

Detailed Account of Cultivation on Country Purchased Lands.

	ACRES.
Wheat.....	1166
Oats.....	156
Barley.....	528
Potatoes.....	455
Maize.....	18
Total.....	2363

SQUATTING STATISTICS.

(From the Port Phillip Gazette, April 5. 1845.

MURRAY DISTRICT.

W. H. W. Smythe, Esq., Commissioner.

Acres in cultivation.....	993½
Horses.....	1171
Cattle.....	45520
Sheep.....	155214

Amount of assessment, £622 9s. 9d. Population—males, free 480, bond 88; females, free 140, bond 1; total 639.

GIPPS LAND.

Charles J. Tyers, Esq., Commissioner.

Acres in cultivation.....	238
Horses.....	507
Cattle.....	23879
Sheep.....	66254

Assessment, £293 11s. 8½d. Population—male, free 261, bond 33; female, free 52, bond 1; total 347.

COUNTY OF GRANT.

Edward B. Addis, Esq., Commissioner.

Acres in cultivation.....	954½
Horses.....	341
Cattle.....	4048
Sheep.....	134971

Assessment with licenses, £1400 0s. 8d. Population—male, free 334; female, 122; total, 456.

COUNTY OF BOURKE.

F. B. St. John, Esq., Commissioner.

Acres in cultivation.....	886½
Horses.....	341
Cattle.....	15530
Sheep.....	79359

Assessment, £239 1s. 4d. Population—males, free 405, bond 4; females, 262; total, 671.

GRANT AND NORMANBY.

Foster Fyans, Esq., Commissioner.

Acres in cultivation.....	4130
Horses.....	2097
Cattle.....	52453
Sheep.....	1,062,797

Assessment, £2568 4s. 1d. Population—male, free 2400, bond 40; females, free, 528; total, 2968.

WESTERN PORT.

F. A. Powlett, Esq., Commissioner.

Acres in cultivation.....	3074
Horses.....	1893
Cattle.....	3857
Sheep.....	600,739

Assessment, £1516 6s. 1d. Population—male, free 1379, bond 31; female, free 474; total, 1884.

GRAND TOTAL.

Acres in cultivation on Crown lands....	10,349½
Population residing on Crown lands....	6875
Horses.....	6550
Cattle.....	176,006
Sheep.....	2,118,334
Assessments, £6,110 8s. 7d½.	

REPEAL OF PROPERTY RATE ORDINANCE, AND RETURN TO CUSTOMS DUTIES.

WE beg to call the attention of the public to the following excellent article from the *Southern Cross*. It appears only too probable that the destinies of New Zealand are at this trying moment confided to one scarcely responsible for his own actions. Alas for the Colonial empire of England! Surely the Deity which presides over the choice of Governors is not the Goddess of wisdom; and the patience which submits to their fantastic tricks, has more of tameness than of loyalty:—

On the morning of our last publication, a most extraordinary resolution was adopted by the Legislative Council, at the suggestion of His Excellency the Governor, to the effect that it was expedient to re-enact the late iniquitous Customs' Laws, in order to raise a revenue sufficient to maintain the official vampires that are sucking the last drop of blood from the unfortunate settlers of this impoverished and ruined Colony: accordingly, on Tuesday last, we attended with others the Legislative Council, and a more painful and degrading scene, we honestly confess, we never before witnessed. When we remember his Excellency's statements to various parties, before even his arrival in the Colony, about FREE TRADE, and look at the measure which was passed on Tuesday last, abolishing one of the greatest blessings that can be bestowed on a Colony, we can come to only one deliberate conclusion, and that is, that His Excellency has in verity taken leave of his senses, and that until he be superseded in his appointment, this unfortunate Colony is doomed to suffer all the freaks and mishaps that attend the career of a confirmed lunatic; to imagine for one moment that any man in his sober senses would deliberately put to his Council the measure which was submitted and passed almost at the point of the bayonet on Tuesday last, after the reiterated opinion expressed by His Excellency about Free Trade, would be to suppose that common sense had given up the idea of legislating for this Colony, and that every person residing in it was as mad as the originator of the measure himself.

