

flames burst violently through the roof, threatening momentary destruction to the dwelling house adjoining, and the stores of Messrs. Annand, Smith & Co., corner of Queen and Collins-streets. The roof was immediately scaled, and the moveables in all the adjacent houses removed to the street, where sentries were stationed to protect them. Some time after the occurrence, the Cornwall Insurance Office engine was on the spot, under the superintendence of Mr. Inspector Sugden and his fire brigade. But as the working of the engine was productive of but little benefit, in consequence of some of the leather pipes bursting the moment they were brought into operation. In the meantime several individuals were on the roof, a portion of that which communicated with Annand and Smith's house, was cut away; this, in fact, saved these premises, where there was a large quantity of gunpowder, which was not, singular to say, attempted to be removed until the fire had partially taken hold of the store. The flames were at length got under, but not until Liddy and Passfield's store and workshop were almost completely destroyed. The disastrous event originated in the following manner:—Attached to the kitchen of Mr. Thomas Hamilton, the saddler, who lives close by, is a loft which was filled with straw, and Hamilton's chimney having taken fire, in consequence of the bricks being rather loose the flame communicated with the dry material, which was soon in a blaze, and Liddy's store being the next building, and the roof low, the devastating element spread along the entire loft, previous to its ebullition through the shingles. Liddy and Passfield are sufferers to the extent of from £250 to £300, a considerable quantity of carriage material, ash and lancewood shafts, oil, turpentine, varnish, oil-cloth, &c., being reduced to ashes, but the entire property so destroyed belongs to the firm, several gigs, &c., left their for repair having been previously removed. The conduct of the following parties was most praiseworthy:—Messrs. Macarthur and Hussey, James Purves, Councilor O'Shanassy, W. R. Belcher, and William Pender. A young man in the employment of Batters, the tinsmith, named Patrick Cain, rendered eminent service, for he it was, through fire and water who succeeded in cutting away the portion of the roof to which we have already alluded. The following parties too were prominent in their exertions to arrest the progress of the flames: Patrick Ryan, waiter at the Royal Hotel, William Howard, and Thomas Alborough, who received a severe injury by falling through the roof. The first water carrier on the spot was a man named Patrick Deverix. The premises were uninsured and had the fire happened at a late hour of the night the result would have been most lamentable.—*P. P. Herald, Sept. 17.*

EUROPE.

MESMERISM.

Mr. Spencer Hall having proposed, at the close of his second lecture, in the town hall, Birkenhead, on Friday week, that a committee of medical and other gentlemen should be formed to investigate his experiments more fully than could be done at a public lecture in a crowded room, a number of gentlemen met at Mr. W. Green's, Chester-street, Birkenhead, on Monday, by the kind invitation of Mr. Green. There were present Mr. W. Green, senior, Mr. W. Green, junior, Mr. H. Green, Mr. Turvey, Mr. G. Turvey, Dr. Norton, Dr. Orpen, Mr. Hamilton, surgeon, Mr. Fenton, surgeon, of Liverpool, Mr. J. Wood, Mr. Pike, Mr. Jones, Mr. Buckton, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Fisher, and several other gentlemen and ladies. Dr. Orpen was called to the chair, and Dr. Norton acted as secretary.

Mr. S. Hall tried to mesmerise one of Mr. Green's servant-maids, whom he had succeeded in mesmerising on the previous Friday at Mr. Green's house, but was not successful at this time. He then succeeded in mesmerising a young lady whom he had never seen until just before the meeting, and whose name he did not know. She was from Shrewsbury, and stated that she had never been mesmerised before that day, and knew nothing on the subject, nor had ever been present at any lecture on the subject. Mr. Hall rendered her limbs rigid in a few minutes, and also put her to sleep, during which mesmeric sleep she sang in accordance with some tunes played by Mr. Turvey, and afterwards got up and danced. She could not be made to answer questions, or speak at all, nor to get up and walk about.

Mr. Hall tried to mesmerise a gentleman who was present, but could not; but, on this gentleman's taking hold of a stick which was held by the above-mentioned young lady, Mr. Hall made her arm and hand immovable, so that she could not open her hand and drop the stick, and then the gentleman's hand became also fixed and immovable, so that he could not open it or let go the stick. During these latter experiments, both were perfectly awake, and no part mesmerised, except one arm, and hand, the left. The same effect was produced on the young lady's arm, by various other persons in the room, and, among others, by two boys, one about 16, and the other about 10 years old.

