

morning, the panic will begin to subside, and money will become as plentiful as it now is scarce, when they will turn round and say what fools they have been not to part with their money at a good profit when they had the opportunity. The fact is, that people are frightening each other out of their wits by a natural want of confidence, and the shock rebounds to the quarter in which it originates. Punch is disgusted at seeing all the people shaking, trembling and screaming around him because there happens to be a little bit of a pressure, which only requires a little steadiness and nerve to go through it all very smoothly; as they say at a rush to the pit of a theatre, "Take your time, gentlemen, take your time: you won't get on any better for trying to squeeze each other to death, so you may as well all go on together firmly and quietly."

RAPID ACTS OF SHOWMANSHIP.

Last week one of the ecclesiastical showmen, known as the Westminster Abbey Runner, gave biographical, historical, and critical particulars relative to 150 monuments, 4 shrines, 7 chapels, and numerous banners, to twenty-seven persons, in the short space of seventeen minutes and a half, and for the small charge of sixpence; the party included several foreigners, who understood but little English, and none of the language spoken by the Runner. The Runner, on being complimented on the astonishing feat which he had achieved, replied, with the candour which belongs only to great minds, that the same space had been gone over in fifteen minutes, and that he was willing to make a match to perform the distance in a still shorter period. The Runner can be backed against any showman who is a member of the E. C. (Established Church). The Runner has heard a good deal about the Twopenny Nag, of St. Paul's. If the Nag is game for a good straightforward show, and no favour, the Runner is his man. N. B.—The Runner beats carpets, and attends parties round the Abbey.

Memoranda of Men and Things.

POETIC TALENT OF THE ABORIGINES OF AUSTRALIA.

The following specimens of Australian Aboriginal Poetry are from a Correspondent of the *Geelong Advertiser*—

As I have, after some years' inauguration, acquired sufficient knowledge of some of the dialects of the Australian natives of the Geelong District, to understand the import of their songs of war and love, I have translated a few, as samples of their genius, and to prove that poetry is the spontaneous child of nature, which flourishes and grows amid the beautiful ranges in the wild woods. As it would edify few to write them in the original language, I shall present the translation. Their war songs are sung by an approved chief at the corroboree.

WAR SONG.

Gather round me, my young men,
Numerous as the trees of our land;
Your arms are strong for the fight,
When you send forth the quivering spear,
Our fierce foes gnaw the trampled dust.
See, at dark midnight they come!
See! their jealous eyes look fire through the gloom.

Gather round me, my strong men;
Your breasts are hard as the flints of our tomahawks;
You wave your shields like the fire of the clouds,
Which comes from the spirits of our dead,
Calling you on to the fight.
See, at dark midnight they come!
See! their jealous eyes look fierce through the gloom.

Gather round me, my fighting-men!
You fly like the swift-footed emu—
Pursue the far-come foe.
They may bound like the kangaroo,
You will quiet them with your spear of death.
See, at dark midnight they come!
See their eyes of fire through the gloom.

WAR SONG.

Come to the war dance to-night,
Streak your face and your breast with white;
Beat, beat the hard-wood with a clang;
Move forth while your foes fly before,
Then you'll paint your spears with their gore—
Come, come to the war dance to-night.

To-morrow's sun will see you again
On your war path o'er the wide plain,
Where your cane spears like locusts will fly,
And the foes, fighting fierce, will cry;
But pierce not the shades of these graves,
For the spirits of their dead from their graves
Stand by them in the deadly fight;
Come, come to the war dance to-night.

The following effusion is descriptive of the feelings of a Barrabool native girl, who was attached to a youth, but was given in marriage to an old chief of another tribe:—

Now you leave me, you forsake me;
We have walked in the moonlight,
But you go never to return.
You have shewed me the dew on the leaves,
You have said it shone like my eyes,
You were my only beloved;
Another you love has seen your spirit,
But I have taken it from her.
Your hair shines like the green leaves,
Your eyes are like moonlight,
More soft than the men of our tribe.
Now you leave me, you forsake me,
You go, never to return.

A WIFE'S LAMENT FOR HER HUSBAND WHO WAS KILLED.

Why is my dwelling lonely?
My fire burns low before me:
Where is my warrior brave?
They pierced him with their poisoned spears
And the light of my life lies low.
Wail him, brothers in fight;
Wail! for my beloved lies low.

