

# The Weekly Register

OF POLITICS, FACTS, AND GENERAL LITERATURE.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

VOL. V.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1845.

No. 116.

## 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.

### IMMIGRATION.

THE Report of the Immigration Committee has at length been printed; and the resolutions noticed in our last publication under this head have been discussed in the Council and adopted by a large majority. On the part of Mr. Lowe and Mr. Windeyer there was an effort made, whether in jest or earnest, to preserve consistency with the reports of last year; and Mr. Bland brought forward a new and enlarged edition of his speech against expending capital upon immigration. The debate was altogether a most interesting one, and although we cannot give our entire assent either to the resolutions adopted or to the report on which they are founded, the truth and merits of the case may certainly be gathered from the speeches of the different members who spoke on the occasion.

With respect to the first resolution, admitting that there may be anticipated some deficiency in the supply of labour, it does not follow either that the prosperity of the colony would be retarded, or even that an increase in the rate of wages would materially affect a healthful production of wool. An increase in the rate of wages might turn some of the more industrious servants into masters, and it might possibly turn some extravagant masters into servants, as in the instances at Port Phillip which excited so much commiseration in the philanthropic breast of Dr. Nicholson; but it does not follow that this would "retard the prosperity of the colony." On the contrary, it is notorious that some of the very wealthiest men now in the colony have arisen suddenly from the rank of servants, and even of bond slaves; and this transformation took place, we presume, when the colony was prosperous. Nor could such an increase retard for any length of time the healthful production of wool. We say *healthful*, in a political sense, because there can be no doubt that a very low rate of wages would enable flockmasters to extend their operations; but many other schemes would tend to this effect. A recurrence to the slave trade, if it were practicable with reference to this colony, would enhance the production of wool; the revival of transportation and assignment

would have the same effect; the introduction of coolies would act in the same way; but we denounce all these measures as tending to the formation of a state

"Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

We cordially agree, therefore, with Mr. Bland in opposing the creation of "*a public debt for private purposes*," such as this resolution suggests; with Mr. Windeyer in "*objecting to any legislative measure for regulating the rate of wages by forcing a supply of labour into the market*;" and with Mr. Lamb in thinking that "*it would be better to limit the production of the colony*" than resort to so impolitic a measure.

So far as the labour market is concerned we maintain that the Legislative Council ought to leave it free like every other market; in which case, when wages become *high*, emigrants will flock to our shores, and when wages become *low* they will leave them as they have done before. This, however, is not, as Mr. Bland thinks, an argument against employing a portion of the funds derived from the sale of crown lands, as was formerly done, in paying the passages of immigrants, because these funds were contributed by the buyers of land with the express understanding that, along with the soil, they bought the free passages of a given number of labourers of whom they might avail themselves to till it. While, therefore, we would strenuously oppose the creation of a public debt for private purposes (that is for importing a stock of "human machines," as Dr. Nicholson very appropriately termed them, for the benefit of the squatters), we must not be understood to oppose immigration at the public expense; for, on the contrary, we hold, in direct opposition to Mr. Bland and the committees of last year, that the best spent money that ever was disbursed from the treasury of New South Wales was the oft-regretted £1,000,000 expended on immigration.

We are not surprised that the Colonial Secretary "was not prepared to acquiesce in the number of labourers which they proposed to introduce" (12,500 annually). Even if we had legitimate funds wherewith to introduce them, one-half the number would, in our opinion, be the utmost that could reasonably expect to be profitably employed. And here we are bound to notice what we cannot help regarding as a disingenuous representation on the part of the framers of the Report, to

the effect that, at the present rate of wages in the colony, a farm labourer or shepherd receives, including the cost of rations, about £77 per annum. By adopting "the scale of provisions in England," the ration for a man and his family is put down at £62, besides £15 in money; and in addition to all this we are told "the farm labourer possesses a *cottage* rent free, the product of a *small garden*, if willing to employ himself in its cultivation, and for which ample time is afforded him, and where accompanied by a family, in most cases, with a gratuitous supply of milk."

