Macedon; Donald Cameron, of Deep Creek, Loddon River; David Norman Innes, of Goulburn River; Alexander McCallum, of Mount Greenock; Robert Thomson, of Clyde Bank, Gipps Land; and Evelyn Pitfield Shirley Sturt, of Mount Gambier; Esquires.

BY-LAWS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.—Mr. James Holt, a member of the City Council for Brisbane Ward, appeared at the Police Court, on Thursday, before Mr. Windeyer, by his attorney, Mr. Owen, of the firm of Carr, Rogers, and Owen, to answer an information brought against him in the name of the Town Clerk, for certain breaches of the 25th clause of the by-laws of that body, by absenting himself on several occasions from two consecutive meetings of the Council without having obtained leave of absence from the Mayor or the Council, and for which absence he became liable, in terms of the said by-law, to a penalty of half a guinea for each time he was absent without such permission as aforesaid. Mr. Nichols appeared for the Town Clerk; the case was gone into at some length, when the facts charged were proved, and the defendant was ordered to pay a fine of 10s. 6d., with 3s. 6d. costs, to the City Treasurer, for the benefit of the citizens, or in the event of distress being insufficient, to be confined in Sydney Gaol for three days.

THE MILITARY.—Whatever may be the state of the military discipline of the troops at present quartered in Sydney, there appears to be much improvement required in their civil deportment. On Thursday evening, as a young man was walking on Church-hill, he observed a soldier attempting to rob a drunken person whom he had laid prostrate. Our informant rescued the victim, when the soldier

raised a whistle and was immediately surrounded by a number of his companions, from whom the young man thought it prudent to flee. We are ashamed to write thus of men wearing her Majesty's uniform, and we trust Colonel Despard will take measures to put a stop to such conduct in those under his charge.

**RESPIRE.**—The man Hogan, who was sentenced to death at the recent assizes at Bathurst, for murder, has been respited.

**NEW INSOLVENTS.**—Richard Crampton, of George-street, Sydney, licensed victualler: debts, £191 8s. 8d.; assets, personal property, £18; balance deficiency, £178 8s. 8d. John Walker, official assignee. John Stone, of Cliveland-street, Chippendale, Sydney, writing clerk: debts, £66 13s. 6d.; assets, personal property, £10; bad and doubtful debts, £90; balance deficiency, £56 13s. 6d.; John Morris, official assignee. Thomas Liley, of Phillip-street, Sydney, lithographer: debts, £22 16s. 8d.; assets, good debts, £8 19s. 3d.; bad and doubtful debts, £23 16s.; balance deficiency, £13 17s. 5d.; Edward Knox, official assignee. Thomas Orr, of the parish of Picton, cattle dealer: debts, £138 19s. 11d.; assets, personal property, £11 5s. 6d.; outstanding debts, £56 10s. 6d.; bad and doubtful debts, £200; balance deficiency, £71 3s. 11d. John Walker, official assignee. Thomas Crouch, of Exeter-place, Sydney, plasterer: debts £22 18s. 11½d.; assets, personal property, £2 10s.; bad debts, £9; balance deficiency, £20 8s. 11½d. Hutchinson Bell, official assignee. George James Kent, of 373, Pitt-street, Sydney, board and lodging-house keeper: debts, £117 11s. 11d.; assets, personal property, £17; bad debts, £43 12s.; balance deficiency, £100 16s. 11d. Clark Irving, official assignee. Thomas Barnes, late of the Honeysuckle Flat, district of Bathurst, late a victualler and now a grazier: debts, £339 8s.; assets, landed property, £200; personal property, £26 10s.; balance deficiency £112 18s. Edward Knox, official assignee.

**DRIVING CATTLE IN THE STREETS.**—We believe there is law in force to prevent the driving of wild cattle in the streets in the day time. If so it would seem to be a dead letter, as we have recently observed, particularly in Parramatta-street, much furious driving of this kind, not unattended with danger. The prevalent complaint against slaughtering-houses in the city may, or may not, be well founded, but if living cattle must be brought into town, it should only be at hours when the citizens are for the most part safe within their dwellings. A few good fines would be attended with effect in this case.

**MORE STILLS.**—On Wednesday Messrs. Watson and Livingstone discovered a still, with a few gallons of weak spirits and five or six washtanks, in a cave under the kitchen of a house in Jamison-street, which was entered by two concealed doors from separate apartments. On the same afternoon, Captain Innes and Mr. Darcy, Inspectors of Distilleries, proceeded to O'Connelltown, on the Newtown Road, where they effected the seizure of a twenty-five gallon still, in full operation, together with two large casks, containing eighty gallons of wash, ready to be run off. The seizure was made on the premises occupied by a man named Henry Humphreys and another man, who were busily employed working the still when the officers entered.