He could walk strong as the trees
That are not moved by the breeze,
The bright-eyed light of my life.
My name is "The Fearful," not wife:
His spirit will walk long that spot,
Where my brave so valiantly fought.
Wail! for my beloved lies low.

Our babe will yet be a man,
And he'll sharpen his spears for the fight,
And before many summers are gone,
He'll steal on the murderer at night,
And they'll weep in the camp of the slain,
And they'd mourn until the moon's wane:
But my brave, my beloved lies low.

ORIGIN OF THE PICKWICK PAPERS.

In the course of the last dozen years, says Mr. Dickens in the preface to the new edition of his works, I have seen various accounts of the origin of these *Pickwick Papers*; which have, at all events, possessed—for me—the charm of perfect novelty. As I may infer, from the occasional appearance of such histories, that my readers have an interest in the matter, I will relate how they came into existence. I was a young man of three-and-twenty, when the present publishers, attracted by some pieces I was at that time writing in the *Morning Chronicle* newspaper (of which one series had lately been collected and

published in two volumes, illustrated by my esteemed friend, Mr. George Cruikshank), waited upon me to propose a something that should be published in shilling numbers—then only known to me, or I believe, to anybody else, by a dim recollection of certain interminable novels in that form, which used, some five-and-twenty years ago, to be carried about the country by pedlars, and over some of which I remember to have shed innumerable tears, before I served my apprenticeship to life. When I opened my door in Burnial's Inn to the managing partner who represented the firm, I recognized in him the person from whose hands I had bought, two or three years previously, and whom I had never seen before or since, my first copy of the magazine in which my first effusion dropped stealthily one evening at twilight, with fear and trembling, into a dark letter-box, in a dark office, up a dark court, in Fleet-street—appeared in all the glory of print; on which occasion by-the-by,—how well I recollect it!—I walked down to Westminster Hall, and turned into it for half-an-hour, because my eyes were so dimmed with joy and pride, that they could not bear the street, and were not fit to be seen there. I told my visitor of the coincidence, which we both hailed as a good omen; and so fell to business. The idea propounded to me was that the monthly something should be a vehicle for certain plates to be executed by Mr. Seymour, and there was a notion, either on the part of that admirable humorist artist, or of my visitor (I forget which), that a "Nimrod Club," the members of which were to go out shooting, fishing, and so forth, and getting themselves into difficulties through their want of dexterity, would be the best means of introducing these. I objected, on consideration, that although born, and partly bred in the country I was no great sportsman, except in regard of all kinds of locomotion; that the idea was not novel, and had been already much used; that it would be infinitely better for the plates to arise naturally out of the text; and that I should like to take my own way, with a freer range of English scenes and people, and was afraid I should ultimately do so in any case, whatever course I might prescribe to myself at starting. My views being deferred to, I thought of Mr. Pickwick, and wrote the first number; from the proof sheets of which Mr. Seymour made his drawing of the club, and that happy portrait of its founder, by which he is always recognized, and which may be said to have made him a reality. I connected Mr. Pickwick with a club, because of the original suggestion, and I put in Mr. Winkle expressly for the use of Mr. Seymour. We started with a number of twenty-four pages instead of thirty-two, and four illustrations in lieu of a couple. Mr. Seymour's sudden and lamented death before the second number was published brought about a quick decision upon a point already in agitation; the number became one of thirty-two pages with two illustrations, and remained so to the end. My friend told me it was a low, cheap form of publication, by which I should ruin all my rising hopes; and how right my friends turned out to be, everybody now knows. "Boz," my signature in the *Morning Chronicle*, appended to the monthly cover of this book, and retained long afterwards, was the nickname of my pet child, a younger brother, whom I had dubbed Moses, in honour of the Vicar of Wakefield; which being facetiously pronounced through the nose, became Boses, and being shortened, became Boz. "Boz" was a familiar household word to me long before I was an author, and so I came to adopt it.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE CHURCH SOCIETY.

A meeting of this association was held at the London Tavern, on Thursday evening, (Oct. 21.) Dr. Thomas Price in the chair. About 1,000 persons were present.

