PARRY'S POLICE GAZETTE.—The Police Gazette of Friday last contained the following items of intelligence:—*Highway Robbery.*—Information has been received in Melbourne that the two men hereinunder described are charged with having, on the morning of the 19th October, on board the schooner Egg, then lying in Swiftsea Bay, in the Ilawarra district, V.D.L., committed a robbery whilst under arms on Richard Bowman, the captain of the said vessel. They stole from the captain the sum of £150, in £20 notes, and the remainder in £5 and £1 notes. They also stole half a keg of butter, part of a sheet of tea, 10 lbs. of tobacco, a black waistcoat, a constant and compass, a spyglass with a rope lanyard attached, two silver watches, one a double-cased watch, no. and, Arnold and J. Graham, engraved on the inside; the other a lever, No. 278, maker's name engraved in old English, Perry Harrison. Description of the men: Thomas Buckeridge, per lady Kennaway, a transported offender illegally at large; he is 5 feet 6 inches high, 27 years of age, ruddy complexion, large head, small brown hair, oval visage, high forehead, brown eyebrows, grey eyes, large nose and mouth, native of Bethnal Green, trade weaver, sailor dancing and PP on left arm, BEC foul anchor tattooed on left breast, and marks on right arm; Thomas Donahoo, a transported offender illegally at large. No description received. Warrants have been received in Melbourne for the apprehension of the offenders, as it is considered probable that they will attempt to make for Victoria. Information to the Inspector of Police, Melbourne.

Another Highway Robbery.—The men hereunder described, are charged with having committed a highway robbery on six shearers, near Ballan, on 31st October, viz., a man dressed in a brown shooting coat, white wide awake hat, black whiskers, was riding a dark horse; and, a man dressed in a blue shirt, white skin trousers and white wide-awake hat, full face, was riding a bay horse with long tail; a third man, who was in company with them at the time the robbery was committed, has been apprehended by the officer in charge of police, Ballan. Information to the police station Ballan.

Murder on sea.—Between the hours of eight and nine p.m., on the evening of the 25th instant, the shop of Mr. Joseph Higbee, 20 Bellarine street, Geelong, was feloniously entered, and the following property stolen: three black cloth dress coats, four black doeskin coats, eight pairs of black dress trousers, nine vests different patterns, six pieces of vesting, the rolls of scotch plaid, a number of long cashmere shawls, and other articles of trimming. Information to the detective office, Geelong.—*Burglary.*—Burke; the night of the 30th instant, the store of Messrs. Carter and Co., 41 King street, was broken into and the undermentioned articles were stolen, a ship's chronometer, No. 127, maker's name Frenham and Parkinson, a brass clock of French manufacture, 1 small clock in glass case, several fancy trunnets, caps, and some artificial flowers, a case of brandy, and six at twelve pair of Blucher boots, 1 leather portmanteau, with Mr. Carter's name, King-street, marked in ink on top. The ports anteau contained some shirt collars, all marked G. D. C. or G. D. Carter; also three sails, a bundle of about 13 keys, a guard-chain, with gold seals. In the pocket of the cart was a bill drawn by G. D. Carter and Co. on E. A. Woodward, for £62, dated 27th October, 1854; also a bill drawn by same on J. Street, for £46 18s., due on that date. Also a small trunk, marked No. 326, G. D. C., containing Wellington boots. Information as above.—*Larceny and Embezzlement.*—A warrant has been issued by S. E. Freeman, Esq., J.P., for the apprehension of Meyers Richardson, charged with feloniously embezzling the sum of £41, the property of one Elizabeth M'Mullen. His description is: 5 feet 10 inches high, pock-marked, red face, slight sandy mustache, sandy hair, is supposed to have been in the number to clean a pair of grey horses when last seen, a dark pea-jacket, dark trousers, and dark cloth cap. Has a brother residing at Richmond. Information to the Inspector of Police, Melbourne.—*Obtaining Money under False Pretences.*—A warrant has been issued by S. M. Vignolles, Esq., P.M., Melbourne, for the apprehension of Julius Joelsen and Joseph Schuds, charge d with having on the 19th of April, 1852, at Melbourne, obtained from Rachel Dalmolyn a note containing a £200 in notes, and some promissory notes, the property of Aaron Gainsborg, under false pretences. Joelsen's description is 5 feet 7 inches high, 28 years of age, black curly hair and whiskers, front teeth decayed, speaks and is a native of Prussia. No description of Schuds received. Information to Aaron Gateeberg, Heidelberg.—*Child Found.*—Found yesterday evening, about 9 p.m., a female child lying under the bell in the yard of the Saint John's School, corner of La Trobe and Elizabeth streets, Melbourne. The child, which was about a month old, was dressed, when found, in a long white frock, a white cap, a white flannel hood, and was wrapped in a green check shawl. Information to the Inspector of Police, Melbourne.—*Robbery.*—Information has been received in Melbourne that a robbery was committed at Kangaroo Flat, on the 26th ult., of 15 ozs. 7 dwts. of gold, £6 10s. in cash, one pair of earrings and a gold specimen. A coloured man, native of Bombay, about 5 feet 7 inches high, wore a monkey jacket, knee boots, black oilskin cap, little moustache, is charged with the offence; was last seen at Sawpit Gully on the 26th inst.; is supposed to have gone to Melbourne. Information to the Police Station, Carisbrook.—*Robbery, a Servant.*—£10 reward will be paid for such information of the whereabouts as shall cause the apprehension of James Dew, charged with absconding from the service of Henry Budd, taking with him a horse and dray, the property of his employer. He is 5 feet 9 inches high, dark complexion, scar over right eye. The horse is a bay, branded PP on near and W on off shoulders, harnessed to a box dray, with bush shafts, bark stripped on them. Information to the police, Maryborough Gold-fields.—*Escape of Prisoners.*—Information has been received in Melbourne, that the undermentioned prisoners effected their escape from the Carisbrook lock-up:—Francis Smith; 5 feet 8 inches high, sallow complexion, with black hair and eyes, wore cord trousers, satin vest, and black wide-awake hat; Mitchell, about 5 feet 7 inches high, black curly hair, wore a dark vest and dark trousers. Information to officer in charge, Carisbrook.—*Property Stolen.*—Stolen on Friday night last from Franklyn-street west, a light Whitechapel spring cart, painted chocolate color, the wheels picked out with white, carries two low foot-board, fixed with a chain, short rails round body, shifting seat with leather straps. Information to Ruel, Long and Co., opposite Lamb Inn, Elizabeth street, Melbourne.—Stolen, on Thursday night, from No. 2 Pitt-Row, square, Lonsdale-street, Melbourne, Geelong, principally in notes, a gold pin, set with turquoise, a nugget of gold and other articles, the property of Mr. Miles Nelson. Information as above.—Stolen from the Seven Stars Hotel, North Melbourne, a gold patent lever watch, with the following inscription engraved upon it: "Presented to Allan Cameron, by a few of his friends, on his leaving Broadalbane for the West Indies, October, 1847," a small broquet chain attached to watch seal, with hand and dagger engraved on it attached to chain. Information to Mr. A. Cameron as above. £5 reward on recovery.—A cedar table 4 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 6 inches, turned legs, and one roll of oilcloth, 27 yards long feloniously stolen from the premises, 204 La Trobe street, on the 27th ult. Information to Mr. H. A. Byrne, as above.—A Sydney built cart, large size, painted green, with rails, right-hand rails broken near front, pulling sides, fullboard nearly new, was stolen from the right-of way behind Sutherland and Dixon's auction rooms, 15 Bourke-street, Melbourne. Information to Sutherland and Dixon, as above.