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.**—Yesterday, about a quarter-past two o'clock, William Donaldson, one of the stonemasons employed in the erection of the new Congregational Church, Pitt-street, was raised to the top of the shears for the purpose of securing the block; soon after he had reached the block, he was observed attempting to get his feet into some part of the apparatus to rest on, and in a few minutes after he lost his hold, and fell with a dreadful crash to the ground. He was so severely injured that he died while they were conveying him to the hospital. It is supposed that the deceased, although accustomed to work at great heights, had become giddy, and so lost his hold. The deceased was about twenty-two years of age, and had been married only six months.

### Original Correspondence.

To the Editor of the "Weekly Register."

#### THUNDERSTORMS.

SIR—In the *Register* of April 5th, a letter signed G. N. contains some sensible remarks on "thunder storms," and solicits also further information on the subject. Although I may not be in the class of persons designated by G. N. as able correspondents, permit me notwithstanding to contribute my mite towards additional illustration of this common enough but unsolved occurrence, that electric storms on this east coast of Australia and parallel of 32° to 35° (perhaps much further) proceed uniformly from the westward.

There can be no doubt that tides exist in the air, as they are well known to be formed in the waters of the sea. The analogy is most apparent at the equinoxes and solstetia. So few observations have been made on this head that no theory possessing verisimilitude can be founded on them to account for the facts. But an observer of several years experience must have remarked that in the basin of the Hunter, more especially in the upper and middle divisions, the sea breeze seldom springs up (unless the wind has been easterly for some time) until the middle of the afternoon. During clear weather the air becomes perhaps more heated on the coast and lower localities than in further westward and more elevated regions. At any rate, about ten or eleven a. m., a breeze springs up from the west, and frequently increases in strength until the afternoon, when the sea breeze begins to be felt in turn. This westwardly current then arises from the cooler or more dense air of the interior rolling eastward, where the air is more rarified and of course lighter. When the sun has passed the meridian the atmosphere becomes more cool coastwise and warmer westward, the order is then reversed, and the sea breeze is felt at least from fifty to seventy miles directly inland.

There is, however, another agent in atmospheric changes still more powerful in its operations. It is electricity—a power which prevades all nature—a single step will not be taken in philosophy, chemistry, or meteorology, without perceiving the operation of this mighty agent. Dryness is favourable to its formation, and animals, vegetables of every variety, give it off in abundance to the air. Evaporation also produces it. The fact is well established that there are magnetic currents in the air, and an opinion may be ven-

tured, that there are electric currents also. When vapours then have accumulated in the air, these vapours in course form a cloud or clouds, and as air is a worse conductor of electricity than water, the cloud becomes charged as lightning would charge semi-conductors, and an accumulation takes place from a continuation of the same causes. This accumulation is borne away on the wings of the breeze until it comes within reach of a better conductor, such as the conical peak of a mountain. The charged electric cloud discharges part of its electricity, and the nitrogen of the air is thereby disengaged. If the oxygen and hydrogen are in such proportions as to form water, they unite, the temperature falls, vapours are condensed, and rain follows. Now thunder storms seldom commence before mid-day; the prevalent breeze then is from the westward; the storm is borne eastward, gathering additional force in proportion to the strength of the wind at the time, and the diminution of temperature from sudden condensation of the gases into water, &c. This diminution alone must amount to 6° at least. The roar of the tempest in the bush even sounds above the loud thunder, and its direction is generally guided by the mountain ranges and the electric state of the clouds and earth. Although these mountain peaks turn aside the direct course of the clouds, a few degrees on either hand from the true west and east, the theory holds nevertheless true on the whole; nor can I recollect any deviation but twice only. The first was a storm eighteen months ago. It proceeded, as usual, until it met in the evening a strong sea breeze, which diverted its course backwards at an angle of 40° and sent the clouds in a northerly direction. The other happened about eight weeks since; the clouds passed from the west, accumulated on the eastern horizon, just about the setting in of the sea breeze, when usually felt in this quarter: as the condensation happened in that direction, and the wind was blowing from the same point, consequently this circumstance is an exception to the general rule. Such variations may occasionally happen.

