



ADDRESS

BY MRS. E. H. DUNLOP.

COMPOSED at the request of the Committee appointed to conduct a Concert for the benefit of Carolan, a wandering Harper, blind from his birth, a pupil of O'Neil, and the last professor of our national music. They were spoken as a prologue by Mrs Moore, an English singer of some celebrity.

Land of the matchless chords! whose fairy spell
Owns the wide realm, and sways the pulse of feeling—
Fair land of heaven-taught minstrelsy, oh tell
Why round thy Harp is Lethal slumber stealing?
That not as when in days of native power
Swell the high strains, through many a princely hall,
But idly laid in some lone lady's bower,
Pour to the mocking winds their "dying fall."

Oh, wake! nor scorn the vent'rous hand,
That trembling grasps the witching wand,
And dares invoke the spirit of her isle.
Oh! wake, and bid the soul of fire,
Ten thousand joys attend the wire!
To touching beauty's smile.
For, see! a ray of love, but lovely light,
Breaks from the halo of our setting sun;
Drawn to our sphere, a wandering satellite,
Of one whose race of melody is run.
A, ain, the long deserted path discloses
One opening vista, to the spires of fame;
On thee, proud Belfast, tremblingly reposes
The latest MINSTREL'S hope—the glory of a name!

Here, where unquench'd *milesian* ardors burn,
Be 't thine to hail our loveliest Art's return—
Hence to depart from ruder climes, oh never!
And thus in IRELAND'S future story,
One stainless page of radiant glory
Shall be thine own for ever!
Once, once again, let high-born bosoms beat,
While deeds of ancient days our *Clairsach* numbers;
Let beauty's timid tender glances meet
The chorist, where truant love enchanted slumbers:
Bid the bold spirit of the NORTH
Assert his own domain,
And, bursting into glorious birth,
Claim for his favoured natal earth
The meed of honor, truth and worth.
The noblest boon of heaven—IMMORTAL MUSIC'S REIGN!

Here let the spell-bound spirit rest,
Catch harmony's enraptured sigh,
Its couch be feeling's gentle breast,
Its guard, the Patriot's sleepless eye;
Then shall thy Bards through ages sweep
The range of sound, low, wild, and deep;
While cherub hopes shall smile,
And memory cease to weep.

* Clairsach, or Clairsagh the ancient Irish harp.—E. H. D.

ON THE CULTURE OF TOBACCO IN HINDOSTAN.

BY G. W. JOHNSON, ESQ.

Fellow of the *Agri-horticultural Society of India*, corresponding member of the *Royal Caledonia and Maryland Horticultural Societies, &c.*

TOBACCO.—*Nicotiana tabacum.*—*Kinds.*—The Surat, Bil-sah, and Sandoway tobaccos are most celebrated. The two first are found to be good for cultivation in the district about Calcutta; but Mr. Piddington says that the Cabool is still more to be preferred.

In the neighbourhood of Kurnaul, the Virginian tobacco has been successfully introduced.

Soil.—It requires for its growth a soil as fertile and as well manured as for the production of the opium poppy. It is, therefore, often planted in the spaces, enriched by animal and vegetable exuvia, among the huts of the natives.

Dr. Spry says, "that the Bhilsah soil, so long celebrated for the production of superior tobacco, is a black kabur soil,"—of this he has given an analysis.

"I have tried the tobacco seed in different soils (says Capt. C. Cowles); namely, a light garden mould, with a large portion of sooky and old house rubbish, dug to a good depth, and had a top dressing of the sweepings of the farm-yard and cow-houses; a rather heavy loam, highly manured with burnt and decayed vegetables and old cow-dung; the third sort was a patch of ground which, when I joined the station, was an unwholesome swamp, from being eighteen inches to two feet lower than the surrounding land; the soil appeared to be a hard sterile clay, and covered with long coarse grass and rushes. As there was a tank near it, I cut away one side of it, and threw the soil over the ground, bringing it rather above the level. Such was its appearance (a hard, compact, marly clay), that I expected no other good from it than that of raising the land so as to throw the water off; contrary, however, to my expectations, it produced a much finer crop of tobacco than either of the other soils, and with somewhat less manure."

