

# The Weekly Register

OF POLITICS, FACTS, AND GENERAL LITERATURE.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

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## THE POLITICAL REGISTER.

"It is of great importance in a state—not only to guard Society against the oppression of its rulers, but to guard one part of Society against the injustice of the other part. Justice is the end of Government.—It is the end of civil Society."—HAMILTON.

## THE AUSTRALIAN CROWN LANDS.

At length we are in possession of the draft of Lord Stanley's Bill to amend the Crown Lands Act, the heads of which are as follows:

Clause I. enacts that her Majesty or the Governor, acting in the name and on the behalf of her Majesty, may grant a lease of any waste lands of the crown, in which lease there may be reserved an annual payment to her Majesty by the lessee for and in respect of such lands, with a clause of forfeiture and a proviso for re-entry upon non-payment.

There is no fixed term of lease mentioned in the Bill, but in his speech on introducing it, Lord Stanley said the Governor would be empowered to grant leases for periods not exceeding twenty-one years of lands beyond the boundaries.

Clause II. enacts and declares that her Majesty or her representative may reserve for the use of her Majesty, in any conveyance or lease of any such waste lands, the whole or any portion of the minerals lying or being in or under any such lands, or any rents or royalties to be paid or rendered in respect thereof: and provides that all leases to be made and granted under this or the said recited Act shall be offered by public auction to the highest bidder for the same, due notice of such public auction, together with a specification of the lands intended to be leased, and the duration of the proposed term, having been given; also, that during the continuance of any such lease, it shall not be lawful for her Majesty, or any such person acting in the name and on the behalf of her Majesty, to sell the reversionary estate in the lands comprised in such lease, without the consent of the lessee or other party to whom the lease may then belong.

Clause III. repeals so much of the recited Act as relates to the granting, under certain conditions therein mentioned, of licenses for the occupation of any waste lands of the crown in any of the said colonies, and for felling, removing, and selling the timber growing on any such lands.

Clause IV. empowers the Governor to grant to any person a license, for any time not exceeding twelve calendar months from the date thereof, to become and be an occupier of waste lands of the crown in such colony, or a license for felling, removing, and selling timber growing on waste lands therein.

Clause V. enacts that it shall not be lawful for any person, unless claiming under a sale or lease as aforesaid, to occupy any waste lands belonging to the crown without having first obtained from the said Governor a license for such purpose; and that any such person who shall be found occupying any waste lands of the crown, either by residing or by erecting any hut or building thereon, or by clearing, enclosing, or cultivating any part thereof, and who shall not previously have obtained a license from the Governor for the occupation of such lands, or who shall occupy after such license shall have been determined by forfeiture or otherwise; shall be liable, on conviction thereof, to the penalties following: for the first offence a sum not exceeding ten pounds, for the second offence a sum not exceeding twenty pounds, and for the third or any subsequent offence a sum not exceeding fifty pounds: provided always that no information shall be laid or brought for any second or subsequent offence until the expiration of fourteen clear days from the date of the previous conviction.

Clause VI. enacts that any person or persons occupying any waste lands under license shall pay to her Majesty, or to the Governor, such sum by the year for every horse and sheep and every head of horned cattle depastured upon the waste lands of the crown as shall be fixed by her Majesty in her Privy Council, or by the Governor of the said colonies, with the advice of his Executive Council.

Clause VII. enacts that the proceeds of such leases shall be appropriated for the like purposes as the proceeds of land sales.

Clause VIII. enacts that her Majesty and the Governor shall have remedy by distress against defaulters, and if at any time the yearly sum payable by any person for agistment shall be in arrear and unpaid for the space of three calendar months, the license of such person to occupy shall become forfeited.

Clause IX. enacts that no possession or occupation of any land taken or had under or by virtue of any license, shall be construed

to give any title whatever against the crown, or to alter or affect the rights of her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in respect to any such land.

There are other clauses regulating the manner of suing for penalties under the Act, and suspending its operation in Van Diemen's Land. The Act to take effect and have the force of law in each of the Australian colonies from and after a day to be specified by the Governor of each of such colonies, in some proclamation to be issued by him for that purpose.

