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EDUCATION.

REASON and common sense have triumphed over bigotry and intolerance. Lord Stanley's national system of education is at length to have a fair trial. In spite of the formidable petition of five-and-twenty thousand men, women, and children, masters and servants, clergymen and nurserymaids, people who could read and write, and people who could do neither. Steps are about being taken to prevent the great bulk of the rising generation of this colony from growing up in savage ignorance. Beaten and thwarted for a time, by the clamour of a parcel of clergymen, and a horde of ignorant dupes, aided by the ready co-operation of a Governor who scarcely ever acted right except by accident, and who opposed what he most strongly approved, because it was also approved by persons whom he hated—the friends of education have at length seen their laudable and disinterested efforts in a fair way to be crowned with complete success. The announcement made by the Colonial Secretary on Tuesday last, of the intention of the Government to place the sum of two thousand pounds upon the estimates for the purpose of establishing Lord Stanley's system of education, and to subject all the present denominational schools to the inspection of a board, is one which must be hailed by every man of liberal and enlightened mind with the most lively satisfaction. The refusal of Sir Charles Fitz Roy to carry out the wishes of the Council, as expressed in their address to him last session upon this matter, was viewed by us with considerable disappointment and regret. Looking back, however, to the course which he adopted upon that occasion, and considering the very warm, and almost personal manner in which the educational controversy had been conducted, both in and out of Council, we are not prepared to say now that Sir Charles Fitz Roy did not act in the most judicious and becoming way. He could not then be aware of the contemptible nature of that opposition which to distant or careless observers presented such a formidable aspect. He could not then know the petty, disingenuous, and dishonest artifices which the appointed teachers of religion so perseveringly resorted to, for the purpose of perpetuating that ignorance which they have ever looked upon as the foundation of their power. He could not then be acquainted with the general ignorance of those who opposed, and the general enlightenment of those who supported the introduction of a national system of education. Experience could not then have taught him to behold on one side the liberal and well-instructed portion of the community, and on the other the narrow-minded and the illiterate—the former humanely desirous of imparting that light in which they had themselves already shared—the latter obstinately and insauely striving to repel it. These things he has now had ample opportunities of ascertaining, and having ascertained them, he has promptly made up his mind to obey the call which has been made upon him, and to give the assistance of his Government to the grand and truly beneficent task of spreading the dominion of that knowledge which is power, and, as a necessary consequence, of extending the influence of that morality which is the best safeguard of society. We are willing to attribute his Excellency's determination in this instance to a disposition on his part to consult in every way that he consistently can, the wishes and interests of this community, but we cannot help thinking that the happy removal of the Bishop of

