

North, as to what was doing in the colonies; for before the Minister of England made use of this argument, this Council had taken the ill-advised step of imposing a duty, not of 3s. but of 8s. a quarter on wheat; yet this Minister taunted the colony with not having put a protective duty on wheat, and this at the very time that there was before her Majesty the Bill passed by this Council imposing a duty of 8s. a quarter, which the Government over which that Minister presided was advising her Majesty to disallow, on account of this very duty. If arguments were wanting to prove the utter ignorance of the Home Government as to colonial affairs, the utter recklessness which the Home Government ever displayed with respect to colonies, what stronger argument could be adduced than this? He would never consent to anything in the shape of a protective duty, but those who had consented to impose a duty of 8s. a quarter should not suffer from an argument founded on a supposition that they would not impose a duty of 3s. He hoped the Council would pause before they again consented to impose a restrictive duty; that seeing from the way in which their prayers had been treated, the extent to which the spirit of corn monopoly would go, they would profit from the bitter lesson taught them, and not attempt to protect any particular interest at the expense of the whole country. It was unnecessary to show the importance of the boon now claimed; it was of the same importance to the agriculturist, as the recent discovery of boiling down sheep and cattle for tallow, was to the grazier; it would fix a minimum price for produce; the farmer would have a fixed minimum price for his grain. He maintained that this colony was entitled to this boon on mere grounds of justice; he had once hoped that the people of England would have been convinced of the necessity of granting it on other grounds; but when it was declared by a member of the House of Commons (Mr. Christopher) that the Corn Laws were as valuable, to those to whom he belonged, as money, and that they were not such flats as to give them up—when such language as this was used in such an assemblage, he would not attempt to argue the case on the grounds of political economy. They were told by Sir R. Peel that this was not like the case of Canada, and then there was the paltry quibble about the 3s. a quarter; but the object of placing that duty in Canada was, to prevent American wheat being smuggled into Canada, and sent to England for Canadian; but here they were separated from the whole world; it was an absurdity to suppose that foreign wheat would be brought here for the purpose of being taken to England; the argument was so miserable that it only showed that Sir Robert Peel felt the difficulty he was placed in, found himself in a dilemma, in consequence of his having treated the case of Canada in a liberal manner, instead of in the narrow and temporising way which was usual to him. It was the duty of this Council to point out the weakness of the Minister's speech; it was their duty to point out how differently this colony had deserved, how differently it had been treated from Canada; a mere anti-corn law petition would not suffice; but if they spoke of Canada in their petition, he hoped that no mention would be made of their having passed a Bill to fix a duty of 8s. a quarter on wheat; although no doubt there was a strong temptation to answer the argument used in the House of Commons by pointing to the fact, that at the time it was used they had done two and a half times more than they were said not to have done. It would be dangerous, however, to make such an allusion; it was not necessary to convince Sir Robert Peel, or his Government, for they knew that the Council had passed the Bill; and in order to enlist public opinion in their favour, they must take care not to put forward anything that might be objected to by those to whom they looked for support. He thought he should not be doing his duty if he did not propose that another vote of thanks should be voted to Mr. Hutt for the manner in which he had advocated the interests of this colony—and he only wished it was in his power to couple with his name that of Mr. Scott, the Council's Parliamentary Agent; he did not wish to condemn that gentleman unheard, he might yet offer explanations satisfactory why he had not spoken on the occasion; from letters received in the colony, it appeared that Mr. Scott was in London at the time, but he did not speak; was not, he, Mr. Lowe, believed, in the House even to vote in our favour. He did not consider that in appointing Mr. Scott their agent they meant that he should look to the interest of one class alone, whether the graziers or any other, but he considered that Mr. Scott was bound to look to the interests of the whole community; and he claimed for his constituents, and for the agriculturists of the colony, an equal share of the honorable gentleman's exertions. He would now conclude by moving that this House do adopt a petition to the House of Commons, praying the admission into the United Kingdom of corn and flour, the produce of the Australasian colonies on the same terms as Canadian corn. Should the House affirm this resolution, he would submit to their consideration a petition which he had prepared; and, according as the House might wish, he would move that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider it, or it might be referred to a Select Committee. He would merely say that it would be advisable that the Address should be short, of a few sentences as possible, or it might not, until the colony had obtained somewhat more of a *locus standi* in the House of Commons, be very attentively listened to.

