



### "THE SLANGWHANGERS," *alias* THE CITY COUNCIL.

WHEN our indulgent contemporary—indulgent only to the faults and failings of the wealthy and influential—"the Daily," confesses that a charitable forbearance, on its part, has saved the Council from the "lash of an indignant Press," which their indolence, incapacity, and manifold delinquencies, during the last three months, have so loudly called for, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen, and City Councillors, cannot reasonably expect much, from the tender mercies of our pen, or the merciful forbearance of an indulgent public, which has viewed, with feelings of disgust, bordering upon detestation, the shameless forfeiture of those pledges, so recently given to their constituents, who placed them in a position—certainly, as it has turned out, not only to render themselves ridiculous, but at the same time, to insult, oppress, and trample upon those who they cajoled out of their votes at the time of their election.

Before these ignoble grubs broke loose from their slimy cryselis into life and light, as gentlemen butterflies, with painted wings, to flutter in the sunshine of court patronage and court favour—but let us adopt less flowery and metaphorical phraseology, and speak in language, to them, more intelligible—before these butchers, tailors, tanners, "publicans and sinners," were called away from their humble but more useful occupations—the butcher from his shambles and his block, the tailor from his shop-board and his sheers, the tanner from his tan-pit and his hides, the publican from his pewter and glasses—by a too confiding people, and metamorphosed into mayors (we might say asses), aldermen, and councillors—they were all promises, all smiles, and all professions: all humility, amenity, and obsequiousness to their now despised constituents: they were all things to all men, who would honour them with a vote. But, so soon as they mounted the pinnacle of unexpected greatness, on the shoulders of their duped electors, like the man who, mounting the pyramid, casts down the ladder by which he ascended, they spurned the "swinish multitude," upon whose shoulders they mounted the "dizzy height" upon which they have since grown giddy, and from which they stand in much hazard of falling: chuckled at the success of their own perfidy and duplicity, and set public opinion, public faith, and private principle, at once, at bold defiance! Then, commenced that species of *slangwhanging*, which so eminently distinguished the *logocracy* of the Manhattas, and of which Washington Irving, in his celebrated *Knickerbocker* has given so lively and animated a description. Each humble citizen, forgetting the inglorious part nature designed him to play on the stage of life, swelled up with imaginary importance, like the frog in the fable, and exploded in inflated speeches,—if declamatory rigmarole, remarkable only for "sound and fury, signifying nothing"—(*vox et preterea nihil*) may be dignified by such a designation—and fancied himself an orator—a senator—a statesman—a politician—in fact it was impossible for him, distinctly, to comprehend what he was; suffice it to say he was a councillor—and in that one magical polysyllable "the measure of his greatness was filled up!"

Then, (just three months ago,) began the municipal *logocracy* to fret, and fume away the public time, and expend the public money, with a zeal and indefatigability, which would lead an unsophisticated spectator to believe, that they were either talking against time, or were paid by the hour for the exercise of their stentorian lungs. An indulgent Public, and forbearing Press, have been gazing on in silent wonder and amazement, awaiting, in feverish anxiety, the delivery of this pregnant body of its precious burthen—but, what has been the result? Why *parturiant montes, et nascetur ridiculus mus* the mountains were in labour and brought forth a mouse.

But, we beg pardon, the time of parturition has not yet arrived—the mountains are struggling in as agonising throes now as they were in the first pangs of their travail, and no mouse has yet crept forth to rejoice our hearts and give hopeful promise of a healthy and numerous progeny of young mice. Nothing—literally nothing has been done but the appointment of officers, for whom there is nothing to do—giving feasts and merry meetings, and holding committees and councils—debates, and disputes, and discussions, and spending the peoples' money, most liberally and patriotically, for the good of the country! What is the result? Why the indulgent Public is now an indignant Public, and the forbearing Press is now an indignant Press, whose "lash," we hope, "the Daily," will lay on with unsparing severity, and (God grant,) with wholesome effect.

### POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF THE BANKS.

THE exercise of the elective franchise in this colony, under the existing state of things, seems to be surrounded with almost insurmountable difficulties. Hitherto, the most dangerous obstacle to its free exercise, we considered to be, the election of men for representatives who, being themselves connected with the Government, would betray the interests of their constituents and lend a helping hand to the "powers that be," to subjugate and oppress the people. But these are "gay, bold-faced villains," whose prominent position in the public service affords no shelter for deception, if they do not succeed, with "oily gammon," to wheedle us out of our votes, and wriggle themselves into the House. There is, however, another influence far more dangerous and insidious, which is not so easily detected, and which can work, silently and secretly, to undermine the foundations of our constitutional freedom, without our being able either to detect or counteract it. It is the influence of the Bank Directors, who, to use the language of Sir George Gipps in Council on Monday, need only shew a member his bills, and then let the member vote against the wishes of that director, if he dare—"People, he said, talked of the influence of government; but what would be the influence of government compared to that of the banks? Every one who started for a seat in the new assembly, was asked if he was a government man; but the directors of the banks would have a far greater influence than any government could have, and it would require a second General Jackson to break that influence. In America, for a time, the banks ruled the States—the influence there had been broken, and so it must be here, but it could not be so without a Jackson. A director of a bank, under the present system, need only shew a member his bills, and then let the member vote against the wishes of that director, if he dare." This, indeed, is an alarming discovery—a frightful evil—but where is the state-physician who can prescribe a remedy, under the existing circumstances? Truly, we are in a pretty predicament, between the Government influence on the one hand, the Bank influence on the other, and the intriguing of partizanship on every hand! The difficulty of the task of selecting, from among the number of candidates, a body of representatives, worthy to be entrusted with the guardianship of our interests, is manifestly great: nevertheless, discouraging as are the circumstances, they will afford, to the independent electors of New South Wales, an opportunity, by a prudent and discriminating choice, of rebutting the calumny, under which they have so long, and (we trust) unjustly laboured, and of proving to the people in England, that they are neither unworthy of, nor unfit for, the exercise of the highest of the inalienable constitutional privileges of their birthright—the elective franchise.

### THE BUILDING ACT.

THE contemplated extension of the operation of the Building Act, beyond its present limits, will be severely and oppressively felt, by the humbler purchasers of suburban allotments, who are now erecting cheap tenements thereon, with a view to let them. There are many such on the South Head Road, Surry Hills, and elsewhere, who, if the Amendment Act, now under consideration of the Council, is to take immediate effect, will be very much injured by its operation. As a *pro-spective* measure, we have no objection to the extension of the Building Act, but its immediate operation, being manifestly injurious to the interests of an industrious and respectable class of persons of the humbler walk of life, we must, certainly join them in protesting loudly against. If the City Council were to put their own house in order first,—that is the town of Sydney,—before they take the trouble of going so far out of the direct road to meddle with their suburban neighbours, they would be spending the public time and money to far better advantage.

### SALT PROVISION COMPANY.

A company has been formed lately in Sydney to relieve the settlers from the ruinous consequences of a superabundance of stock overrunning their pastures, without the prospect of a market to convert them into ready cash, at anything like a remunerating price.

The fact is, during the late and present depressed state of trade generally, and the languishing condition of the agricultural and pastoral interests, (from a variety of causes,—but not the want of human labour, we boldly contend—while hundreds are seeking employment in vain, not only about the streets of the metropolis, but the populous districts of the interior), the largest agriculturists and stockproprietors have been harrassed to death by lawyers' letters, notices of bills dishonoured and threats of legal proceedings in default of the liquidation of what, under another state of things, would be a re-

diculously insignificant and contemptible amount, by every post, when their flocks and herds were absolutely countless. We are acquainted with one country gentleman ourselves, whose property is estimated at £10,000 at least, his stock numbering upwards of 3,000 head, who, we have seen, harrassed in this manner for months and months together, because he could not, without a most ruinous sacrifice, obtain a pound in exchange for the fattest cattle he could select from his large herds. Well, it is then evident that under such an anomalous state of things this man of £10,000 in property was not either in point of comfort, independence or wealth, for one moment to be compared to the humble, hardworking artizan who "dearly earns his poor reward," and lays his head (not aching with anxieties and cares like his lordly master,) on his pillow at night, and abandons himself to sweet and undisturbed slumber until "the cocks shrill clarion" calls him to his daily toil again.