Dr. Casanova, writing on the same subject, observes, that "the agricultural process is limited to some practical laws founded on experience, and these are subject to two principal agents; viz., the soil and the climate. With respect to the former, it is the practice amongst all the agriculturists in tobacco countries, such as the Isle of Cuba, the States of Virginia, North and South Carolina, and in the Philippine Islands, to select a high and dry piece of land, of a silicious nature, and combined with iron if possible—(chemical experiments have taught me to distinguish the tobacco grown in hot, low, and damp soils, of an argillaceous nature, from that which is produced in temperate and high lands, combined with metallic substances;) and, with respect to the latter, there are seasons of the year too well known to the planters to need any explanation. The only difference (if there is any) depends on the geographical situation of the place, with respect to its temperature, or in the backwardness or advancement of seasons, and even on the duration of the same—in which circumstances the planter takes advantage of the one for the other.

"The influence of a burning climate may be modified by choosing the coolest month of the year, whereas the soil cannot be altered without incurring great expense. I have seen tobacco lose its natural quality and degenerate by transplanting from one soil to another, although of the same temperature, and *vice versa.*"

Mr. Piddington has analysed several soils, distinguished for the production of superior tobacco. These are the table soils from Arracan (Sandoway); a soil from Singour, in Burdwan, near Chandernagore, the tobacco of which, though of the same species as that of the surrounding country, sells at the price of the Arracan sort; and the soil of the best Bengal tobacco,

which is grown at and about Hingalee, in the Kishnagar district, near factories formerly held by Mr. Piddington. Col. Hezeta and Dr. Casanova are our authorities for saying, that the tobacco soils of the Havannah are red soils; and those of Manila, Mr. Piddington says, are also red soil. Now the red and reddish soils contain most of their iron in the state of peroxide, or the reddish brown oxide of iron; while the light grey soils contain it only in the state of protoxide or the black oxide of iron. He believes the quality of the tobacco to depend mainly on the state and quantity of the iron in the soil, while it is indifferent about the lime, which we have seen is so essential to cotton. None of these tobacco soils contain any lime. Their analyses show them to contain—

	Arracan Soil.	Singour Soil.	Hingalee Soil.
Oxide of iron (peroxide)	15.65	10.60	6.00
Water and saline matter	1.10	0.75	1.50
Vegetable matter and fibres	3.75	1.10	.75
Silex	76.90	60.65	87.25
Alumina	2.00	4.50	1.50
	99.40	97.60	97.00
Water and loss60	2.40	3.00
	100.	100.	100.

From which it will be seen, that the best tobacco soil we have hitherto found in India contains sixteen per cent. or nearly one-sixth of iron, which is mostly in the state of peroxide, and that the inferior sort of tobacco grows in a soil containing only six per cent. or one-sixteenth of iron, which is, moreover, mostly in the state of protoxide, or black oxide.

Mr. Piddington thought it worth examining what the quantity of iron in the different sorts of tobacco would be, and found, that while the ashes of one ounce, or 480 grains, of Havannah and Sandoway cheroots gave exactly 1.94 grains, or 0.40 per cent., of peroxide of iron, the ashes of the same quantity of the Hingalee, or best Bengal tobacco, only gave 1.50 grains, or 0.32 per cent., and it appears to exist in the first two in the state of peroxide, and in the last as a protoxide of iron, rendering it highly probable that the flavour of the tobacco to the smoker depends on the state and quantity of the iron it contains! for we have now, observe, traced the iron from the soil into the cheroot. Green copperas water, which is a solution of sulphate of iron, is often used by the American and English tobaccoists and planters to colour and flavour their tobacco; and this would be decomposed by the potass of the tobacco, and sulphate of potass and carbonate of iron be formed. Carbonate of iron is of an ochre-yellow colour. He says he took care to ascertain that this process had not been performed with the cheroots used for his experiment; and adds, Bengal cheroot-makers do not know of this method.

