

Government, particularly with the Stamp Act, which trode upon their toes too heavily. They therefore refused not only to take the pledge of union which was offered to them, but also to take tea any more with their mother. So, by way of a finish, they broke all the crockery, and turned Boston Harbour into one large teapot, swearing they would eat all the Parliament cakes who could perceive neither the sweetness nor cream of the joke. At that time the felony of the United Kingdom were accustomed to drag out their lives and chains in America; but, she having declined to be fettered with such associations, it was found necessary to find a penal settlement in some other corner of the globe, and Australia was the favorite for choice. In order to give it a pleasing appearance, the infant scheme was clothed in garments of the most humane, affectionate, and charitable cut. Thus, No. 1. The cap and feathers—"To rid the mother-country of prisoners and gaol accumulations." No. 2. The bib and tucker—"To afford a proper place for their safe custody and reformation." No. 3. The swaddling clothes—"To form a free colony out of reformed prisoners and emigrants of a moral, bland, and mellifluous nature."

With these praiseworthy objects in view, but at a very considerable distance, inasmuch as they have not been yet come up with, the first fleet was despatched under the command of Philip, R.N., Governor and Captain A. 1* In 1788, he anchored in Botany Bay,† where, from the tremendous surf which rolls in, he stood every chance of bottomizing, rather than botanizing; and, as bottomizer was not in his bond, he took the liberty of altering his views; and taking the whole body through the Heads, landed at Port Jackson, where he commenced his reign in very dry weather. Here, however, he was again put to his shifts, for he found the soil far too hard for his corns, and the prisoners too sharp for his stores: they having committed several thefts, particularly in the matter of a young bull-calf, from his small stock, which the Governor forcibly remarked, "was very detrimental to the general weal." Desertion also became frequent, the men having taken it into their heads that China was not so very far north as to be out of their reach; so that the green tea country was keeping the new, as it had kept the old, Colony in hot water.

Compelled by circumstances, Governor Philip sent a branch Colony to take possession of Norfolk Island, a sweet and fertile spot, about the size of a hand-box. Here starvation soon stared them in the face; and had it not been for the arrival of large flights of aquatic birds of the goose species, they would not have had a feather to fly with. Sometimes they took 3,000 birds in a night, eggs and all, warranted. Much has been written and read about geese saving the Capital; yet, surely these were far more capital geese. It has been remarked by ornithologists that these birds came to lay their eggs; and found a difficulty in reascending on account of the length of their wings; but we think that the counter exertions of some hundreds of starving stomachs will very sufficiently account for any difficulty the birds found in reascending.

In this situation of affairs, arrived the second Fleet; which fortunately lost 194 males, and 4 females on the passage; we say, fortunately, because it was better to die with scurvy on board, than to drag on a lingering existence midst starvation and scurvy treatment on shore. Hercules achieved a vast number of labours; and also did Governor Philip; but both sunk under their weight at last; and the Governor in 1792, was obliged to return home for the benefit of his health, and we hope for the benefit of the Colony. The estimation in which he was held, and the sorrow manifested at his departure, are fully represented in the following distich, which he discovered in the crown of his hat the day after he set sail.

"Great Governor Philip,
You've travelled a hill up,
Since first you began to reign:
No doubt you are glad, Sir;
And we are not sad, Sir;
That home you are gone again!"
(To be continued.)

THE MISHAPS OF MR. LATITAT NABHIM.
BY THE AUTHOR OF CHARLES O'MALLEY.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE coach had rolled on nearly to the end of the first stage, without Mr. Latitat deigning to look at any of his fellow-passengers. The inside opposite to him, a shrewd and observant man, who, to judge by his appearance, was more accustomed to the sharp practice of a session's court, than to the more dignified business of the Four Courts, remarked the sullen, discontented air of Mr. L. with more than common curiosity. The blue bag, hugged so closely, the hat fixed so firmly on his head, the down look,—never for an instant altered, but by a very transient play of sharpness over the features—were all put together by the sessions practitioner, and when added up, assured him that Mr. L. was somebody. Thus impressed, he only watched an opportunity to acquire from the little sharp-looking man's own lips more information. At length, wearied, perhaps, with looking down, Mr. L. looked up, and he almost started when he felt a pair of eyes rivetted on his own, quite as shrewd as his own, and quite as practised, as was evident, in the art of looking into a man.