The Chairman commenced the proceedings by stating that the association had been refused the use of Exeter Hall, because it was said that it was not a fit society to meet there. (A laugh.) Since they had last assembled events had occurred which had greatly advanced the objects of the association, the public mind having been directed to them, and public opinion having been freely expressed on the subject of the union of the church and state. The chairman proceeded to condemn the Government plan of education as a sort of junior establishment. Good, however, had arisen out of evil, for men had been compelled to think on those principles which lie at the basis of religious liberty, and thousands of minds were now sympathizing with the nonconformist movement who otherwise could not have done so.

Rev. J. Barnett moved the first resolution:

"That in the judgment of this meeting every compulsory method of sustaining or extending religious institutions involves a departure from the practice of the primitive Christian churches, and an obvious violation of the genius of the Gospel; and that in seeking, by peaceful and moral means, the removal of every such institution within these realms from a compulsory to a voluntary basis, the British Anti-State Church Association aims at an object worthy the sympathy and support of all who are interested in the welfare of their country and the advancement of religion."

The speaker contended that the compulsory support of religion was incompatible with the spirit of the Gospel. Our Saviour said, "My kingdom is not of this world." The Apostles did not even carry out the voluntary principle to its legitimate extent; for the apostle Paul said he would rather work with his own hands than become burthensome to the church. (Hear, hear.) But it would be said, that if the New Testament did not support compulsion the Old did. It was true the Old Testament introduced tithes and the support of a priesthood; but then it was on the voluntary principle—there was no appointment of a tithe-gatherer. The voluntary principle alone was laid down in the New Testament; and therefore the religion which professed to be founded on it must be voluntary. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. Scoble seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Colonel Thompson, M.P., moved the next resolution, which was as follows:

"That this meeting is convinced that, owing to a variety of concurrent causes, amongst the most prominent of which may be mentioned the ecclesiastical character of several measures submitted to the legislature during the last Parliament, and the position taken by nonconformist electors at the late general election, the people are prepared to welcome instruction on the question of political religious establishments; and this meeting therefore rejoices in the assurance that the executive committee of the British Anti-State Church Association are taking vigorous steps for diffusing through the community sound views on this most important subject."

The hon. gentleman congratulated the nonconformists on the triumph of their principles in so many instances at the last election, and ably advocated the principles of religious equality.

Rev. H. Hinton, in seconding the resolution, said it was the intention of the association to take every means within their power for diffusing correct views on the subject of the union of church and state. For this purpose they would require ample funds, which he trusted would not be withheld by those who felt the unholy nature of the alliance. The nonconformists had made their influence felt of late; and it only wanted two or three more such doses to be administered in larger quantities to produce the

desired effect on the House of Commons. (Cheers.) If the Tories had not come to the help of Lord John Russell, the nonconformists would have ousted him at the last election for the City of London, and the rapid progress of public sentiments on the question of the dissolution of church and state would render it very unsafe for his lordship, with his present opinions, to offer himself again for the City. (Hear, hear.) The addition of three new bishops would quicken the views of the public on these matters, and the supporters of a state church would find their opponents doubled by the next election. (Cheers.)

The Chairman said that nine deputations were about, in the course of the winter, to visit Yorkshire, Lancashire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. (Cheers.) Mr. Miall and Mr. Burnett would visit the several towns in the West Riding of Yorkshire next week. (Renewed cheers.) Upon the question of funds he need not state that great pecuniary aid would be necessary to carry out the views of the association, and he begged to say that a gentleman had just offered to be one of fifty to subscribe £50 each, or even one of one hundred to contribute £100 each for the objects of the society. (Cheers.)

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr. J. H. Tillet, of Norwich, moved the third resolution, as follows:—

"That to the fullest extent which the constitution of the country will admit of, it is desirable to associate with correct views of this and other questions the possession of political power; and this meeting therefore earnestly recommends the supporters of religious equality to strengthen their hands for the next great electoral contest by a careful attention to the registration of voters in every part of the kingdom, and by promoting, in every legitimate way, the acquisition of the county franchise by the purchase of the forty-shilling freeholds."

