

Mr. Twiss should refer us to an occasional judgment or two, like the best known of Lord Stowell's, or else to a series of judgments, like the whole of Lord Redesdale's or Lord Cottenham's—plain, clear, practical, and satisfactory; the obvious product of a mind *par negotiis neque supra*, amply supplied with general principles, and satiated with the peculiar learning of equity. He cannot do this. Still less (to revert a moment to the broad objection of delay) can he lay the blame on the system, and so excuse the judge without accusing the legislator. Lord Eldon might have carried any measure of legal reform as easily as the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel carried Catholic emancipation. In his own court, he might have played the part of Hercules in the Augean stable; but he preferred to sit among the accumulations of dirt and rubbish, and looked with marked disfavour on all who approached to meddle with them.

On the whole, this book will do more for Lord Eldon's private than for his public character. It shows him possessed of many amiable and attractive qualities; numerous acts of generosity, some amounting to munificence, refute the popular notion of his avarice, which had got abroad in consequence of his wife's thrifty housekeeping; his demeanour appears to have been uniformly upright and manly, as well as courteous; and notwithstanding our rooted antipathy to Charles Surfaces of all sorts, we are ready to believe that he was honest as the world goes, though eternally talking about his honesty. But Mr. Twiss must not claim an exalted place for him in the Temple of Fame, among the magnates of intellect, or the benefactors of mankind. There was nothing grand in his genius, elevated in his views, comprehensive in his benevolence, or far sighted in his policy. He has not left a sentence which any one but a technical lawyer would care to read; and not a single measure of enlightened or largely-useful legislation is associated with his name, except as an opponent. As for his statesmanship, the elaborate panegyric, forming the commencement of Mr. Twiss's first chapter, proceeds on a most gratuitous assumption. Mr. Twiss here assigns to Lord Eldon the sort of influence which was exercised (for good or evil) by Burke and Pitt. It was Burke who furnished the philosophy by which a halo was, for a period, thrown round ancient establishments. It was Pitt who formed the great continental and party league for their defence. Lord Eldon was simply one of the four or five Statesmen who trod *haud passibus æquis* in the footsteps of their prototype. He did effective service in consolidating a Cabinet or two, but he never exercised an independent sway over the councils of the nation, (whatever he might have done in the King's closet;) nor ever led more than a section of the Tory party, and it was fortunate for the empire that he did not. "A few drops more of *Eldonine*, and we should have had the "People's Charter."†

It is going far enough to call Lord Eldon a great Lawyer; but to call him a great man, or assign him the honours paid to those who have performed noble actions, produced immortal works, or conferred lasting benefits on mankind, is to degrade the general standard of excellence, and to canker public virtue in the bud. There are rewards of a different order set apart for those who work for present objects and present pay. To a fair share of those he was entitled and he had it. His Earldom, his half million, and his "one cheer more" were enough in all conscience for such services as his, even though the "one cheer more" should not be caught up and echoed back by posterity.

Punch.

At the particular desire of Mr. Councillor Little, Punch attended the committee meeting held at the Saracen's Head, on the evening of the 15th instant, and is consequently enabled to favour the public with the following neat and elegant speech, which the worthy Councillor delivered—after it had been moved, seconded, and carried, that he was a "fit and proper person to represent this ward in the City Council." As the proof was corrected by Mr. Little himself, the authenticity of the speech may be relied on:—

GENTLEMEN—(Loud cheers.) You have done me proud this day. (Hear, hear.) The high and honorable honor which you have conferred upon me by this distinguished mark of your distinction, and the flattering terms in which my friends who proposed and seconded me has spoke, has made it difficult for me to express myself to you in adequate terms. I am well known to all of you, and it is, therefore, unnecessary for me to allude to my qualifications and capabilities at any great length. Economy is my principle. (Cheers.) I have always looked after your interests with economy, and I shall do so again when you return me. (Hear, hear.) When I say I will guard your interests with economy, I don't exactly mean that I will be economical of my own time in looking after those interests. Not at all—but on the contrary—quite the reverse. I will make it my duty to perambulate your ward constantly, by night as well as by day, and every stagnant pool of running water that I meet I shall have instantly rectified. (Cheers.) I flatter myself that in performing such duties as these, I shall feel quite at home, and with the assistance of my friend, Mr. Mar- rington, I have no doubt that I will be of essential service to my constituents. I am rather inclined to think, to believe, to be of opinion [cheers] that I shall beat the grocer all to sticks. (Loud cries of "go it—give it him.") As for the complicated scoundrels that are supporting him, when I contrast them with the highly respectable body of men that I now have the honor to address, I can have no fear of the result. (Cheers.) I need not tell you, gentlemen, that my opponent is a rank (here the speaker used an epithet which Punch declines to publish) counterfeit, and, as such, I am sure that you will not give him the gratifying gratification of beating us out of the field. (Loud cries of "no, never.") I take that cry as an earnest of my success. No, we never shall be beaten. I need not tell you, gentlemen, that I owe a great deal—in fact, I may say, everything—to the fact of my father being born before

