

MALVERSATION.

Not no money? did he not hear it chink? did he not see it glitter?—From Lord Melbourne's trial.

To the eyes of the admirers of what in the cant of the day it is the fashion to call self-government, chiefly we presume, because a country so governed is not governed by itself, but by the inhabitants of its towns; the would-be city of Parramatta must present a spectacle cheering as that of the land of Goshen—where alone there was light when all the rest of Egypt was in darkness. We say the Town of Parramatta, because we have not observed that the district has profited much by the institution of this most anomalous of all things a Government Corporation. The dew may indeed have been collected from the adjacent country, but the Town is the Gideon's fleece upon which the refreshing moisture is discharged. It is not however, with the manner in which the Parramatta Council expends its revenues that we have now to do, but with the source from whence those revenues are derived, and startling as the proposition may be, we assert without fear of contradiction, that the source is the ordinary revenue of the Colony. The Governor has been pleased with that munificence which usually characterises those who are making present of what does not belong to them. To present to the District Council of Parramatta the revenue arising from certain tolls levied within the district. Now, in this he has committed a double iniquity: First, the act 2 W. IV., No. 2 sect. 34, directs that the proceeds of Tolls shall be a fund for repairing roads, bridges and ferries.

Whereas, it is notorious, that a great portion of these funds are employed in paying for the cumbersome, expensive and useless machinery of the District Council; another large portion in improving the Town of Parramatta, and the residue only in the single object to which the whole ought to have been devoted—the improvement of the roads. Were these funds at His Excellency's disposal, were no one else but himself empowered to regulate their appropriation, we should say in thus diverting them from the object to which they were devoted by the above mentioned act, and expending them in forcing upon the people an institution of which they have unanimously expressed their abhorrence; and which the blunders of his official allies—the Clerks in Downing-street, who prepared the imperial act, and of his Legal Adviser here to wit, His Honor the Resident Judge of Port Phillip have rendered as impotent as it is odious. Sir George Gipps was guilty of a gross violation of duty and misappropriation of the public money. But these funds are not properly within his power. The Constitution has placed them in other and better hands. They form part of those taxes, duties and imposts which can only be appropriated by the vote of the Legislative Council, and only be obtained under a warrant of the Governor issuing in pursuance of that appropriation. The Warrant we doubt not, is issued, for the instinct of self-preservation, is sufficient to prevent any official from taking upon himself the very serious responsibility of issuing the public money, even to a body so ruinous to the Colony, and therefore so dear to the official mind as the Parramatta District Council. But where is the act of appropriation to sanction the issue of the Warrant. Not only has there never been any, but the Governor very well knows that the Legislative Council would rather vote that the money raised by Tolls should be thrown into the sea than into the District Council Treasury. And yet, this man of forms and punctilios, this scrupulous observer of the will of his masters, who is ready to carry out an act of Parliament, even to the ruin of the Colony, scruples not with a perfect knowledge of what he is doing to violate another section of the same act, merely because it is liberal and beneficial in its tendency. The same act which sets up the District Councils gives the Legislature the power of appropriating the ordinary revenue; and the Governor in his desire to impose the burthen, has not scrupled to violate the right. Our readers will remember, that in the first session of the Legislative Council a Committee was appointed, of which Mr. Windeyer was chairman, from the report of which, it appeared that the Government had been in the habit of treating the votes of the former Legislature as a nullity. Taking monies from purposes to which they were appropriated and applying them to others never contemplated by the Council; the matter was allowed to rest upon a pledge given by the Government Officers, that the most scrupulous good faith should be observed for the future. That pledge they are not able to redeem. We have pointed out one flagrant instance in which it has been broken. We doubt not there are others. The keeping open of the Registry Office afforded no temptation to dive into the public purse, but there are other objects as ruinous to the Colony, and therefore as dear to the Government as the establishment of Corporations for the confiscation of property, and we doubt not have been provided for with similar liberality. It will be the duty of the Legislative Council, immediately upon its re-assembling to appoint a Committee to enquire into this matter, and to act upon its report with the utmost energy and promptitude. The last strong hold of our liberties, the little that successive encroachments have left us of a Constitution which seems only to have been made to be defaced and mutilated is at stake; not content with the Schedules which are wrung from us by force; not content with the casual and territorial revenues which have been withdrawn from our controul by fraud; not content with the Customs and the Post Office, which have been successively subtracted from the remainder, it is now sought to seize the rest of our revenue, by treating the votes of the Council as a nullity, and trusting to our inability to carry our complaints to the Minister in whose name we are governed, but to whose knowledge they will never be suffered to come. The Legislative Council must not only appropriate money they must audit accounts—and if remonstrances be found utterly unavailing, there is still in the Privy Council a tribunal for impeachment.

