

## THE LANDHOLDERS AND THE SQUATTERS.

(From the *Portland Gazette*.)

ALTHOUGH neither of the above terms is strictly correct as a designation for the class of colonists to which it is generally applied, yet as they are those commonly used in reference to the proprietors of land and the holders of Depasturing Licenses respectively, we adopt them with the same meaning, independently of their strict signification.

With this brief explanation we beg to observe, that however frequently we have referred to the many hardships under which the latter class have suffered, we consider that the subject is one which, perhaps above all others, requires the particular attention of every impartial and patriotic writer at the present time. We have already drawn the attention of our readers to the attempts of the *Port Phillip Patriot*, and some of the Sydney journals, to create a prejudice against the Squatters, and in the fourth page of our present number will be found a paragraph, extracted from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, from which we learn that Mr. Kerr, late editor of the *Patriot*, has taken advantage of his visit to the metropolis to aid, by means of a personal interview with the Governor, the exertions of a portion of the Press to injure the Squatters, and through their ruin to bring, however unintentionally yet with no less certainty, destruction upon the whole Colony. The grand object against the Squatters is, that their presence and industry are injurious to the landholders; and the grand object desired is, that the Government would, therefore, interfere either by directly and entirely expelling the obnoxious class from the Colony, by imposing such taxes and restrictions as will have the same effect indirectly, or by reducing them to such a state as to be solely dependent upon the Landholders. These are briefly, although not in such plain language, the objections urged and the end desired, and if they be not unworthy any man or body of men claiming the least credit for liberality of sentiment, patriotism of principle, or honesty of purpose, we are at a loss to know what could be. When the Government sold the Crown Lands, was there, we would ask, any agreement whatever expressed or understood that the then Squatters should be turned adrift, no matter where located, and that no others should ever be allowed to remain in the Colony, or, in other words, were not the Landholders aware when they purchased their lands that the Squatting System was in existence and was likely to continue for many years? Did the Government, again, ever promise or induce the belief that the Squatters should be restricted from growing upon the lands, for the occupation of which they paid, whatever they chose, whether for their own consumption or the market? Both questions we at once and distinctly answer in the negative. The Squatting System existed before, and has existed ever since, the first furrow of Crown Land was sold in the Colony, and no promise has been ever given or inducement held out that it should be discontinued. The Squatters are not, either by their Licenses or any other document or authority whatever, directed not to raise whatever produce they please from the lands they occupy, and because they have ventured, in despite of their insecurity of tenure, to cultivate small patches, and because at the same time the price of farm produce has greatly declined in the neighbouring markets, are they to be rudely deprived of the liberty of "doing what they will with their own," for those lands which they occupy under occupation licenses are their own for the time being, for all purposes not prohibited by the conditions of their licenses or other legal authority. We consider, also, that the risk which the Squatters run in expending capital in clearing, fencing, and cultivating lands, of which they have no fixity of tenure, is fully equal to any profits arising from the sale of the produce, as the whole lands may be put up by the government for sale by public auction, or, if within the limits of location, for being leased from year to year, and those who have been at the expense of clearing, fencing, and cultivating, may thus lose the whole amount of their outlay before they have enjoyed one year's crop, which may be even a very indifferent rate of interest for the capital expended. It would have been far more honorable—far more manly—far more beneficial for all parties, had the Landholders and their friends, instead of endeavouring to injure the Squatters, set about consulting how they could best benefit themselves without risking—much less recommending, any additional imposts or restrictions upon their fellow-settlers of any class whatever. This is peculiarly applicable to the Landholders of the Port Phillip District, as judging from the evidence of the past and the signs of the future, whatever extra amount may be exacted from the Squatters is likely to be exactly so much capital abstracted from the province for the benefit of the Sydney or Middle District. If the price of articles at present produced by the Landholders has considerably fallen, do not, say we, attempt to cramp industry and injure your neighbours, but endeavour to produce other articles of a more profitable description, search for wealth under as well as above the surface, introduce machinery for working up the raw material which the Colony produces, and thus save the expense of importations—in a word, act like the people of South Australia and other countries—call up the powers of invention for the employment of labour, the economizing of capital, and the realization and security of the fruits of laudable and patriotic industry. The Squatters, all know, have had their time of trial—a protracted and severe trial, but did they ever endeavour to improve their condition by praying the Government to take some steps to reduce the Landholders, or any other class of their fellow-settlers, to as bad a condition as themselves? No! Never. When a few could obtain more than 8d. for their wool and cattle scarcely paid the expenses of shipment to Van Diemen's Land, or other markets, when the melting process was unknown, and almost all supplies had to be imported at an exorbitant price and conveyed to their inland stations at immense risk and additional expense, the Squatters acted as they should, and as it is the duty of all others under similar circumstances to do—they curtailed their expenses, produced as much as they could of the necessities of life, leaving its luxuries to others and to better times, turned everything to the best account, and by mental as well as physical exertion succeeded in discovering riches in the tallow vat—that which has been a principal means of preventing their absolute ruin and making them the envy of an envious and narrow-minded class.

