CHAPTER LXIV.

THE STORY OF SEPARATION, AB OVO USQUE AD MALUM.

SYNOPSIS:
— First Petition to the Imperial Parliament.
— Death of Mr. H. F. Gisborne.
— Appointment of Committees.
— Further Petitions and Addresses.
— Mr. A. Cunningham, the First Home Delegate.
— Proposed Scheme of Separation Rejoicings.
— Passing of the Separation Bill.
— Receipt of Nexus in Melbourne.
— Mr. Latrobe Appointed First Lieutenant-Governor.
— The Public Announcement.
— The General Illuminations.
— A Day of Prayer and Play.
— The Separation Procession.
— Opening of Prince's Bridge.
— The Printers’ Excursion to Geelong.
— The Separation Fancy Dress Ball.

From all the histories of which these Chronicles are comprised, not the least interesting, though certainly the most important, is that in which will be described the persistent and anxiously-agitated struggle for the territorial severance of Port Phillip from New South Wales, and its provincial transformation into the independent colony of Victoria. To the end of 1839 the Port Phillipians bore, almost without a murmur, the supercilious contempt of the Sydney Executive, by which their province was nearly as much ignored as if it had no existence on the map of Australia; but, by the beginning of 1840, the population had been strengthened by a stream of emigration from Great Britain and other places, which included several colonists who afterwards made their mark in the history of their adopted country, and worked for her prosperity with unquestionable ability and patriotism.

The First Separation Meeting was held at the Scots’ School, on the Eastern, or Church Hill as then called, on the 13th May, 1840, with Major Mercer presiding. The speakers were Messrs. H. F. Gisborne, A. M. M’Crae, C. H. Ebden, James Montgomery, Arthur Kemmis, Arthur Hogue, J. L. Campbell, P. W. Welsh, A. Bolden, Redmond Barry, J. C. Riddell, W. Verner, T. Arnold, W. Meek, W. Ryrie, R. H. Browne, Dr. M’Crae, and Dr. Greeves.

FIRST PETITION TO THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

This document, prepared by Mr. H. F. Gisborne, states thus:

"Your Petitioners beg to call the attention of your Honourable House to the present advanced and rapidly advancing state of the District and Capital of Australia Felix, and to point out what must be its future position among the Australian Colonies. It is entirely undeniable that Melbourne possesses natural advantages far superior to any other seaport in Van Diemen's Land or New South Wales. She has as fine a harbour and as healthy a situation, with a more genial climate, and a greater average of more productive soil in her immediate vicinity. For proofs of this last assertion we have only to refer your Honourable House to the Returns of the Sales of Waste Lands effected since the official occupation of Port Phillip on the 1st of June, 1837, amounting in all to £360,000, being a greater amount than was obtained from the sale of Waste Lands in the entire territory of New South Wales (exclusive of Australia Felix) during the five years 1832-3-4-5-6, immediately following Lord Ripon's Order-in-Council restricting thenceforth the disposal of such lands to sale by public auction. Thus it appears that the funds hitherto derived from this source if applied to emigration, would introduce into this colony 7000 adult couples, while it has been employed in supplying deficiencies in the revenues of the Sydney Government. But your Petitioners have further to remark that weighty as are now the claims of this district on the ground of wealth and population, still they probably will have increased at least two-fold before an answer can be received to the Prayer of this Petition. From the central situation of Melbourne, as well as from the richness of the lands of Australia Felix, the extraordinary influx of stock and population must soon render it one of, if not quite, the most populous of provinces in this Hemisphere. More particularly as it appears to be one of the few places in New South Wales where the soil will bear a concentrated population, while on the other hand a boundless extent of territory is ever opening its fresh fields of labour for the hand of man."
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

"Confident in the force of the foregoing reasoning, your Petitioners submit that the only remedies for the grievances complained of consist in an entire separation of this Province from the territory of New South Wales, and the grant of a free Representative Government of its own. Your Petitioners therefore humbly trust that your Honourable House will use your constitutional influence in obtaining for them—1st:—A responsible Government, entirely separate from, and independent of, New South Wales. 2nd:—A free and extended Legislative Representation, corresponding with the extent and population of the district, and equal to the exigencies of a Free State."

The Petition was in due course forwarded to its destination, and its author left the colony; but, though it made a safe journey, he died at sea, cut off in full promise, at the early age of 26.

"SEPARATION ASSOCIATION.
(Established 1840).
"

"If we help ourselves, God will help us; but if we sit down and cross our arms sullenly and do nothing, it will be said that we are unworthy of receiving greater privileges. It will be said, 'Show yourselves worthy of having greater privileges; show yourselves faithful in small things, and greater will be given to you.'—(Speech of his Excellency Sir George Gipps, in Council, 4th June, 1840.)


PARLIAMENTARY AGENT.—John Richardson, Esq., Fludyer Street, Westminster.

SECRETARY.—Mr. William Kerr.

Little, however, was effected for the next four years, except that the continued injustice suffered under the Government of New South Wales pressed as an incubus, of which everyone was tired and were longing to shake off. In 1844 the abortive system of District Councils had been established, and the enormous powers of taxation with which such bodies were by law invested, so alarmed the property owners in and about Melbourne that on the 22nd of March an important meeting was held at the Royal Hotel, "to take the necessary steps to avoid the excessive taxation likely to be imposed on the settlers of the County of Bourke by the District Council." Several smart and pointed addresses were delivered, but the speech of the day was that of Mr. A. Cunninghame, Barrister, who treated the major question with force and eloquence. He declared "that it was more than time that this fair province should have a Government and Governor of its own, with a Legislature empowered to frame laws suited to the circumstances of a free colony adapted to the exigencies of its own position, aiding in the development of her vast resources, and in spreading population over these fertile plains, which have given to this portion of Australia the envied appellation of 'Felix.' Till separation be obtained we can, at best, but float like a dismasted and deserted hulk on the surface of the water, without pilot to direct, without sails to impel, without helmsman to guide us, floating, more or less easily, as the waters may be smooth or troubled, but, in either case, alike aimless and objectless. Separation will be to us at once, pilot and helmsman, wind and sail." A memorial was adopted to the District Council, deprecating any taxation of the kind anticipated; and also a resolution affirming "That total Separation from the Middle District is an indispensable pre-requisite to the just or beneficial working of any scheme of taxation, which has for its object the improvement of this district." On the 18th April the occurrence of a District Legislative Nomination was fixed for the holding of an important meeting to advance the Separation Cause. The Chair was taken by the Mayor (Mr. Henry Condell), and a remarkably able and convincing Report was submitted—the production of Mr. Edward Curr, a
writer and speaker of much power. His manifesto was a lucid and vigorous exposé of the question, thoroughly embodying the platform of the Separationists. Several effective speeches were delivered, but pre-eminent among these were those of E. Curr and J. F. Palmer. A resolution was also affirmed, inaugurating a society for attaining the Financial, Political, and Territorial Separation of Port Phillip from the Middle and Northern Districts of New South Wales. A code of rules was agreed to, and a Committee of Management appointed. This “Separation Committee,” as it was termed, worked indefatigably, though the working man was in reality Mr. Curr. At this crisis, too, Geelong and Portland—the only two towns of importance outside Melbourne—bestirred themselves, and public meetings were held there.

The question of Separation was taken into the Legislative Council of New South Wales and warmly advocated by the Port Phillip Representatives, especially by the Rev. Dr. Lang, who moved—

“...That a humble Address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen, praying that Her Majesty will graciously be pleased to direct that the requisite steps be taken for the speedy and entire Separation of the District of Port Phillip from the Territory of New South Wales, and its erection into a separate colony.” On a division the proposal was negatived by 19 votes against 6, the Port Phillip members solely constituting the “ayes.” Lang, however, was not a man easily to be put down, and the next move was that in January, 1845, on his suggestion, the half-dozen minority subscribed a special Petition from themselves, which the Governor forwarded through the customary official channel.

THE FIRST HOME DELEGATE.

The most successful public meeting yet mooted was convened on requisition to the Mayor (Dr. Palmer), and held at the Royal Hotel on the 28th November, 1844—“To petition Parliament against pledging the Crown Lands of the district jointly with those of the Sydney district in security for a loan for immigration purposes; and to consider the propriety of appointing an agent to proceed to England to oppose the project and to advance generally the Cause of Separation.” The speakers were the Chairman (the Mayor), Messrs. Edward Curr, J. L. Foster, William Stawell, E. J. Brewster, Thomas Wills, J. A. Marden, W. M. Bell, William Kerr, J. P. Fawkner, Neil Black, and Dr. P. M’Arthur. The principal resolution was one nominating Archibald Cunningham, Esq., a Delegate to represent the interests of the people of the province in London. Messrs. Edward Curr, Thomas Wills, and William Westgarth were charged with the duty of instructing the Delegate, and to be the authorized instrument of inter-communication with him in London. It was estimated that £1000 would be a sufficient sum to raise by subscription. The Delegate was to be paid £400 per annum for two years, the remaining £200 to be applied to contingent expenses.

Prior to the departure of the Delegate (5th January, 1846), he was entertained at a public breakfast in the Royal Hotel, with Mr. E. Curr in the Chair. On the termination of the matinee, Mr. Cunningham was escorted to the wharf, thence to the steamer “Vesta,” by which he travelled to Geelong, whence he sailed for England.

Mr. Cunningham was not an unqualified success. Though presenting himself as a Colonial emissary in England, he was veritably an agent of the “squattocracy,” of which he was one. On the Transportation question he lent himself to promote the interests of the few against the many. He concurred with the Home Government in the attempt to foist a semi-diluted felony upon the district, in the form of conditionally pardoned convicts from the penal depots in England. In every sense he was a “squatters’ advocate” in very thin disguise, and tried to use his position whenever he got a chance to advance the special views of a party, rather than the wishes of the country. His mode for constructing an Electoral Chamber was to divide Port Phillip into four electoral districts, returning 24 members, to which were to be added 12 Crown Nominees, or a Legislature of 36. He proposed to grant the franchise to every Crown tenant paying £10 a year as rent or license fee, but a tenant on purchased land, was not to have a vote unless for a seven years’ holding, and the annual rental not under £40. The Delegate was openly denounced as a traitor, “sacrificing
the whole agricultural, commercial and trading interests of the colony to those of the squatters." He was brought to book at a public meeting on the 21st September, when his official misbehaviour was condemned by Messrs. John Duerdin, David Ogilvie, Thomas M’Combie, John O'Shanassy, and Joseph Hall. He was championed by Messrs. Edward Curr and Colin Campbell. Resolutions were passed, amounting in effect to a vote of censure disapproving the action of the delegate as unauthorized, and tending to injure the best interests of the province. Mr. Cunningham never returned to the colony, and soon faded out of the public mind as if he had never been in it.

In the course of the year, 1846, Dr. Palmer as Mayor, prepared a remarkably able Paper, but he seems to have written too plainly; for the Governor (Sir G. Gipps) fancied some of its expressions to reflect personally on himself, and returned it through the Superintendent with this curt cutting memo: "His Excellency has yet to learn that because a gentleman had by fortuitous circumstances been made Mayor of Melbourne for one year, he was to insult the person of the Queen’s Representative." But even if the Mayor transgressed the limit of strict official courtesy, the provocation to speak out was so strong that the sympathies of the public went most unquestionably with the writer, whose "rejected address" was transmitted to the Secretary of State.

In 1848, it was ascertained that the separation of Port Phillip was seriously contemplated by the Home Government, but the precise form in which the constitutional changes was to be effected was not acceptable. Delay was interposed, and even in 1849, after the Separation Bill had been introduced in the House of Commons, it was withdrawn, whereupon an indignation meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute on the 26th November, the Mayor (Dr. Greeves) in the Chair. Resolutions of an uncompromising character were passed, unmincing in language, declaring that though intensely loyal, it was not possible to brook further delay, and adopting Petitions to the Queen and the Imperial Parliament. The speakers were Messrs. J. L. Foster, Henry Mayor, William Hull, Thos. M’Combie, J. P. Fawkner C. H. Ebden, George Annand, William Kerr, John Stephen, David Young and Captain Cole.

At a meeting held on the 18th September, 1850, the following scheme of rejoicings was adopted—Immediately on the receipt of the intelligence of the passing of the Separation Act (the Mayor deciding as to the authenticity of the information), the Union Jack to be hoisted at the Signal Station in Melbourne, and a Royal Salute fired, the same to be responded to by the shipping in the harbour. On the evening of the same day beacon fires to be kindled on hill-tops around Melbourne and throughout the interior. The first fire to be lighted on the Flagstaff Hill, at sunset, in the presence of His Worship the Mayor, and to be followed by the discharge of six rockets, with an interval of five minutes, which will be a signal for the lighting of all the other beacons, so as if possible to spread the joyful intelligence simultaneously over the entire district. The fourth day after the arrival of the news, exclusive of either Saturday or Sunday, to be proclaimed as a general holiday and occasion of public rejoicing, the ceremonies to commence by the inhabitants assembling at their respective places of worship for the purpose of thanksgiving, at nine o'clock in the morning. At eleven o'clock a procession to be formed on the vacant ground in front of the Government offices, of the constituted authorities, Associated Bodies, Public Schools, etc., for the purpose of opening the Prince’s Bridge. At twelve o’clock, gymnastic games and sports to commence at the Cricket Ground, between the Yarra and the Beach, refreshments being at the same time furnished to the children on the hill above the Botanic Garden. In the evening a general illumination to take place with display of fireworks. On the same day of the week next succeeding the general holiday, a public dinner to be held, the terms of admission being such as will ensure the attendance of the bulk of the inhabitants. The rejoicings to terminate with a fancy-dress ball.

In this promising state of affairs an injudicious diversion was got up by several individual outsiders, who never before troubled themselves with the business of the public, but now affected dissatisfaction with the action of those who had fought and hitherfore borne the brunt of the battle. Under the pretence of supplementing the rejoicings programme, a gathering of some hundreds was held on the 26th at the Temperance Hall. It was a kind of water-spout, an ebullition of frothy irrelevance. A band was in attendance, and the Chair was captured by Mr. John Tankard, who
unbottled himself of a deliverance the reverse of cold water, of which he was a professed disciple. The evening was spent in loud ranting about the Politics of the Masses, Vote by Ballot, Universal Suffrage, and a resolve to erect a People's Hall, which a Mr. Robert R. Rogers, a noisy architect, who came armed with plans and specifications, demonstrated to a mathematical certainty could be built for £1500, and inside fittings £800. This “buncomb” ended where it began.