The clause which enables the Governor to give leases for twenty-one years would, doubtless, by itself give great satisfaction to the squatters. It may be looked upon as the reward of the exertions of our Pastoral Association, and of the London Boyd House Coterie. We think the term altogether too long, and fraught with future danger to the best interests of the colony. But we always anticipated some such result as likely to follow from the perseverance of interested parties with the Colonial Office; and if the evil should be found as great in the end as we anticipate, the colonists will have their own apathy to blame in not having bestirred themselves, as we have so frequently urged them, to counteract this sinister influence.

Fortunately the second clause of the Bill makes some amends for the extravagance of the first. If the squatters wish to have leases of their runs, instead of annual licenses to occupy, they must purchase such leases at public auction, by which means the public will obtain the market value of the leased lands, and the thousands of pounds hitherto pocketed by squatters from the sale of an assumed right of occupancy will in future find their way into the public purse.

We do not think that leases of such immense tracts, for so long a period as twenty-one years, ought to be given under any circumstances, but if they are to be given, let the competition be fair, and the price that which they are worth in the market, in addition to the value of the improvements of the present occupier. Those, therefore, who prefer continuing to occupy under a yearly license, may do so under clause IV., just as they do at present, until the lands are required for some more permanent purpose; and those who desire fixity of tenure may have it by purchasing a lease for what it is worth.

The *Herald* pronounces this to be "one of the most tyrannical and unconstitutional measure ever submitted to Parliament," and adds that, "if the Act comes out to the colony without any material alteration, then the colonists must make up their minds for a long and resolute opposition to this attempt to reduce us to a state of serfdom." This, however, is all mere twaddle. The *Herald* does not pretend to show in what the *tyranny* of the Bill consists; and surely it is too much to expect loyal colonists to offer a "resolute opposition" to the law of the land without knowing why or wherefore.

The *Herald*, indeed, says that "the Governor, whenever convenient to the executive, may put up any man's station to auction, without any right of pre-emption to the occupier, without any compensation for the improvements;" and adds, "how the colonial government will be able to keep the pledge given in the Legislative Council, that there should be pre-emption, we cannot even guess."

It is singular that our contemporary contrives to be almost always wrong. On the subject of pre-emption, no "pledge" whatever was "given in the Legislative Council." The Colonial Secretary stated simply that the Governor had written a despatch in which he withdrew all active opposition to pre-emption, intimating that he did not wish to be considered its only opponent in the colony. Surely this was anything but a "pledge that there should be pre-emption." On the other hand, in the matter of compensation, on which the *Herald* founds its charge of tyranny, there has been given a decided pledge in the correspondence between the Governor and Lord Stanley, as well as in the regulations promulgated in the *New South Wales Government Gazette*. Our contemporary is therefore out at all points.

With elegant taste the writer says—"We call it Lord Stanley's Bill, because it was brought into the House of Lords by the noble Secretary, but a very slight acquaintance with colonial politics will enable any one to state with tolerable certainty that its author lives in Sydney;" or, in other words, that it was drawn up by Sir George Gipps. The *Herald* may have private sources of information on this subject, as we have heard a similar assertion made upon the alleged authority of the gentleman to whom the copy of the Bill which has reached the colony was transmitted. Certainly there is nothing on the face of the Bill itself that would lead one to think that Sir George Gipps is its author. We have seen the laboured correspondence between his Excellency and Lord Stanley on the subject, and not only is the Bill widely different from the suggestions of the former, but it appears hardly reconcilable with them in any one particular. But whoever may be its author, we assert that the Bill is not unconstitutional, because whatever is enacted by the Imperial Parliament is to all intents and purposes constitutional; nor is it tyrannical, because its object is obviously and solely to maintain equity between the colonists and the squatters, and between the empire and the colony.

If it has passed both Houses in its present state, it may probably convince the squatters that it would have been wise in them to have swallowed the regulations of 1844, without drawing Lord Stanley's attention to the enormous advantages possessed by them over

their less fortunate fellow-subjects, but we cannot say that we regret the agitation that has taken place on this subject, if it tend by means of this Bill or otherwise, and without injustice to any class of persons, to reduce to order the enormous inequalities and injustices of the present squatting system.