Mr. E. Miall, in seconding the resolution, said he thought the dissenters had done well at the last general election; but if they had been better "up to the mark" they would have done much more. The day of small things, however, was not to be despised: it was something to have made a beginning; and the moral influence produced on the nonconformist body, by the fact of their having at length taken their stand on right principles, would be incalculable. He verily believed that two more Parliaments, lasting their natural term, would be sufficient for carrying the objects of the association. (Hear, hear.) The subject had taken a deep and lasting hold on popular sympathies—common sense estimated it rightly—and the time would soon come when the people of this country would bear the thralldom of a state church no longer. (Cheers.) The establishment was doomed—nothing could save it. (Loud cheers.) The reason, the common sense, the feeling of justice—the religion of the 19th century, all declared in the face of heaven that it was a monstrous wrong, and should not be. (Cheers.) The thing would and must be done; and it was their duty, as Christians, to see that it be done in the spirit of the gospel. (Hear.) As a money question it would interest the whole community, for the revenues of the Church were now from ten to eleven millions a year, and such a sum, if applied to civil purposes, instead of keeping up a sort of ecclesiastical militia and police throughout the country, would enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to relieve the people from an immense amount of taxation, ("Hear," and laughter.) The speaker made some further observations on the religious view of the question, and concluded by seconding the resolution.

After an attempt to move an amendment by a Mr. Orr, which the Chairman said he could not receive, as it was irrelevant, the resolution was carried unanimously. Thanks were then voted to the Chairman, which having been acknowledged, the meeting separated.—Atlas.

Miscellaneous.

CONVERSATION.—The power of communicating our thoughts and feelings by conversation, is one of the greatest blessings bestowed on man. It is a perpetual source of comfort, and may be an instrument of great usefulness. The tongue is an instrument also of vast mischief. The gift brings a vast responsibility upon us. The emotions of the soul, when expressed in language, will always affect others more or less. If they are rightly affected, good is done; if improperly, evil is the result. You will never pass a day without having a heavy responsibility rest upon you for the use of this gift. The man with a cultivated mind, with a fund of ready knowledge, with manners and habits that make him welcome wherever he goes, that man may do much for the good of man, the honour of his God, and for his own future peace, by the manner in which he uses his powers of conversation. His words, his tones will pour delight into the soul of friendship; they may form the character of the little prattler who listens to him; they will pave his way to high and glorious scenes of usefulness; or they will fall heavy on the ear of affection, or will roll a deep night of sorrow back on his own soul.

Most of the trades, professions, and ways of living among mankind, take their original either from the love of pleasure, or the fear of want. The former, when it becomes too violent, degenerates into luxury, and the latter into avarice.

MAN is placed in this world as a spectator; when he is tired of wondering at all the novelties about him, and not till then, does he desire to be made acquainted with the causes that create those wonders.

THE SUCCESSION OF RACES OF MEN.—Generation after generation takes to itself the form of a body, and forth issuing from Cimmerian night on Heaven's mission appears. What force and fire on each he expends! one grinding in the mill of industry; one, hunterlike, climbing the giddy Alpine heights of science; one madly dashes in pieces on the rocks of strife, in war with his fellow; and then the heaven-sent is recalled; his earthly vesture falls away, and soon even to sense becomes a vanished shadow. Thus, like some wild-flaming, wild-thundering train of Heaven's artillery, does this mysterious mankind thunder and flame in long-drawn, quick-succeeding grandeur through the unknown deep. Thus, like a God-created, fire-breathing spirit-host, we emerge from the inane; haste stormfully across the astonished earth, then plunge again into the inane. Earth's mountains are levelled, and her seas filled up in our passage. Can the earth, which is but dead and a vision, resist spirits which have reality and are alive! On the hardest adamant some foot-print of us is stamped in; the last rear of the host will read traces of the earliest van. But whence, oh, Heaven! whither? Sense knows not; faith knows not; only that it is through mystery to mystery—from God to God!

The colliers of Dudley recently dined together in large numbers at Birmingham; and desirous to mark the festival with peculiar éclat, offered Jenny Lind £300, in order to induce her to sing before them. The fair Swede declined, in a courteous letter.

Mr. Rooke, the composer, whose opera of *Amilie* excited so much attention some years ago, died on Thursday morning at the age of 55, leaving a widow and large family.

DISCRETION.—There are many more shining qualities in the mind of man, but there is none so useful as discretion; it is this indeed which gives a value to all the rest, which sets them at work in their proper times and places, and turns them to the advantage of the person who is possessed of them. Without it, learning is pedantry, and wit impertinence; virtue itself looks like weakness; the best parts only qualify a man to be more sprightly in errors, and active to his own prejudice.

HYPOCRISY.—Hypocrisy itself does great honour, or rather justice, to religion, and tacitly acknowledges it to be an ornament to human nature. The hypocrite would not be at so much pains to put on the appearance of virtue, if he did not know it was the most proper and effectual means to gain the love and esteem of mankind.