Mr. ROBINSON said, that he should cordially second the motion brought before the House. He would merely say a few words with respect to that portion of Sir R. Peel's speech in which it was said that the case of this colony was not the same as that of Canada; because no duty had here been imposed upon wheat. He was not in the House at the time the Bill which had been alluded to—fixing a duty of 8s. a quarter was passed; if he had been he should have opposed it. Of two evils he would have chosen what he considered the least; and if the grain of this colony was not to be admitted into the English market, except on condition of a protective duty being fixed here, he should prefer that it should be excluded altogether. But a protective duty was altogether unnecessary here; the expense of bringing wheat from Chili to Sydney was 2s. a quarter; the expense of taking it from Canada to London was little more than 1s. a quarter, the colony then would have to pay nearly one hundred per cent. for carriage to bring Chilian wheat to Sydney, more than it cost to take wheat from Canada to London—and then there would be at least 2s. 3d. a quarter more to take it from Australia to London. It was, therefore, altogether out of the question to suppose that any attempt would be made to send Chilian wheat to the English market, for Australian; but the Minister was at a loss for an argument, and he did not wish to disturb the sensitive minds of the monopolists, by bringing forward any proposition with respect to corn, while he was endeavouring to induce them last year to support some favorite measure of his own. He, Mr. Robinson, had no doubt, however, that if the claims of the colony were again strenuously urged, Sir Robert Peel would accede to it next year. There could be no doubt that the measure asked for would confer the greatest benefits on this and the neighbouring colonies! the agriculturists in this, the middle districts, suffered between two extremes; if they had a good harvest, they had no market for their grain, and sometimes they had no harvest at all; in the southern districts, however, there were always crops, and if this measure were granted, he had no doubt

that from the Port Phillip district there would be an export of £50,000 a year.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY admitted what had been said by the honorable and learned member for St. Vincent, that this measure would be to the agricultural interest what boiling down had been to the grazing interest; a remunerating price for grain would be secured at all times to the farmer, and he would not be subjected to the vast changes in price which had heretofore been experienced; within the last ten years he had known wheat vary from 2s. to 22s. a bushel; but if an extensive external market were established, there will be no such variations; the farmer would always be sure of a remunerating price, and would be induced to extend his agricultural operations. What particular reasons the Home Government might have had for refusing to sanction the measure, whether from any consideration either as to the smallness or the largeness of the benefit, or whether it was that the Home Government was unwilling to do anything to disturb the Corn Law question which had been settled in 1843 only, he could not be aware; but he had not heard of any reason sufficient to justify a preference being given to Canada over the Australasian colonies, and so long as he was a servant of the people of this colony he would use every effort to obtain for them the same advantages that other colonies possessed. The motion had therefore his most cordial support.

Dr. NICHOLSON said, that the thanks of the country were due to the honorable and learned member for having a second time brought forward this important question. The benefit that would be derived by the country if the prayer of the address were acceded to, would be great; the subject had excited considerable interest in England, and all the leading papers in London had spoken favourably to the claims of the colony. He had been informed by a gentleman resident in the district of Port Phillip that a very large quantity of land in that district, on which wheat might be grown, was now neglected, in consequence of their being no market for wheat, and the high price for labour. No doubt there was abundance of such land in the colony which would be turned to account, notwithstanding that the price here was £1 per acre, while in Canada it was only 8s. The only remedy for the high price of labour was immigration, and if the population of this colony was half a million instead of 170,000, he had no doubt but the colony would grow ample wheat for them and for exportation.

