

themselves into reading, writing, arithmetical, drawing, and other useful classes; to which they added arrangements for the enjoyment of the old manly English sports, dancing, &c. For some time they continued on a small scale, aiding in improving each other; until finding their number increasing, they took large rooms in Great Charles Street, which they tastefully fitted up, and forthwith issued an address declaratory of the objects of the institution.

"Their next step was to choose a patron; and they applied to Lord John Manners; who, after making due inquiries, consented to fill the post. Lord John also accepted their invitation to dine with the members, on Monday the 26th August, at their rooms in Great Charles Street. He was accompanied by Sir John Hanmer and Mr. Monckton Milnes; and his Lordship took the chair. In proposing a toast, Mr. Newton, one of the officers of the institution, gave some account of its origin. He alluded to previous societies in Birmingham, of which he had been a member—the Mechanics Institute, the Athenæum, and a society established by the Reverend John Garbett, for the instruction and education of the working-classes; all of which had successively failed. And why had all those societies failed? why had not the working-classes supported institutions intended for their benefit?

"The answer was plain—it was short, but it was conclusive. Because they could not. They were overworked. Their animal spirits were destroyed, their physical energies impaired, and their mental faculties weakened by 'work, work, work.' Suppose a poor young man toiling all day in a manufactory in intense heat, and literally wasted off the earth with steam, smoke, and toil; suppose such a man sent from the mill or the forge at eight or nine o'clock at night into a school to learn from a book—why he would be asleep in three minutes. He could not learn; it was not in human nature that he could do so. He wanted rest and recreation; and unless they could curtail the labour of the people, and combine rational amusement with learning, they need not hope that education would succeed, or be productive of its legitimate results. The wonder would be if education had progressed under such circumstances; and nothing but inattention on the part of the doctors could prevent them from finding out the impossibility of effecting a cure by the exclusive use of their nostrum. While all the other institutions which were purely of a literary character had gone down, the Athenic Institution, although established under every disadvantage, and supported alone by working men, had risen, and was daily progressing. And why was that the case? The answer could only be found in the principles of the society. It was based upon the only principles suited to the state of the working-classes,—namely, that of affording education through recreation and relaxation. They had discovered that the minds of the people were beaten down with care, labour, and anxiety, and unfitted for mental study. They gave them amusement, restored their spirits, and then gently instilled that learning from which they would otherwise have recoiled. He knew that there were thousands of the working-classes who would not go to public-houses for amusement if they could find a substitute: but they had none, and it was to supply that deficiency that he and his friends were most anxious to see societies like the Athenic established in all the towns of the kingdom. He read with no small pleasure, that Baron Alderson had stated that he knew a country in which the Lord-Lieutenant had been seen playing with his tenants and poor neighbours at the field-games. They had heard of similar advances in other parts of the country; and he could not but feel the festivity of that evening would be viewed as another and not less honourable and important advance towards the glorious work of peace and conciliation.

"Lord John Manners made a speech of some length. He deemed all such institutions indispensably necessary in these times—

"It was in his opinion, necessary for the hard-working men of Birmingham to enter a protest in an intelligible manner against the modern dogma which would seem to assume that no recreation was necessary for the working population of England; which seemed to have adopted for its motto that which he had fancied would have been held in universal execration—'All work and no play.' He had called it a modern dogma, because history proved to a demonstration that every nation of antiquity deemed it a matter of the highest importance to provide for the recreation and amusement of the working class. If they referred to ancient Greece, from which they had very appropriately derived the names of their principal officers—if they looked to ancient Rome, or any of the other great empires—they would find that they had invariably adopted every possible provision for the rational amusement, recreation, and health of the people. In those times they had days set apart for athletic exercises, and there was nothing left undone to encourage that wholesome system of relaxation necessary to the physical energies of the people. But to leave those times and nations, and come to their own country, what, he would ask, was the characteristic epithet applied to it? France might be 'fair,' Florence might be 'beautiful,' and another might be 'witty,' but England was designated 'merry England.'