POWER is always odious, always to be suspected when it resides in the hands of an individual; and a free people will never allow any single man to be more powerful than the laws which themselves have erected or confirmed; but no kind of power is more licentiously insolent than that which is supported by force of arms.

DEPRAVITY.—In the sudden moment of strong temptation, in the hour of unguarded attack, in the flutter and trepidation of unexpected alarm, the best man may perhaps be surprised into any sin; but he who can coolly, of steady design, and with no unusual impulse, utter falsehood, invent hypocrisy, is not far from finished depravity.

The profit of places should be measured as they are more or less conducive to the public service; and if business is more necessary than splendour, the instruments of it ought in proportion to be better paid; that the contrary method is as impertinent, as it would be to let the carving of a ship cost more than all the rest of it.

ANGER is an affected madness, compounded of pride and folly, and an intention to do commonly more mischief than it can bring to pass: and without doubt, of all passions which naturally disturb the mind of man, it is most in our power to extinguish, at least to suppress and correct, our anger.

WITHOUT mounting by degrees, a man cannot attain to high things; and the breaking of the ladder still casteth a man back, and maketh the thing wearisome which was easy.

Let any man who knows what it is to have passed much time in a series of jollity, mirth, wit, or humorous entertainments, look back at what he was all that while a doing, and he will find that he has been at one instant sharp to some man he is sorry to have offended, impertinent to some one it was cruelly to treat with such freedom, ungratefully noisy at such a time, unskillfully open at such a time, unmercifully calumnious at such a time; and from the whole course of his applauded satisfaction, unable in the end to recollect any circumstance which can add to the enjoyment of his mind alone, or which he would put his character upon, with other men.

DESTINY OF THE UNITED STATES.—If a little prophetic oil could be poured on the eyes of certain persons who think the republic has got its territorial growth, they would see that the United States are at least half a continent short of final destiny. We believe Columbus discovered a new world under the guidance of a wise Providence, the end of which was to be the planting of a tree of liberty, for which there was no soil in the old world, and which should not only shelter the races of one continent, but cast a protecting shadow over the world. Whatever of conquest or violence accompanied the incipient steps was a minor event, and a breathing space for oppressed millions was accomplished. The greatest of all movements following Columbus' discovery was the revolution which raised 13 dependent colonies into an independent nation—sowing seed whose roots were to be bounded by no lines of rivers and mountains, but to extend in time as far as the wants of man called them. We do not believe the fathers who framed the original structure contemplated the genius of the republic halting short of the entire continent. If they did, they mistook their own work, for it has steadily expanded until only the oceans bound it on the one hand, and nothing but momentary obstacles stop it short of oceans on the other. Its growth of violent conquest, but an accumulation of territory naturally attracted as far as the light of freedom was practically diffused. It swallowed up the Indian races, because they could not be absorbed by civilization; and no one doubts the beauty and benefit of the change, notwithstanding the apparent evils that accompanied it. No great revolution or reform has ever taken place, nor can one, without crushing the systems, and partially the races or agents it overcomes. Such is inevitably the phase of progress; such the process of purification; and we see it as well in the occasional violence of nature, as in man, societies, and nations. The spirit of the United States is destined, by actual presence or influence, to absorb all that comes in contact with it, and must eventually find territorial limit with the ocean. It cannot stop short without doing violence to the common desire of man for liberty. We wish some of our great minds could see what the celebrated Timothy Dwight, one of the first who advocated that declaration of independence, and who was president of Yale College at the time, saw. He said, like a true prophet, in an address before the college in 1775, "The moment our interests demands it (speaking of Mexico,) these extensive regions will be ours. The present race of inhabitants will either be exterminated or revive to the native human dignity by the generous beneficence of just laws and rational freedom."—*Washington Union*.

MARRIAGE.—Nature and nature's God smiles upon the union that is sweetened by love and sanctioned by law. The sphere of our affection is enlarged and our pleasures take a wide range. We become more important and respected among men, and existence itself is doubly enjoyed with this our softer self. Misfortune loses half its anguish beneath the soothing influence of her smiles, and triumph becomes more triumphant, when shared with her. Without her, what is man? A roving and restless being; driven at pleasure by romantic speculation, and cheated into misery by futile hopes, the mad victim of untamed passions, and the disappointed pursuit of fruitless joys. But with her he awakens to a new life. He follows a path—wider and nobler than the narrow road to self-aggrandisement—that is scattered with more fragrant flowers, and illuminated by a clearer light.

