

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 therefore well Society."—HAMILTON.

THE ATLAS VERSUS THE REGISTER.—THE "CONSTITUTION" IN DANGER.

"Spleen and calumny are devoured with a greedy ear. Praise, however merited, wears the badge of servitude, whilst malignity affects the tone of independence, and is therefore well received."—TACITUS.

We have been honoured with an elaborate article of three or four columns in last Saturday's *Atlas*, to which, in courtesy, we cannot do less than make some reply. The writer opens with the following charge:—

"The *Weekly Register* has shown itself desirous of attaining an ignominious pre-eminence in opposing everything manly, straightforward, and constitutional; and in supporting everything mean, tyrannical, and unjust. At the commencement of the discussion on the Squatting question, it took part with Sir George Gipps, and has throughout been the constant advocate of every measure, which he or Lord Stanley has devised, for the purpose of extinguishing the liberty, and ruining the prosperity, of the colonists of New South Wales. First, the edict of 1844 furnished it with a subject for its warmest praise; then the despatches of the Governor and the Secretary of State threw it into an ecstasy of admiration; and now Lord Stanley's Land Bill finds in it the only defender that is not ashamed openly to take its part. The miserable crotchet of the District Councils—the grinding oppression of the Quit-rents—have both been uniformly represented by it, as liberal and statesmanlike measures, and that too in defiance of public opinion, of common sense, and of all political experience. In its advocacy of the government of Sir George Gipps, it has boggled at nothing—but on the contrary, the more arbitrary and unjust have been his proceedings, the more enthusiastic has been its fawning flattery and its dishonorable support. Nothing has been able, for an instant, to shake the desperate and disgraceful fidelity with which it has, 'through good report and evil report,' stuck to the disastrous administration of the ill-starred ruler, who is now about to depart from a country, which, for eight long years, he has been doing his utmost to destroy."

At first we were a little annoyed at the thought that by possibility some reader of the *Atlas*, whose good opinion were worth having, might regard us in the light of an opponent of anything "manly or straightforward"—or the supporter of anything "mean, tyrannical, or unjust." For if we have any knowledge, whatever, of our own character—and if there are any points in that character more conspicuous than the rest, they consist in an admiration of whatever is "manly and straightforward," an utter contempt for all that is "mean," and a detestation of whatever is "tyrannical or unjust." An article in the *Herald* of Monday soon relieved us from this anxiety, and may be quoted as the best possible answer to this portion of the *Atlas's* crimination.

"It is well known that the *Weekly Register*, from the first appearance of the notorious Regulations of April, 1844, to the present time, has invariably upheld them, and, as a natural consequence, has applauded the acts of my Lord Stanley and Sir G. Gipps. In doing this, however, it is but justice to our contemporary to say that his arguments were generally written in good taste, and showed on the face of them that the writer was sincere. We cannot, therefore, avoid expressing our disgust at the following sentence in an article in Saturday's *Atlas*:—'The *Weekly Register* has shown itself desirous of attaining an ignominious pre-eminence in opposing everything manly, straightforward, and constitutional; and in supporting everything mean, tyrannical, and unjust.' *We unhesitatingly declare this to be grossly untrue, and discreditable to the pen that wrote it. On nearly every political point of importance we differ entirely from the Register; but we consider it only an act of common justice to express our opinion that the charges in the Atlas are unfounded.*"

Thus far the *Herald*—a testimony as honourable to the writer's feelings as it is just to ours; and which, (on the eve of our final retirement from the periodical press after seven years' conflict with the authority which volunteers it,) we may be allowed to cite with some satisfaction. The *Australian*, in adopting the sentiments of the *Herald*, adds that "the same causes which render eulogium due to the *Weekly Register*, render the *Atlas* worthy of its own censures."