In answer to an able and elaborate address which was presented to His Excellency on his first arrival, he said—"I am extremely desirous that restrictions on trade should be removed, and commerce made as free as possible; but measures tending to this end must be deliberately and most carefully planned." This was in December, 1843. In January, 1844, in accordance with the same views, he stated in his first speech to the Legislative Council, that

"The diminution of Customs Duties, of Port Charges, and Pilotage, with a view to their ultimate removal, will be brought under your consideration, but a change of such magnitude as this must depend mainly on the revenue raised by other means, in lieu of that received under the existing system, and must be submitted to Her Majesty prior to being acted on." In May, of the same year, in His Excellency's speech at his second session, after adverting to direct taxation, he observed that "By such a system, we may hope to bring about free trade. Probably no country was ever better suited than New Zealand for unrestricted commerce, or less adapted for an expensive, although unavoidably inefficient Custom House establishment, I need only advert to her three thousand miles of coast line, and numerous harbours, to explain my meaning." These extracts from His Excellency's speech were long antecedent to the events which took place at the Bay of Islands, and cannot therefore be urged, as they were by His Excellency on Tuesday last, as being connected with Honi Heki. This latter personage was no doubt the means by which free trade was brought to bear earlier than what it probably would have been. His Excellency, on the third sitting of the Council in September last, remarked in his speech—"In addition to the critical nature of our relations with the aborigines—owing in a great measure to the operations of the Customs Ordinance, (which by each day's experience, I may say, are proved more and more clearly to be detrimental to our welfare). We find ourselves without funds,—almost without credit."

"There is only one certain remedy, in my humble opinion, for the existing distress; only one measure that can afford immediate, permanent, and substantial relief—and that measure is the ABOLITION OF CUSTOMS."

After laying the bill on the table, by which so desirable an event as the abolition of customs was to be accomplished, His Excellency in his prefatory remarks observed—"He would premise that the idea of abolishing customs in new Colonies was not new to the Home Government; the subject was brought under Lord Stanley's consideration last April twelve months; but he was not prepared at that time to sanction any change of so important a character;" and afterwards proceeded to point out the advantages of free ports—instanced the prosperity of Ceylon, Malta, and Gibraltar, and said, "that there were nearly 600 ships in the Pacific Ocean, who would, when the ports were open, rather come to New Zealand for their supplies than go to such unsafe places as the Fejee and other unfriendly islands." And on the conclusion of the same session His Excellency said—"There can be no doubt that the decision to which we have unanimously agreed, respecting the abolition of customs, and the substitution of a low rate on property, will be of vital consequence to the prosperity of New Zealand. That principle, so true and beautiful in theory—so difficult to be carried into practice in old countries—the principle of free trade—we have here, in this new country (as it may be called), in this youngest of Colonies, endeavoured to carry into effect."

Six short months have only elapsed since the system of direct taxation has been introduced—introduced with such transitory opinions, when His Excellency has

Shifted his ground as a lawyer knows how.

and in the face of the above quotation has retrodden his steps, after the mature deliberation which the subject of free trade is supposed to have cost him; for by his own confessions he has had free trade in contemplation for better than two years, and has now retracted all that he before said and had written on the subject. His Excellency endeavoured on Tuesday to show that he shifted his opinions when he thought it was for the good of the Colony—but the meaning which the Governor attaches to the words "good of the Colony" appears simply to mean—the largest amount of money he can screw from the settlers;—if the raising of a large revenue from impoverished people, to keep up an establishment at an expenditure of £25,000, be for the good of the Colony, then by all means spend even £50,000, but at present about £15,000 is the most that should be spent on Government Establishments, out of which sum there should be no provision for the Governor's pet, Dragoman, alias "Protector of Aborigines," nor for the "Survey Department,"—both of which departments may be re-established when there is a land fund to pay them from.

We have strong hopes that the inconsistent and vacillating policy, which His Excellency is so fond of adopting, will ere long find its own cure, for it will be actually necessary that His Excellency either be superseded from home, or the inhabitants of the Colony will assuredly have to adopt measures which was before had recourse to in a neighbouring Colony in 1808.