Preparation.—Baboo Radhakant Deb says, that in Central India "the ground is prepared for a whole year by ploughing twice a month, during the full and change of the moon. When the sun enters Libra, the preparations are to be commenced. The advantage consists in making the soil light by being frequently kept free from clotted masses. It is therefore to be well opened and harrowed, so as to imbibe the heavy dews which fall during the four following or winter months; and during the next four, or spring months, to be invigorated by the replenishing warmth of the solar rays, when, being one grade below the vegetating power, the rains complete this part of the process by their natural tendency to improve the vegetative principle. No other kind of crop, such as grain, is to be sown during this preparation; the soil is to be also constantly weeded; cow or buffalo dung and ashes to be mixed with it in moderate quantities, to render it rich for production.

Mr. Laidley, of Gonitea, dissents from the idea suggested by Mr. Piddington, that ferruginous matter in the soil is essential to the successful growth of tobacco. He observes that if we attend only to the iron contained, why every plant will be found to require a ferruginous soil; but tobacco contains a notable quantity of nitrate of potash and muriate of ammonia (the latter a most rare ingredient in plants), and these two salts are infinitely more likely to affect the flavour of the leaf than a small portion of oxide of iron, an inert body. Now as neither of these can be supplied by the atmosphere, we must search for them in the soil, and accordingly he imagined that a compost similar to the saltpetre beds which Napoleon employed so extensively in France, would be a good manure for tobacco lands: namely, calcareous matter, such as old mortar, dung, and the ashes of weeds or wood. He was aware that good tobacco might be grown in Beerbhoom, having raised some himself several years ago from American seed. The plants grew most vigorously, and he further observed, in confirmation of his opinion about the proper manure, that in other districts in which he had resided the natives always grew their tobacco (each for his own use) upon the heap of rubbish at his door, consisting of ashes, cow-dung, and offal of all kinds. While the soil of the Gangetic diluvium almost always contains carbonate of lime, the Beerbhoom soil does not, as far at least as Mr. Laidley had examined it.

Sowing.—In Virginia, beds for the reception of seed are prepared in the fall, in rather a moist situation, of pure vegetable mould, pulverised, entirely free from weeds, having the surface completely scorched by burning brushwood or shavings of wood upon it. The seed is sown much after the manner of cabbage seed, about as thickly and as deeply, and raked in; this is done during the month of February.

In Central India, sowing is performed in the months of Assin and Assar.

In the Philippine Islands, the earth being once well tilled without a single stone or clod, the seed is grown mixed previously with ashes, to prevent (being so very small) its coming up too thick, and that the plants may be a little asunder. The seed being so fine and requiring to be sown in the rainy season, would be killed by too heavy showers; to prevent it this nursery is covered in such a manner that having the necessary free circulation of air, it may yet be protected from the showers. After the plant is grown and the leaves are large, the showers, unless very heavy, cannot hurt it.

In the West Indies, it is absolutely necessary to make what the Spaniards call a *semillero*, or a seed plot; this must be done in a piece of woody land, where the young plants may be protected from the influence of the burning sun until they acquire a strong organic structure, and a height of about nine

or ten inches; they are then transplanted to the field, which is previously prepared in the ordinary mode.

Planting.—In Virginia, early in May, according to the season, or during that month, the plants are removed to the field, and are placed out in hills, raised above the surrounding surface from eight to twelve inches, varying according to the strength of the soil, from three by four to four by five feet. Thus the rows are four feet apart, as with Indian corn, and the hills in the row three feet distant from each other.

In Central India, as soon as the plants shoot forth and rise about three inches above ground, they are removed and transplanted about a cubit apart from each other.

In the Philippine Islands, the seed vegetates in seven days, and other herbs will come up with it, which are to be immediately plucked up, or they will debilitate the tobacco. Two months after the sowings, more or less, according to the fertility of the soil, the plant will be ready for transplanting, and will have six leaves, yet no harm will accrue if by some accident this cannot immediately be done, and I think it advantageous not to transplant until it is nine or ten inches high, because having more strength, it can endure any unfavourable weather that may happen, such as want of rain after transplanting, while the advantage of doing it at an earlier period is only to profit by the first leaves of the stock, which are generally spoiled in spite of the greatest care.