Various opinions were, of course, expressed by various persons present as to the mental or nervous bodily causes of these phenomena: but as to the facts there could be no doubt at all, as the character and circumstances of Mr. Hall and of the young lady, and the certainty that they had never met until a few minutes before the meeting, made all idea of collusion or deception impossible and unimaginable.—*Liverpool Albion.*

ROYAL GENEALOGY.—The *Siècle* publishes the following:—“Genealogy of the Queen of England.—A young lawyer of the Parisian bar, the author of a remarkable treatise on the mortgage system, M. Charles de St. Nexpert, has addressed to us the following letter on the article we quoted yesterday from the *Quarterly Review*, showing that he has the honor of being a distant relation of the Royal family of England, which is of French origin by the female line:—“Sir,—The article of the *Quarterly Review* cited to-day in the *Siècle* is truly historical. Allow me to complete it by means of my family documents. The lordship of Olbrense, which had belonged to Alexander Desmiers, was given, in consequence of his relationship, by the King of England, George II., and his sister the Queen of Prussia, by an authentic act, dated the 28th of November, 1728, to Alexander Prevost, Knight, Lord of Gagemont, paternal father in the third degree of my mother, who was born Prevost de Gagemont. I have in my possession the deed of donation, the brevets, and letters patent. I am, &c., CHARLES DE ST. NEXPERT.”

NARROW ESCAPE.—In the list of soldiers reported to have been killed at the battle of Moodkee was the name of John Daniel, a private in her Majesty's 31st Regiment of Infantry, whose parents reside in Robinhood-yard, Nottingham. For a time his family were overpowered with grief at the loss of a son and a brother, and went into mourning; but when they had worn their funeral habiliments for two or three weeks, their mourning was turned into joy by the arrival of a letter from him, written in the hospital at Ferozepore on the 1st of February, stating that having been left for dead upon the field of battle during two days, he at length crawled into the camp, and was recovering! The letter says:—“It was with feelings of the greatest pleasure that I received your

welcome letter on the 17th December, but I have not had time to read it. \* \* \* I had opened it, and just read about four lines, when the word of command was given, ‘Stand to your arms, the enemy are upon us!’ and we fell in, and marched out to meet them. They were not idle, for they received us with plenty of round shot and shells, but our artillery forced them to retire, and the infantry, consisting of her Majesty's 9th, 31st, 50th, and 8th Regiments, with several native corps, covered by our cavalry and artillery, again advanced upon them. When we had got within a very short distance of them, they opened a fire of small arms upon us, together with grape and canister shot, which cut down a great many of our men; but we advanced steadily, until the word ‘Charge’ was given, when at that moment I was wounded through the ankle with a grapeshot, and dropped. \* \* \* I lay upon the field for two days in the greatest pain without refreshment of any kind, and without any dressing; but I happened to have a towel in my haversack, and I tied that round my leg. On the third morning I crept on my hands and knees for four miles, which took me six hours to accomplish; but I thank God that He enabled me to do it by any means, for if I had stayed two hours longer I should have been cut to pieces; the enemy scoured the field, and made short work of all they found alive by cutting off their heads. But they paid dearly for this, for our cavalry threw the rest into confusion. It has been reported that in this affair alone, which was but a skirmish, the enemy lost about 4,000 men! They were well hemmed in on all sides. I am now very comfortably accommodated in the hospital, and shall soon be able to get out on crutches. The doctor wanted to cut off my leg, but I would not let him, and I am glad now that I did not.”

LYNCH LAW ON A LADY THIEF.—A young lady (observes the *Edinburgh Chronicle*, whose name, on account of her respectable connections, we forbear to hint at) lately called upon a milliner in Edinburgh, and, having made some trifling purchase, was about to depart, when one of the assistants whispered to her mistress that she had observed the lady secrete a valuable lace collar. The milliner instantly charged her customer with the theft. She denied it; and the milliner insisted on her being searched, when the missing article was discovered in her muff. “Now, madam,” said the milliner, “you have been guilty of a most disgraceful act, and I am determined you shall not escape unpunished. I give you the choice of two things—either I will have you given up to the police, or you must submit to receive a sound whipping.” After many attempts to modify the anger of the dressmaker, the fair thief at last, with no very good grace, consented to submit to the latter alternative. A servant having been dispatched for a pair of taws, with which she quickly returned, and all obstacles having been removed, the milliner proceeded to administer the well-merited punishment, which she did with a heart and a will, in the presence, and much to the entertainment of the assembled workwomen, who, in turn, “took” the taws. All parties being tired with the exercise, the lady, whose complexion was considerably heightened, was permitted to withdraw, and stepping into a noddy in which she had come (the cushion of which, we dare say, she by no means found too soft), was driven home, having got a lesson which we hope she will not soon forget, and which, no doubt, will operate as a warning to those ladies who cannot distinguish between *meum* and *tuum*.