The Argus was the first to suggest a suspension of newspaper publication to enable the Press employes to enjoy the general carnival, and proposed that there should be no newspaper issue for one day. The Herald concurred, but thought it preferable that the three Melbourne dailies should each publish twice only during the week, as one day's holiday would not be sufficient.

With opinion thus divided, the printers themselves, the persons most interested, took the thing in hand, and soon settled it. They held a meeting at Clark's Waterman's Arms, in Little Collins Street, and resolved that they should have not only three days but three nights as well, and if the dailies could come out without the “typos,” well and good.

**ADVENT OF THE NEWS.**

It is a singular fact that I, who, after the flight of so many years, am amusing myself in writing these sketches, was virtually the first person to promulgate to the people of Victoria an authentic announcement of the long-fought-for and ardently desired emancipation of their province from the political thraldom of New South Wales, and it happened thus simply enough. I was then an attaché of the Melbourne Morning Herald, and early on an afternoon the shipping reporter arrived from the Bay, and handed me some south Australian newspapers, which he had obtained on board the “Lysander,” ship, Captain Lulham, just arrived from Adelaide. Looking through them, I found a summary of English news to the 4th August, brought to Adelaide by the “Delta” from London, and amongst which was an intimation that the Separation Bill had passed both Houses of Parliament, and only required the Royal Assent to become law. Having a good deal of my own way in the establishment, I said nothing to anybody, and as the editor (Mr. George Cavenagh) was not immediately accessible, I assumed the responsibility of issuing an “Extraordinary,” prepared the matter, and placed it in the hands of the printers. I next hunted up Cavenagh, and gave him a memo, of the intelligence, armed with which he set forth in quest of the Mayor, whom he soon found. Cavenagh generally used a buggy, and this machine was well plied for the remainder of the day, driving up and down the streets, pulling up before the residence or business place of any notability, and so circulating the tidings in the following form:—

"The Melbourne Morning Herald ‘Extraordinary.’ Monday evening, Nov. 11, 1850. Glorious News! Separation at Last!! We lose not a single moment in communicating to the public the soul-stirring intelligence that Separation has come at last! The Australian Colonies’ Bill, with the amendments made in the Lords on the 5th July, was agreed to in the Commons on the 1st August, and only awaits the Queen’s signature to become the law of the land. The long oppressed, long-buffeted Port Phillip is at length an Independent Colony, gifted with the Royal name of Victoria, and endowed with a flourishing revenue and almost inexhaustible resources; let all classes of colonists then not lose a moment in their hour of triumph in celebrating the important epoch in a suitable manner, and observing one General Jubilee. The ‘Public Rejoicings’ Committee lately nominated by the citizens of Melbourne will assemble without delay; let one and all co-operate with them heart and hand in giving due effect to the enthusiastic oations of our New-born Colony! It is an era in the existence of our adopted land which can never again occur; and the glorious opportunity once past will be irreversible. Colonists, ‘Now is the day and now is the hour!’ For this act of justice to Port Phillip, and every other good gift, may God bless the Queen."

The intelligence was by this time placed beyond doubt through the receipt by the Superintendent of a letter by the mail, confirming the newspaper announcement, and intimating that Mr. Latrobe was to be the first Lieutenant-Governor. The Royal Assent to the Separation Bill was deemed a matter of form, and it was afterwards ascertained that this final ceremony was performed on the 5th September.
A brief conference ensued between the Superintendent and the Mayor, and the former promised to forthwith authorize any arrangements necessary on behalf of the Government to give effect to the proposed public rejoicings.

THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

At noon of the 12th November, between 200 and 300 persons assembled on the Flagstaff Hill. The Flagstaff itself was dressed in its gayest array, and every scrap of colour that could be got in the signalling establishment found a hanging-place somewhere. A Royal Salute was fired, some shipping in the Bay and two pieces of ordnance at Brighton replying. After the twenty-first round from the Hill battery, three ringing cheers were given for the Queen, as an expression of gratitude for the granting of the so-long-expected boon. Balloons were next brought on the ground, and the special object in despatching them was that as they proceeded on their aerial trip they would drop throughout the interior a number of small scrolls or slips attached to them. The slips were of thin paper, with this imprint:

"SEPARATION.

Intelligence of the passing of the Australian Colonies Bill arrived in Melbourne last night, 11th November, 1850, by the ship 'Lysander.' G. A. Lulham, Esq., commander, from Adelaide.

Any person finding this paper is requested to diffuse the information as extensively as possible; and to communicate with the Mayor of Melbourne, stating the time and place where it was found.

(Signed), W. NICHOLSON, Mayor. Melbourne, 12th November, 1850."

Aeronautics as a science must have been imperfectly understood, though in ballooning, as a rule, some hitch almost always occurs, and this occasion formed no exception, for whilst preparing No. 1, it received a rent in its side; but the wound was sewed up, the machine ascended slowly, sailed away towards the Sydney Road, and alighted half-a-dozen miles from town, where it was picked up some days after. No. 2 burst whilst being inflated, and there was no more of it.

The following is the amended and final programme of Separation festivities:

A general illumination, commencing at 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening.

Friday and Saturday to be observed as public general holidays.

On Thursday, at noon, the inhabitants to assemble in their respective places of worship for the purpose of thanksgiving.

On Friday, at noon, the procession to be formed in front of the Government offices in Lonsdale Street, for the purpose of opening the Prince’s Bridge.

On Saturday, at 11 o'clock, the Gymnastic sports and games to take place at the Emerald Hill, near the Cricket Ground, South Melbourne.

The printers made special arrangements for themselves, viz., the newspapers were to suspend publication from Thursday until Tuesday, i.e., no issue on Friday, the 15th, Saturday 16th, and Monday, 18th.

THE GENERAL ILLUMINATIONS

Come off on the evening of Wednesday, 13th November, and at about 8 o’clock the principal streets were ablaze. The illumination was general, a solitary unlighted house here and there only serving to point the contrast between light and darkness. How it was contrived to produce from oil and tallow (there was then no gas) the brilliant effects that followed was difficult to understand, and spoke in praise of the skill and dexterity so suddenly called into action. Some of the shop-window transparencies were very picturesque and striking. I append a brief notice of the most prominent.

Collins Street—Mr. John Hood, chemist—a comic representation of the "Present, Past, and Future." Mr. W. C. Wentworth—"Sydney relieving Young Victoria of £100,000;" "Victoria in manhood, pocketing £60,000;" nearly last; and "Victoria in the prime of life, listening to the petition
of her former oppressor, Sydney." Mr. Wm. Clarke, stationer—"Queen Victoria, giving liberty to Victoria," with inscriptions "Libertas," "Victoria is free." Mr. Germain Nicholson, grocer—"Welcome Separation," and "Advance Australia," in coloured letters. Mr. Jacobs, "V.R.," with Royal Arms in centre—"Port Phillip separated from Sydney," and "Advance Victoria," with "Peace and Plenty" underneath. Mr. William Nicholson, grocer and Mayor—"Britons rejoice," in coloured letters. At what was known as Cashmore's corner, north-east junction of Collins and Elizabeth Streets, a balloon was set in the shop window, and seated in the car were the distinguished Sydney politicians, Wentworth and Windeyer. The latter held a large knife in his hand, and with a despairing glance at his compatriot, exclaimed, "No use, Bill, can't hold on any longer, I shall have to cut her adrift." A second exhibit was formed by "V.R." in monster capitals, with a crown in centre.

The Melbourne Club—Three transparencies: "the Crown" and "Victoria and Separation" in central window, and in side windows the "Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle;" "God save our Queen," "V.R.," and sundry devices. At Bell's auction rooms—A full-length figure of the Queen, and in another window "The Victorian and Tasmanian Society, formed 12th July, 1850." The Prince Albert Inn—"Hail! Victoria Free" in colours. The Mechanics' Institute—On window to right, "Spartacus, the Thracian, breaking from his chains." In the centre "An angel regarding a medallion of the Queen," with a scroll, "Loyal, Separate, and Free" inscribed, and to the left a youthful Hercules strangling a serpent, on which is written "Transportation." Mr. Gregory, ironmonger—A large outside transparency symbolising "Commerce" between figures of "Britannia and Victoria," surmounted by the scroll, "Britannia, Commerce, and Victoria." Mr. J. Ham, engraver.—In centre the arms of the colony, with figure of "Britannia."


Mr. Webster, tobacconist—The late Alderman Kerr, with a copy of the Argus newspaper in his hand, saying, "We won't be put down."

Elizabeth Street.—Halfpenny's William Tell Inn—"V.R.," with a crown in centre. Mr. John O'Shanassy, draper—"Wreaths and bouquets of flowers," brilliantly illuminated. Mr. John Ewers, confectioner—Transparencies "St. George and the Dragon;" the "Queen displaying the Separation Bill," signed "Victoria."

The Bush Inn—Three handsome transparencies, illustrative of the "Separation from Sydney." Mr. Dickinson, book-binder—Two balloons in ascent, the Victorian distancing the Sydney one, and inscribed, "The Effects of Separation." Mr. R. Davies, Britannia, and a ship bearing the news of Separation—"Welcome, Victoria." Mr. Spence, draper—two transparencies (1) "V.R.," with crown in centre, a distant sea view with ship bringing the news of Separation; (2) a "kangaroo," with the words "Separation" and "Advance Victoria." This display was much admired.

Swanston Street—Messrs. M'Kinnon and Cree, a large coloured illumination of scroll "It is good to be free."

The Rainbow Hotel—A large crown with "V.R." Mr. Grasshoff (Daguerreotype Depot)—some small though superbly executed transparencies were exhibited in the windows. Overton's confectionery mant—"V.R.," with crown in centre, in gas lights, throwing out a brilliant flame and having a beautiful effect.

Baker's Church of England Book Depot—"The Bible, crown and mitre," inscribed, "Righteousness Exalts a Nation."

Bourke Street.—The Bull and Mouth Hotel—A tastefully executed crown in the centre window, surrounded by wreaths and bouquets of flowers, handsomely lit.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

The Britannia Inn—Transparency, a vessel bringing the "welcome news."

Mr. Montgomery—Transparency, "Loyal and Free."

Mr. Ferguson, draper—A large and handsome comic transparency, representing the riches of the province which have been squandered by Sydney, and which will be saved by Separation.

The Old White Hart Inn, corner of Bourke and Spring Streets, a handsome full-length figure of "Her Majesty on the Throne, signing the Separation Bill."

Messrs. Heales and Carter (coach factory), Lonsdale Street, had every window in their establishment lit up, and each showing the Arms of the colony, and such mottoes as these:—"Be Just and Fear Not," "Advance Victoria," "Prosperity to the City and Trade of Melbourne," "Sons of Freedom, Rejoice," "Our Bonds are Broken," "Justice has Prevailed."

A window in the residence of Mr. Basford, Queen Street, exhibited a well-done caricature of Victoria and New South Wales. Sydney is enquiring after the health of the child Victoria, and is answered rather sarcastically, "Very well thank you; ain't he growing?"

Alderman Dr. Greeves, of Little Collins Street, displayed two splendid representations, the "Royal Arms" and a device illustrating the Separation of the colony.

A wreath of evergreens, with garlands of flowers, was thrown from the chimney of the Hand-in-Hand Inn, across Little Collins Street, and had a very pretty effect.

Mr. John Bear’s house at Collingwood (now Victoria Parade near Nicholson Street) was a complete blaze of light.

Never before or since has there been a night of such revel in Melbourne, considering population and circumstances. From an early hour the streets began to fill, and it would seem as if the whole province had poured in its residents to the town. About ten o'clock it appeared as if Elizabeth and Collins Streets (Bourke Street was not of much account) were rushed by a roaring, turbulent madding multitude, who tore along up and down, yelling, cheering and shouting, but doing no other harm. One half was intoxicated from drinking, and the other half quite as drunk from excitement, and they surged about an excited but not angry sea of human faces. Many carried fireworks along with them, letting them off en route, whilst others footballed blazing tar barrels, taking good care though not to handle the fiery ball. The police were all out on duty, but they were put to no trouble, for there was no rowing, or garotting, or robbing such as now disgraces modern assemblages. As for colonial larrikinism it was still unhatched. The only apprehension was lest Melbourne would be accidentally burned down, but how it escaped was an enigma. However, though there was no public prayer for rain, about twelve o’clock some smart showers fell, a regular God-send in clearing the streets and preventing any calamity, though a large number did not go home till morning.

A DAY OF PRAYER AND PLAY.

The next day, Thursday, was specially set apart for religious worship: and the forenoon passed off in a very solemn manner. Throughout the day almost every house in town was closed, and as for business it was totally suspended, except of course, the "Refreshment" manufactories. It is hardly an exaggeration to write that an universal Te Deum was offered by the people. Divine services were held at the several churches, which were well attended by all grades of society, high and low, rich and poor, and a feeling of profound gratitude to Providence appeared generally prevalent. Amongst the sermons preached the most effective were those of Dr. Perry, the Episcopalian Bishop, at St. James’ Cathedral, and the Rev. Rabbi Rintel, at the Synagogue.

The afternoon was, however, through an incongruous transition “from grave to gay,” devoted to different purposes, when religion was obliged to give way to worldly amusements of a very miscellaneous character. In the first place there was improvised horse-racing at the beach near Sandridge; and at 4 p.m. a series of sports came off on the present Parliament Reserve. They were promoted by Mr. Henry Lineham, the landlord of the White Hart Hotel.

At night several tar barrels were lit in different parts of the city, salutes were fired, and the fireworks again flew amongst the many wayfarers. The theatre was opened, and brilliantly illuminated,
the audience joined in the chorus to a Separation Anthem, written for the occasion, and sung with great effect by Mr. C. Young at the rising of the curtain.

Several of the principal inns had some kind of musical contrivances, which they called bands, playing until a late hour. The police paraded the streets, but did not interfere with the frolic and fun of the people; and owing to the excellent arrangements, the day passed without accident.

The Grand Separation Procession.

Friday, 15th November was the grand day; in fact, the day of days—the “whitest” of the immortal three. Business was, as on the preceding day, at a standstill; and Nature herself, as if to aid in the celebration, ushered in the eventful day with as fine a morning as ever Aurora smiled upon.

At ten o’clock the several Societies began to collect, some in regalia, and others bearing a banner or some emblem to contribute towards the coming display. The Oddfellows were amongst the first on the ground, and were soon followed by the St. Patrick Society, which mustered in very strong numbers, in consequence of the members not having walked in public procession since the memorable occasion of laying the first stone of Prince’s Bridge, on the 25th March, 1846. The Grand Marshall (Mr. W. J. Sugden, of the Royal Mail Hotel) had no sinecure.

**Programme**

**Of the Procession**

For the **Opening of Prince’s Bridge**, In commemoration of the advent of Separation, Friday, 15th November, 1850.