We have said that the attempts of the Landholders and their friends to injure the Squatters demand the particular attention of every impartial and patriotic writer at the present time, and our reasons are, because a strong movement is being made by the Landholders, and those portions of the Press taking a contracted view of the whole matter, to prejudice the interests of the Squatters, and from the observations reported to have been made by the Governor in reply to Mr. Kerr, in the paragraph already referred to, it would appear His Excellency is disposed to lend a favourable ear to the *ex parte* statements of the Squatters—the Colony's enemies. "Prevention is always better than cure," and whilst it is our duty to make our readers acquainted with what is passing, especially what so deeply concerns them, it is the duty of those interested to watch narrowly, through the medium of the Press, their adversaries' movements, and concert those measures which they may consider best calculated to frustrate the machinations against them.

## THE PENTONVILLE EXILES.

"Give a dog a bad name and hang him," is an old saying, and it was never better exemplified than in the case of the Pentonville Exiles. Every person is ready to cast reflections upon them, when any petty larceny rogue is brought up for stealing, he is put down by a certain class as a Pentonvillean, or, as the slang term goes, "Penton-villian." The Press, too, having been, with one exception, opposed to their introduction, take good care to promulgate the most exaggerated statements regarding these men; and the Press in other Colonies comment upon their *ex parte* statements, and a whole chain of false reasoning is propounded with a pertinacious zeal, which frequently puts us in a passion with these narrow minded scribes, who write about what they do not understand. Now, the truth is, a better lot of men than the Pentonville Exiles never yet entered the District. There has not been one of them found guilty of stealing or drinking, and every settler in the District will bear witness to their excellent behaviour. It may be thought that because we have advocated their introduction in preference to another class, that we make this assertion at random; but we pledge our word that we have talked with many settlers who have them in their employment, and all bear witness to the excellent behaviour of the whole of their number.

Now this is a "great fact." We were told these men would taint our pure population—deluge our virtuous shores with crime and murder—keep capitalists from emigrating, and ruin the country. Well we have had them here now some three months, and they have given the lie to these foul libels upon their character, which are disgraceful to the public Press. They have conducted themselves with as much decorum as the editor of a public journal could desire; if they have not, why have they not been exposed when all eyes are upon them?

These wisecracks claim to be the friends of their country; but let us inquire are they its true friends? This is rather an important question, and demands calm consideration; by their desire these 200 exiles ought not to have been landed here. We argued that this District ought to receive them. Now let us consider if their arrival has had any injurious effect. These 200 men will receive about £20 each per annum, to expend amongst the shopkeepers of the town; here is £4,000 added to the cash already in circulation. Their labour will produce at a fair average £40 each man per annum; here we have £8000 added to the wealth of the Colony. They tend to maintain the rate of laborers' wages at a proper rate commensurate with the interest on capital, or the profits of the stockowner. When wages go beyond this, the whole financial system becomes disarranged, and it ruins the settler, while the stockman does not reap any commensurate advantage; for he is well off with £15 or £20 per annum, but spoiled with £40, and the settlers cannot afford to pay higher wages than at present.

In opposition to facts which cannot be met full in the face, the opponents of the Pentonville scheme will talk and write against the exiles, the Colonial Secretary, and all who are involved in the trial of the system of punishment; but what strikes us as most extraordinary is, that the old Van Diemen's Land exiles are most violently against the exiles.—*Port Phillip Gazette*.