"Another important object connected with such an institution, was that of uniting together the different classes of society—

"It was his firm conviction, founded upon something like a careful examination of history, that in days long gone by, when the unhappy separation of the classes which now existed in this country was not known in the land, there was by far more peace, more real happiness, and more complete security for all classes, than had or could ever exist under such a class-system as now prevailed in society. Their usages were hostile to anything like a cordial amalgamation. How often were they able to come together in amity and affection, as they had done that evening? How often had they seen the three classes meet at the one table, partake of the same enjoyment? And yet, as they had often heard, in the days of Feudalism the Barons of England were accustomed to sit at the same table and partake of the same fare with those beneath them. He knew very well, that it was deemed unphilosophical to revert to those days and times and the ancient customs of their forefathers: but believing as he did, that in those ancient days the Peer lost nothing by his condescension, and that the poor were great gainers by it, he saw no reason why they should not dwell with pleasure on those days, and why he should not, if he could, encourage and support any legal, just, and prudent associations which would have the effect of restoring at least some portion of that fine feeling which existed amongst the people in bygone days, which would elevate the character of those who ought to be considered the pride and glory of their country. That some effort was necessary to produce a change for the better, no man could doubt. No one could cast his eye around the surface of English society and not be convinced, that unless something amounting to a cordial union took place between the various classes of society, the state and condition to which they would all be very soon reduced must be unsafe and dangerous. He saw no evils that could arise from such a union; but he saw many that would arise if such a feeling as he had described were not created.

"He declared his dissent alike from those who thought education unsuited to the working-classes and from those who thought that a mere smattering of knowledge would make a country great and good; and, as an idea of what he deemed suitable studies for

the Athenic institution, he promised to make it a present of a series of volumes lately published by Mr. Knight, called the Englishman's Library. He exhorted the managers to persevere in their excellent course of steering clear from all politics. At the close of his speech, Lord John regretted the absence of Mr. Smythe, who was prevented from attending by his going abroad.

"Sir John Hanmer and Mr. Milnes also delivered speeches; dwelling strongly on the necessity of union between the several classes of society.

"The meeting passed off in the most agreeable manner. The Chairman vacated his seat about half-past ten o'clock."

EUROPE.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS AS A COURT OF APPEAL.

The proceedings in the case of O'Connell place in a strong light the defects of the House of Lords as a Court of Appeal.

The Lay Lords declined voting: the case was too exclusively legal for them to give an opinion. Fourteen Judges delivered opinions on the occasion; five of them members of the House of Peers, and nine members of the Courts at Westminster, not Peers. It is no disrespect to the Law Lords to say that the opinion of any one of the Westminster Judges is, as a legal opinion, equal in weight to any of theirs. If there is any difference, it is in favor of the opinions of the Westminster Judges. The case was a political one: the Westminster Judges are by their position less exposed to political bias than the Peers, whether acting or ex-Judges, who are actually political characters. Yet, by the legal fiction that the decision is the decision of the House of Peers, not of the Judges, it is brought about that five Judges outvote nine; that although seven non-political Judges are for affirming the sentence of the inferior Court and only two for reversing it, it is reversed by a vote of three political Judges against two political Judges—three Whig Judges voting against the Chancellor and the *unhinged* Lord Brougham.

The decision in such a case, be it right or be it wrong, cannot settle what the law is. Men cannot have confidence in a decision which affirms that to be the law which a majority of the Judges consulted have declared not to be the law. They will say that it was needless to take the opinion of the Peers, who are not lawyers, seeing that it is allowed on all hands they were incompetent to form one. They will say that if the decision was to be left to the Judges, then the whole of the Judges ought to have had votes. In short, they will say that the appellate jurisdiction ought to be transferred from the Peers, who do not understand law, to the Judges who do.

In the present instance, the Lay Peers have, with commendable modesty, abstained from meddling with a business they do not understand: but their declining to act was a mere courtesy; they took good care that it should be with express reservation of their right. Who would be guarantee that the Peers will always act thus discreetly? Even now, had the responsibility been a trifle less alarming—had the stake played for been a trifle more excited, had Ministers been a trifle less scrupulous or cautious—it would be rash to affirm that the existing Peerage would have maintained its laudable silence. So long as the appellate jurisdiction remains vested in the House of Lords, it may depend upon the character of individual Peers—upon the mood in which these Peers are at the moment—whether a party accused of political offences shall be judged by men who have cultivated the lawyer's habit of impartiality, or by a majority of hostile political partisans.

The mischief that may be done by the House of Lords in cases of private rights is perhaps even greater than the mischief it can do in political cases. There is no lack of charity in believing, that the diffidence of the Lay Peers in O'Connell's case was owing less to distrust of their own judgment than to apprehension of the consequences which might follow their decision. In questions of mere private rights, such apprehensions can only exist, if at all, to a very limited extent. There is least certainty of the non-interference of the Lay Peers precisely in those cases where they can do most harm. Political appeals are of rare occurrence; but civil appeals, involving property and privileges to an immense amount, are yearly submitted to the House of Lords. Political appeals in nine cases out of ten relate to broad and general principles on which the common sense of well-educated men may safely decide; but civil appeals in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred relate to technical points of law.