unites, with an extraordinary degree of penetration and sagacity, a singular patience and circumspection in forming his decisions, will be admitted, we suppose, by all who have had an opportunity of observing him in the exercise of his judicial office. But it would be difficult, we conceive, on the other hand to deny it." &c. Mr. Twiss begins: "It would be difficult." &c. Does Mr. Twiss remember the manner in which Zadig's verses in praise of the King of Babylon were converted into a libel?

* Sir John Scott used to be a great deal at my house. I saw much of him then, and it is no more than his due to say, that when he was Solicitor and Attorney-General under Pitt, he never flattered and flattered as some did, but always assumed the tone and station of a man who was conscious that he must show he respects himself if he wishes to be respected by others.—*Life of Wilberforce*, Vol. v. p. 214.

† *Quarterly Review*, Vol. lxxix. p. 542. He was not so much as consulted in the formation of the Duke of Wellington's government in 1828.—See *The Life*, Vol. ii. ch. li.

me. From this cause, though I admit, without any merit or exertion of my own, I have got possessed of some share of the dumps, or mopuses (here the speaker significantly slapped his pocket) and that, I know, is the principal qualification you require. You may be told that I am ignorant, illiterate and presumptuous; but I am rather inclined to be of opinion to think that you will care very little whether this is true or no, so long as I have plenty of money. (Cheers.) Money makes the mare go, gentlemen, (hear hear) and on the strength of my money, and of that alone, I confidently throw myself upon your consideration. You don't want men to represent you who are as poor as (here the speaker repeated the epithet which Punch cannot publish) cuckoos. No, a moneyed man you must have, and I'm that man. (Loud cheers.) Reading, writing, and arithmetic may be all very good for school-masters or parish clerks, but they are thrown away upon City Councillors; and knowing that to be your opinion, I feel, that at the poll I shall go in and win, and nothing but it. (Cheers.) I had almost forgotten to allude to my sporting qualifications, but as many of you are sporting characters I must do so before I sit down. I believe, gentlemen, that I am the best skittle player in the colony, and no one knows more about dog fights, or cock fights, than I do; and at every pigeon match I enjoy the satisfactory pleasure of taking a prominent part. (Loud cheers.) With such qualifications as these, I have no doubt I shall do no discredit to the Aldermanic gown. With these few observations, I shall conclude.

The Councillor then sat down amid loud cheers, and desired the "gentlemen" present to order in what "lush" they liked; whereupon, Punch—who is a teetotaler, withdrew.

NEW WORK.

In the press, and shortly will be published, by J. E. Bicheno, Esq., a new Treatise on Domestic Poultry, in which will be given a full description of the Downing-street hen, famed for the surpassing care she takes of her offspring. This beautiful fowl has many interesting peculiarities. She does not gather her chicks under her wings in the ordinary manner, but has a way of protecting them by driving the chickens away to shift for themselves, especially when exposed to bad weather; and in place of seeking food for them, according to the customary method, finds they thrive much better by snatching away from them any crumb or grain they may chance to possess themselves of. She is careful in regulating her chicken's diet, nevertheless; and discarding the old-fashioned prejudices in favour of granivorous diet, has ascertained that the most fattening of all food for her offspring is—taxes. The parent hen in this breed is much in vogue with public officers of "four thousand" a-year salary, and *pickings* to the extent of £6000 more.—*H. T. Courier*.

CABINET DINNER.

(From Punch in Tasmania.)