Australia from the Executive Council, and the elevation of the Attorney General to his Lordship's seat, has had some influence upon the policy of the Government. The withdrawal of this dangerous prelate from all political power, we looked upon as one of the most fortunate events that could befall us, and our satisfaction at such an occurrence is greatly augmented, by the fact of its being so speedily followed by an act on the part of the Executive which so strongly evinces the little communion of opinion that exists between Bishop Broughton and Sir Charles Fitz Roy. The retirement of his Lordship from the post of confidential adviser to the Governor, could not have been followed by a more appropriate act, than the adoption by his Excellency of a line of policy which has always had to encounter the vehement opposition of the Bishop and his followers. While giving all praise, however, to Sir Charles Fitz Roy, for the course which he has so promptly taken, we cannot help expressing a hope that the sum promised will be increased to four thousand pounds—a sum which will not be more than sufficient to properly commence this great experiment—if experiment that can be called, which in another country has already been productive of such signally beneficial results. In a question of such great importance, we cannot think that the legislature will desire to be parsimonious. They cannot be too extravagant, when the good to be achieved by the expenditure is so far beyond all calculation. It would, we confess, have gratified us more if Sir Charles Fitz Roy had declared his readiness, at once, to give his consent to the withdrawal of all support from the denominational schools. But although he has not done this, he has done almost as well in proposing to place them under the superintendence of a board. This supervision, if properly conducted, will be nearly as beneficial as if these establishments were carried on altogether under the national system of Lord Stanley. An efficient superintendence will be so utterly at variance with the designs, and the wishes of Bishop Broughton and his clergy, that they will either have to reject State support altogether, or be content to see their most darling projects continually thwarted without being able to offer the slightest resistance. Under these circumstances, we think that Sir Charles Fitz Roy deserves well of the colonists of New South Wales—that he has now done an act, the advantages of which, no one among us can foresee. For ourselves, amidst much that we see to give us confidence in the growing wealth and prosperity of this colony. We know of no circumstance which so greatly raises our hopes and our expectations—which gives us so well grounded a confidence in the future greatness of New South Wales, as the introduction among us of a sound system of national education—a system which, without reference to creed or party, will throw open to every one the most inestimable of all blessings—a system which will bind, in enlightened Christian fellowship, together, thousands who would otherwise grow up ignorant, brutish, superstitious, and mutually hostile—a system which will enable the poorest and humblest among us to partake, in some degree, of that knowledge, which is day by day advancing us nearer to perfection—a system which will teach thousands, now knowing no gratification beyond the supply of their bodily wants, to form some conception of the glorious treasures—the splendid source of enjoyment—which the cultivation of their intellect will place at their disposal—a system which will break the chains of ignorance, snap asunder the fetters of superstition, and enable the working man to hold communion with the man of science and erudition—a system which by giving to intellectual eminence and exertion, a larger field and a greater circle of admirers, will add a new impulse to the constantly accelerating progress of human knowledge. The ignorance of the multitude, has, in every age, been the great obstacle to every social and political reform—it has ever presented a solid and massive barrier against the plans of the benevolent and the wise—it has ever been the slave of despotism, and the tool of power—it has ever been the most formidable antagonist which the patriot and the statesman have been called upon to encounter—it has ever led the slave to spurn his liberator, and

to bow down in willing homage to his oppressor—it, at this moment, keeps more than half of Europe degraded and subdued—and makes the liberation of the serf impossible, not because of the power and disposition of the Lord, but because of the cherished voluntary submission of the vassal. Education is necessary to make a people love freedom, and to teach them how to acquire and how to preserve it. Constitutional government in the hands of an ignorant populace is far inferior to an enlightened despotism. An educated tyrant is better than a brutish constituency. The ignorance and corruption of a democracy, are the sure forerunners of arbitrary power. Let our statesmen then promote to the utmost, the cause of education—that true Promethean spark, which alone can animate the multitude with a consciousness of their true dignity, and an inflexible determination to support it.

THE COAL MONOPOLY.

If we did not know the proneness of the *Sydney Morning Herald* to side on all occasions with the powerful, we should have been astonished at the observation which it has put forth with respect to Mr. Grant's motion. It is stated, in substance, that the Australian Agricultural Company enjoys no monopoly, and that the reservation of coal mines made in all grants issued since the date of the Company's charter is the result of a fair bargain which the Company have faithfully kept, and which the Government is bound to see strictly carried out. A monopoly is described by Lord Coke to be "an institution or allowance by the King, by his grant, commission, or otherwise, to any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, of or for the sole buying, selling, making, working, or using of anything, whereby any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, are sought to be restrained of any freedom or liberty they had before, or hindered in their lawful trade, and therefore, all grants of this kind relating to any known trade, are made void by the Common law." The 21. Jac. 1., c. 3, declares and enacts, "that all monopolies, and all commissions, grants, licenses, charters, and letters patent, to any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate whatsoever, of or for the sole buying, selling, making, working, or using of anything within this realm, or Wales, or of any other monopolies, and all proclamations, inhibitions, restraints, warrants of assistance, and all other matters whatsoever, any way tending to the instituting, strengthening, furthering, or countenancing of the same, or any of them, are altogether contrary to the laws of this realm, and so are and shall be utterly void and of none effect, and in no wise to be put in use and execution." Now what is it that the Crown has in effect granted to the Australian Agricultural Company? What but an exclusive allowance to work and sell coal in this colony? The means by which this has been accomplished are immaterial—the result is that this Company has been given an effective monopoly of the trade in one of the most important necessities of life. The Crown may have taken an indirect way to accomplish this object, but this does not make the act of the Crown in doing so the less illegal. Holding, as we always have done and always shall do, that the Crown is the mere trustee of the waste lands of this colony for the benefit of the colonists generally, we can recognise no right in the Crown to make these reservations—but even if the Crown were authorised to make such reservations, it is contrary to both the common and the statute law, that it should make them with a view to benefit a particular corporation. We might concede the right of the Crown to keep all coal to itself, but we cannot concede to it the right of giving to any one the exclusive privilege of dealing in coal. If the Crown has this right of reservation which it has exercised, it has no right to exercise it for the purpose of creating a monopoly. The bargain made between the government and the Company, is a matter tending to countenance a monopoly, and therefore illegal by the statute of James, and being illegal the government ought not to support it any longer. That a few other grantees are sharers in this monopoly can make no difference, for the monopoly consists not in one person enjoying an exclusive privilege, but in any one being excluded from the