We were sorry to see all the non-official members of Council supporting His Excellency in this measure, although for decency's sake they did not wish to carry the bill in one day. One of the members is a kind of demi-mercantile man, and we are therefore more astonished at his want of knowledge of the principles of free trade.

A demur having arisen among some of the non-official members against suspending the standing rules of Council, with a view of passing this obnoxious measure at once—His Excellency remarked, that in times of difficulty and danger, the non-official members should rather be assisting the Government instead of thwarting them, and if they did not choose to give way, that he should use his legitimate influence with his paid vipers, and carry his measure *volens volens*—and as if to satisfy the members that he was firm in his determination, the "Property Rate Repeal Ordinance" was actually brought into the Council ready engrossed on parchment, and with the official seal of the Colony attached, waiting his signature!!! After such a specimen as this of a Legislative Council deliberating, or attempting to deliberate on measures, it would be the height of absurdity to suppose that any good could be accomplished for New Zealand, if the sitting members were ever so able or willing to vote for popular measures. In all the arguments used on previous occasions about customs, it was shown that the revenue was decreasing daily, whilst the expense of collecting it was the same—this tended to show that the people were too poor to consume much spirits and tobacco (which were the principal articles from which a revenue was derived), and the duties were consequently abolished, and an equitable and fair system of direct taxation was imposed at which no person (but those belonging to the *Waipiro-Clique*) grumbled—every one cheerfully paid his tax—and the failure, if failure it be, has been entirely owing to the laziness and indolence displayed by those who were appointed to superintend the chief collection. That it has not realized as much as was expected, we readily believe, but that has been principally from the southern settlers not having been put in possession of their lands, and consequently having no real property for which they could legitimately be called upon to pay. The return now to customs duties is nothing more or less than a legalized way of swindling—we have first, with many vain flourishes, declared the ports of the Colony FREE, and after giving time for this news to spread almost to the uttermost parts of the earth, and induced the residents of other countries to make shipments of their several commodities; and at a time when we may reasonably expect arrivals—we suddenly, and without any previous warning, pounce

down upon them, and impose heavy duties, at a ruinous and dreadful sacrifice to the original owner.

Can we reasonably expect any good to arise to the Colony while such childish acts are being performed?—or may we not with more certainty dread the fate for all the settlements in New Zealand which has happened to Kororarika? The native population will at once perceive the extra price they must pay for all articles which they purchase,—and what other explanation can be given them, than that it is the acts of the Governor? The system of a Government being carried on at the expense of the people is too comprehensive for a New Zealander to understand, and this indirect way of taxing them, in addition to the restrictions on the sale of their land, will tend only to inflame them more against British authority, and bring on that crisis which it has hitherto attempted to avert. The effects of this vacillating policy to the European settlers, His Excellency appears to care little for—while it is quite certain that the resources of the Colony will never be developed, or capital embarked in any speculation, while such a system, or rather if such a no-system of policy be continued; at one moment an arbitrary, oppressive, and unequal tax is intended to be carried, which made several people actually leave the Colony, and many others to sacrifice their property preparatory to doing so, and when all the harm and mischief is accomplished, the old system, so beneficial to smugglers, is again fallen back on. We can assure His Excellency that the revenue which he may be calculating to realize from the customs, will greatly disappoint him: for as all legitimate and honest means of earning a livelihood have been knocked on the head, smuggling will become fashionable, and we strongly and seriously recommend every one to endeavour and run their spirits and tobacco by every means in their power; those who will not descend to this system, we recommend to join the Teetotallers, and enter into a regular non-importation league as the only way of inducing the Government either to have an equal and impartial system of taxation, or abandon the Colony, which they have ruined by the false and absurd policy that has been pursued the last sixteen months.

It was rumoured that His Excellency intended to resign the reins of Government into other hands, and many persons attended the Council Chamber on Tuesday, fully expecting the consummation of so desirable an event; but it would appear that His Excellency is still backward in believing that the Colony is ruined, and is determined to remain until the Government House is actually pulled down about his ears. Concentration appears now his Excellency's watch-word, and after ruining the Bay of Islands, and causing upwards of 600 souls to be conveyed to the capital, he is expecting that these poor starving people are to pay duties on every thing that they consume.