It is said that several applications have been made to Mr. Abraham for casts of Sir George Gipps's Bust, and that he intends to furnish them to the public in Plaster of Paris at £2 10s. each.

"Give me a cast," the Squatter cries,
"Here's Two Pound ten in Gold—
"For oh! it does delight my eyes
"To see him stiff and cold!"

QUIT-RENTS.

So soft the scene so formed for joy,
So tell the tyrants that destroy,
Glaour.

They told me 'twas a glorious land
Beyond the heaving main,
And they who sought its happy strand
Should never want again.

They told me that it's skies were bright,
It's streams flung back an azure light;
And that the seasons of the year,
Each into each so softly blended,
You could not tell when summers near,
Or, when the snowless winter ended.

They told me of gigantic trees,
Acacias waving in the breeze,
Of tree ferns for whom nature weaves
Her feathery coronet of leaves;
Of birds of gay and gaudy plume
That sparkle mid the woodland gloom,
Of wondrous creatures leaping high,
That will not walk and cannot fly.

They told me of the Ebon race
That long the land has trod,
And looked in nature's noble face
And recked not of her God.
And tales of dreadful men they told,
Wild with the thirst of blood and gold,
Who, in the mountain or the glen
Made war upon their fellow men.

They told me they would give me land
And I should till the soil,
And I was strong of heart and hand
And only asked to toil.
The way was long the winds were wild,
The treacherous waves devoured my child;
I wept not, for I long'd to view
Those sunny skies and waters blue,
I saw them they had told me true.

Oh pale is the sheen of England's green
And her fields are bare and frore,
But rich is the brown of the woods that frown
On Australia's olive shore.
In the earth is sunk each giant trunk,
Like a pillar of granite red,
That ample girth the silent earth
For a thousand years has fed.

Each iron leaf in black relief
Upon the sky is laid,
And the red moon-light through the blue midnight,
Lightens the forest glade.

Oh, kindly spoke the Ruler then,
He gave me land he gave me men;
And I was happy and content,
My heart unsealed my brow unbent.
Another and another came;
And then a man, his very name
Blisters my lips like burning flame;
True to his masters he might be,
But fatal was that man to me.

He told me that the land they gave,
Freely to give they never meant;
That I was but a wretched slave,
That toiled to pay them yearly rent;
He said for twenty years 'twas due,
Alas! his cruel words were true,
And I found wretch I never knew;
—And I had braved the noontide ray.
The red sirocco's sultry kiss,
The watchful night the toilsome day
Had laboured, struggled, spared for this.

They sold my cattle sold my farm,
And left me but this withered arm—
And broken heart to stem the tide,
Of woe with none but God to guide.
I was a man of iron frame
When to this glorious land I came,
But now am bowed by toil and shame—
And grown before my season old,
For he, I will not speak his name—
Has sold me like a slave for gold.

UNCONSCIOUS HERESY.