The sessions practitioner perceived at once that this was the time for opening fire. With a polite bow, and a smile of blandness well calculated to throw any one but Mr. L. off his guard, he remarked:—"I'm afraid, sir, you find this a wearisome road. I have known it so long, that I have outlived the fatigue which it cannot but inflict on passengers newly trying this line to Dublin."

This observation was intended to satisfy Mr. L. that he was known to be a stranger to the Cork and Dublin mail—that he was a new traveller—and entitled to sympathy. Would this induce him to let any thing out?

"Ah!" replied the sharp-looking little man, sensible, by instinct, that he had another sharp fellow to deal with—"Ah!—yes, it is tiresome."

The gentleman of sessions celebrity, laughed at the cuteness of his opposite neighbour; but he laughed in his sleeve—somewhere about his elbow. No one heard him cacchinate—no one saw a muscle of his face move. But he was not to be out-manœvered. He smiled again on Mr. L., and continued:—

"Yes, sir, it is tiresome; and strangers must feel it particularly so, who have not, as we have, local associations to keep our eyes open."

The sharp-looking little man now felt more amused than before. He was certain his new acquaintance was a knowing fellow—one fond too of information, which he was determined not to afford him. "All roads, sir," he replied, "are much of a muchness to me."

* As it only took eight or nine months to reach its destination, we think the term "despatched" is not unmerited.

† The place was so called by Captain Cook, on account of the number of plants which he sprung there, occasioned by the peculiar propensities of the natives with whom he had intercourse.

"Do you sleep well, sir, on all roads?" quickly asked the sessions lawyer.

"I'm never caught napping on any road, sir," was Mr. L.'s judicious reply.

"Reelly," remarked the discomfited examiner, "it's a blessing not to require sleep."

"Nothing like eyes open," observed Mr. L., who unfortunately began to feel too strong in his own powers; and what was worse, by the significant smile with which he accompanied his observation, showed what he felt.

"Ha!" thought the sessions gentleman, "I have thee on the hip," and then he continued—"It's delightful to find so agreeable a companion so unexpectedly. One, too, whom, if I may be so bold, sir—I being a lawyer—one, too, whom I may consider a brother chip."

Whether it was to be found in the fact that Mr. L.'s practice was so intimately connected with the lawyers, and therefore that he claimed a sort of kin to the fraternity: or whether it was, that by giving information, no matter how trifling, to any one, we predispose that individual to be communicative in his turn, it need not be discussed; but so it was, the bum's heart, or what he called his heart, warmed to the man of the sessions.

"Happy, sir—happy, indeed—not quite a lawyer, but a—something of a—the kind," said Mr. L., all smiles and graciousness.

"At all events," urged the sessions gentleman, "we are fraternates—professionals."

"Exactly," assented Mr. L., who, puzzled with the first word, hesitated for an instant, and then, in the wisdom of an unguarded moment, thought it might be the Irish for that great class of government nondescript employes called "commissioners." To Mr. L. it appeared wisdom to be any body, or any thing, rather than himself; therefore he replied, "exactly, sir—exactly,—we are fra—a—yes—exactly, you are a lawyer, and I'm a commissioner;—a kind of lawyer, you know!"

"Admirable," thought the lawyer, "I have him." Then assuming the most obsequiously respectful manner, he observed—"Sir, you honor me too highly. I am nothing more than a practising sessions attorney,—we call them lawyers here. You, a commissioner, and by your voice English, are, no doubt, of the English bar. Sir, you honor me by allowing me to be of kin to you."

"O! not in the least,—lawyers are lawyers you know my friend, whether they are a—lawyers—or a—commissioners!"

"Ah! I suppose," said the lawyer, "you have heard of the intended poor-law commission for Ireland?"

"Yes, yes, haven't I though?" was the odd reply, accompanied by a wink of the right eye, intended to speak volumes to his new friend.

"Oh! go far, sir?" asked a gruff voice, on the left of Mr. L.

"Only to Y—," said Mr. L., now completely off his guard.

"Ah!—I see—business there," in an under-tone said the lawyer to the commissioner; at the same time returning the compliment of the before-mentioned wink of the eye—"Business there."

At that instant the coachman suddenly pulled up to change horses; the effect of which short pull up, was to throw the gentlemen whose faces were to the horses, into the most vulnerable parts of the gentlemen whose backs were to the horses.

