

ORIGINAL POETRY.

A SONG FOR THE SPRING TIME.

The mimosa are blooming,
For summer is coming,
I felt her warm breath in the forest to-day:

Where the river is streaming,
And Nature lies dreaming
Of new love and beauty, come, dearest, away.

His gentle mate wooing,
The wood-pigeon's cooing
In the oaks that o'ershadow the path we will take:

Like music out flowing,
Come forth, that all glowing
And beautiful things may please more for your sake.

We will wander, joy drinking,
Until the sun, sinking,
Shall give the deep west with his glory to blaze;

When homeward returning,
With poetry burning,
I'll mint from those splendours a song in your praise.

CHARLES HARPUR.

Jerry's Plains, 10th September, 1843.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. CONDELL requested permission from the house to be absent for six weeks or two months, as he had duties to perform under the Melbourne Corporation Act, which, if not performed, would subject him to a penalty of £100.

After some slight discussion on the subject, leave was granted.

INSOLVENT LAW.

Dr. NICHOLSON gave notice that he would, on Thursday, the 14th instant, move for a return of the fees received during the years 1842 and 1843, by the various commissioners of insolvent estates, the salaries of their clerks, and incidental expenses; and also a return of the amount of fees received by the commissioners of the court of claims.

CONVICTS.

Dr. NICHOLSON gave notice that he would, on Friday, the 15th instant, move for a return of the number of prisoners that have been landed in Sydney from Norfolk Island from the year 1838, distinguishing those who possessed conditional pardons from those whose sentences had expired and those who were still under sentence; also, a return of the number of expirce convicts who have landed at Port Phillip from Van Diemen's Land since 1838; and also a return of the trials and convictions in the supreme court and courts of quarter sessions in Sydney and Melbourne during 1841 and 1842, shewing the number of such trials and convictions which have been obtained and preferred against expirces from Norfolk Island and Van Diemen's Land.

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

Mr. MURRAY enquired whether the government intended to afford any assistance to the district councils by way of the moneys paid for publicans' licenses, or other fees and fines which were now received by the government.

The COLONIAL TREASURER was not prepared to answer the question; but if the hon. member would give notice of asking it he would endeavour to be prepared to do so.

Mr. MURRAY then gave notice.

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Mr. PANTON moved the address of which he had given previous notice for returns of the quantity of wheat and flour imported from North and South America and Van Diemen's Land. In doing so, the hon. member entered into a statistical account of the population of the colony, and the number of acres in cultivation, from the year 1830 to 1842 inclusive, and of the amount of grain imported during the same period; and enquired whether it was the intention of the government to introduce any measure during the present session for an alteration in the ad valorem duties on imported grain?

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he was not in a position to answer the question, but he would be prepared to do so on Tuesday.

The motion was then carried, and the Colonial Treasurer and the Attorney General were appointed to present the address to the Governor.

USURY BILL.

Mr. WENTWORTH, in pursuance of notice, moved for a call of the house on the 15th inst., for the consideration of his motion for the second reading of his bill to regulate the interest on money.

Mr. WINDEYER seconded the motion, which was carried.

SHERIFF'S SALES.

Mr. WENTWORTH moved an address to his Excellency for a return of the sheriff's sales, which was adopted, and the Colonial Treasurer and the Colonial Secretary were appointed to present it to his Excellency.

Mr. WINDEYER moved for a return of the number of distresses levied for quit rents, the sums levied for, the sums realised, and the amount and description of property sold in the course of the last twelve months.

Mr. WENTWORTH seconded the motion. The COLONIAL TREASURER would not oppose the motion; there had not, however, been more than six or seven sales for quit rents. If the quit rents had been collected four or five years ago, objections would then have been made, and they were in fact objected to, on the ground that the government was then rich; by the same reason, now the government was poor they ought to be paid.

The address was then adopted, and ordered to be presented to his Excellency by the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer.

SAVINGS BANK BILL, AND REGISTRY BILL.

The Savings Bank Act Amendment Bill and the Registry Bill were each read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday.

POSTAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The house then went into committee on the Postage Act Amendment Bill.

The Auditor General proposed that the figure £5 be struck out, and £1 be inserted in its place, in the clause regulating fines for the detention of letters by masters of ships.

Mr. WINDEYER seconded the motion, but after some discussion the amendment was lost, and the original clause carried, with a slight addition.

duction of the system of franking at all into the colony.