WE cautioned the *Morning Herald* a fortnight ago that in its zeal for Christianity, or it may be against ourselves, it was rushing into a controversy in which it could hope to reap no laurels. We accused its reverend editor of the most profound ignorance of that department of natural philosophy of which he presumed to treat, but we gave him credit for a knowledge of that religion which he was so anxious to put forward as a ground on which he stood superior and supreme. When Mr. Lowe called upon him to vindicate his wanton and unprovoked attack of Monday last, he doubtless expected to find a person well versed in the principles of Christianity, and able to answer him with precision and propriety. He could not have expected that the objection would be that his speech was not reconcilable with the pestilent and exploded heresy of Pelagius. The learned and reverend gentleman has so long been a burning and a shining light in a certain circle of this community, that he is probably not aware that "the principle of man's free agency, and of man's consequent responsibility for his conduct," which he in the most perfect good faith asserts to be "the foundation stone of the whole system of Divine Government revealed in the sacred writings," is a deadly heresy, uniformly condemned by the Church from the time of Saint Augustine to the present day. Through the corruption of human nature by sin, says an excellent writer, "pride being become the darling passion of our hearts, men are born with a propensity for Pelagianism, or principles which flatter an opinion of our own strength, merit, and self-sufficiency. We cannot therefore be surprised that this heresy found advocates; rather it is wonderful it should have had no more. The wound would certainly have been much deeper and more severely felt by the Church of God, had not Divine Providence raised up so eminent a doctor of his grace as was Saint Augustine, to be a bulwark for the defence of the truth; and

to him is the Church indebted as to the chief instrument of God in overthrowing this heresy." We tell this blind guide of the blind, this unconscious schismatic, the beam in whose own eye renders him blind to everything but the mote in his neighbours; who believes himself to be orthodox, while he is plunged in the deepest depths of heresy; who thinks that he is wandering on the delectable mountains, while he is wallowing in the valley of the shadow of death, that for persons so ignorant to write of Christianity is presumptuous arrogance, and to attempt to preach it impious mockery. And it is for the sake of propagating in all its purity this miserable trash, this most anti-scriptural heresy, that the *Herald* has raised the cry of the Bible against the proposed system of General Education. There is not a page of the Bible which does not tend to refute the doctrines of Pelagius. It teaches Christ, and Him crucified, not the free agency of man. Well have its pretended advocates read it—greatly do they seem to have profited by it. The Protestant Members of the Church of England, those who revere her Articles and honour their framers, cannot but feel a natural disgust to see her defence entrusted to hands so rash, so presumptuous, and so ignorant. Well may they exclaim with the poet—

And must her lyre, so long Divine,
Degenerate into hands like thine.

If we are to have dogmatic theology imported into the ordinary affairs of life—if the advocate at the bar, the statesman in the senate, and the philosopher in his museum and laboratory, are perpetually to be subjected to the prying and inquisitorial visits of those hypocrites who profess to measure all things sacred and profane by a standard which was only designed for the former, let the administration of this mysterious jurisdiction fall into the hands of scholars and divines, not of ignorant and presumptuous men who write heresy without knowing it, and let the public, in the instance thus volunteered of gross and palpable ignorance by one ever forward with arguments drawn from religion, and ever ready to criticise the conduct of others, learn to distinguish between sincerity and profession, between impudence and knowledge. Had Pelagius been a shareholder in a Joint Stock Company—a defaulter instead of a heretic. Had Saint Augustine written a book on original bills instead of original sin, the learned and reverend gentleman would have been well acquainted with their names and doctrines; as it is we can only regret that, having given up the study of theology for commercial pursuits, the love of gain has not cured him of the love of controversy.

SONG.

TUNE—Young Lochinvar.

Oh Governor Gipps is come out of the west,
From all Melbourne's men, he was chosen the best.
Save care for his place and his pay he had none,
His place was his master's, his pay was his own.
So true to his creed, for Australia he ships,
And where was there ruler like Governor Gipps.

He stayed not for wail, and he stopped not for moan,
But bade the old quit-rent tax-gatherers press on.
But ere they alighted, at many a gate
Fell ruin had knocked; still Sir George would not wait,
From the poor ruined settler his last farthing strips,
Why should poverty stand in the way of the Gipps?