"Ugh! ugh!" coughed the gruff voice of the passenger who sat alongside Mr. Latitat.

"Lor!" ejaculated Mr. L., with the best part of his wind gone into the next week.

"Pardon, sir," asked the opposite to the gruff voice, as he gathered himself up into a sitting posture again.

"A thousand par—ar—dons," besought the lawyer of the commissioner, as he disentangled his angulated nose from the half-buttoned up, double-breasted waistcoat of Mr. L.—"I beg—ah!"—the lawyer could say no more; he was thrown quite aback;—for, who would believe it—his keen little eyes, which, whether in court or out of court, whether scrutinising a witness or a bed-curtain, were never known to be at fault—saw, peering out of a pocket inside the double-breasted waistcoat, a most suspicious-looking piece of dirty-coloured parchment. The sight was sufficient. The lawyer bolted out of the mail, and into the stable.

"Bob," said the clever fellow to the ostler, who was just bringing out one of the leaders, "open your hand, Bob,—there—there—shut it now,—there's a sovereign in it—mum—hold your tongue, you vagabond. Haven't you a lame horse in the stable, Bob?"

"Not all out, yer honour," replied Bob; "but we've won as 'll lame in five-an-thirteen perches."

"That will do. Put it to the mail. Don't ask questions, now. I want four horses on to Y—in an instant. Hold yer tongue, ye villain, and mind your business!"

Bob stared for a moment at the sessions lawyer, and then at the sovereign in his hand. What was he to do? Surely as he was bid, and especially when he was paid for it. He took back the leader; but before he had stripped the housing, the lawyer had hurried into the bar—had there contrived to kiss the bar-maid, to drink off something out of a tumbler to the success of somebody, and had ordered four horses, without delay, on to Y—.

"Chaze an foore there, Bob, immedieatlee!" called out the waiter.

"In less nor a min-it," replied Bob.

"Make haste wid thim hosses, Bob," commanded the guard.

"Cock ye up! Let yer betters be tindid first," retorted the ostler, pretty smartly.

"Shure, isn't it the mail, ye thafe, that's waitin'?" demanded the man with the horn.

"I bleve ye, Ned," said Bob, "yer right, Ned."

During this dialogue, the four best horses in the stable were brought out, and put to a chaise which stood ready for work some few yards behind the mail.

"Ned," said the lawyer, who, as he passed the guard on his way from the inn door to the chaise, "there's something for ye," and he put something worth having into his hand. "Give a part to the coachman, and mind leave my bag at the inn, Ned."

"Never fear, yer honour, we'll not forget ye," was the satisfactory reply.

Bang went the chaise door; crack went the whips of the post-boys, and away flew the chaise and four.

In due time, the mail continued its route to the next stage, where, in due time, it did not arrive. The solution, however, was plain: one of the horses had fallen lame, and the guard, eventually, was obliged to relieve it of all work, and to send it back, after the coachman had over-dosed it with whip-cord, to no purpose, by a boy, to its own stable.

At first, Mr. L. now thinking himself almost a commissioner, and, at all events, bound by every law of honesty to continue to enact the part which he had assumed, wondered what had become of his late opposite friend. However, as the lawyer had not said where he was to stop, he took it for granted that he had got to the end of his journey, and had parted company with him in the ordinary way. Mr. L. therefore went on to Y— very contentedly, as fast as the coach went; but, of course, no faster. Not so was it with the lawyer—he, with four horses, maddened into the pace of racing by whip and spur,—the post-boys being liberal of both,—and the lawyer, liberal of the "tin,"—almost flew over the

road, and into the arms of the Honourable Mr. Popularity's committee, at Y—.

"Out av the way, ye divils—out av the way!" shouted a big brawny man, covered with rags and dirt, to about thirty of his begging fraternity who stood, *en masse*, before the door of the Royal Hotel; "out av the way—bad cess to ye, don't ye see a chaze comin' at the pais av a hunt down the Parade; out av the way."

Up drove the chaise at a rattling pace, and the horses, foaming and snorting, dashed through the body of mendicants without harming one of them.

"All right yer honour," said the post-boy on the wheeler, who jumped off to open the chaise door, leaving his whip under his stirrup-leather.

"Bravely done, boys," courteously acknowledged the lawyer, as he cleared the steps at a bound, and hurried up to the Royal.