The object then of this company, as we have said, is to relieve the *wealthy pauper* we have described, and put him more upon an equality with regard to ease and comfort with his humble servant. The means by which it is proposed to do this is simply "to receive a number of cattle from the settlers, to kill and salt them, and return the meat to the settler packed in casks bearing the company's brands, deducting a certain portion as payment for their trouble, so that there cannot be a large outlay."

Notwithstanding that the company has been already formed expressly for the relief of the proprietors of superabundant herds of cattle, and the capital only £5000, yet that strange and unaccountable apathy or stupidity—we know not which to call it,—(seeing that men hesitate to help themselves when others are lending them every assistance in their power,) which we are sorry to say, has hitherto characterised all classes of the community, when any essential benefit is sought to be obtained for the land of our adoption, has prevented the settlers from coming forward to encourage the undertaking.

Upon this important subject, for it is not only important to the individual interests of one particular class of the community, but to the whole commonwealth, and the future wealth and prosperity of the colony at large; a contemporary observes—"The settlers are badly off, but surely they could afford to pay two hundred and fifty £20 shares in a company of this description—a company for the establishment of an export of those herds of cattle, to the difficulty of getting a market for which, a great portion of the embarrassment under which the settlers now labour is justly attributed."

### NIGHT AUCTIONS.

A petition has been presented to the City Council by Mr. Macdermott, praying "that night auctions might be abolished as a nuisance." The auctioneers who sell in the evening, some of whom are of equal respectability with any who wield the hammer by daylight, feel justly aggrieved and incensed at what they consider a gratuitous insult and an unwarrantable interference with the rights of free trade; which it, unquestionably would be, had either the Corporation or the Government the power to prevent them from pursuing their avocations as other people in business are allowed to do. But, we apprehend, neither the petitioners nor the gentlemen who spoke so unguardedly to the disparagement of night auctions in the council, meant anything by designating them a "nuisance" beyond this, that the incessant clangor of the evening bells was a nuisance, which it decidedly is. We never could see the necessity for perpetuating this vile custom of ringing bells at auctions, for annoying as it is by day time, it is unsufferable by night. We trust, however, that beyond suppressing this nuisance, no attempt will be made to interfere otherwise with these night sales, which are much frequented by poor persons for the purpose of meeting with bargains, disposing of superfluous articles to raise money these hard times, and some people gain a livelihood by making purchases at them, and selling the articles again to advantage. Therefore, as a convenience to the poor and needy, we should be sorry to see any attempt made to put them down; but the bell—Oh! the horrible bell must be silenced.

### FREE INSTITUTIONS.

In our leader we have endeavoured, however feebly, to delineate the character and conduct of our Town Council—but it has since struck us, that in doing so, we omitted (intentionally indeed, for if we were to pursue the subject in all its various ramifications we should write a pamphlet instead of a leading article), that the Governor during the long, tedious, but most able debate in the old Legislative Council, upon the introduction of the Municipal Bill, continually impressed upon the minds of the members the necessity of introducing the *minor* institution of Municipal Corporations as a criterion by which Her Majesty might judge

of the eligibility of the denizens of Botany Bay, to be admitted to the free-born privileges of Britons, by having a representative government. Sir George Gipps—to do him as we wish to do every one—even the meanest in the community—*justice*, has faithfully fulfilled and carried out the principles he laid down so fairly and honourably. And in giving this meed of deserved praise, we must also give it to the Government, of which Sir George has been, and is, a trusty and (we believe), an independent servant. But—and why should we qualify the assertion we are about to make, namely, the Government has done everything for us and we may prosper, or might prosper under its fostering care,—if we were only true to ourselves. We have elected a set of men in the Town Council, who have betrayed us and we may be the victims of the same duplicity, and perfidy on the part of the candidates in the greater election just approaching. How has the Town Council worked? We will answer for the Public—*badly*. What will her Majesty or Sir George Gipps, her *locum tenens* here say? Why, that, as in the minor institution we are not able to govern ourselves, so in the greater, that of legislative representation, we are clearly, (as Mr. Kemble, the "harmless lunatic" said), disqualified. Let the citizens lay this to heart, and recollect that, the introduction of these free institutions, the birthright of Britons, into this hitherto convict and calumniated colony is a mere experiment, the failure of which will procrastinate for an indefinite period, those desirable privileges we have been so anxious to enjoy. And let them look back at the silly mountebanks of the Town Council, and say, when such weighty and solemn results to the colony are pending upon their capricious conduct, how they should be regarded or chastised for trifling as they have been doing, with the sacred rights of the People.