If the lunatic and impolitic measures which have all along tended to retard the advancement of this Colony, had wanted one crowning act to complete it, the re-enactment of the Customs Laws was the very one that was required; and instead of looking forward that the previous measures were for the good of the Colony, and that affairs would change for the better ere long, we may safely say that the prosperity of the Colony is now irretrievably ruined. We were much amused at some persons who attended the Council, to see the satisfaction which they enjoyed from two sources; the first at seeing the lamentable want of consistency in His Excellency's acts, notwithstanding the organ of firmness stands so prominently developed on his pericranium; and secondly, from knowing that the oppression which this measure will bring on the settlers will be for their advantage, smuggling will again go ahead, and gin palaces be no longer converted into Barracks; the old and whole clique will now again prosper, and fatten on the vitals of the community.

The honest and *bona fide* trader will again have to struggle and compete with the dishonest one, and instead of seeing a flourishing and wealthy settlement increasing every day, there will be no persons either of capital or common sense who will think of embarking their means in a Colony like this, which is cursed by a Governor, without one particle of consistency or the common dictates of prudence. We cannot help exclaiming with our Southern contemporary, and yet "Governor Fitzroy will not resign!"

A PUGILISTIC EPISTLE.

Come cheer up, Sir George, you are down on your luck,
But a licking's no odds to a lad of your pluck;
Your backers in London look shy on the match,
But never you mind, toddle up to the scratch.
You'll get floored I believe, but a cock of your game
Whether milling or mill'd will show sport all the same.
The ropes are all pitched and the stakes are all right,
Its no use backing out, you are in for the fight.
Why you don't mean to say that you've got in a funk,
I always believed you a chap of more spunk;
You surely forget how you swaggered and blustered
About licking a thousand such fellows when mustered.
You talked so much gammon I backed you to win,
But if this is the go I've no chance of my tin.
The match should have been the beginning of May,
But you begg'd like a cur for a month's more delay,
And when we arrive at the tenth day of June
I fear, for your nerves, it will still be too soon.
Oh why don't you double up Billy and Dick—
Give the Doctor a winder—the Quaker a kick.
You said I might trust to your strength and your science,
And on your condition I've every reliance,
For lately you must have so freely perspired
If you fight fifty rounds you can never be tired.
To a man of your trade its a dreadful disgrace,
But they say that your heart is not in the right place;
You put on the gloves with your servants, and talk
As if thrashing them made you the cock of the walk.
It's easy to punish and ruffian them all,
But for them that *hits back* you've no stomach at all.

MR. A. BOYD'S SPEECH.

WE have much pleasure in transferring to our columns the following speech of Archibald Boyd, Esq., pronounced at a dinner given to him by his brother-squatters of New England. It breathes throughout a spirit of manly independence and firm resistance to the arbitrary encroachments of the Executive Government. We trust it will not be long before this gentleman—the able and indefatigable advocate of the best interests of the country—is placed in the Legislative Council, which his talents are so well calculated to adorn.

Mr. Boyd said, this was an honor which he did not expect. Since his arrival in the Colony he had received from the public press, from themselves, and from various other bodies in the community, the most flattering expressions of their approbation of his conduct while in England, and by that approbation his exertions there, such as they were, had already been more than overpaid;