Our Prime Minister has given the first of a series of his political but sumptuous entertainments; the feeders were in prime appetite, and we need not add that all the luxuries in or out of season were lavishly displayed upon the gorgeous festive board. The usual *toasts* (*cut short*) having been given, and "non nobis" sung by an honourable member of the legal profession and others, the Prime Minister (who seemed blessed with rude health and a capital appetite) proceeded to arrange the plan of the campaign for the ensuing session. We regret that we are compelled to curtail his admirable speech, but our space does not permit us fully to display his wonderful tactics. He premised that no country could be rich or happy without taxation; for, as the taxes would find their way into the pockets of the officials, most undoubtedly they becoming rich, the country would be rich in them. Taxation was a boon the Government were desirous of bestowing on the grumbling people, little as they deserved it. Talk of taxation, forsooth, the people of this country knew not what taxation was—'tis true that in all the old countries they found taxation a curse, but in this he should argue that it was a blessing. What was taxation? he did not feel it at all. If people would drink rum (the accursed dose, as it was designated), they ought to be taxed; for his part he did not know what the filthy liquor was. (Here the learned gentleman tossed off a bumper of champagne.) As to snuff and tobacco, he sometimes obliged his friends by taking a pinch of one, and smoking a bit of the other, and so far he was willing to share the burdens of the people. The *Times*, he admitted, were very bad, and he could not see how they could be better without taxation—that would stir the wits of the Great Unwashed, and hunger would compel them to some new inventions. The Government had been most liberal; they had supplied the City with "pumps," (here every eye was turned upon the honorable Member), and they only wanted the people to pay for one of Heaven's gifts—the water; he meant that they should have *new lights* in the town at their own expense, and by means of turnpikes he would stop the supplies of the common people, and raise the markets, which had in fact been done to a certain extent by the heavy imposition of the Bridgewater ferry. It must be supposed that they would meet with some opposition, as the people were always blind to their own interests; but he had thrown out some feelers, and the delegate from the Public House had assured him that things might be carried. As to the Estimate of Ways and Means, they would be laid on the table *in blank*, so that they might be filled up as convenience should dictate, in order to meet the expenditure. The expense of purchasing the support of a rat newspaper would not appear; there were sundry ways of killing a cat beside skinning it. The Bills to be brought in were very simple, and he was at a loss to discover how the people could wish to defeat them. In reference to the "Statute of *Jemmy*," as a lawyer, he knew all about it; but what could the Plebs know? he should not refer to the other acts at present; he had been *setting* some time, and had at last *hatched* a neat episode, which he was about to produce before a discerning public, from whom, he was satisfied, he should receive most tumultuous applause. He begged modestly to announce that it related to the "hen and chickens." (*Immense cheering*.) His acts, in reference to chickens, they had that day witnessed, and he had played his part with the tongue. He would, for the present, drop the *hen*. Men in office must live by hook or by crook—he meant the higher grade—he should give a "tribe" of underlings, together with their wives and families, leave of absence and *change of air*, for if they could not live in parlours, they must live or starve in attics, which was much more wholesome. What though they had served the Government 25 years or so, that is of no consequence, they had a good deal out of it. Talking of *attics* reminded him of *Grease*, where the men sometimes went without shoes, and therefore he meant to take the *soles* off the constables' feet; this would be a great saving and public advantage, a saving of three-pence per diem; an advantage in tracking the bush-rangers, who would be the more easily followed, as they would take good care to be always *well shod*, and he could not blame them. The word "shod" reminded him that they had to congratulate themselves on having acquired an animal to "carry the panniers;" and though it was asserted that his assistance would prove more ruinous than all opposition, yet they must not interfere

for he had attained the highest confidence in the State, and seemed to possess the powers of "Clairvoyance," which enabled him even to give an *accurate account* of what took place in the "secret chamber," where all are *sworn* not to disclose what is said or done; his qualifications were undoubted, for he had long since been unanimously elected President of the *Mendacity Society*. He would not proceed further till he had finished his pine apple and taken *fol* on his Burgundy, except to give them a song, which he had also *hatched* for the purpose of bringing forth *full fledged* at the present hilarious meeting. Thunders of applause followed, which having at length subsided, the right honorable gentleman, with blue coat and brass buttons, in a round *mellow* voice, (which he had previously cleared of the hiccups,) struck up—

THE SONG OF THE SEC.

AIR—*Nix my Dolly.*

Tax, tax the people, oh tax away,
For Imperial purposes make them pay.

Tax away.