privilege enjoyed by one or more. On strict legal principles, therefore, this privilege enjoyed by the Company is clearly illegal. We shall not insult our readers by saying one word about its fitness or expediency, now or thirty years ago. Under any circumstances, it was disgraceful, and in our opinion, it becomes a Company which has so long and so illegally profited by it, and which has received such splendid gifts from the Crown, to insist so pertinaciously on what it is pleased to term a fair bargain, that what in reality was a gross act of public spoliation.

PLACE-HUCKSTERS.

Unshackled will, frank utterance of the mind;
In these should power his surest safeguard find.

(Of jobs there are two sorts; the job major, and the job minor. Great jobs, much talked of at the time, become lost or forgotten in the bustle of business; little jobs are contemptible, and in a small community continue nauseous so long as the subject of them remains in the possession of what had its origin in unworthy motives. Great jobs are very different; these must not be allowed to escape public animadversion so easily; their example is more pernicious, and like the worst examples, the most readily followed. Like many other vices, the name of jobbing is legion. One job is pretty sure to be followed by others; and it may, perhaps, be considered a rule that great jobs spring out of little ones—such a conclusion, at least, may be taken to be the feeling of mankind on the subject. To enforce the truthfulness of the idea just enunciated, the greater job, now pending, of huckstering the Judgeship during the leave of absence of Mr. Justice Therry, follows in the wake of the lesser job entered into between the late Commissioner of Insolventcies and the present one. Jobbery may be perpetrated on a large or small scale; little jobs being done when trifling opportunities offer, and more extensive jobs jumped at where the chances present themselves. Wherever the disposition and opportunity exist, jobbing in the abstract—which is corruption in the concrete—will out, however laboriously the abettors may endeavour to conceal the ugly *rolé* of the affair. To canvass the measures of Government, to scrutinize the conduct of its officials, to respect the virtuous, to detest the vicious, is both the temper and duty of an Englishman. The saying may be thought trite, but not a jot the less valuable on that account, and unworthy would we be of our Saxon origin if we exercised not the privilege. This scrutiny is equally applicable to the general administration, as to that of the departmental government. Public canvass forms the great bulwark of public liberty. It is the nature of power to become corrupt; and the best of men are apt to fall into that species of corruption which is called the abuse of confidence, to perpetrate acts more commonly known under the designation "jobbing"—that is, the appointing parties to offices (with the professional *naïveté* of a broker), and doing violence to that patriotic sentiment which is evolved in the axiom, "the noblest motive, is the public good."

The restriction of jobbery, it may safely be asserted, is ruled more by fear of public reprehension, resulting from its exposure, than any desire to avoid its pollutive tendency. The man who possesses the confidence of his sovereign might avoid the taint were his own resolutions firmer, and the hearts and circumstances of dependants less urgent; he is borne along by the fatal stream of necessity, as it were, to overflow the banks of patriotism, destroying public confidence by its excesses. He yields to external influence, and suffers by the concession; but neither his weakness, nor the felicity of his selections, can or ought to free him from the violence done to a conscientious performance of duties which become sacred by being self-imposed.