A STRANGE INSURANCE.—A well known actor on the Edinburgh stage entered into an engagement with Jenny Lind, securing her singing powers for the gratification of the lieges in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Perth; the terms were 400*l.* per night. When the gifted Swede was performing in England she was taken ill, and as before that event considerable preparatory expense had been incurred in Scotland, the speculator became rather alarmed, and accordingly insured the life of Jenny Lind for six weeks, for 1,000*l.* The only effect of this step was to reduce the gross profits of her visit by a 20*l.*-note.

The estimated value of the warehouses of Liverpool is said to be £3,000,000. This includes only those which have been built on private speculation.

At the last meeting of the Repeal Association Mr. Scully, M.P., spoke of the late Mr. Roe in terms of high praise, and feelingly declared that "no man had a less right to be murdered!" What may be considered as entitling a man to that privilege?

JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURTS.—At the commencement of the Michaelmas Term, on Tuesday next, the several courts of law and equity will be opened, when the learned Judges will resume their labours. There are, it seems, in the united kingdom 51 judges of the superior courts; 22 in England, 16 in Ireland, and 13 in Scotland. The judges of the inferior courts, exclusive of the county court judges in England, number 312. In England the salaries of the 22 judges of the superior courts amount to 229,681*l.*; of the judges of the Court of Chancery, five in number, amount to 30,000*l.*; the Lord Chancellor has 10,000*l.*; the Master of the Rolls, 7,000*l.*; the Vice-Chancellor of England, 6,000*l.*; and the two Vice-Chancellors 5,000*l.* each. The salaries of the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench are stated at 28,000*l.* The Lord Chief Justice has 8,000*l.* and the four Puisne judges 5,000*l.* each. The salaries are the same in the Court of Common Pleas, and also in the Court of Exchequer, with the exception of the Chief Baron, who has 7,000*l.* The Judge of the Court of Admiralty has 4,000*l.* and the average emoluments of the Judge of the Prerogative Court are returned at 3,577*l.*—*Times*.

NOTHING LIKE LEATHER.—At a late sale of books the auctioneer put up "Drew's Essay on Souls" which was knocked down to a shoemaker, who very innocently, but to the great amusement of the crowded room, asked the auctioneer if "he had any more works on shoemaking to sell?"

A FEMALE VETERAN.—Most of the gallant men who were with Nelson at the victory of the Nile have with their immortal commander descended to the tomb. There are, however, some gray-headed veterans still alive to tell their tale, and we think it will interest some of our readers to know that there is still in the land of the living a woman who was in that memorable engagement, and there assisted to attend the wounded. She was the wife of a seaman, and was often noticed by Nelson's favourite, Lady Hamilton, who on the birth of her child, which took place on board the *Bellerophon*, supplied it with clothing which she herself had made. One little incident is recorded of Nelson, with feelings of gratitude by our heroine. When near her confinement, the hero of a hundred fights, having ascertained that the doctor on board the ship was not so experienced in midwifery as he should be, signalled for another: thus finding time, amidst all his responsibilities and cares, to succour a woman in her hour of trouble! Our readers will naturally feel curious to know how this follower and sharer of the fortunes of the brave, the battle, and the breeze, has been provided for. She is between 70 and 80 years of age, and receives 2*s.* 6*d.* a-week from Portsea parish.—*Portsea Advocate*.

Captain George Smith, R.N., attended at the Board of Trade on Wednesday, to explain his invention for making any boat a lifeboat when required. It consists of self-inflating tubes of trifling weight, within which valuable property and documents may be placed and kept dry. The same principle was also shown to be applicable as a life-preserver for the person.