Mr. BERRY and Mr. MURRAY supported the motion. Mr. HAMILTON had listened in vain for some statement as to what would be the real importance and value of the boon now asked for the colony. It was not clear to him that the removal of the duty on grain of the colony would have the effect of establishing a remunerating minimum price, and no greater evil could be done to the colony than to divert any portion of its labour from the production of wool, which was three times as valuable.

Dr. LANG said, that the honorable member from Cassilis had been playing ably into the hands of those at home, who said that this was merely a pastoral and not an agricultural country. The advantages of having an agricultural population should be borne in mind, and there was, he was sure, no limit to the number that might be invited to come; the British Government, by granting this boon, would be opening an outlet for British manufactures, and would afford employment for the pauper population of England, who would come out as agriculturists.

Mr. WINDEYER said, he should not have troubled the House but for the observations of the honorable member for Cassilis, which might do considerable injury at home. For at home people would not know that the honorable member derived his opinions merely from a knowledge of a portion of the country where cereal crops might follow for eleven years, and not more than one paying crop be obtained. Nothing would be more easy than to show the benefit which the colony would derive from the boon now sought; it would fix a minimum price, below which grain would not fall; the average price of wheat in England had been for a number of years past 55s. a quarter, about 7s. a bushel; the price of conveyance from this colony would be about 1s. 6d. per bushel, never more, including all expenses, than 2s. 3d.; and this would leave 4s. 9d.; clear for the grower. Surely this would be a benefit when it was known that the growers of wheat were obliged to sell it for 2s. 6d. or 3s. a bushel. The average price that the wheat sent home had fetched was 70s. or 80s., a quarter; the colony would not send the worst wheat home, but the best; and it might be calculated that the average price it would fetch would be 8s., and deducting 2s. 3d. for charges, there would be 5s. 9d. for the agriculturist. The agriculturists of the colony would be greatly benefitted, besides the fixing a minimum price the colony would have the further advantage of being protected from scarcity; there would be a sure market and no one would be deterred from embarking in agricultural pursuits; every one would be sure of 4s. 9d. or 5s. a bushel for the wheat—which would secure a remuneration or even independence. The result of a good season would be a large export, and in a bad season there would not be a large export, but there would be sufficient wheat to preserve the colony from the paroxysms to which it had been exposed, and render unnecessary the sending of the specie of the colony to South America or elsewhere for wheat. He would now conclude by giving his support to the motion.

Dr. BLAND and Mr. FOSTER both supported the motion, and Mr. LOWE having replied, the motion was put and carried without dissent.

The House then resolved itself into committee, and the petition was read.

A discussion here ensued as to whether the adoption of the Address should be moved at once, or that it should be adopted clause by clause, and the opinion of the Committee appeared to be in favor of the latter course.

Mr. HAMILTON suggested, that although the general principle involved in this Address, as to the justice of the demand to have the wheat of the Australasian colonies placed upon the same footing as that of Canada, was one in which every member of the House was prepared to agree, the Address which was then before them, embraced many important topics which would necessarily involve a great difference of opinion, and as it was desirable that the House should be unanimous upon such a question as this, it would be better that the Address should be referred to a Select Committee. A similar view was taken by the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. WINDEYER said, that no good end could be attained by sending the Address to a Select Committee: for upon the bringing up of the Report, the matter would still have to be debated upon by the House, and it was much better as they were then in Committee, that the Address should be at once considered.

Mr. DARVALL proposed, that the House should resume its sitting, and that the Chairman should report progress, with a view to the appointment of a select committee. In moving this resolution the honorable member contended that many things which were regarded by the Address as benefits conferred upon Canada, might not be looked upon by many members of that House, as benefits at all, and instanced the case of the loan which was spoken as one of this kind. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hamilton, and supported by the Colonial Secretary and Mr. Lamb, and opposed by

Messrs. Wentworth, Windeyer, Lowe, Cowper and Dr. Lang, and the Committee divided upon the motion, which was carried by a majority of 11 to 10.

The House then resumed, and Mr. Darvall moved and Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion, that a select committee be appointed to prepare the Address, which on a division taken place, was lost by the same majority as the previous motion.