So boldly he entered the New Council Hall,
Amongst nominees, squatters, and settlers and all,
Then spoke, "if you don't vote me all that I claim
I'll match you, as sure as George Gipps is my name.
I don't come to argue, but tell ye, ye rips,
That I will be obeyed," said stout Governor Gipps.

"I've ruled o'er you long, now my rule you deny,
And have dared to curtail my much wanted supply,
So now I have come with a purse nearly spent,
To say you shall pay me, or else shall repent.
For my districts, Crown lands, and my new wharf and ships,
Will amply repay me," said Governor Gipps.

The Council was firm, and the knight walked away
Determined to make the Squatocracy pay.
He looked up to think the best mode he could try,
With a frown on his brow, and a laugh in his eye.
"These squatters,"—the first word that came from his lips,
"I've got them to work on," says Governor Gipps.

So odious his mandate, so lawless his law,
The like, since the Charter, no Saxon e'er saw.
Whilst the Wardens and Councils the districts o'erwhelm,
The voice of distress was loud raised through the realm,
And his honest friends thought "sometimes Socrates trips,"
You've put your foot into it, Governor Gipps.

One word in the Council Executive's ear,
And out came the rules that have filled us with fear.
So hard on the squatter the changes were rung
That curses were issued from every tongue.
"They are out, shall be carried, despite Wentworth's quips
And I'll ride roughshod o'er ye," cried Governor Gipps.

There were meetings on all sides, the new rules to parry,
At the Hunter, the Hawkesbury, Tamut, Macquarie.
There was preaching and speaking wherever he moved,
But Gipps was before us, and Stanley approved.
Yet we still hope to catch him whenever he trips,
And rejoice to get rid of him—Governor Gipps.

J. L. T.

MR. WINDEYER'S OPINION OF DISTRICT COUNCILS AND THE JUDICIAL ESTIMATES.

THERE was no doubt that district government was good, and in Sydney the establishment of aldermen and councillors had done good, for it had improved the moral condition of the citizens generally; in fact, there was no end of the good derivable from local government. But then they must be in a proper condition to receive this good, or else it becomes a curse; and although it might be good in Maitland and other populous places, yet it might not be good elsewhere, for in some places it was even impossible to find councillors. The machinery of the councils was only adapted for a densely populated country: for in a thinly inhabited country the mere expenses would swallow up the money that was raised. There were some districts in which the number of rate-payers did not exceed one hundred, and £20 annually would be the amount required of them to support the expense of their self-government. But supposing that they could bear the expense, yet the Act made every inhabitant a joint stockholder, and every single person was