Oh, why should they eat, and drink, and sleep,
Whilst we o'er the empty Treasury Cheat weep;
Then tax them and pinch them, and grind them and pray,
Tax all but ourselves—let's have nothing to pay.

Then tax, &c.

'Tis clear we must tax them, though they've no cash,
To feed ourselves and the wicked and flash.

Tax away.

Why should the free be free of Taxation,
Whilst STANLEY and others can FEEL the nation?
We must tax them and squeeze them, I swear by the Dickens!
And, like an old "hen," we must turn up "the chickens."

Then tax, &c.

Squeeze them and press them, and tax the towns,
Old women's petticoats, shoes, and gowns,

Tax away.

Make constables thieves by our mean reduction,
For that, from the Estimates, is a deduction;
Tax all the poor, for that is the way
To provide for high placemen ample pay.

Then tax, &c.

Why should poor people dress at all,
Or have children, either short or tall?

Tax away.

For our Cabinet Dinners they should provide,
Though amongst themselves they a "tato" divide;
For that's my opinion, and I'm of high station,
We'll cram them with air, keep ourselves by taxation.
Tax, my pals, come tax away,
Let 'em go to Old Nick, so we've nothing to pay.

At this the mirth grew loud and furious, and joining hands they danced a "Polka round;" the chorus was loudly cheered. At "Tax away," it was splendidly awful, and on the repetition of the last verse, so *thunderingly vociferous* were the *deafening* cheers that the noise reached the police-office, (a distance of a mile and a half at least;) immediately hereupon every anti-Punchite, carrying in his hand a stove, labelled "Burgess's Birmingham Sauce," rushed forth, led by the Chief Beak, imagining, at the least, that Jackey Jackey was flaring up, or "Punch was at his funny tricks again." What was their astonishment to discover the cause of the uproar—the Anti's were speedily dismissed, and the encore proceeded with great *spirit* and *little smoke*. Want of room prevents us in this paper from proceeding with the speeches and songs of the other talented political gents; but the colony shall not be kept in darkness as to the wit and learning displayed on the occasion in question.—*H. T. Courier*.

The Drama.

We have this week been entertained with Morton's well written comedy *A Cure for the Heartache*. There is, in all the dramatic writings of this author, a solidity of thought, a propriety of sentiment, choice, forcible diction, with an adroitness of development, which render them gratifying alike to the scholar, the moralist, and the peasant. Like the productions of Shakspeare, and in contradistinction to inferior dramas, they have a sustaining power within themselves—perfectly independent of meretricious aid from the actor or the mechanist. Not indeed that, to be duly effective as a dramatic exhibition, the quality of the acting is to be disregarded, but that to ensure success, they never require the "modesty of nature to be overstepped." The plays of Morton, too, are characterised by a rich vein of pungent, well-directed satire, and pointed allusions to prominent, social, and political vices. It was therefore, with peculiar satisfaction that we saw his *Cure for the Heartache* announced for representation last Monday evening.

With these strong prepossessions in favor of the author, we proceeded to the Victoria with a determination to be pleased with the performance—and our intention was amply realised. In noticing the *dramatis personæ*, we must subject ourselves to the charge of being somewhat *ungallant*, by beginning with Mr. Fenton as *Old Rapid*. This was, however, the best depicted character of the comedy. There is a truthfulness in the entire portrait, accompanied by a few finished touches in the colouring, that even *Munden* or *Downton* might not be ashamed to acknowledge. Griffiths and Grove went through their respective parts very respectably, although they are both subject to the same objection—unevenness in their personifications. That is to say, that the former is sometimes the vulgar boisterous offspring of the rich old tailor, while at others, he exhibits a certain gentility of style and manner which to such an individual would be impossible. Similarly, Grove is in one scene the emaciated old Indian; in the next, he is as vigorous as a country squire in the meridian of manhood. These lapses excepted, and a slight incongruity of Griffiths' costume, (albeit justified by precedent) both these gentlemen acquitted themselves well. *Sir Hubert Stanley* was creditably represented by Mr. Saville, save that ungainliness of manner and sepulchral tone peculiar to this actor—and these are defects which it is surely in his power to correct. Of his son Charles, we can only say, (as they have it in the comedy) that Mr. James "is not up to the trim of a gentleman—it does not sit well upon him." Mr. Deering, as *Frank Outland*, went through the business very decently—nay more, *faithfully*—better done than any we have seen from this gentleman for some time past. He was in fact, quite at home. Mr. Lee's *Bronze* was very mediocre. Lastly, (we are really quite ashamed at our table of precedence) come the ladies. Mrs. O'Flaherty by no means satisfied us as *Miss Vortex*. The imitation of the woman of fashion was very abortive. The *lack-a-daisical* was substituted for the *languishing*, and boisterous declamation (which is this lady's greatest fault) when the mere quick expression of a vivid resentment was required. There were scenes however in which Mrs. O'Flaherty was very successful, and which may be fairly placed as a set-off against the debit side. Mrs. Ximenes makes a highly interesting *Ellen Vortex* in point of appearance, but her readings are so very imperfect—so very deficient in due emphases—that her personal advantages are more than counterbalanced. Now the *contrary* is the case with Madame Louise. If the latter possessed the personal qualifications of the former, she might be made a very tolerable actress. Her tone of voice is good, and her readiness, though often seriously faulty, are in the main satisfactory. She took the part of *Jessy Outland*