The only arguments advanced in support of the anomalous appellate jurisdiction of the Peers are—that a decision of the House of Lords carries more weight than a decision of a common Judge or Judges could; and that it is the constitutional practice of the House. It may be doubted whether, for more than a century, the decisions of the House of Lords have not owed all the weight they possessed to the character of the Chancellor who presided at the time, and really formed, as he pronounced the judgment. At all events, it cannot henceforth be expected that the decision of the real Judge will receive additional weight from being called the decision of a body who have so solemnly and publicly declared their incapacity to act as Judges. On the contrary, there may be on some occasions an indisposition to appeal to the real Judge, from a fear that the Lay Lords may assert their power to act along with him. As to the privilege of the House of Lords, there appears to be little wisdom in pertinaciously retaining a privilege which they confess it would be unwise and unjust in them to exercise.

The appellate jurisdiction never can command respect and confidence until it be vested in non-political Judges, and organized in such a manner as to preclude the possibility of a minority of the Judges outvoting a majority.

THE RELEASE OF O'CONNELL.

(From the Times.)

Mr. O'Connell made his opening triumphal speech, in celebration of his delivery, at the meeting of the Repeal Association on Monday; and triumphant and exultant indeed it was: a quintessence and climax of the triumphal. For five columns of print does he continue hauling over the coals every man that lifted a finger in the late trials, the Attorney-General, the Jury, the Irish Judges, the English Judges, the Ministers, the minority in the House of Lords. Talk of the Roman triumphs; they were poor, insipid, theatrical, tame affairs, compared with the furious rush of the politically inebriated and magniloquent bacchanal of the Corn Exchange—the ferocious onslaught he makes on Court and Cabinet—lions, tigers, and buffaloes, griffins and dragons, he lashes his coursers on amongst the crowd of unhappy victims. On he goes, the God Bacchus himself, and Hercules to boot, with club and lion's hide, roaring and roaring again, with ten thousand dogs and elephants, cataracts, wild cats, hailstorms, and hurricanes, all resounding through the trumpet of his single throat. Individually and collectively he drags them all and each through the mud. The judges are to be impeached, and the Ministers are to be im-

peached; and he—O'Connell himself—and a *posse comitatus* of Repealers, positively will make the tour of England—hold meetings, and make England to a man, and Ireland, too, demand, with a voice of thunder, an impeachment. "Yes, we will say—here is injustice done—a packed jury and unjust judgment—innocent men imprisoned! Englishmen, I'll test you. I'll see whether you'll join me one and all. If not, I will come back and say to my countrymen, look no more to the pretences of John Bull; look alone to your Parliament on College-green." The judges who were the vile instruments of the Government in the prosecution are to be impeached, too, and especially Mr. Justice Crampton, "who squeezed up his face at me as if to terrify me at his lion's aspect. I call upon the English people to join with me and Ireland, and drag him before a proper tribunal."

In the shape of individual descriptions we have—

"That indescribable wretch, Lord Brougham!"

"Oh—malignant vinegar-cruet on two legs!" (the Attorney-General Smith.)

"That cursed contumelious little English dog, Sir E. Sugden!"

"That poor what's his name, the shin-of-beef 'Lord!'"

"That liar, Sir Robert Peel!"

"I come to what Sheil did in the house. He produced Sir R. Peel's declaration before his eyes, and yet he (Sir R. Peel) had the power of face, the audacity, the intensity of falsehood to say, that he had a fair trial—that foul falsehood! If the English people do not join us in hurling Peel from office, the Union is a mockery."

These are specimens. The honorable gentleman continues the strain throughout, and apostrophizes a variety of public characters as they come into his head in the same way. The short interjectional form is adopted when he is nearly out of breath, to save time, and the pure monosyllabic terms are most in favour, and we have "lie," and "lies," and "liar," and "you lie," and "he lies," and "they lied," "basely," "foully," and "write that in your prayer-book, Mr. Justice Burton," and "hurrah for impeachment, we must have an impeachment," and "sweet Sir Robert—ah, my good man (roars of laughter), you lie. (Groans.) I am a free-born subject (cheers)—I care not for the Lord Chief Justice. (Groans and hisses.) When shall we have our Clontarf meeting? I tell you repeal is irresistible. Oh, how my heart throbs! O'Briens, Butlers, Hutchinsons, Mackles, Porters, rally round old Ireland. What a day will we have round King William in College-green! Old Ireland for ever—hurrah for the repeal!"