The soil in which the tobacco is to be planted must be prepared with great attention; it must be very clean, without any obstacles which may check its progress. There are two species of land in Cagayan, some high and some low; the tobacco should be planted in the proper season, that it may have showers in the two first months. After it has been transplanted, very good tobacco may be produced from high lands.

The earth once well cleaned, furrows are opened about three feet asunder, nine or ten inches deep, and in them the plants are placed at this same distance from each other, so that every plant shall occupy a square yard. When newly planted, they must be well covered with earth; and although not deprived of a due circulation of air, yet the roots are to be sheltered from the sun until they have adhered to the new soil.

After Culture.—In Virginia, the plants are allowed to stand unmolested till they begin to throw out suckers, which must be carefully removed by hand as often as they appear. By hoeing and ploughing all weeds must be kept under, as with corn or cabbages in a garden. When the plant has thrown out eight or twelve good-sized leaves, according to the strength or richness of the soil, it must be topped, by which is meant, if the ground be rich, twelve leaves may be left—if poor, only six or eight; the best way is to leave only from six to ten. The plants being kept free from worms or caterpillars, which prey upon them, are left to stand till they are perfectly ripe; this is determined by the thickness of the leaf, and the crackling sound produced by breaking it.

The tobacco fields must always be kept very clean, as extraneous weeds hurt it, and must of course be plucked up immediately. To weed the fields and kill the worms constitute the chief occupation or employment of the planter while it is growing. When the leaves are coming forth, some shoots will be seen amongst them, which it is necessary to destroy, because they would weaken the plant.

Two months after transplanting, every stock will have twelve or fourteen large leaves, and some small ones at the top. These must be cut off together with the head of the stock, that useless leaves may not weaken the plant; but an adequate number of these must be spared for the growth of seed, for although the new sprouts that grow after the tobacco has been plucked give seed, it is of a bad description. This must be gathered off the flower produced by the stock, and for this a sufficient number should be left, of which tobacco may also be gathered, but it will be inferior to that of the plants that have been pruned.

Four months is the common time that the tobacco is on the ground after being transplanted. The planter must endeavour to transplant his in such a season that it may have rain the first two months, and be without it the two last. A shower when the tobacco is almost ripe weakens it considerably, and if there is a bright sunshine afterwards, a great part of the crop may be lost, because the leaves acquire spots of white, which shows that the tobacco is good for nothing, while the gold-colour specks caused by the rains when it falls upon a plant perfectly ripe show that the planter has gathered it in due time, and that it is well seasoned.

Cutting and Curing.—In Virginia, the plants, when perfectly ripe, are cut with a knife, and placed upon poles horizontally, exposed to the sun for several days, till they die, and become of a yellow or brownish hue,—care, meantime, being taken, that they be not exposed to rains or very heavy dews. From the field, hanging on the same poles, they are removed into log-houses and hung upon the roofs. Under them, during wet weather, slight fires are kept up, the smoke ascending from which dries the stem, and prevents mouldiness. After hanging thus for three or four weeks, the plants are taken, when in a very dry state, from the poles, carefully packed on the dry floor, and covered with straw, to guard them from frost. If the winter be very wet, they are several times hung up, and dried partially with the smoke of wood fires, and replaced in bulk. Finally, in the month of May the plants are all hung up, and allowed to remain till a tolerably warm and moist day, when they are taken down, and the leaves being stripped from the stalks, and tied up in bundles of six and seven leaves each, with a leaf binding them together, are thus packed carefully into hogsheads—12 to 1500 pounds are put into each hogshead—the butt ends of the tobacco touching the cask, and the points directed inwards to the centre.

Smoking the plant is injurious; and if the season be sufficiently dry and warm, it is better to cure the tobacco entirely by the aid of the sun.