- Mr. W. J. Sugden (Grand Marshall), on Horseback, Chief-Constable on Horseback,
- Pensioners, Band, Native Mounted Police,
- Various Schools (Marshalled as they arrive on the Ground), Father Matthew Total Abstinence Society, Test of Jumado Rechabites, Rechabite Test of St. John,
- Melbourne Philanthropic and Total Abstinence Society, Salford Unity of Independent Rechabites,
- Journemen Butchers (blue frocks, white trousers, straw hats, carrying the emblems of their trades),
- The German Union of Melbourne, The Union Jack and German Union Flags United,
- The St. Patrick Society, Pupils of St. Patrick’s Seminary, under superintendence of members,
- Junior Members of Society, under direction of a senior member, Band, Union Jack, supported by Wands with Wands.
- Members (two abreast), with green silk scarves and rosettes, Banner of Harp of Erin, supported by two members with Wands,
- Members (two abreast), Banner of St. Patrick on the Hill of Tara, supported by members with Wands,
- Members of Committee (two abreast), green silk scarves, rossettes, gilt harps, and crowns,
- The Auditors in same costume, The Secretary with Scroll,
- The Treasurer with Bag, the Vice-President, the President,
- PRINTERS OF MELBOURNE,
- Press, on a mounted platform drawn by four horses, Banner—Full length portrait of Gutenberg, The Inventor of Movable Types, and other Trades in rotation.

**Ancient Independent Order of Oddfellows.**

**Melbourne District,**

- **Prince of Wales Lodge Banner, Batavia Lodge, No. 984:**
  - Conductor, Junior Members (two and two)
  - Ordinary Members (two and two), Wands, Permanent and Elective Secretaries,
  - Supporter, Vice-Grand. Supporter, Noble Grand, Supporter.
- **Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 926:**
  - Conductor, Junior Members (two and two), Ordinary Members (two and two),
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

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Warden, Permanent and Elective Secretaries,
Supporter, Vice-Grand, Supporter. Guard, Dispensation, Guard. Supporter, Noble Grand, Supporter.
Supporter, Noble Father, Supporter.

FELIX LODGE BANNER, VICTORIA LODGE, NO. 982:
Conductor, Junior Members (two and two), Ordinary Members (two and two), Warden, Permanent and Elective Secretaries,
Supporter, Vice-Grand, Supporter. Guard, Dispensation, Guard. Supporter, Noble Grand, Supporter. Supporter, Noble Father, Supporter.

FELIX LODGE, NO. 923:
Conductor, Junior Members (two and two), Ordinary Members (two and two), Warden.

THE MANCHESTER UNITY OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS:
White gloves, with sashes and sashes.
Outside Guardians with swords, Brothers, white and blue (two and two), Warden (two and two), Brothers, scarlet and gold (two and two), Assistant Secretary, Past Secretaries, Secretary with Scroll, Police.
Past Vice-Grands (two and two), a Vice-Grand with Bible and Time-glass, Police.
Supporters
with Wands, Vice-Grand, No. 6, Vice-Grand, No. 4, Supporter, with Wands.
Permanent and Elective Secretaries. Supporter, Vice-Grand, Supporter. Guard, Dispensation, Guard.
Supporter, Noble Grand, Supporter. Supporter, Noble Father, Supporter.

DISTRICT OFFICERS.
Delegates (two and two), Treasurer and Secretary. Guard, Cushion and Bible. Guard. Lecturer and Deputy-Lecturer, District Master and Deputy-District Master, Past District Masters (two and two), Past Grand Masters (two and two).

FELIX LODGE BANNER. (Crimson).
Representing on one side figures emblematical of Oddfellows exclusively, viz.:—
Truth and Justice, A Clouded Providence, Charity, Hour Glass, Cross Keys, Ark.
Dove and Olive Branch, Lion and the Lamb (representing Peace), the Rose, Thistle, and Shamrock (representing Unity.) On the reverse side the Leeds “Coat of Arms.”

PRINCE OF WALES LODGE BANNER. (Blue.)
Representing on one side the same figures as the Felix Lodge Banner, viz.:—Truth and Justice, etc., etc. On the reverse side the representation of the young “Prince of Wales,” in his nautical costume, etc.

ANCIENT AND HONOURABLE FRATERNITY OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS:
Four Tylers, Banner of Faith, Master of Ceremonies, Terrestrial and Celestial Globes, Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, Deacons with Wands, Secretary with Roll, Treasurer with Bag.
Six Masters, Corinthian Light, Junior Wardens, Six Masters, Doric Light, Senior Wardens, Banner of Hope, The Choir, Stewards, Architect and Builder, Bible, Square, and Compasses, Banner of Charity, Chaplains, Installed Masters, Ionic Light, Book of Constitution, Royal Arch Masons, Military Past Masters, Masters, Inner Guardians, Inhabitants (two abreast), Military or Police at Separation Rejoicing Committee (two abreast), Clergy of all Denominations, or Police at Intervals. Civil Officers of Government, Heads of Departments, Magistrates of the City, Members of the Legislative Council, His Honour the Resident Judge, Members of the Legislative Council, His Honour the Resident Judge, Aide-de-Camp, His Honor the Superintendent, Military.
This was the fourth procession of the kind in the Province, and far eclipsed its predecessors. There was no denominational dissension or political difficulty, no Masonic prayer or invocation to annoy the religious consciences, no emblem steeped in the poison of party fanaticism to offend any nationality; and the occasion was a general ovation, which, more or less touched a sympathetic chord in every heart. The procession formed in front of the Government Offices in William Street, now the new Law Courts, but then a large enclosed area, and proceeded over the new bridge to the grounds now occupied by Government House. The procession and the crowd that jammed the streets numbered about fifteen thousand persons—an immense aggregation for the period.

The greatest novelty of the occasion was the turn out of the Melbourne printers, who had mounted on a huge waggons, lent by the Messrs. Langlands of the foundry, a printing press belonging to the Herald. A platform was erected as standing room for Messrs. J. P. Fawkner (the father of the Port Phillipian Press), William Clarke and Samuel Goode (two well-known types). The concern was ornamented with a small grove of evergreens, and to it were attached eight well-conditioned horses, supplied by Mr. Bradley of Albury. The animals were smothered in ribbons, and during the progress of the procession, the press was kept going, sheets worked off and sent flying. These printing specimens were neatly-bordered tracts, surmounted by a press and medallion likenesses of the Queen and Prince Albert. The letterpress was a chronological epitome of the most notable dates and events in Port Phillip between 1835 and 1850, and was the production of Fawkner. Of all the individuals who "composed" this "typo" contingent, only three veterans (so far as I know) survive in Victoria, viz., Messrs. Samuel Goode, John Ferres, and Benjamin Lucas. The banners and costumes of several of the Societies were remarkable for style and brilliancy, and had an imposing appearance.

The Masonic brethren were particularly noticeable in consequence of their display of official jewellery, and some of them wore a large number of jewels. One of the most prominent was Mr. John Stephen, whose decorations were profuse, and who, in addition, sported a green scarf, through his being a member of St. Patrick's Society.

Odd Fellowship also did its duty. The members of the various Lodges assembled in force, and the difference in their costumes had, by the contrast, a very happy effect. Their banners were very good, and emblematic of those great virtues which, if generally practised by all, would confer much benefit upon the human race.

The banners of the St. Patrick Society appeared to much advantage, and were objects of much interest and inspection from the circumstance that they had been systematically misrepresented and reported to be highly offensive to the feelings of a certain class of the community. This exhibition had, however, given the lie to such insinuations, and so far from being regarded with aversion, "standards of green unfurled" were regarded with admiration, especially a new one prepared particularly for the day, one side of which represented the Queen assenting to the Magna Charta of her namesake and youngest colony.

The several Orders of Teetotalism showed off some very becoming banners, including a full-length portrait of Father Matthew, the great Irish Apostle of the cause.

It would be unfair to omit the Germans, who, though necessarily few in number, made a respectable turn out, and showed three handsome banners.

On arriving upon Prince's Bridge, the Freemasons opened their ranks right and left, to afford a passage for his Honor the Superintendent and Staff to the centre of the arch, upon reaching which Mr. John Stephen, P.G.M., attended by the Masters of the several Masonic Lodges, approached his Honor, and thus addressed him:—

"May it please your Honor:

"The period having arrived for the proclamation of the Prince's Bridge, as being dedicated to the use of the public of Victoria, I am directed by the Ancient and Honourable Society of Freemasons to deliver up to your Honor the plans and drawings of this noble and elegant structure. Having assisted your Honor to lay the foundation stone, we have upon the present occasion to express our congratulations upon its completion in accordance with the design. In the name of the Fraternity..."
I have to thank you for the compliment which has thus been paid to our Order; and I have further to express our sincere desire for the future happiness of your Honor, and the prosperity of this important Province."

The Superintendent receiving the plans from Mr. Stephen, presented them to the Order for preservation amongst the Masonic archives of the colony; and then spoke as follows:—

"I have now to declare the Prince's Bridge open for public use. In so doing I must express my acknowledgments to all parties concerned in its erection for the kindly feeling manifested during its progress. I must especially note the conduct of the operative masons and the mechanics employed in the work for their generous and manly conduct in continuing their labours during the period when the supplies voted were not forthcoming. Such a dilemma could not have occurred had this district possessed a Legislature of its own. I had anticipated the completion of the Bridge upon the third anniversary of its building, but was disappointed from the above cause; and a much further delay must have ensued but for the liberal conduct of the artisans employed in the undertaking. I should remark that the entire materials of this, the first Bridge of Victoria, (shall I say) are composed of colonial produce—Victorian granite, Victorian mortar, Victorian labour—and when your children's children may be crossing this bridge in after years they may probably have learnt that this very important structure was raised during the period of the government of a ‘Superintendent.' Upon the conclusion of these remarks a peal of stunning cheers burst from the assembled thousands; and the crash of the artillery from the opposite hill announced to the inhabitants that the Prince's Bridge was opened as a free bridge to the public of Victoria.

The procession then moved on in inverted order, his Honor preceding, and the Masons, Oddfellows, and other Societies following over the bridge.

After passing the Bridge the procession proceeded towards the site for the intended Vice-Regal residence, and here the several bodies falling into line, remained for about a quarter of an hour, with bands playing and colours flying. His Honor the Superintendent (who was dressed in the official uniform of a Lieutenant-Governor), was very warmly received, and loudly and vociferously cheered as he rode through the different Societies, and courteously acknowledged the ebullitions of public feeling with which he was everywhere greeted.

In reference to Prince's Bridge, it may be worth remarking that on the day of its foundation an item of the ceremony consisted of what is Masonically termed an Invocation offered by the Rev. A. C. Thomson who acted as Chaplain, as follows:—"May He, Whose mighty hand encompasseth Eternity, be the Guardian and Protector of this infant city and its inhabitants, and may this building which spanneth the waters be long His protection—long preserved from peril and decay."

Judging from results it is not unreasonable to assume that the first half of this preachment has not been without its effect on the then future; but the prayer for the preservation of the bridge has been as unavailing as many a prayer for rain since, for in little more than thirty years, the structure was removed to make way for a larger one, and the Yarra Yarra no longer (1888) knows the first stone bridge that spanned its once unpolluted waters.

That evening the Mayor entertained a select party at the "Port Phillip Club Hotel," Flinders Street. The Duke of York Order of Oddfellows enjoyed themselves at the "Robert Burns Inn," in Lonsdale Street. The Brothers sat down to table in full regalia, the Lodge banner being displayed from the window, and a band playing in the room.

The members of the Fitzroy Lodge dined at the "Cornwall Arms," Bourke Street, and did not separate until an early hour on Saturday morning.

The Grand United Order of Oddfellows held a Separation Ball at the Protestant Hall. Upwards of three hundred persons assembled—Brothers in full costume. Dancing commenced at ten o'clock, and was kept on with spirit until one o'clock, when about two hundred sat down to supper, or rather breakfast, which was laid out in the lower room under the superintendence of Mr. Hunter, confectioner, Collins Street.

In the city the banners of the different Societies, besides other flags bearing different devices, were hoisted from the windows, and music and revelry were again the order of the day.
Between 10 and 11 o'clock those who had not been drawn away by other recreations were steering for Emerald Hill, and shortly after 11 o'clock preparations were made by the Stewards to carry out the Programme of the Separation Sports.

It was notified to the Stewards, Messrs. M. King, Dal. Campbell, D. S. Campbell, J. Stewart, W. J. Disher, and Francis Stephen, that the amount collected would not allow of the games being carried out to the extent stated in the programme, and these gentlemen in the most liberal manner undertook at their own expense to provide the prizes, and would not curtail the programme of a single event, trusting to the honour of the public to eventually reimburse them the outlay to be so incurred. They were greeted with loud bazzas when their liberality became known.

**Printers’ Excursion to Geelong.**

At six o'clock on Saturday morning the Melbourne Printers, fully determined to make the most of their holidays, started from the wharf on an aquatic trip for Geelong, in the “Thames” steamer, chartered for the purpose. They were accompanied by their “sweethearts and wives,” and all shared the enjoyment of the hour. There was an excellent band on board, and with Mr. J. P. Fawkner as generalissimo, it was resolved “to have a day of it and no mistake.” The morning was fine, and a smart sea-breeze wafted health and happiness to all. This state of things did not long continue, for Neptune, the Ocean god, in whose time no such bipeds as printers existed, appeared bent upon being unpropitious. The vessel no sooner cleared the Williamstown Lighthouse than the waves got up steam as well as the “Thames,” and the latter heaved tremendously. Then commenced in reality a species of “separation rejoicings” not included in the programme, and so continued until in the beautiful Bay of Corio, Fawkner, who was most indefatigable in providing for the general comfort and enjoyment, improvised a dance on the quarter-deck, and there they “tripped it gaily” until they approached the Geelong jetty, when the Gottenberg banner was unfurled, and the band struck up a stirring tune.

The Geelong printers gave their confreres from Melbourne a cordial reception, and invited them to a “feed” at the Union Hotel. At four p.m. a return on board was effected, and they started for Melbourne amidst peals of loud and long cheers from an immense crowd assembled to witness the departure. Within an hour of midnight the Melbourne Wharf was reached; and, notwithstanding the unfavourable nature of the weather, all were gratified with their day’s outing.

The Theatre, which had been closed for several evenings, was re-opened, profusely illuminated, and the bill of fare presented induced many of the holiday folk to wind up the week before the curtain. The illuminations were reproduced on a curtailed scale, and the last of the revellers marched home accompanied by the band from the steamer as the mystic hour of “High Twelve” appeared in the heavens. No accident or disturbance of any kind occurred during the day.