A regular course of omnibuses has been established between Constantinople and Adrianople, by an Armenian company. The carriages contain twelve passengers (besides three outside), and are drawn by six horses. They complete the journey in thirty-two hours. The fare is 130 piastres.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE DIVING APPARATUS.—Within these few days a series of experiments, under the superintendence of Major General Sir Charles Pasley, R.E., were conducted in the water of the Royal Polytechnic Institution, on a new discovery relating to the science of diving, which promises to be of considerable importance. Up to the present period it has not been possible to communicate verbally with the diver whilst he was at his submarine occupation. All was dependant on signals, which in many cases have been ineffectual, and some disastrous; the experiments alluded to were on an apparatus for enabling those persons on shore to hold a conversation with the diver whilst under water, and the experiments proved that it was quite possible to do so. The apparatus consists of a membrane so applied to the helmet of the diver, that the necessary supply of air is not allowed to escape. The invention is by a Bristol gentleman, named Hyde.

RURAL SIMPLICITY.—A sporting gentleman, attended by his servant, lately entered a hostelry in the west of Scotland, for the purpose of refreshing the innerman. They were met by the landlady, who welcomed her visitors, but next moment she gave a look of alarm at the guns, and reminiscences of "melancholy and fatal accidents" duly chronicled in a thousand and one different newspapers, crowded on her sensitive memory. "Oh, sirs," she exclaimed, "are thae guns loaded?" "Yes," was the reply. "Dear me, but I canna allow loaded guns in my house; I could na bide the thocht o't—nac ane kens what dreaful mischanter might happen." "O! bring me a cork; I'll make it all right," said Mr. —. The keeper in a moment caught his master's cue, and with hostess's help got the article. Mr. — and his man then pared the halved cork nicely down to the proper size, and corked up each barrel! The *ruse* succeeded; the landlady's terror was appeased, and no accident happened with the guns!

In the Sardinian States there are 408 convents, which are said to have received from the Government, during the last fifteen years, grants amounting to 100,000,000 francs (4,000,000*l.*)

COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS.

FRIDAY, 10.

(Before the Chairman and William Odell Raymond and John Little, Esqrs., Justices of the Peace.)

The Crown Prosecutor conducted the following cases:—
Ralph Pearson was indicted for stealing some silver money from the person of William Sexton. The Jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

Samuel Collins was indicted for stealing four weights, the property of Joseph Coquellin. The Jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to be worked in irons for eighteen months.

Jane Williams and Mary Kenedy were indicted for stealing eight sovereigns from the person of Robert Henry Sheridan. The Jury found the prisoners guilty, and they were sentenced—Williams to six months' imprisonment, and Kenedy to four months' imprisonment.

James Lambert Tritton was indicted for feloniously injuring a bull, the property of Richard John Hopkins. The Jury found the prisoner guilty, but strongly recommended him to mercy, and he was sentenced to be imprisoned for one month.

Thomas Turner was indicted for stealing a hat, the property of Joseph Tomlinson. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to be imprisoned for three months.

Samuel Samuels was indicted for a felonious assault upon the person of Samuel Purcell. The Jury found the prisoner guilty of an assault, and he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

SATURDAY, 11.

(Before the Chairman and John Little, Esq., J.P.)

In the matter of the appeal of Catherine Wright *alias* West, for selling porter without a license, the Court, after hearing evidence, and Mr. Darvall on behalf of the appeal, confirmed the conviction, with costs.

The Court then adjourned *sine die*.

SUPREME COURT.

MONDAY, MARCH 13.

(Before His Honor the Chief Justice.)

THOMPSON v. UNDERWOOD.

This was an action for excessive distraining for rent, and not disposing of the property seized to the best advantage.

The defendant pleaded not guilty, by statute.

Mr. Michie appeared for the plaintiff, and the Solicitor General for the defendant.

Mr. Michie in addressing the jury said, that his client was a brewer at the time of the happening of the grievances in the declaration mentioned, but was not now carrying on his business. The defendant was a widow, living at Ashfield Park, on the Parramatta Road. In November, 1847, the plaintiff was in treaty for a lease of certain premises belonging to the defendant, situated in George-street, Sydney—under this treaty the plaintiff entered into possession, under the expectation of getting a lease of the premises, as he proposed to convert the buildings into a brewery. However, through some hostile feeling, the plaintiff never got his lease, but remained in possession—paying rent weekly at £2 6*s.* At the time of the distress complained of there were eight weeks' rent in arrears, and the defendant, through her bailiff, came down upon the premises and made an excessive distress, taking much more than the law would allow; this formed one ingredient, as detailed in the declaration, of the cause of action. Another was, that after these goods and chattels were seized by the bailiff they were sold by him at ridiculously low prices.