So much for this burst of rhetoric, which certainly beats anything Ciceronian for its vituperative batteries. Mr. O'Connell can speak very plain Saxon indeed. In spite of his antipathies to the race, he likes a few words in the language, and makes more use of them than any other man in Her Majesty's dominions. The Whigs only escape. The lion turns lamb in gratitude when he comes to the Whigs—"And now I am going to make an atonement to a class of public men whom I have often assailed—and who certainly, in some things, deserve to be assailed—namely, the (base, bloody, and brutal) Whigs." We have inserted the prefix, because from long habit and repeated combination, Mr. O'Connell, we are sure, could no more avoid making this prefix to the mention of Whigs than he could fly; and "base, bloody, and brutal," goes as naturally with Whig, as "Popery, Prelacy, and Peveril of the Peak" issued together from the tongue's-end of the Puritan divine. The unconscious accents must have marred even the tender scene of the reconciliation we have now—we cannot believe but that there was an under-current going on—a stage *aside*—"Dearest Whigs (hounds), let me embrace you (curs); shake hands, my dear ('base, and bloody, and brutal') fellows; we will swear an eternal friendship (until I kick you next, which will not be long)." We congratulate the party on the interesting and pathetic reconciliation which we have been describing; and which, we can assure them, represents with tolerable accuracy the outline of Mr. O'Connell's affections and good-will for himself and his friends.

With respect to Mr. O'Connell himself, he seems to have enough on his hands just now and in prospect—an impeachment of the Irish judges, an impeachment of Ministers—the monster-meeting at Clontarf immediately, and repeal ultimately. He stands committed to as active a career for some time to come as even his eventful and turbulent life has experienced. Whether or not he will manage, or try to manage, all the objects that he now proclaims, we cannot say. It is easier talking than doing, and though Mr. O'Connell is decidedly a practical man, he will find it more difficult to do everything at once than it was to talk of everything at once. Speech commands an ubiquity and omnipotence of its own; but Mr. O'Connell will be perplexed at having to agitate repeal in Ireland, and get up meetings for impeachment in England, at one and the same time. Does he like to have two strings to his bow, in case the repeal cry should be an inconvenient one to continue? We suppose Mr. O'Connell goes on the principle of booking things early—of at once proclaiming all that it may be convenient for him to pursue; and so giving himself a wide choice and option—impeachment of Ministers—of Judges—or repeal agitation. What is to be? We shall be glad to hear his earliest decision.

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA VIA INDIA.

Mr. A. Ridgway, of Leicester-square, has addressed a circular to the principal mercantile houses in the metropolis, and other parties elsewhere, announcing the arrangements for the conveyance of the mails to and from India, &c. Although there is not much in this circular that is new, so much ignorance still continues to prevail, that it is really necessary that the information should be frequently repeated. We, therefore, give the chief portions of Mr. Ridgway's circular, as it may be found serviceable for reference.

"It is necessary to mark on all letters the route by which it is wished they should go to India, because, by the existing rules, all letters which are not especially addressed via Southampton will be sent via Marseilles; not only making them liable to the higher rate of postage, but subject to considerable detention. It is at the option of the sender to pay the postage via Southampton, but compulsory per closed mail via Marseilles.

"The letters via Marseilles, from India, are expected to arrive generally in time to admit of their being answered immediately.

"In case of a desire to send home information as rapidly as possible, it is better to write in duplicate, enclosing one letter to the care of a mercantile house in Egypt, with instructions to transmit it through France by the first French or English steam-packet leaving Alexandria; the other should be addressed via Marseilles.

"The single rate (meaning half an ounce weight) of postage via Southampton is—to Gibraltar, Malta, Ionian Islands, East Indies, and Hong-Kong, 1s.; to Alexandria, in Egypt, 1s. 6d.; and Aden on the Red Sea, 1s.; payable in advance, or not, at the option of the sender.

"The single rate via Marseilles closed mail (meaning under a quarter of an ounce weight) is—to Malta, 1s. 3d.; Alexandria, 1s. 8d.; and Aden on the Red Sea, 1s. 10d.; Ionian Islands, 1s. 8d.; East Indies, 1s. 10.; Hong-Kong, 1s. 10.; payable in advance.