It is indeed quite true that we have advocated the Governor's measures for regu-

lating the occupation of waste lands, and for incorporating the districts; but we have yet to learn that it is unmanly, mean, or unjust to support a good measure because it happens to be introduced by the government. We do not profess to understand what the *Atlas* means by the term "constitutional," but we should imagine it is not unconstitutional to support the government when it is right. We know of a journal which, on the public showing of its own editor (*teste* Captain Nagel), dare not pay the Governor common respect, or cease from abusing him, lest "it should lose all its subscribers." That journal is the *Atlas*. The *Register* was certainly more "manly and straightforward" than this. In 1844, we despised subscriptions, and supported the measures in question, as every body knows, in the very teeth of public opinion, expressed at public meetings everywhere, and by almost every other pen in the colony. Here are facts that cannot be denied, and it will be easy to judge from them where the "manliness" is to be found, and where also the "meanness."

Another circumstance may be mentioned. The *Register* took part with the "opposition" in an attempt to introduce into the colony a general system of education—the editor became one in committees and at public meetings with men whose public conduct, generally, he heartily despises, and provoked hostility from others whom he highly respects, that this great object might be effected. What was the conduct of the great gun of the *Atlas* in this respect? He addressed the electors of St. Vincent in language *ad captandum vulgus*, and, to purchase a few paltry votes, basely concealed his opinions and exertions on the great question of education—the only real claims he had established to the vote of any elector who possessed the free use of his reasoning faculties.

Here again are facts, which will enable the impartial reader to decide on which side the "manliness" or the "meanness" is to be found. It certainly does not appear to us that opposition to lawfully constituted authority is *in itself* either "manly" or commendable. It may happen to be the reverse. It may even be cowardly and disgraceful; and we think there would be very little difficulty in pointing out much that is both cowardly and disgraceful in the opposition of which the *Atlas* has been the organ. But we shall not descend to bandy abuse; suffice it to say that:

until it is shewn that it is a political crime to support lawful government against an overbearing oligarchy, or that the equitable measures which we have supported are in themselves "tyrannical and unjust," we stand acquitted of the charges brought against us by the *Atlas*. We have repeatedly challenged our contemporaries in the "opposition" to the discussion of these measures *on their own merits*, but none of them has hitherto stooped to pick up our gauntlet.

The *Atlas* proceeds—"On Saturday last, the *Register* outdid all its former achievements. In its humiliating defence of the new Land Bill, it degraded itself by saying, that "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." Contemptible as the *Register* has long been in our estimation, we did not think that it would have outraged the common sense of the community, by putting forward so monstrous a proposition as this. But its candour, it seems, has outrun its discretion. It has now enabled us to form an accurate estimate, of the sincerity and the value of that support, which was thought worthy of being specially placed under the notice of Lord Stanley. In order that that autocrat and the Colonial-office, as well as the British public also, may fully understand the stamp and character of the advocate of Sir George Gipps in this colony, we have deemed it not improper to go out of our usual course, by taking this marked notice of a contemporary, whose reputation here is quite commensurate with that of the Government on which he fawns. At the first glance, we thought that the *Register* used the word unconstitutional in a restricted sense—that it merely meant to assert, that whatever Parliament might choose to enact, was in the strict legal meaning of the term constitutional. But on reperusal, we found that it was not so—but, that this writer deliberately asserts, that whatever may be enacted by the Imperial Parliament "is to all intents and purposes constitutional." This could only have come from the man, who has had the hardihood repeatedly to assume that whatever Sir George Gipps may do, is correct and constitutional also. The one position is not a whit more defensible than the other. In the opinion of this unmanly truckler to those who hold the reins of power, it is impossible for Parliament to violate the principles of the constitution."

We have never once, far less "repeatedly, assumed that whatever Sir George Gipps may do is correct and constitutional." We have in numberless instances opposed his Excellency's measures, as our earlier colonial writings exist to testify. Indeed until Sir George Gipps was afforded the opportunity of giving the *coup de grace* to Mr. Wentworth and his New Zealand land sharks, in the admirable manner in which he accomplished that business, we were inclined to look with disfavour or indifference on all his Excellency's acts; if then we have latterly supported him, it has been because we honestly approved of his measures, and admired the talent with which he carried them out. As to "fawning" and "truckling" we spurn the accusation as applied to ourselves, and despise all who are guilty of such baseness.