Original Correspondence.

Mr. ATLAS—I sent you the other day a letter, in which I advocated an immediate movement with regard to the supply of labor, and propounded one or two reasons which to me seem cogent, respecting the occupation of Crown lands, the tendency of which is to depreciate the long leases demanded by a numerically small lot of those technically called large squatters.

I cannot but be confident that the working of the 21 years' lease system would be impracticable for the Government, and prejudicial to the colony; at the same time, I look upon sale, or leases upon secure footing, of all occupied Crown lands as indispensable to the success of the colony; protracted leases would be unwieldy; short leases, conveying full possession during their terms would be not only satisfactory to the people, but could be managed with less machinery, less liability of deception than the system of license and assessment hitherto in use. Again I repeat, that full power to deal with the land ceded to an occupant, (right to impound stock trespassing, &c.) should be conferred upon him, and that such a cession would do much to facilitate the suppression of horse and cattle stealing; the small per centage of cases of which crimes that are brought to trial, compared with the number committed, aye, and known to be committed, being incredible to the gay residents of Sydney.

Since writing my former letter to you, I have had some conversation with a neighbour of mine, with whose views I heartily concur in most points, and as I think his reasonings deserving of the attention of all colonists, I will state them to you almost in his own words, and embodying his plan so as to preserve its unity and idiosyncrasy, even where I add any of my own ideas.

I submit, then, that the most beneficial adjustment of the squatting question, both for the British Government and the colony, would be immediate or speedy sale to each squatter of the whole of his run, (good and bad land inclusively) at a valuation based upon its depaupering capabilities.

That the whole sum thus raised should be devoted to the immediate introduction of immigrants.

That though the colony would be paralyzed by the abstraction of the capital involved in the above scheme from its circulation, (the payment being in specie and distributed abroad) it can conveniently pay a low interest of the said capital.

That it is to the advantage of the British Government, for obvious reasons—relief from over population—employment of its shipping—rapid extension of market for its manufactures, and growing facilities of deriving raw material and other produce from its own colonies—to advance the required capital at a low rate, the land itself forming full and sufficient security.

That as the amounts hitherto paid by squatters for runs of 16,000 acres, (good and bad inclusively) estimated to contain 4,000 sheep have been:—

License .....	£10 0 0
Assessment .....	16 13 4
Total .....	£26 13 4

if we assume 4 per cent as sufficient for interest and a sinking fund, and that a squatter in consequence of the advantages of the loan, fixity of tenure and command of labour can pay 2s. 10d. per acre for the whole of his run, it follows that each squatter will pay just three times as much annually for his run, as he has hitherto paid, and will contribute largely to the exportation from the United Kingdom of a population already crowded, and while I now write in some places famishing. As the benefit accruing to the colony by the introduction of the labour will be treated in another place, it is sufficient to state here that during the payment of the estimated interest, every lot of 16,000 acres, occupied by a squatter in New South Wales, would be the means of relieving Great Britain of about eight souls annually.

I have assumed that an early and rapid introduction of population is the soundest policy for this colony; our returns of stock prove it; we have food sufficient for many times our present population, and that food, by a strange inversion belonging to our position, by its present increase, so far from benefiting its possessors becomes the means of impoverishing them, by placing them at the mercy of the labouring community, competition for whose services is carried to such an extent, that the profits accruing from its employment are lost sight of, and gradually cease to exist.

I admitted, in my former letter, that the proprietors of stock have their remedy (*i. e.* boiling down), but I asserted, and do still assert, that “human nature” leads each fool to be sanguine of success, and that the deeds of the foolish with regard to labour become necessarily the law of the wise; until another crisis, or immigration takes place, there can be no retrogression of the daily increasing price of labour.

How, without increase of population, can we improve our position, which now possesses nearly all the evils with none of the advantages of a nomadic life? The want of a few seasonable showers parches the herbs from which we derive our subsistence; the channels of the water-courses to which we fly, are exhausted, and our flocks and herds drop down and die; the improvements of civilization are known to us only afar off, and cannot serve to alleviate our wants; we dare not wander, as did the patriarchs, for pasture, for the laws of civilization meet us frowningly in the face.