"Soldiers' and sailors' letters go to India via Southampton for

ld. each, payable when posted; but coming from India under the customary restrictions they are charged 2d. each on delivery.

"Newspapers pass free via Southampton, but are subject to 3d. each for postage via Marseilles.

"Letters to New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, New Zealand, and Mauritius can be sent with the India mails as far as Bombay, from whence they will be despatched to their destinations by some of the frequent opportunities which present themselves. Sealing-wax should never be used in correspondence with the East Indies.

"Parcels and packages are sent overland to parts of the East Indies, by Messrs. Wilcox, jun., and Co., 15, St. Mary-axe, at the following rate of charge: viz., to Aden on the Red Sea, Ceylon, Madras, and Calcutta.

"If under six cubic inches in bulk £3 16 0
Above six and under twelve 1 1 0
Above one foot and not exceeding two feet... 1 11 6

"When the bulk is above two cubic feet, the charge is at the rate of £30 per ton of 40 feet.

"The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company book passengers throughout, from Southampton to Aden, Ceylon, Madras, and Calcutta, the journey through Egypt inclusive, to depart—

From Southampton on the 3rd October, per Oriental.

From Southampton on the 3rd December, per Oriental.

From Suez on the 22nd October, per Hindostan.

From Suez on the 22nd December, per Beatinck.

"It will be observed that there will be no means of conveying passengers or parcels to those places by the steamers which leave Southampton on the 3rd of September and 3rd of November; but the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company has entered into a contract to convey mails to India by way of Aden, Ceylon, Madras, and Calcutta, upon a system which will allow of a communication every fortnight, to commence in January next; and it is intended to extend the line to China at as early a period as possible.

"Passengers are not furnished on board the Bombay steamers with bedding, and great uncertainty exists as to whether or not parcels reach that place by the steamers; consequently, their conveyance can only be undertaken at present at a very considerable expense and risk.

"Passengers can go direct from Suez to Bombay by the East India Company's steamers, or, if they prefer it, by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers to Ceylon, and thence by the steamer which plies between Ceylon, Cannanore, and Bombay.

"Single periodicals, open at the ends, are forwarded to India for from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. each, according to bulk."

THE SQUATTERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

(From the Colonial Gazette.)

On the 23rd of December last we expressed the opinion that the position of the stockholders outside of the districts open to location in New South Wales was likely at an early period to engage the attention of the Colonial Legislature. On the 13th of March, the Honorable Mr. Scott, in moving for some returns relative to New South Wales, directed the attention of the House of Commons to the condition of the stockholders. Private affairs called Mr. Scott away immediately afterwards, and the discussion he had so ably opened was not renewed during the course of the session. A new set of regulations for depasturing licenses, issued by Sir George Gipps on the 2nd of April, has caused the question to be agitated in the Colony with a degree of systematic energy that will, beyond a doubt, force it on the attention of the next sessions both of the Colonial and Imperial Legislatures.

On the 9th of April, a public meeting of stockholders—or, as they choose to call themselves, the squatters—was held at Sydney. We this day publish a full report of the proceedings. It will be seen that the gentlemen present constituted themselves a "Pastoral Association of New South Wales," and nominated a committee of management. Sixteen members of the Legislative Assembly (three of them crown nominees) are members of that association. Simultaneous movements had been made in different districts by circulating petitions for signatures; these appear to have been for the most part withdrawn, with a view to adopt a common petition to Parliament, which the Pastoral Association were directed to prepare. Public meetings have, however, been held in most of the districts, at which resolutions in accordance with these passed at the Sydney meetings have been adopted. The files of Sydney journals which we received on Thursday only extended from the 25th of April to the 3rd of May, and are, moreover, incomplete even for that brief period; yet in them we find notices of meetings:—At Scone, on the 16th of April; West Maitland, on the 23rd; at Goulburn, on the 24th; at Penrith, on the same day; at Windsor, on the 25th, and at Bathurst on the 30th. The inhabitants of Camden were summoned to meet on the 7th of May, intimations had been received of meetings—in widely distant localities—that had been well attended, and by the most opulent landholders; and the resolutions appear, in almost every instance, to have passed with unanimity.