Ideas similar, if not superior to the foregoing, may perhaps have occurred to some of the readers of the ATLAS, when reflecting on the leave of absence contemplated by Mr. Roger Therry, and the terms reported to have been made by him with his *locum tenens*. A correspondent, under the signature of "Vigil," in last Saturday's ATLAS, when comparing the qualifications of the Solicitor General and Mr. Gordon, for the office of Judge, during Mr. Therry's absence, says, *currente calamo*, and quite indifferent as to the principle of the bargain, "his present salary [the Solicitor General] is £800 a-year, exclusive of the income from his practice, which, I suppose, is not much less; whereas, that of the temporary judgeship would probably be no more than £800 a-year, that is, if the permanent judge be permitted to retain a portion of the salary attached to the office." To this half-and-half arrangement the same rejoinder may be returned, *mutatis nominibus*, that was given in the case of Messieurs. Kerr and Suttor:—"Mr. Therry's appointee is either competent or incompetent; if the former, by what right does Mr. Therry take a portion of his salary, and why should the public permit an efficient servant to be inadequately paid? If the latter, why should the appointee be allowed to hold the appointment, at any salary at all?"

CURIOSITY OF LEGAL LITERATURE.

The following bulletin, issued by the officials of the upper department of the Supreme Court, and appended to the notice-board, for the edification of the Clerks of the Attorneys, Soli-

citars, and Proctors of that Honorable Court, is rather too good to lack preservation. It is as characteristic as the semicircular window which has lately shown its "crescent tips" on the right-hand side of the Equity Court—

"Some evil-disposed person, has borrowed the first Supplement to Callaghan's Acts, from the Prothonotary, under a promise to return it, which promise he has most faithfully broken."

Beshrew the heart which softens not
At this appeal to its retinnet frailties!

THE DAILY'S LAST.

'Tis plain the *Daily* can with ease,
Twist words and figures as they please;
The truth of this we deftly show,
By that which now appears below.

LATE ENGLISH NEWS.

Tuesday, $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3, P.M.

The *Prince of Wales*, from London, after an excellent passage of one hundred days, has put us in possession of English newspapers to the 28th Jan.

THE ENGLISH NEWS.

Friday, May 14.

We were favoured yesterday with a *Times* of the 29th January, the latest paper that had previously come to hand being the 25th.

BOOLLADILLA.

This isolated and mountain-bound locality encloses a very fine estate, which was secured by Sir Richard Bourke for his grandchildren when he was governor of the land. Its position is one of the most interesting that can well be conceived; near it rises in wonderful sublimity the lofty hill of "Boolladilla," whence the estate derives its name; beneath it flows the navigable Myall River leading to the wild romantic lakes; and on every side the land is undulated in grassy ridges and bold hills forest clad to the tops. The residence and buildings attached to this singular homestead present the appearance of an "Italian hamlet," being erected on elevated ground finely relieved from the surrounding hills. It is inaccessible by wheeled vehicles, and is with difficulty reached on horseback, the rider being obliged to scramble on foot and lead his "cheval" over the dividing range. The selection was made by a major in the army, who laid out large sums of money in building, clearing, and fencing in paddocks and garden ground. He also adopted a laborious scheme of cutting the immense trees close to the ground—a task which he partially accomplished by coaxing his men with the reward of a penny for every inch they cut. The place commands an excellent cattle run, and is altogether very complete. We had the pleasure of visiting this land of mountains about the middle of last summer, when the whole country trembled with a weight of luxuriance. The thermometer had ranged as high as 120° for eight days—an excessive heat, which was followed by heavy and prolonged floods. After passing over an endless succession of hills and tortuous creeks, and disturbing herds of fat cattle that were lazily chewing their cuds, or grazing in seclusion under the shade of the rich mimosa, we came upon a long fence, the slip-rails of which intimated our nearness to a white man's dwelling. We passed a camp of fine-looking blacks, who rose as we approached, each blackfellow having at least a dozen spears in his hand. They were all apparently equipped for a grand festival, having their hair in fine order, and a pure white band like a lady's garter round their foreheads. We at length caught a glimpse of the English style of Boolladilla house, the sight of which had a most peculiar effect. A venerable old man in a red night-cap was the first object that we observed. He met us evidently with suspicion and reluctance, and the red night-cap had to our minds a rather piratical appearance. This old man, however, gradually became more frank and easy, and informed us that his master had gone to the bush with his stockmen to endeavour to bring in three wild bulls that had found their way amongst his tame herd. He told us that the bulls were very troublesome, and that he had seen them rush down a hill a hundred abreast, like a regiment of cavalry, and that if pursued they would turn upon horse and rider and destroy both. The only plan they had of taking them was when one or two got mixed with the tame cattle, gently to drive them into the stockyard, where they are shot; the government and the Australian Agricultural Company permitting this to be done on condition that the carcasses be not touched. We are glad to find that our friend of the red night-cap, who went by the name of "Governor," made an excellent representative of the absent host, and gave us much interesting information; he told us that excellent cedar was cut in the neighbourhood, and floated to Port Stephens in rafts, where it was shipped for Sydney. Visitors rarely troubled him, but the blacks were always about. In the yard we saw a naked savage, called "Charles the Second," actively employed with a pair of scissors in front of an old looking-glass, or part of one, trimming and adorning his hair with as much nicety as a "Bond-street per-ruquier." Our friend the "Governor" next pointed out the "loins" of the place; the greatest being the lofty mountain lifting its proud crest over an inconceivable number of smaller hills. This great and striking mountain is wooded to the very summit, and seems like a lion asleep. It reminded us of the Peak of Teneriffe, possessing a rich grandeur, though the latter has not the advantage of the foliage of Boolladilla. The view from the top of this mountain is said to be fearfully sublime. Before us stretched the beautiful lakes, and far around swept the woods like a tempestuous ocean of sea-weed. Yet beneath those mountain forests are cattle grazing on a thousand hills.