### ST. PATRICK'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY'S WEEKLY MEETING.

The usual weekly meeting of this society took place on Monday evening, in the school-room of the Old Court House, which was tastefully decorated with flags, banners, and emblems of that society, ornamented with wreaths and native shrubs. The band of the society, which is usually in attendance to increase the animation of the meeting, was absent on that evening. The room was crowded, as usual, with persons of the humbler classes. At about half-past seven o'clock the Rev. Mr. Farrelly, and the Rev. Mr. M'Encroe, Priests of the Roman Catholic Church, accompanied by Dr. Tierney, entered the room amid loud plaudits. Upon ascending the platform, and taking the chair, the Rev. Mr. Farrelly opened the business of the meeting with an amusing prelude which produced repeated peals of laughter.

The Rev. Mr. Farrelly then left the chair, and the Rev. Mr. M'Encroe addressed the meeting at considerable length, and with great fervour and ability, on the advantages of adhering to the principles and promoting the interests of Total Abstinence, not only in a moral and physical, but also in a political point of view. He stated that he had just returned from a tour through some of the country districts, and there he was surprised to find the numbers and zeal in the Total Abstinence Cause which distinguished all the meetings he had held. At Parramatta, where he administered "a bowl of temperance" to the ladies of the Factory, who he was happy to say, received it with much thankfulness, and apparent gratification.—At Patrick's Plains, where the meeting he had convened was numerously attended by persons from all the surrounding districts.—At Maitland he also found the Cause was progressing rapidly, and the inestimable blessings which must ever be the inevitable result was the gratifying consequence—namely, a decrease of crime, wretchedness, and misery, and a proportionate increase of comfort, ease, and prosperity. He said it was much to be deplored that the persons connected with the Press of the colony, who were the oracles of the People, allowed the Cause of Total Abstinence to work its way without their advocacy; and if any member of the Press were present, he called upon him, and all connected with it to make known through the medium of the Press, the benefits and advantages flowing from an adherence to the principles of the society. In a political point of view they were bound to do so. A great deal had been said lately about the badness of the times; the want of labour to cultivate the soil, consequence on the secession of immigration: parties had prayed for duties on imported goods, in order to give a fair chance of earning a livelihood—all of which would cease to be felt or complained of, if by stopping the importation of that liquid poison, Rum, the enormous sum it cost the colony annually were saved and applied to immigration purposes and to the promotion of the Cause of Total Abstinence, for it was an indisputable fact, that one teetotaler was worth, in the labour market, two drunkards. On his way down from the Hunter, he was conversing with Dr. Mitchell, whom he met on the road, who assured him the use of intoxicating liquors enervated mind and body, relaxed the nerves, and rendered those who were in the habit of indulging in it incapable of doing half the work that a man could do who totally abstained from their pernicious use: therefore it was as plain a calculation, as that two and two made four, that if one teetotaler was equal in bodily labour to two other men, that 30,000 teetotalers were equal to 60,000 ordinary men, and thus would save the expense of their importation and support, and remove all the commercial and agricultural distress that at present prevails, besides advancing the happiness and prosperity of themselves and the colony generally. The Rev. gentleman concluded with an earnest exhortation to all present to come forward and sign the pledge, and to aid, in promoting the interests of so good and righteous a cause, by every means in their power.

At the conclusion of the Rev. gentleman's address, of which the above is a mere outline, a passage was cleared through the crowd, and numbers of persons of all ages, sexes, and conditions pressed eagerly forward to the table to sign the pledge, after which the meeting separated.