LABORERS.

Mr. MURRAY presented a petition from a number of inhabitants of the Yass District, setting forth the great necessity for labor throughout the interior, and expressing a hope that as there were a great many unemployed laborers in Van Diemen's Land, a sum of £5000 would be proposed by the House to the Governor in the usual way, by an address, to have that sum placed upon the Supplementary Estimates for 1845, for the purpose of bringing them up to Sydney; which having been read, Mr. Cowper opposed its reception, and upon a division it was rejected by a majority of 15 to 5.

GEELONG.

Dr. NICHOLSON inquired of the Colonial Secretary whether any despatches had been received from the Home Government relative to the application to have Geelong declared a free port.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied in the negative.

SAVINGS BANK.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table a return to an address moved by Dr. Nicholson comprising copies of all the correspondence which had taken place between himself (the Colonial Secretary) and the trustees of the Savings Bank, relative to the accumulating deposits. Ordered to be printed.

MASTER AND SERVANTS BILL.

This Bill was read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, the 30th instant.

POSTAGE BILL.

Dr. LANG said, that as this Bill was a short one, and was merely intended to carry out the resolutions already affirmed by the House, he did not apprehend that it would receive any opposition, and he would therefore move its second reading, without further preface.

Mr. ROBINSON seconded the motion, which was afterwards put and carried.

The Ports and Harbours Act amendment Bill, and the Coal Bill, were severally read a third time and passed.

AUDIT BILL.

The first enactment clause in this Bill was adopted, but on moving the second clause, the House was counted out and not being sufficient members present it adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, 17.

BRIDGE OVER THE YARRA.

A Select Committee was appointed on the estimate of £1000, proposed for this purpose.

SAVINGS BANK.

These returns were ordered to be printed.

TARIFF BILL.

Dr. LANG presented a petition from John Davis a teetotaler, complaining of the reduction of the duties on spirits, which was read and received.

OATHS IN PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS AND PUNISHMENT OF DEATH. These Bills were severally read a second time, and ordered to be considered in Committee, on Wednesday next.

CUSTOMS BILL.

The further consideration of this Bill was postponed.

SAVINGS BANK.

The second reading of this Bill was postponed till Wednesday next.

TARIFF BILL.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee on this Bill, and the following gentlemen were examined, viz.:—Messrs. Robert Cooper, Senior, Henry Fisher the Rectifier, Alderman Macdermott, and Thomas Walker, at the close of which, the Colonial Secretary proposed that the House should resume, and permission should be obtained to sit again the following day, remarking that as this measure was one of very great importance, it would be advisable that they should proceed with it at once.

The House then resumed, and the Chairman having reported progress, the remaining orders of the day were postponed, and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, 18.

The Speaker having taken the chair,

DR. UDNEY.

Dr. NICHOLSON presented a petition from Dr. Udney, praying for compensation for services rendered by him during four years, in procuring emigrants for this colony. Read and received.

CUSTOMS BILL.

The House went into Committee on this Bill, for the purpose of discussing clause 21, which clause was intended to prevent the introduction of spirits in the character of wines.

Mr. WINDEYER objected to the clause as it now stood, for vagueness and uncertainty, and as to the mode of examination and proof of the strength, and proposed to have some able chemists engaged to experimentalise upon the various wines, so as to ascertain the average quantity of proof spirits which they contained, and thereby to determine upon a standard which would answer the required purpose, which was agreed to, and it was understood the Committee would sit again on this Bill on Wednesday next.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

The further consideration of these items was postponed till Wednesday next, as were also the General Estimates.

TARIFF BILL.

The House then went into Committee on this Bill, and John Hosking, Esq., and the Rev. Messrs. Saunders, M'Encroe, and Adam, were severally examined, after which the House adjourned.

CITY COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18.

Present: The Mayor, three Aldermen, and ten Councillors.