very creditably. If not a handsome, she is at all events an useful actress, and as beauty is said to be only skin deep, we don't think it ought to form so material an item in the list of requisites for an actress as some people seem to imagine. We have transgressed our usual limits, and have only to offer our acknowledgments on the part of colonial play-goers for the production of this excellent comedy, and to award the Company that degree of praise to which they are entitled for the manner in which they have represented it.

Der Freischutz has been repeated twice this week, and should be disposed to speak favorably, were it not for the continued outrageous interpolation of an unmeaning sort of waltz, or quadrille, or something else, in the first act, and a stupid dance by the bridesmaids. The only reason that can be given for smuggling these contraband hops into the opera is, that it is intended as an indemnification to the persons engaged therein for being otherwise destined to take so small a share in the rest of the performance.

The house has been well attended throughout the week, and to the management—we may say that it is a case of *virtue rewarded!*

CONCERT.

Mr. Deane's musical entertainment on Wednesday evening was more numerously attended than has been any similar *re-union* for some time past. Nor was the meeting less noticeable, than for its numbers—some few refractory gentlemen in the rear notwithstanding. We especially eschew through the programme of a Concert *item par item*. We think that, in taking the cream thereof, we have done sufficient. The cream then of Mr. Deane's *soirée musicale* was *Jephtha's Daughter*, by Mrs. Bushelle. (Beautifully executed.) The overture to *Zampa*, (an exquisite piece of music, well played) Mr. Worgan's *Death of Nelson*, (sung in rather too slow time,) and Mr. J. Deane's Violin solo, and Mr. R. Martin's performance on the Ophicleide, which, considering the difficulties of the instrument, and its almost impracticable nature, unless in first-rate hands, was eminently successful. The entertainment was too protracted, but all passed off pleasantly.

Miscellaneous.

The annual expense of the Metropolitan police force is upwards of £367,000.

There are twenty-three police magistrates in London, who receive £1200 a year each.

A stockbroker of Hamburg has advertised a vessel for a pleasure voyage round the world.

HAPPY COUNTRY.—Mexico, a popish country, contains 7,000,000 inhabitants, out of which six thousand only can read and write.

The formation at Greenwich of a new tidal harbour, which will cover nearly six acres, and give a depth of fourteen feet at low water is to be proceeded with immediately.

The sum paid annually out of the taxes to Lord Ellenborough for his "late" office of Clerk to the Queen's Bench is £7700 a-year. He enjoyed this enormous sinecure while he held his Governorship of India.

Marshal Soult has issued an order prohibiting the soldiers at Lille who are freemasons from attending lodges, and ordering those who are not freemasons to resist every attempt that may be made to induce them to join the society.

THE JESUITS.—At this moment, when all Switzerland is in arms against the Jesuits, the following history of the banishments of this order from different countries will be read with interest;—"The Jesuits were banished from Venice in 1606; from Bohemia, in 1618; from Naples, in 1622; from the Low Countries, in the same year; from India, in 1623; from Portugal, in 1772; from France, in 1764; from Spain, in 1767; and last from Rome in 1773."

MODERN REFINEMENT.—Calcraft the hangman (from Newgate) according to the London Journals, sported a pair of white kid gloves at the execution of Tawell!