We must say that such a representation as this is unworthy of any legislature. With respect to the "*cottage*," many of the employers themselves have no dwelling worthy of the name, and certainly *none* of their labourers, so far as we know, enjoy anything like that which the word *cottage* conveys to an Englishman, even of the lowest rank. A garden he may obtain, if he take the trouble to clear and fence a piece of ground for the purpose, but if "*fixity of tenure*" is necessary to bribe the master to make improvements, a precarious three months' or six months' agreement will hardly induce the labourer to sow where he may not reap. The fifteen pounds in money is usually converted into so many pounds weight of slops; and if these last were, like the rations, calculated at the English price, there would be little to say against the liberality of the sum, but in fairness to those whom it is intended to persuade by these representations to emigrate, it ought to have been noticed that the servant can usually obtain his wages only in goods at some 200 per cent. on the Sydney prices. And then, as to the £62 triple ration, it would have been right to state that men with wives and families can hardly get employment in the distant interior on any terms; that members of Council themselves constantly advertise for *single* men; and that one honourable member announced the other day in the public papers that he would not even allow his gardener the luxury of a wife (children being of course out of the question). We have often, indeed, wondered that gentlemen were not ashamed to put their names to such advertisements, but seeing that they do such things—seeing that such is the *rule*, why should a body of legislators—unless they avow themselves to be class legislators—conceal the fact? If the colony is worth emigrating to (and we believe it to be superior

to every other), such misrepresentations may injure, but cannot serve it.

In almost every thing that is urged in the Report with respect to the expediency of introducing small agriculturists we heartily concur, and we only regret that while this division of the subject only occupies a subordinate position in the Report, it is entirely left out of the resolutions.

The next matter that requires notice is the subject of a loan, and on this point we have only to repeat what we advanced last week, that if some reasonable scheme can be devised for a systematic peopling of the colony, either by means of small working capitalists of the above description, or by a due proportionment of capital and labour, we shall regard a loan as a proper measure of expediency, both as regards the increase of population and the preservation of the crown land revenue; but if its object be merely to enable the present race of squatters to extend their establishments, and enrich themselves, by means of cheap labour, procured at the expense of the public, including labourers themselves, as is but too clearly expressed both in the Report and in the resolutions adopted on Tuesday last, we denounce it as a measure fraught with evils of the deepest and most permanent character.

To the recommendation that a portion of the expenses of immigration be defrayed from the funds of the mother country, we, of course, offer no objection. We have always held that colonization ought to be a national operation, entirely free from the influence alike of joint-stock companies, like the New Zealand Company, and of capitalists like the squattocracy of New South Wales. On this principle, the adjustment of the financial part of the question rests with the imperial government, and the due apportionment of the expenditure between Britain and her colonies should be regulated according to the comparative advantages derived by each from the measure.

#### AUSTRALIAN WHEAT.

It gives us pleasure to find that the colonists are alive to the injustice of Sir Robert Peel and his Corn Law supporters in refusing to admit the agricultural produce of these colonies into England on the same terms as that of Canada. On Monday, 29th ult., a numerous meeting was held at Maitland to consider the subject, at which a petition to Parliament praying for the concession of this right was unanimously adopted. On the same day a similar meeting was held at Dungog; on Thursday, 2nd instant, a public meeting was held at Paterson with the same result; and on Monday last a large meeting was held at the City Theatre, Sydney, at which the petition drawn up by Mr. Lowe was, with some few alterations, unanimously adopted.

We regret that, misguided by the first mover in this business, the getters up of these petitions have suffered some irrelevant matter and some objectionable expressions to weaken their force; but as their prayer is not only unexceptionable, but one that ought to be perseveringly urged until it is granted, we shall be happy to hear that they are numerous, signed, and that similar, if not better conceived, petitions are sent from every district of the colony.

A claim which is so manifestly just that Sir Robert Peel, with all his tact, was un-

able to offer any thing against it without exciting the commiseration of his hearers, cannot be long withheld; and if, in addition to the undoubted advantages which the Australian colonies would derive from an open market, the discussion of the subject in England shall tend to hasten the abolition of the wicked Corn Laws, we shall, while seeking our own rights, be indirectly instrumental in rendering a great and lasting service to millions of our fellow subjects, who are now groaning under the evils that must ever flow from monopolies and restrictions on trade, under whatever specious pretext they may be suffered to disfigure the Statute Book.