Alderman Wilshire presented the following protest from himself and Councillor Thurlow, relative to a clause in the by-law passed by the City Council for regulating their proceedings and for conducting the election of Mayor and Aldermen, and which he hoped the Council would not only receive, but enter on the minutes, and also forward a copy of it to his Excellency the Governor when the by-law was forwarded to him for approval.

He then read the protest as follows:—

We, the undersigned members of the City Council, hereby protest against the following clause in the By-Law, passed by the City

Council, for regulating their proceedings, and for conducting the election of Mayor and Aldermen, viz.: "That the election of Aldermen shall be the first business transacted at the triennial Quarterly Meeting, in November, to be followed by the election of Mayor," for the following reasons:—

1. Because it is in direct repugnance to the 9th section of the Act of Incorporation, 6 Victoria, No. 3, which enacts—"That there shall be four Quarterly Meetings in every year, at which the Council shall meet for the transaction of general business, and no notice shall require to be given of the business to be transacted on such quarterly days, and the said Quarterly Meetings shall be holden at noon, on the 9th day of the months of November, February, May, and August, respectively, or any such Quarterly Meeting may be holden on any other day within three days next following any of the other days respectively appointed as the Council at any Quarterly Meeting next preceding the same shall determine: and the first business transacted at the Quarterly Meeting in November, shall be the election of Mayor."

2. Because the Council have no authority to vary the constitution established by the Act from which they derive their existence.

3. Because the words of the Act of Incorporation are not doubtful on this point, and even supposing they were, they should be explained by contemporaneous usage, which is contrary to the spirit of the by-law now protested against.

4. Because the course prescribed for the election of Mayor and Aldermen, by the 37, 38, 41, 42, and 47th clauses of the Act, applies more particularly to the first elections; but at all events it is by no means so clear and unambiguous as the course fixed by the 94th section of the Act above quoted, which applies to all future elections, and is directly opposed both in spirit and letter to the by-law passed by the City Council.

J. R. WILSHIRE, Alderman.
Chairman of By-law Committee.
W. THURLOW.

Sydney, 17th September, 1845.

A conversation took place as to whether it was presented in proper time to become part of the proceedings, and whether it was competent for those who had signed it to request that it might be forwarded to the Governor with the clause protested against, when it was finally agreed to receive it, and attach it to the proceedings; but, if any member had any thing further to move respecting it, that notice of motion must be given to that effect.

Mr. Fisher next presented a petition from upwards of fifty of the inhabitants of Lower George-street, praying that the kirking in that part of the city be proceeded with.

Rejected on the amendment moved by Alderman Flood, the matter to which it related being already in the hands of the improvement Committee.

The Council then adjourned, till Monday, the 29th instant, at three o'clock.

SUPREME COURT.—INSOLVENCY JURISDICTION.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17.

(Before his honor Mr. Justice aBeckett.)

CERTIFICATES.

The certificates of discharge granted to the following insolvents were confirmed by the Court, viz.:—James Scott Hindmarsh, Thomas Barnes, Henry Martin, Thomas Smith, James M'Michael, John Carney.

ESTATE OF PROSPER DE MESTRE.

A second plan of distribution was confirmed in this estate, showing a dividend of 1s. 3d. in the pound.

ESTATE OF JOHN RICHARD ROUSE.

Mr. Michie moved, that the above estate be released from sequestration.—Granted.

IN RE WILLIAM HARRISON.

The Chief Commissioner reported that he had refused the application of the above-named insolvent for his certificate, on the ground of extravagance.

The Court then adjourned.

Original Correspondence.

PUSEYISM.

Mr. ATLAS—I deeply regret that I cannot join the worthy but simple writer in the *Herald* of this morning, in his fond hope that Christ Church, with the late doings therein, "is an earnest of better things to the Church of England." Alas! Instead of hope, all that I have seen or heard of the matter has given me a feeling of painful apprehension.

A few months ago you published in your journal several articles in which you put forth charges of a Puseyite bias against not a few of the clergymen of this Diocese; and these articles I at the time read with indignation—because, being a stranger, I was induced to believe you were actuated by personal pique. I have since, however, had convincing proof, both ocular and auricular, that you might, with the utmost ease, have substantiated every count in the indictment, and made it manifest that your motive possibly was a sincere love for an establishment in which I know you were brought up.