yet he could not allow them to suppose that he had ever for a moment deemed those testimonials to have been directed to himself as an individual: on the contrary, he had ever considered himself merely as the representative of a cause, and had believed, and believed justly, that the addresses which had been offered him were nothing more or less than the expression of a determination on the part of those who offered them to support that cause, and to give their sanction to the principles by which he had endeavoured to advance it at home. And it was in this point of view that he had accepted the entertainment which he had received at their hands that day, for they were as well aware as he was, that Her Majesty's Ministers in England were in a great measure dependent on the Governors of their colonies for information with regard to them. They saw with their eyes, they heard with their ears, they were guided by their counsels, and it was not difficult to understand that if an humble, an unknown individual like himself, ventured to suggest that such counsels were arbitrary, or untimely, or unwise, that they should have looked upon his statements with indifference, or listened to them with incredulity. Even had it been otherwise, it was difficult for such an individual to make head against sinister influence elsewhere. The Governors of colonies, from their position possessed the ear of their masters in England, and they had always the power to misrepresent, should they possess the will. There were such things as private letters, and unofficial despatches, and it was easy for their author to insinuate that such an allegation against his government was exaggerated, and such another untrue. But when they (his hosts,) the representatives of a district second to none in New South Wales in wealth, or intelligence, or extent, came forward upon a public occasion like the present, and by an honour as great as it was rare, marked their approbation of the conduct of any man, they at once stamped on his mission and his acts the character of power, and gave to his statements a force and an authority which, unsupported, they never would have possessed. Against such testimony as theirs private letters and un-official despatches availed nothing, and after the honour they had that day conferred on him, he (Mr. Boyd) doubted much whether there was any man in the Colony, be he who he might, hardy enough to hint to Her Majesty's Ministers at home that the statements which he had the honour to bring under their notice did not contain a fair, and full, and honest exposition of the habits and character of the colonists, or that the grievances of which he had complained were peculiar to himself, and not, as was the fact, common to the whole body of the community. And yet they would do him the justice to say that those grievances had not been prematurely forced upon the notice of Her Majesty's Government. They knew as well as he the privations that settlers were exposed to in a new country: they knew as well as he that it was after long years of difficulty, and danger, and toil, and loss, that they had succeeded in erecting the dwellings which they possessed, of making roads, of introducing agriculture, and of giving the habits and character of civilized life to that which at no distant period was the lair of the wild-dog and the savage. Had they not by this conferred a great boon upon society, and did they not deserve some compensation for it? Yet, what is it that they asked?—empty Fixity of Tenure, or in other words, that the lands which they had thus civilized should be secured to them for such a term of years as would enable them to recompense themselves for the expenditure they had incurred, and secure to themselves the same benefits which their exertions bestowed on those around them. Was there anything monstrous in such a proposition? Yet, it was on account of this that they have been held up to obloquy and been denounced as the monopolists of territory, and a disloyal and factious population. He (Mr. Boyd) asked if they were monopolists, or if there was any one advantage or privilege which they claimed for themselves which they were not ready to participate with others. Had indeed the squatting districts occupied the whole territory of the British Crown in New South Wales, there might have been a shadow of an excuse for such an accusation; but they knew that the great continent of New Holland was nearly illimitable, and that within its extensive outline there was ample "scope and verge enough" for every man, woman, and child; and for thousands and tens of thousands yet unborn, wherein to form establishments similar to those now in existence; and for these, when so created, they asked privileges such as they demanded for themselves. How was it then that their adversaries did not avail themselves of this, simply because they loved not to face the broad and gaunt wilderness; they had no passion for the privations which the settler had endured; they, gentle souls, enjoyed the pleasures of the capital, and the luxuries of life; and it was only after the hard working squatter had given civilization to solitude, and made valuable that which before was valueless, that these gentlemen stepped forward and demanded to partake of advantages which have been created by the unassisted efforts of others: they would, in fact, reap where they had never sown, and though they had come but at the eleventh hour, would fain share with those who had borne the labour and the heat of the day. They were not then monopolists—were they disloyal? He had no hesitation in saying that in the whole extent of Her Majesty's colonies there was not a class of men more attached to the mother country, or more loyal to its Sovereign, than that to which he and they belonged. When the poor man determined upon emigrating, he was forced to do so by physical want; he sought raiment to cover his nakedness, and food to satisfy the craving of his appetite and those of his children; he required a roof to protect him from the weather, and fuel necessary for the purposes of warmth and existence. In New South Wales, beneath a brighter sun and a fairer sky, he found a thousand luxuries, which the most hard-working peasant in Britain never even dared to dream of. Here there was much for him to enjoy; behind he had left nothing to regret, for to his imagination his native land could present nothing but associations of pain. It was very different with those gentlemen whom he (Mr. Boyd) had the honor of addressing. None of them had been obliged to emigrate for physical privation—one and all of them had come to this new country moved by an honourable ambition to acquire that—without which no man was a valuable member of society—Independence. Well, they had struggled to obtain it amid difficulties greater than any to which men of their class had ever been subjected; but amidst these difficulties they would bear him testimony, that their thoughts had reverted a thousand times to the homes which they had left—"the halls of their fathers—the trees under which they had played in childhood—the old familiar faces"—the thousand affections which association, or education, or habit could create, all bound them to the past by bonds, which, though apparently finer than the fibres of a gossamer's web, were, in reality, in their power over the mind, stronger than those of iron—thus, from no peculiar virtue in themselves, but from circumstances and position, they were attached to their father-land and the Sovereign who ruled over it, by associations of happiness which could never sway the poor man, simply because from his hard fate he had never been enabled to appreciate them.—They are, then, not disloyal.—Were they factious?—He said that when the inhabitants of the Netherlands addressed to Phillip the Second remonstrances against the tyrannical conduct of their governor, they were ridiculed as beggars by the courtiers; but in the