PUBLIC MEETING, BENDIGO.—CAPTAIN BROWNE'S LICENCE FOR A MINERS BENEFIT SOCIETY.—A meeting having been convened for Saturday last, in front of the Criterion, by Captain Browne, for the purpose of bringing before the miners his ideas for the formation of a Miner's Mutual Benefit Society, about three or four thousand persons assembled, when the Captain, after a few preliminary remarks, and stating that he had submitted the plan to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, who seemed much struck, he said, with it, proceeded to lay before them the following general outlines:—The qualification of membership to be an initiative fee of 10s. and 1s. per month, payable between the first and fifth of the month. The trustees to be men unexceptionable, as well from character, as social position, and the patron to be the local magistrate of each district. The books to be balanced between the 5th and 10th of each month, and submitted for the inspection of members. Members guilty of felony or other grave charges, to forfeit the benefits of the society. Members visiting the various mining localities where branch societies are established on production of the ticket of membership, are to be hailed as brethren, and receive correct information of the truth or falsehood of reports concerning "rushes" in that particular locality. The wife of a deceased member is entitled to £10, and the children to £5 each. The orphan children of deceased members are to receive an education up to the age of fifteen, and then be apprenticed, or otherwise treated, as seems most conducive to their advantage and the good of the society. The funds for the decent interment of a sick member, if necessary, are to be furnished by the society. The secretaries of each branch are to communicate once each two weeks with the secretary of the central office, Bendigo. No decision respecting the funds can be made without the sanction of at least a quorum of the trustees, who are subject to re-election every six months. Members who get drunk, become disorderly, or do not pay proper respect to the "trustees" at the monthly meetings, will have their names erased from the books, and forfeit the initiation fee and monthly payments. Names so erased are to be submitted publicly to the members and forwarded to the various branches. Medical officers are to be paid on the various branches of the gold-fields, through whose certificate a member can only be placed on the "sick list," and receive the following benefits, viz:—Medical assistance, £3 a week, and such other necessaries as the board may determine, through the secretary. Broken down members, on production of their tickets and monthly certificates, to be furnished with tools. "Broken down" members who are incapable of "making a living" by individual exertion, to be sent on prospecting parties, or employed on such local works as will benefit the members. The surplus revenue, when the books are balanced, is to be devoted to the purchase of large sections of land, which are to be subdivided and given to the members as they claim priority on the list of membership. No member to receive benefits from the society till the expiration of three months from the time the mechanism can be completed, and a capital of, say, £5,000 on hand. This plan simplifies the great question of labor versus capital, and creates a powerful counter-movement to the individual millionaires of the colony. The Captain stated, that for the present he intended taking no part in political matters, that he purposed establishing himself in business in Sandhurst, but would be happy, if at any time it should be in his power, to assist in any good public cause. He impressed upon the diggers the propriety and necessity of sticking to constitutional means for obtaining redress, saying that he had been mistaken in the former movement; for though he was prone to speak somewhat strongly on any measure which he thought it proper to advocate, that wrong motives had, nevertheless, been imputed to him. The meeting afterwards went up into the saloon of the Criterion, when Captain Browne repeated his views in a succinct manner, and was loudly applauded in many parts of his address.—*Bendigo Advertiser.*