In Central India, when the sun enters Capricornus, the leaves begin to ripen; the first throw of leaves being generally inferior, they are to be plucked off and laid aside—those which succeed are allowed to attain maturity, and, when fully ripe, are broken off and laid on the plantation soil to imbibe the dews and solar heat, and improve in fragrance; they are then packed up with layers of a grass called Kuthra and Dabee. In packing, the stalks must be carefully taken away; they are used otherwise by being soaked in water until the impregnation is strong, which water is frequently sprinkled, and rubbed

over the leaves. This part of the process is a preservative, as well as a means of enriching the essence of the leaves: the packages are to be untied and renewed as often as this application is made. Lastly, a species of earth called Reh,* which is found in the saltpetre lands, is sprinkled over the leaves until they are sufficiently dry; but probably this part of the management is performed merely to preserve the leaves from fermenting when in large quantities—how far the earth does or does not impart an impurity seems to be doubtful; however, such is the treatment observed in this country, which might be improved upon by following the method of packing used in the western countries. It would be worthy a trial to ascertain the effect of the alkali of the same plant, and having made a strong lixivium therewith, to wash the leaves with it, dry, and store; this might preserve, as well as strengthen, the substance of the vegetable quality by resisting fermentation, and would seem to be better than the saltpetre of the ground; or a little saltpetre might be mixed with the lixivium to give it the effect of a modified and refrigerating quality, which is an essential if the tobacco be used for smoking.

The stalks left on the lands are allowed to shoot forth new scions; these continue to grow until the sun enters Pisces, when the second crop is cut and treated in the same manner.

The last stalks bear fruit and flowers which run into seed.

In the Philippine Islands all the leaves of a stock do not become ripe at the same time. The first gathered as being ripest are those nearest to the ground; but although the largest they are generally spoiled. Successively the others become ripe: this is ascertained by the midrib and nerves beginning to change their colour to yellow near the foot-stalk. In this state they must be gathered.

If, after collecting the tobacco, it is desired to take advantage of the new sprouts which will grow, the stock is to be cut, leaving it only about eighteen inches high, and three or more sprouts will grow, which, although small in size, will prove a very strong tobacco. This is called the second crop at Cagayan.

According as the leaves are gathered, they are to be dried in the shade and strung on little sticks, so as not to touch each other, while the air circulates round. The sun is very obnoxious to tobacco in this state; and it will likewise be very hurtful to air it more than is requisite. It is to remain in the air until it gets a colour; and as in that state the leaves will be very dry and brittle, they are to be exposed to the dew for one night, and, in that moist state, left to ferment in rows—(bandalas, a provincial name, which appears to signify rows.)

Fermentation, if excessive, would be mischievous, as it would rot the tobacco: three days will be sufficient; at the end of which the heaps, or rows (bandalas), are to be turned up, leaving those leaves that were under now uppermost; it is then fermented for three days more, and at the end of that period is pressed.

This operation consists in expurgating it of the bad leaves, keeping the good ones in the small sticks in rows, but well covered, to prevent their getting dry.

Pressing once finished, the preparation is completed. The seed must be gathered when it is well ripe to serve for the next year's sowings.

The mode of curing at Diamond Harbour, as described by Captain C. Cowles, was as follows:—If the day promised to be fine, about 9 o'clock, or as soon as the dew was off the plants, they were cut and left in the sun all day, and put under cover at night. The next day the leaves were stripped from the stems, brushed, and laid singly in the sun on canvas or mats, either the whole or half the day, according as they were more or less dry; then laid in the shade to cool; then placed closely in a heap or box, covered with gunnies, on which weights were placed. After remaining in that state until the heap acquired a glowing heat throughout, it was again spread out and the leaves doubled and strung on slips of bamboo, (after the Sandoway manner.) In this state it was again sweated, and then hung up in the shade to dry for about three weeks or a month; then put out for one night in the dew, and early the next morning placed in a heap to "sweat" once more, and then finally dried.

"From what I have observed, (adds Capt. Cowles,) I should say that I commenced the sweating process before the leaves were sufficiently dry, on which account many of them have undergone a partial decomposition. I have no doubt, but it would be advantageous to allow the leaves to remain in the sun at least two days, (taking care not to break their edges, which become brittle on the second day), and in the shade three or four."