#### DUTY ON SPIRITS.

THE clauses of the Tariff Bill relative to wheat, tea, and sugar have all been withdrawn, and the duty on colonial spirits reduced to 3s. 6d. per gallon. Thus far the Bill accords with our own repeated suggestions; but we conceive the Council has grievously erred in fixing the duty on imported rum, whiskey, and arrack, at 4s. 6d., and on imported brandy, gin, and cordials, at 6s. per gallon, thus giving a protection to colonial distillation, as unmeaning in its object, as it is absurd in principle, and will be injurious in its effects.

#### DR. LEICHARDT'S PARTY.

MR. PEMBERTON HODGSON has published in the *Herald* of this morning the result of his expedition, from which we extract the principal passages as follows:—

On the 8th of August, we left Timbour, the station of Mr. Dennis, and proceeding in a course of N. 76 W. over a large plain, in twelve miles we came upon a small creek, running from the main range into the Condamine.

On the 11th, a scene occurred; having previously agreed to rush every camp of natives we saw, with the view of ascertaining if they had anything I could recognise in their possession, we frequently had opportunities of carrying our determination into effect. On one occasion, having replaced snakes, opossums, grubs, &c., in their proper places, the sable owners of this precious store honoured us with a visit, during which we had the following dialogue, which I cannot omit mentioning:—

Have you seen white fellow lately? Yes.

How long ago? *Two moons.*

What were they doing? Camped in a hut of bags.

How many were they? Eight.

Was there a little boy? Yes.—Pointing to his back.

Which way did they go? By a scrub.—Pointing N. 30 W.

They also remarked two more had returned—alluding to myself and Caleb, on our return from the camp. This conversation proves little, as there can be no doubt it alludes to the spot where I left the party; the date only differs. It proves one thing, that these blacks saw them, as the speaker admitted Leichardt had given him a shirt.

But we will haste to the scene of action, lat 26 deg. 4 min., long. 150, which we reached on the 15th, with the loss of another horse, from some internal disease. Every thing was familiar to me—still erect appeared the pole on which the meat was dried—and in large letters appeared the name of the leader.

To this spot the country we passed over was, in the absence of scrub, a very barren, sandy, and dreary waste, in which the *calytris auriosa*, the *Jacksonis casuarina*, *Hakea*, *Inda leuca*, preponderated. We crossed four creeks with a famous supply of water, but the grass was very indifferent. A new and singular *Eucalyptus*, which the Doctor described to be nearest to that section which includes the bloodwood, was very frequent, and its flesh-coloured scabby back rendered it a very glaring object.

From the 15th to the 19th we were cruising about in all directions, without finding a single track, and as at this spot I imagined the accident to have taken place, I was not singular in believing that it really had occurred. Our north-west course being impeded by a tremendous brigalow scrub, we determined to try and make our way through it, with the idea of falling on other waters, but after cutting our way through eight miles, and meeting with no signs of its boundary—the want of water compelled us to return, after thirty-four hours' hard work.

By great luck, on the 20th, in company with Mr. Isaac and Jacky, I came on a narrow slope, which at last terminated in a rocky gully—not a range was visible, though we knew that for some distance we had been gradually rising, nor was there any sign of scrub, we therefore followed the gully down in a north 10° west course, in the hopes of meeting the tracks, especially as the soil was very rotten and would long tell the tale. If we found the tracks on this creek, the lie would be given to the chief report; so after following it down till we met with a splendid waterhole, we returned to the remainder of the party, with the intention of coming here on the morrow. Only once had we seen the shadow of a track skirting the scrub on our left.

On the 21st, following the creek down to its junction with a second branch, we had the inexpressible pleasure of crossing the tracks coming down from the south-west. They had, therefore, been obliged to penetrate the scrub by flats, and to descend by another gully to these waters. We had by luck avoided the scrub, they, on the contrary, had skirted it to the north till its final turn to the west. Having been so long without finding a single sign I had given them up for lost, but by mere chance we picked up the trail at a distance of eighteen miles from Leichardt's camp. Having thus so plainly contradicted this main report [that the party had been massacred], I began to think we should find all equally false. This creek we named after its discover, Dr. Leichardt, and from the 21st to the 27th we followed it down, through a most inhospitable, gloomy, and desolate country, bounded on either side by dense brigalow scrubs, which, whenever we had the means of ascertaining, extended as far as the eye could reach,—the river alone just carving its way through them; and, though we seldom saw foot-tracks, other signs quite as satisfactory were frequent, and we recognised eight more trees branded L.