CONFLICT OF ASSAULT.—Mr. Matthew M'Caw appeared at the City Court on Saturday, to answer to a charge of assault preferred against him by Detective Constable Mitchell. It appears that owing to the manner of sticking-up which have rendered the neighborhood of St. Peter's Church so notorious, the Inspector has lately ordered a company of detectives to do duty there at night, and the assault in question arose out of a collision between the Detectives Mitchell and Hogan and Mr. M'Caw and some friends who were accompanying him from Melbourne to Collingwood, about eleven o'clock on Friday night last. Mitchell stated that at the time and place mentioned he and Hogan were on duty, and saw a man and a woman coming, when they (the constables) went up to them and asked who they were. The man said he was a publican at Collingwood, and they replied "Don't be alarmed, we are the detective police." Witness then went away towards the footpath, and was looking at two men who were passing with bundles, when M'Caw came up and struck him three blows on the arm with an iron-handled whip, exclaiming, "You villain! you insulted my wife." Witness tried to get out his life-preserver, shouting at the same time to Hogan, who came up and took the defendant in charge. Mr. M'Donogh, for the defence, stated that the man and woman mentioned by the constables were Mr. Threlfield, of the Saracen's Head, and Mrs. M'Caw, the wife of the prisoner, and then proceeded to cross-examine Mitchell, who said he showed his staff of authority to the prisoner, who appeared to have been drinking. He did not see Hogan look under the woman's bonnet. The man and woman seemed frightened when the constables approached. Detective Hogan corroborated Mitchell's statement. Mr. Threlfield stated that he was accompanying Mr., Mrs., and Miss M'Caw home to Collingwood, when Mitchell came up and laid hold very rudely of Mrs. M'Caw, who was an witness's arm, and made use of bad language, whereupon Mrs M'Caw looked back and called out to her husband for protection. When M'C or came up there was a quarrel between him and the constable, who continued to walk alongside of Mrs. M'Caw, and to annoy her. Mr. Thos. Craig, called by Mr. M'Donogh, said he was with M'Caw when his wife came and asked him if he saw the constables, for they had insulted her, but he did not see the assault. Some conversation then took place as to the propriety of calling the defendant to give evidence, but it being at last agreed that he should not, and he having declined to call Mrs. M'Caw, Captain Vignolles stated that he considered the case had been made out. Two important questions were involved in a grave charge against the detectives of improper conduct, and a charge of assault and obstruction by them against the prisoner. The prisoner continued the assault after the officer had shewed his authority, and no man could take the law into his own hands. The Bench would fine the prisoner £5 as a lenient punishment, because of the alleged insult; and if he had a complaint against the police, he could prosecute in the usual way. Mr. M'Donogh gave notice of his client's intention to carry the matter before a higher court, and Mr. Read, for the detectives, said he hoped that the intention would be carried out.

VICTORIA VINEYARD AND FRUIT-GARDEN COMPANY.—We are glad to learn that this company may be considered as fully established. In the list of the shareholders we are glad to see the names of gentlemen to whom the profit which this undertaking fairly promises must have been of secondary moment, and who, joining the association, were, we believe, actuated rather by a patriotic desire to promote the ultimate benefit of this country. It does them great credit for having embraced the opportunity of forwarding an object worthy of public support, and more especially as there is a general interest connected with this undertaking, viz., to ascertain whether in this comparist climate the production of wine may not become a source of national wealth. The liberality supported by the public manifested on behalf of this enterprise may be considered at the same time a sufficient proof of there being yet here room enough for the establishment also of other undertakings, tending to the practical development of our vast natural resources. Speed the plough, and sink shafts for coal, and then, we say, the general prosperity of the people of Victoria will be established on a foundation as firm and permanent, as that of any other country in the world.

BALLAARAT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

2nd November, 1854.