In conclusion, I beg to say, that I have reason to believe that tobacco will generally improve in flavour and colour by being kept in a close dry place for eight or ten months.

Dr. Casanova says, that when the tobacco is ripe, and ready to be cut, it is taken to be cured. For this purpose there are two methods, which are subject to the climate of the place where it grows. If the operation is performed in a hot country, the tobacco is cured without heat in a house built for that purpose, the dimensions of which are in proportion to the crop to be collected. This house may be built of any materials, provided it is airy and water-proof. Large pieces of bamboos are horizontally and transversely placed in it from one angle to another, on which bamboos the tobacco is hung by the extremity of the stalk, with the leaves downwards, and near to each other, leaving a space of about 5 or 6 feet from the ground, in order to keep a smoky combustible burning in different places of the room until the tobacco assumes a dark brown colour, which is the indication of its being cured. It is then packed in bundles, well pressed and kept in a dry, airy place.

The other method consists in an operation performed without fire or smoke, but with an artificial heat, or with a caloric produced by the tobacco itself, and is used in cooler climates. It consists first of a house adapted for that purpose, the length of which must be greater than its breadth, and of benches of split bamboos placed longitudinally at each end of the building, with a sufficient space from each other to allow a man to pass. These benches may be fixed in the ground or may be moveable—they are to be two feet high, three wide, and from ten to twenty or thirty feet in length, according to that of the tobacco house, upon which the leaves are piled about two or three feet high, and covered with some thick woollen cloth or blankets, in order to make the tobacco part with its

* This is probably an earth strongly impregnated with an impure carbonate of potash or soda—perhaps with a mixture of both.

moisture. When it has undergone its primary operation, it secretes an extractive substance, which is the resinous part, and in which the aroma is contained; it then changes into a dark brown colour, which is a sure sign of its being cured. When this operation is accomplished, the tobacco is hung about the roof of the same house, in which bamboos are previously placed, until it is ventilated, and then packed in bundles of about six or eight pounds, which will keep for a long time if not exposed to dampness.

Injuries.—Great loss was sustained in Cuttack by the cultivators of tobacco in the season of 1833, from an insect which attacked the plant when a little above the ground, and entirely destroyed it. Singular to say, the Virginian tobacco entirely escaped, though equally exposed to the attacks of the grub.

From the moment the tobacco is transplanted, a great swarm of worms will appear, which, unless carefully extinguished, would not leave a single leaf in the largest plantation; and this attention must be incessant from the first to the last day it is on the ground. On some occasions it is necessary to plant the same field thrice or oftener, because what was sown one day is not found the next, the worm having destroyed or concealed it under ground. Against this there is no other remedy, but to transplant again and again until the worm ceases its havoc. After the plant has taken root, there is no more of this danger, but the worm will continue destroying the leaves if every individual plant is not visited morning and evening and the worms killed; but sometimes a single visit will do, or one twice a week, according to the abundance of them.

The following is the mode of culture pursued about the city of Coimbatore:—Between the middle of August and the same time in September, a plot of ground is hoed, and embanked into small squares. In these the seed is sown and covered by hand three times at intervals of ten days. To secure a succession of seedlings, water is then given, and the sun's rays moderated by a covering of bushes. Watering is repeated every day for a month, and then only every fifth day.

The field into which the seedlings are transplanted is manured and ploughed at the end of August. Cattle are also folded upon the ground. Four or five ploughings are given between mid September and the middle of October, when the field is divided as above into small squares. These are watered until the soil is rendered a mud. Plants of the first sowing are then inserted at the end of September, about a cubit apart, the transplanting being done in the afternoon; at intervals of ten days the seedlings of the other two sowings are removed. A month after being transplanted, the field is hard; and after another month the leading shoot of each plant is pinched off, so as to leave them not more than a cubit high. Three times during the next month all side shoots thrown out are removed. When four months old, the crop is ready for cutting.

To render the leaves sweet, the field is watered, and the plants cut down close to the surface, being allowed to remain where cut until next morning. Their root ends are tied to a rope and suspended round the hedges.