We require, at any rate, churches, school-houses, and public buildings of all kinds; it may be presumed that we have a right to aspire to the possession of houses, gardens, vineyards, wells, dams, bridges, and roads, and yet what likelihood have we of obtaining them? Our population barely suffices to tend the stock in hand, and such is the excess of demand for labour above the supply, that employers are compelled to hazard their flocks in the care of men whom they have never before seen, who come to them without recommendation, and who, if they by accident or neglect lose a part of the flock, start off forthwith to impose themselves upon other employers. It may be said that the improvements alluded to, exist near Sydney; they do, but Sydney is a settlement or factory such as Calcutta, Singapore, Hongkong; and we are the toiling (not printer's, but) merchant's devils, receiving no more direct benefit from the merchants in Sydney, than do the Indians, Malays, or Chinese, from those of Calcutta, &c. &c. Like the printer's devil, we perform much for the factor whose name appears upon our handiwork: he culls his profits, careless whether he leaves sufficient for our subsistence or not; he experiences no depression, monetary, or arising from the inclemency of seasons. “I know its hard upon you my dear fellow, but I never reduce my commission, on principle; I must keep my books regularly.” Probably this was the reason that induced the borrowing of the money of banks to assist in the purchase of cheap wool a short time back; the early prices were low, and it kept up appearances to compel them to remain so; it saved much vulgar waste of time too, that shuffling of gold-colored flowers on the borders of the bank, preserving, pickling, or salting the prized and precious odours for the nostrils of the select.

Our consciousness of the manner in which we are fleeced in no wise betters the matter; to meet our expenses, we must part with our wool, and for that we only get enough money to float with until the ensuing season, our fishers for men skilfully giving us line now and then to keep us in a string till they require us again. They are an ill-favored sort of spider, which is spared the trouble of spinning webs to catch us the poor flies, for they have only to wait at the door till we call, when the forceps is applied so as to leave us but just substance to keep us alive till our necessity compels us to go to town again, and suffer the same exhausting process. In short, we are either *gored*, or pecked at by *daws*, blood-boltered by *salt*ing, or circumvented like casks by a *cooper*, kneaded into unpleasant *flour*, or hammered by a *smith*, and compelled to traverse slippery *bournes*; never buoyed but when we are squeezed and sucked like oranges; unlike Cleopatra, we cannot fail to find an *asp* in all, and are finally driven to confess that one of the best things that can happen to us is to be afflicted with the botts; we find no tenderness in *lamb*, no relief from *fanning*, for howsoever we get on the windy side of the law, they can get a *windier*; if we cry out, we are hunted to execution, and if we cease to be pricked by the *stubs*, it is only to be goaded *à la mort*. Excuse me, Mr. ATLAS, if my mind wanders under the infliction of such various and grinding evils, and I will resume the even tenor of my discourse. To resume, labouring as the colony is, under a want of population, I think we may assume that, under the present system, which I will call for shortness the desert system, the value of all the land beyond the boundaries will not be so great as £1 per acre fifty years hence: for the purpose of argument assume it to be £1. Supposing each couple now introduced (excuse any slight error in statistics) to produce four children, those children to produce eight children within the ensuing fifty years, (*i. e.* a total of fourteen adults) it follows that land sold now at the rate of the seventh part of £1 (*i. e.* 2s. 10d.) will have the same effect in the introduction of population, as to numbers, as the same land sold fifty years hence at £1 per acre.

To prove that the abstraction of the contemplated interest will by its proposed application, benefit rather than exhaust the colony, let us calculate the worth of the labour introduced. In the times of greatest depression, no couple earned less than £20 per annum; assume £10 also for rations as necessary, though £20 is a nearer approximation to fact, and £10 as profit to the employer.

During 20 years the original couple at £40 .....	£800
During 25 years the 4 children at £40 per couple .....	1875
“ the 8 grand-children, making in all ..	500

£3175

The above cannot be considered an exaggerated statement, but rather the contrary. Perhaps by estimating the interest, annual and compound, and estimating more rigidly the earnings in shape of wages, £5000 would be less than might fairly be calculated upon in a new country like this.

Multiply the greater or lesser sum by as many thousand couples as might *immediately* be introduced, and we shall have the total lost now to the colony by adherence to the desert system. Britain itself would also profit by the removal of its surplus paupers and their prospective increase, in at least the amount saved in the respective parishes. If we assume £1 yearly saved upon each individual, we have—

Saved by removal of the original couple, 50 years ..	£100 0 0
Ditto, by absence of 4 children, say 30 years ..	120 0 0
Ditto, ditto, 8 grand-children, say only ..	80 0 0

£300 0 0

Thus by the time that England had expended, as a *loan* (bearing interest) to Australia, the sum of £2,000,000 on emigration (I assume £10 per head as the cost of exportation to a port here), the direct benefit accruing to herself would be £30,000,000. Considerable indirect profit may be taken into account as arising from employment of her shipping, and creation of increased demand for her manufactures.

