

G. M. B. C.

THE DISPATCH.

No. 9. VOL. I.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1843.

[PRICE 3d.

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The Session.

The first session of the maiden representative Legislature of New South Wales is over. Formed out of materials which have hitherto been unamalgamated in the constitutional assemblies of Great Britain—invested with duties in their principle, and in their restriction inconsistent and anomalous—called together in haste by the pressing and critical circumstances of the times—sitting, for the most part, in the scarcely conceded, collision of the popular and arbitrary principles of which the house is composed—the first session of the Australian senate has finished its labours.

As it was not our good fortune to be in existence at the commencement of the session, and as we have, since the beginning of our labours, confined our lucubrations to those matters of local policy, which have from time to time arisen out of the measures proposed in Council, it is our intention in future articles, to review carefully and impartially the proceedings of the Council—to explain to our readers, what has been done, and the object for which it has been done.—To point out those things which might have been done, which were attempted, and which were not done, and what the objects of these attempts were.

We feel that it is highly necessary that the community, and particularly the lower classes, should be induced to look with deeper interest, than they have hitherto done, upon the proceedings of their representatives, to identify themselves more closely with those measures, which in their operation are so intimately connected with their own dearest interests.

During the present session, the New Legislature has been a novelty, a political exhibition, to be looked at, with wonder or surprise, with pity or admiration, as the actors in it might deserve.

This, however, is now passed, and we trust that ere the Council again meets, that the events which are chronicled in the records of the sessions, will have worked their due effect—that they will here become impressed on the minds of the people, and have established there, the conviction, that the boon of free political institutions, is not one which can be carelessly used, or apathetically laid aside; it is not, and must not be, a *vis inertia*, or it will be so to the ruin of those who possess it. Men must now begin to feel that the power that they have given to their representatives is no shadowy abstract representation of political sentiments and opinions. It is (and if they do not feel it to be so now, we are sure they will do so, when we have conducted them, step by step, through the different events of the session) it is the deposit of personal and class interests—it is a making over, not only of political rights, but of the guardianship of the pocket.

When the Legislature next meets, let not the Council Chamber be regarded as the arena, where the strength of political parties is to be tried. Let not the interest of its proceedings arise out of any gladiatorial display of political championship. Let the people remember that if a Legislature is good for any thing, it is good, not as a show, but as a means of making a community good, and wise, and happy. Let not the people believe that "idle and eloquent breath" is all that can be wasted by their representatives—let them learn, as they may too painfully, from our newly gathered experience, though in the hands of cold, heartless, selfish-minded men, that distress, nay, that destitution, will not only exact no sympathy, but that it will form no barrier to attempts at exaction, of a very different sort.

We could sincerely have wished, in the great questions which have agitated the deliberations of Council during the present session, that the voice of the people had spoken out more freely. We feel that the cause of this has been, that they have as yet been fearful of applying their minds to what may appear complicated questions of policy. To the consideration of these questions, they must, however, learn to turn their patient attention, if they would be really free. A Legislature unwatched, unsympathized with, by the

people, might well be of an arbitrary, as of a popular constitution.

The duties of the constituencies do not cease with the day of election, and the men who are denied the privilege of voting, have only left to them, the right of rigidly scrutinizing the conduct of their legislators, and of expressing their opinions thereon, in such a manner, as may induce a co-operation with those above them.

We invite, then, THE PEOPLE to accompany us throughout, from week to week, in our review of the session, and its results. We invite them to ponder over its results, and to ask themselves, how far they will be responsible to themselves, and to after generations, if they do not now, jealously exercise those rights, which they have of late been enfranchised.

If they wish to become a great people, if they wish to be a free people—free from arbitrary oppression—from unrestrained taxation, from deep and inextricable penury, then let them become the guardians of their own liberties—the asserters of their own rights. Let them not think they have done enough in choosing liberal men—for whatever the talents and genius, whatever the industry and perseverance, whatever the patriotism and self-devotion of those men may be, they will be of no avail if unsupported by the sympathies and voice of the people. Let, therefore, the people think on these things seriously. Let them study the policy of their country—not that they may become prattling politicians, but that they may exercise properly those rights to which, as Englishmen, they are entitled. Let them study them in their homes, and amongst their neighbors—and, if they find it necessary, or advantageous, let them combine, peacefully, seriously, and steadfastly, for the working out of their great object.