SLAVERY.—The Washington papers contain an advertisement of a runaway slave, a girl between sixteen and seventeen years old, white, with straight black hair, and dark eyes, weighing about 110 or 115 pounds, of good countenance, reads the Bible, tolerably well, and has pretty good use with her needle. A reward of 500 dollars is offered for the delivery of the girl, if she is found in any non-slave-holding state, but if found in Virginia, the reward is to be only 50 dollars, and if in Maryland, 75 dollars.

INTELLIGENCE OF JURORS.—An inquest was held on Tuesday, before Mr. Wakley, at the Fool's Cap and Bells, on the body of a groom who had been thrown from a restive horse, and killed by falling on the kerbstone. The jury, after much deliberation, returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against the horse. *Coroner:* Gentlemen, I am afraid this verdict will not stand. What would you have me do with the horse? *A Juror:* Commit him for trial. *Coroner:* I advise you, gentlemen, to reconsider your verdict. The jury retired, and, after much further debate, brought in a verdict of—"Died of a fall from a horse, with a deodand of £100 on the kerbstone, and the horse not guilty."

The letter A is in a fair way to be dubbed right Royal. Her Majesty's first christian name is Alexandria, her husband's Albert, and their four children are Adelaide, Albert, Alice, Alfred.

DEMOLITION.—A short time since, an invalid sent for a physician, and, after detaining him sometime with a description of his pangs, said, "Now, doctor, you have humbugged me long enough with your good-for-nothing pills and worthless syrups; they don't touch the real difficulty. I wish you would strike the cause of my ailment, if it is in your power to reach it." "It shall be done," said the doctor, at the same time lifting his cane and demolishing a decanter of spirits that stood upon the sideboard!

CHARACTERISTIC.—Taylor, the oculist, dining with the barristers on the Oxford Circuit, having related many wonderful things which he represented himself to have performed, was asked by Bearcroft, a little out of humour with his self-conceit, "Pray, chevalier, as you have told us of a great many things which you have done and can do, will you be so good as to try to tell us anything which you cannot do?" "Nothing so easy," replied Taylor, "I cannot pay my share of the dinner-bill, and that, sir, I must beg of you to do."

FREE TRADE.—"I am extremely sorry that any one in the House of Commons should be found so ignorant and unadvised as to wish to revive the senseless, barbarous, and, in fact, wicked regulations made against the free trade in matters of provision, which the good sense of late Parliaments had removed."—*Burke, in a letter to Arthur Young.*

An honest Dutch farmer thus writes to the secretary of the Massachusetts County Agricultural Society:—"Gentlemen, you will have the goodness to enter me on your list of cattle for a bull."

A yankee schoolmaster in Georgia wrote the following as a copy for one of his pupils:—"All men are created equal, except niggers."

CENSURE.—Censure is the tax a man payeth to the public for being eminent.—*Swift.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1845.

The Speaker having taken the chair, the four following messages were announced from the Governor:—

First.—Replying to an address from the Council, dated Aug. 29, 1845, wherein his Excellency was requested to place upon the Supplementary Estimate for the present year, the sum of five thousand pounds in aid of the Land Fund, with a view of making such repairs as may be most wanting in the roads throughout the colony.

GENTLEMEN.—On the Supplementary Estimate, which I presented to the Council on the 2nd instant, the sums of £3000 and £1000, were inserted for the purpose of repairing bridges on the high roads of communication in the middle and southern districts of the colony; but I regret it is not in my power to propose that any sums for the repair either of bridges or roads, should be given in aid of the Land Fund; as in so doing I should imply that the repair of roads and bridges is a charge upon the Land Fund, contrary to what I understand to be the intention of the Constitutional Act of the colony, and also of the Act of Parliament passed for the Regulation of the Sale of Crown Lands in the Australian Colonies.

(Signed) GEORGE GIPPS.

Government House, Sydney,
September 12, 1845.

Second.—Replying to an address from the Council, dated 5th September, 1845; in which his Excellency was requested to lay before the Council, copies of all correspondence and instructions relating to the monopoly of Coal, said to be granted to the Australian Agricultural Company, and to the reservation of coal in Grants from the Crown; also, copies of all correspondence and instructions relating to the Writ of Intrusion recently brought by the Attorney-General against James Brown, for working a Coal Mine contrary to such reservations.

GENTLEMEN.—I will cause copies to be laid before the Council of the documents which show the nature of the engagements now existing between the Government and the Australian Agricultural Company, respecting the working of coal in the colony.