#### THE HERALD AND THE GOVERNOR.

"Flura sæpe peccantur dum demeremur, quam dum offendimus. Quadam immo virtutes odio sunt." Taciti Annal. XV., 21.

"More mischief is done by the governor who wishes to oblige, than by him who is not afraid to offend. It is the misfortune of some virtues to provoke ill-will." Tacitus.

A SERIES of weak but spiteful articles has within the last week or two disfigured the columns of our daily contemporary, the object of which is to stir up new enmity against the head of the government, on the ground that Sir George Gipps is a faithful follower of his home instructions, without regard to their evil effects on the colony.

"From the first day of his administration (saith our contemporary) to the present time, and in all his measures, whether executive or legislative, the ruling principle of his Excellency has been to please the authorities in Downing-street, and to study the welfare of the colony only in so far as it could be promoted without detriment to that principle."

But is this true? We say it is shamefully false. Several instances might be quoted in which his Excellency placed himself in direct opposition to "the authorities in Downing-street," and one, at least, in which he dared to disobey the instructions of the Queen herself, under the sign manual, that he might oblige the colonists.

On the subject of storing corn in Silboes to prevent the danger of famine, his Excellency, as is well known, went in the very teeth of his instructions from "the authorities in Downing-street." When "the authorities in Downing-street" requested his Excellency to send the convicts to Goat Island, Sir George laughed them to scorn, as commanding an impossibility. When "the authorities of Downing-street" sent out some wise instructions concocted by a learned gentleman named Tidd Pratt, relative to Colonial Savings Banks, his Excellency, in the old Council, exhausted his ridicule on this same Tidd Pratt and his papers. And not to multiply instances, has the *Herald* forgotten that Lord John Russell when he held the seals in Downing-street, recommended to the Queen to issue instructions to his Excellency under the royal sign manual directing that the Crown Lands should be sold at a fixed price?—that her Majesty did, by writing under her hand, command Sir George Gipps to sell the Crown Lands at a fixed price?—and that Sir George, at the utmost risk to himself, and in obedience to the public voice expressed at a public meeting held in Sydney, did refuse to act upon the royal instructions; suspended their operation; and afterwards adduced such reasons to "the authorities in Downing-street" as induced them to advise her Majesty to revoke her instructions? To be ignorant of these facts is very culpable in a public journalist, and to assert, as the *Herald* has repeatedly done in the face of the above facts, that "from the first day of his administration to the present time, and in all his measures, whether executive or legislative, the ruling principle of his Excellency has

been to please the authorities in Downing-street," is to put forth a proposition that will not bear to be discussed; it is a pure and unmitigated calumny.

The *Herald*, in allusion to "the recal of Governor Fitzroy says—"Sir George Gipps, having exceeded his term of office by nearly two years, has yet the prospect of retaining his post for some years to come; Captain Fitzroy, having held his appointment not more than half the usual term, is abruptly superseded. It is clear, therefore, that Sir George's rule, whatever else may be said of it, is the more prudent of the two. It is worth £5000 a year!—A wise and well-meaning Minister will take care how he issues orders. Having selected for the office of Governor a gentleman of character and parts, he will not fetter him with too many instructions; he will place confidence in him; he will, in a very great measure, leave to his own discretion the management of affairs that, being purely local, must of necessity be better understood on the spot than anywhere else. Under a judicious arrangement like this, a Governor would feel himself a free and responsible agent: free to advance the interests of his colony to the best of his power; responsible for the result of a policy so entirely his own. And if he had to be censured or recalled, it would not be for disobedience as a servant, but for incompetency as the head of an administration."

It may be a questionable point whether Captain Fitzroy went more directly contrary to his instructions, in issuing paper money, than Sir George Gipps did in the matter of the fixed price of land. We are of opinion that the instructions were far more solemn and explicit in the former case than in the latter.

But be this as it may, we differ entirely from the *Herald* as to the policy of furnishing Governors with instructions. We maintain that the Governor of a colony ought to have the general principles of his government clearly pointed out to him, and to be restrained from deviating materially from such principles. In a particular manner it is desirable that with respect to the currency, no innovation should be permitted without the sanction of the imperial government.