Let them do this, and whilst they will inspire their friends with confidence, they will strike dismay into the hearts of those who would oppress them. Let them do this, and we shall have no more sessions so rich in good intention and popular professions, so barren in all beneficial results, as the past has been.

It is the season when men are called on to think over their past conduct, and to make or amend the rules for its future government; and we trust that in the reflections to which the advent of the coming year may give birth, that these considerations may not be overlooked. The year 1844 sets in amidst a struggle of industry against want, and privation—energies against penury. The policy of the first Representative Assembly of New South Wales, has cast its shadow over it, and men's minds await with silent but intense interest the result.

We wish not to shadow the prospect with clouds too deep; we will still hope, but our faith alone in the unflagging energies of the people—energies which, if properly directed, if resolutely exerted, have never failed the community that relied upon them. When this rock of our hope fails, then shall we despair—and we will not anticipate such degradation.

We cannot conclude the present article without a word or two, to the members of the Legislature themselves. They, too, have had their lessons laid before them by the events of the session. They, too, have learnt, by experience, that the duties which they undertook, involved responsibilities far deeper than they had before anticipated. They have seen how measures of paramount importance have been introduced to the consideration of one half of the representative of the country. They have seen the arbitrary principle of the constitution arraying itself in the fullness of its number, against the diminished representation of the country; and we trust, sincerely trust, that those who are not prepared to fulfil to the utmost the duties they have undertaken, will pause before they again resume their seats in the house of legislation. Some there are, too, who might be mentioned in another strain—who, whatever their errors of experience and judgment, have discharged their duties, in regard to their country's good, in faith to their constituents, which can neither be denied or impugned. But to mention these now, would be to depreciate that higher meed of reward, which we hope and believe is their destiny, in the after annals of the colony.

The Tariff.

We must say, that grievous as the necessity admitted on 811 bands to be, of 8 reform in the Customs' regulations, in order to put down the frauds on the revenue, and the demoralising influence of the violation of the laws restricting the sale and manufacture of spirits, that it is with no small satisfaction that we see the Tariff Bill abandoned for this session.

We do conceive, that it was most impolitic and unstatesman-like, on the part of the Government, and their representatives, to introduce 8 bill of this nature, at the fag end of a session, so tediously protracted as that which has just closed. There was a bill, more immediately affecting the whole class of colonists, than it was possible for any other measure to do, to be passed, without opportunity being given for any expression of opinion, for any detailed and deliberate enquiry. We have had our select committees on this subject, and our special Committees on that, but on 8 measure bringing into conflict so many conflicting interests as this, there is to be no deliberation.

The precipitate, we must say, the shameless and indecent haste of the government to press on this measure, is the more objectionable, when its character is looked at, in connection with the state of the times.

The colonists of all classes are prostrated, by financial distress of the most extreme description. During the session, appeals had been wrung from the misery and destitution of the working classes, to the government and legislature for relief, from present pressing distress. 'And what does the government do? It comes forward, and professes the most deep and heartfelt sympathy, with the working classes. It puts its hand into its pocket, and throws them a copper or two, congratulating itself that it will soon wring them back. It spends the people's money to the amount of £2500, in this very humbly charily, and then comes and asks the representatives of the people, to ratify such expenditure. It professes its willingness to renew its alms givings, and generously puts down on the estimates, £1000 more, to be spent in relief, making £3500 worth of relief in all. £3500, to be spent in bread, and sugar, and tea, for the starving wretches out of employ. And, after having done this—after having been obliged to do this,—after having been reproached on all sides with having done nothing more, and for saying it could do nothing more—at such a time, it comes forward with a measure to make that very bread, and sugar, and tea, dear!—which it has been distributing its paltry alms to enable the poor to buy. It comes down and says, "you get your sugar too cheap, you must give us £40000 or £50000 for it, in addition to what you give the grocer; and, what's more, it is the poorer classes that must, for the most part, pay me this money, as they are the great consumers of raw sugar." A similar tax it is proposed to lay on bread, and on tea—and God knows where the operation is to stop.