responsible for the whole of the taxes which others had not paid. This gave the government the power over the whole district, and furnished them with a mighty engine which they could hold in *errorem* over the heads of any person in the district who might happen to be refractory. Like the fabled island of the Laputa, they could bring it to bear upon and crush whomsoever they wished: for however well they might pay their own taxes, still they were liable to be called on for the taxes which others had not paid. The treasurer was the first to be called on for any deficiency, and after him the warden and councillors, and if they were insufficient, then any of the residents of the district, at the option of the Government, might be levied upon by distress for the amount. It perhaps would be advisable that they should have the management of what were purely local matters, such as roads, schools, and partly of the police, but yet it would be monstrous that they should be saddled with the enormous taxation that the expensive machinery of the District Councils would entail. There was already a custom-house, with the machinery in full pay, which could raise the amount required for the Colony, and therefore the plan would be to let them tax away. However requisite local management might be, still the expensive machinery that it would entail was not at all requisite. It was manifest also that in the long run the town interest would swamp that of the country, for they must come to the town for their councillors in the end; and, taking Maitland for an example, they would find that in a few years the whole council would be composed of the gentlemen of the town, and that the whole district would be at the power of the town, and he would not have the district taxed for the improvement of the town: for it would be calling back the old system of town tyranny which had exercised such ill effects all over the world. However gratifying it might be to them to have the management of their own affairs, yet he was certain that they would find out after a time that they had paid too dear for their whistle, and he expected that very shortly they would join cordially with him in determined opposition to the District Councils. He came now to a disagreeable matter which would cause them all to suffer; he alluded to the disagreement between the Governor and Council on the Judicial Estimates. In the session before last the Council had voted the whole of the Judicial Estimates required of them, with the exception of about £400, which was the only matter in the estimate upon which they differed; but this last session, instead of asking the Council to make provision for the Courts of Justice, the Governor took the £20,000 secured to them by the schedule, and then asked for £8000 more in the lump. In the charter of the Colony it was expressly stated that the Council were to appropriate the money to the different services, and if they were called upon to give £8000 in the lump, they might be asked next year for £100,000 in the lump, and then an end would be put to all the power of the Council, and it would become nothing more than a mere machine. A resolution was consequently passed that they would not grant the money in the lump, not that they would not give it, but that they would not give it in that shape. The Governor had sent them down a message to the house, saying, that as they would not grant the money he must cut down the expenses. He might have cut down without any trouble, and if he felt any difficulty on the subject, if he had only come to the Council they would have shown him where to cut down without any inconvenience; but his Excellency had cut down where it was not necessary, and where it was likely to be attended with the greatest inconvenience, for he had cut off the Registry Office and the expenses of the witnesses, and when the question was debated in Council he had had it held out to them that when the witnesses applied for their expenses they should be told that through Messrs. Wentworth and Windeyer they were to receive none, so as to injure them at their next election; or, if that failed, then at the next sessions there would be no witnesses, and that all the rascality of the Colony would be let loose on society, and that the courts of the Colony would therefore be shut up. His pockets was thus feelingly appealed to, as from the courts he got his bread and cheese, and he and several of his legal friends looked a little blank when they talked about shutting up the courts, for he had no great inclination to take to farming, for the little he had done in that line had been a dead loss; but there was no help for them. He, for one, was determined to do his duty, in spite of the paltry threats held out to him, and would not give way. They had, therefore, sent word back to the Governor that they would not do what he required, but that he had mistaken them, as their only objection was to passing the money in the lump. But the Governor, in his obstinacy, would not see this, and the expense of the Registry Office was cut off. Mr. Carter, the Registrar-General, kept open the office for three months at his own expense, and then, finding it too heavy, he had appealed to the gentlemen of the lower bar, who in the most praiseworthy manner had refused to assist him, saying, in answer, that Mr. Carter ought to keep the office open, and that Sir George Gipps ought to pay for it. He must admire them in the matter, because they would be much out of pocket by the closing of the office, the making and registration of conveyances being a main source of their income; actions at law, though very expensive to the clients, did not pay the attorney for his time and labour; they had therefore taken a wise and noble part in the matter, and he could not conceive that the Governor would take upon himself the serious responsibility of shutting up the Registry Office, especially after a fact which he would bring under their notice. Mr. Wentworth seeing the inconvenience likely to arise from there being no office in which to register the liens on wool, especially as the wool was coming down the country, introduced a clause in the Lien on Wool Act, providing for the registration of liens in case of the shutting up of the Registry Office in the Supreme Court, where there was little or nothing to do, for the sake of remedying any inconvenience that might arise. But this proposition had been rejected by the Governor, who seemed determined to inconvenience them, and seemed perfectly careless whether he entailed inconvenience, or even ruin, on them. That this was the spirit that influenced the Governor was further shown by evidence which had come out of his having endeavoured to set them wrong with the Government at home. Last year it was proposed to give a compensation to those who had lost their situations by reductions made by the Council, as it was a principle in good government not to raise an opposition if possible to reform, and it was only humane not to treat public officers worse than they treated their servants, and it was proposed to give them a year's salary. This was proposed shortly after the reductions had been made, and hints were thrown out in the Council to the Government officers that if any proposal of compensation was made to the Council it would be favourably received; and when the proposition was ultimately made to the Council it was carried unanimously; but in answer to this the Governor had sent down a message to the house which evaded the question, by stating that, according to some rule by which he imagined himself bound, he could not give compensation to dismissed police magistrates. This was no doubt a very good rule for the Governor to be bound by, but the public money was the property of the Council, and they had a right to do with it as they chose, and, as respected them, the rule was absurd. On that occasion the Government officers and nominees had supported he