Supposing that during the panic of 1843 we had had a bland, accommodating Governor, unfettered with any instructions, and that some of our patriotic legislators had introduced a villainous Pfanbrieffe Bill for the purpose of transferring the debts of all the insolvent landholders from the shoulders of the debtors to those of the colony and the government—supposing the bill to have been passed and presented to the Governor by a deputation who would assure his Excellency—in the language of that day—that nothing else could save the colony from bankruptcy—a Governor of the *Herald's* stamp, unfettered by any instructions, would not, could not, refuse his assent to such a bill; and yet who does not see, now that the panic is over, that the measure in question was most atrocious, and that the authors were deserving of any punishment short of the gallows?

Instructions to governors are not, therefore, in all cases to be deprecated, even by colonists who may find them at the moment troublesome; and we do hold, that, as a general rule, the interests of the empire (of

which loyal colonists ought ever to consider themselves a part), require that such instructions should be obeyed. A governor of the first character might in some few cases do better if left to himself, but ten others less gifted with wisdom, and firmness, would be sure to make shipwreck of their state vessel during the very first storm. Sir George Gipps who "is not afraid to offend" the colonists, who "can say no, and stand to it," might steer the ship without a chart; but the Governor after the *Herald's* own heart, "who wishes to oblige," and has no guide but his own discretion, constantly assailed by private interests, would infallibly founder on the rocks.

So strongly do we feel the necessity of governing the colonies upon fixed principles, that we would bind down the Secretary of State himself, by having the instructions for governors of colonies as much as possible embodied in Acts of Parliament. Had this been always the case, the mischiefs which we have seen arising in our own times from the caprices of individuals would have been prevented.

The sentiments of Burke on this subject are exactly our own. He says—"The Parliament of Great Britain sits at the head of her extensive empire in two capacities; one as the local legislature of this island [Great Britain].....the other, and I think her nobler capacity, is what I call her *imperial character*; in which, as from the throne of honour, she superintends all the several inferior legislatures, and guides them and controls them all.....As all these provincial legislatures are only co-ordinate to each other, they ought all to be subordinate to her, else they can neither preserve mutual peace, nor hope for mutual justice."

#### REGISTRARS' BILL.

ONE of the last acts of the Legislative Council was to throw out the Registrar's Bill, in consequence of the amendments proposed by the Governor. During the last two sessions the office of the Registrar General has been a source of contention between the Government and the opposition members of the Council; and whilst all admit the usefulness—the absolute necessity of the office—and it is clearly shown that the fees not only pay all expenses, but give also a surplus to the general revenue of the colony—yet will the country be left without a Registry, unless Mr. Carter still continue to carry on the business of the office at his own expense—with certainly no prospect of speedy repayment or compensation. The object of the opposition has been to force the Government to pay the expenses of this department out of the schedules, whilst the fees went to augment the general revenue: and the chief ground for throwing out the bill—or more properly speaking for giving it the *go by*—was the proposed appropriation of the fees to the expenses of the office—that most objectionable mode of payment by fees—as one learned member with more ingenuity than ingenuousness named it. The Governor's amendments comprised no such proposition as "payment by fees," which, in our simple apprehension, means the taking and retaining of fees, in lieu of a fixed salary, and for the receiver's benefit. The proposal of the Governor was to apply the fees in the first instance in discharge of the expenses of the

establishment required for carrying on registration, including the salaries of the necessary clerks, which were to be fixed within certain limits. And to prove that the Governor was right in proposing so to do, we annex a few clauses from the bill brought into the House of Commons in 1843—to alter the practice of the Ecclesiastical Courts in England:—

"20. That in lieu of all fees there shall be paid out of the fund, and in the manner hereinafter mentioned, to the Judge of her Majesty's Court of Arches the yearly sum of £4500.

"21. Retiring pension to the Dean of the Arches, £2250.

"22. Salaries to Registrars, Clerks, &c., and retiring pensions to Registrars.....

"117. That to the Judges and Registrars of the several Courts there shall, in lieu of all fees, be paid out of the fee fund, and in the manner hereinafter mentioned, the several salaries set forth in the schedules."