I regret that I cannot think it proper to publish the instructions recently given by this Government to its confidential Law Officers, in respect to an action brought against an individual to restrain him from working contrary to the terms on which he holds a certain grant of land from the Crown.

(Signed) GEORGE GIPPS.

Government House, Sydney,
September 12, 1845.

Third.—Replying to an address from the Council, dated 5th September, 1845, wherein his Excellency was requested "to give directions that the issue of warrants for levying by distress on the property of parties indebted for arrears of Quit Rents to the Crown, be suspended until the reply of her Majesty's Government can be obtained to the address of the Council relative to the Crown Land Grievance report.

GENTLEMEN.—I greatly regret that I cannot, consistently with my sense of public duty, give directions in respect to the collection of Quit-rents, which might seem on my part to imply a doubt of the validity of debts owing by parties in this colony to the Crown.

(Signed) GEORGE GIPPS.

Government House, Sydney,
September 12, 1845.

Fourth.—Communicating to the Council the reply of her most gracious Majesty to an address from the Council to her Majesty, adopted by the Council on the 21st June, 1844, as follows:—

Copy—No. 177.

Downing-street, 8th December, 1844.

To Governor Sir George Gipps, &c., &c.
New South Wales.

SIR—I have laid before the Queen the address to her Majesty from the Legislative Council of New South Wales, of the 21st June, 1844, enclosed in your despatch of the 9th July last, No. 140, in which address the Council pray that her Majesty will be graciously pleased to instruct you to place on the estimates to be laid before them such a sum as may be sufficient to afford compensation, not exceeding one year's salary in each case, to the public officers holding office under the colonial Government only, whose offices have been abolished without their receiving any other office during the last preceding thirty months.

The Queen commands me to instruct you to acquaint the Legislative Council, that her Majesty regrets her inability to accede to this request. The decision of the Legislative Council to withhold the funds necessary for maintaining the former police establishment, involved, as a necessary consequence, the reductions which have taken place. Deferring to the judgment of the Local Legislature that the retrenchment was inevitable, her Majesty cannot be advised to propose an expenditure which would convert that retrenchment into an actual increase of the public burthens.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STANLEY.

The above messages, with the accompanying despatch, were ordered to be printed and entered on the minutes.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The following petitions were presented, which were severally read and received:—

By Mr. ROBINSON,

First.—From the Town Council of Melbourne stating that the sum voted by the Council last year for the erection of a Police Office in that town was insufficient for the construction of a proper building, and praying that a sum might be appropriated for this purpose sufficient to allow for the erection of an office suitable and proportionate to the importance of the town and the extent of business to be transacted there.

Second.—From the same body relative to that which had formerly been presented from the inhabitants of the village of St. Kilda, praying for a separation of that village from the incorporated district of Melbourne. The petitioners considered that as this matter had a direct bearing upon the privileges and immunities of the Town Council of Melbourne, it would be unjust to take any step in it without their knowledge and concurrence, and prayed that nothing might be done in the matter without this preliminary.

Third.—From the same body praying that the advantages of the Bill then before the House for enabling the Savings Bank of Sydney to make loans to the Sydney Corporation might be extended to Port Phillip, and a similar power might be given to the Savings Bank at Melbourne.

Fourth.—From the same body referring to the motion at present pending relative to an increase in the number of Legislative representatives for the several districts of the colony, and stating that the proposed increase for the middle district, ac-

companied as it must be by a corresponding increase in the Crown nominees, also from the middle district, was not in a just proportion to that proposed for the southern or Port Phillip district, which even at the present time did not possess a fair share of representation. The petitioners therefore prayed, that in the adoption of any measure for the extension of representation, care might be taken to secure to the Port Phillip district such a proportion of representation in the Colonial Legislature, as by its population and importance, and the amount of its contributions to the general revenue, they were fairly entitled to.

By Dr. BLAND,

A petition which had been adopted at a public meeting in St. Patrick's Hall, representing in strong terms the demoralising and destructive consequences of an extensive indulgence in the use of intoxicating liquors, and urging that it was the duty of the Legislature to adopt all the means in its power to remedy the evil. To this end the petitioners recommended that the number of public houses should be limited throughout the country, so as to keep them in due proportion to the number of the inhabitants; that proper precautions should be used to prevent any other persons than those of good character from taking publicans' licenses, and that by the high rates of license fees, and the stringency of the punishments for intemperance, every effort might be made for the discouragement of that vice.