We plead guilty, however, to having asserted that whatever is enacted by the Impe-

rial Parliament is to all intents and purposes constitutional; and we made this assertion on purpose that it might arrest the notice of the *Atlas* and its faction, who have this unmeaning term continually in their mouths. The constitution, if it mean any thing definite, means a government by Queen, Lords and Commons. Whatever is enacted by the Queen Lords and Commons is therefore enacted constitutionally. There are indeed other things that are supposed to be essential parts of the constitution, such as trial by Jury, Habeas Corpus, a State Church, and so forth, but all these have undergone various modifications by Parliament, and might be all abolished by the Parliament at any time, if it were held politic or necessary. In our own time we have seen vital changes introduced, for example, in the repeal of the Test Acts and Penal Laws, in the Reform Bill, in the Corporation Reform Acts, &c., all of which were inroads upon the "Constitution" in the estimation of certain great politicians of the time; among whom some prophesied that "the sun of Great Britain would set for ever" if they were passed. Yet passed they were, and the sun of Great Britain is as bright as before; and the "Constitution" is not a bit the worse. On this principle we maintain that whatever is done by the lawfully constituted authority of the state is done constitutionally, and that whatever is done contrary to this authority by the usurpation of any faction within the state, is done unconstitutionally. Any other use of the term "constitutional" is a mere appeal to ignorant prejudice to frighten honest men from consenting to legislative improvements. That the constituted authorities may act tyrannically or unjustly we do not dispute, and of the right of the people to resist this constitutional power, when grossly abused, we are as well convinced as the *Atlas*, or any of the Seldens, Camdens and Chathams needlessly quoted by him. The last mentioned orator, in the very passage quoted, says,—"I assert the authority of this kingdom [England] over the colonies to be sovereign and supreme, in every circumstance of government and legislation whatsoever," and we have never asserted more. We might even dispute a portion of this universal supremacy, if we found that public opinion in this colony were as far in advance of the measures of government as it now basely and ignominiously lags behind them; but in the present state of political knowledge among the colonists generally, and with the knowledge we possess of the grasping designs of our public men, we are content rather to bear those ills we have—the occasional errors of the Home Government—than fly to those we know not of, by receiving the degrading yoke of an unprincipled faction.

The *Atlas* proceeds:—"No maxim can be more dangerous, than that which the *Register* lays down. It strikes at the very root of colonial freedom—it cuts all our civil rights from under us, and leaves us at the mercy of an irresponsible despot in the person of a Secretary of State. It is as absurd too, as it is *anti-English*. We know that in matters of Government, Parliament is omnipotent, because it has not, and cannot in the nature of things have, any superior. But, it is not on that account the less unable to violate the principles of the Constitution. On many occasions did it do this before it passed the Stamp Act—and particularly in that cele-

brated instance, when it authorised a House of Commons elected for three years to sit for seven."

"Anti-English" is another of those bugbears that are constantly thrown in the way of good legislation. When you cannot find any objection to the measure itself, you have only to get up an outcry of "unconstitutional," "anti-English," and if you add to these "no taxation" you are sure to carry with you a certain portion of the biped race. "Nothing" says an admirable writer "could more vividly show at any time the abject state of political science than the prevalence of the doctrine, that a nation is not at liberty, or has not a right, as the phrase is, to adopt a beneficial measure, or introduce an advantageous alteration, because the improvement is not mentioned, or if mentioned, is prohibited in a document consecrated by the lapse of a few centuries." The Septennial Act was an improper exercise of the power of the Parliament at the time, and was enacted for a factious purpose, but it is not the less a constitutional law as it stands at present. The act which settled the royal succession in the House of Hanover was a similar inroad on the bugbear "constitution." It is sheer nonsense, therefore, to say in the same breath that "the parliament is omnipotent," and that it is "unable to violate the principles of the constitution;" unless it be in the sense adopted by us, that whatever the Parliament does is *ipso facto* constitutional. Every one who has read the History of England knows that the Parliament has altered and amended the "constitution" fifty times; and is constantly doing so, almost every session, in a greater or lesser degree, despite the "constitutional" bugbear in question.

On the same principle it was constitutional for the parliament to present us colonists with a local representative government, such as we now have; it was constitutional to restrict the powers of the legislature so created; and it would be equally constitutional for it to extend this representation, or to withdraw it altogether, if circumstances required it. Our constitution is just whatever form of government the Queen, Lords, and Commons of Great Britain may concede to us, and nothing more, until some hundred years hence we shall be in a position to make a constitution for ourselves.