address for compensation, and when the matter was again brought before the Council this year they most vigorously opposed it; some of them, no doubt ashamed of themselves, leaving the Council when the question was brought forward; but others, such as the Colonial Treasurer and other thick and thin supporters of Government, remaining and brazening out the opposition to what they had previously supported. But in a short time the secret of this opposition came out, for a despatch was published, from Sir George Gipps to Lord Stanley, in which it was stated that extensive reductions had been made in different departments, without any compensation having been offered to those dismissed, and without any regard to the promises of the Crown. The Council had, upon seeing this, passed another address to her Majesty, saying that they had not done what the Governor had said they had done. And yet, although the Government had thus been convicted of misstatements, they had thought it right to remain where they were, instead of going home and hiding their heads. In fact, all the checks they received were only like water thrown on a duck's back: it made them waggle their heads and tails a bit, but they still remained where they were. They might, however, hope that in future the despatches would be penned more carefully, and that if any misstatements did occur it would be behind their backs, and without their knowing anything about it. And then the infamous spy system that had been adopted by the surveyors receiving instructions to report to the Government whenever any of their cows went over the line of fencing without paying the five pounds. He was sure that the people and the Council had only to be firm, and all their complaints would be put an end to. Their case was similar to that of a gentleman who had a bad overseer; the men might complain of him to the master, but he having confidence in his overseer, would not listen to them; but at length so many complaints came to him that he would begin to find out the overseer must be in the wrong and he would put him aside, or send him somewhere else on some pretence or other, and a new one would be appointed. He, for one, felt convinced that their present overseer ought to have been removed long ago. But even if he were not removed, they might do a great deal to counteract his misgovernment, and one way that had been adopted for so doing was by appointing the Hon. Mr. Scott as their agent. He was a gentleman intimately connected with several parties in the Home Government, and there was no doubt that he would read the brief that was sent to him from the Colony, and as there was a handsome fee endorsed upon the back of it, there was no doubt either that, like a good counsel, he would do his best to support it, and that he would let Lord Stanley, or whoever happened to be at the head of Colonial affairs, into the other side of the story. Another part of their squabble with the Governor was the Customs Bill, and the ground of the squabble was as to the propriety of having fixed penalties. These penalties, which were heavy, were to be recovered before a bench of magistrates, and he was certain that any sensible bench would not like to have such extensive powers given to them, especially as no discretion would have been given them in the fines, which were to have been fixed at a certain amount, and not varying to suit the different cases. But every night the Council had been teased with this Bill, which had become the standing dish of the session, and night after night the Government forced their point before them, although night after night a majority decided against them; but this system of annoyance was kept up in the hope of wearying out the country gentlemen, and this object they had nearly accomplished, for at last the opposition found themselves in a minority, from the country members absenting themselves for the shearing; and it was then that they had come to the determination of having their shearing-tide holidays, and the Council was adjourned; and, after that, they were again enabled to get a majority. The Bill was ultimately abandoned, on account of a clause which had been introduced into it that all the funds which had accrued under the Bill should be paid to the general revenue of the Colony, instead of the Queen, for the purposes of the Colony, as originally proposed. The reason for the introduction of this clause was, that the Governor had laid his hands upon some £7000, for which he refused to account, as he called them *droits of the Crown*. The Hawkers and Pedlars Bill had been rejected on precisely the same score. In fact, the Governor had done everything in his power in opposition to them, while, as they were situated, they had no more power with him than a mouse had in the mouth of a cat; they might indeed make themselves felt by giving some vigorous bites, but resistance was actually vain. At all events, he thought he had said enough to convince them that the Council were not to be charged with obstinacy or ignorance of the Colony, for the great bulk of them were men either brought up, or who had a stake in it, and whose property was wholly included in it; in fact, all the members had a large pecuniary stake in the Colony, and if any blame for ignorance was to be thrown, surely it should be on that individual who, being a comparative stranger, and having no interest in the Colony, and who could not possibly have the same knowledge of it as those who had spent the greater part or all of their lives in it, yet thought that he was a better judge of what would promote its interests than the twenty or thirty gentlemen who were opposed to him.