On the 23rd we passed over the scene whence the second report [that the party had been destroyed by a hurricane] had its origin. Trees of forty feet high, and proportionately huge, lay stretched and imbedded some feet in the sand; roots standing erect as the pillar they once supported, supplied the want

of foliage; torrents had rushed down the slopes, leaving a deposit of eighteen inches deep. Such was the face of the country for nearly three miles, though its breadth did not exceed half a mile, and beyond reach of this hurricane, which came from the north-west, we found branded trees again; so this report was like its predecessor, fabulous.

From the 27th to the 29th we still followed down Leichardt's River, trusting to nature, as before, to be our guide; for knowing the same obstacles the Doctor met with we should also have to meet, we hoped that by the same channel we might avoid or overcome them.

Up to the 29th the Doctor had made good his north-west line, with a slight variation; but on this day the river made a decided turn to the east, and on the succeeding day to the south of east, therefore, having lost the tracks for upwards of twenty-five miles, we determined to strike across till we found them.

Up to this date the same scrubby, inhospitable country, was all we had to feast upon. We had frequently met the blacks, who always came up to us grinning, unarmed, and evidently relying on our kind treatment. They generally brought their lovely wives and interesting piccanninies with them, and their civil behaviour convinced me that they must have experienced kind treatment from the Doctor.

Had they committed the murder, their gins would have been kept back, and the natural idea is, they would have either avoided us altogether, or, boldened by previous success, assumed a bouncing air and impudent line of conduct. They often supplied us with animal food, which was by no means despicable.

On the 29th, at lat.  $35^{\circ} 36'$ , long.  $149^{\circ} 27'$ , we struck off north 30 west, over a rotten sandy country of ridges and flats alternately—the main range running parallel to us, and during the whole day, for the first time since leaving Timbour, we had to pass through no scrub. In about eight miles we crossed the ranges, coming upon what we imagined to be western waters. The view from the top was truly grand, a low undulating country, intersected by numerous valleys, and bound by an amphitheatre of range upon range, till earth and heaven seemed to meet, was spread before us. We were in hopes of finding some real treat after the desolation we had hitherto passed over. How quickly fade our fairy dreams! On the third of September, after having passed over a sandy and rotten country, forsaken by all life, and ill supplied with water, we came again to the ranges, at a distance of thirty-five miles north-west, and here, from a mutual misunderstanding, four of the party returned, the others proceeding onwards with me. This separation was only two days before it was agreed that all should return, as the four weeks would then have expired. After crossing a series of rocky spurs running to the south, and beating about an almost impassable country till the afternoon of the 5th, we determined to return to the spot where we last saw the tracks, and again try to follow them. The furthest point reached was lat.  $25^{\circ}$ , long.  $148^{\circ} 47'$ , and as far as the eye could reach from south 5 west to north 10 east, there appeared a very broken country. Supposing the Dr. to have gone on his north-west rout from the place we had last seen the tracks, we ought already to have crossed his track, and at one place

we were almost certain that we found tracks, but after an hour's work, could make out nothing satisfactory.

We arrived at the spot where the tracks were last seen on the 7th, and while Bobby was busily engaged looking out "Mundores," the natives made their appearance; and after a great deal of explanation and bother, we made them understand what we required of them. They conducted us to Leichardt's crossing-place, and subsequently through five miles of scrubby country to one of his camps. This he had been fortunate in crossing, though perhaps delayed; and immediately after crossing the main branch, had found a second one running into it from the north-west. This, like the other, forced its way through the same scrubby country; but as the blacks were in great numbers, we retreated to a clear place down the river, with the intention of re-visiting the scene by-and-bye. On the 10th we again returned; and Bobby's keen eye soon found the camp at which, from the frequent and plain cattle tracks, I think the Doctor must have remained some days;—perhaps to kill another heifer.

We followed up this creek for about twenty-five miles, in the course of north 35 west, till we immersed into open country; previous to which we had been three times obliged to avoid the scrubs, by following in the very bed,—and here we had the satisfaction of again seeing the Doctor's brand by the side of a large lagoon. Following the creek still further, through a beautiful open country, we were pulled up by the main ranges, and after penetrating a mile of scrub we reached the top, having an extended view of the western side. From S. 40 W. to N. 10 W., the line of scrub still continued; but form N. 10 W. as far as the eye could reach, all was clear, though I have no doubt it was the same sandy and melancholy style of country.