"The people," continues the *Atlas*, "have delegated all their powers to their representatives, but still there are certain principles which these representatives cannot violate, without violating the constitution." In a legislature like our local Council this is certainly true, because that body has no power but that which is delegated to it by the imperial parliament; when it exceeds the power conferred upon it by acts of parliament, it is certainly guilty (as in the late Northumberland boroughs case) of violating the constitution; but it is very different with the imperial parliament, which may now do what it has done before, alter the character and laws of the constitution, and even the succession of the crown, as often as grave circumstances may seem to require it.

The *Atlas* proceeds:—"Any Act of Parliament which would violate this great principle in England, [taxation by representation] would be denounced by men of all parties and of every shade of political opinion, as unconstitutional, and would be resisted to the

last extremity. And why should not such an Act be denounced as unconstitutional when applied to ourselves? What is this Bill of Lord Stanley's but a Bill to make our Legislative Council a nullity, and to place powers of unlimited taxation in the hands of a nominee from Downing-street?"

Any Act of Parliament which would violate the principle of taxation by representation in England would undoubtedly be unconstitutional, because it would be equivalent to an abrogation of the Commons House of Parliament. Well might such a foolish and wicked act "be resisted to the last extremity." But there is nothing of all this in Lord Stanley's Bill, which has no reference to taxation at all, in the right sense of the word. Or even if we were to concede, for the sake of argument (what for any other purpose would be an absurd concession), that the purchase money of leases, under the Bill, were a species of taxes, the manner of raising them is even more popular than the representative system itself—they are to be raised by the people themselves assembled at public auction!

The *Atlas* concludes by saying that "This Bill has already excited as much alarm in the colony, as the opinions of the *Register* respecting it have excited disgust. The minister and the advocate in this business are worthy of each other."

This latter sentence is really a compliment and we accept it, but we must deny that the Bill has excited so "much alarm" as is here alleged.

The "cormorants," as Mr. Windeyer once aptly termed the great squatters, may be alarmed at the Bill, as it would, if passed, compel them to give up their present monopoly, or pay an equivalent for it; but so far as our observation has reached, the Bill is rather popular than otherwise. Certain it is the *Atlas* is wrong in saying that the *Register* is "the only defender that is not ashamed to take its part." The greater portion of the press seems to join us in our qualified defence of it. The *Australian*, for example, in a long and very sensible article on the subject, says—

"The utmost damage of this Bill will be, that it will place the Governors of this colony in the same position as Mr. Boyd stands with the numerous estates and runs he has purchased—and as, in fact, all landholders in this colony and in England stand, namely, it will empower his Excellency to let the waste lands of the crown on such terms as he pleases; save, that his terms must first receive the sanction of a majority of our Executive Council. The only question for the people of the colony in this affair is this. Which do you prefer as a bailiff or steward over your lands, Messrs. Boyd and Co. and the Squatters, the Legislative Council, consisting chiefly of the same class, or the Governor of the Colony for the time-being and his Executive Council? For ourselves, if we must choose between the three, we would prefer the latter."

In like manner the *Maitland Mercury* says the Bill is "a very decided improvement on the present Act for the Sale of Waste Lands. It will remove the obstacles which at present exist to the leasing of waste lands within the boundaries.....Another good feature of the Bill is that it does away with the pre-

sent impolitic distinction between squatting within and without the boundaries. If the squatting system is to be perpetuated, there is surely no good reason why the waste lands within the boundaries should not be rendered profitable to individuals and to the state as well as those beyond. The provision which admits of the joint operation of the leasing and licensing system we look upon as a very good one. It will afford individuals an opportunity of suiting their choice and their interests."