After thanking our friend for his kindness, we took our departure for the Myall Lakes. Our path lay through heavy forest land, and native pear and apple trees. We also discovered the native cherry, with its stone attached to the outside of the fruit. A few miles further and the country became of quite a different aspect. The tall grass-tree made its appearance, and the grass became rank and high. Wild flowers and shrubs became more numerous, and a really lovely bugle or bell flower heightened the variety and varied beauty of the herbage. After winding through some dangerous broken rotten ground, we entered a bangle brush, the oriental and magnificent effect of which surpassed everything that we had yet seen, and recalled to our recollection the Brazilian forests in the provinces of Bahia. The bangle grows tall and uniform, full ninety feet high, bearing overhead a plume of broad beautiful leaves; but alas! beneath this proud display of nature, this triumphant leafy ceiling, there lurks the deadly yellow snake, the bite of which is instantly fatal. For many miles afterwards the country was scrubby and mountainous, when suddenly and unexpectedly our guide led us into a vast circular plain, on which some hundred head of cattle were feeding under the evening sun. In the midst of them we discovered one of the wild bulls, an ugly grey and blue ruffian. We gave him chase, but he instantly left the herd and scampered off faster than our fleetest "cavallo." At length we came in sight of the lakes, glittering in the bright rays

of a midsummer sun. We found the blacks civil and numerous, and many of the black women exceedingly handsome, with auncles that would vie with Madame Taglioni's. We were introduced to a queen, who represents the blackfellow's wife, "Te Gubbernor's mulliny," a companion to the Duke of Richmond's daughter, that somewhat amused us. They had several places of note on the lakes, and spoke frequently of Tickraba river—"Bibby harbour to Billo," and "Pillar." We learnt from a stockman in the employ of a Sydney barrister, who monopolises twenty thousand acres here, that the government intended forming a village at Pillar. Some protection is certainly necessary, for, being obliged to sleep one night in a hut where there were three ticket-of-leave men, we overheard one say to the other, "Paddy, there are no constables here."

There are several good dairy and cheese farms on the lakes, as well as cattle stations. The cattle drink the water of the lakes, which is neither salt nor sweet, and when the wind is high it is easily blown into froth, which lies like snow on the banks for days after. Few passengers can imagine the grand appearance of the lakes of New South Wales. They are large enough to float the navies of the whole world, and beautiful enough for the palaces of all its princes.