We cannot but feel the greatest satisfaction at this reprieve, from the imposition of taxes on the necessities of life. We do not say, we are not prepared to say, that such taxes can be altogether avoided, but give us breathing time; let us first consider what the articles are that will best afford to be taxed. Above all, let us pause awhile, and see if the circumstances of the colonist will at present allow him to bear such a tax.

The proposition of a Tariff of restrictive duties on articles of food, appears to have taken the community by surprise, and a most heterogeneous mass of crude opinions are disseminated in consequence. The bugbears of one class are confronted by the counter bugbears of the other, and arguments against protection, and prohibition run high, from those who have introduced the scale of duties to which the term must apply.

The question has been argued altogether abstractedly. It has not been attempted to apply it to any peculiar circumstances which may attach to this position of the colony. There has been no time given for such an application. Adam Smith, Mr. Huskinson, and other disciples

of free trade have written and spoken against protective duties; their experience being founded on that system of protection which had been adopted in England and other European states; and their dogmas without any modification, have been adopted by the out and out free traders here.

The Corn Laws of England, the grossest inconsistency of which, is the absurdity of endeavouring to feed a manufacturing community with home grown corn, instead of allowing them to buy it from other countries, with their manufactures, or the produce of them, are set before our eyes as a beacon to prevent us here, where the climate above the earth, and the mineral poverty under the earth, prohibit the idea of our becoming a great manufacturing country, from affording protection to agriculture.

The leading journal of the day upholds the tax on wheat, because, says its leading article, it is a fair tax—every body eats bread, so it will apply to all alike—(a new light on the theory of taxation certainly)! The leader of the free trade doctrines in the house, denounces the duty, because it would be a poll tax, from which the poorest would not be exempted.

The Government partisans are all anti-protectionists, and yet we cannot see that God will not in degree be as much a duty of protection on wheat as 1s.

We are no advocate for protective duties, but we think that in the present case the word has been made a bugbear of. We think that restriction is the grand thing to be guarded against in New South Wales, and consequently to our thinking, the impost on sugar is a much more objectionable and odious duty, than those proposed on bread stuffs.

We can manufacture no sugar ourselves, and yet we must have it. Bread we must have too, but if we do not get it from abroad, we shall grow it at home, and every acre of land that the proposed tax serves to bring under cultivation, tends to nullify the effect of the restriction. The duty proposed on foreign wheat, is not of a nature to prohibit its importation. Foreign wheat, paying the duty, can still be introduced, and sold here to the consumer at a price, perfectly fair and reasonable, and if, while bread is not made dear to the poorer classes, wages are given him by the impetus, such a tax would give to agriculture, then indeed, do we say, it is a sound discretion to fix on such an article for taxation. To lay a tax on the staff of life, is in principle bad; in our present position the tax carries with it its own remedy, by providing the means, in the shape of wages to pay such a tax, and it provides for the future, by giving such an impetus to agriculture, as will, in a few years, render the operation of such a tax utterly nugatory.

We admit again, that the principle of the tax on bread is bad; but we contend that the principle of dependence on foreign supplies alone for the leading article of food is worse still, and if under foreign competition, agriculture in New South Wales must cease, if the farmer cannot live—cannot pay his expenses out of the profits of his home grown wheat, then it is right and wise, and politic, that the taxes, which must be raised for the purpose of revenue, should be levied on those articles which interfere with that fair scope for enterprise, to the agriculturist, which all other classes, possess. All taxes are raised for purposes of revenue, and they may all be divided into the two classes of restrictive and protective, and every tax which is levied on an article we do not produce, is in degree restrictive of the consumption of that article, by increasing its price; and all taxes upon commodities of home produce, are in degree protective of those commodities, because they oppose difficulties to the foreign competitors, which do not exist to the home producer; but it does not always follow, that these protective duties are restrictive in their operation; for instance, if the protection, that 8 shilling 8 bushel affords to wheat, should give so much encouragement to agriculture, that corn should be sold here by the farmer at a less price than we can import the foreign article, then the duty would cease to be restrictive. We do not expect, that wheat is always to be at the price which is at present remunerative to the Australian grower, and it would require double the amount of the proposed duties, to raise it to