Such are the opinions of some of the best edited journals in the colony, which, so far as they go, coincide with our own. Instead, therefore, of effecting its purpose, of damaging our reputation with "that autocrat, Lord Stanley, and the Colonial Office, as well as the British public," the *Atlas* has succeeded most thoroughly in damaging its own with all thinking men, supposing that any reputation was left to it in the estimation of such, after the numerous faux pas it had previously made.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

WITH reference to the projected changes in the government of the Australian Colonies, the Sydney correspondent of the *Port Phillip Herald* reports that "private letters state the probability of Mr. E. Deas Thomson being appointed Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales, and of Mr. Harrington (formerly Assistant Colonial Secretary) succeeding Mr. Thomson as Colonial Secretary." The writer adds—"We cannot, of course, vouch for the truth of these rumours, but we can positively assert that they are considered correct in all the leading circles."

We had previously heard the same report, but took no notice of it, as it seemed to stand in need of confirmation. Now that it has appeared in print, with something like a guarantee, we cannot help expressing a wish that it may be found to be true; at least as respects Mr. Thomson. For the wisdom or popularity of re-appointing Mr. Harrington to this colony we cannot vouch; but the promotion of Mr. Thomson, besides being a just reward for steady and faithful services, would be received with satisfaction by the whole colony.

Previous to the formation of our new constitution, Mr. Thomson had the reputation of being an active and methodical head of a department, but nothing more. In the old Council, the Governor being both president and leader, Mr. Thomson had ostensibly little to do but to read the order of the day. In the new Council, the leadership having devolved upon him, he has evinced the possession of a much higher order of talent than the public gave him credit for. He has had to speak very often, on a great variety of subjects, and against persons neither unpractised nor scrupulous, yet he has seldom, if ever, failed to come off successful; at the same time that his uniform good temper and gentlemanlike manner has won the respect even of the bitterest of the opposition. On subjects of political economy he is, without exception, the most enlightened member of the house.

On these grounds we shall hear the confirmation of the above rumour as to the appointment of Lieutenant Governor with much satisfaction.

ABORIGINAL ETYMOLOGIES.

We have been favoured by a friend who has paid much attention to the character of the aboriginal natives of this country with the following notes of the apparent derivation of several of their words from the languages of the old world. They are obviously too meagre to form a foundation for any theory respecting the origin of this interesting race, but they are curious; and in our present state of culpable ignorance of the Australian race and their tongue, any information of the kind is worthy of being preserved.—

A ship, *nao-i*.—In Persian, *nao*; Greek, *naus*; Lat. *navis*; Welsh, *ndo*.

To go, *yan*.—Hindustanee *jan-na*; Italian, *an-dare*; Scottice, *gang*.

To make marks, to write, *kalama*, a reed, a pen.—Persian and Hindustanee, *callam*; Greek, *kalamos*; Latin, *calamus*.

A man, *joen*.—Persian, *juan*; Latin, *juven-is*.

A woman, *gin*, the "g" is pronounced hard by the natives.—Greek, *gin omai*, *gym-e*.

Beautiful, *kalia*;—Greek, *kalos*, *kala*, *kalon*. Sun, *noah*; said by Faber and Bryant to have been the most ancient name for the sun.

Priest, Doctor, *Korajee*;—in Persian, *Khoajeh*; a teacher or master.

To call, *cama*;—Italian, *chiama-re*.

Strike, *mah*;—So in Hindustanee, *mah*; strike thou. This term is always used by the natives when spearing fish, one will see the fish close to the spear the holder of which may be in doubt, and his companion calls out, "strike!" "mah!"

Rain, *pan-na*;—Hindustanee, *pannee*; water. Gypsies use the same word in their language.

Where are you, *koo-y*;—In Persian *koo*, where; *ye*, thou;—thus *koo, ye*, where art thou.

A village, *gong*.—thus, *Wollon-gong*, *Mitta-gong*. There are many places in the Decan called *Meeta-gong*. *Meeta* in Hindustanee means, sweet,—thus *Meeta-gong* is sweet or delightful place of residence or village. There are many terminations in *gong* in India.

A shelter, *gunniyah*;—In Persian, or rather in Arabic, *gunn*,—a shelter or covering from the sun; an inner room.

City Council.

MONDAY.

The Council went into Committee on the By-laws and proceeded with the consideration of clauses standing over, and some additional clauses proposed in the By-law to regulate the hackney coaches and cars, driver, owners, &c.