## EUROPE.

## NONPLUSING A BISHOP.

Whatever ultimate consequences Puseyism may produce, it is very certain it will do no good to the church. One of its effects has already been to sow dissension between the clergy and laity, which may possibly end in the going over of large bodies of churchmen to the dissenters. This, many persons, perhaps, may consider altogether desirable, but the church itself will not say so, and we are now enquiring whether Puseyism is likely to prove an advantageous movement for the church. In the Tottenham case, the clergy, incited by Puseyism, endeavoured to make a weekly collection, in obedience to an obsolete injunction of the rubric, and to the understood decision of the Bishop of London. The congregation, unwilling to submit to this new ecclesiastical tax, commissioned a deputation to wait upon the Bishop, and lay the whole particulars of the case before him. The worthy doctor endeavoured to argue the parishioners into good humour, but in vain; their pocket was touched, and that, too, arbitrarily and impudently, and they resolved to resist the invasion. The Bishop was regularly nonplussed. He had advised his clergy to revive the offertory, the clergy had acted upon his advice, and the result appeared in the troublesome deputation before him. His lordship the doctor felt that his powers of diplomacy, or rather of Jesuitism, would now be taxed to the utmost. To decide in favour of the congregation would be to retreat from the position he had taken up on his way to Puseyism and Rome. On the other hand, to determine in favour of the clergy would, in all probability, be to compel a large congregation to enlist itself under the banners of dissent. To escape from the difficulty he had recourse to an expedient, which, while it betrays his utter perplexity, does not mend the matter in the least, though it certainly puts off the evil day: he allowed the hostile parties the interval of a year to consider the matter. As might have been expected, both the congregation and the clergy have interpreted his lordship's decision into a triumph. The clergy immediately gave circulation to a report that the parishioners had only obtained a short reprieve, after which they had consented to knock under, and wear peaceably their ecclesiastical chains. But what say the honest people of Tottenham to this? Do they bear out the interpretation put upon the matter by their conscientious teachers? Instead of doing so, they have printed and widely distributed a circular, stating, in very mild and gentlemanly language, the fact that the Tottenham clergy had put forward an untruth. The deputation maintain that they entered into no capitulation with the Bishop, and in their conference with him made use of no language whatsoever that could be tortured into an agreement to submit to the innovation of the offertory after the expiration of a year. A similar exhibition of ecclesiastical despotism has taken place at Hurst, in Berkshire, though the catastrophe has been somewhat different, for the parishioners, having made an appeal to the Bishop of Oxford, have been informed that they have no choice, but must submit themselves to the will of their clergy. His Lordship of Oxford obviously forgets that the people of Hurst have an alternative—that they can, if they please, build themselves a chapel, and go over to what his lordship would denominate the enemy. And this will probably be the result. Instead of strengthening the church—instead of reconquering their empire over the laity—instead of kindling the spirit of the middle ages, and subjecting us body and soul to clerical domination, Puseyism will impart a prodigious impulse to dissent, and swell its ranks, and give it ultimately, perhaps, the complete victory over the establishment. It is for the friends of the church, therefore, to consider, while there is yet time, the obvious political tendencies of the Oxford system, which is not so much a new school of theology, as the reconstruction of an obsolete polity—not so much an attempt to teach new doctrines, as an endeavour to bring into vogue a new scheme of church finance. In looking at

questions like this, people are very apt to be imposed upon by sounding names. They hear that the Bishop of London or the Bishop of Oxford has said this or that, and forthwith they persuade themselves that some very wise or important personage has pronounced a grave and authoritative decision. Were they to examine into the matter, they would find that the aforesaid mighty dignitary was, in himself, perhaps, nothing better than a passionate, self-willed, ill-conditioned, and ill-informed clergyman, who, through the patronage of some aristocratic family, had obtained the title of Bishop, which, we beg leave to remind our readers, means only an overseer or inspector. Thus, with the strictest propriety, we might have a bishop of railways, or police, as well as of churches. Let us not, however, be misunderstood. If Bishops conduct themselves as they ought, and give proofs of sound learning and wisdom, we consider them entitled to much respect; but when they render themselves the tools of a Popish faction and the Puseyites are nothing better, so far from being entitled to the respect of the public, we know of few characters that we think more disreputable. A Bishop running at the heels of Mr. Newman and Dr. Pusey is simply a charlatan, who, whatever grave faces he may make, ought to excite nothing but the laughter of the public. In this predicament stand the Bishops of Oxford and London, a couple of grave coxcombs, who do all they can to neutralise the effect of religion, and expose to public contempt the church of which they profess themselves to be pillars. We suspect, however, that this offertory rage will be of short duration. The clergy are shrewd calculators, and when they find themselves to be in a minority will contrive to slide out of the difficulty as easily as they have slid into it.