"What news, yer honour?" asked the big beggarman, of the lawyer; "our man's safe, ain't he, yer honour? Liberty an' Popularity, yer honour; that's it, ain't it?"

"That's it, that's it," replied the lawyer. "There's no news, boys, but success, none, barrin' this, Barney," remarked the man of the sessions, letting his voice fall almost into a whisper—"they tell me, Barney, there's a poor-law commissioner in the mail, sitting up in the near side, on the front seat, with his back to the horses; and that he's coming here, Barney; but, mind, I didn't tell ye."

"Ye tell me," whispered Barney; "no, no—bleve me I'd find out the man that was to interfere wid me rights, widout any tellin'." I'd smell him out: a commish'ner—bad luck to him, but it's we'll commish'ner him."

Thus delivering himself, Barney left the lawyer's side, who hurried into the hotel to discharge the post-boys. Barney walked majestically back to his ragged companions, where, in a very short time, many heads were seen to be put together, and a great deal of whispering to go on.

(To be continued.)



A Bowl of Punch.

SYDNEY INGREDIENTS.

SORTES VIRGILIANÆ.

Sæpe fugam Danaï Trojâ capiere relicta
Moliri: et longo fessi discedere bello.
Fecissentque utinam! Sæpe illos aspera ponti
Interclusit hyems, et terruit Auster euntes.
Eneidos. Lib. 2. l. 108.

Long had the chieftain and his arts of ill
Been foiled by honest truth and native skill:
Then, like the fettered slave who plies the oar,
He cursed the day he sought Australia's shore:
In vain he pray'd to leave her hated race;
The Gods were sullen, and—he stuck to place.

Ante leves ergo pascentur in æthere cervi,
Et freta destituent nudos in litore pisces:
Ante, perrerratibus amborum finibus, exul
Aut Ararim Partibus bibet, aut Germania Tigrim,
Quam nostro illius labatur pectore vultus.
Bucolica Ecl. 1. l. 60.

The little fishes over land shall swim,
And stags on ocean waves safe sport each limb;
The South-sea whaler shall give up his ships,
And Port Phillipian seek the land of Gipps;
Ere I, forswearing truth, the light of man,
Forget the author of that glorious plan
Which license gives for flocks and herds to stray,
And only makes us ten pounds, yearly, pay.

Cærulens Proteus ———
Hic tibi, nate, prius vinculis capiendus, ut omnem
Expediat morbi causam, eventusque secundet.
Nam sine ut non ulla dabit, præcepta, neque illum
Orando flectes. vim duram et vincula capto
Tende: docti circum hoc demum fragrantur inanes.
Georg. Lib. 4. l. 396.

His name is Proteus: far and wide his range;
With crude opinions ever prone to change;
Yet seek his aid: for he can heal thy State,
Thy ruined Constitution renovate:
But first securely place him in a fix,
Or, sure as eggs, he'll play you scaly tricks:
Once fairly hook him with unerring care,
And Proteus' slippery schemes will melt in air.

VARNHER'S
ELECTRO-VOLTIGEURIC-INVISIBLE-VIRLPOOLIC-SKI-HI
BATTERY.

Report of our own Reporter.

"From the earliest dawnings of policy to this day, the invention of men has been sharpening and improving the mystery of murder, from the first rude essay of clubs and stones to the present perfection of gunnery, cannoning, bombarding, and mining."—BURRE.

On Monday last, the neighbourhood of Kent-street was thrown into the most intense state of excitement by the report, that William Varnher, youngest son of the celebrated Steam Engineer and Stoker, late of Bedlam ferry, but now of Tarban Creek, was about to blow up a vessel by means of his newly invented Ski-hi battery, warranted to produce the enormous under current pressure of .00000000001 of its own accord. The ingenious originator some time since made application to the Colonial Secretary and Collector of Customs, offering the grand secret for sale; at the same time requesting the loan of a boat, if it were only a butter-boat, to test the truth of his discovery. These gentlemen, however, declined to interfere in the affair, declaring that it was as much as their lives, and (what was of more consequence) their places were worth to make the slightest encroachment upon the Treasury Chest, which is now branded MT. It is supposed that the sum asked by the inventor was "prodigious;" and, though we have been unable to ascertain the exact amount; yet, we believe it to be the intermediate fractional part of four and elevenpence halfpenny and five shillings; which the Colonial Secretary observed would, in case of payment, entirely damn the Government Coffers; and, in fact, that the applicant might as well ask for the Crown at once.