LORD STANLEY'S DESPATCH.

(*Cornwall Chronicle*.)

In our last number we furnished an extract from a dispatch lately received by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor from Lord Stanley, from the tenor of which it becomes evident that the settlers of Van Dieman's Land have nothing whatever to hope for, from that quarter. It is, however, gratifying to find that Sir Eardly Wilmot has exerted himself to the utmost, and omitted no opportunity of exhibiting to his Lordship the true state of affairs. The despatch is evidently written in the obsequious style; the autocrat of Downing-street betrays in more than one place a degree of sensitiveness, in reference to the manner in which the Lieutenant Governor has thought fit to interfere with his positive instructions, amounting to almost downright *crabbedness*. His Lordship appears anxious to impress upon his Excellency the necessity of "passive obedience" to his will, and assumes at times a *snarling* and offensive attitude by no means flattering to the latter. He says, "your despatch of the 8th of March gives a still more unfavourable account of the demand for convict labour: you represent the pass-holders as having become dissatisfied, and the difficulty of enforcing discipline amongst them as being much enhanced. To obviate as far as possible these evils, you announce that on the recommendation of the Comptroller-General of Convicts, you had authorised the employment of pass-holders for hire, in the public service, if such should be their option, although my instructions had strongly prohibited such employment of those persons." This is pretty much like saying, how dared you, sir, to contravene my orders; you ought to have known better! God help his Excellency say we; he is certainly comfortably situated—"escaping Scylla he falls upon Charybdis;" the colonists press upon him on the one hand, and Lord Stanley's "instructions" on the other. In reference to his present position we may well exclaim with the poet:—

Perchance Contentment had not been my mate,
If in exalted life my feet had trod,
Or my hands borne, in transitory state,
The victor's trancheon, or the ruler's rod.

It appears that the "extraordinary and unforeseen depression" of the times, has disturbed his Lordship's calculations; well, that's a pity; pity it is that his Lordship's "adequate authority" should have deceived him, and that he should have been left to the interesting discovery that he was attempting to extract blood from an already exhausted vein! The "plan" proposed by his Excellency for the construction of public works by an "indefinite supply of convict labour" seems to be strongly reprobated by the autocrat; he entertains a decided objection thereto, and "distinctly opposes and prohibits its adoption." His Lordship plainly tells the settlers that if he can carry his convict labour to a more productive market, he is determined to do so, and talks with a degree of fatuity for which it is difficult to account, of preparing waste lands for sale, at the very time when he cannot but be conscious that his system has a direct tendency to prohibit the possibility of purchasers. If his Lordship could only just take a peep at the "Victoria Valley" speculation, he would, we think, abandon all chimerical notions concerning the "exchangeable value" of lands thus cultivated, returning to the British Treasury, at 'no remote period,' the expense of maintaining the laborers employed in its redemption. His Lordship's system of *petting* his felonious subjects is utterly at variance with the idea of making them maintain themselves, and perhaps upon this subject he could not consult a better authority than the *Cornwall Chronicle*, of December last. He will there find from a calculation based upon unquestionable premises, that the probationers now waiting for hire in the Launceston Barracks do not contribute more than *sevenpence half-penny* per week, towards their own sustenance; nevertheless, it appears to be his Lordship's determination to carry out the principle of the "dog in the manger," and let him; as long as he adheres to his present system he will find the convicts nothing but an unmitigated burthen on his darling Treasury, and instead of land becoming daily of more and more value in this ill-fated Colony, he will make it dear even at a gift. Without roads and bridges, cultivation is next to useless, and his Lordship, in these distressed times, had better accept even £4,000 a year than depend on such contingent advantages as those which he appears to contemplate. Constituted as things are at present, the prospect is equally hopeless both to the Government, and the Colonists, and unless "invincible necessity" compels some immediate alteration, his Lordship may rely upon it, that his dear Treasury will be found anything but a gainer.