This is a movement too important to be disregarded either by the Local or the Imperial Legislature. "The Council" says the *Australian*, will meet on the 26th instant (May.) The Pastoral Association, amongst whom are sixteen members of the House (of whom three are Crown nominees) are advancing to the charge." A copy of the petition of "the undersigned stockholders and other inhabitants of New South Wales" to the House of Commons, transmitted by last mail is lying on our table. The public of New South Wales has been thoroughly roused, and will be attended to."

The new regulations of Sir George Gipps have been the proximate cause of this movement, and therefore cannot well be allowed to pass without criticism. But the merits of these regulations, and the policy of the Governor in issuing them, are but a part of the great question of the position of stockholders of New South Wales and are fast merging into it. That is the real and vital question which the Legislature will next session be called upon to examine into and regulate anew.

Were there no other objection to the new regulations, they would deserve censure as ill-timed. They go to add to the burdens of the stockholders at the very moment that they are beginning to recover from a long period of severe depression. They go to add to their burdens at the very moment when the stockholders are complaining, with good cause of exorbitant and unaccounted for taxation. An assessment on stock is levied on all stockholders beyond the boundaries of location, under a distinct pledge that no larger amount should be raised than was necessary for the specific purpose of maintaining a police for the protection of the holders of depasturing licenses. The sum thus raised in 1842 was £23,098, and of this only £9344 were expended in the frontier police, leaving a surplus of £14,553 altogether unaccounted for. In the same year £15,801 were paid for depasturing licenses. This, after deducting £4910 for the expenses of management, ought to have gone to the land fund, but it remains unaccounted for. The surplus of assessment in 1843 has been esti-

mated at £16,130, and the income from licenses that year amounted to £16,130, while the expense of management continued much the same as in 1842. The surplus assessment, and the revenue in 1843, are also unaccounted for. The Colonial Treasurer estimates the amount of assessment for 1844 at £26,000, and only £10,974 have been voted for the border police. However defensible the new regulations might be on other grounds, it was most injudicious, seeing they increase the burthens of the stockholders, to issue them at a time when that interest was just reviving from a severe and exhausting struggle, and irritated by unequal and apparently misapplied taxation. But the regulations are utterly unjustifiable on principle, as we shall have occasion to show when we return to examine them in detail. They are an arbitrary exercise of the Governor's will, rendering still more precarious the already too precarious condition of the stockholders.

The wider and more important question, the discussion of which has been precipitated by Sir George Gipps's regulations, will require patient and dispassionate inquiry before the details of its settlement can be resolved upon. On the general merits of the question we have at present nothing to add to what we said on the 23rd of December. We therefore reprint the article, and along with it extracts from two Sydney journals, to show that our views have met with approbation in the colony: a circumstance gratifying indeed, but not altogether unexpected, seeing that they were formed after frequent conversations with gentlemen recently arrived from Sydney, and thoroughly conversant with its concerns.

FASHIONS FOR SEPTEMBER.

Bonnets are made very short at the ears, the front part being proportionably longer. It is, however, those composed of paille de riz in which the change is most visible. Wreaths are still much used for the decorating of this description of bonnet. When bouquets are used, they are generally placed very much on one side, and composed of variegated light kind of flowers.

CANEZOUS A MANCHES.—The sleeves are made demi-larges, and ornamented to match the body, terminated below with wristbands of rich lace or waved bands, embroidered and trimmed with fluted frillings of clear muslin, and point d'Alencon edging.

MORNING DRESSES.—The ample peignoir form are those most decidedly in request, and muslin still predominates. The under dress which is now so universally worn, is remarkable for the beauty and richness of its embroidery; for instance, three pretty wreaths, worked and separated with a very narrow fold, or a fulling or puffing, through which is passed a riband of the same colour as that which decorates the cap and the lining of the peignoir.

MORNING CAPS.—The style now most in vogue (for those ladies who wear their hair banded) is the bonnet assassin, the name being copied from that famous fly called assassine, which produced such destruction some half century back. This name is well adapted for the pretty little cap to which it is given, being an assemblage of laces and gauze ribands, so prettily chiffonnées, and so coquettishly blended, being put on also on one side, sufficient to allow of the straight lappet of lace to fall upon the shoulder.