Notwithstanding the deep feeling which exists in the digger's mind as to the wrongs and injustice under which he suffers from the Government, the greatest tranquillity at present prevails, and all hands are following their usual occupations. The mail yesterday brought the following, which is posted over these diggings:—

Proclamation.—Whereas His Excellency has received a petition from divers residents at Ballaarat, complaining of the manner in which the inquiry into the murder of James Scobie was conducted, and praying for further investigation therein: And whereas it appears to His Excellency that not only do just grounds exist for such inquiry, but also into the circumstances of the burning of the Eureka Hotel. Notice is hereby given, that a board has been appointed by His Excellency to investigate all circumstances in connexion with these transactions, and any one having complaints to prefer relative to the above mentioned matters is invited to bring them forward. By His Excellency's command, signed, John Foster, colonial Secretary's office, Melbourne, 30th Oct., 1854.

The mail also brought back Mr. Dawes, the magistrate, against whom such loud complaints have been made, who may now be considered to be on his trial, and therefore shall not be prejudged by me; but the case will no doubt be taken up by the diggers' committee who are already collecting evidence. Dr. M'Crea also arrived here, and Mr. Sturt was already on the field. Mr. Hacket, of Castlemaine, being also here, so probably the board will at once proceed to action.

Since Monday a placard has been posted over the diggings, as follows:—

THE BALLAARAT CASE AND ITS VERDICT.—An important public meeting will be held on Wednesday next, November 1st, at one o'clock p.m., on the Bakery Hill, when the committee will give an account of the proceedings at Geelong in Messrs. Fletcher and M'Intyre's case, and discuss other measures consequent relative to the interests of the diggers. It is expected that several gentlemen from Bendigo and other gold-fields will address the meeting. In the meantime, diggers, collect the facts in all cases of injustice which have occurred on Ballaarat, leaving a written statement in the same at the meeting, and there will shortly be a special committee to inquire into the management of the gold-fields. Diggers, be calm but determined, and then, with truth and justice on your side, the knell of the colonial tyranny will be rung.—(Signed) J. B. HUMFRAY, Secretary.

In pursuance of this announcement, yesterday at one o'clock, a band of music, with a large emblematic diggers' banner, followed by several hundred persons, paraded the camp, pausing at Bakery Hill, where a few boards were put together to form a platform, and the proceedings were opened at about two p.m.

Mr. Tough, a digger, was voted into the chair by acclamation, and proceeded to address the multitude assembled around him with their many English faces shining in the bright sunlight of a calm summer's day. He said, that he trusted to them as men not only of physical but intellectual power, and hoped they would listen to the exposition of their rights, and observe good order.

Mr. Holyoake came forward, as one of the committee who had gone to Geelong, to give an account of their proceedings, and expressed great satisfaction with the manner in which they had been received there, stating that they had met in Mr. Staveley an honest lawyer, and had received much sympathy from Mr. Burrows, the Mayor, and from Mr. Fyfe, who had stated that he, having been a digger, was still a digger, and would act for them in the Council; that the majority of the Geelong people still remained constitutional ground; there having taken measures to obtain their own rights; that their secretary, Mr. Humphrey, had addressed the great meeting on the convict question, under promise not to mix up one question with the other, yet could not but draw all his illustrations of the evils of the convict system from Ballaarat, that ball having been tendered for the prisoners had been received by the Attorney-General, and that the committee were satisfied that justice would be done.

Mr. Ross, another of the committee, also addressed the meeting, stating that through the intervention of an American gentleman at Melbourne, Sir Charles Hotham had offered a conditional pardon to Frank Carey, who is a prisoner for illegal selling, but he had refused it.

Mr. Reynolds then proposed the first resolution:—

That this meeting having heard the report of Messrs. Ross and Holyoake, the gentlemen who went to Geelong on the case of Messrs. Fletcher and M'Intyre, express their satisfaction with the services rendered by those gentlemen to the cause of the diggers, and tender to them their hearty thanks for their exertions.

He said, Brother Diggers, all will allow that we want no physical force, but the exertion of moral force, to be brought forth. The Governor had said that all power springs from the people, and they would nail those colors to the mast. The meeting at Melbourne had declared on the great convict question, that they would separate from England rather than be polluted. But who were the people? Certainly not the inhabitants of Melbourne only, but the diggers, who suffered under plenty of law but no justice. (Cheers.)

Mr. Hayes seconded the resolution, without making a speech. It was put to the meeting and carried by acclamation, all hands being held up amidst cheering.

Mr. Holyoake proposed the next resolution—

That this meeting most strongly condemns the conduct of the camp officials in making continual arrests in the case of the burning down of the Eureka Hotel, after the promise given by them to the diggers' delegates on Saturday week that no further arrests should take place.