that price; but, without encouragement is given, to the letting of the land, and to the prosecution of agricultural pursuits, there is but little prospect that the average price will be lower. Entire dependence on foreign supplies, will no more secure the low price of bread and the prevention of monopoly, than will the prohibition of foreign grain, until the home farmer's price is obtained, which is the principle of the English system.

We trust that the agriculturalists will bestir themselves, and take advantage of the time thus given them. Let them collect those statistics which are wanting, to prove their number and value as a class. Let them show, which they will may do, the folly, the danger of trusting altogether to foreign supplies. Let the facilities which many localities of New South Wales afford, for the production, the advantageous production of grain, be made apparent. Let them show that the extinction of agricultural pursuits, and the sending out of the Colony the capital for foreign food, would be a far heavier tax on the wages of the poor, than any increase in the price of the loaf which may arise out of the bread tax. Let it be shown that, for many years to come, New South Wales offers too speculations to capitalists, one to grow wool for exportation, another to grow food for consumption. Let them show, that if we have to buy foreign food, that the produce of our exportable staple, will not pay for our wants of importation, and that we must in consequence dwindle away.

Let the man of the people, too, be ready to assert, whether they will like best, a restrictive tax on sugar and tea, the only operation of which will be to raise the price of those necessaries, without holding out any incentive, to the employment of industry, or a tax on bread, which while it will only increase his expenses in about the same ratio, holds out to him the hope of good wages and permanent employment. If we are to have a tariff of restrictive duties, let the articles to be taxed be thus fairly considered; not weighed in the scales of free trade adjusted by the experience of nations like England; but by the measure of common sense, application of its principles, to the circumstances of our own condition.

Conveyance of Emigrants to the Interior.

By the return of the steamer from Moreton Bay, information is afforded of the arrival of the unemployed laborers taken up to that place by the James Watt, on her last trip. The emigrants have been lodged in one of the Government buildings, and are being disposed of under the surveillance of Captain Wickham, police magistrate—and there is little doubt that the whole number will speedily find profitable employment.

It is with very great regret that we find, from statements made by the Colonial Secretary, in his place in Council, on Wednesday last, that the bounty of the Government, in the conveyance of these emigrants, has been very much abused—that many out of the number were not only not in want, but in affluence.

One man, immediately on his arrival, takes a turre at a rental of £52 per annum, and stocks it with upward of 150 pairs of boots and shoes. Another refuses good situations, and declares, impudently, that having used the Government for his conveyance up, he does not care a straw about it, as he is a £110 man. Others are refusing £25 a year, and a double ration.

How can any temporary measures of relief be carried out, if impositions of this sort are to be carried on?—if the professing poor are to rot the destitute, of the rescue intended for them? Signal punishment should attend on these delinquents: they have been guilty of fraud of the worst kind—fraud that tends to cast the suspicion of its contamination, on their poorer and more honest neighbours.

It is impossible but that these circumstances must have been known to many persons, previous to the embarkation of the guilty parties, and it was their duty to have taken measures to have exposed the fraud. Every man who conceals or connives at any such greedy, and rapacious encroachment on the provision for the destitute, is a sharer in the crime, and deserves the severest reprobation from his fellow man.

We call upon the working classes to indignantly repudiate any participation in such practices, and to strive diligently to expose those who may endeavour to practice them.

Legislative Council.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27th 1843.

The assent of his Excellency the Governor was signified to the *Ad valorem* Duties Regulation Bill, the Doubly Convicted Offenders Bill, and the Water Police Amendment Act.

A message from his Excellency the Governor was read, proposing certain amendments in the Registry Act.