The period of the public amusements terminated on Saturday, but the enjoyments might be considered as kept up until Sunday evening. That day, after church, was in a great measure devoted to small parties of pleasure to Brighton, St. Kilda, the Beach, Saltwater River, etc.; and next morning reason and business resumed their sway in Melbourne. It was highly gratifying to observe the peaceable and good-tempered manner in which everything passed away.

Monday was a kind of “suffering a recovery” period, and it was the last of the Printers’ holidays. There was no newspaper issued, which did not by any means tend to mitigate the universal ennui. On Sunday Melbourne was again to rights, and the ordinary business of life was thoroughly resumed.

It should be mentioned that Geelong, Portland, and other townships had their own special rejoicings and festivities.

The project of a public dinner in Melbourne was abandoned, because there was a Fancy Ball yet to be disposed of. Great preparations were now made to wind up creditably with this entertainment, quite a novelty in its line; and as it was the first of its kind in the colony, I hope to be excused for giving a detailed notice of...
THE SEPARATION FANCY DRESS BALL.

On the night of the 28th November, 1850, the "Separation Rejoicings" terminated. The procession, the illuminations, the rural feats and other excursions, the bonfires and tar barrels, all had had their day, but it remained for the Fancy Dress Ball to close an ovation which, from its general nature, and the heart and soul thrown into it by everyone, has had no parallel in Victoria. St. Patrick's Hall was decorated in a very tasteful manner. The entrance doorway was adorned with laurels and evergreens, and illuminated with a V.R. lamp, which scattered its rays to the opposite side of the street. The staircase leading to the ball-room was similarly decorated, and the spacious room itself was adorned with banners and transparencies in endless variety. The walls were profusely festooned, and at the northern end was a dais, surmounted by a neat portrait of Her Majesty, the property of the Victoria and Tasmania Society. The chaste and beautiful banner of the St. George Society was also unfolded, displaying the gallant Saint of legendary celebrity slaying the formidable dragon. At intervals, hanging from the ceiling, were the St. Patrick Society's banners—the harp, the earliest emblem of Ireland, displaying its proportions on emerald green; St. Patrick anathematizing the snakes from the "sacred isle"; the same Apostle converting the Irish Kings on the hill of Tara, where the rude monarchs are electrified by his persuasive eloquence. On another, pagan Ireland is delineated by its immemorial "Sunburst." And though the last, not the least, the one representing the Queen assenting to the "Victoria Emancipation Act."

This banner was unfurled in front of the dais which His Honor the Superintendent occupied during the night. Union Jacks fluttered in all directions, and in several parts of the Hall were several transparencies. The room was lighted by a range of chandeliers, and when their flood of light bathed the rich and picturesque banners, the transparencies, and ornamental foliage, and then swept over the beautifully-dressed, high-hearted groups beneath, the scene was one of the most thrilling effect. Megson's Band was retained for the occasion, and the Stewards were indefatigable in their attention to the assemblage. The supper was provided by Mr. Cantlon, a newly-established caterer, and was said to do him much credit.

The following is an alphabetical list of the company present, who left their cards at the entrance door, and the characters in which they appeared as marked thereon:—

A'Beckett, Mrs.; Anderson, Mrs., a fancy dress; Anderson, Miss, a Nepalese lady; Anderson, Elizabeth, fancy dress; Anderson, Rosa, fancy dress; x'Beckett, William, Resident Judge, full Court dress; Aitken, Mr., settler; Anderson, Colonel, in full uniform of 50th Regiment.

Balbirnie, the Misses, Italian peasants; Bawtree, Miss Ellen, a Persian lady; Bawtree, Mrs. Samuel, lady of Court of Charles First; Bawtree, Miss, Persian lady; Barker, Mrs. Edward, lady of 19th century; Bennett, Mrs., plain dress; Browne, Mr., Highland costume; Balbirnie, R. A., hussar uniform; Benn, Mr., gentleman; Barlas, Dr. James; Bawtree, Samuel, gentleman of Court of Charles First; Barker, Wm., gentleman of 19th century; Benjamin, Solomon, barrister-at-law; Bennett, Mr., Glaucus the Athenian; Brodie, R. S., the Bunyip.

Campbell, Mrs. William H., as herself; Chambers, Mrs. Hugh J., a fancy dress; Creswick, Mrs. Henry, plain clothes; Collyer, Mrs., ball dress; Cox, Mrs., ball costume; Cavenagh, Miss, fancy dress; Cavenagh, Mrs., lady of 19th century. Campbell, W. H., in a new suit of clothes; Chambers, H. J., an Irishman; Cadden, H. C.; Cadden, H. F.; Campbell, Robert, Royal Arch Mason; Connolly, J. M., gentleman of 19th century; Barker, Edwd., a gentleman of 19th century; Benjamin, Solomon, barrister-at-law; Bennett, Mr., Glaucus the Athenian; Brodie, R. S., the Bunyip.

Disher, Mrs. W. J., Venetian Lady; Dismorr, Mrs. N., plain dress; Dismorr, N., plain dress; Don Francisco de Cavello, Spanish gentleman; Durnart, J. W.; Disher, W. J., Royal Arch Mason; Durnart, J. W., Venetian costume; Durnart, Captain Commandant Mounted Police; De Graves, William, a Sportsman; Durnart, Mr., Officer of Mounted Police.

Erskine, Mrs. J. A., ball dress; Ellerman, H. C., a Squatter in mufti; Edwards, J. S., a "Skipper."
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

Finn, Mrs. E., Colleen Bawn; Finn, E., Garryowen; Ford, F. T. W., Medical Man, present date; Frenchan, H., Julien St. Pierre; Ford, William, Hon. Artillery Company; Fenwick, N. A., uniform; Fenwick, William, Albanian costume; Fenton, T., Gardiner, Miss; Greene, Mrs. E. B., full dress. Goodman, John, Yeomanry Officer; Greene, W. F., a Lieutenant; Garner, Mr. H. F.; Graham, James G., Highland dress; Greens, E. B., Chinese Mandarin; Greene, E. B., jun., Midshipman Easy; Gibson, S.; Greaves, Alderman, full dress; Goodie, Lieutenant, 11th Regiment.

Harris, Mrs. S. H., ball dress; Hart, Miss, ball dress; Hart, Mrs. J. A., lady of the year 1850; Henderson, Mrs. Thomas, ball dress; Hunter, Mrs. M. L., ball costume; Hazard, Mrs., ball costume; Haley, Miss; Hains, Miss, full dress. Hart, Edward; Hart, J. S. H., gentleman of the year 1850; Hart, H. J.,Royal Arch Mason; Homan, C. B., a Forester; Howard, C. J., Spanish Cavalier; Harrison, George, Lieutenant, R. N.; Henderson, Captain, Naval uniform; Hodgson, John, a Steward; Hunter, M. L., gentleman rider.

Irvine, Mr.; James, George, private; Jones, D. L., a gentleman of the 19th century; Janieson, Alexander, Andalusian costume.

Kerr, Mrs. W., fancy dress; King, Mrs. J. C., an Irish lady. Kerr, W., Royal Arch Freemason; King, J. C. (Town Clerk), Civic costume.


M’Kenzie, Miss, fancy dress; Martin, Mrs., Spring; Moor, Mrs., Autumn; M’Kenzie, A., Deputy Sheriff, official dress; Moor, H., Knight Templar; Mair, Captain, military uniform; Moffatt, G., gentleman of the 19th century; Montefiore, Mr., as a mongrel, alias halfhorse, halfalligator, Midshipman, R. N., member of boat club; Mitchell, Mr., private club.

Nicholoson, Mrs. John, an English lady; Nicholson, Mrs. William, an English lady.

Orr, John, private; Pearall, Mrs., a lady of 19th century; Pottwell, F. A.; Philcox, Mr., a page; Philcox, James, a gentleman of 19th century; Pinkerton, Mr., as Hannish; Pearall, John, a gentleman of 19th century.

Robertson, A. M., a Catalonian sailor; Roe, Lieutenant, 11th regiment.

Smythe, Mrs., ball dress; Shaw, Mrs. H. S.; Scott, Miss, ball costume; Scott, Mrs., a lady of 19th century; Seldon, Miss, an Italian lady; Sheppard, Sherbourne, Dick Turpin; Stephens, Francis, Claude Melnotte; Stephens, Philip, Neopolitan; Stephens, W. R., Corsair; Stephen, W., member of the boat club; Smythe, H. W. H., gentleman of 19th century; Shaw, H. S.; Sievewright, Adolphus, chamberlain, King Charles I.

Trollope, Miss, ball dresses; Thomas, D. J., Welsh peasant girl, Shanew Paish Gosh; Trenchard, J., plain dress; Turnbull, Phipps, a braw callant frae Auld Reekie. Winter, S. P.

The following ladies and gentlemen were also present, but did not hand in the descriptive cards as required:

Barrow, S., and lady; Bell, E., and lady; Black, Charles; Barry, Redmond; Beaufort, L., and three ladies; Bruce, Mr.; Benjamin, D., and sister; Burbury, Captain; Bell, Mr.; Bruce, Mr.; Cole, Captain, and two ladies; Black, Wm.; Campbell, Dalhousie; Chadwick, Mr.; Fenwick, Wm.; Gibson, Stewart; Geary, Mr.; Gilbert, Mr., and two ladies; Goodman, Mr., and lady; Greene, W. F.; Greene, R.; Highett, W., and lady; Hunter, Mr.; Harman, Mr.; Harvey, Mr., and lady; Heape, C.; Jones, Mr., and lady; Kerr, Robert; Mills, Mr., and lady; M’Kerlie, Captain; Orr, Edward; O’Shanassy, J., and lady; O’Conner, N., Power, Mr.; Probart, Mr.; Ross, George; Stephens, Jas., and two ladies; Stephen, H.; Smith, James; Sturt, E. P. S.; Taylor, J. W.; Thompson, A. P.; Umpleby, Mr.; Wake, W.; Westgarth, W.; Wilkinson, F., and two ladies.

The outcome of all those enthusiastic celebrations furnishes a curious commentary upon the proceedings, and one so little creditable to the public spirit of the people, that were I other than a truthful historian, I should be disposed to suppress it. When settling day arrived, it was found that both ends (the assets and liabilities) would by no means meet, unless the public patriotically came...
to the rescue, which it was not willing to do, for the excitement had evaporated, and as public feeling cooled, the public pocket grew less relaxed. The mistake was, that, at an early stage, the money hunting was mismanaged, and contributions which ought to have gone to the Central Rejoicing Fund were given to local amusements got up by the publicans and others in some of the suburbs. However, it was now found that there would be a deficit of something like £250. The loss on the Fancy Ball would be from £30 to £100, the bonfires and illuminations £100, and so on. The general subscriptions realized only £143 18s. whilst the treasurer's disbursements were £175 9s. 6½d., and the outstanding claims, including the balance of £33 11s. 6½d., due to the treasurer, were £139 19s. 6½d. It was said that the Ball Stewards paid £4 14s. 7d. each to square their book, and whether the other general item was ever made up I cannot say positively, but I believe it was privately subscribed.

And thus passed away the Victorian Separation Celebrations. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*
CHAPTER LXV.

THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.

SYNOPSIS:—Victoria's First Constitution.—The Inauguration Ceremonies.—Addresses of Congratulation.—The First Levee.—The First Proclamation.—Government Appointments.—Style and Title of the Mayor and Council.—The First Public Departments and Salaries.—The Government Printing Office.

NNUS DOMINI, 1851, broke upon the embryo colony with a burst of excited expectation. Separation was now a fait accompli, and hope was actively picturing in rainbow hues, the grand future to result from Colonial Independence. The long-patient, much-suffering Port Phillip was now on the threshold of emancipation, with its destinies in its hands, and it rested with the sagacity and patriotism of her colonists to weave them into a dark or brilliant future.

As the year advanced public spirit quickened, and the first anxiety was respecting the Electoral Act to be passed by the Legislature of New South Wales, to give effect to the Imperial Statute, and provide the Executive and Electoral machinery necessary to set the Victorian autonomy going. Mr. Superintendent Latrobe proceeded to Sydney to personally attend the State consultations to be held there; and the provincial agitators were not idle. Much interest was felt as to the formation of the electoral districts and the distribution of the Members of the first Legislature. Several public meetings were held to advocate the fixing of representation upon the basis of population—a proposition strongly demurred to as likely to trench too much upon squatting influence. At one of these gatherings Dr. Palmer submitted statistical returns which showed that in March, 1851, Victoria had a population of 75,000, of which Melbourne could claim 23,143. Land had been sold of the value of £710,000; to which may be added for improvements at 100 per cent, or another £710,000; and there were 9,000 tenements worth at an average £250 each, or (say) £2,850,000, or a total of £3,920,000. He estimated the value of stock, i.e., sheep, cattle, horses, with stations and chattels, at £3,602,084. There were vehement discussions as to whether vote by ballot should, or should not be.

On the 28th March the New South Wales Legislature was opened by the Governor, and its purposes were thus stated in the Vice-Regal speech:

“The object for which I have called you together is the consideration and enactment of the measures necessary for giving effect to the provisions of the Imperial Act 13 and 14 Victoria, chapter 59, for the better government of the Australian colonies, in the division of the colony into electoral districts on the Separation of Port Phillip from the Middle District, and of Port Phillip on its erection after such Separation into the colony of Victoria.” His Excellency also officially communicated the fact that the Superintendent (Mr. Latrobe) had been appointed the first Lieutenant-Governor of the new colony, “as a reward for his long career of usefulness.”

The Local Act (14 Vict. No. 47) “to provide for the division of the Colony of Victoria into electoral districts, and for the election of members to serve in the Legislative Council,” was passed and assented to 2nd May, 1851, and thus the painter was cut at last.

VICTORIA’S FIRST CONSTITUTION.

The Imperial Statute, 13 and 14 Victoria, Chap. LIX. (5th August, 1850)—an Act for the better government of the Australian Colonies—defined the principles upon which the new colony was to be built. The district of Port Phillip “including the Town of Melbourne, and bounded on the
north and north east by a straight line drawn from Cape Howe to the nearest source of the River Murray, and thence by the course of that river to the eastern boundary of the colony of South Australia," was separated from New South Wales and erected into a separate colony, "to be known and designated as the Colony of Victoria." It was to be governed by a Legislative Council, two-thirds of whose thirty members were to be elective, and the other third to be appointed by Her Majesty; but the elective number, and their appointment through the several electoral districts, the boundaries of which districts and other matters of detail were to be determined by a local Act, to be passed by the New South Wales Legislature. The qualifications of voters were: Every man twenty-one years of age, a natural born or naturalized subject of the Queen, or legally made a denizen of New South Wales, having a freehold estate in possession in the district for which his vote was to be given, of the clear value of £100, above all charges and encumbrances, and of or to which he had been seized or entitled at law or in equity for six months prior to the date of the writ of election, or being a six months' resident occupier of a dwelling-house in the district, of the annual value of £10, or the holder at the date of the writ of a Government license to depasture lands in the district, or having a leasehold estate in possession in the district, valued £10 per annum, the lease of which had not less than three years to run, subject to the usual disabilities attending a conviction for treason, felony, or other infamous offence in any part of Her Majesty's dominions, etc.; and the non-payment of rates, taxes, and license charges, except such as had become due within the preceding three months, etc.