The purchase money of a station of 16,000 acres at the contemplated rate, amounts to £2,000; the interest, at 4 per cent., to £80 (as I have before remarked, three times the present amount paid). Now, I assert that all practical squatters would willingly undertake to pay this sum (in excess of all taxes, which would become lighter with the increase of population) on condition that at the end of — years the land should become their own, that the system should be general, and that the money thus paid should be applied to the liquidation of the interest of a sum borrowed for immigration; practical squatters feel that under the present system they will be compelled to pay as much or more to the present labouring population (each individual of which now receives about 100 per cent. more than his labour is worth, and in consequence is reckless and squanders that amount in public-houses), without any corresponding benefits. In fact, as the rate of payment increases the care of the servant becomes less, and his work is more inefficiently performed.

It may be asserted that these views are widely different from those advocated by the squatters in the Pastoral Association. They are so; but the Pastoral Association was considered useful in opposing, with much influence, the exercise of arbitrary power on the part of the Executive. No squatter, however, really bent upon acquiring a competence without impoverishing his adopted country, it is to be hoped, contemplated retaining possession of waste lands at a nominal rate, after the time had arrived when the true interests of the colony imperatively demanded the raising of a fund to supply with which the waste lands only are available. Hear me, ye who would grow fat upon the soil, without attaching yourselves to it by any chords of sympathy, your hour is come either to depart, or to take up your burdens cheerfully like brethren from one land, bent upon one undertaking. You have neglected to identify yourselves with the people, and the people will now spurn your association. Be wise in time; "make less your bodies, more your grace."

I think the only additional statement I have to make is this:—If maugre all reasonings by the right and confessions by the wrong, (witness Sir George Gipps's despatches, wherein he owns that land in the far interior is less worth per acre than one small farthing, according to the profits deductible from it), it should prove impossible to obtain a reduction in the upset price of land, the provisions of the act must be complied with in letter and eluded in spirit; land without the boundaries must be purchased as it was within; select portions must be taken at a high price, commanding fully and legally a surrounding block of larger extent; in short, occupants of squatting stations must be permitted to select and buy water-frontages.

If they pay then as much and no more than they can afford, according to the value of their total run, the same object will be attained, but in a more clumsy manner, as if the whole were purchased at its actual value.

Absurd as it appears for people to implore that they may not be compelled to give more for a thing than its value, such is neither more nor less than the humble prayer of the squatters to their Queen, Houses of Parliament, and Sir Charles Fitz Roy (God bless him!)—the best colonial-bred horse in the colony enjoys his title and Christian name, as if in anticipation of some good fortune in store for us, and I for one sincerely wish we may get it. I have done my best, and perhaps more than my duty, in the attempt to advocate our interests and those of the colony, and I can therefore sleep with a pleasant conscience.

#### A WORKING SQUATTER.

Squatting Station, Sept. 14, 1846.

P.S.—Why do not those who subscribe for the relief of the Irish stipulate, as they are entitled to do, that the objects of their relief be forwarded to this colony? The immigrants thus procured would be free from want henceforth, and their removal from Ireland would leave so much the more food there, by which means a double amount of good would be effected.

#### SHANDY AND TRIM DISCUSSING LAW, JUSTICE, AND REASON.

Law, Trim, why it's dearer than physic!

Aye, your honor, and *worser* too; for physic soon passes away, but law, your honor, is all as uncertain as the weather, and may gripe and purge session after session, and year after year—particularly when it gets into the Chancery pestle.