Whether the interior, as has been supposed by some, abounds in swamps or lakes from whence evaporations may proceed with rapidity and the temperature in consequence be kept low, and from whence the clouds and current of westerly wind set in, is a problem as yet unsolved? There is at least probability in the hypothesis, as the island is said to be inclining to the inland quarter, inferred perhaps from the peculiarity that most of the rivers known run (when there is water) in that direction. At any rate a chain of observations made at a variety of places, and a good deal more interchange of communication between those who take the trouble, would tend to throw additional light on this and many other matters connected with Australian meteorology.

R. RUS.

Singleton, April 14.

#### THE SQUATTERS V. THE PEOPLE.

To the Editor of the "Weekly Register."

SIR—I perceive that at last there is likely to be a reaction in regard to the great squatting humbug. Parties now appear to think that the squatters have a great advantage over the purchasers of crown land, and also over those who have to pay quit rent on old grants.

Referring to Mr. Alderman Kerr's interview with his Excellency the Governor, I would ask, how is it possible for the purchasers of land to compete with those who occupy an unlimited extent of land for £10 per annum? I could name a hundred instances where the squatters in the Maneroo and Lachlan districts occupy from one square mile to three hundred. Those who have only one mile pay the same amount for a license as those who have three hundred square miles. It may be said the three hundred mile squatter pays the assessment on a large number of stock, say 10,000 sheep and 2,000 head of horned cattle, but does not the squatter with one mile pay his assessment also for the few head he holds, and regret that he has not more to pay for? Mr. Kerr says the squatter cultivates up to the settler at Port Phillip. This applies to all the purchased land in the colony, which has been purchased at from 5s. to 20s. per acre. A few calculations will throw some light on this important subject. One square mile at 5s. per acre will cost £160, the interest at 8 per cent will be £12 16s.; the cost on twenty square miles at 5s. per acre is £3200, the interest on which at 8 per cent will be £256 (I adopt what I believe to be the current rate of interest in the colony). I now call the attention of the reader to the amount a squatter will have to pay, agreeably to the new regulations, for twenty square miles: first, the license £10, assessment on 4000 sheep, at 3d. per head, £8 6s. 8d., total £18 6s. 8d., leaving a balance against the unfortunate purchaser of £237 13s. 4d. Now I would ask the honest few, nay, I would ask the dishonest squatters themselves, to come forward and look at the above, and say is it just to allow the squatter an advantage of £237 13s. 4d. per annum over the purchaser of crown land? I would again ask the squatoracy, or the leader of them, Mr. W. C. Wentworth, why he has not endeavoured to get up a public meeting for the purpose of petitioning the Queen for the recall of Sir George Gipps, for allowing a section of the people to monopolize the whole of the land within six hundred miles of Sydney by only paying £10 a year; which land is the property of the Queen and the people? Mr. Wentworth, in his speech at the Royal Hotel, says "the lands of the colony are placed in the hands of the Governor, as the trustee of the people, and for their benefit." If so, I draw the conclusion that the Governor has been guilty of a dereliction of duty in allowing the squatoracy to hold an unlimited extent of land by paying only ten pounds per annum; and I have no doubt if Mr. W. had a little less of the lands belonging to the public, which he at present holds, under license, and a great deal more political honesty, he would have been the first to have moved that a stop might be put to this malappropriation of the people's property; but Sir George has at last seen the injustice he has been guilty of; he is at last aroused to a sense of the duty he owes to his Sovereign and the people; he has come boldly forward to discharge that trust placed in his hands for the benefit of all her Majesty's subjects; and he will not longer allow any section or faction to hold all the land in the colony, to the injury of the great mass of the people, but more particularly of the rising generation. I am sure Mr. W. and his colleagues of Church Hill, and particularly the *General Hewitt* orator of twelve months ago in praise

of Sir George and his government, will now say that he ought to have a golden statue erected to his memory, but should those land sharks think otherwise, I am sure there are still left in my native country those who will support Sir George, and call on him to be firm in this just and equitable measure. The rising generation will look on him as the savior of their country.

In conclusion, I call on my countrymen to come forward, and support the equitable principle of the Governor's new squatting regulation. If you feel disappointed that our would-be *Patriot* was foiled in his attempt to become *king of the Cannibal Islands*, you may give up your birthright and allow him to become one of the chiefs of our native soil, and you his *serfs*, for that is what we are doomed to be, and what we deserve to be, unless we are true to our country in resisting this faction. They want fixity of tenure—they ask "what security have we that the government will not take the land and our improvements?" In answer, I say they have no right to more than one year's lease (subject to such regulations as may be promulgated from time to time by the Governor for the benefit of the people), and a fair remuneration for any improvements they have made on the lands.