The only clause of importance introduced was one prohibiting dead bodies from being conveyed to burial places in hackney coaches, lest any contagious disease might be spread by parties going into hackney coaches in which the bodies of children, dying of contagious diseases, had been recently conveyed to the burial ground.

It was moved by Mr. Fisher, and seconded by Mr. Sillitoe, that the clause fixing the license fee at £7 was too high; but this was opposed on the ground that even the license for a barrow was 2s. 6d. per week, or more than £6 a year; and moreover, that the injury caused by the carriages to the streets

required that such a charge should be made. It was stated by Alderman Holden and by Mr. Titterton, that the cab proprietors were satisfied to pay £7, and only felt surprised that more had not been charged.

The motion was lost, and the license fee fixed subsequently at £7 per annum.

The By-law having been gone through in Committee, the Council resumed its sittings; the Mayor reported progress, and the Council adjourned to Monday next.

Domestic Intelligence.

MILITARY INSUBORDINATION.—Some insubordination was exhibited by the military on Monday, in consequence of a reduction having been made in the rations of spirits: the men positively refused to turn out until the Lieutenant-General promised that, pending an appeal to the Horse Guards, the rations claimed by the soldiers should be issued. At Parramatta we regret to hear the detachment of the 58th not only refused to do duty, but took their arms out of barracks, marched to the Governor's guard, and compelled them to leave their posts and go into the barracks. They were afterwards reduced to order without any knowledge of the General's concession.

STEAM TO ENGLAND.—Some four or five years ago, when writing on the probability of steam communication between England and the colonies, we expressed our opinion that about 1850 we might expect that desirable event to take place. Recent events have convinced us, that what was but a rough guess will turn out to be the case, and that in from four or five years steamers will be regularly despatched from Sydney to meet the steamers from Suez to China, and convey our mails backward and forward. Scarcely a mail arrives from England that does not bring some intimation of the extension of the "line" of mail steamers in this direction. A few weeks have only elapsed since we had to announce the departure of the first "overland" mail for China direct, and we have in this morning's paper another important announcement on the same subject, her Majesty's government having determined to form a settlement in the immediate neighbourhood of Borneo, which is said to contain a large supply of good coal. This is a most important step, and must be productive of immense benefit.—*Herald*.

AUSTRALIAN CORN—We observe that a society has been formed in London, under the title of the "New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land Commercial Association," and we have now before us the speech of William Hutt, Esq., M.P., printed for the society. It is gratifying to find that active friends to the colonists exist, and we hope settlers will show how much they appreciate the exertions of these gentlemen, by supporting them in their efforts to obtain justice for this colony. The 4th of November is the day appointed for another meeting, to adopt a petition to Parliament, respecting Australian corn; and we trust the number in attendance will be large, and that the petition itself will be more numerously signed than any document ever transmitted from the northern division of this island.—*Launceston Examiner*.

RECIPROCITY OF TRADE.—The local government of this colony, when sometime ago the propriety of fixing an *ad valorem* duty on wheat of foreign growth was urged upon their notice, replied that Lord Stanley would never permit differential duties; that, indeed, it was contrary to the Governor's instructions to attempt any such mode of raising a revenue. Yet, notwithstanding, the legislature of New South Wales, a neighbouring colony, refuses admission to our produce except on payment of duty and wharfage. We receive the oranges of New South Wales free, but she taxes our apples. Hundreds and thousands of sheep and cattle from her illimitable pastures are poured in upon our markets, to the destruction of our graziers, free of any expense; but she will not receive even a horse from us excepting at a cost of at least 15 per cent. of the amount it realizes by sale. And Lord Stanley allows such a system to obtain and remain part of the law of New South Wales. We do not complain of the course pursued by the local government of Van Diemen's Land; but we regret that a neighbouring colony should be permitted by the imperial government to impose such restrictions upon inter-colonial trade.—*Launceston Advertiser*.

MAIL TO ADELAIDE.—We are gratified in having to announce, that postal over-land communication between Adelaide and this colony is to be forthwith established, Sir George Gipps having given his sanction to the undertaking. The mail is to be at first once a fortnight. The main plan to be adopted for the public benefit is, that the mail should start from Portland, at the same time as the Melbourne mail, and on arriving at the Fitzroy, to branch off towards the Crawford and the Water Holes, where the stations are thick, and the settlers wealthy. It might then cross the Glenelg, at the junction of that river with the Wannan, on or near the station of Mr. John Henty, where a bridge is shortly to be erected.—*Portland Guardian*.