political papers of the day they were called factious. When the inhabitants of Boston complained to the British Parliament of enactments, which the first statesman of that or any time denounced as tyrannical, they were termed factious. It had been a word which, in all ages and in all countries, had been applied by the satellites of despotic rule to those who were opposed to its arbitrary enactments, and they used it for the purpose of throwing obloquy upon men whose grievances they neglected, and whose remonstrances they refused to reply to by the sober arguments of truth or reason—they have given it also to the class to which he and they belonged, yet what have they done to deserve the denomination? He would tell them, some time back a tax was imposed on the squatting districts for a distinct and definite purpose. In process of time that tax produced a much larger revenue than had originally been contemplated, and the local Government applied it to other objects than those for which it had been exclusively created. They (the squatters) had ventured to complain of this, and they were termed factious. About two years ago Her Majesty graciously bestowed on the Colony a constitution—could it be believed that in any other country than in New South Wales the stock-holders without the bounds, who possess within their ranks one half its intellect, and more than half of its wealth, had in that constitution no share? A man might possess fifty thousand sheep, and contribute more to the manufacturing interests of the mother country, and to those of his own community, than a dozen members of the English Squirearchy, and yet not possess a voice in the selection of those who were to sit in judgment on his fate or fortunes. Nay more, should he be disposed to ask of the hands of his fellow citizens for the greatest honour which they could bestow, a seat in the Legislative Council, he must ask for it in vain—while that boon which was denied to him had been eagerly conferred, and no doubt at the suggestion of the local government, upon any one who might choose to become the proprietor of an alehouse. Well! they, the squatters, had ventured to complain of this, and they were called factious. If it was to be factious to be opposed to the arbitrary acts of the Government—if it was to be factious to remember that they have received liberty as an heritage from their fathers, and were bound to hand it down pure and unspotted to their children—if it was to be factious to be indisposed to pay any taxation except that which was levied by the authority of their representatives, he, for one, would feel honoured by the appellation, and ill would it fare with Great Britain, and ill for her interests, when her children cease to be actuated by these sentiments. It was a remarkable fact that the Anglo-Saxon race was the only one on earth which had succeeded in planting colonies to a great extent, and with almost unvaried success—and they have done this, not because they possess greater physical powers than other nations, but because they have been endued with a principle of self-volition—each man among them felt not only the consciousness that he had the means of being the architect of his own fortunes, but that when these fortunes were created he had the right to protect and to preserve them. Evil days might come when the Governors of British dependencies might lord it over subjects more disposed than those at present to quail before the frown of authority, and ready with officious zeal to pay any amount of taxation which despotism might impose, but should they succeed in robbing the colonists of their determination to oppose the aggressions of power, they will destroy along with it the energy which has been the mainspring of their fortunes. They might have indeed beneath their rule, a population with as goodly a presence as now, and as great strength in its thews and sinews, but the spirit which animated the mass would be quenched for ever, and with it would have vanished that feeling of lofty independence, and daring enterprise, which had hitherto distinguished them, and which had given to England a colonial empire, which for wealth, and for intelligence, and extent, was unequalled in the annals of the globe. Mr. Boyd said, that he had already detained them too long, but that ere he sat down, he must impress upon them that this was the crisis of their fate; in the whole history of the Colony there was no era so important as the present; it was the commencement of the struggle between liberty and power. He would, therefore, beg and beseech of them not to retire lightly from the contest, or lay "the flattering unction to their souls," that because they had once and again remonstrated against arbitrary edicts, they had thereby sufficiently discharged their duty to themselves and to their country;—that they should ever have in mind the gratifying recollection that in all cases where men have been determined in possessing liberty, they had ended in obtaining it, and that they too must eventually succeed; but that to do so they must persevere—they must not allow occasional mischances, or "untoward events" to baffle their energies, or to damp their ardour, but, day by day, month by month, session after session, they must renew their remonstrances, but in greater numbers and in stronger language, till in the end their enemies would be worn out in the combat, and they, like the suitor to the Unjust Judge, would by their importunities wring from the indolence of their rulers those rights and those liberties which ought already to have been conceded by their justice.