Yes, Trim, but both are necessary evils, as long as there is disease in the body and dishonesty in the heart. Yet, Trim, if you have learned your catechism, you may escape much of both, by keeping your body in temperance, sobriety, and chastity; your hands from picking and stealing, and your tongue from evil speaking, lying, and slandering. There is Mr. Consistency, Trim, a colonial sapping, who went to Lincoln's Inn, and came out an iron-bark barrister; his exterior as unsightly as the tree of his native woods, and his inside as hard as the timber of the same. Attorneys stank in his nostrils, his sensitive nerves could not endure "the bearing garden court," and thinking the community overburdened with money, he pressed a division of the bar; and even now, he says, Trim, that the insolvent colony is rich enough to keep both pockets open, one for the attorney, the other for the barrister; so that, being unlike other colonies, we are to be plundered larboard and starboard. Here a division is desirable, though undesirable elsewhere: for here we are fat enough (seeing our tallow sells well) to support two leeches at once, while the beggarly half-starved wretches of Canada, Van Diemen's Land, &c., can scarce support one. We had always thought, Trim, that the vermin clung more to the lean beasts than the fat ones, but Mr. Consistency thinks the reverse. So, Trim, this accounts for the swarms of these locusts we have filling our land and eating up the very substance we have been labouring to preserve for our helpless babes, but the argument (logical or illogical) amounts to this, that these privileged, learned, and honorable men, can only keep up the monopoly where the energies of others have buttered their bread for them. But, Trim, the iron-bark advocate would try to prove that one lawyer would be as expensive as two—that no time would be gained—no fees lessened—no privacy of a man's affairs saved exposure—in fact, that by immediate and personal communication with only one lawyer, we will be actually worse off than by employing two, one of whom we dare not exchange a glance with—that it is less expensive and more to the interest of the community to support and fatten two families whose occupations are virtually the same, than one family; this is logic, Trim, with a vengeance. Why does not Mr. Ironbark employ the shoemaker's journeyman to take and carry his measure to the master tradesman, instead of sending direct to the head of the trade to bring his rule and his tape, and so pay the journeyman and the master too? If a monopoly be necessary, Trim, in law, why not in everything else—why should there not be a law that we *must* have an apothecary, surgeon, and physician?—Mr. Pestle to communicate with Mr. Lancet, and Mr. Lancet with Mr. Pill, as that we *must* (whether we have money, time, or inclination) go to Mr. Parchment, that he may communicate with Mr. Wig, because Mr. Wig, having a long gown on him, will only be allowed to plead the case in Court? Aye, Trim, it is true enough what Mr. Jeremy says:

"John is paid for attending Thomas—Thomas for having attended John; John was paid for writing what Thomas had to read—Thomas for reading what John had written." So there is often much to do about nothing; they go round a circle and back again, waltzing to the tune—

The client pays for all,  
Be the bill great or small—  
Barrister and attorney too  
Must each have his due.

But the wig and the silk gown, Trim, like the czars ermine, must not be polluted, says *the second in command*, "by coming in contact with the ignorant and the unlearned;" no, the menial of the law, the apothecary of the profession, the compounder of the brief, "*who pays the fee*," would have reason for so doing and it would hardly be because he had eaten these dinners or any such nonsense;" this is the climax of puppyism and silliness—yes, there is the reason of compulsion, the rule of Court is the rule of reason in this case. Mr. Parchment, it says, though you may be a sharp witted fellow, keen and learned in the intricacies of the law, yet as you have never eaten these term dinners—never gone through the twelve exercises—never touched the pewter plate—as you have no wig to keep your brains warm, and no silk gown to cover your nakedness—you *must* for these reasonable reasons and for our reasonable pleasure consult Mr. Numbskull, the barrister, for which, Mr. Parchment, your client, be he rich or poor, *must* think it reasonable that he pays you 6/8 for going and 6/8 for coming back again, and £1 ls. at least for consulting, Mr. Numbskull, the barrister, so to keep up the dignity of this higher professional grade—a profession to which he "*must stick to all his life*," though it may not stick to him one single session. Lord, Trim, is this law or logic—is this the utterance of a school-boy or a legislator—and then, Trim, the sage parallel between the medical and legal professions, as if the law *obliged* us to have all the branches of the profession, on all occasions, in attendance on us when sick.

Why, your honor as often sends to old molly Jones, the herb woman, for a bolus, as to the great Doctor Blue-Pill for his advice.

Yes, yes, Trim, we may call in twenty doctors or twenty apothecaries if we like and can pay for them, but we are not *obliged* to do so—a man is allowed to judge for himself when his life is at stake, but when his reputation, his property, &c., are in jeopardy, he cannot, he must not, he dare not act freely—he must send the man without the wig to the man with the wig, and so the poor client gets a wiggling whether he likes it or not. But, above all, Trim, it is now provable to a demonstration, that "cheap law is a curse." Cheap physic, cheap bread, cheap clothing may be the same when *abused*, but this is no reason why (and lawyer Numbskull knows it too) a rule should be passed to make physic, bread, and clothing dear. Let the fools who abuse cheap law smart under the cause of it—but let not this shut the doors of justice against the honest and poor portions of society and shelter knaves from punishment—let not, I say, this propensity of our nature to turn blessings into curses, be made an argument that the community at large must be fleeced, families ruined, justice evaded, law made a quibble, and a whole host of drones be upheld, merely because some few pugnacious reptiles delight in squabbling and litigating every trifling dispute.