## Van Diemen's Land.

To the Honorable the COMMONS of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled:

The Humble Petition of the undersigned Free Colonists of Van Diemen's Land.

SHewETH—

That we make our present humble application in the firm confidence that no just complaint of your fellow-countrymen can fail to receive your careful consideration, and with the belief that the grievances suffered by British subjects in any part of the world will be redressed, if it be in the power of your Honourable House to redress them.

That from the year 1824, the British government promoted and encouraged the emigration of free settlers to Van Diemen's Land, by public notices issued from the Colonial Office, the Horse Guards, and the Admiralty, and offered as inducements to such emigration, at first free grants of land, and latterly allowances to naval and military officers in the purchase of Crown lands.

That the obtaining free grants of land was conditional upon the settlers investing a considerable capital in the Colony, and being persons of character and respectability; and that all those who obtained such grants, and all military and naval officers obtaining the allowance in purchasing land, were required to become permanent residents in the Colony.

That under these inducements, and upon these conditions, a large body of free British subjects became settlers in Van Diemen's Land as farmers and merchants.

That up to the year 1831 a considerable number of free emigrants had also come to Van Diemen's Land as mechanics and farming men; and after that year, the number of these emigrants was increased under the system of bounties sanctioned both by the British and the Colonial Government.

That by the industry and capital of these various colonists, an extensive commerce has been created, two considerable sea-port towns, beside several inland townships (or villages) and numerous houses or farm buildings have been erected, and a vast quantity of the waste land in the Colony has been cleared from the forest and brought into cultivation.

That from the year 1824 to the year 1840, the population of the Colony increased from 12,700 to upwards of 40,000—the number of acres in cultivation from 25,000 to 124,000—the colonial shipping from one vessel of 42 tons to one hundred and forty-one vessels comprising 12,491 tons—the imports (chiefly of English goods carried in English ships) from £62,000 to £988,356—the exports from £14,500 to £867,007 in which the wool alone amounted to £223,000—the colonial fixed revenue from £16,866 to £118,541—and that the sum of £218,790 was between the year 1828 and the year 1840 (inclusive) invested by the colonists in the purchase of Crown lands.

That during the same period, the number of places of worship increased from four to forty-four, and that there was a corresponding increase in the number of schools and other establishments for education.

That from the year 1824 to 1840, the greater part of the convicts transported from England were sent to New South Wales, and only a small proportion to this island, who immediately upon their landing from the ship, were dispersed over the Colony as labourers and servants.

That from the rapid increase of the free colonists, and the limited number of convicts thus sent to Van Diemen's Land, those among the latter who became free, or who by their good conduct were allowed to work on their own account, obtained full employment at high wages, thus having the strongest stimulus to good behaviour; and from this circumstance, but especially from each convict being at once separated from his associates, and accustomed to regular labour, and from the facility with which a moderate number could be kept in order, the majority of the convicts in Van Diemen's Land were industrious and useful members of society, and the security of life and property was as complete in this island as in any county in England.

That from 1824 Van Diemen's Land was therefore no longer merely a penal settlement, as in 1804 when it was first occupied, but a Colony established under the sanction and encouragement of the English Government, and supplied with a certain amount of convict labour which the settlers could readily employ, and for which they paid by defraying the whole expense of the convicts after their arrival.

That during the sixteen years in which the prosperity of the Colony was so remarkable, the proportion of convicts to that of free inhabitants constantly and regularly decreased, so that in 1840 the number of convicts as compared to the number of free inhabitants was little more than one-half the number in 1824.