LIBELS.—Mr. Kerr, editor of the *Melbourne Courier*, was found guilty on a criminal information of libelling Mr. Macnamara; the jury unanimously requested the Judge to pass the lightest sentence the law allowed. Mr. Goode, the printer of the *Melbourne Courier*, was indicted for publishing a libel on Mr. Macnamara, but the case broke down from want of proof that the defendant was the person whose name appeared in the imprint.

CENSUS.—His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified, that under the provisions of the Act of the Governor and Council, 9 Victoria, No. 21, intituled, "*An Act for taking an account of the population of New South Wales*," the boundaries of the counties or reputed counties of Stanley and Auckland, in the Sydney or Middle District of the colony, have, for the purposes of the said Act, been thus defined, that is to say—*The County of Stanley*: to comprehend the portion of the colony of New South Wales, lying between the parallels of 27 and 28 degrees of south latitude, and bounded on the east by the Pacific Ocean; and on the west by the mountain ridge which separates the waters which fall into the Pacific Ocean from those which run to the Darling River, and ultimately by the River Murray to the Southern Ocean. *The County of Auckland*: To comprehend the portion of the colony of

New South Wales, bounded by a line running from Cape Howe along the boundary of the district of Port Phillip, as the same is described in the second section of the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 5 and 6 Victoria, ch. 76, intituled "An Act for the Government of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land," to the point where the said boundary crosses the 149th degree of east longitude, reckoned from the meridian of Greenwich; thence due north along the said 149th degree of east longitude to the latitude of 36 degrees 40 minutes south; thence due eastward to the sea, and thence southward along the sea coast to Cape Howe.

APPOINTMENTS.—His Excellency the Governor has appointed James Charles Burnett, Esq., Assistant Surveyor, to be a Commissioner of Crown Lands, in the colony of New South Wales; also, Mr. William Conway Armstrong, to be Clerk of Petty Session and Registrar of the Court of Requests at Queanbeyan, in the room of Mr. Godfrey Russell, resigned.

HYDE PARK BARRACKS.—With reference to a paragraph in last Saturday's *Register*, respecting a man named William Bright, wherein it is stated that he was about to be discharged from Hyde Park Barracks where he had been for identification, had not an ex-constable named Ward recognised him, we are requested by Mr. Rogers to state, that upon Bright being brought into the office, a gentleman who stood by recognised him, as a runaway convict, as also did another man who stood beside the prisoner; and, in order to ascertain his name, he was sent over to the Superintendent's office, where it was at once obtained. Returning from thence, Ward stated he knew him, but the prisoner had already been identified.

MR. MARSH'S GRAND CONCERT.—This concert took place on Wednesday evening at the Victoria Theatre. The audience were respectable, but not numerous. His Excellency the Governor honoured the theatre with his presence, and was warmly received. The vocalists were Mesdames Sterling, Carandini, and Wallace; and Messrs. F. and J. Howson, Carandini, and a Mr. Waller. The selection of songs, duets, &c., was rather heavy, and the singing exceedingly tame; this was, however, well compensated for by the instrumental music. Mr. Marsh was particularly happy on both harp and piano-forte—also Mr. J. Howson on the trombone. Mr. F. Ellard promises well; but should get cured of those apparently spasmodic *twitchings* with which his hands, on every convenient opportunity, fly from the keys. The evening was much enlivened by the beautiful band of the 95th, who performed the overture with much spirit and precision; this is a composition of Mr. Marsh's, and a very creditable one, as far as we could judge from once hearing.

ELOPEMENT EXTRAORDINARY.—On Saturday night last the neighbourhood of the Rocks was thrown into a state of unwonted excitement, by a report that the wife of a certain wealthy publican, residing in Cumberland street, had eloped with a young carpenter. The lady is about 45 years of age, and the swain numbers not more than half the summers. A gold watch and about £700 eloped at the same time.