He said that the delegates to the Camp had promised the Government to act peaceably in obtaining their constitutional rights, but that now, by heavens! they would have them! (Cheers.) That it was the duty of the people to keep faith with the Government and vice versa; but the Camp had broken faith, and they would not again accept their complimentary interference between them and the people, nor ever more to the people were to rise, and England and to lose the colony, it would be found that it was the officials who had done the mischief, and not the diggers. The people of Melbourne would support the diggers, and the Mayor was not afraid to act on the Convict question as the digger were for their rights. They yielded to none in loyalty and love of country, but if the Queen did not hear duty to her children, the children would forget her. (Cheers.) They must have more investigation of camp matters, for they had hundreds of cases to bring forwards, and face to face they did not fear their camps. The Camp had promised not to arrest any more persons, yet they continued to do so; but they must take care it might be their duty to find out the persons who burnt the hotel, but not to arrest the innocent, as on Saturday, when the constables had sworn against two prisoners who were proved not to have been at the fire, and were discharged. Every Englishman had the right to defend his liberty, but must act on a plan: here it was the Camp versus the diggers, and she best men ought to win, and they, the diggers, were not the worst. (Cheers.) Here the speaker introduced Mr. Black, of Bendigo, to the meeting who was received with cheers, and proceeded to say that the diggers must tell their grievances to the commission, not forgetting such men as Millan is police-sergeant, and others. The diggers could not submit to a Government who had among them such as were guilty of the worst of crimes, and who falsely swore away the lives of others; that if the Government officers were honest they would obey them, but they would not be ruled over by convicts—by Denison pets. (Cheers.)

Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion and began his speech by stating that yesterday he had addressed the people of Creswick's Creek, and had the promise of support from 1000 digger there. In a strain of fervid eloquence he enlarged on the topics of the day and continued cheers. He said they must proclaim to England that they must have justice from an insulting Camp, a righteous judgment must come; that the Mayor of Melbourne was more of a rebel than the diggers but that they would sing the song of Liberty, as did the martyrs of Scotland; that the climax of insult had met defiance; that a Camp official had gone to the wife of a prisoner and said, "Have you money, much money? money will do it, great deal for the King," and these people decided to make proposals of an infinitely more revolting and infamous character; that this was the very rags and tatters of a British Government, without common sense or reason, and thus, when constitutional argument fails, he must return to a Scottish line and say—

That mere persuasion is all a humbug,

There's nothing convinces like a lick in the lug

He (the speaker) was with his family united to the history of Ballaarat; that the mission to the Eureka was one of justice, and he trembled when he saw the flames. Sir Charles Hotham must tremble at the people's voice, who would send tyranny away, and send it to the Queen. That the people must be united for their good. He had been taught not to fear him who can kill the body only, but to fear him who can destroy body and soul. That with good Government this colony could raise every thing for itself that was needed, and get luxuries in exchange for their gold, and that they ought then to send for their brothers and sisters who were suffering under the old system at home; and thus their children might live on a free soil, and they might drive their coach and four on the road to liberty. (Loud cheers.)

The second resolution being put to the meeting by the Chair, was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Black, of the late *Gold Diggers' Advocate*, rose to propose the third resolution, and was received with cheers, when a solitary voice from the platform called for three groans for the *Argus*, which was responded to by cries of "Order, order." The resolution was—

That the diggers of Ballaarat communicate with the diggers of the other gold-fields with a view to the immediate formation of a general league having for its object the attainment of the social and political rights of the diggers.

The speaker delivered a long and able speech, saying that they all came here to get more liberty than they had at home, not for less; that the license-fee was a personal tax, in addition to what was paid by the townsman, and must be entirely abolished; that £75 out of every £100 went merely to support the camp, whose business it was to trample on the digger. He enlarged on the wrongs of the land system, the monopoly of the jobbers and of the squatters; on the inefficiency of the Legislature. That a spirit was upat Benligo soon to be heard of; the Government had said that all power is of the people, but acted quite against it. That it was proposed to add to their taxation £1 for a wood license; but they must put down such a Government, who taxed their hard labors merely to live at ease. America had pleaded in vain, and then as one man took the sword; and who did not now respect their independence? They must hand down their rights to their children; they must have the franchise, and get it soon, or the Government would crowd them out with favorites through the division of the lands. Now the Governor was a man of war, and sent them troops instead of justice, whilst he took a salary of £15,000 per annum, and the ministers voted themselves pensions for life; but the diggers would not be humbugged thus. But the franchise. (Here three or four gentlemen from the Camp were seized on the ground, and an attempt at hooting them was made, but on quickly checked by cries of "Order.") The speaker then enlarged considerably on the supreme good qualities of his own newspaper, condemning all the others comparatively, more especially those of Melbourne,—the heavy metal of his ire falling with astonishing volubility on the poor *Argus*. He only wanted the diggers to support their *Advocate*, by the sacrifice of a paltry neibber a week, and then with sub scribers signed he would go ahead in earnest. For himself he could get a Government situation, but would not take one, for he put not his faith in this Government.

Mr. Vern seconded the resolution in a speech little consonant with the other proceedings of the day, breathing indeed little but red republicanism, with for its earnestness, firm delivery, and command of language, otherwise might have had its merits; and the resolution being put, was carried with cheers.

Mr. Holyoake again came forward to support the *Diggers' Advocate*, and stated that they were resolved to canvass all the diggings to have their own paper.