The qualification of members remained unaltered, viz., 21 years of age, a natural born or naturalized subject, and possessed of lands and tenements in New South Wales of the annual value of £100, or worth £2,000 unencumbered. Every candidate before capable of being elected, should, if required by any other candidate or elector, or Returning officer, make a declaration of qualification; but this requirement was not insisted on, and deferred until the taking of the seat. A false declaration involved the punishment of perjury. There are other provisions relative to the creation of an Executive, a Supreme Court, grants for Civil and Judicial services, Appropriations, Customs, etc., which it would only embarrass my narrative to particularize. It was also enacted that upon the issuing of the first writs for the first election of members of the colony of Victoria, such colony shall be deemed to be established, and the legislative authority of the Governor and Council of New South Wales, and the powers of such Governor over the new colony and its revenues should cease. The local Act fixed the 1st July as the period for doing so, and thus all further impediments were at length and for ever removed.

The Superintendent returned from Sydney on the 10th May by the steamer "Shamrock." About a thousand persons had assembled to give him an enthusiastic greeting, but as he had not yet obtained his Commission, he desired there should be no open demonstration, and the welcome home therefore consisted simply of a respectful silence. Despatches from the office of the Secretary of State were shortly after received, forwarding His Excellency's Commission of Lieutenant-Governor, and authorizing him to appoint his Executive Councillors and other officials necessary to administer the infant Government.

**The Inauguration Ceremonies.**

Though the Writs of Election which were to constitute the nativity of the new colony were issued on the 1st July, the official initiation did not take place until the 15th, which may therefore be deemed the veritable beginning of the system by which Port Phillip became a thing of the past. It was arranged that the installation of the Governor should be a public ceremony in the area fronting the Government Offices in William Street, since removed to make way for the New Law Courts. Eleven o'clock was the hour appointed, and the day was observed as a holiday. From an early hour of the morning the principal marts of business in the chief streets were closed. The people promenaded in groups, and there seemed to reign everywhere a feeling of deep satisfaction that the good time, so long coming, had at length come, mingled with a fervent hope that a fair share of the
material and moral blessings so long anticipated, and so often foretold, would be realized. The military and police stationed in the city arrived about 10.30, and filed into the square, and some pieces of artillery were placed in position; whilst Hore's Saxhorn Band was in attendance. There were some two thousand persons of all ranks and conditions present, and the upper windows of the building were decorated with bevies of ladies in full dress. As the clock struck the specified hour the new Governor, C. J. Latrobe, Esq., appeared in the porch of the building, attended by the Resident Judge (Mr. W. A'Beckett), the newly-appointed Attorney General (Mr. W. F. Stawell), and all the principal officials; the Episcopalian Bishop (Dr. Perry), the Archdeacon of Geelong, and others of the Clergy, with various members of several deputations previously appointed to wait upon His Excellency with addresses of congratulation.

Mr. E. Bell, Private Secretary and Aide-de-camp, proceeded to read the Queen's Commission nominating Sir Charles Fitzroy, as Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Australasian Colonies; and next the Commission appointing Charles Joseph Latrobe, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria.

The oaths of office were next read to His Excellency by the Attorney-General, and duly subscribed in the presence of the Resident Judge.

The newly-appointed Colonial Secretary (Captain Lonsdale) read a Proclamation nominating the Executive Council. As he commenced a discharge of artillery commenced also, and continued at intervals until thirteen guns were fired. The National Anthem by the band followed, the multitude remaining uncovered.

The Lieutenant-Governor then retired within the building to receive the several Addresses of Congratulation.

The Mayor (Dr. Greeves), accompanied by Mr. William Kerr (Town Clerk), and several members of the City Council, presented the following:

"To His Excellency C. J. Latrobe.

"May it please Your Excellency,--

"We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the City of Melbourne hail with welcome the arrival of the period when, in obedience to the commands of our beloved Sovereign, Your Excellency enters upon the Administration of the Government of the Colony of Victoria, and the final indication is given us of the consummation of our most anxious hopes—the Colonial Independence of Port Phillip.

"We beg to assure Your Excellency of our devoted loyalty to our Sovereign, of our attachment to the Institutions of the United Empire, and of our high gratification that Her Majesty has been pleased to confer Her Royal name upon this young and flourishing colony. We hope that Her Majesty will never suffer that name to be sullied, nor our adopted land to be polluted by associations with the outcast criminal population of the Mother-country, and we confidently trust that Your Excellency will persevere in your endeavour to preserve this bright gem of the British Crown stainless and pure.

"We assure Your Excellency of our continued desire to promote, as far as lies in our power, all measures tending to the prosperity of this city and the public good.

"The distinguished mark of the Royal confidence which Her Majesty has been pleased to confer upon Your Excellency, in appointing you Her Representative, with the power and authority which are indispensable to good government, combined with Your Excellency's personal experience of the wants and wishes of the colonists of Victoria, lead us to hope that the future progress of this colony under Your Excellency's administration of the Government will be commensurate with the unexampled career of the past."

His Excellency delivered the following reply:

"Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—

"I am pleased to present to me on this occasion the source of sincere gratification to me, and will, I am sure, be appreciated by Her Majesty.

"It is gratifying, I am sure, both to you and myself to reflect that the name by which this province will henceforth be designated is one which will ever remind us and our posterity of the love and duty which we owe to her and her children after her. I fully participate in your anxiety to watch over the moral character as well as the
physical development of the country, and am assured of your desire to promote, as far as may lie in your power, all measures tending to the prosperity of this city and the public good.

"I would take this occasion of offering to the City Council my testimony to the advantage which the community has reaped by the introduction of Municipal Institutions in the City of Melbourne, and to the general ability which has distinguished the labours of the Corporation for the last nine years.

"No one is better able than myself to appreciate and acknowledge the disadvantages under which from circumstances it had to enter upon its functions.

"Its claims upon the attention of Government are undeniable, and I shall always feel it a duty to attend to them whenever reasonably advanced and supported, so far as the general interest of the colony and my powers permit."

A deputation from the colonists of Victoria was next introduced, and Mr. Henry Moor (ex-Mayor and M.L.C), as its spokesman, read thus:—

"To His Excellency CHARLES JOSEPH LATROBE, ESQUIRE, Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, &c.

"We, the undersigned inhabitants of the City of Melbourne and its vicinity, avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded by Your Excellency's arrival as the first Governor of Victoria to express, through you, our loyalty and affection to our most gracious Sovereign.

"We would congratulate Your Excellency upon assuming the Government of this colony, and assure you of the satisfaction we feel in reflecting that Her Majesty's choice has fallen upon one who, from his late official position, must have acquired that extensive and valuable local knowledge so essential to the efficient moulding of a new Government.

"We assure Your Excellency that we extend to the Representative of Her Majesty, sentiments of loyalty and respect befitting the dignity of so high an office; and trust that Your Excellency will be enabled to administer the Government of this colony on the principle that the effect of your measures may be beneficially felt by all classes of this community.

"The future advance and prosperity of this colony, untrammelled as it now is by a distant Government, must mainly depend on Your Excellency's measures. We shall, we trust, fairly appreciate them, and cheerfully co-operate in furthering all those which may tend to advance the social, moral, and religious interests of this our adopted country."

To this document was appended 360 signatures, representing every section of the community.

His Excellency thus responded:—

"CITIZENS AND GENTLEMEN,—I receive this address from the inhabitants of Melbourne and its vicinity with great pleasure, assuring you of my perfect confidence in the affection and loyalty it evinces towards our most gracious Sovereign.

"I thank you for your general expression of goodwill towards myself, and for the trust you intimate that I shall be enabled to administer the government of the colony in such a manner as may tend to the public advantage.

"I am fully aware of the responsibility of the office which Her Majesty has been pleased to confer upon me, but I have good hope that with the sincere and hearty co-operation of all classes of the community, it may be in my power to discharge the trust reposed in me; and, in conjunction with them, to secure the steady progress of the noble province which has pleased God to attach to the British Empire in this quarter of the world, in moral and physical prosperity.

"You will never doubt my personal attachment to the city and neighbourhood in which we live, and my desire to further its growth and advancement in every manner consistent with my public duty and the claims of the community at large."

Similar compliments were offered (1) From the Officers of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons; (2) Provincial Officers, on behalf of the Officers and Members of the Independent Orders of Oddfellows; (3) The Solicitors of the Supreme Court of the Colony; (4) The Officers in the Public Service; and (5) The Bishop of Melbourne and Clergy of the United Church of England and Ireland. To each of which His Excellency replied.

**Levee.**

The first levee of the first Governor of Victoria was held at 2 p.m., and attended by 450 persons. His Excellency's suite consisted of Mr. Edward Bell, Private Secretary and Aide-de-Camp; Mr. R. P. S. Sturt, the Superintendent of Police; Captain Dana, the Commandant;
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

Mr. Lydiard, Lieutenant of the Mounted Police, and Lieutenant Maxwell, of the 11th Regiment, in command of a guard of honour from the same corps.

After the levee, Captain Conran, the military Commandant, presented two medals to veterans whose services by “blood and field” warranted such distinction. His Excellency called for three cheers for the Queen, which were rapturously accorded, and followed by three more for himself.

Throughout the day there was a large concourse of people congregated in front of the Government Offices, and a general dispersion was not effected until a late hour.

The finale was one of the most numerous-attended and successful balls that ever came off in the colony, particulars of which are included in the notice of the Benevolent Asylum given elsewhere,* in which building (then finished but not occupied) it was held. On the evening of the 16th the members of the Melbourne Club entertained the Lieutenant-Governor at dinner, and on the 17th the heads of Departments dined with His Excellency.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS.

A Government Gazette was issued on the same day as the official inauguration, containing the first Proclamation, in which Mr. Latrobe announced his appointment of Lieutenant-Governor under Royal Sign Manual and Signet, bearing date at Westminster, the 31st December, 1850, and declaring that he had taken the prescribed oath, and assumed office. He further intimated that Her Majesty had been pleased to appoint as members of the Executive Council of the Colony of Victoria, the Crown Prosecutor, or the Principal Law Officer of the Crown for the time being, the Colonial Secretary, the Sub-Treasurer, or Treasurer for the time being, and the Collector of Customs, or the Principal Officer of Customs for the time being.

Further official announcements were made, the principal being the appointment of Captain William Lonsdale as Colonial-Secretary and a member of the Executive Council.

Mr. J. H. N. Cassels, Collector of Customs.

Mr. Alastair MacKenzie, Colonial-Treasurer.

Mr. Charles Hotson Elden, Auditor-General.

Mr. Robert Hoddie, Surveyor-General.

Mr. Alexander Macrae, Postmaster-General.

Mr. Edward Bell, Private Secretary and acting Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Edward Grimes, Clerk of the Executive Council.

Mr. Henry Ginn, Colonial Architect.

Mr. John Sullivan, Colonial Surgeon.

Mr. William Foster Stawell, Attorney-General.

Mr. Edward Grimes, Clerk of the Executive Council.

Mr. Henry Field Gurner, Crown Solicitor.

Mr. James Simpson, Sheriff.

Mr. James D. Pinnock, Registrar of the Supreme Court of New South Wales for the district of Port Phillip.

Mr. Edward E. Williams, Commissioner of the Court of Requests for the City of Melbourne and County of Bourke.

The Executive Council consisted of Messrs Stawell (senior member), Lonsdale, MacKenzie, and Cassels. Mr. James Croke, for several years Crown Prosecutor and Law Adviser, was relieved from duty, because, as was rumoured, the Lieutenant-Governor did not believe in him for an Attorney-General an appointment expected, and failing which he declined the second place of Solicitor-General.

One of His Excellency's first acts was to confer a long-coveted dignity on the Melbourne Corporation, which he did in the following terms:

* Page 249, vol. 1.
"With reference to the notice published in the New South Wales Government Gazette, dated 22nd November, 1842, wherein the style and title of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Melbourne is notified as 'The Worshipful the Mayor,' or 'The Worshipful the Mayor and Council of the Town of Melbourne,' His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor is now pleased to intimate that until the pleasure of Her Majesty be known, the Mayor and Council of the City of Melbourne will in all official acts emanating from this Government, be addressed or designated as 'The Right Worshipful the Mayor' or 'The Right Worshipful the Mayor and Council of the City of Melbourne.'"

### The First Public Departments

The young colony had started business on its own account. The permanent heads of Departments were appointed, and the Departments themselves, as so many administrative workshops, had to be organized. As a curious contrast between past and present, a notice of the principal infantile establishments will not be uninteresting, and though in some slight degree an anachronism, it will be convenient at this stage to refer to them and their endowments as proposed on the Estimates for 1852:

#### THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>His Excellency (special appropriation)</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Secretary</td>
<td>£300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjutant, Staff Officer, 96d. per diem</td>
<td>173 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mounted Orderlies, viz., one Sergeant at 42. 6d. and three Troopers at 36. 6d. each per diem</td>
<td>273 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### COLONIAL SECRETARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Secretary</td>
<td>£900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Clerk (first-class)</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Clerks of third-class, at £190, £120, and £110 per annum</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Clerk (second-class)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk of second-class</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Clerks of third-class (two at £110 and one at £100)</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### COLONIAL TREASURY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>£900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Clerk (second-class)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk of second-class</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Clerks of third-class (two at £110 and one at £100)</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### AUDIT OFFICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auditor-General</td>
<td>£600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Clerk (first-class)</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk (second-class)</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The President Judge (special appropriation)</td>
<td>£1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney-General</td>
<td>£750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solicitor-General</td>
<td>£500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown Solicitor</td>
<td>£400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown Prosecutor</td>
<td>£400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master in Equity and Commissioner of Insolvent Estates</td>
<td>£900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrar of Supreme Court and Curator Insolvent Estates</td>
<td>£450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Clerk and Prothonotary</td>
<td>£300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Clerks—one at £175, two at £130, and one at £100</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk to the Judge</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk to Attorney-General</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Clerks to the Crown-Solicitor, i.e., one at £150, and one at £100</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crier and Court-keeper</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Messengers 96. 6d. per day each</td>
<td>91 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheriff</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner of Court of Requests</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingencies</td>
<td>2,170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total... £9,316 10 0
The Customs.