Therefore, Mr. Calvert and myself, perfectly satisfied that as far as the rumours went they were without foundation; and as we could gain nothing more unless we went the whole way through, which we were not in situation to do, I resolved to return, and on the 14th turned towards home.

As to the reports, we had all long ago considered them humbug; and the behaviour of the blacks to us, when only four in number, banished all remaining fears. During one whole day we had upwards of fifty men from sunrise till sunset, without a single weapon, and all they seemed to require was, permission to gratify their curiosity. They all admitted having seen Leichardt, and all pointed to the north-west as the course he had taken.

#### Domestic Intelligence.

**DISALLOWANCE OF BYE-LAW.**—The Governor directs it to be notified for general information, that, in pursuance of the provision contained in the 92nd clause of the Act of Council, 6th Victoria, No. 3, his Excellency has, with the advice of the Executive Council, disallowed the following Bye-Law, passed on the 15th September last, by the Council of the City of Sydney, namely:—"A Bye-Law for regulating the proceedings, and for conducting the election of Mayor and Aldermen."

**SLAUGHTER BY THE BLACKS.**—Two men were recently killed by the blacks, near Mount Lindesay, in the Richmond River district. It appears the poor fellows were travelling in search of employment, and had left Mr. Elliott's station, on the Richmond, to proceed further on; but one of their dogs having returned the next day to the huts, suspicion was excited that something had happened to them, and on a stock-keeper going over to the station they were going to, and not finding them, these suspicions were confirmed. A few days afterwards their bodies were discovered, by the means of a black fellow, dreadfully mutilated, thrown into a creek, and logs of wood heaped on them. The names of the unfortunate men are Thomas Mather, and the other was known under the cognomen of the Bush Lawyer; the former, with his family, was a resident of South Brisbane, and had left home to work through the shearing season.

**BUSHRANGING.**—A fellow of the name of Wilson, in company with three other men mounted and armed, are reported to be out bushranging in the New England district. A short time since they bailed up the men at Mr. Periot's station, and, after plundering the place of a lot of articles, rode off with two horses and a mare.

**NEW INSOLVENTS.**—Nehemiah Rundle, of 115, King-street, late a publican: debts, £126 1s. 4d.; assets—landed property, £73; personal property, £22; outstanding debts, £15 12s. 3d.; balance deficiency, £15 9s. 1d.; John Walker, official assignee. Edward Saunders, of John-street, Sydney, labourer: debts, £103 5s. 2d.; assets—personal property, £6 10s.; balance deficiency, £96 15s. 2d.; Clark Irving, official assignee.

**THE "MARY."**—The enquiry instituted by the General Assurance into the state of the *Mary*, and the circumstances of her wreck, has terminated; and the directors finding that they had no grounds on which to resist the payment of the sum for which she was insured, have handed the amount, £3600 to the owners.

**ORDER FOR EXECUTION.**—James Fitzpatrick, who was convicted of murder, at the last Maitland Assizes has been ordered for execution at Newcastle, on the 17th instant. In the case of John Fitzgerald, who was convicted of the same offence, sentence of death has been commuted to transportation for life.

**INQUEST.—UNNATURAL CONDUCT.**—On Monday afternoon, a Coroner's enquiry was held in Martin Gill's public-house, George-street, touching the death of Margaret Healy, then lying dead in Malcolm's-lane, who had died of dropsy. As there were some reports afloat that the conduct of the husband and two daughters of the deceased had been unfeeling towards her during her illness, the enquiry occupied upwards of two hours and a-half, and was terminated by the jury returning a verdict that the deceased had died from natural causes, but requesting the Coroner to admonish the husband and his two daughters for their unnatural conduct, and gross neglect of the deceased during the latter part of her illness. After the verdict had been recorded, the three individuals alluded to were called in and admonished, as the jury had suggested.

## RHYMED CRITICISMS.

No. 2.

MOORE.

Bright sparkling Moore! when first I heard him sing,  
How daring seemed his Lays! how sweetly wildering!  
'Gods! what strong ecstasy my soul did seize  
When first I read his matchless Melodies!  
But thus luxuriant, and bold, and wild,  
Yet is his Genius the peculiar Child  
Of Fancy, as with Imagination she  
Divides the World of Ideality.