Having spent a pleasant visit of a week at the Myall Lakes, we retraced our steps for home, and reached Boolladilla as the floods set in. Never in our lives were we exposed to such torrents of rain; the thunder rolled, and the lightning flashed, from mountain to hill, in a terrific manner. The rivers rose twenty feet high in one night, so that with the utmost difficulty, after passing several nights of rain in the bush, we got over our difficulties by taking a circuitous route, and availing ourselves of the A. A. Company's punt over the Karuah.—*M. Mercury.*

EUROPE.

As usual, we have to report the arrival of a private vessel of nearly a month later date than the Post Office packet. The *Prince of Wales*, which left Plymouth on the 30th of January, arrived in our port on Tuesday last, the 11th May, having left England nearly a month later than the packet, bringing news up to the 29th January. The British Parliament was opened on the 19th January, and the French Chambers about the same time. The speeches on both occasions will be found in our paper of to-day. The distress in Ireland had arrived at an awful crisis, as will be seen by our extracts, and must of necessity engross much of the time of the present session of Parliament. The great demand for food had caused the Ministry to remove all duty from grain and sugar, thereby enabling brewers and distillers to use sugar instead of grain.

We do not see any immediate hopes of immigration being renewed, although the distress in Ireland prevails to such an alarming extent—as Lord John Russell is "afraid of inundating our shores with paupers!" Poor Lord John!—we pity your ignorance. We do not hesitate to assert, without fear of contradiction, that if the whole starving population of Ireland were landed on our shores, they would find abundance of food and ready employment.

Since the above was in type, there has been another arrival from England—the *Niagara*, from the Downs the 19th January.

HOUSE OF LORDS, TUESDAY, 19TH JANUARY.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

The Royal *cortège* arrived at the House of Lords, shortly after 2 P.M. After remaining in the Robing Room for a short period, her Majesty, proceeded to the House, and having taken her seat on the Throne, read the following speech:—

"My Lords and Gentlemen.

"It is with the deepest concern that, upon your again assembling, I have to call your attention to the dearth of provisions which prevails in Ireland and in parts of Scotland.

"In Ireland, especially, the loss of the usual food of the people has been the cause of severe sufferings, of disease, and of greatly increased mortality among the poorer classes. Outrages have become more frequent, chiefly directed against property; and the transit of provisions has been rendered unsafe in some parts of the country.

"With a view to mitigate these evils, very large numbers of men have been employed, and have received wages, in pursuance of an Act passed in the last session of Parliament. Some deviations from that Act, which have been authorised by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in order to promote more useful employment, will, I trust, receive your sanction. Means have been taken to lessen the pressure of want in districts which are most remote from the ordinary sources of supply. Outrages have been repressed, as far as it was possible, by the military and police.

"It is satisfactory to me to observe that in many of the most distressed districts the patience and resignation of the people have been most exemplary.

"The deficiency of the harvest in France and Germany, and other parts of Europe, has added to the difficulty of obtaining adequate supplies of provisions.

"It will be your duty to consider what further measures are required to alleviate the existing distress. I recommend to you to take into your serious consideration, whether by increasing for a limited period the facilities for importing corn from foreign countries, and by the admission of sugar more freely into breweries and distilleries, the supply of food may be beneficially augmented.

"I have likewise to direct your earnest consideration to the permanent condition of Ireland. You will perceive, in the absence of political excitement, an opportunity for taking a dispassionate survey of the social evils which afflict that part of the United Kingdom. Various measures will be laid before you, which, if adopted by Parliament, may tend to raise the great mass of the people in comfort, to promote agriculture, and to lessen the pressure of that competition for the occupation of land which has been the fruitful source of crime and misery.

"The marriage of the Infanta Louisa Fernanda of Spain to the Duke of Montpensier has given rise to a correspondence between my Government and those of France and Spain.

"The extinction of the Free State of Cracow has appeared to me to be so manifest a violation of the Treaty of Vienna, that I have commanded that a protest against that act should be delivered to the Courts of Vienna, Petersburg, and Berlin, which were parties to it. Copies of these several papers will be laid before you.

"I entertain confident hopes that the hostilities in the River Plate, which have so long interrupted commerce, may soon be terminated; and my efforts, in conjunction with those of the King of the French, will be earnestly directed to that end.