Aye, aye, Trim, free trade in corn and land, but monopoly in law. We see how the vane twirls round, how it shuffles with every breeze, how we love the trade wind while it blows in our favor, but when we have to tack against it, we cry out immediately that we are chartered from Lincoln's Inn with a pewter plate, wig, and green bag, and that all laws and rules, however applicable to other crafts, are not applicable to us, no, we are privileged to keep aloof from "the ignorant and the unlearned," our pure ermine cannot be soiled, this is the work of the 6/8 drudges. Professional honor of this kind is like professional sanctity, more external than real—"it gives neither talent nor respectability to the profession of a barrister, whilst it shuts out those who have both, and therefore should be renounced and spurned."

SHANDY.

P.S.—It is a pity your journal is not published twice a-week, it would answer better than a daily paper in the distant parts of the colony, where the post reaches only twice in the week.

Lost, stolen, or strayed, in the debate upon the legal monopoly, two barristers' full wigs, with all their wits in the lining of the same. Messrs. Numbskull and Parchment will give a liberal reward for the recovery of the same.

MR. ATLAS—When we wish to call the attention of our rulers to any particular grievance, without putting ourselves individually forward, we generally do so through the medium of the newspaper press; and it is with that view that I now seek your assistance to bring under the notice of our Judges, a Law, or rather a Rule of Court, which appears to me to act oppressively in particular cases; I allude to the Rule of Court under which the Estate of an Intestate is collected in this colony.

By the New South Wales Act, and also by the Rules of Court, when any one dies in the colony Intestate, and without having any next of kin, the Collector of Intestate Estates, is empowered to apply to the Court for an order to enable him to get in the Estate, pay the debts, and then deposit the surplus in the Savings Bank for any one who may shew themselves entitled to it; and no one can for one moment doubt but that this provision is a wise one, in fact it is absolutely necessary. The case however, to which I allude, is this,—a man in the lower ranks of life dies Intestate, leaving a widow and family, he may be possessed, perhaps, of 500 head of cattle, the widow is called on to take out administration, the assets are valued at £500, and before administration will be granted to her, she is required by the Supreme Court Rules, to find two sureties to join her in the administration, bound in the sum of £1000 each, and these sureties must justify in the same manner as in justification of bail in actions at Law, that is, swear themselves to be worth the amount after payment of all debts, &c. Now, I would ask any one, where is a woman in the position of life I have mentioned, who could possibly find these sureties; she may not have a friend of her own class in life, far less one worth so large a sum, and willing to be bound for her. In England, a party to whom administration is granted, is compelled to find sureties it is true, but it is only in particular cases they are bound to justify; but to return to the instance given above, the widow is unable to find the sureties, and what is the consequence, the Collector of Intestate Estates, seizes and sells all the assets, and converts them into money; and what is to become of the widow and children? The children's share, they being minors, is, I suppose, invested in the Savings Bank; but how very inadequate is the income derived from that source to what might have been got from the cattle.

I cannot but think, that the interference of the Collector in a case of the kind above mentioned, is an excess of authority, for I do not find by the Rules or Charter, that he is authorised to act, except in cases where the Intestate leaves no next of kin in the colony; then, indeed, none so proper as him to take possession of

the assets; but the case I have mentioned is far different, and is little short of tyranny and gross oppression. Who can be so proper to have the care of the children's property in a case of this kind as the mother; she is bound by law to support her children, and if she abuses her trust, then let the Court interfere, and if there are creditors, they have their remedy, for if the widow neglects to take out administration and pay the debts, they can cite her to do so, and in the event of non-compliance, can do so themselves, or the Collector might sell enough to pay the debts, and leave the surplus in the hands of the widow.

I would suggest, therefore, that this Rule of Court be amended—that where a man dies Intestate, leaving a widow and children, the widow should be allowed to have the management of the estate, on a certificate from respectable parties that she is of good character, or else security should be taken as at home. If she refuses to pay the debts, the creditors should have power to sue, and if they can shew waste, then give the Collector summary power, as at present, to collect the assets, and take the management of the estate out of her hands. In the case I have mentioned above, and which actually exists, the family will be utterly ruined, whereas if the property had remained unsold, it would have afforded them a comfortable subsistence.

It may be said that it is impossible to legislate for particular cases—I admit it, but surely a discretionary power might be given to the Court.

M.

MR. ATLAS—I send you two extracts from "Jack Hinton," on which you may dilate a little in your usual happy style. The first is from "The Ball Scene," and the other from the succeeding chapter, headed "The Finale."