There are, Mr. ATLAS, two, and perhaps only two ways in which a teacher of religion can acquire influence over the minds of those committed to his charge, either by self-denial, reading, studying, praying, preaching the Gospel faithfully, zealously, and unremittingly in season and out of season, and by going about doing good, which is lawful and right; or by having recourse to the artifices of priestcraft, which is unlawful and wicked.

Now, that the latter means have been to some extent adopted in this city must be as clear as the sun at noon, to every man not deprived of the use of his eyes and ears, who frequents the Episcopalian places of worship. Within the last fortnight, I have, myself heard, with no less surprise than sorrow, a minister of the reformed Church of England assert, that by the imposition of a Bishop's hands, those that officiate at the Altar are invested with supernatural purity, power, and authority. Nay, he even averred, that by the ceremony of consecration, a holy and sanctifying influence was imparted to the very timbers and stones of which the building was composed—to the boards upon which we stood. Verily, oh, church of our forefathers, thy silver is become dross. Ichabod, tell it not in Gath—publish it not in the streets of Askelon. In the afternoon of the day on which I heard what I have just narrated, I visited another place of worship, hoping the unpleasant sensations I laboured under might be removed, by a discourse in the good old scriptural style; but I was doomed to be disappointed. The change was from whips to scorpions. The following may be taken as a faithful summary of the Rev. gentleman's sermon in the latter place: "The communicants here are very few. I know many of you are prevented from partaking of the holy mysteries by the dread of doing it unworthily. Your fears, however, are

groundless. All that is necessary for you to do, is to say a short form of prayer morning and evening, to read a chapter in the Bible occasionally, to attend in this place regularly, and to obey the Church. Leave the rest to us; (the clergy) you shall be safe in our hands; for we, and we alone are empowered from on high, when you fulfil these conditions, to insure your eternal safety. Lutherans, derive their name from Luther. Calvinists, from Calvin. All these, though I am free to confess there have been, and are, good men amongst them—are nevertheless heretics, and consequently without the pale of salvation. Their ministers are unauthorised shepherds and intruders, while we, who derive our authority through an uninterrupted succession from the Apostles and from Christ himself are the only men in the world in whose hands you can be safe." If this be not paving the way for the return of all the ignorance, superstition, religious rancour, persecution and misery of the middle ages—of the axe and the faggot, I know not what is; and yet, hundreds of the descendants of those good and great men, who studied at the feet of Cranmer and Latimer, and who gave their bodies to be burned rather than sanction for one moment these abominations, sit quite composed Sunday after Sunday, listening to insidious doctrines, of which the natural and inevitable tendency is to restore them with all their horrors. Earnestly hoping you will lend your powerful aid towards correcting this great evil.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A CHURCHMAN.

September 16.

MR. ATLAS—A perusal of the *Australian* of the 16th instant on wheat, and a hearing of the honorable members of the Legislative Council on the same subject, has led me to offer a few remarks upon our colonial wheat.

No sheep, nor lands, I do avow,
Without "one solitary cow,"—
Bishops and Doctors must allow
Disinterested I make my bow.

With regard to party or individual interests I am entirely free, but cold and callous must be the feelings, degraded the mind, and unworthy of existence the man who can feel no interest in the general welfare of his country whether native or adopted.

The argument (if I may so call it) of your contemporary the *Australian* is lame and defective, but that it may be fairly treated I must quote the following sentence from that article.—"This colony has never raised wheat enough, on an average of years, for its own consumption, since it was a colony." This may be an undoubted fact, and may appear very plausible to those who know nothing about agriculture, but it is utterly futile, and has no weight with an experienced husbandman. I might as well say, before this land became a British colony at all, that the aboriginal natives raised no wheat for their consumption or sustenance, that they lived without it, and why could we not do the same?