I will continue this important subject in a future number.

And remain yours, &c.,

AN AUSTRALIAN OF MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS' STANDING.

April 21, 1845.

#### THEATRICAL REGISTER.

A new drama entitled "A King against the Field, or the Royal Wager" was performed at the Victoria Theatre on Monday evening last, and was only saved from utter stagnation by the noisy character of some of the incidents and a kind of bustling variety—the only merit (if such it can be called) which the play possessed. What, indeed, can be expected from a comedy, if even in itself good (which was very far from being the case in the present instance), embracing some of the principal characters of the reign of the 2nd Charles, when the actor who personated the part of Lord Clarendon, the Lord High Chancellor of England, appears in a subsequent scene as a night constable, with a watchman's rattle in his hand? Mr. Griffiths looked and conceived well the character of the gay and gallant Duke of Buckingham, and Messdames Louise and Wallace were not uninteresting representatives of king's pages; but, alas, for the wit of Sedley and the poetic fervour of the worshipper of Sacharissa! In a word, it was a compound of rant and absurdity, against which we shall ever consider it our duty to wage an unceasing warfare. We are glad to perceive that Madame Carandini is gradually acquiring more self-confidence on the boards, and with the voice she possesses, when not *overstrained* (a fault which she is sometimes apt to fall into), will be a most welcome acquisition to the Victoria Theatre. The evening's performances concluded with the very amusing farce of "A Day in Paris," in which Madame Louise sustained her well merited reputation for vivacity and versatility, and Messrs. Griffiths and Simes by their excellent acting left little to desire.

The true end of comedy (or farce) is gained when such plays are performed—the people

go to the Theatre to be amused and they are not disappointed. Mr. Simes in his capacity of Manager has, we presume, the selection of the plays for performance; and, as we believe him to be a gentleman of taste, judgment, and discrimination, and as we *know* him to be a *good actor*, we entreat him to exercise these qualities for the benefit of the Theatre, the gratification of the public, and his own future reputation.

Another novelty was produced on Thursday last, namely, "Jacques Strop, or some Scenes in the Life of Robert Macaire"—Macaire being very well performed by Griffiths—the *chef d'œuvre*, however, being Jacques' Strop himself by Simes, who dressed, looked, and acted the character to perfection. There were some good hits between those two worthies, but as a whole it scarce afforded the interest which might have been anticipated from the nature of the production. Mrs. O'Flaherty who performed the part of the Heroine, was somewhat too vehement, a fault which this lady does not frequently fall into, but it is one "more honoured in the breach than the observance."

The laughable farce "Of Age Tomorrow, or Rival Barbers"—having noticed it in our last it is unnecessary to say more than it is an amusing farce.

#### Foreign Intelligence.

Hitherto a free passage to Algeria in government vessels has been refused to workmen. At present, in consequence of representations made on the subject, they are allowed to proceed to the colony free of expense, provided they bear a good character, and are not more than thirty-three years of age.

The *Cologne Gazette* states, that 48 lines of railroad have been proposed in Prussia, extending over a space of 641 German miles, since the 1st of the present month. The capital expended on the lines already opened amounts to 35,551,143 crowns. The roads in construction require a capital of 56,619,500 crowns. The roads projected will require a capital of 68,000,000 crowns.

The *Cologne Gazette* informs us that at Aix-la-Chapelle, in order to encourage depositors in the savings-banks, every person who deposits 20 crowns, is entitled to a premium of three crowns. The fund from which these premiums are given is derived chiefly from the payment of a crown by the parents of children who are sent to the Salles d'Asile, or Infant National Schools, where the education is gratis, after this entrance-fee has been paid.

The *Augsburg Gazette* states that so many arrests have been lately made at Warsaw that the city resembles a town in a state of siege.

M. Ampere, Member of the Institute, has left Paris for a scientific visit to Egypt. He intends principally to study the hieroglyphic language of the monuments.

The *German Gazette* states that a hair-dresser at Ulm has invented a machine with which he pretends to be able to fly from Ulm to Paris in three days.

A large model hospital, to be called the Hopital Louis Philippe, is about to be built by the municipality of Paris, near the station of the Northern Railroad, on the ground situated at the northern extremity of the rues du Faubourg, St. Denis, and St. Martin.