At this hour the post arrived, and a Royal Proclamation was produced from Melbourne, which being put into Mr. Kennedy's hands, he rose to exhibit it; and began another harangue, by informing the meeting that there had been a certain lecture in Melbourne; that my Lady Hotham, who was borne in the diggers' arms on Ballaarat, had woke up Sir Charles, who exclaimed, "What do ye mean, my lady, by a Proclamation?"—and thus that an investigation was to take place. But why had he provoked them by sending down soldiers, and drunken soldiers too, who had been taken care of by the diggers, and who fraternised with the diggers. (Three cheers for the soldiers.) But the press had said they were demagogues, and must be put down; but he for one would die a freeman, though he drank the poison as Socrates of yore. They had come 15,000 miles and left the enlightenment of the age and of the press, not to suffer insult, but to obtain greater liberty. They wanted men to rule over them; and they had to recollect their children, who would grow up in this great colony, and they must not forget their own clearest interests.

The proprietors of the assembly rooms then came forward and offered the use of their rooms for a benefit for the cause. A vote of thanks was then passed to Mr. Stavely, Mr Burrows, and Mr. Fyffe, of Geelong, with three cheers.

The chairman then thanked the assemblage for their attention and orderly conduct, and announced the business of the day as concluded.

Some more cheers were given, and the individual on the platform who had so perseveringly insisted on groaning down the *Argus* again tried his stalwart lungs, because, as he said, it called them demagogues and traitors; yet it was but feebly responded to, and cries of "No" and "Order" also were heard; all which *testifies* at least the importance which is attached to your opinions, and I had a *strong* inclination to return them thanks for the compliment so unmistakeably exhibited.

After a pretty careful estimate I have concluded that 8,000 to 10,000 diggers attended this great demonstration, may be many more, who came and went during the meeting; and I must add that their orderly conduct and enthusiasm would vie with that of the Melbourne great meeting on the convict question; in fact, to me it was a glorious sight to see thousands of British subjects thus calmly, at the antipodes, pleading their rights, which I earnestly pray may be obtained by the exercise of reason and justice, without a drain of blood.

I waited on the committee in the evening, and was very politely, if not cordially, received, and obtained a copy of the resolutions, and had the advantage also of getting an hour's conversation with two or three of the very intelligent leaders, who seem to have their hearts in the cause. I must add, that the night being a beautiful moonlit one, the principal street was rather crowded by the diggers, but I can truly affirm, that I did not witness a case of drunkenness or riotous conduct, which might have been feared after the excitement of the day, though I was about until past ten o'clock at night; and thus, I think, I may venture to close this day's report.

To-day there has been a meeting of the medical practitioners of this district, who have agreed to call for an exhibition of all diplomas under which the members of the profession practice, to publish a list, and to act in unison with the society in Melbourne in petitioning the Legislature to prevent other than authorised doctors practising.

I have just obtained the following prize current, Ballaarat, Friday.—Our markets during the last week have declined, which is partly to be attributed to the quantity of goods brought up by draymen on speculation, in consequence of the low rate of carriage, and to purchasers being shy of buying largely. The following prices may be quoted:

Brandy, in bulk, 22s. to 24s.; port wine, 12s. to 17s.; hay, £36 to £38; oats, 14s. to 17s.; hams and bacon, English, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d.; American, 7d. to 1s. 2d.; bottled ale and porter, 22s. to 24s.; bhds. do., £12 to £13; flour, £45; bran, 8s. 6d. to 9s. 6d. per 20 lbs.; Manilla rope, 1s. 9d.; Europe, do., 1s. 2d.

At the sales of stock at the Clarendon Livery Stables, the following prices were realised:—draught horses, £70 to £75; inferior, £45 to £65; hacks, £35 to £50; inferior, £20 to £35.

W. A. TARBANCE, Auctioneer.

CITY OF MELBOURNE SUBURBAN AND GARICULTURAL FREEHOLD HOME SOCIETY.

A public meeting to distribute the land lately purchased by this Society was held pursuant to advertisement at the Mechanics' Institution, on Saturday afternoon.

The Right Worshipful the MAYOR of MELBOURNE, the President of the Society, took the chair, and, after a few preliminary observations called upon the Managing Director, W. S. Woolcott, Esq., to introduce the business for which the meeting was convened.

Mr. WOOLCOTT said they were met for the purpose of distributing forty allotments of land at Emerald Hill to the shareholders entitled thereto. The Directors had deemed it advisable to do so at once, and not wait for the distribution of other purchases not yet ready for allocation, in order that members might be put into immediate possession of their lots, and proceed to occupy as soon as they liked. A special meeting had been called accordingly for the purpose, and early this week another would be advertised for the distribution of the estate recently purchased by the society at Boroondara. This last estate was about six miles from Melbourne, and was divided into portions of four acres each. The land they were met to distribute to-day was a portion of block 31, South Melbourne, divided into forty allotments, at an average cost of £97, and was bounded by Clarendon, Kew, Moray, and Regland streets, with convenient rights-of-way. There were eight value-the-corner allotments of 55 x 9 frontage by a depth varying from 66 to 70 feet; the remaining 32 lots were all 33 feet frontage by a depth of 71 x 6. These allotments, forty in number, were divided amongst thirty-two members, holding forty shares. It had occurred to the directors that their old balloting-box was not free from objection on account of its having a flat bottom, and they had therefore procured a new one which, being circular, would effectually prevent any of the tickets from hanging, and would therefore ensure perfect fairness to all.