A message from his Excellency the Governor was read, proposing that the provisions of the 26th clause of the Insolvent Act Amendment Bill, should extend to actions of trespass, trover and case.

A message from his Excellency the Governor was read, proposing that schedule A in the Tariff Bill, should contain the following enumeration, Sugar raw, 3s. 6d. per cwt., refined 6s. per Cwt. Coffee 4d. per lb.—Wine 1s. per gallon—Flour 1s. 3d. per cwt.—Wheat 6d. per bushel—other grain 4d per bushel.

The whole of the messages were ordered to be taken into consideration during the evening.

Mr. TERRY presented a petition from certain inhabitants of the district of Yass, praying for Police Magistrate—the petition was read and received.

Mr. TERRY presented the report of the Library Committee, recommending the expenditure of the greater portion of the sum of £300 voted by Council, in Books from England; and moved that the report be received, and that the Committee have permission to sit during the recess—Agreed to.

Dr. NICHOLSON presented a Petition from the Rev. Mr. Clark, Curator of the Museum at Parramatta, praying for compensation on the abolition of that office.

The House then went into Committee to take into consideration the Governor's message with

respect to the Registry Bill. The amendment suggested by his Excellency, which were chiefly of a verbal and formal nature, were agreed to—when the bill was reported by the Chairman, and a message to his Excellency informing him of the agreement of the House in the amendments, was resolved on.

The House then went into Committee to consider the message of the Governor, relative to the Insolvent Act Amendment Bill. The amendment proposed by his Excellency, that the provisions of the 26th clause, relative to the arrest of persons under writs of various sorts shall extend to actions of trespass, trover or case was agreed to.

The House then went into Committee to consider his Excellency's message in reference to the Tariff Bill.

The COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, stated that his Excellency had expressed himself decidedly averse to the duties on flour and wheat, and had declared that he could not pass the bill if those duties were presented in. A long discussion ensued, Messrs. Wentworth, Flaherty, Bowman and Lang, urging that the bill had better be thrown out than that the proposed alterations should be made.—Messrs. Elwin, Lowe, and Bland, spoke in favor of the amendments.—A division took place when the proposed amendments were rejected by a majority of 10 to 9.

Da. B. AND then proposed to take off the duty on flour and grain altogether, but the motion not being seconded fell to the ground.

The proposed alterations in the Sugar duties from 4d. to 3s. 8d. was rejected. An address was agreed on stating that the House could not agree to the amendments proposed by his Excellency, after which the House adjourned.

THURSDAY.

The House met this day at 12 o'clock, and the Speaker announced that the Governor assented to the Registry, Appropriation and Insolvency Law amendment Acts, and withheld his assent from the Tariff Bill.

At One o'clock—His Excellency the Governor was announced, and having been received by the House in form—he prorogued the House in a short address; the only noticeable features of which were an expression of sympathy with the Colonists in their distresses, an opinion that those distresses would cure themselves and that nothing else could—and a congratulation to the wool grower on the remunerative price obtainable for his produce. The House separated at once upon his Excellency's withdrawal.

City Council.

On SATURDAY the 23rd instant, the Council met at the City Hall, when the Mayor, Aldermen, and twelve Councillors were present.

A petition relating to the opening of the meat markets on Sunday morning, was read, received and referred to a future day for consideration.

A report from the Sub-Committee appointed to enquire into the salaries of the officers of the Corporation, was laid on the table. The report recommends reduction to the amount of £1,100. Its adoption was postponed, until absent members should have received notice. The report of the Police Committee was then received and taken into consideration. The Estimate finally resolved on was as follows:—One Police Magistrate at £300—One clerk at £200; One, each £169 £150, £130, £115, and £100.—A Superintendent at £300—Four Inspectors at 48. 6d. per diem—Twelve Sergeants at 3s. 6d.—Seven y. P. licemen at 3s.—One Messenger at 15. 6d.—Clothing £400—Contingent expenses £100; making an aggregate of nearly £7,000, which shews a reduction of £3,000 in the estimate for the previous year.

Insolvency Proceedings.