Collector ... ... ... ... £600 o o
First Clerk ... ... ... ... 260 o o
Four Clerks, viz., one at £110, one £160, one £130, and one at £110... ... 610 o o
Total ... ... ... ... £1,870 o o

The Colonial Architect ... ... ... £400 o o
Landing Surveyor ... ... ••• £400 o o

There was set apart for public buildings, including £800 as rent of temporary offices, a sum of £59,850.

A bridge branch was likewise provided for with the following staff:—

Superintendent ... ... ... ... £300 o o
Assistant Superintendent ... ... 160 o o
Clerk 3rd Class ... ... ••• £130 o o

And it was proposed to expend £14,000 upon, “roads, bridges, and other public works.”

The first Audit Office was in a house rented for the purpose a few yards below William Street, at north side of Lonsdale Street. Mr. Ebden, the first Auditor-General, burst suddenly into light as a Master of Finance, but I believe I am correct in stating that the gentleman who practically put the new machine in motion was Mr. E. C. Symonds (until lately—1888—one of the Commissioners of Audit), who was detached from Sydney for that purpose.


Amongst the earliest appointments made was that of Government Printer, the first holder of the office being Mr. Edward Khull, who held the position only about three months, when he was succeeded by Mr. John Ferres, for some time overseer of the Herald. During Khull’s régime little was done towards the formation of an office, except ordering some types and presses from England, and collecting a few miscellaneous articles in town. Khull picked up an old press, for all printing purposes worth about its weight in iron; and the first press secured by Ferres was a foolscap Albion, which lived and worked all through the vicissitudes of wear and tear, until it came to a tragic end by incineration in the fire at the Printing Office on Queen’s Birthday (24th May, 1882.) Mr. Ferres lost no time in putting his little house in order, and a very small beginning it was. He opened shop in the month of November, 1851, on the ground floor of a small two-storey building in Lonsdale Street West. The number of hands at the commencement was half-a-dozen, with two presses.

The Government Gazette commenced its issue from this place in January, 1853, and in February, 1853, a movement was made to a tenement still standing, though in a very so-so condition, in Lonsdale Street, next to the Law Courts site. In old times it was well known as the residence of Dr. Cussen, the first Colonial Surgeon. Ferres found much more elbow-room here, though the place soon became inadequate; but an unexpected stroke of good luck soon turned up. After the festivities occasioned by the Governor’s Ball on the 24th May, 1853, Mr. Ferres conceived the happy notion that the best use to which the empty ball-room could be put would be to convert it into a printing office. Accordingly the subject so unceremoniously started was subsequently well considered, and orders were given to fit up the place for a printing office, wherein work was begun on the 14th July, 1853. The same Mr. John Ferres, who may be designated its accoucheur and wet-nurse, and who subsequently dry-nursed it with not only a nurse’s but a mother’s care, is still its faithful guardian (1886.) He was once separated from the object of his parental solicitude through
the mistaken notion that when a man attains the age of three-score years he is only fit to be shelved; but a succeeding Government, scouring such an absurd fallacy, reinstated him, where he continues to discharge his onerous and responsible duties with unimpaired ability and undiminished integrity. There is no post in the Public Service of Victoria of more trustworthiness; more trying in its manifold details; more difficult to hold because of the numerous interferences consequent upon the uncertain political system now prevalent; requiring more the faculty of organization, or technical knowledge; more trying to the human temperament, or needing more a cool head, and an inexhaustible stock of patience. Yet through all these tests the incumbent passed with a degree of success which certainly few other men could equal and none excel. For more than thirty years he was a part and parcel of a department whose rapid growth from an infant to a giant he daily witnessed; and the name of "John Ferres" can never be dissociated from the strange and eventful early history of the Victorian Government Printing Office.

Whilst engaged in collecting materials for the foregoing information, I was communicated with from more than one quarter to the effect that on Khull's exit the offer of Government Printer was made to, and declined by, Mr. Benjamin Lucas, a well-known printer still amongst us. For years he carried on business in premises in East Collins Street, next to The Argus office; and from his establishment was issued the "Separation Announcement" previously published and signed "Wm. Nicholson, Mayor." One thing is, however, certain, viz., that during the brief interregnum between the parting of Khull and the coming of Ferres, Mr. Lucas was placed in temporary charge of the Government shop. From memoranda supplied to me by him I thus extract:—"Mr. Gill (Clerk of Stores) waited upon me at my office, and requested me to see the Auditor-General (Mr. Ebden) on the following morning. I called and saw Mr. E., and, at his request, immediately took possession of the Government Printing Office (so called). I put up the 'press' (the first press), arranged the office, and then printed the Estimates. ... No 'press' was put up by Khull, or 'rollers' cast (the 'rollers' were cast in my private printing establishment, No. 72 Collins Street East); therefore no printing could have been executed without a 'press' or 'rollers' in the Government Printing Office up to the date of my entering the office."

On referring the vexata question to Mr. Ferres for his report thereon, I was favoured with the following communication:—

4th January, 1883.

MY DEAR SIR,—You ask me to give you some circumstances attending my appointment as Government Printer. As you well know, we were fellow-workers on the Herald, which paper supported the Government at the time. This brought me, as Manager, often into communication with several members of the Government, and also with Mr. Latrobe. The first conversation I had upon the subject of the appointment was with Mr. Ebden, (the Auditor-General), who asked me if I would accept, but I declined, as I was well satisfied with my position on the Herald. I had several interviews after, and also with Messrs. Ebden and Cavenagh (the Herald proprietor) together. However, I finally accepted the office.

Mr. Ebden wished me to leave the Herald at once, as some important work was urgently required, but this I could not do, as it was agreed that I should superintend both establishments for a fortnight, Mr. Ebden undertaking to obtain such help as may be required. It was, of course, necessary that I should make a formal application, so that the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor may be recorded.

Several friends called on me, urging me to accept the offer, some of whom are living, but most of them are dead. Veræ verò trœs, J. FERRES.

After giving the conflicting testimony careful consideration I am disposed to accept the Ferres version as the correct one, a view strongly fortified by my personal recollection of what happened. The appointment of Mr. Ferres as Government Printer was approved by the Governor in Council on the 30th October, 1851, and the new officer entered upon his duties on the 10th of November following.
CHAPTER LXVX.

THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

SYNOPSIS:—The Melbourne Election.—The First Legislative Council Chamber.—The First Council Establishment.—Mr. John Barker, First Clerk of the Council.—Captain Corun, First Sergeant-at-Arms.—The Parliament Library.—The First Legislature.—The First Meeting.—Dr. J. F. Palmer, First Speaker.—The Opening Day.—The First Legislative "Row."—Fight Over the Lords Prayer.—The First Prorogation Ceremony.—The Thirty Pioneers.—The First Legislatorial Death.—Elevation of Redmond Barry and W. F. Stanwell.—The Bicameral Legislature.—Dr. Palmer, First President of Council.—Mr. Murphy, First Speaker of House of Assembly.—Political Knighthood.

"The Victoria Electoral Act, 1851," it was enacted that the Legislative Council of Victoria should consist of thirty members, one-third to be appointed by Her Majesty, and the residue elected. The colony was divided into sixteen electoral districts, of which the City of Melbourne was to return three members, the Town of Geelong and the Northern Division of the County of Bourke two members each, and every other District one member each.

By "The Victoria Electoral Act, 1851," it was enacted that the Legislative Council of Victoria should consist of thirty members, one-third to be appointed by Her Majesty, and the residue elected. The colony was divided into sixteen electoral districts, of which the City of Melbourne was to return three members, the Town of Geelong and the Northern Division of the County of Bourke two members each, and every other District one member each. Bribery was defined to be, "the giving by candidate or agent of money, or any article whatever, to any elector with a view to influence his vote; or the holding out to him any promise or expectation of profit, advancement, etc., or to any of his family or friends; or the making use of any threat, or intimidating any voter, or supplying voter with meat, drink, lodging, horse or carriage hire, or conveyance by steam or otherwise at, coming to, or going from, election; paying voter money for acting or joining in any procession; the keeping, or allowing to be kept open any public-house, shop, booth, or tent, or place of entertainment, whether refreshment of any kind be distributed there or not; the giving of any dinner, supper, breakfast, etc., at any place by a candidate, etc. The polling was not to extend beyond one day, and the voting was by an open ballot or slip of paper. Various contingencies were provided for, and several of the clauses were a re-enactment of the Colonial Electoral Law previously in force.

The first member returned (6th September), was Mr. Adolphus Goldsmith for the United Counties of Ripon, Hampden, Grenville, and Polwarth. He was opposed by Mr. James Thompson, and obtaining a show of hands, neither Thompson nor six electors for him being present to demand a poll, the event was a "walk-over."
the citizens could ill afford to lose his valuable services. Nicholson was popular, and his defeat was a surprise. Hodgson, though plausible and complaisant, carried but a small quantity of metal, while Greeves' unquestionable ability and acquirements were lost in the general unbelief in him. Captain Cole was too independent to canvass, and paid the penalty, though he could have stood no chance in such a race. Westgarth's lengthened services furnished him with an undeniable first claim, whilst Johnston had established himself as a fluent, pungent speaker, a thorough "hurl-bitter" when he liked, a reputation he did not quite retain in after years. Westgarth and Nicholson obtained more of the general voting power than the others; but the Hibernian "plumpers" told effectually for O'Shanassy, as did the Caledonian contingent for Johnston. Though intense interest was manifested during the day, there was nothing like the acrimonious violence or riotous effervescences of the first town election in 1843, and the close of the poll showed:—For Westgarth, 1202; for O'Shanassy, 1168; for Johnston, 1128; for Nicholson, 1094; for Hodgson, 618; for Greeves, 553; for Cole, 250.

Through some unaccountable whim one vote each was recorded for Robert Hoddle, John Patterson, and William Stewart. Westgarth, O'Shanassy, and Johnston were returned, and much satisfaction was felt at the compliment paid to the gentleman who headed the list, who richly deserved it, as a return for a series of distinguished honorary exertions employed on behalf of the new-born colony.

THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

There was not much difference of opinion as to the most eligible site whereon to erect a permanent Parliament House. The north of Spring Street had been years before suggested and ably advocated by Dr. Greeves. Others went in for the Public Library Reserve, but its proximity to both gaol and hospital put it aside. The corner of William and Latrobe Streets, opposite the Government offices (now the New Law Courts), had convenience and other advantages in its favour, but, finally, in February, 1851, the site subsequently built upon was chosen. There were only three buildings that could supply the room absolutely necessary, viz., the Mechanics' Institute, the Protestant Hall, and St. Patrick's Hall. The Colonial Architect (Mr. H. Ginn), selected the St. Patrick Hall as the most suitable, and the Directory of the St. Patrick Society was not unwilling to accept such a solvent tenant as the new Government; for, at the time, a fat slice of the public money, in the shape of a liberal rent, was not undesirable. The Milesians accordingly surrendered their stronghold upon handsome terms. It was little more than a large, cold-looking, two-warded barracks, but under Mr. Ginn's prompt operations it underwent a complete transformation. The upper compartment was converted into a Chamber for the senators, a reporters' gallery, and the strangers' gallery. The ground-floor was subdivided into four apartments, three of them to be used as clerical offices, and one as a Committee-room. The hall had originally but one staircase (in front), and this led to the Members' entrance. To provide a mode of ingress to the strangers' gallery, the Jews very obligingly lent a few feet of their Synagogue land, immediately westward, which was fenced in, and constituted a side avenue. The large upper apartment was the finest then in Melbourne. Primarily it was lighted by a row of windows in the eastern wall, but now a flood of illumination was admitted through the roof, in which was fixed "the first horizontal light introduced into the colonies."

THE FIRST COUNCIL ESTABLISHMENT

Was framed in accordance with the other small beginnings, and contrasts so amusingly with the state of things in 1888, that I transcribe in extenso the amounts provided for its maintenance in the first estimates:

SALARIES PER ANNUM.—Speaker, £200; Chairman of Committees, £100; Clerk of the Council, £200; Sergeant-at-Arms, £100; Shorthand Writer, £200; Clerk of 3rd Class and Reader, £200; Messenger at 2s. 6d. per day, £45 15s.; Housekeeper, £25; Doorkeeper at 2s. 6d. per day, £45 15s.; Additional assistance during the Session of the Council, £300. Total, £1916 10s.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

CONTINGENCIES.—To provide books and papers for the library, £500; Bookbinding for the library, £25; Stationery, £50; Bookbinding, £25; Postage, £100; Fuel, £22 10s.—Water, £7 16s.—Light, £100; Incidental expenses, £100; Paper for printing Council Papers, £150. Total, £1080 6s. Total, Legislative Council, £2996 16s.

Mr. John Barker was appointed Clerk of the Council, and so continued until November, 1856, when the original Legislative body died, and two Chambers of Legislation were substituted, viz., a Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, and to the Clerkship of the latter Mr. Barker succeeded. In this post he remained through periods of intense Parliamentary turbulence, and performed his onerous duties with an ability and impartiality which few men in such a trying position could attain. In April, 1882, he was transferred to the less onerous, though really more responsible joint office of Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council, and his retirement from the Assembly was signalized by the well-merited compliment of a special resolution, acknowledging his invaluable services, accompanied by the presentation of a rare and costly silver souvenir, subscribed for by members of the Assembly. The clerk-assistant was Mr. Edward Khull, who was a fish-out-of-water in his new vocation, and soon made way for Mr. Charles Ridgway, who remained for many years a member of the corps of Parliamentary officials.

The first Sergeant-at-Arms was Captain Conron; he was soon succeeded by Mr. Edward Cotton, who also officiated as Registrar of the County Court, a duality that became inconvenient, and Cotton surrendered his place to Mr. William Palmer, who wields, or rather shoulders his mace, to the present period (1888). In the Old Council the Sergeant was mace-less, for that Historical Parliamentary "bauble" was not introduced as a Speaker's official double until 1856, when it crept into our Legislative system with other so-called "privileges" of the Imperial House of Commons.

THE PARLIAMENT LIBRARY

Started from the smallest of beginnings, i.e., nothing. A sum of £500 was appropriated to the purchase of the intellectual pabulum required, and the earliest opportunity was taken to utilize it. One of the first sessional transactions of the Council was the appointment of the Speaker (Dr. Palmer), the Solicitor-General (Mr. Barry), Messrs. W. Westgarth, C. J. Griffith, and J. P. Fawkner, as a Library Committee. A catalogue of the books and periodicals required for a start was prepared, and entrusted to Mr. Henry Moor, who was about leaving for England.