Much has he sung of Love (being such a pet  
Amongst the Graces of High Life), and yet  
His Lays, or gay or sorrowful of mood,  
Does Love's Divinity but little good!  
What though his amorously happy line  
Be honeyed with a melody divine?  
Where is the heart warm music—(am I wrong?)  
The flower-like Nativeness of Burns's Song?  
What though the dashing style in which he hits  
The wooing Lyre enchant our Exquisites?  
With all Love's passion-burning zeal intense,  
He wants the moral faith of it,—and thence,  
Its calm, clear fullness of Benevolence!  
Or should these Qualities at times confess  
A growing Being in his Earnestness,  
With meretricious dews they're straight besprent  
And chilled to death,—or else, unwilling, sent  
To lose themselves in search of Ornament!  
Even when our Admiration's rapt away  
On the bright current of some better Lay;  
Just as the yearning Soul would have no sense  
But for sweet Human Love's own eloquence,  
An interrupting Bird is sure to be  
Sent warbling by on wings of Simile!  
Or just as we begin to overflow  
With all the luxury of some artless woe,  
Then, when the Muse but genuine Tears should shed,  
Behold a shower of Metaphors instead!  
Or for Humanity's true Sighs, we hear  
Some exiled Zephyr mourning for Cashmere.

This may seem vastly natural to the Creature  
That's fashionably learn'd in Human Nature;  
Divinely sentimental unto those  
Who never sympathise but with the woes  
Of Eastern Heroines and Corsair-like Beaux;  
Quite killing to such Lady-birds as pule  
Within the Arcadia of some Boarding School;  
But to the strong of heart and sound of head,  
'Tis Poetry only as sweet cake is bread.

Yet Moore, if not a Monarch Bard, is still  
A Royal Prince of bright Apollo's Hill;  
Whose filial Muse hath thrown, with affluent hand,  
A robe of Indian beauty o'er his Native Land!  
And ever dear unto the Brave shall be  
His high and spirited praise of Liberty!  
And to the Generous his contempt for Slaves,  
His hate of Traitors, and his scorn of Knaves.

CHARLES HARPUR

## BIOGRAPHY.

## ARISTIDES.

ARISTIDES son of Lysimachus, was of the tribe of Antiochis, and born in Alopece, a demos of Attica. It is to be regretted that Plutarch, from whom our knowledge of his personal history is almost exclusively derived, has given us little information as to the steps by which he rose to eminence in the state. Several anecdotes illustrative of his probity are told by that amusing, but not very accurate author, which according to this arrangement of his life, ought to have occurred before the Persian war; but the date of their occurrence is not fixed, and they contain no distinct mention of Aristides's public employments, except that he was twice chosen treasurer of the public revenue at Athens. Plutarch further states, that Themistocles and others, whose malpractices he had exposed, had influence enough to procure his condemnation on a charge of malversation; but that, by the exertions of the more virtuous citizens, the fine imposed on him was remitted, and he was again elected to the office of chief treasurer. It appears that he was early opposed in politics to Themistocles, whose ambitious and unscrupulous temper led him to promote both his own and his country's

benefit by measures quite at variance with the integrity and straightforward temper of Aristides. But the first distinct notice which we possess of his public life is, that he was one of the ten commanders who directed the Athenian army, B.C. 490, upon the occasion of the Persian invasion under Datis and Artaphernes. This rests on the authority of Plutarch, who ascribes to Aristides the honour of having first yielded his turn of command to Miltiades, and by his example and authority having carried the dissentients with him. Plutarch adds, that when the Athenians marched back to their capital in haste, to prevent the flying Persians from making any attempt on it by sea, Aristides was left with the men of his own tribe to guard the valuable spoil of the Persian camp; being selected for that duty on account of his incorruptible honesty. But Herodotus, in his account of the battle, never even mentions Aristides's name. This proceeded from no unfriendly felling; for the historian bears testimony to him as the "justest and best man in Athens." This silence would lead us to doubt whether Aristides did really act so important a part in the action as his biographer would have us believe. That he did distinguish himself is, however, rendered probable by his having been elected archon *eponymos* in the following year.