"121. No officer to be entitled to fees for his benefit.

"122. Account of fees and emoluments to be rendered yearly to the Commissioners of the Treasury.

"123. If Commissioners of Treasury are dissatisfied with account, they may refer it to the Judge to inquire into the same.

"124. Fees to be paid over to the Registrar of the Court of Arches, who is to pay over the same to the "fee fund." Application of such fund—

"126. Provides compensation for certain persons whose offices were to be abolished or affected by the Act.

"126. Disposal of surplus fee fund, after payment of charges, and providing for deficiency therein."

Such were some of the provisions of a bill introduced by Dr. Nicholl with the sanction of the government, into the House of Commons, and read a second time—but deferred in consequence of the press of business to a subsequent session.

The argument that registration is so connected with it, as properly to form a charge on the sum set apart for the administration of justice, can only arise from the connexion which so long existed between them—the Registry Office and the Supreme Court; but if we trace this connexion to its source, we shall find that it altogether sprung from motives of convenience and expediency, and that the two departments are no more necessarily conjoined than the Registry Offices in Yorkshire with the Courts of Westminster. The first legal Registry Office in the colony was established by proclamation of Governor Macquarie, bearing date the 18th day of January, 1817, which says—

"Whereas the Judge Advocates' Office in this territory has hitherto and for a long time back been *voluntarily* and *generally* used within the same as an Office of Registry, and in order to settle and establish the same as such on a certain method, with proper rules and directions for registering such deeds and conveyances as aforesaid, it is hereby further ordered and directed, by the authority aforesaid, that one public office for registering all such deeds and conveyances, &c., shall be established and kept at the Judge Advocates' Office in Sydney, to be managed and executed by the Honorable the Judge Advocate, or his sufficient deputy, by him appointed."

In 1825 this office was transferred to the Supreme Court, where it remained till 1843, when this *marriage de convenance* was dissolved, the office of the Registrar General was established, and all records were directed to be transferred to it from the office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court, by an Act passed by that very Council which now seeks to renew the ill-assorted connexion. We will not say that the opposition in the Council are actuated in this instance by a desire to thwart the Government, but we do say that they have displayed a great deal of pertinacity in asserting a proposition unfounded in law, and supported by no sound reasoning, but by the mere dicta of certain learned members, who, to use a vulgarism, lead by the nose the majority of the *independent* representatives of the people.

We see nothing in the amendments of the Governor which ought to have been objected to; and we trust, be the consequences what they may, that he will not recede from the course which he has taken in this matter.

*Thoughts, A Series of Sonnets, by Charles Harpur.* Sydney: Duncan, 1845.

*Marmont; or, Suffering without Guilt; A Tale in Six Cantos, by G. F. Poole.* Sydney: Colman, 1845.

If our judgment be correct, these two publications afford, by far the best, and decidedly the worst, sample of "poetry" which the colony has yet produced. We sat down to both authors, desirous alike to speak in their commendation, with this difference, to the prejudice perhaps of Mr. Harpur, that we had seen much of his writings before, in manuscript and in the corners of newspapers, and were made aware of some of his poetic faults and failings. Of Mr. G. F. Poole we never heard mention, even by name, till the publication of his "Tale in Six Cantos;" than which a piece of more perfect trash could not be encountered.

The "Thoughts" of Mr. Harpur occupy only sixteen pages, consisting of twenty-three Sonnets, all of which we think are beautiful, and some of them such as will bear comparison with the productions, in same kind, of illustrious names. The English language is rich in its number of fine sonnets: our great bards, Milton, Shakspeare, Wordsworth, and others, have minted some of their grandest thoughts into this unpretending fashion of mental coinage—have planted, in moments of pure inspiration, the rarest as well as the most delicate of poetry's immortal flowers in this "scanty plot of ground." Mr. Harpur is a poet not unworthy to be named with these august sons of genius, though he may never attain to their universal fame. As a native bard, Australia ought to be proud of him. When the day arrives that some wanderer of Europe shall gather up the first fruits of Australian literature, the lines "To an Echo on the Banks of the Hunter," "The Message," "The Dream by the Fountain," and other poems bearing the name of Charles Harpur, in the Sydney journals, will be held in admiration in our father-land, to the shame of the country and the age that could neglect them. As a sonnet-writer, in particular, we think Mr. Harpur excels so far, that we are inclined to question whether from Wordsworth's "Sonnets dedicated to Liberty" there could be taken any twenty-three, consecutively,