In February, 1853, the temporary apartment erected at rear of St. Patrick's Hall, was shaped into a Library, and Ridgway, the Clerk-Assistant, was appointed Librarian. Early in April, a shipment of eleven cases of books, &c., arrived in the Bay. Ridgway nursed his infant Library as affectionately as a fond mother tends her first-born babe, and beheld it increase and multiply each year. In 1856 the Library was formed into a distinct department of the new Parliament Houses, and its dry nurse was most deservedly promoted to the position of Chief Guardian, and so stayed for several years to within a short period of his death. Few persons who have not witnessed the extraordinary change that has taken place in the Parliament Library can form any conception of what it once was and now is, from the time when it was domiciled in a single weather-board room a few yards square, to its transfer to the magnificent structure in which it is now tenanted. As is well-known, the Parliament Library of 1888 is an eastern adjunct of the Parliament buildings on a level with the two Chambers of Legislation. It consists of the main Library, with an area of 70 feet by 45 feet, and the north and south corridors, 50 feet by 25 feet, flanking it on each side.

THE FIRST VICTORIAN LEGISLATURE.

The elected members were thus notified in the Government Gazette:—

North Bourke: Charles Hilton Dight, and John Thomas Smith; South Bourke, Evelyn, and Mornington: Henry Miller; Grant: John Henry Mercer; Normanby, Dundas and Follett: James
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

Frederick Palmer; Villiers and Heytesbury; William Rutledge; Ripon and Hampden; Grenville and Polwarth; Adolphus Goldsmith; Talbot; Dalhousie, and Anglesey; John Pascoe Fawkner; Ripon and Hampden, Grenville and Polwarth; Talbot, Dalhousie, and Anglesey; Adolphus Goldsmith; Talbot, Dalhousie, and Anglesey; John Pascoe Fawkner; Gippsland; Robert Turnbull; The Murray; Francis Murphy; The Leaden; William Campbell; The Wimmera; William Francis Splatt; Melbourne; William Westgarth; John O'Shanassy, and James Stewart Johnston; Gippsland; Robert Robinson, and James Ford Strachan; Portland; Thomas Wilkinson; Belfast and Warrnambool; Thomas Hamilton Osborne; Kilmore, Kyneton and Seymour; Peter Snodgrass.

This score was supplemented by a nominee element of one-half as many members appointed by the Governor, which was further subdivided into five official and as many non-official members. The official nominees were—W. F. Stawell, Attorney-General; William Lonsdale, Colonial Secretary; Redmond Barry, Solicitor-General; C. H. Ebden, Auditor-general, and R. W. Pohlman, Master-in-Equity. The non-official contribution being:—A. C. W. Dunlop, Charles J. Griffiths, W. C. Haines, J. H. Ross, and Andrew Russell. Professionally, or avocationally, the thirty might be thus approximately classified:—Miller, 1; Financier, 1; Merchants, 6; Landholders, 4; Squatters, 7; Barristers, 3; Attorney, 1; Newspaper Proprietors, 2; Medical, 2; and Shopkeepers, 3.

THE FIRST MEETING.

On the 17th October, the Lieutenant-Governor issued a proclamation convening the new Legislature for the nth November, an eventful day in the Parliamentary annals of the colony. Though the weather was unpromising, a crowd collected before noon in front of the Council Chamber (Bourke Street West), the strangers' gallery was well filled, though the lady segment was sadly deficient. The small area in the "House" outside the Bar, was occupied by members of the City Council, the Sheriff; a few Magistrates, and others of the then large fry. Twenty-seven members were in their places, and as the three absentees joined them before the wearing-in ceremony was over, there was a full House. The Clerk having read the proclamation or summons, the Colonial Secretary produced a Commission from the Lieutenant-Governor authorizing himself and the Attorney-General "jointly and separately, to administer all oaths and affirmations to each other and the members," etc., etc., which was handed to the Clerk and by him read; after which the Attorney-General subjected himself to the testamentary ordeal, and all present followed through the same. The Letters Patent appointing the non-elective members, and the Writs returning the elective members, were produced as each individual presented himself to be sworn. The Colonial Secretary congratulated the House on its first assembling, and expressed a hope that the advantage to be expected from the system of self-government at length established would be fully realized.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

Mr. Westgarth moved, "That James Frederick Palmer, Esq., do take the Chair of this House as Speaker," which was seconded by Mr. Rutledge, and there being no other member proposed, Dr. Palmer was conducted to the Chair by his mover and seconder. The Colonial Secretary and Mr. Murphy offered their congratulations.

The pleasure of the Lieutenant-Governor to receive the Speaker next day at Government House having been notified, the House adjourned.

At 11.30 on the 12th the Council met, and on motion to that effect, the members proceeded to the Government Offices to present their Speaker. Having done so, and returned, the Speaker formally reported "That the Lieutenant-Governor had not disallowed their choice, and had granted the usual privileges." It was also communicated that on the morrow, at 12 o'clock, the Lieutenant-Governor would in person "declare the purposes for which he had called the Council together, and open the Session thereof."

It was agreed to:—"That a suitable Chair be prepared for His Excellency on the occasion of his opening the Session, and that proper respect be shown to His Excellency by all the members standing," after which the Council adjourned.
THE OPENING DAY.

From 11 a.m. of the 13th the Council Chamber commenced to assume a lively appearance, and by noon, there was, in theatrical parlance, a "bumper house." In the body of the Chamber the members' benches were surrendered to the ladies, of whom there was a fair sprinkling, whilst the strangers' gallery was, in the hyperbolic language of the newspapers, "crammed to the ceiling." The Resident Judge (A'Beckett), the Sheriff, and other Government officers were present, and prominent around the Bar were the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors, and Town Clerk. Four pieces of artillery, planted on an eminence in the Government Reserve, boomed forth the departure of the Lieutenant-Governor for the Council Chamber. His Excellency travelled in an open carriage, and was accompanied by his Private Secretary and Aide-de-camp. His escort consisted of a few mounted troopers, and in front of St. Patrick's Hall was a guard of honour picked from the military detachment. His Excellency was received at the door by the Speaker, the Colonial Secretary, and the Attorney-General, and followed by them, he took up his position to the left of the Speaker's Chair. All the members rose as His Excellency passed, and at his request, Mr. Speaker asked them to be seated.

The Lieutenant-Governor, in a lengthy address, thus adverted to the goldfields:—"There is still one subject of great and absorbing interest to which it may be proper for me to advert, as it is one which will undoubtedly exercise a great and lasting influence upon the future position and prospects of our colony. The discovery of the existence of gold in large quantities in New South Wales earlier in the year, has been quickly followed by that of mineral wealth in equal, or perhaps greater abundance within our own limits, under circumstances which might leave it to be inferred that it may be found to exist throughout the length and breadth of the colony. The immediate effects of this discovery, the influences which it has at the outset exercised more or less upon the whole population, and monetary difficulties and anxiety to which it has given rise, can only be glanced at. I am encouraged, however, to hope that the more immediate consequences of these discoveries at this particular season of the year may ultimately prove less productive of general embarrassment than may have been at first anticipated, and that it will be found that neither the agricultural nor the pastoral interest will suffer to any very serious extent. I am also encouraged to trust that the large influx of population from the neighbouring colonies—at the same time that it must involve many grave considerations of a general character—may not be productive of the scarcity which some have apprehended. The prospects of the harvest throughout the whole of the colonies are most satisfactory, and there can be little doubt but that abundant supplies from without, sufficient to meet the demand, however great or unexpected, will not be wanting.

"And now, Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen, I am not, for my part, inclined to undervalue the responsibility of the task which the favour of our gracious Sovereign, the law of our country, and the voice of the community have placed in our hands. It is a noble one, and far higher interests than those of the passing hour demand that it should be well performed. What we sow our children will reap. It is for us to prove to the Mother-country, by the temper and prudence with which we fulfill our duties, that we are not unworthy of her; and we have to show to the world that in the case of Victoria early precocity, and an extraordinarily rapid, physical, and perhaps moral development, are not necessarily followed by early decay and failure of power, but that under God's good Providence, her mature age will not be unworthy the promise of her youth."

His Excellency was dressed in full uniform, and wore the "hat and feathers" afterwards destined to figure for years as a historical bogey, which almost frightened The Argus out of its propriety. After His Excellency's departure the Council adjourned to three o'clock.

THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE "ROW."

The Lord's Prayer was, strangely enough, the first "apple of discord" rolled upon the table; and the first unseemly Parliamentary "scene" originated in the introduction of a topic which, from
as nature, one would think could be discussed without the indulgence of acrimonious expressions and the display of angry feeling.

On the resumption of the House, Mr. Dunlop gave notice of his intention to move, "That public prayers to Almighty God be offered up daily at the opening of this Council, so soon as the Speaker shall have taken the Chair. That it be referred to a Committee of this Council to select or prepare a suitable Form of Prayer for this purpose; and that the said Form of Prayer, when approved of by the Council, be used exclusively on all such occasions, and be read by the Speaker."

Mr. O'Shanassy immediately rose, and notified his intention to move, contingent on the Council adopting Mr. Dunlop's motion, "That it be an instruction to the Committee appointed to draw up a Form of Prayer, to move an Address to his Excellency, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to place a sum not exceeding £10,000 on the Estimates, to be placed by this Council at the disposal of the Prayerful Committee, to enable them to offer a premium for the best Form of Prayer submitted to them by tender, designed especially not to interfere with the civil rights or religious opinions or privileges of any Member of this House; and also that it be a special instruction of this Council that every member of the Committee of Prayer shall, on agreeing to their Report, accompany it with their letters patent of Inspiration, and the date of their origin."

Mr. Stawell objected to the reception of the amendment, and he moved "That, inasmuch as the contingent notice of motion is blasphemous and unparliamentary, it be expunged from the notice paper of the Council." Seconded by Mr. Haines.

Mr. O'Shanassy designated the original motion as one brought forward with indecent haste. An official member had that day communicated to him that such a motion would be introduced, and of this he complained. Under the circumstances, he was ready to admit that the amendment had been prepared under the influence of excited feelings.

Mr. Stawell, after such an admission, would withdraw his motion if a similar course were adopted as regarded the amendment.

Mr. O'Shanassy would agree to do so if Mr. Stawell would withdraw some of the remarks in which he had indulged. An official member had that day communicated to him that such a motion would be introduced, and of this he complained. Under the circumstances, he was ready to admit that the amendment had been prepared under the influence of excited feelings.

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The discussion was continued for a short time in a rather peppery style, and eventually the amendment was by consent withdrawn.

On the 14th November the Prayer Question was to be discussed, and an amusing contretemps occurred, for it had dropped out of the notice paper, and Mr. Fawkner stoutly objected to its restoration. The Speaker ruled that as regular notice had been given, and the motion handed to the Clerk, it could be proceeded with.

Mr. Dunlop moved for permission to divide his motion, which was objected to, but on a division leave was given by a majority of 21 to 5. The first portion was next formally proposed, and seconded by Mr. Rutledge, upon which Mr. O'Shanassy moved, and Mr. Johnston seconded, the "previous question." Another acrimonious debate followed, and an amendment "That the question be now put," was carried. As this was the first division on record, the names are appended:—Ayes, 13: Messrs. Mercer, Campbell, Rutledge, Haines, Pohlman, Russell, Lonsdale, Stawell, Barry, Goldsmith, Griffith, Wilkinson, Dunlop (teller). Noes, 14: Messrs. Ebden, Miller, Robinson, Fawkner, O'Shanassy, Murphy, Ross, Westgarth, Dight, Johnston, Snodgrass, Turnbull, Strachan, Splatf (teller). Absent—Messrs. Smith and Osborne.

I cannot resist the temptation (for which I trust to be excused) of here stating, that Mr. O'Shanassy did me the honour to submit for my opinion his amendment, before it was made public, and, when I frankly declared my disapproval of its style, and questioned the wisdom of moving it, he received my opinion with a laugh. Though I cannot express myself as to what is meant by being "a man of mental vagaries," I am sure that Mr. O'Shanassy is not one. Of this I was aware, and it was, therefore, with no surprise that I found my opinion morally founded in terms of the reverse of complimentary to my "offended dignity."—[End of Author]
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

So the Prayer Question was shelved, and allowed to rest in peace, until the inauguration of our double-branch Parliament in 1856, when it was revived in the Legislative Council, every sitting of which to the present time has been commenced with a solemn Presidential Pater Noster.

The Council settled to work, and Mr. Francis Murphy was appointed Chairman of Committees. As a maiden effort, the session did credit to the newly-born body, and some of the members put forth symptoms of the business aptitude and debating powers for which they were subsequently distinguished.

With the exception of a five days' Christmas recess, the sitting was continued as a rule for four days each week, and they met twice on Saturdays and Mondays—in all 34 meetings, and the general result of their legislation may thus be summarised:—Number of Bills passed and received the Royal assent, 15; Lapsed in Committee, 1; Lapsed in the Council, 2; Negatived on third reading, 1; Withdrewn, 3; Disposed of by the question that it be read a second time that day six months, 1; Total Bills introduced, 23.

THE PROPRORATION CEREMONY

Was effected on the 6th January, 1852, at half-past one o'clock, and when the Speaker took the Chair, the Chamber was well filled, but not to the same extent as on the Opening Day, a circumstance accounted for by the intense heat of the weather. The discharge of artillery posted at Batman's Hill, announced that the Lieutenant-Governor had set forth on his mission.

After the usual salaams had been interchanged, and the standing members requested to be seated, his Excellency read " in a clear and distinct voice," a Valedictory Address, from which I have transcribed two or three passages:—"The Provision which you have sanctioned for the maintenance of the different branches of the Public Service, would, doubtless, in ordinary times, be held, in the great majority of instances, to be amply sufficient for the purposes intended. Its insufficiency in certain important particulars, under the extraordinary circumstances in which the colony is placed, must nevertheless be conceded; and as the Council has not felt disposed to admit as charges upon the ordinary revenue, any expenditure which, however obviously necessary, it may consider consequent upon the gold discovery, and has declined to make the requisite provision to meet the extraordinary circumstances of the time, I have assumed the responsibility of sanctioning such additional expenditure as appears absolutely requisite, if the Public Service is not to be subjected to the most serious embarrassment, and have directed that such extraordinary expenditure should be borne upon the territorial revenue, pending reference to the Home Government. The Council will nevertheless be aware that there are branches of the Public Service which no justifiable sacrifice or exertion on the part of the Executive Government can place upon a thoroughly satisfactory footing, or render thoroughly efficient, under the existing circumstances."