WEDNESDAY.—Vernon Charles Wilson, of Pitt-street, surveyor; on petition and affidavit.

THURSDAY.—John Waller, B division, Sydney Police. Debts, £8 7s. 10. Assets—personal property, £1 5s. Deficiency, £7 2s. 1d.

Our Weekly Gossip

BOXING-DAY—The celebration of Boxing day was kept up in Sydney, with much spirit, although we are happy to say, with much greater order than usual. The fineness of the weather, contributed much to the gay appearance of the City, which we have not seen look so lively and so animated for months back. The Cricket matches at Hyde Park, formed in the morning the centre of attraction, and we should think at one time upwards of a thousand people were assembled to watch the play. The Temperance procession with their bands and banners, kept up the holiday appearance of the streets till late in the afternoon—Family parties—Teetotal tea parties, the attractions of the Theatre and other entities closed in the evening, and the mirth, the bustle and excitements of the day. The bad times seemed totally forgotten. We wish Boxing day with its happy oblivion would come once a week.

CRICKET—The match between the Australians and the Military on Tuesday last, was won by the former in a single innings—with seven wickets to go down—the play was not over good on either side, and the match was over by three o'clock.

REGATTA—A Regatta took place on Boxing day in Cockle Bay. The first race being between hired class boats, seven of which started and which was won by Mr. Milson's boat *Dido*. The second race was between second class boats, round the row and pigs and back—prize eight guineas. The *Arrow*, *Shadow*, *Bright Planet*, and *Witch*, were the starting boats. The race was won in great style by the *Shadow*. A sweepstakes was also pulled for by fine lings.

NEW YEARS' CHIMES—The bells lately imported for the Catholic Cathedral, are now suspended, in the belfry in course, and erected in the vicinity of St. Marys, and it is not improbable that the old English custom of ringing the old year out and the new one in, may, for the first time, be practised in Sydney to-morrow night, the sound of the "merry peal" will wake strange sensations, in man's bosoms, to which, "the once familiar sound" has been long strange.

ODD FELLOWS—The second anniversary, of the Establishment of the Fourth Division of the Odd Fellows, was celebrated on Tuesday last. The members of the order accompanied by many of the officers of other societies, walked in procession to James's Church, where an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Kemp, the Communion Service being performed by the Lord Bishop. A collection for the poor amounting to £18, was made at the door. During the procession to and from the church—the band of the 88th Regiment was in attendance, and a part of it also accompanied the party to dinner, which took place in the evening at the Odd Fellows Hall, to which about 170 members sat down. Many loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed and responded to with appropriate and eloquent speeches, and the conviviality of the banquet was kept up to a late hour.

PROROGATION—His Excellency was attended to the Council Chamber, on Thursday, by a guard of honor, and a royal salute was fired from the battery, at one o'clock. There was a pretty numerous attendance of ladies and gentlemen, to witness the ceremony of prorogation.

YANKES ON REPEAL—The following "startling announcement," we are told is at this moment in the hands of Sir R. Peel:—"James Berge, of New York, is authorized to pledge the truth and honour of a distinguished American practical Engineer and Pyrotechnist, whose name is known to some members of the Executive Committee of the United Irish Repeal Association, but who for obvious reasons would at present remain unknown, that he is the inventor and sole possessor of a new destructive projectile, by which he is able, with the greatest secrecy, accuracy, and certainty, to destroy with one shot any edifice in England by any ship upon the Irish coast, and that upon the instant when it shall be known that British steel has, on Irish soil, drawn Irish blood, he will, as an American hater of despotism, take the necessary measures to place this power at the disposal of Daniel O'Connell and the Irish people. He also declares his willingness to assist in fortifying the harbours of Ireland upon this new, cheap, and terribly effective plan, and having tried it, he can convince even the chance victor of Waterloo, that the combined navy of England could not enter Cork harbour, without the certainty of destruction on every ship and to every man. He is ready to go to-morrow, and asks no man's aid in this enterprise. Now who is James Berge? We will tell Sir Robert that he is a relative of Bishop Higgins, and the Grand Marshall of the Repealers of the city of New York!" Still more startling, however, are the "announcements" of the distinguished General Hubbell. The *New England Reporter* says, "A tremendous Repeal meeting was held at Philadelphia, at which four hundred and fifteen dollars were collected in resolutions, brilliant in their spirit, were passed; one of which expresses the hope, that if England must use coercion, America will not be tardy in using the same. One of the speakers was the distinguished General Hubbell, who spoke with a rich and glowing eloquence: hear him—'Let the miscreant Peel dare to pierce an Irish bosom or cleave an Irish head with his mercenary sabre, and it is not too much to say that the flames of war will be lighted up in Europe, or wrap the universal world!' The language of an American General—'tis glorious."