arranged, superior, "all in all," to the twenty-three before us. We cannot enter into the merits of his poetry here to the extent we wish; but whoever has a capability to appreciate the passion and energy divine of song, need only to obtain a copy of Mr. Harpur's publication, to be convinced that Australia has now produced a poet all her own, to atone for the indiscretions of poets among her adopted sons. As a specimen, we select the last sonnet of the series:

## ABSENCE.

Nightly I watch the Moon with silvery sheen  
Flaking the City house-tops, till I feel  
Thy memory, Rosa, like a presence, steal  
Down in her light: for ever in her mien  
Thy soul's Similitude my Soul hath seen!  
And as she seemeth now a Guardian seal  
On Heaven's far bliss, upon my future weal  
Even such thy Truth is—radiantly serene!  
But long my Fancy may not entertain  
These bright Resemblances—for lo, a cloud  
Blots her away! and in my breast the pain  
Rekurs of Absent Love, piercing and loud!  
When shall I look in thy sweet eyes again,  
Rosa, when cheer thee, with like sadness  
bowed?

We cannot refrain from giving one other, which every man in the land should learn by heart.

## TRUE AND FALSE GLORY.

How long shall Splendid Guilt mankind  
deceive?

See Conqueror after Conqueror furious  
sweep

Across the Past! ambitious each to achieve  
Time's most unrighteous Victory, and so  
reap

Unequaled Sway, and make their Age one  
heap

Of bloody marvels for Slave-bards to weave  
Into loud Verse; and finally, so leave

To Glory names that she should blush to  
keep!

How greater They, who Tyrants did rebel,  
And yet all Public Dignities disown

But such as were the means to Serving well!  
Compare an Alexander's wild renown

With the immaculate Memories that crown  
The Souls of Hampden, Washington, and  
Teil.

If Mr. Harpur will allow us to hint at what appears likely to become his greatest fault, we would advise him against an over-elaboration of figure. He should not let the crowd see him so often "quarrying from Nature's everlasting frame his sculptured beauty."

Of Mr. Poole's book, the least said will be best; we are sorry that we cannot find in it one single line that may be called poetical. The following passage on "Hanging," (a delectable subject!) is equal to any portion of the hundred pages which make up this unhappy volume. Marmont, the hero of the story, is convicted and hanged for a murder of which he is innocent: and these are the author's reflections upon the occasion of his hero's unjust death:

Oh! hanging is a fearful doom

The worst disgrace that can befall us,  
The foulest passage to the tomb,

Whose very mention might appal us.

'Tis sad to meet a watery grave,  
To struggle with the smothering wave,  
And vainly ope the mouth for breath,—

Oh! drowning is a fearful death.

'Tis sad to die, consumed by fire,  
In lingering burning to expire;—

'Tis sad to die of choking pain,  
Or with the madness of the brain;—  
'Tis sad to render up the life,  
In tumult of unholy strife;—  
And sadder still to end our being,  
Where eyes are useless things for seeing—  
In black and smothering sulphery smoke,  
Where life departs with lingering choke.  
But better far such death would be,  
Than hanging on the gallows tree;  
In public view to yield the breath,  
And die a blinded, dog-like death.  
Hung out between the earth and sky,  
By rope above the crowd suspended—  
A gazing stock for every eye—  
One drop, and then the drama ended;—  
*Tho' not quite ended yet, perchance,  
Sometimes the hanging one will dance,  
A few short moments in the air,  
And try to find a footing there:  
But if he could not keep his stand,  
Among his fellow-men on land,  
No wonder if he fail to find,  
When by the rope deprived of breath,  
A floor, according to his mind,  
On which to trip the dance of death.*

The reader who goes through Mr. Poole's book, will remember Beverly Suttor with a high degree of pleasure.