That in the year 1840 the Home Government discontinued sending convicts to New South Wales, and this small island was converted into the sole penal settlement of the British empire, the sole receptacle for all criminals transported from every part of Her Majesty's vast dominions—from England, Ireland, and Scotland—from Canada, India, and Africa—and latterly also for criminals transported from Her Majesty's recent possessions in China.

That in thus converting a flourishing British Colony into an immense gaol, the free inhabitants had no voice—that their consent to an alteration so fatal to their most important interests was

never obtained nor ever asked,—and that they had not even the option given them of selling their property to the Government and leaving the island—a measure, which, however hard it might bear upon those who had invested their whole means and spent the best part of their lives in Van Diemen's Land, your petitioners do not deny the British Government had a right to subject us to, if the change had been for the general benefit of the empire.

That in none of the notices issued by the Government, either to free settlers, or to free mechanics or labourers, is there a single intimation given that any time or under any circumstances this Colony would be placed under the present system; that we believe it was never thought of until 1840—that not a single colonist ever anticipated it—that on the contrary the increase of the population and the whole system of our Government led us to look forward to the time when transportation to this Colony would altogether cease—that many circumstances induced us to entertain this view, and we especially refer to the petition from this Colony for a free representative assembly in the year 1838, to which Her Majesty was pleased to return a very favourable answer, it being obvious that to a merely penal Colony a free assembly could not be granted, or, if granted, that it would be useless.

That your petitioners were in total ignorance of the details of the new transportation system until within the last few months, when part of the instructions sent by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant-Governor, was published in the colonial newspapers.

That from these instructions we learn that all male convicts sentenced to transportation for life, and a portion of those transported for fifteen years, are first to be sent to Norfolk Island, where they are to be kept not less than two years, and to be then transferred to Van Diemen's Land—that the number of criminals to be thus disposed of is estimated at one thousand a year—that these convicts and also all those transported in the first instance to Van Diemen's Land, are to be kept in probation gangs, each consisting of from 250 to 300 men, in which each convict must remain not less than one year, but in which he may remain several years—that he is then to receive a pass which enables him to engage in private service for wages, and if he cannot obtain employment, he is to remain in the service of Government and to be still employed in a gang, receiving merely food and clothing.

That under the new system 13,764 male convicts, and 2,402 females have been landed in this island between 1st January, 1841, and 31st October, 1844.

That our only means of keeping these men under any kind of control are the few soldiers that are detached from head-quarters, and the police of the colony.

That the expense of this police, which is chiefly occupied in protecting us against criminals, forced upon the colony against our strongest wishes, is borne by our colonial revenue—that a further large part of that revenue is sunk in various expenses connected with the new convict system; as one instance of which we state that, from January, 1843, to June, 1844, the expense of witnesses at the Supreme Court (exclusive of the Quarter Sessions) was £2447 10s. 6d., of which £2208 was for witnesses on trials of convicts, that the large sums which the Local Government cannot avoid thus applying without leaving us altogether unprotected, have already created a considerable colonial debt, the whole of which has been incurred on account of the new convict system, and which, as far as we can see, must increase; thus, not only anticipating our revenues, but embarrassing the Colonial Government, and depriving it of the means of undertaking any works of public utility.

That before the meeting of the Legislative Council, in February last, the Lieutenant-Governor appointed a committee to report upon the colonial finance,—that this committee recommended a stamp tax, further taxes on tea and other imported commodities, a tax upon dogs, and taxes, (in the form of licenses) for carrying on various branches of trade,—that an act for taxing tea and other imports was thereupon laid before the Council, the members of which are all nominated by the Crown, that petitions against this act, numerous signed by the colonists, and pointing out the injustice of taxing them for the coercion of British criminals, were presented to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.—that the act was notwithstanding passed, and is now law,—and that, in addition to the previous colonial debt, arrangements were made during the same sitting of Council for a loan of £25,000 from one of the Colonial Banks.

That your petitioners have thus to pay taxes imposed by a Council in which they have no representative, and levied, not for any colonial purpose, but to support the new convict system which is fast destroying the colony.