Mr. WALKER concurred with the view taken by Mr. Hamilton.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said the weight allowed in England to members of parliament was only one ounce; if it were extended to two ounces members would be troubled with large packets of letters to deliver to the friends of their constituents in Sydney.

Mr. WENTWORTH said the fortunes of members of parliament were much greater than those of the members of that council; and he believed they were the only colonial legislature where the members gave their time gratuitously. He therefore thought it hard to tax them with the postage of letters.

The house then divided, when there was a majority of eight against Mr. Wentworth's amendment.

Mr. WENTWORTH moved an amendment, extending the above restriction to any public officer, in any public department; but this amendment was also lost, by a majority of thirteen.

Mr. WENTWORTH said he would propose another amendment, that the Superintendent of Convicts, the Commander in Chief of the Forces, and the Head of the Commissariat Department, should not be allowed the privilege of franking; but on the suggestion of Mr. HAMILTON, the amendment was deferred, on account of the absence of the Colonial Secretary, and the further consideration of the bill was postponed until Wednesday.

CATTLE SLAUGHTERING ACT.

The Slaughtering of Cattle Act Amendment Bill was read a third time, and passed.

SOLVENT DEBTORS BILL.

The house then went into committee for the re-consideration of the Solvent Debtors Bill, which was gone through with, and after receiving a few verbal alterations was carried.

The house then resumed, and the Chairman having reported progress, Mr. WENTWORTH moved that the bill be engrossed. Carried.

The house then adjourned until Tuesday. (Continued in page 2.)

DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12.

Present:—E. C. Close, Esq., Warden, Messrs. Wyndham, Lang, Innes, Gordon, and Hungerford.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL.

The WARDEN said though the duties of the Council would not at present be very onerous, as without money little could be done, it would, nevertheless, be as well to make preparations for any call that the government might make upon them, and to put things into a train for making the assessment.

Mr. WYNDHAM said that with respect to the office of district surveyor, though the act directed that a surveyor should be appointed, he thought it would hardly be necessary to appoint one for the present, as his services would not be required.

The WARDEN said as several applications had been made for the various offices he thought it would be better for the council to name those whom they might think the most proper persons to fill them, in order to put the other applicants out of suspense.

CLERK OF COUNCIL.

The WARDEN then read applications for the office of clerk from the following gentlemen:—Mr. Joseph Chambers, solicitor, Mr. John Turner, solicitor, Mr. John H. Garvin, and Mr. James M'Eachern, of Sydney; and also an application from Mr. A. Vella for the situation of under clerk, which was accompanied by several testimonials.

Mr. LANG then proposed that Mr. Chambers should be nominated as a fit and proper person for clerk of the council.

Captain HUNGERFORD seconded the proposition, which was put and carried unanimously.

TREASURER.

The WARDEN read applications for the office of treasurer from W. Brooks, Esq., of Lockend, and E. D. Day, Esq.

Mr. WYNDHAM then proposed that E. D. Day, Esq., should be nominated to the office of treasurer.

Mr. INNES seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

DISTRICT SURVEYOR.

The WARDEN then read applications for the office of district surveyor from the following parties:—Mr. John James Martin, of Sydney—this application was accompanied by several testimonials, which were also read—Mr. Robert Keddie, and Mr. Walter Bagot. The Warden also stated that Mr. Ross Coulter had expressed his intention of applying, but as his application was not before the council no notice could be taken of it.

Captain HUNGERFORD then proposed that Mr. Walter Bagot should be nominated to the office.

Mr. WYNDHAM seconded the proposition. Mr. LANG proposed Mr. Robert Keddie.

The WARDEN and several of the members expressed themselves as favourable to the appointment of Mr. Keddie, if the office had been that of an assessor, but for the office of surveyor the council were of opinion that it would require a person who was a good draftsman, which Mr. Keddie himself had stated that he was not.

The question that Mr. Bagot be nominated was then put and carried.

It was then resolved that the salaries of the above officers should not at present be taken into consideration, nor should they commence their duties until further notice from the council.

TIME OF MEETING.

On the suggestion of the WARDEN, it was then unanimously agreed that the time of meeting for the future should be at eleven o'clock a.m.

ASSESSMENT.