In fine weather, the leaves are dry in ten days; but if cloudy, they require five more days. They are then heaped up under a roof, which is covered with bushes, and pressed with stones for five days. After this, the leaves are removed from the stems, tied in bunches, heaped again, and pressed for four days longer. They are now tied in bundles, partly of the small leaf and partly of the large leaf bundles, again put in heaps for ten days—once during the time the heaps being opened and piled afresh. This completes the drying.

A thousand bundles, weighing about 570 lbs., is a good produce for an acre.

Punch.

CONFLICTING JURISDICTIONS.

Yarrula sed Cumio et grandis Epistola venit.
Juvenal.

WE have much pleasure in making known to the public the annexed correspondence, the existence of which, we believe, has not hitherto been suspected. If an Australian Plutarch were to arise, he would probably be enabled to find considerable analogy between this and a dispute now raging in a sister island. Whether the Corporations aggregate, copied the idea from the Corporations sole, or the contrary, we do not know, but we are bound to say that the temporal champions seem animated with quite as strong a spirit of mutual forbearance as the ecclesiastical.

Darlinghurst, October 8th, 1844.

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SIR—A copy of a document has been placed in my hands, purporting to be a requisition addressed to George Allen, Esq., the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Sydney. I am told that the address was received by you under the above designation some time or other. May I take the liberty of asking you whether I am correctly informed, that you have thus assumed the title of Mayor of Sydney, and if this be the case, may I beg to know by what authority you lay claim to jurisdiction over a city established within the limits of my district by a power inferior to the Imperial Parliament, and with what right you dare to take up a title derived from the metropolis of that district which His Excellency has been pleased by letters patent to place under my immediate wardenship. You will not, I should hope, so far misunderstand the motive of this application, as to ascribe it to a captious desire to finger the city fund, a line of conduct which proceeds from a conscientious regard for the Governor and the district as well as to the obligation commonly called the cash credit, in which I, in common with other members of the Council, are unhappily bound to the Commercial Bank. I have the honor to be, Right Worshipful Sir,

Your faithful and obedient servant,

T. B. Sydney District.

To the Right Worshipful George Allen, J. P.

City Council Chambers, October 14th, 1844.

MY WARDEN—Courtesy dictates that I should so address you, and I do so most willingly though with great disgust. You have no right to put to me the questions you have, ergo, I shall not answer them. Your attack upon me and the ancient city of which I am unworthily Mayor has determined me to avoid controversy. We are placed here by the Government, for a purpose very different than that of strife and contention about titles, which are, to say the truth, shabby enough; a strife

which, while the roads bridges and streets are in their present disgraceful state, seems to me to be a waste of the raw material. Drays are sticking fast in all directions. The sewerage of the city is unprovided for—it takes two to make a fight and I won't be one. You mistake your position, you are placed at the head of the Sydney district that you may tax it into an atrophy. Be content with the honor, stick to the district, meddle not with the city. We have both of us plenty to do, but if we spend our time in quarrelling, we shall be of no more use than two old apple-women. Do what you please in the district, but let the city alone, or you will get something you don't like.

I have the honor to be,

My Warden,

G. A., Sydney Mayor.

To the Warden of the Sydney District.

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SIR—If you had stuck to the point, I should have let you alone, for your signature is enough to hang you in any Court; but as you have chosen to read me a lecture, I'll give it to you. I said I never wanted to interfere with the City; so you needn't have got into a rage. But I tell you flatly, that you have no business at all to be Mayor in my district; my charter comes from an Act of Parliament—yours from an Act of Council. I should like to know who's top sawyer now? I am afraid you won't believe me when I say I am not in a rage. Excuse me if, with reference to your position, I insinuate in the most soft and delicate manner, that you are a humbug. No course, therefore, is left me but to make a bye-law, deposing you from your assumed Mayoralty; and if the law won't execute it, the law ought. I never was cooler in my life; a little earnest, a little zealous, and a little anxious, to put your gross impudence in its true light—but cool, quite cool. I don't want the praise of the City Council; I stand upon my position as Warden; and if, through false delicacy or false fear, I didn't give you as good as you brought, I shouldn't be fit to be one of your scavengers. I know not, my little Mayor, whether you believe me; in fact, I am strongly inclined to think you will not, when I tell you that I write this with feelings of friendliness and good will towards you.