Accidents and Offences.

CONVICT MURDER—The ringleaders in the disturbance which occurred last week at the new Military Barrack Stockade, have since been examined before Captain Innes, at Hyde Park Court, when a man named Joseph Shields, who had struck his overseer two severe blows on the head, with a sharp piece of iron, was committed to take his trial, for an attempt to murder.—Another man for throwing stones at his overseer was sentenced to twelve months to an Iron Gang.—And a third who was exciting the other, was sent to Cockatoo Island.

CAUTION TO INSOLVENT DEBTORS—A Mr. Joseph Swaile, of the Hunter River District, who filed his schedule about a fortnight back was committed by Mr. Breanan, on Saturday last, for fraudulent Insolvency, he having obtained goods from Messrs. Iredale and others a few days before his sequestration.

YASS—Great complaints are made in the Yass district, of deprecatious committed by Bush Rangers, and other dangerous characters, which infest the neighbourhood.

HOUSE ROBBERY—On Sunday last, the house of Mr. Creigan bookseller, George-street, opposite the Royal Hotel, was entered whilst the family was at church; and a purse containing £2 3s. 6d. and a gold seal and key, valued at £1 were carried off.

OURAGE BY A SOLDIER—On Monday evening last, about nine o'clock, a soldier, named Murrell, went into the verandah of the house of Mr. Hugh Taylor, Parramatta, and having fixed his bayonet, ordered Mr. Taylor to come out, which he did after some hesitation. The piece being presented at him and his money demanded. Mr. Taylor asked him how much he wanted, when the villain replied 5s.; Mr. Taylor laid 3s. on the table, and gave him some brandy to drink, whilst doing which a young man named Paten came up and knocked his piece out of his hand, when he was secured and taken into custody.

COINING—On Saturday last, a hawk named Dunn, went to a house in Hunter-street, opposite Castlereagh-street, and sold to a woman residing there named Wiseman, sundry articles, for which he received in payment three bad half-crowns, and gave her change out of the same. Two men named Williams and Rafferty, soon after came in and two more half-crown5 of the same description were tendered by the party over the bar of the Sir Maurice O'Connell, in payment for liquor. The parties were apprehended and brought before the Sydney Bench and committed to take their trial for uttering base coin.

DRUNKENNESS—On Sunday a man named Green residing in the vicinity of the site of the old gaol—got intoxicated, and proceeded to the house of a neighbour named Graham and began throwing stones at the inmates—At length he struck Graham on the leg with a brickbat, shat-

tering the limb so dreadfully that it is expected amputation will be necessary—Green has been taken into custody; outrages of this description being usual with him when under the influence of liquor.

INQUEST—An inquest was held on Wednesday afternoon, at the Currency Lane, Brickfield hill, on the body of a man named William Howard, who died in the water closet, the same morning, after eating a hearty breakfast. The medical evidence stated, that the death had been caused by disease of the stomach induced by habits of Intemperance.

An inquest was holden on Thursday, at the Commercial Hotel, King-street, on the body of Captain John Gregory, of the New York Packet, now loading for London, in Darling Harbour. The deceased was found in the morning sitting on a box, in his cabin, quite dead, with the lanyard of his sleeping cot under his chin. From the evidence it appeared, that the deceased was in a weak consumptive state of health, and must have taken hold of the rope to support himself whilst coughing, and slipped, and the bight of the lanyard had caught him under the chin and suffocated him. A verdict of accidentally suffocated was returned.