Foiled in this quarter, Varnher with an enterprise worthy of himself, determined to bear the whole expense; but this resolution having come to the ears of his schoolfellows, Smith, Jones, Brown, and Robinson, the large hoop, toy, and marble merchants, of

Brougham Place, (so called from the well known Dr. Dilworth, of the day,) they offered him the pick of their valuable and extensive stock of fancy articles and infant-marine stores for the prosecution of his scheme. The greatest impediment being now removed, he joyfully accepted the patriotic offer; at the same time borrowing eighteenpence for the current expenses; and fully explaining that they must not expect to see any part of their property again, as it would necessarily soon be at an elevation considerably out of their reach.

The vessel selected was the moiety or exact half part of the external covering of a walnut; the interior of which, though rather worm-eaten, was admirably fitted from its hollowness for a complete take in of every thing. Masts of fir were inserted, carefully carved with a penknife; all the cordage used was of the stoutest waxed thread; the blocks were Butcher's best; and the figure-head was a cat's-paw; but, whether this last had reference to the well known practice of shoeing those animals with walnut shells; or, that the vessel itself was about to be made a cat's-paw of, we are unable to determine.

The spot chosen for the explosion was a straggling puddle in one of the rocky bays or indents off the foot-path, in Kent-street; and which had been considerably deepened by the late rains. In fact some adventurous tadpole fishers, in the ardent pursuit of that valuable animal, had sunk a six inch thread line with a sparrow shot attached which failed to reach the bottom. Some idea, therefore, may be formed of the profundity of the channel; though none can be, of the depth of the scheme. In order that no impediment might exist to interfere with the success of the project, it was deemed necessary to drag from the stream several dead puppies, two grey jackets, and a dilapidated lime-basket. Immediately this was done, and all reported ready, the gallant craft was removed from Smith and Co.'s extensive glass-case, and brought upon a dry-dock leaf in order that she might be inspected by the public, previous to her encountering her "Aerial voyage," for which she was prepared with a most complete set of skyscrapers and moonrakers, elaborately worked and variegated with bal-cotton, in alternating stripes of black and blue. Having been declared seaworthy, or rather air-tight, this stately bark was launched into her native element, for she may be said to have grown in the Colony, and gently glided into a small harbour which had been formed by the projection of two Bath-bricks into the stream; where she lay, not "all that day," but for about an hour, snug and secure.

At this time there was a vast assemblage of persons; and amongst them we noticed several scientific men; consisting of a celebrated pugilist; an able body of mechanics; and three noted navigators closely connected with the City drains. Twelve o'clock was the hour originally appointed for the final catastrophe, when it would be determined whether Varnher was Varnher, or—no-body! The time was, however, extended to half-past twelve, in order to give the frequenters of a small day-school in the neighbourhood, an opportunity of witnessing this elevation, so important to the youthful generation, as yielding an example of rapid rising in the world, and the swift strides of science. All these having assembled, with the exception of Master Higgins, who had manifested a considerable obtuseness with respect to a lesson of ten monosyllables, beginning at AB ab; and, in lieu of attending the ceremony was perched on a form, with a conical covering of papyrus, better known as a fool's-cap, on the apex of his corporeal pyramid: and all being now ready, the signal was hoisted: which was a long pendant torn from the lower extremity of a superannuated regatta shirt; and the vessel was tugged into the stream, or rather shoved, for as she heeled slightly, a courageous little boy, rushed over his ancles, and propelling her onwards, soon placed her in a proper position in the eye of the world.

At this moment the heat and excitement were intense; but while the feelings of the spectators were wrought up to a degree of agony almost excruciating; a silly gosling waddled into the pool, and placed herself in a most dangerous situation; actually attending the wake of the ship before she was defunct. Varnher, with a presence of mind worthy so great a man, instantaneously called out "Stop-par! Eees-ar!" and, had it not been for these cabalistic words, powerful in their effect as the celebrated "Open Sesame," the gosling must have been done brown long before her time. She was soon made aware of these perils and dangers of her voyage, by the arrival of three oyster-shells and a brick-bat, which ricocheted over the stream, with that Taglioni skimming locomotion generally called "ducks and drakes;" and gave striking proof of a declaration of war on the part of the gentleman on the other side of the channel; the gosling not having, or in fact requiring, any pluck at the moment, sailed away and left the wide expanse of the Kent-street ocean clear for operation. Nor were the spectators kept long in suspense; for immediately after the blowing of a penny trumpet; and the shouting of the pass-words "Shellebelah! Shellebelah! Shellebelah! hi cokolorum jig!" up she went in a crack, an "Invisible shell taking the Long Range;"—proving the vast superiority of art over nature; and placing the deriders of science in a most ridiculous position.