Of the transactions of his magistracy we have no account. In the sixth year after it (B.C. 483), he was banished by the process called *ostracism*. A person less obnoxious to the spirit of jealousy or precaution, could hardly have been found; but the practices of Themistocles prevailed with the suspicious temper of the Athenians against the approved integrity of his rival, though so well recognised, according to a story told by Plutarch, as to have already acquired for him the appellation of "the Just." In the third year afterwards (B.C. 480), the eventful transactions of the Persian invasion under Xerxes took place. At the battle of Artemisium, Aristides was still in exile; but before the battle of Salamis he was recalled with other exiles. In the night preceding this memorable battle, he passed from the island of Ægina through the Persian fleet, bearing intelligence to his countrymen that they were surrounded, and that flight, which they were then meditating, was no longer possible. The details of the action do not belong to this notice. We have only to state that Aristides, at the head of a body of Athenians, landed on the small island of Psytaleia, near Salamis, and put to the sword the Persian troops stationed on that island. (Herod. viii. 95; Plut. c. 9.) With respect to the prosecution of the war, he combated Themistocles's advice to sail for Hellespont, and destroy the bridge built by Xerxes; and recommended, on the contrary, that every facility for evacuating Greece should be given to the Persians.

Before the battle of Platae, fought in September, B.C. 479, he was reinstated in all and more than his former favour with his countrymen. The answer returned to Mardonius's offer of peace and alliance with the Athenians is said by Plutarch to have been dictated by him: "Tell Mardonius that the Athenians say, while the sun goes in the same course as he is now going, we will never make peace with Xerxes; but we will fight him, trusting in the gods, who fight with us,

and the heroes, whose temples and statues he making no account of them, has burnt." Aristides was one of the ambassadors sent to remonstrate with the Spartans for their tardiness in sending succours to resist the threatened invasion of Attica by Mardonius; and at the battle of Platae, contrary to the general usage, he was appointed sole general of the Athenian troops, and signalized his moderation in a dispute with the Tegeatæ concerning the right of occupying the left wing of the allied army, the second post in point of honour, the right wing being always held by the Lacedæmonians. "We came here," he said, "not to talk, but to fight. Since, however, the Tegeatæ have advanced their claims to renown, both in old times and of late, it is necessary that we also should explain to you our claims to priority over the Arcadians." Then, after remunerating the warlike glories of his countrymen, he added, "But this is no time to wrangle about place. We are ready to obey you, Lacedæmonians, wherever we are, we will do our best. Command us, therefore, as men who will obey." The Lacedæmonians answered by acclamation, that the Athenians were more worthy than the Tegeatæ to lead the left wing. (Herod. ix. 27.) It is to be observed here (as of the answer returned to Mardonius), that what Plutarch says of Aristides, Herodotus says of the Athenians generally. It may be presumed, however, that on both occasions the people acted under the guidance of their leader; and that the words so full of wisdom, spirit, and moderation, agreeing so well with the character of Aristides, were really prompted or delivered by him.

Not long after the restoration of Athens, which had been destroyed by Xerxes and Mardonius, an important change took place in the constitution: though opposed to the principles of those with whom Aristides generally acted, it was supported at least, if not brought forward by him. By Solon's laws, noble descent and a definite amount of property were required as qualifications in candidates for the higher offices. It was now thought, either in the great exertions made for the existence of the state, all had merited alike, and all were therefore entitled to an equal share in the direction of public affairs; or that the more numerous class who were excluded by law from the administration, having arms in their hands, and proud of their recent exertions and success, would scarcely be brought to acquiesce in their former political inferiority. Aristides, therefore, proposed an alteration in the law, by which all were rendered eligible to the archonship, without regard either to birth or wealth.

Aristides was the colleague of Thucydides in an embassy to Sparta, when the Spartan government interfered to prevent the rebuilding of the walls of Athens, destroyed by the Persians. Cicero relates a story told in a slightly different manner by Plutarch, that Themistocles, after the end of the war, announced to the assembly of the people, that he had a scheme to propose greatly advantageous to the state, but of such a nature that it could not safely be made public. Upon this he was desired to communicate it to Aristides, who reported that nothing could be more advantageous, or less honourable; and the proposal was dropped without further inquiry. The measure proposed, according to Cicero and Valerius Maximus was to burn