I am, Right Worshipful Sir,

Yours, &c.,

T. B., Sydney District.

To the Right Worshipful the Mayor.

MY WARDEN—Your letter contains much Billingsgate, but no argument. Having arrived at this satisfactory conclusion, I've done.

Yours,

G. A., Sydney Mayor.

(The following advertisements having come too late to be inserted in their proper place are published here.)

DO-THE-BOYS HALL.—The old original Australian Do-the-boys Hall was situated in the country, and was not successful, owing partly to the depressed state of the Colony in general, and partly to the late conductors not having been quite versed in the system. It having been found that the establishment can be carried on much more advantageously in town. The public are respectfully informed, that Do-the-boys Hall is now re-established on the most rigorous system—under three Masters of Arts. Enquire at Do-the-boys Hall, Sydney.

N.B. Any industrious youth will be taken in. Indeed, the younger and more raw he is, the more likely he is to be thoroughly initiated into this celebrated system of Colonial education.

PATENT SHEARING.—Messrs. Shave'em, Fleece'em, and Co., have the honor to inform the Squatting Interest and their up-country customers in general, that their new Patent is in full work. They undertake not only to shear immediately after the fleeces have been removed by Messrs. Gipps and Co., hitherto deemed the closest shearers in the Colony, but to collect a handsome handful of wool; lambs, in particular, being left as bare as the back of the hand. Messrs. S. F. and Co. flatter themselves that there is no danger; and, it is really wonderful to see how patiently the innocent animals bear the operation.

EUROPE.

DREADFUL STEAMBOAT COLLISION.

Yesterday (Dec. 17) the utmost sensation was created along the water-side, and at the various steam-boat piers along the river, in consequence of one of those unfortunate collisions which, though common on the other side of the Atlantic, are of rare occurrence in this country. The ill-fated boat which has suffered by the event is the Sylph, belonging to the Old Woolwich Steam-boat Company; the one which has been the cause is the Orwell, belonging to the Ipswich Company. From the meagre particulars which the reporter had been able to obtain, it appears that about half-past 2, or from that to 3 o'clock, the Sylph started from London-bridge Wharf for Greenwich and Woolwich; at London-bridge she took on board 24 passengers; on her arrival at the Thames-tunnel she took in 10; and with this number of passengers she proceeded on her course to Greenwich. On proceeding down the river the heavy fog, which had hung over the metropolis during the morning, had not departed from the river, and, as the boat neared Greenwich, the density of the fog was so great as scarcely to permit the captain to see a boat's length before him. From some cause, which remained unexplained, the Sylph, it appears, was on the north or Middlesex side of the shore, and was in the act of crossing for the pier at Greenwich, when a large vessel was seen close to her. The captain of the Sylph instantly cried out, "Stop her; go astern;" which commands were promptly attended to, but too late; for the next instant a tremendous crash was heard, and in an instant the fore cabin of the Sylph was filled with water, and melancholy to relate, not one individual in that part of the boat escaped. So instantaneous was the collision that it was impossible to give any alarm to the passengers. Those on deck fortunately escaped. The statement of Captain S. Wrackham, the commander of the Orwell, as connected with this melancholy event, is to the following effect:—The Orwell was due at 5 o'clock on Monday evening, but on coming up the river, and when on the other side of Gravesend, the fog was so heavy that it was found necessary to cast anchor. About 9 o'clock in the morning she heaved her anchor, but in consequence of the continuance of the fog came up the river at a very slow rate. Between 1 and 2 o'clock she was off Woolwich, and was two hours making the distance from that point to Greenwich. When off the latter place the Sylph was making for the pier, and, it being high tide, she was under the necessity of going at her full speed. In crossing from the north to the south shore the Orwell came in sight of the Sylph, when the pilot, whose name is Wiggins, being at the wheel