## Domestic Intelligence.

**THE EXPLORING EXPEDITION.**—The preparations necessary for the interior journey having been completed, and the party organised, the whole moved off from Parramatta last week. The construction of portable boats was a primary object in these preparations. The boats, two in number have been made of iron by Mr. Struth, on a quite a new principle. Each boat is made in two parts, as if a boat were cut across, which parts, when joined, form a boat 18 feet long 4½ wide, and 2 feet deep. Each part is so closed up by a bulk-head, perfectly water tight, that it would float alone, and could so be used as a boat. It weighs only three hundred pounds, and is easily carried inverted over a dray load. When required to form the boat, the two portions are screwed together, by joining the bulk-head sections, and at once the whole boat is ready for the water. In this manner, as soon as they were launched at Mr. Struth's wharf, these boats were pulled to Parramatta, and early next morning were employed to cover four of the dray loads instead of tarpaulins. There are, in all, eight drays, besides three light carts. It was originally intended to use light carts and horses only, but it was found more economical and also more practicable to adopt the ordinary means of conveyance—bullock drays—as forming a shorter line and requiring fewer men. Four of the drays have been made at Cockatoo Island, and also a considerable portion of the iron work requisite—such as horse-shoes, axes, bows, and chains; and some of the most deserving of the mechanics themselves have been permitted to go with and form part of the exploring party. The other four drays have been permitted to go with and form part of the exploring party. The other four drays have been made by Mr. Manwaring, of Parramatta. The men, in general, have been selected from numerous volunteers—of whom ticket-of-leave men of good character have been thought most eligible, as desi-

ring no pay, but looking only for further indulgence in conditional emancipation. Several free men also go with the party as volunteers, and three of the old hands who have been with former expeditions. The entire number of the party including officers, consist of twenty eight. It is provided with twelve horses, not only to be employed for draught, but also as saddle horses, to be employed in those offset journeys and reconnoissances in advance, by which the country, in such journeys, is surveyed to a great extent on all sides. One or two old non-commissioned officers of mounted police have been employed, with a view to introduce such discipline in the management of fire arms as may best secure the party from any necessity for their use.

**WARD DINNER.**—On Wednesday, about fifty of the electors of Bourke Ward gave a dinner at Toogood's to their newly elected representative, Mr. Councillor Brown, in order to mark their approbation of his independent conduct in the City Council. Mr. Councillor Thurlow was in the chair. The dinner and wines were of the first order, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts called forth a number of excellent speeches from the gentlemen present, chiefly demonstrative of the popularity of the recent elections. Several good songs were also sung by Mr. Nathan, Mr. Worgan, and others, and the evening passed off with great glee.

**THE LEGAL CHANGES.**—The legal changes have been at length finally settled, but in consequence of several cases now pending cannot be carried into operation until the end of the year. Mr. Plunkett will take his seat on Bench as puisne judge, Mr. Justice a'Beckett will proceed to Port Phillip as Resident Judge, and Mr. Therry will be appointed Attorney General.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following appointments, viz.:—Alexander C. Maxwell, Esquire, to be Chief Inspector of Distilleries, in the room of R. Cassels, Esquire, resigned; also Mr. Henry Lumsdaine, to be an inspector of Distilleries, in the room of Mr. Burton D'Arcy, resigned; also, Samuel Raymond, Esquire, to be a Magistrate of the City of Sydney.

**BUSHRANGER APPREHENDED.**—A notorious bushranger, named Biddles, who has been concerned in many robberies in the districts of Yass, Boro, Razorback, &c.; and who some time ago effected his escape from the goal at Goulburn, has been re-apprehended by Mr. Witts, chief constable of Queanbeyan, assisted by Constable Rusden.

**REWARD OF A CONDITIONAL PARDON.**—Whereas it has been represented to the Government, that on Monday morning last, the 10th instant, some stock belonging to Mr. Thomas Arndell, of Maroota, in the district of Windsor, were maliciously killed by some party or parties unknown; his Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified, that in addition to a pecuniary reward offered by Mr. Arndell, to any person who may give such information as shall lead to the apprehension and conviction of the offenders, in the event of the person giving the said information being a prisoner of the crown, application will be made to her Majesty for the allowance of a conditional pardon to such prisoner of the crown.—*Government Gazette,*