The members present having chosen one of their number to draw the tickets, and the distribution being completed, the Chairman was about to make some closing remarks, when a conversation took place between Mr. Woolcott and two of the shareholders respecting the society's rule which enabled members, by paying up shares, to have a larger selection in any one favorite purchase than members who could not afford to advance such large sums. It was contended by the two members in question that the rule was virtually an abrogation of the very principle of equality upon which the society was originally founded, a view in which Mr. Woolcott said the directors concurred, and at the next general meeting of the society the matter would be duly brought under the consideration of the shareholders.

This discussion occupied only a few minutes, and was conducted in the most amicable and courteous manner.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that he was glad to see the interest taken by shareholders in the affairs of the society, as evidenced by the discussion in question, and said he was confident that the directors desired nothing but the general good of all the members.

A vote of thanks was then passed by acclamation to His Worship, which he suitably acknowledged, and the meeting concluded.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

(From the Times.)

It is a common observation that the most wonderful and the most wished-for events often come at a time when they are no longer matters of interest, and scarcely of remark. Indeed, it is a lesson against over-craving and golden dreams of all kinds, that perhaps you may some day have that you so longed for when you have ceased to care for it. This is very much the case with our Australian colonies. Ten years—ay, five years ago—no statesman, no politician, not into the third heaven of colonial progress, could have ventured to imagine such a picture of development as that contained in the letter of our Sydney correspondent, which we published yesterday. A man would have been set down as mad who, writing only five years ago, had suggested that in 1854 the value of the exports from a single Australian colony, New South Wales, might exceed four millions and a-half; that the imports might be much over six millions; that the Legislative Council might vote near seven hundred thousand pounds for the service of the year; and that, among many other more agreeable symptoms of improvement, the Council might propose the acquisition of a new and formidable navy, in the shape of a screw line of battle ship and two steam frigates. This last incident will, perhaps, tell more with some people than vast arithmetical totals, which, happily for the poetry of the human mind are not always equally appreciated. The traveller, who joined to find himself once more in a civilized country when he saw a gallows; and when New South Wales sets up its own engines of destruction we may safely congratulate it on having emerged from the rude state of colonial innocence. Yes, New South Wales, with Sydney, the capital of it, which in the memory of many living men was an undiscovered shore, is now one of us, a populous and exceedingly rich community, with defensive and offensive preparations and in many respects a good deal ahead of old English society. The pulse of life is much quicker, the knowledge of good and evil much more expanded, the children of this world are much wiser in their generation at Sydney or Melbourne than in any quiet old country town in the island. The letter we are quoting left Sydney on the 11th of May, and it was published in London on the 18th of July, bringing the Antipodes within 67 days of one another. A bridge, or rather a belt of steam, half round the world, thus binds us to those communities grown to such sudden wealth and importance. All this we repeat, surpasses the imagination of the veriest political romancer of ten years ago; yet, to return to the moral, it has come at a time when it is scarcely even heeded, much less appreciated. We should like to know how many of our readers perused the letter containing these golden realisations before they read the correspondence from Bulgaria, and Finland, and Vienna, and every other place bearing on the war. Is it in the last page of the world's history, as in the first, war maintains its old pre-eminence, and if the soldier cuts the crop of the husbandman and harries his cattle, the more narrator of military affairs usurps much the same superiority over the historians of peace.

Perhaps there is no point on which England has set her heart so much of late years as the possession of wealthy and populous colonies—children worthy of her name. She has been unfortunate. Her first-born left her allegiance; Canada was but an adopted son; the West Indies have been simply a bad speculation. On all her other colonies England has latterly looked as King Priam might have looked on his fifty sons in the decline of his fortunes. Distance, the taint of a penal origin, and the dullness of pastoral occupations, seemed to condemn the Australian colonies to remain long far in the rear, and England scarcely wished to see herself reflected in communities so ill-fated and so rude. Yet somewhere, and some time, she still hoped to see, like the patriarch Job, the injuries of the robber and the whirlwind repaired in a new progeny more fortunate and more faithful. So ten years ago we were all dreaming of colonies. Colonisation, not emigration, was the cry—that is something more than merely discharging our surface, we knew not where, across the seas. Perfect colonies were imagined, and even sent out, duly graduated, with bishops and gentry, as well as artisans and labourers. Our tables were covered with books and pamphlets about colonies. The clergy, the parochial officers, the boards of guardians, the country postmasters, and we know not who besides, were all set to work to sow the seeds and fan the flame of emigration, and there were men who, if they could persuade and help a few simple people to start for the colonies, felt as unmitigated a satisfaction as if they had put so many souls in the way to heaven. There was our "surplus" population, of which we heard so much in those days, there was the new market to be gained for our goods, and the new employment for our shipping. Yet it has come at a time when we no longer care to get rid of our "surplus," when we want employing, we are fairly surfeited with commercial prosperity, and when the fetted with commercial prosperity, and when the fetted with commerce. Fixed Turkish town is far news from some beleaguered Turkish town is far more to our taste than the vulgar prosperity of a bustling new colony.