That the colony has never raised enough for its own consumption is no reason why it should not, and having more than enough, no reason why it should be prevented by an act of British injustice, imposed upon British subjects, from disposing of its surplus grain in a market where it could obtain a remunerating price sufficient to cover all the expenses of its production and freight, with interest to the producer.

"We can raise" (says the *Australian*) "light dirty wheat, but not bright, heavy, clean wheat, except beyond our mountains."

That we can raise light dirty wheat is truth incontrovertible, and that wheat possessing such properties is raised cannot be denied; but that we cannot raise bright, heavy, clean wheat, except beyond our mountains, is fallacious—a theoretical error, emanating from ignorance of the agricultural capabilities of the colony. Such a theory may find supporters among what are termed experienced or practical agriculturists—practised in colonial prejudice, not tillers, but tormentors of the extreme surface of the ground—men who sow tares and expect to reap wheat.

Supposing that we cannot raise good wheat except beyond our mountains, are those mountains impassable barriers to the transmission of what is and can be grown beyond them? Certainly not. Our wool is brought from off the hills and plains beyond our mountains, so can our wheat, when the laws of our country will admit of us taking it to a profitable market.

The *Australian* admits that we can grow good wheat beyond our mountains; so far I cheerfully and willingly go, but I have no desire to halt there. We should not confine ourselves to this or that side of the mountains, nor from the time the colony was first established to the present day.

Those districts which are now considered agricultural can be greatly improved, and with respect to the quantity of wheat which could be grown where the spade and plough have not yet penetrated the virgin soil, no man is foolish enough to measure or set bounds to that which must be looked upon, at present, as altogether undefinable and illimitable.

I was rather surprised to hear some honorable members stating the quantity of wheat per acre raised in some of the best wheat-growing districts at not more than 12 to 15 bushels, and I take it for granted that being deficient in quantity it is inferior in quality too. It is worthy of observation, that the greater the quantity of wheat per acre, it is generally found to be of superior quality. This is consistent with the laws of nature. Almost every individual plant or flower in the vegetable world in a thriving, healthy, and luxuriant state of growth, is superior in quality to that which is stunted, diseased, and dwarfish. To illustrate this I will state a few facts which have come within my own observation and knowledge on this side of the mountains, and not thirty miles from the fair city of Sydney.

Two parties, on one farm, sowed wheat in April, 1844. One had good seed, which he got from a neighbour—it produced from 10 to 12 bushels per acre of light, dirty wheat, one half of it smut. The other had not good seed, it was smutty and fly-eaten, yet, it produced 28 bushels of good heavy wheat, 65½ lbs. per imperial bushel, at harvest time. This was a luxuriant, standing crop, from five to upwards of six feet high—the other was from two to three feet. The cause of this great difference of return of wheat, subject to the heat of the same sun and summer showers, can only be attributed to the different treatment in tilling the ground and preparing the seed previous to sowing it. Notwithstanding these convincing facts, men will yet impute the obvious causes of bad crops to our soil and climate. I could not refrain from indulging a smile, on hearing an honorable member on Tuesday evening talk something of inclemency. Whether in reference to harshness of season or climate I will not say; but what he did say, was enough to create risibility in any person even of grave and most demure cast of look.

If the wheat growing lands of the colony now producing 10, 12, and 15 bushels of light, dirty wheat, and 20, 25, and 30 of good wheat, were tilled and manured like some of the improved districts of Great Britain, with a good selection of seed, properly prepared, and carefully sown, "with measured step and liberal hand," we would reap 20, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 bushels per acre and upwards of superior quality. The figures are within the mark, I have seen crops exceeding any of the numbers stated in a land where the

climate and natural fitness of the soil are far inferior to many parts of Australia for the production of wheat.

A few months ago, one of the most intelligent, influential, and enterprising gentlemen in the colony, who has one of his farms almost in the immediate vicinity of Sydney, told me that he was growing some very fine "green stuff." He measured a portion of the land—the crop was sold in Sydney, and returned him at the rate of (£23) twenty-three pounds sterling per acre.