The WARDEN said he thought it was necessary that some arrangements should be made for putting things in proper train for making the assessment, and perhaps the best way would be to appoint a committee.

of the inhabitants of this district to pay their debts, cannot but regard with alarm the tax proposed to be levied upon them, and would humbly represent to his Excellency the Governor their conviction that, if carried into effect, incalculable distress must ensue; and that therefore that part of the police fund proposed to be levied on the district should be charged on the general revenue as heretofore; and that a copy of this resolution should be forwarded by the Warden to his Excellency the Governor.

Though this resolution had been drawn up by him (the Warden), the suggestion was not his own, it had been made to him; he however concurred in it, and thought it to be his duty to bring the matter before the council, with whom it remained to adopt or reject the resolution.

Several of the members having expressed themselves as coinciding with the resolution, it was put and carried unanimously.

The Council then adjourned until Tuesday, the 3rd October, then to meet for the purpose of receiving the report of the Assessment Committee.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the Maitland Mercury.

GENTLEMEN—It is a matter of surprise, as well as of just and general complaint, amongst the inhabitants of this district, that an individual holding the important and responsible office of chief constable should be allowed to be a vendor of goods, or in other words, a storekeeper. In a community constituted as ours must necessarily be, from its late character as a penal settlement, it is a matter of the highest moment that the avenues of justice, in all their ramifications, should be freed from any and every obstruction, and that every officer connected with its administration, from the highest to the lowest, should be removed from either fear or favour in the exercise of it.

It is, I apprehend, needless to dwell for one moment upon the temptations to which an individual holding the office to which I have just alluded may be exposed in the due performance of his duties, and that a secret influence, the more dangerous from its secrecy, may be sometimes exerted as to lead to a tampering with parties who may have rendered themselves in any way obnoxious to the laws of their country. I make no charge of the sort. My objection is to the principle—a principle, I believe, recognised by the government regulations on the subject, which distinctly prohibit that the office shall be held in connection with any description of trade.

It appears that representations and remonstrances have been made to the authorities here, which have not produced the desired effect, and I am therefore induced to request publicity of the fact through the medium of your useful journal, and remain, gentlemen, yours very respectfully,

VERITAS.

Raymond Terrace, Sept. 1st, 1843.

[If the publicity given to the circumstance should not have the desired effect, we would advise our correspondent to forward a memorial on the subject to the Colonial Secretary.—Eps. M. M.]

To the Editors of the Maitland Mercury.

Sirs—U might bee anksus to larn how things har a goin hon up here, and if you think my Correspondins worth the insartion it his hat your sarvis.

Altho Iham no wery great scholar myself I keeps a Clark, and when hany thing hof himportens hockers Ikud mak him rit to you. I ham wery glad to say that the hellectors of Muscete Bruk are now aware of the hevill that had so nearly been huffedict hon them by Mr. Hoglivie's being returned as their Representativ to the legislativ Council, this they were fortunately heekaped, and rejoice hat it; the more particularly has from what they hav hailrely persevred hof the bines habbits hand habbilitits of Mister Windeyer, he will prov a credit to the hellectors by whom he was returned, and prov a most hoficent member of Council.

We hav had fine ranes hup here, hand hevry thing luks wery charmin; the only drabuk to our prospekts his the badnes hof the times—no money, nothin a goin but the demand kums hanother "I promis to pay" when take up the first; thus goin on, I pose, to God knows when, by hevry tim no doubt the times will be better, hif hevry they be.

Our Koor of Revests hindeed I dont well understand, nor hits workin, but this i do hunderstand, that hit has not given much satisfashun in this here quarter; but hit must be hoing to the hignorance of the vulgar, who when a benefitt is conferrd on them dont no how to valse hit. Thus, if I wants to get a excacushun hout, the man wot has got the givin hof hit wont let me hav hit till he likes himself. Is this rit? Is a diskritionary power to this hextent lodged in the kummishun, who ever he may be? I shud think not, but praps you cud tell me. I vil korrespond reglarly, and i takes bin your paper now. I hopes that porshun of a Korrespondent's letter on the probabl kawes of colonial distress, "Heditors havin the power to refews their korrespondent's letters inshershun," will be remedied hin the present sittin of Council. But about the Koor of Reckvests, hand a hev other littel matters connected therewith, I will defer to hanoother hoptunitaty, has h i must remark that we be hexclusive up here, hand does not hallow nobody to "question hour decisions."