BRIDGE OVER THE YASS RIVER.

Mr. MURRAY proposed that an address might be presented to the Governor, praying that a sum of £50 might be placed upon the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1846, for the erection of a bridge over the Yass River, upon condition that an equal sum should be raised by private subscription.

Carried.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GRANT.

Dr. NICHOLSON moved, that the petition which had been presented by him from the rate-payers in the county of Grant, relative to the proceeding of the District Council, might be printed, remarking at the same time that this petition was important, as showing the working of the District Councils.

Carried.

REPORTING THE DEBATES IN COUNCIL.

Mr. LOWE moved "That a reference might be made to the Standing Orders Committee to enquire and report as to whether some improvement might not be effected in the Reports of the Debates in that Council."

Carried.

The following Bills were read a second time, viz.:—
The Publican's Licensing Act, and the Coal Act.
The Building Act was read a third time, and passed.
The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY, 16.

The Speaker having taken the chair:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table a copy of the despatch, enclosing a confirmation, of Mr. John Lamb's appointment as a non-eclectic member of the Legislative Council.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT, &c.

Mr. LOWE rose, to move the adoption of petitions praying the admission into the United Kingdom of corn and flour, the produce of the Australian colonies, on the same terms as Canadian corn. He did not anticipate that any objection would be made to the motion, and it would perhaps not be necessary to do more than submit the motion to the House, and then move that the address or petition should be considered in Committee at once, or be referred to a Select Committee. But he thought it would be of some advantage to offer a few observations on the subject, in order to show the importance, not only of petitions being sent home by the Council, but of their being sent also from every district in the colony, in order to show to the Home Government, that the claim made was a just claim, and that the people of the colony were determined to enforce it. He should not propose at present more than a petition to the House of Commons; he did not think it of any use that the Council should this year go over all the same ground that they did before; but it would be sufficient, as it was important, that their petition should meet the various points urged against the granting of the prayer of their former petitions, in the debate in the House of Commons; and in order to do this, a peculiar phraseology must be used, which would not be appropriate in a petition to Her Majesty or to the House of Lords. In the year 1843 the British Parliament did away with the duty on Canadian corn—or reduced it to a mere nominal duty—and when the question was argued in the House of Commons, Sir Robert Peel was led away by a real or affected liberality, to declare that he wished "to treat the colonies as integral parts of the empire." This was the ground on which Canadian corn was admitted into the English markets, paying a mere nominal duty. In 1844, Mr. Hutt, on the same principle, proposed to extend the advantage to India, and the Cape of Good Hope, and the Australasian Isles; but it was refused, and it was said that the Australasian colonies did not want it—that they had not asked for it. He had thought to take away that objection in asking the boon, South Australia and Van Diemen's Land had asked it also, and in their cases the petitions they had sent home had been backed by the recommendations of their Governors. He regretted that such had not been the case with this colony; that the Governor here, although a free trader, one who had done himself the high honor, for such it was, to say, when this Council proposed to put a protective duty on wheat, that he would rather give up his Government than consent to it; whether the reason was that the Colonial Minister, Lord Stanley, was known to be the staunch supporter of the corn monopoly in all its abominations—or whether any other reason might have existed, the petitions of this Council were unbacked by the Governor. Nevertheless, the objectors—that the Australasian colonies had not asked for the boon, had by those petitions been put *hors de combat*. They were then told that the quantity which the Australasian colonies could bring into the English Markets was so insignificant that the boon they asked would do them no good; and that the agricultural mind was sensitive on the subject of any change in duties on corn; yes, horse-racing dukes, fox-hunting squires, and black-leg baronets, who extorted every penny they could from their tenants, were sensitive on the subject of hard-working colonists having their corn admitted free of duty; and to this sensitiveness justice was made to yield; their votes, their opinions, their wishes; had all been outweighed, and their petitions ungranted. It was scarcely necessary to point to the inconsistency of the argument; if the quantity were so insignificant, it would surely not arouse the agricultural mind of England; but if sufficient to arouse that mind, then the quantity could not be insignificant to the colonies. It had been argued too, and he blushed to think that the Prime Minister of England should have used such an argument, that this boon should be refused because this colony had not done as Canada had done; namely, put a duty of 3s. a quarter on grain; this showed how ignorant the Right Honorable Baronet was, as all ministers had been from the time of Lord