Facts will by-and-by intrude themselves upon the public, in opposition to the prejudices of those who would seem to wish that the British inhabitants of Australia's wilds should grow up (comparatively speaking) in a state of slothful ignorance and semi barbarism, rather than industrious, intelligent, and independent citizens of a great nation. We can never become independent unless our agricultural interests are linked with the grazing. He who would advocate any one of the two exclusively is an enemy to the colony—let them go hand in hand, and the prosperity and advancement of Australia is insured.

Fearing that I have trespassed too far on your valuable columns, I will at present conclude in the words of the author of the Seasons—"Our fathers seized the plough, and greatly independent lived."

I am, &c.,

J. W.

September 17, 1845.

ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.

THIS EVENING, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1845,

Will be performed

THE PRIDE OF BIRTH;
OR, LOVE AND AMBITION.

A variety of entertainments.

To conclude with

ROB ROY.

ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1845,

Will be performed, for the first time in this colony, the opera of
THE DUENNA.

A variety of entertainments.

To conclude with

MEMOIRS OF THE GENTLEMAN IN BLACK.

In the course of the evening, a

DANCE BY MASTER CHAMBERS.

T. SIMES, Manager.



SYDNEY: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1845.

We have not deemed it necessary to say anything about the Tariff Bill, in consequence of the decided stand which most of the Members of Council have made against the project started by the Government, of imposing a tax upon sugar. We cannot, however, refrain from mentioning the fact, that one of the Crown Nominees is deeply interested in the passing of this bill—being the largest holder of sugar in the Colony—and having as we are informed, now in his possession so great a quantity, that in the event of the bill passing into a law, he will profit to the extent of at least ten or twelve thousand pounds. Under these circumstances, we trust that the advocacy of this gentleman will meet with the opposition which it deserves, and that our representatives will most decidedly set their faces against the imposition of a tax upon one of the most important necessities of life in this Colony, for the sake of advancing the pecuniary interests of any grasping member of the mercantile community.

Domestic.

FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SHOW.—The arrangement for the vernal exhibition of fruits and flowers &c. has, we think, been very clumsily managed. The show is to be on the 24th instant, and it was not advertised till the 17th. This is very bad, inasmuch as one week is altogether insufficient to advertise the meeting. How, in this short space of time, are residents in the interior to be made acquainted with the fact, and prepare accordingly. The notice ought to be at least three weeks. But this is a backward season, and we think it would, on every account, have been advisable to defer the show till the beginning of October. The mornings and evenings are very cold at present, and the difference of a week or two would be of no consequence to the interests of the Institution, while it would be of the utmost consequence to the interests of Florists and Horticulturists.

PORT PHILLIP.—By the Port Phillip papers received yesterday, we perceive that Mr. Curr is the only candidate in the field for the seat in the Legislative Council, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Boyd.

NEW ZEALAND.—By the arrival (on Thursday, 18th) of the *Terror*, from Auckland, and last from the Barrier, we find that the natives were then all quiet.

NEW JUDGE.—It is currently reported that the Attorney General has determined on going to the bench in the place of Mr. aBeckett, who retires to make way for him.

APPOINTMENT.—His Excellency the Governor has appointed James Richard Styles, Esq., of Bungonia, to be a magistrate of the territory and its dependencies.

ARITHMETICAL PROBLEM.—The following question was proposed at one of the largest Colleges in Sydney for solution—the boy giving the best answer to be free from impositions for three days:—Why is there no difference in weight between two pounds of Butter and two pounds of Bread, the one being porous and the other solid, and state the reasons? After nearly the whole had given their answers, one, generally considered more dull than the rest, most audaciously denied the fact; at which the whole school, masters, ushers, monitors, and boys, joined in one general laugh. He, however, persisted that he was right, and the master, ocularly to prove the truth of his proposition, had the weights, &c., brought in, when it was found that 2 pounds of the former weighed 27 ounces, and 2 pounds of the latter 23½ ounces—the difference being 1½ ounce. The desired boon was therefore thus awarded.