How wud you newpaper men like that? Lord, what a row you wud kick hup! Ha, pretty doctrin truly, the hacts of publik men, "I does not mane the keepers of publik ouses," not to be open to the comments of the publik.

We have had a claryman appointed to this district, which hit his oped will do much gud, hand turn many from the hevill hof their ways; has hit is pretty well known in this neborhood how zelously he will be secuded by myself in the gud work, the most sanguin hoptectations are henterained.

I ham rejosed to say that in horder to teach the yung hidea to shoot that a publik hinstitutshun his hin contemplation; hoing to the flantropic hevreshuns hof Mr. George Lewis, there his hevry reason to believe that this desirabel hobject will be hattained.

Wud you inform your reders if there be hany demand for sednr in Maitland, has grete quantities hof hit can now be had vry chepe in Musselbruke. Hif you wud be vry glad to here from me hifnoform me, hand I vil hiltiten you a leetle further on our local sains and doins. —I ham, surs, yours vry truly,

A KORRESPONDENT.

[If our "korrespondent" is vry desirous of "hiltitening" us further on the sayings and

doings of Muswellbrook; we should esteem it a particular favour if he would allow his clerk to translate his epistles into English.—Eps. M. M.]

SYDNEY NEWS.

The Sydney District Council met on Saturday last, when it was announced by the Warden that the Governor had altered the charter so as to exclude the city. A discussion then rose as to whether they could legally hold their meetings in the city, and it was agreed that the Warden should take such steps as would enable them to do this. No officers were appointed, but it was considered that a surveyor and secretary were immediately necessary, and the council was to meet to-day (Saturday), for the purpose of appointing them. The salary of the former was fixed at £200, and £50 for travelling expenses, and the latter at £150.

The Windsor District Council held their first meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 5th. After the charter had been read the Warden read a letter from Mr. Beddek, which stated that he (Mr. B.) was not qualified to act as a councillor, and that if he did so act it might render any proceedings on the part of the council nugatory. The Warden afterwards stated that he had received from Mr. Noth an estimate of the annual police and gnol expenses for the district, which amounted to £2043 18s. 3d., one half of which would have to be borne by the district, exclusive of all other expenses. No further business was done, and the council then adjourned until Wednesday, the 20th instant.

A public meeting was held at the court house, Murrumbidgee, on the 2nd inst., Dr. Thompson in the chair, and a committee was appointed to prepare a petition to the Governor praying him to suspend the operation of the District Council during the monetary depression of the colony; and subsequently a resolution was passed that Mr. Wentworth should be solicited to present a similar petition to the Legislative Council.

The Bishop of Australia is about to proceed on a visit to Port Phillip.

BANK OF AUSTRALIA.—On Thursday, the 7th inst., a special general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held for the purpose of determining on a call to meet the liabilities of the bank. About 30 of the proprietors were present, Mr. H. H. Macarthur, M.C., in the chair. The liabilities were stated to be £470,000, but the assets it was difficult to estimate; if forced into the market at the present moment it was thought the propri. tors would have to raise £200,000. Much time was occupied in discussing the conduct of the old directors, and the late cashier, and allusion was made to an article which appeared in the Herald on the previous Monday, to the effect that two of the directors had on one occasion discounted their own bills, or in other words helped themselves to £30,000. The truth of the statement was confirmed by a reference to the proceedings of the day in question, the two directors being Mr. A. B. Spark and Mr. Edye Manning; the only person cognizant of the circumstance being Mr. H. M'Kenzie, the cashier. The Chairman intimated his intention of resigning, but this was overruled, and the meeting adjourned for a fortnight. Since the meeting Mr. Manning has published a letter in which he states that as far as he is concerned he can prove the statement respecting the discounting affair to be untrue; and a correspondence has also been published between Mr. A. B. Spark and Mr. M'Kenzie, from which it would appear that the bills in question were renewals of others for which security had been given to the bank.

ENGLISH NEWS.

The King of Hanover was expected to arrive in England during the month of May, to attend the christening of the young princesses. Prince Albert was to visit Bristol in June, to be present at the launch of the Great Britain.

The launch of her Majesty's steam yacht, the Victoria and Albert, took place at Pembroke, in the presence of upwards of ten thousand spectators.