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

The *Port Phillip Herald*, of the 24th April, has the following on the subject of District Councils.

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BOURKE.

As on Monday, the 6th May, an election will be held of three Councillors to supply the places of three who retire by rotation, we take occasion to address a few words to the electors.

The whole Colony has united, almost without a dissentient voice, to condemn these institutions as, in their present form, utterly unfitted to the state and circumstances of the country on which it is attempted to impose them. Omitting the minor objections, which turn chiefly upon the qualification for electors and councillors, and even passing by the atrocity of rendering the rate-payers, who do pay, liable in some instances for the taxes of those who do not, an atrocity which we presume will not be permitted to disgrace the law of the land, we have to remind our readers of the inherent evils of these institutions. The power of taxation by the Councils, for the formation and support of roads and bridges, extends over the *solid portions* only of the District, whilst the compulsory expenditure for these objects applies to the *whole* District. Hence the Crown lands will receive nine-tenths of the expenditure, whilst they contribute nothing. In the next place, half the Police expenditure is to be levied by rate upon the District, whilst the Council has no control whatever over either the Police force or the expenditure. This is self-taxation unaccompanied by its proper adjunct—self-government, and is a mere mockery therefore of a great first principle. And lastly, from the scattered state of the population, and from the fact of only about one acre in the hundred being rateable, the cost of machinery of the District Councils would probably amount to more than half, and possibly to three quarters of the whole rate collected. Taxation therefore would be an unmitigated curse, the odium, the labour, and the cost, but without the fruit.

Happily for the Colony, the Act of Parliament is not complete. Before the District Councils can be thoroughly worked, our Legislative Council must lend the aid of an Act, and this Act, when brought before it last session, it threw out by an overwhelming majority. It was for absentsing himself from the Council when Sir George Gipps required the aid of his vote on this subject, that Sir Thomas Mitchell incurred his Excellency's ire, and was compelled to resign.

But though the District Councils cannot be *thoroughly* worked, it is in their power to perform much of the mischief assigned to them, *if the members are so disposed*; witness the Council of Grant, which is busily engaged in earning the contempt of the whole Colony, and it is therefore the policy of the electors to return such members only, as instead of working it at all. This was the policy adopted last year in the election of Messrs. Thomas Wills, Edward Carr, Edward E. Williams and Dr. Macarthur, who with the aid and concurrence of some of the Crown nominees in the Council, have so far resisted every attempt to engraft the District Councils *practically* upon the institutions of the country. Our advice, therefore, to the electors is, to look out for three representatives, actuated by the same principle as the gentlemen they returned last year.