The surprise and horror of the beholders, we must request our readers to feel for us, as we find it impossible to convey the full strength of such emotions in a weekly paper. Not an individual present could believe his eyes, with the exception of a blind fiddler who struck up "Off she goes," and declared, that he saw through it all, and that this noble vessel, martyr to the cause of science, was only a ketch.

No part of the craft has since been found out, with the exception of the mainmast, which was discovered in a spider's web attached to the overhanging rocks. This has since been modelled into a toothpick, and presented to a high official, as a mark of respect for the interest he takes in everything connected with the rising of the Colony.

THE NEW PRINCE'S MIXTURE.

"Blow the horn, Balaam! News! News! Glorious News!
War all over the world, (in French!) Tenth Edition!
Blow you Balaam, why don't you blow! Come buy the
Crown Prince, only half-a-crown! Buy! Buy! Buy!"

[Running News-vender's Carol]

England hails the with emotion,
Mightiest child of naval art,
Heaven resounds thy welcome. Ocean
Takes thee smiling to her heart.

Gallant Prince! thy pomp and beauty
Storm or battle ne'er shall blast,
While our tars in pride and duty—
Nail our colours to thy mast.

[Campbell's first-rate Ode on a First-Rater.]

Know ye the land, where (or rather the water)
The French and their knavery openly lay;
Blistering vengeance, and mischief, and slaughter;
Like jackals in moonshine discussing their prey!
Know ye the noise which their cannons were making,
While merrily danced the balls over the beach;
And every heart in the fortress was quaking,—
To grapple a wise foe, so far out of reach?
Know ye, the Saffron—the Belle-Poule—the Triton
That excellent vessel for throwing a shell;
And Admiral "Gascon;" revival of Crichton,
Whose praises self-chaunted the breezes oft swell?

Know ye the fortifications so old,
That they crumble like softest garden mould;
Those ramparts which rise as dough and leaven
Ere the oven's warmth hath a crispness given;
And the guns that prep from butters and tower,
Opening their mouths about once in hour,
With not quite a Perkins's hundred-horse power;
And the dingy slaves of the Moonish soil,
Who were foolish enough the French to foil,
And consequently made their blood broil?

Know ye the Britons who stood by to laugh,
As they thought of the pamphlet bound in calf,
By whose pages the warrior-author has made
Bald Cæsar and Xenophon sink into shade,
And proved to a logical nicety true,
That Albion the day will undoubtedly rue,
And her name be extinct like an empty dream,
When the vapouring Gaul shall get up his steam?

Know ye that Louis shall sit in the halls
Where Victoria answers her people's calls;
And Nap from his sleep, and Pluto shall steal,
To dance at the levees of Prince Joinville;
That petty De Thouars, when laid on the shelf,
Shall have Greenwich Hospital hall to himself;
That Lyndhurst and Brougham must kick their heels,
Whilst Graham, the spy, shall stick to the Seal's;
And the whole, wide world to one tune shall dance;
And the piper to pay, shall be France! Young France?
In these "Sayings and Doings," now know ye, appear
The dreams of Bombardo, Grand Prince of Tanzier?

Theatricals.

We have but brief space to spare this week for our theatrical record; but as the chief evenings, at the Victoria, have been devoted to benefits, our remarks must, under any circumstances, have been limited. The bills inform us that the engagements of Mr. and Mrs. Coppin, and Mr. Morton King are on the eve of termination. This we regret, the more so as we do not find that any arrangements are in train for re-engaging other favorites whose absence from the theatre is a source of regret to its patrons.

Music and Musicians.

In lately adverting to the too-prevailing dulness in musical circles, we noticed the obligations which the *dilettanti* were under to the excellent band of the ninety-ninth regiment, whose weekly performances in the Domain are really the only public offerings at Music's shrine which are found in Sydney. A few remarks on this head may not be out of place just now, and is but a due tribute to the talent they display.