CARRIAGE DRESSES.—Barege is still patronised by our egalites, either shaded in different colors or plain. Those, however, which are most in favour are either broche, or printed in the most beautiful and rich designs; when they are of a plain colour, the trimmings are festooned, and embroidered in different colors; for instance, white embroidered with orange coloured silk, ponceau upon ponceau, and black upon grey, the latter being intended for mourning. The corsages are made high and open up the front, and instead of the lacings which have lately been so fashionable, we see narrow strips or bands, embroidered to match the trimmings of the dress. Light printed muslins are also in great request; in fact, they are by some preferred to the barege, particularly for the country.

EVENING DRESSES.—Flounces are now more adopted than ever: they are put on in various ways, according to the taste of the wearer, some being put on straight, and others in a kind of wave; they vary also in width and number; the corsages opening en coeur, with revers chales; sleeves a la Venitienne, with under sleeves of full, clear muslin, trimmed with an inlet twisted en spirale.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS.—We learn from a late number of the *Athenæum*, that a curious question awaited the decision of the Stockholm tribunals, in which the exercise of the dramatic censorship was not only sought to be overruled, but made the ground for a demand of damages. It appears that on the death of the late King of Sweden, the Grand Chamberlain addressed to the managers of the two theatres of Stockholm a request that they would suspend the representations for two months! With this somewhat unreasonable demand, that they should sacrifice a large part of their year's revenue in the grave of the deceased monarch, the court theatre, like a true courtier, complied; but the director of the second theatre, M. Lindemann, one of the stormiest writers of the opposition party, took no notice of the suggestion, but continued his performances as usual. The public sympathy, however, seems to have adopted the mode proposed of honouring a king who was much beloved; and the management, finding its seats deserted, hastily translated Victor Hugo's *Lucrèce Borgia*, by way of a lure to play-goers. The censorship, under it, is said, the instruction of the Court, refused to license the performance, and the director of the theatre immediately summoned them before the Tribunal of First Instance, by virtue of the law which, in Sweden, makes all public functionaries personally responsible for the consequences to individuals of their administrative acts, and gives the ordinary courts the power to enforce that responsibility!—Our executive officers profess to be exceedingly scandalized at Mr. Wentworth's numbering as a grievance the total absence which has existed ever since the foundation of this Colony, of any legal means of enforcing equitable claims against the Local Government, and at his proposition, that a tribunal for impeachments be established. In order to modify their shocked feelings, we very respectfully submit to them the respectable and legitimate precedent of the Swedish law.

THE LONG RANGE.—Captain Warner has announced to the Government, through the papers, that, if they will anchor a line-of-battle-ship at the back of the Goodwin Sands, he will, from on board of another ship, destroy her, at a distance of five miles, by means of a projectile. He requires a guarantee of £300,000 in case he succeeds.

LAW OF MARRIAGE.—In his charge, at the Shrewsbury Assizes, Chief Justice Tindal stated, that, by a new Act of Parliament, a person who had not seen his or her wife or husband for seven years, was not guilty, of bigamy by marrying again. Such has long been the common notion, which has now the sanction of the law.

The most respectable booksellers, grocers, chemists, milliners, and other shopkeepers, excepting provision and refreshment-shops, have commenced now to open at seven in the morning, and close

their doors at eight every evening, excepting Saturday night then one hour later. Arrangements are also being made to close at seven o'clock in the months of November, December, January, and February.

On the last day of the late Parliamentary session, Mr. Hawes gave notice that next session he would call attention to the expediency of establishing a system of Colonial Representation, with the view of securing further responsibility in the administration of Colonial affairs, and rendering the union of these dependencies with the Mother-country more intimate and satisfactory.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA AND THE POLISH BALL.—There is no truth in the story that an offer was made on the part of the ladies patronesses to put off the Polish ball, if desired by the Emperor. It has also been said that the Emperor offered a contribution of 500*l.* to the funds of the ball, and that it was rejected. No such offer was made, nor, consequently, rejected. Soon after the arrival of the Emperor of Russia, the Duchess of Somerset conveyed to Baron Brunow her anxiety that the Emperor should be made aware that the Polish ball was one which had taken place in former years; that it had been arranged this year before his Imperial Majesty's visit was expected, and that no mark of disrespect was intended to his Imperial Majesty by those concerned in the management of the undertaking. The message produced an answer from Baron Brunow to the effect that his Imperial Majesty could feel no objection to the ball, and Baron Brunow had received his Imperial Majesty's authority to contribute towards it any sum her grace might name. Her grace, in acknowledging the offer did not name any sum; and none was sent. Baron and Baroness Brunow, however, on the day of the ball, having obtained twelve vouchers from some of the ladies patronesses, sent them to the office, where they were exchanged and paid for at the usual price; and thus the cost of twelve tickets constitutes the whole of the contribution made by the Emperor or his representative to the Polish funds.