That we are aware that the funds derived from the sale of Crown lands were given up to the colonial revenue in Van Diemen's Land and also in New South Wales, in consideration of each colony paying its police; but we remind your honorable house that that arrangement was made in 1836, when the greater part of the convicts were sent to New South Wales, and when the Crown lands were sold at 5s. an acre; whereas, since the transfer of the land fund, the Home Government has raised the minimum price to 20s. an acre, at which (even if the colony were not in its present circumstances) these lands are almost quite unsaleable; and that in fact the land fund has fallen from £52,905 in 1840, to £8,913 for the first three quarters of the year 1844, and is estimated by His Excellency to produce no more than £2000 for the present year.

That the police thus paid by the colony, although enormous in proportion to the population, is far too limited to give efficient protection to the colonists, the convicts being spread over the island in gangs of from 200 to 300 each.

That already, under the new system, crime has increased to an alarming extent: that in 1840 there were 507 prosecutions for crime in the Supreme Court and Quarter Sessions, of which 407 were against convicts; while in the first eleven months of the year 1844, there were (besides numberless offences tried before magistrates) no less than 812 prosecutions in those courts, of which 713 were against convicts, or those who had been convicts.

That by keeping criminals in large gangs as at present, they cannot be benefitted or improved, but, on the contrary, become deteriorated:—that from the numbers already sent, their strongest stimulus to good conduct has been withdrawn, for the free settlers cannot employ them:—that of those who have earned permission to work for themselves there are already 2,000 unemployed, and without the chance of employment:—and that it is impossible that the good conduct of any man whether a convict or not, can continue, who is compelled to associate exclusively with criminals, and who is without any prospect of bettering his condition.

That this unbounded supply of convict labour, has of necessity thrown out of employment many of the free labourers who were induced by the Government to emigrate hither, and must soon drive them out of Van Diemen's Land, thus further lessening the proportion of free inhabitants in the colony.

That we are in a state of continual dread and anxiety for ourselves and our families, owing to the numbers of convicts by whom we are surrounded:—that we feel we have no security for life or property,—that the moral condition of the colony is daily be-

coming worse and worse:—that no regulations, however well intended, no Government however able, no improvement in detail, can counteract the evils of the enormous mass of criminals that are poured upon our shores—and that if the present system of transportation continues, we must, at whatever sacrifice, abandon a colony which will become unfit for any man to inhabit who regards the highest interests of himself or of his children.

That in the violent commercial convulsions which have been felt during the last two years in all the Australian colonies, our colonial property has fallen more than one-half in value, and that much distress has been thus occasioned; but this distress is aggravated ten-fold by the state to which the transportation system has reduced us, and by the gloomy prospect of the future.

That the large Government expenditure under the present system, is of some pecuniary benefit to us in the depressed condition of our affairs, but we cannot put it in competition with interests of a higher nature, or allow it for a moment to weigh against the moral evils which that system produces.

That under the present circumstances which we have thus detailed, the prosperity of this colony is at an end:—that its commerce must decay, and its lands become almost valueless:—that no new capital is now invested in it, and no new emigrants now come to it, and that we look for none, for we ourselves would never have emigrated to Van Diemen's Land had we foreseen its present state.

That there is yet a more fearful evil produced by the present system of transportation;—that it is reported and believed that the unhappy men sent to Norfolk Island have sunk into deeper pollution and depravity, and that if such men are added to the unbounded number of criminals already in Van Diemen's Land, this island and the neighbouring colonies, among which they must ultimately be diffused, will exhibit a spectacle of vice and infamy such as the history of the world cannot parallel.

That we are confident that to bring under the notice of the British Parliament this frightful result of the present convict system which thus plunges our erring fellow creatures deeper in sin and misery, and dismisses them to contaminate others, is to insure its immediate abolition.

That the various evils which the transportation system causes to the free colonists may at once be removed by your honourable house in conjunction with the other branches of the legislature:—that we cannot doubt your willingness to remedy them: and that, even in our present depressed situation, we shall await your decision with the confident hope that they will be removed.

Your petitioners humbly pray that the number of convicts in this island may as speedily as possible be reduced to that which existed in 1840, that transportation to the colony may cease until this object is effected—that mean while adequate protection may be afforded to the colonists, and better means adopted for the moral and social improvement of the convicts—that the colony may be relieved from every expense occasioned by convicts not in the employment of settlers—and that arrangements may be made for the gradual and total abolition of transportation to Van Diemen's Land.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

#### CORRESPONDENCE OF DRs. NIXON AND WILSON.

(From the Hobart Town Courier.)