There is considerable praise due to Mr. Martin, the talented master, for the great care he must have taken to accomplish so perfect a union of sweet sounds; every instrument in his band speaks, as it were, to the judgment as well as to the ear of the listener, which seems to verify the Rambler's assertion that, from the proper disposition of single sounds results that harmony which adds force to reason, and gives grace to sublimity; that shackles attention and governs passion.

The master of a military band has greater responsibility attached to his situation than is generally conceived; he has not only the separate teaching and drilling of every instrumental performer in his band—to make him play in tune, in time, and with that precision, and expression of light and shade so essential to qualify him to join in part music, but he has also personally to officiate in the double capacity of both conductor and leader. For the information of those who may be unacquainted with the distinction between a conductor and leader we can only compare the situation of the former to that of a physician, and the latter to that of a surgeon.

The office of conductor is to arrange, order, and direct the necessary preparations for a concert; to superintend and conduct the whole performance; to give the time, character, and style of the several movements to the leader who communicates them to the rest of the band. The conductor presides at the Organ or Pianoforte, and so situated, that the leader may without impediment, catch every look and gesture. On the Continent the conductor generally stands with a white scroll in his hand—not to violate every sense of good feeling by flourishing it with the most authoritative air of *timely* consequence over the heads of talented performers, (these are the *sutores ultra crepidam*, the mere *pecus Alcinoi* and the like) but to assist the leader in his arduous endeavour to keep a uniform agreement in the orchestra, by waving his scroll as a signal for *Crescendos* or *Diminuendos*, *Pianos* or *Accelerandos*, or *Rallentandos*, for the flourish of Trumpets, or roll of Drums; or, as a signal for any instrument to cease playing, or to re-commence after so many bars rest, &c., &c.

The office of leader after the conductor is certainly the most important station in the orchestra. It is to him that the rest of the performers look for direction in the execution of the music; and it is on the steadiness, skill, and judgment, and the attention of the whole band to his gestures or motions, manner and expression that the concinnity, truth, and effect do depend. The leader in the orchestra of a theatre or concert takes the principal violin: the movement of his bow and his mode of bowing is attentively watched by the performers as signals for every accent, style, and character of the music; but in a military band the master, acting as both conductor and leader, takes the principal Clarinet or Hautboy. Mr. Martin, the Bandmaster of the 99th, takes this instrument, and it is the clear and expressive intonation he produces which speaks the style and character of the music to every performer in his band. The possibility of this mode of conveying feeling and expression from a musical instrument in the hands of a talented professor cannot be questioned from the number of well authenticated instances on record. The Ashantees declare they can converse by means of their flutes. Bowditch, in his mission to Ashantee, avers that an old resident at Acera assured him that he heard their dialogues, and that every sentence was explained to him. Nathan, in his "Musurgia Vocalis," says "a certain Spaniard, one night late, encountered an Indian woman in the streets of Cuzco, and would have brought her back to her lodgings, but she cried 'for God sake, Sir, let me go, for that pipe, which you hear in yonder tower, calls me with great passion, and I cannot refuse the summons, for love constrains me to go, that I may be his wife, and he my husband.'" In the Island of Bissao, on the Western coast of Africa, they have an artificial language exclusively for persons of rank and fashion; this is an iron ring, upon which they ring the changes with a piece of iron, so as to converse with as much facility, by means of the different sounds produced, as if they used the most polished language. At Canton, Huttner declares he was surprised by an Opera being performed there, consisting of recitations, and airs so expressively sung, that the whole of his party though ignorant of the Chinese language understood, in some measure, the meaning of the words, owing to the excellent imitation of the different accents of the passions. And he further declares, that their expression was so exquisite, that it fully painted to his imagination all the power and influence over the passions attributed to the music of

the ancients. The Abbé Morlet, in his ingenious pamphlet "On musical expression and imitation," says, that music executed by the same organs with which the language is spoken, and aiming at the same sense becomes itself a language. We may thus clearly understand how an able and talented professor, may in his office as conductor and leader convey to the whole of his well taught band, every accent, style, and character of the music they are performing—by the mere expressive tones of his Clarinet. Mr. Martin does this, and to those of our readers who desire a delightful musical treat, we recommend a stroll in the Domain on Thursday.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, DEC. 13.

PORT PHILLIP FINANCIAL SEPARATION.