"Had Mrs. Paul Rooney been asked, on the morning after her ball, what was her most accurate notion of elysian bliss, she probably would have answered—leaning upon a viceroys arm, in her own ball-room, under the envious stare and jealous gaze of eight hundred assembled guests. Her flushed look, her flashing eye, the trembling hand with which she waved her fan, the proud imperious step, all spoke of triumph; in fact, such was the halo of reverence, such the reflected brightness the representative of monarchy then bore, she felt it a prouder honour to be thus escorted, than if the Emperor of all the Russians had deigned to grace her mansion with his presence. How she loved to run over every imaginable title she conceived applicable to his rank—"your royal highness," "your grace," "your noble lordship," varying and combining them like a child, who runs his erring fingers over the keys of a pianoforte, and is delighted with the efforts of his skill."

"The Duke walked towards the door. Here above a hundred people were now assembled, their curiosity excited in no small degree by a picket of Light Dragoons, who occupied the middle of the street, and were lying upon the ground or leaning on their saddles in all the wearied attitudes of a night-watch; in fact, the Duke had forgotten to dismiss his guard of honour, who had accompanied him to the Theatre, and thus had spent the dark hours of the night keeping watch and ward over the proud dwelling of the Rooneys. A dark frown settled on the Duke's features as he perceived the mistake, and muttered between his teeth 'how they will talk of this in England.'"

"How they will talk of this in England"—no doubt they will; and I can tell you, MR. ATLAS, that it has been not a little talked of even here, and the public expect of you that you will do your duty, always bearing in mind the advice of Horace, "*Ne scutica dignum horribili sectere flagello*." Your article on the government ball was disapproved of by the respectable portion of your readers—they condemned it as being written in a bad spirit and in bad taste—but you have here a legitimate excuse for a little gentle castigation. The question is, will you make use of it? Many who are ill disposed towards you, are of opinion that you will eschew it, because it so happens that a certain gentleman, who is said to exercise a powerful influence over the ATLAS, is on terms of intimacy with one of the parties concerned. Let me warn you, MR. ATLAS, that if you yield to such influences, you will descend from the lofty position you have attained, as an independent journalist, a fearless exposé of abuses. Every allowance is to be made for a stranger coming among us, but in this particular instance, a certain high personage can have no excuse, for the press at home has not been silent. The press of England had sent forth its denunciations in a tone not to be misunderstood, long before he had quitted her shores, and they ought to have been a guide to direct his steps in his first appearance in Sydney society.

A SUBSCRIBER.

#### LICENSED PUBLICANS.—THE SINGLETON PETITION.

MR. ATLAS—Some mis-statements having appeared in, and respecting, this petition, it is thought right that the public mind and the Council should be disabused.

In the first place, it is not the petition of the inhabitants of Singleton, having neither originated in a public meeting, nor been exposed for signature at any public place. On the contrary, it has been carefully kept from the view of several persons anxious to peruse it, and carried about from place to place, for the purpose of obtaining signatures, accompanied by such explanations, or want of explanations, as suited the objects of the projectors, and were adapted to the feelings, prejudices, and ignorance of the persons canvassed. In short, it was truly a "hole and corner" petition.

Secondly, its allegation that the publicans of Singleton are making fortunes, is not true—so far from it, the trade has so fallen off, that of the six Licensed Publicans in the town, one became a bankrupt, another is on the wing to a different district to escape becoming so, whilst others are either wholly or partly subsisting on their already accumulated means.

Thirdly, it is difficult to imagine, how the framer of the petition could have ascertained his alleged statement of the increase of Travellers through the district, and should be challenged to explain it; this being the more necessary in the face of the fact, that other routes are now-a-days taken to the remote districts of the Clarence, the Richmond, and Moreton Bay, many persons as it is well known, going by the steamer to the latter place direct from Sydney.

Fourthly, the petition states that the three applicants were respectable men, with large families, which, though true in part, is notoriously untrue as a whole, and is quite sufficient to prove the unscrupulousness of the assertion.

Fifthly, the vague and disingenuous innuendoes against the Magistrates, prevents the possibility of particular refutation, and renders it unnecessary to reply to a libel, which has not dared to be specific. But it will hardly be thought respectful in a petition to the framers of the law, thus to impugn and insidiously endeavour to bring into contempt the administration thereof.

These remarks will doubtless be sufficient, till a counter-petition or a public meeting disclaims, on behalf of the essential body of the town, the petition; and brings to light the real circumstances under which many of the signatures have been obtained.

A CORRESPONDENT.