IMPERIAL PRESENTS.—The presents which have been sent to Queen Victoria from the Emperor of China consist of golden bedsteads and a great quantity of silk of a sort which has never yet been seen in Europe. There were likewise two ear-drops, worth a thousand pounds each; and a shawl worked in needlework, with every kind of beast on it known to the Chinese; besides fourteen large cases, each weighing fourteen cwt., and a small box of jewellery.

Wool.—The London Mercantile Journal of May 2, after noticing the rise in the price of wool at the recent sales, and the consequent improvement in the prospects of wool-growers, remarks:—"In the mean time we must press on the attention of our friends, both at the Cape and in Australia, the necessity there exists for taking care that the wool is not only packed free from extraneous substances, but that the article itself is of one quality. Amongst manufacturers certainty ranks high, and fetches a high price; once let a brand or mark obtain that character, and we will be bound, bale for bale, the wool will fetch a higher price than another not packed and sorted so carefully. We are not certain, but that if all the colonial wools were picked in the presence of and under the supervision of a public functionary, the expense incurred would be much more than repaid by enhanced prices. We offer this hint to the new municipalities of Australia as well worth their attention, as the subject belongs properly to a body so constituted, rather than to a superior authority."

A Mr. Bain, of Wotton, near Wick, announces the discovery of an electrical printing telegraph, by means of which he can, "by one set of types, set up a newspaper in London, and print it simultaneously in every town in England and Scotland, nearly as fast as the steam machine throws off the sheets." This will beat piano printing all to nothing.—Brighton Gazette.

IMPOUNDINGS.

(From the Government Gazette.)

At Paterson, on the 1st August, by Mr. C. Damp—One dark red bullock, brand on near rump illegible, on near thigh apparently CM, almost blind, and low in condition, damages 10s. If not released on or before the 24th day of September, they will be sold.

At Jerry's Plains, on the 1st of September, from the lands of Mr. E. Doyle—One yellow cow, piece off ear, branded apparently B17 on near shoulder, an illegible brand on off shoulder; one red and white working bullock, branded apparently AC on near shoulder, 6 off thigh, TE conjoined on off ribs, illegible brands or whip marks on both hips. If not claimed on or before the 20th day of September, they will be sold.

MAITLAND PRICE CURRENT.

Table listing various goods and their prices, including Ale and Porter, Dunbar's, Ale, Hunter Brewery, Annatto, Arrowroot, Beer, Bottled Fruits, Bread, Bricks, Butcher's Meat, Mutton, Pork, Veal, Butter, Calf Skins, Candles, Dip, Cheese, Coal, Coffee, Currants, Currie Powder, Eggs, Firewood, Flour, Fruit, Lemons, Grain, Maize, Oats, Barley, Hay, Hides, Dried, Hops, Lemon Syrup, Lime, Licorice, Milk, Nails, Batten, Shingle, Flooring brads, Spike, Oatmeal, Oil, Paints, Pearl Ash, Pearl Barley, Pepper, Pickles, Poultry, Fowls, Turkeys, Raisins, Rice, Sago, Salad Oil, Salt, Sheep Skins, With wool, Shells, Soap, Spirits, Gin, Rum, Split Peas, Starch, Stock, Sheep, Cows, Horses, Sugar, Mauritius, Fine, Lard, Tea, Timber, Hard wood, Shingles, Tobacco, Colonial, Cigars, Tracle, Turpentine, Vegetables, Carrots, Cauliflowers, Pumpkins, Turnips, Wines, Other brands, Sherry, Champagne.

TERMS.

The "MAITLAND MERCURY" is published every Saturday morning. The terms of subscription are:—In Maitland and Morpeth 7s. 6d. per quarter, if paid in advance 6s. 6d.; in Sydney and the country 8s. per quarter, if paid in advance 7s. The quarters end on the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December respectively, at which periods only subscribers can resign, by giving due notice. Parties residing in the country who do not order the paper through an agent will be required to pay in advance, or to give a reference to some party in Maitland. The charges for advertisements are:—For the first inch of space (nine lines) and under, 3s. 6d., and 1s. per inch after, each insertion. Parties sending advertisements must state on them the number of times they are to be inserted, or they will be continued until countermanded, and charged accordingly. No verbal direction for the withdrawal or alteration of advertisements can be attended to. Advertisements will be received until two o'clock on Friday afternoon; orders for withdrawal must be forwarded to the office before two o'clock on Thursday afternoon. Advertisements from non-subscribers must be paid for previous to insertion. All communications must be post paid.

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