Mr. ROBINSON, in pursuance of notice, moved "That it is the opinion of this Council that the whole of the revenue derived from the district of Port Phillip should be specially appropriated for the service thereof." In asking the Council to affirm the resolution now proposed, he only asked for justice to that district; it had contributed to the land fund, from its foundation to the 31st July, 1844, £427,000, and to the general revenue £317,436 16s. 7d., and taking the average population at 13,000, it was a total taxation of £7 5s. 2d. per head per annum, which was unparalleled in any of the British colonies. There was at present due to the district, on account of the land revenue, £176,000; and after defraying all the outlay consequent upon its foundation, paying the whole expenses of the Government since that period, there would, at the commencement of the ensuing year, be a balance due to the district of £1200. The estimated expenditure for 1845 was £44,748; the estimated general revenue, £63,780; leaving a balance in favor of the district of £19,031. It was in order that the latter sum might be appropriated to the necessary works within the district itself, instead of the Sydney district, that the present motion was made. The balance of £176,000 before mentioned might be set off by disembarking at Melbourne a larger portion of the immigrants who were to be brought into the Colony than would otherwise fall to the share of the district. The district had been and still was suffering for want of labour, and it was even yet fifty per cent. dearer than in the district of Sydney. A notice of an amendment had been given, the effect of which was to give all other districts in the Colony that which was claimed for Port Phillip; but no other district afforded a parallel. In the petition he had presented the case was fully made out, and he begged to call the attention of the House to the facts stated therein. The claim made by the petitioners appeared so just and equitable, that he was at a loss to imagine how it could be denied. Mr. YOUNG seconded the motion.

Mr. WINDEYER thought it only necessary to meet the statements made by the honorable member for Melbourne, by proposing that the same measure which he proposed for Port Phillip should be carried out for every district in the Colony. It was no argument to state that so much revenue had been raised in a particular district, and therefore it ought to be expended there. If such a statement were admitted as conclusive argument in favor of the claim of Port Phillip, Yorkshire and Lancashire might with equal justice cry out for separation from the other counties of the mother-country. It would be enough to them that Liverpool, in Lancashire, contributed more to the revenue than was contributed by any other county except Middlesex, to entitle that county to be separated financially from the rest of the mother-country. All countries in the world were necessarily made up of portions, some of which, by a happiness of position, or other local advantages, were enabled to contribute more to the general revenue than others that were less favoured; and it was not on this account that they were to be separated, and set up as independencies of themselves. There were higher and more important interests to be regarded. It was of the highest importance to our welfare, and that of posterity, that we should form one united community. This Colony had hitherto been able to command but little attention on the part of the Home Government; but if it was split up into portions, its representations would have still less weight—as little as those of single parishes in England. He considered that no injustice had been done to Port Phillip, and all that district ought to ask was for a fair distribution, in conjunction with the other districts of the Colony, in proportion to the population, from any surplus public funds. He would therefore move, "That it would be just and expedient that the balance of the revenue of the Colony, after providing for all objects of general concernment, should be divided among the several districts of the Colony, in proportion to their population, to be applied to such local objects as the said districts may severally require." He was not desirous of pressing this amendment, if any other more desirable course could be pursued by which the original motion might be met or got rid of.

Dr. BLAND seconded the amendment.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the previous question.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded it.

Mr. LAMB and Major WENTWORTH supported the motion.

Mr. WALKER, Dr. NICHOLSON, and Mr. BOYD, supported the original motion, and the question being put the division was as follows:—

Ayes 5.
Mr. Robinson
Mr. Young
Mr. Walker
Mr. Boyd
Dr. Nicholson (Teller)

Noes 17.
Colonial Secretary
Attorney General
Collector of Customs
Auditor General
Captain Dumaresq
Major Wentworth
Mr. Lamb
Mr. Icely
Mr. Macarthur
Mr. Lord
Mr. Cowper
Mr. Berry
Dr. Bland
Mr. Windeyer
Mr. Westworth
Mr. Lawson
Colonial Treasurer (Teller)

Majority against the motion 12.

MONDAY, DEC. 16.

A Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented to the House, proposing additional appropriations of public money for the service of the years 1844 and 1845, as follows:—

Towards the support of schools in the district of Port Phillip during the present year in addition	£	s.	d.
to the sum already appropriated.....	300	0	0
Repair of bridges between Newcastle and Maitland.....	50	0	0
Erection of Lock-up at Gunning.....	100	0	0