January 30.

My Lord—Having heard it stated that you have forwarded to the Colonial Office, Downing-street, the correspondence that took place between us a few weeks since, I am desirous to ascertain whether that really be the fact, and shall feel obliged for information from you. I have the honour to be your humble and obedient servant,

(Signed) † R. W. WILLSON HOBARTONIEN.

Right Rev. Dr. Nixon, Bishop of Tasmania,  
&c., &c., &c.,

Hobart Town, January 30, 1845.

RIGHT REV. SIR—Although I must most distinctly deny the right of any one to question me as to the documents which I may think fit to transmit to the Colonial Office, through the Lieutenant-Governor; nevertheless, I will frankly and fully give you the information you desire. I have forwarded to Lord Stanley a copy of the protest read on the 10th of last November, in the Cathedral Church at Hobart Town, against the usurpation on the part of the Roman Pontiff of ecclesiastical jurisdiction within the British dominions, as evidenced by the creation of a Bishopric, deriving its title from this city. I have forwarded, also, the whole of the correspondence which took place between us, in that it appeared to me to set forth sufficiently the motives that constrained me to make the protest alluded to. I have the honour to be, Right Rev. Sir, your faithful servant,

(Signed) F. R. TASMANIA.

P.S.—Similar copies have been forwarded to the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.

Hobart Town, February 14, 1845.

My Lord—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 30th ult., in which you state, "Although I must most distinctly deny the right of any one to question me as to the documents which I may think fit to transmit to the Colonial Office, through the Lieutenant-Governor; nevertheless, I will frankly and fully give you the information you desire."

The lofty tone you are pleased to assume, is, I assure you, upon me, thrown away.

My Lord, you have preferred a charge against me to the Secretary of State (whether wisely or not time may show,) from whom I hold a civil appointment.

In support of your complaint, you have forwarded a correspondence which passed privately between us. Give me leave to tell you, that before doing so, the courtesy of the gentleman and the dignity of the prelate should have induced you to intimate to me that such was your intention.

I shall take leave to add, although it may be somewhat unpleasant for you to know, that I am totally regardless of any effect your endeavours against me may produce.

My Lord, I presume you have now spent yourself in your totally unprovoked opposition to me.

You have publicly pointed the gibe at me; see the *Hobart Town Courier*, 26th July, 1844, which I trust in your love of justice you have forwarded to Lord Stanley. You have assailed the doctrines of the Catholic Church, or rather your interpretation of what are its doctrines, with a violence seldom found existing with true Christian feeling and moderation—you have had the folly to rake up the embers of Smithfield, even from this unfortunate land! (You would not be tolerated in these times in doing so at home.) You have preferred a charge against me to a high tribunal, and to assist your efforts, have forwarded a correspondence which had

been carried on in private between us, without having the common courtesy to inform me of your intention to do so!

I have the honour to be,

Your humble and obedient servant,

(Signed) † R. W. WILLSON HOBARTONIEN.

Right Rev. Dr. Nixon, Bishop of Tasmania, &c.

Hobart Town, February 18, 1845.

RIGHT REV. SIR—The letter, dated February 14th, with which you have been pleased to favour me, can scarcely, as a matter of courtesy, be considered as entitled to any notice at my hands. To say nothing of the tone of irritability and abuse that pervades the whole, there are expressions in it, such as "You have the folly, &c.," which you seem to have forgotten are not ordinarily current in polite society. But as you are manifestly misinformed on the several points adverted to in this letter, I will consent to pass over the rudeness of your address, and to correct the mistakes into which you have been led.