INDIA.

By a late number of the *Madras Athenæum*, we learn that the great pastoral movement of the Squatters of New South Wales had caused the most marked sensation throughout the three Presidencies. The proceedings at the Royal Hotel, Sydney, in May last, are prefaced by the following excellent observations from the able editor of the *Athenæum*.

"In our present issue will be found a very interesting account of a large Meeting held at Sydney, to discuss and protest against a measure of the local Government considered to be exceedingly detrimental to land-owners both within and beyond the limits of the Colony. The gentleman who transmitted the newspaper to us, states in his letter that he was desired by Mr. BORD the Chairman, and the Committee of the *New South Wales Association*, to forward the said paper and to request that we would insert the proceedings of the Meeting in the *Athenæum*. If apology, therefore were necessary for occupying so large a space in our columns with this subject, the circumstance we have mentioned would be received as such, by all who take an interest in what our countrymen are doing to preserve the Colony from impolitic and pernicious legislation. The speeches at the Meeting in question exhibit the broad characteristics of JOHN BULL, when roused, to resist oppression and to maintain at any cost his chartered liberties. The gentlemen who took a leading part on the occasion are evidently men of sterling, good sense, and of no inconsiderable talent—men who are qualified by a knowledge of the practical working of the present system and long residence in the country, to pronounce a judgment on what is termed the *New Squatting Regulations*, which are to take effect in 1845, if not rendered a nullity by the steps taken on the part of the Committee of the *New South Wales Association*. The account furnished in our columns will reach England in about six weeks from this date, when it is to be hoped the Metropolitan Press will use their best efforts to aid the Colonists in neutralizing the order of the Sydney Executive. *Sir George Gipps is not the man for the post he occupies, or he would have seen at once that nothing is more unfriendly to Colonial prosperity than such imposts as those he proposes to levy.* Considering the infant state of the Colony, every thing in the shape of taxation, the least likely to be burdensome to emigrant adventurers, should have been carefully avoided; and the Government of the Mother-country instead of calculating upon a surplus revenue, or even expecting an equalization of receipts and disbursements, should have expressed her willingness to aid the settlers, if not by gratuities from the public purse, at least by grants, without interest, payable by easy instalments at convenient periods. This we feel convinced is her duty; and had the management of our Colonial affairs been entrusted to persons capable of entertaining such questions and duly appreciating the difficulties inseparable from enterprises of the kind, widely different would have been the results. AUSTRALIA has been hindered in her progress towards a prosperous condition by the incapacity of Colonial Secretaries, and the incompetency, for the most part, of those who have been appointed to preside over her destinies. And this evil will continue, so long as the practice is upheld of nominating to these responsible trusts the favourites of faction, or men eligible only because of the weight of their influence in supporting the Government for the time being.

"Ignorance and obstinacy are generally found united, and it is a lamentable fact, which our history points to, that they have been the fruitful sources of mischief and perplexity to us as a nation. America was lost to us solely from these causes; and AUSTRALIA—loyal as she now is—will try her strength at Self-Government, should the local powers unfortunately persist in applying the screw after the present mode. The Speakers at the Sydney Meeting, did not affirm as much in so many words; but it is impossible after weighing the sentiments expressed, not to perceive an inclination that way. And who, save those whose folly led to it, would blame them? Men will not for ever be content to spend their labour and strength to no profit; the system that requires it must be rotten at the core; it is gangrenous and proclaims aloud the necessity of amputation. NEW SOUTH WALES has every possible recommendation to induce persons to resort thither and make it their home; the only drawback is the manner in which it is governed. Unless a change is speedily effected in this respect, the discontent, now in a smouldering state, will burst into a flame, and the Colonists by a combined and simultaneous movement will assert their claim to take the management of affairs into their own hands."

JEU D'ESPRIT; OR, DESPERATE GAME.

"Let us squat free, as we were wont to do;
"Twill serve ourselves, the Colonists, and you."
"Unwieldy set! the land is none of mine;
What once was just, to do I now decline.
Your simple fees for my fee-simple, friends,
To my wide-a-Wake-field class make poor amendments."
"We'll to the Queen"—"I am her representative:
Appeal from me at least in treason tentative."
"We'll to the Houses! failing Scott and lot,
Our flocks and herds, by George, will go to pot!"