The only consolation afforded by the "extract" before us, is that it affords to the colonists a true insight into their real position. It would be ridiculous after reading it to doubt any longer concerning the ultimate destination of the Colony, provided his Lordship should continue at the helm of affairs. We have nothing to hope for except the contingency of his retirement; such an event can, however, hardly be expected, taking all things into consideration, and it is therefore useless to build upon it. He appears determined to rule the Colonies with a rod of iron—but let him beware of the result. There is a point at which patience ceases to become a virtue, and degenerates into pusillanimity—and his Lordship seems resolved to test it. In the meantime we will venture to assert, that a more blundering or ignorant statesman never scourged a land. He speaks of the "independence of British resources in the same breath as that in which he attempts, by the sale of a worthless commodity, to gather where he has not strewed;" by bullying the Governor, he thinks, perhaps, to intimidate the people, but his pride may yet, like that of Alrascher's in the story, accomplish its own destruction. He has rendered the yoke of British oppression burthensome indeed; and his policy seems to consist in adding insult to injustice. A Governor had need possess the temper of a saint to stand the snubbing of the autocrat, and for our own part we wish his Excellency much joy of his commission. As we before remarked his Lordship's despatch has had the effect of removing from the Lieutenant Governor the onus of our future troubles, and let what will happen we cannot but admit that his Excellency has done enough to prove "his love for Rome, although now called upon to show submission to the gods."

POLICE DISTRICTS.

A Clerical error having occurred in the preambles to the descriptions of the Police Districts of WELLINGTON and CASSILIS, as laid down in the Notice from the Colonial Secretary's Office, dated the 15th September, 1841, from which it appeared, that the latter District embraced the whole of the County of Bligh, instead of the midland and Northern portions only; His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the publication of the following amended descriptions of these Districts respectively.

WELLINGTON.

Embracing the midland and southern portions of the county of Wellington, and the southern portion of the county of Bligh; bounded on the north from the confluence of Wildra Creek with the Cudgegong River by a tracked road leading from Guntawong, to Cobra as far as the range dividing the Cudgegong and Erskine Waters; on the west by the crest of this range to the confluence of the Macquarie and Bell Rivers; thence by the Bell and Molong Rivers, and Booren Creek, and a line bearing southerly to Conobolas; on the east by a line bearing north-easterly to the northern boundary of Simeon Lord's grant; thence by Frederick's Valley and Lewis' Ponds to the Macquarie River; thence by the Macquarie and Turon Rivers and Cunningham's Creek to the range dividing the Pyramon River from the Mero Creek; and by the crest of this range to the confluence of Mero Creek with the Cudgegong, and by the Cudgegong River to the confluence of Wildra Creek aforesaid.

CASSILIS.

Embracing the western portion of the county of Brisbane, and the midland and northern portions of the county of Bligh; bounded on the north from Mount Terrell by the Liverpool range to Pandora's Pass; on the north-west by the Coolaburragundy and Erskine Rivers to the western boundary of William Lawson's grant; on the west by the crest of a range dividing the Cudgegong and Erskine Waters to a tracked road leading from Cobra to Guntawong; and on the south-west by this tracked road to the confluence of Wildra Creek with the Cudgegong River; on the south by Wildra Creek and a line bearing north-easterly to the source of the Goulburn River, and by the northern bank of this river to the eastern boundary of Mr. Townshend's grant; on the east by the crest of the range dividing the valleys of Hall's Creek and the Werrendi and Gummum Waters to Mount Terrell aforesaid.—*Government Gazette*.

EPIGRAM.

Midas in days of yore, as poets told,
Transformed whate'er he touched to purest gold.
Midas at the Antipodes he hounded,
From what he touches takes away the gold.