We cannot close this subject without adverting in terms of the warmest approbation to the proceeding of the Heidelberg proprietors. We understand, that about nine-tenths of them have agreed, to put in operation the law under which a contribution of sixpence per acre for all lands lying within two miles on each side of their parish road, can be levied for its formation and support, and establish tolls. The result of this will be, that nineteen twentieths of the whole sum levied will be expended for the direct benefit of the properties of the contributors, whereas, if the levy were made by the District Council, three-fourths of the product would probably be expended in the cost of valuation and collection, and in supporting the machinery of the Council, whilst the remaining fourth, exclusive of the tolls, *might* be expended by that body on the road leading to Pentridge, to Richmond, or perhaps to Brighton.

GIPPSIAN LYRICS.

The Squatter Bard eulogiseth Sir George Gipps and transferreth him to the skies.

Hail, Gipps, thou man of super-human mind,
In whom each lofty attribute we find,
Indomitable paragon of Kent!
Thou whom our gracious Queen hath hither sent
To represent her, in vice-regal state,
Thou, on whose mandates hangs Australia's fate,
Say, how shall I thy Excellency sing?
How to thy shrine a worthy tribute bring?
Poor Squatter that I am, my reverence such
I dread thy Excellency's hem to touch.
Thou, Stanley's oracle, at whose decree
We Squatters vegetate, or cease to be.
Thou, at whose single, all-subduing nod,
We in obedience blind must kiss the rod.
Thou, who with craft adroit hast run thy rig
Whether sub-Tory, Radical, or Whig,
An equal glow of ardour dost thou feel
Devotedly for Melbourne, Grey, or Peel.
And if "the gentleman in black" did fill
The chair of state colonial, it would still
Be seen that Gipps yet play'd his cards with grace,
And unrelax'd *adhesiveness* to place.
Once on a time the bard perused, 'tis true,
A critique in "the Quarterly Review,"
Touching a pamphlet by Sir Francis Head,
Wherein some ugly things of Gipps were said,
Strange things that caused the bard no small surprise,
But who'd believe Sir Francis Head's vile lies?
It surely was an imputation low
To state that Gipps once leagued with Papineau
In Canada. Fie, fie, Sir Francis Head,
Your pamphlet had been better left unread,
Who would believe therein, the naughty slips
Recorded of our *Excellency* Gipps.
But come my muse, illuminate my strain,
And deck my goose-quill with celestial vein
As erst Orion, of gigantic size
Too huge for earth was transferr'd to the skies
Where his sheen form, when helmsmen vigil keep,
As beacon serves off on the trackless deep:
So thee, oh Gipps, too pure to rule us here,
Would Squatters fain waft to a heav'nly sphere,
Where as a modern constellation bright
Thou still couldst guide them through the bush at night.
Oh were it but ordain'd by mighty Jove
That thou wert rais'd to starry realms above;
That 'twixt the *Ram* and *Bull* a place were thine
And *Royal Bengal* hight thou there mightst shine.

CHORAL SOCIETY.

The second meeting of the Sydney Choral Society was held on Wednesday evening last, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, was numerously attended. In the infant state of the Society it would be unreasonable to expect perfection; but we could not help observing much confusion in the chanting, the syllables of which were nearly unintelligible at the extremity of the room. We call attention to this in particular, as it constitutes a large portion of Church music, which it is the main object of the Society to improve. We remarked, also, great inaccuracy in taking up the fugues, more especially amongst the trebles; this, we presume, is owing to want of practice. These deficiencies were, however, more than counterbalanced by the effective manner in which Farrant's beautiful anthem, "Lord for thy tender Mercy's Sake," and Newkonn's "Sanctus," were performed; nor must we omit to notice Dr. Syc's "The Lord descended from an high," and Dr. Clarke's "In Jewry is God known," the several parts of which were creditably sustained throughout. The programme for next Wednesday evening is devoted to secular music, and includes some of the richest gems of the old masters.—*Herald*.

INSCRIPTION ON A BUST.

Here stands the man who labored night and day
To raise the devil, whom he could not lay,
And when he'd raised that devil—ran away.

The following advertisement appears in the *Times* of December 20th: "New Work on Australia. Just published, post 8vo., 6s., cloth: The Present State and Prospects of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales. By Charles Griffith, A.M. London: Longman, Brown and Co.; Dublin, W. Curry, jun., and Co."