But if an interest cannot be won by the fullsome splendor of prosperity, by tons of gold revenues reckoned by millions, by sense imports of ardent spirits, bottled beer, and dry goods, or plans for new Houses of Assembly to rival our own palace of Westminster, there are yet shades as well as lights in the colonial life, scenes where gold has its too obvious moral, and even a prosperous colony its perplexities. The transition from a waste and hungry pasturage to a mine of gold cannot be without difficulty. Only seven years ago we were improvidently leasing millions of acres to men who drove their flocks twenty miles a-day in quest of green turf or running stream. We must now strain the letter of the law and annul the leases, if we would find room for the new crowd of regular settlers, starting, as it were, out of the soil. Among the darker moral shades, among ecclesiastical disputes in a country which the church of Rome now thinks it worth while to torment with her discipline, among huge cities in which the common wants of human crowds are still grossly neglected, there is one picture described by our correspondent which but too nearly expresses the whole idea of life in a gold colony. It is the valley of gold and of death—the valley of the Buckland River. There the miners and the gravediggers work side by side. A deep ravine, darkened with immense cliffs, seldom penetrated by the direct rays of the sun, close, damp, and seething, sultry by day and killing cold by night, allures thousands, who but dig their own graves under the heat, cold, want of air, of wholesome food, and the commonest produce of a cottage garden, quack medicines, drunkenness, and every ill that can assail the reckless, not the multitude, and leave the banks of the stream covered alternately with the excavations and the sepulchres of the gold-diggers. Such scenes have their wholesome influence in driving back the population to the more regular pursuits on which even a gold colony must finally depend for its real improvement; and with such warnings it is gratifying to observe that Australia is still gaining ground as much in the common industries of life as in the feverish trade of gold.

CHINA.

From the Friend of China, August 5.

In our issue of the 19th ultimo we furnished our readers with an account of the state of affairs at Canton, as things then appeared to us. It was not quite a panic that existed, we said, and, excepting in the immediate vicinity of the foreign factories, there did not appear to be any very great amount of dread. Now, we are sorry to say, we have a very different tale to tell of the aspect of Canton's western suburbs. Nearly every shop and house of business in the various wards in rear of the factories is partially or wholly closed; and those long continuous streets of porters, chair-bearers, and runners, which those who know Canton are aware have rendered it as difficult to get along as to walk up Holburn Hill on the wrong side of the pavement, appear to have gone into the country altogether — ruralising. Nothing, speaking generally, is doing in the way of trade—the time of the shopkeepers being taken up in conversing with one another, with countenances betokening the extent of their apprehensions.

This state of panic has arisen through the timid bearing of the Canton Government; a timidity, however, very naturally growing out of the total absence of authority, and inability to repel the advancing insurgents. Finding it impossible to retake Fatshan, the Governor-General has withdrawn his troops into the city, whence bodies of them emerge pretty regularly every day to battle with the insurgents, said to number some thirty thousand, trooped in the gorges and passes of the White Cloud Mountains. The insurgents want of artillery is said to be the only bar to their speedy capture of the Canton citadel; but this want will not exist long, as the ironfounders at Fatshan are busily engaged in casting cannon of large dimensions.

On Thursday last, taking advantage of the very heavy rain of the morning, the rebels advanced in a strong force right up to the square fort on the hill, where we before mentioned the Tartar portion of the Canton garrison are encamped; and only by a profuse discharge among them of bags of gunpowder and jars of combustibles (stink-pots) were they compelled to retreat. Some heavy cannon appeared to be used from the City walls (panes of glass jingled in the factories with the reverberations) and the Imperialists say upwards of a thousand rebels were killed by the thirty-six discharges of a very large gun. There is no believing a word, however, of what the Imperialists report. Reporters for the other side say that the rebels, naked to the cummerbund, armed with short knives, made fearful execution among the Manchou soldiery, whose matchlocks were of no use after the first discharge—in fact, that they drove the whole of them into the fort. Though so successful, however, they could not withstand the murderous fire of the aforesaid great gun, and the stink-pots and powder bags. All the gates of the city appeared to be closed excepting that nearest the foreign ground and fronting the Governor's house, on the river side of the city. One of them was opened very carefully a few feet as the writer was passing, to permit a small party of Canton braves, with rusty swords and rattan shields, to march out to the west ward. But east, west, north and south, the whole country for