The Temperance Demonstration.

It is with feelings of heartfelt pleasure, that we recur to the spirited demonstration in the cause of Temperance, which was exhibited on Tuesday last (boxing day.)

This day, which for a long series of years, has been so frequently stained in the city of Sydney, by scenes of protean riot and disgusting debauchery, has, at length, under the humanizing influences of the principle of Total Abstinence, been taught to assume a brighter and more cheering aspect.

It argues in no small degree, of the truth of the cause, of the great moral foundation which it possesses, and of the faith of its supporters, that they should thus dare to single out as it were for their day of festival, a holiday, which has hitherto been uniformly desecrated by the practice of drunken dissipation—when a kind of conventional licence was given, for extended orgies for more reckless intoxication. It is, we say, a convincing argument to us of the great moral truth of the principle, that it ventures thus in its strong places to attack the crime of drunkenness.

It gives us assurance, that however arduous, however gradual the progress of the cause may be at present, that it must ultimately prevail, and we are convinced of this, because, however they may disguise it from their own minds, it is quite certain that the benefit of the principle is tacitly acknowledged by those, who, though so strong in numbers and influence, strive not to interfere with this invasion of old established, but pernicious customs.

Great matter indeed, have the teetotalers of Sydney for self-gratulation on the change which the propagation of their principle has worked in the city of Sydney. Not only have the converts to teetotalism been numerous—not only have many, very many invertebrate drunkards been reclaimed, but a disposition to sober habits has been given to the community. Let not the Total Abstinence be faint hearted, because the number of pledges taken is few, because they increase but slowly, for the benefits accruing from his exertions are not to be measured by these. It is morally impossible but that the example, the persuasion of three or four thousand teetotalers, men pledged not to drink intoxicating liquors because of their evil effects, must have great weight in deterring others from habits of drunkenness. The teetotal wife, or sister, or brother, will do much towards restraining the excess of the relative5 with whom they are in habitual communion, and the very existence of a class amongst whom drunkenness is looked upon with abhorrence, and the means of drunkenness shunned as a pestilence, will do much to restrain the prevalence of the evil. The change in this respect, which has been wrought during the last year or two in the city of Sydney, is very great. Not only are the scenes of drunken profligacy less rife within our streets; but it is thought more despicable to be seen intoxicated, than it was formerly; our cells and watch houses are not so crowded. We would venture to assert, that the drunkard's lists, at the Police Office, for the year 1843, would not exceed one-third of the number which the returns of 1840 and 1841 would show, notwithstanding the increased population of the city.

We repeat, that it is with heartfelt pleasure that we recur to the scene5 of Tuesday last, where merriment and good humour sat smiling on the city, without the disgusting excesses which have ordinarily characterized similar holidays. In no British community do we ever remember to have seen a festival day observed with fewer instances of intoxication.

At noon the different Total Abstinence Societies met at the Race Course, with their bands playing, and their banners flying, and having arranged themselves in order, proceeded in procession through the principal streets of the town. Their course was quiet, cheerful, and uninterrupted, and exciting welcome smiles and good humour wherever they approached.

The St. Patrick's Society met at the School room, in Castlereagh-street, and took tea together. A numerous and happy company eat down, and seldom have we seen an entertainment pass off with greater zest. After tea, the meeting was addressed by the Rev. President, the Rev. Mr. Coffey, and other speakers, and about half-past nine o'clock dancing was commenced by the younger part of the assembly, and was kept up with great spirit till twelve, when the company assembled separated amidst the greatest glee and good humour. The visitors of the St. Patrick's tea party can bear witness, that there is no want of mirth and enjoyment at teetotal parties.

The members of the Rechabites Society, dined together at the Temperance Coffee House, Pitt-street, where a very plentiful and elegant banquet was provided by Mr. Fletcher. Mr. Garratt presided on the occasion. After dinner, the Queen and several other loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk, beside5 those which were associated with the Society. The health of the officer5 of the