The Solicitor-General, for the defendant, addressed the Jury. He said this was a most trumpety action; and it already had been sufficiently proved that the plaintiff was not the rich, the wealthy brewer, that had been introduced to the Jury. The plaintiff cannot complain that his goods sold for something less than their value, for it was notorious that at such sales property did not fetch its real value, and concluded that the smallest coin in the realm would amply meet the justice of the case.

His Honor in summing up, said the question was really, whether the things were sold at such a fair value as could be obtained at a broker's sale. He said it had been sworn in this very Court, that sometimes at brokers' sales goods fetch more than their real value—buyers thinking they are going to get bargains, flock to the sale, and thus run up the goods. But of course this would depend upon a variety of circumstances. His Honor said, a landlord in distraining is not obliged to make a nice calculation of the probable amount the goods might fetch when sold, but he is not to take much more than will satisfy the rent; in other words, the distress must not be excessive. And the question was, whether the distress had been excessive.

The Jury found a verdict for the defendant on the second, third, and fourth issues; and for the plaintiff on the first issue—damages, one farthing.

TUESDAY, 14.

(Before his Honor Mr. Justice Dickinson, and a Jury of four.)

LEONARD E. LESTER v. F. GIRARD.

This was an action of trespass upon the closes of the plaintiff, called Glen Colin, in the district of New England, by defendant depasturing sheep thereon to the injury of the plaintiff. The damages were laid at £2000.

The defendant pleaded not guilty, and that the plaintiff was not possessed of the closes in the declaration mentioned. Upon these issues were joined.

The Solicitor General and Mr. Darvall, appeared for the plaintiff: and Messrs. Broadhurst and Fisher, for the defendant.

The Solicitor General stated the case to the Jury at great length, calling upon them to give the plaintiff, if his case was proved, exemplary, not trifling, damages: for if the latter were only given in cases of this description, it would encourage such actions, for a trespasser would run the chance of getting a verdict in his favour, and thus gain a sort of a right to the land on which he had trespassed. He hoped at any rate, the Jury would give his client damages at least sufficient to carry costs.

A number of witnesses were examined in support of the action.

Mr. Broadhurst then addressed the Jury for the defendant. He said, at one time squatting actions were very popular; their career had for a time been stopped by the interference of the Legislature, who by an Act of Council had referred disputes, such as involved in this case, to the arbitrement of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. This indeed was in fact a proper case for that tribunal; but the plaintiff had thought proper to bring his grievances (if he had any) before the present tribunal. The Jury, however, it was said, must in this case be satisfied on the evidence that the plaintiff, before they can give him a verdict, was in the exclusive and fixed occupation of that part of the station in dispute. He would contend, that the plaintiff had failed in showing his exclusive possession; for aught that appeared from the evidence, the defendant had a co-extensive possession of the disputed part, with the plaintiff. Indeed, in other respects, the plaintiff's case had signally failed. He would say a word as to the defendant's case; it would be proved for him, that he had been in possession of the disputed portion of the run long before the plaintiff took possession of Glen Colin station, and that there was an old marked tree line running between the two "Sugar Loaves," marked on the map, which would also be proved to be in the disputed part of the run, as forming part and parcel of the Branga Park station. The Jury were finally called upon to return a verdict for the defendant.

His Honor, in leaving the case with the Jury, said there were two issues involved in the case; the first was, were the trespasses complained of committed; if they decided this issue in the affirmative—then, upon the second issue, they had to determine whether the plaintiff had, at the time of the trespasses so committed, the exclusive possession of the part or station so designated in the declaration. As to the question of damages, his Honor said the Jury were not to be influenced by the observations that had been thrown out as to the giving such damages as would carry costs; for it was not the practice of a Jury to take into consideration the question of costs; they had only to give such damages as they might think, if they were of this opinion at all, that the plaintiff had suffered.

The Jury retired for a few minutes, and found for the plaintiff, damages £25.

WEDNESDAY, 15.

(Before His Honor Mr. Justice Dickinson and a jury of four.)

THOMPSON v. UNDERWOOD.

This was an action of trespass, committed by the defendant upon the house of the plaintiff, there doing great damage, by cutting down joists, &c., to the great damage of the plaintiff, and expelling him from the same.

The defendant pleaded not guilty, by statute.

Mr. Michie appeared for the plaintiff, and the Solicitor General for the defendant.

Mr. Michie stated the plaintiff's case, detailing the many grievous