You observe that I have "preferred a charge" against you to the Secretary of State; and you speak of a "complaint" as having proceeded from me to the same quarter. From whence you gain your information I know not; I can but reply that I have preferred no "charge," nor brought any "complaint" whatever against you to Lord Stanley. Desiring to withhold from his lordship no really important step that I have taken, I simply reported to him the fact of my having issued a protest against the illegal usurpation of ecclesiastical authority and spiritual jurisdiction on the part of the Pope in this portion of Her Majesty's dominions. In that letter I stated also to his lordship, "It would be needless for me to put forward now any views or opinions of my own upon this matter, since they are detailed at some length in my second letter to Dr. Willson." You further express your opinion that the correspondence which passed between us on this subject was private. It may be very convenient for you, Sir, for aught I can tell, to regard it in that light; for you will pardon me in expressing my persuasion, that you must look upon your own share in it with some misgiving; but I will venture to say that few, if any, dispassionate persons would come to your conclusion after a careful perusal. I beg you to remember that I wrote to you in my official capacity, as Bishop and ordinary Pastor of this Diocese, to enquire, in effect, whether certain acts attributed to you, in your official capacity, were true; whether, in fact, you had publicly violated the common law of England, which, I am thankful to say, as long as the "oath of supremacy" remains in force, forbids all recognition of the Pope's "jurisdiction, power, superiority, pre-eminence, or authority, ecclesiastical or spiritual," within the British dominions, and denies his right to create Bishoprics, or confer titles therein.

It was a strictly public, and in no one respect a private question. Your letters were signed with your assumed official title, "Hobartoniens; a style which, I must remind you, you do not venture to adopt when addressing the Chief Officers of Government, who, since they, too, have taken the "oath of Supremacy," can be as little disposed to admit the legality of your assumption as myself.

I must, therefore, very distinctly say that I regard this correspondence as purely official; and, as such, must take the liberty of using my own discretion in forwarding it or not, as I may think proper, to any person or persons whatever, feeling certain that, in the eyes of all those whose good opinion I value, I shall be considered as being chargeable with no lack of courtesy in abstaining from giving you any intimation of my intentions or acts.

With regard to your declaration that "I have publicly pointed the gibe at you," &c. I must beg you to cease from identifying me with newspaper reporters; although upon the distant remembrance that I now have of the report to which you allude, I can see no ground whatever for your assertion.

You are further pleased to observe, that "I have assailed the doctrines of the (R) Catholic Church, or rather 'my' interpretation of what are its doctrines, with a violence seldom found existing with true Christian feeling and moderation." To an unproved assertion, resting, as this must do, upon the representation of others, I will content myself with informing you that, in all statements of the doctrines peculiar to the Church of Rome, I have adopted her own language, as I found it in her accredited formularies. If this language does not speak the real sentiments of the members of that Church—if the anathemas which she pronounces against those who presume to differ from her tenets are no part of her actual creed, as received and believed by her children—the fault is really not mine. I conceived that when I was dealing with a Church which claims to herself "infallibility," I could not possibly be wrong in abstaining from quoting even her most approved expositors as authority, whilst I used the words or her own acknowledged decrees.

In reference to the latter part of the paragraph of your letter, to which I have just alluded, wherein you charge me with unchristian violence in delivering my sentiments on the tenets of the Church of Rome, I can only say that some mischievous person has evidently misled you.

You will pardon me, Sir, in making one remark in conclusion: it is made with regret, but I feel its necessity. I know that I should be sorry, and I hope that I should be ashamed, to imitate the language with which you have suffered yourself to address me. I feel its indecorum so much as to be constrained to tell you, that if any letters should come to me from you in future couched in a similar strain, they will be returned unanswered.—I have the honour to be, Right Rev. Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) F. R. TASMANIA.

Right Rev. Dr. Willson.

SYDNEY LEGISLATURE.—Mr. Lowe, the first editor of the *ATLAS*, a lawyer and gentleman, whose attainments are of the highest order, and of independent principles, is elected member of the Legislature for the county of St. Vincent and Auckland. This gentleman was a nominee member of the Governor, on the first formation of the Legislative Council, and, it is said, voted against the Government, contrary to good faith—but, the explanation of Mr. Lowe is, to our way of thinking, perfectly satisfactory; "when I found," says he, "the Governor and Council brought into direct collision with each other, I resigned my seat, feeling a repugnance to vote systematically against the person to whom I owed it, and being firmly determined not to injure the country for whom I held it.—*Cornwall Chronicle*."

Touch not the Cat but a Glove—*Clerk of Council's Motto.*

At Court none ever saw a Glove

Upon a noble hand,

But one on Royalty itself

Would scandalize the land.

Viceroyalty in New South Wales

The etiquette would alter,

For G—s from feline\* loyalty

In coarsest glove seeks shelter.

\* *Qy. Felon!*—Printer's Devil.