It afforded His Excellency pleasure to accede to certain suggested modifications in the Estimates originally submitted; and, in the prospect of a rapidly increasing revenue, to sanction various additions to the original scheme of appropriation. A considerable addition had been made to the sums devoted to purposes of internal improvement, and he promised to provide for their effectual and economical employment, whenever the circumstances of the colony might give the required facilities.

Acknowledging the attentive consideration given to the subject of the future Administration of Justice in the colony, and the readiness with which the Council supplied the deficiency in the sum devoted under the Imperial Act to the maintenance of the various branches of the Public Service, His Excellency thus continued:—

"The Address presented to me by the Council, deprecating the continuance of the system of Transportation to these colonies, with the request that I would forward it to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, has already been transmitted to its destination, with a confident expression of my belief, that on whatever grounds of expediency the continuance of this system may have been hitherto sanctioned, it will no longer be persisted in.

"I fully concur in the opinion of the Council that, notwithstanding the great addition to our population, which the present development of the mineral resources of the colony is effecting, its
interests urgently demand that the emigration of certain classes should, as heretofore, be amply provided for from the public revenues; and I am glad to have found myself in a position to make further considerable remittances to the Home authorities to this end, from the balance in the Treasury to the credit of the territorial revenue.

"The various Addresses which I have received from the Council on subjects of general interest will meet with the consideration from me which they are entitled to."

His Excellency concluded by proroguing the Council to the 10th February, and forthwith withdrew, when the Chamber was rapidly emptied, and left "like some banquet hall deserted." And so there was an end to the first Session of the first Legislature of the infant colony of Victoria.

THE THIRTY PIONEERS.

Though just half-a-dozen of them had figured prominently in the antecedent political agitation, they constituted a tolerably faithful reflex of public opinion. The regular "old stagers" were Elden, Fawkner, Johnston, Palmer, Stawell, and Westgarth. O'Shanassy was then only coming to the front, and Smith and Russell were only known as prominent members of the City Council. The Session had not more than opened when some of the team began to show to advantage. On the Government side the Colonial Secretary (Lonsdale) would have been completely overpowered by the Opposition but for the Attorney-General (Stawell), seconded by the suave and gentlemanly Solicitor-General (Redmond Barry.) Stawell worked with the will of an Atlas. The sonorous affectation of the pompous Auditor-General (Ebden), and the innocuous lispings of Pohlman, wrought but little effect against the dashing and self-trained ability of O'Shanassy; the plodding persistency of the veteran Westgarth; the biting sarcasm and pungent points of Johnston; and the impetuous personalities of Fawkner. The nominee Members mostly sided with the Government, for which they could not be blamed; and the squatting Representatives often followed suit. Miller (even then by common accord known as the Money-maker) quickly established himself as an adept in finance, and promised in the early future to become a formidable opponent, though the reputation thus early shadowed forth for him never realized the success anticipated.

It may be interesting to briefly note the fate and future of the historical group. The first to die off was Dunlop, and in this present year of grace (1888), only the following (so far as I am aware) remain in the land of the living, viz.:—Johnston, Murphy, Splatt, Stawell, and Westgarth.

Barry was, in 1852, elevated to the Supreme Court Bench, whither Stawell, after a memorable and tempestuous legislative career, followed as Chief Justice in 1857. For nine-and-twenty years he exercised the functions of this high and honourable position to the satisfaction of the Bar and the public, and abdicated under the pressure of advancing years in September, 1886, the recipient of a much larger amount of salary-income than was ever netted by any Government official in Victoria, and entitled to draw two distinct pensions conjointly realizing an unprecedentedly liberal annuity. Haines succeeded to the office of Colonial Secretary in 1854, and was subsequently twice Premier, and once Treasurer. Elden jumped from the Auditor-Generalship to the Treasury, an office which he twice filled. Miller, Johnston, and Smith, were also Cabinet Ministers. Pohlman left the Equity Office for the County Court Judgeship, and twice acted as locum tenens in the Supreme Judiciary, whilst O'Shanassy was three times Chief Secretary. Murphy resigned the Chairmanship of Committees to accept the control of the Department of Roads and Bridges, and was succeeded by Snodgrass. On the inauguration of our present duplex Parliamentary system, Palmer ascended to the Upper House or Council, of which he was elected the first President, in November, 1856, whilst Murphy obtained the Speakership of the Assembly. Barry, Murphy, Palmer, Stawell and O'Shanassy respectively received the honour of Knighthood. Westgarth, whose services to the colony extended over a lengthened period, obtained neither official honour or emolument; a fact accounted for by his having left Victoria, and permanently settled in England.

Such were some of the veritable Patres Conscripti, who constituted the fontis et origo, the spring-head, from which burst forth the stream of legislation which now rolls its waves through the colony.
CHAPTER LXVII.

SOME PECULIAR PEOPLE.


THERE are in all communities certain units of the population who may be classified as unaffiliated or individualized "odd" fellows, in the literal acceptation of the term. In a large city like the Melbourne of to-day, the peculiarities of such people attract comparatively little public attention, for they become merged in the great vortex of humanity, but in Melbourne, such as it was up to 1852, the reverse formed the rule, and some of the old townies, the subjects of mild eccentricities, became notabilities in their way, and were a source of much amusement and banter. Some of them have already appeared in these sketches, and to omit others would occasion an hiatus incompatible with completeness. The gap must therefore be stopped, and the revival of any names previously mentioned is for the purpose of supplying details excluded for the convenience of the narrative in other places.

WILLIAM COOPER was known as "the literary blacksmith." His smithy was a wooden shed in Little Collins Street, he plied his muscular vocation with remunerative assiduity, and was a "striking" example to his brethren in the trade. Cooper's forge was during working hours never cold, for

"From morn till night,
You could hear his bellows blow;
You could hear him swing his heavy sledge,
With measured beat and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village bell
When the evening sun was low."

The world went on swimmingly enough with him until the incorporation of Melbourne. The tide then turned in Cooper's life, and the ebb of prosperity set in and so continued to recede until he was completely stranded. The first Corporation election was a regular pitched beer battle, in which most of the successful candidates fought their way to the head of the poll through the fumes and froth of spirituous and fermented liquors. Mr. Henry Condell, one of the first Town Councillors and Aldermen, and Melbourne's first Mayor and Legislative Representative, was a well-to-do brewer, and as he jumped into the Civic arena he determined to roll himself on to the goal of his ambition astride his own beer casks. The erstwhile busy forge was now quenched; the welding of iron and shoeing of horses passed over to other and surer workshops, and Cooper himself went completely to the dogs. For the remainder of his life he existed mainly on fermented suction, and his downfall soon followed. For seven or eight years he was a thorough tavern cadger, in which line, as he was in his way jovial, good-humoured, and harmless to all save himself, he was regarded as a sort of street favourite, and could always command a liberal supply of free drinks. Fortunately for him, when he could not hold out much longer, the Benevolent Asylum was opened as a refuge for the destitute, and, in 1851, "old Cooper" enjoyed the rather questionable distinction of being the "number one" of its inmates.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

THOMAS ("TOM") WATSON, another remarkable identity, was a Waterloo man, and a Peninsula veteran. Old Tom was fond of expatiating at all times and seasons upon his soldiering and recounting

"The story of his life
From year to year; the battles, sieges, fortunes,
That he had pass'd."

If credence were to be given to a tithe of his "tall talk," one would fancy him to have been as deep in Wellington's confidence as the most trusted of the "Iron Duke's" staff. There was little doubt, however, that he had served in the 33rd Regiment of British Infantry. "Tom," from his arrival in the province, took an active interest in promulgating the benefits of abstinence from intoxicating fluids, and both by his precept and example was much of an acquisition to the early Temperance Societies. He was master of the Russell Street Band, and his portly figure, decked out in scarf and rosette, with a Waterloo medal shining on his breast, advancing with the regulation military step in the van, was of itself worth looking at. Tom Watson was such an intense teetotaller, that, not satisfied with being an openly avowed water drinker, he resolved to obtain a livelihood by vending the precious element. He was soon recognized as one of the most efficient of the corps of "watermen," the first known medium of water supply between the Yarra and the householders of Melbourne. He lived a long, active, and useful life until his last earthly barrel was emptied. I know not if any epitaph was inscribed over his grave; but if so, none would be more appropriate than the one dictated by the poet Keats for himself—

"Here lies one whose name was writ in water."

BUCKLAND.—When what is known as the Flagstaff Hill West Melbourne was occupied as a signalling station, a person named Buckland was employed there, as an assistant. He was possessed of a large fund of general information, widely read and especially communicative. Unfortunately for him he was an "expiree" convict, and on the erection of the province into an independent colony the employment in the public service of persons of convict antecedents was considered so objectionable that Buckland and his billet parted company. The dismissal preyed so much upon his mind, that he retired moodily to his cottage in Fitzroy. One day he made a valuable present of books to the Mechanics' Institute. Ere a week passed, his friends were horrified by the intelligence that he had committed suicide by blowing out his brains. A letter was found declaring that all his money was exhausted, and as he was too proud to seek a situation, he had determined to put an end to his life. The day following, his coffin was taken on a dray to the cemetery, and interred close by the eastern fence. The sexton did his work so carelessly, that the covering consisted of only two or three inches of mould, and a heavy rainfall coming down during the night, in the morning the coffin lid was quite exposed, and a re-burial the inevitable consequence. Buckland had at the Flagstaff a queer old helper known as George Fisher, a "Jack tar," who had fought at Navarino, and was a great card at yarn spinning about his wonderful adventures in "The Battle and the Breeze." He was the proprietor of a really splendid telescope, which he brought with him from England. It was fixed upon a rude wooden stand, and its owner positively declared that through it he could not only view externally any ship in Hobson's Bay, but absolutely everything on board. "Old George!" soon tired of his post of observation after Buckland's death, and withdrew to some very humble quarters at Brighton, where he, for several years, eked out a precarious livelihood. His friends, however, did not altogether abandon him, and one warm-hearted Scotch brewer, still alive, sent him regularly a small cask of ale weekly, not a very stinted ration to keep one antiquated throat from getting parched. Finally he found a comfortable harbour of refuge in the Benevolent Asylum.

JAMES BALLINGALL.—Few of the early colonists were better known, or more thoroughly esteemed than he who first figured in Port Phillipian life as accountant at the mills of Manton and Co., in Flinders Street. On the closing of that concern, Ballingall transferred his financial allegiance to the
baby Corporation of Melbourne, was appointed a Rate-collector, and in this capacity until his death honestly looked after the bantling feeding-bottles. Hailing from the briny Scottish town of Kirkcaldy he seemed an imitation of Plimsoll in the deep interest manifested for the proper construction of ships, which he would have fabricated with what he designed “solid bottoms.” Two grand panaceas for the welfare of the world, he believed to consist in the building of ships with stout, durable understandings, and the wearing of skin flannels by the human race. He was so gone on the “solid-bottomed” ship theory that he wrote on it, lectured about it, and it was his walking and table-talk morning, noon, and night. He once told me that he passed scarcely a single night without dreaming of it. “Depend upon it, my friends,” he would reiterate, “solid-bottomed vessels are the only sort to be trusted to the mercies of wind and waves,” and the somewhat ungentle epithet, with “Old” prefixed, ultimately grew an alias universally applied to the well meaning enthusiast,—

“An honest man close buttoned to the chin, Broadcloth without, and a warm heart within.”

His hale, hearty form, and weather-beaten face were welcome and familiar objects in his peripatetic rate-collating rounds. His friends were legion, and after attaining to a green, or rather red old age, Jamie departed this life, regretted by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

THOMAS STEVENSON was another professional street-walker as well (though not so agreeably) known as Ballingall. Originally a school teacher, when pupils grew scarce, he betook himself to the collection of debts. Though what is known as a “dun,” he possessed none of the impudent, bullying characteristics attributed to the historical Adam of the fraternity, Joe Dun, the notorious money-hunter of the reign of Henry VII Stevenson was in no way impertinent in the pursuit of an unpleasant vocation; but what was of more importance, he was unceasingly importunate, and popped on a defaulter in a silent, ghostly way, which had a more marked effect in unlocking reluctant pockets than bluster and bounce. Ballingall’s “beat” was restricted to Lonsdale Ward, but Stevenson’s extended everywhere. Anything in the shape of a bad debt had being. His business was large and lucrative, and his reputation such that unlimited confidence was placed in him. Though quiet and gentlemanly in his manner of dealing with his customers, it was remarkable that a hint of his name to a defaulter was potent in extracting payment.

“JEMMY THE PIEMAN” was another of that ilk, from the fact of his having instituted an industry, as he declared, “for the special benefit and invigoration of intoxicated nocturnal wayfarers.” This was simply the manufacture of rather doubtfully embodied pies and savoys of a strong un-aromatic flavour in a basket, and the vendor and vendibles taken together, constituted as unhonourable a combination as could well be conceived. After dark “Jemmy” was almost invariably “in a state of beer.” He was one of the most drunken old reprobates of a not over sober era, and twice or thrice every week the day dawned over “Jemmy” anchored in the watchhouse. His police interviews were always of the funniest kind, and the offender frequently escaped punishment. One night on an unusually heavy “burst” in a low tavern in Little Bourke Street, he so overdrank himself (a feat of some difficulty) that he was picked dead out of the channel the next morning.

There were some half-a-dozen characters who will be now presented with certain blank indications in consequence of the questionable antecedents of some of them, and the fact of their descendants surviving in the colony. It was a rule with the “expiree” convict settlers, whose sojourn at the penal settlement was no secret, to account for their enforced expatriation in a manner to minimize the enormity of the offence for which they had been transported. For instance ask an Englishman of the class referred to why he had been obliged

“To leave his country for his country’s good.”

And in nine cases out of ten the answer will be that his “lagging” was due to some poaching or
other violation of the very stringent code of game-laws then in force in the parent country; while the Hibernian would give the response a patriotic twist, by assigning his misfortune to some nocturnal "ribbon" escapade, agrarian outrage, or the bringing to grief a tithe-loving parson or tithe-catching proctor. There was not much harm in such equivocation, though it was far from being swallowed in toto by the "never-convicted" portion of the public.

M—— was an "expiree" engaged in half-a-dozen small businesses, which brought him in a pot of money, which was enjoyed by him until a few years ago, far away from Victoria. Substantial and comfortable in shape, tastefully clad, he strutted smilingly through the streets, one hand in trouser's pocket, the other twirling a massive gold watch chain, and his lips almost uninterruptedly employed in a muffled whistling. He was a man of means, and took care to let the world know it in divers ways. Some offence connected with illicit deer-stalking was commonly reported as the reason for his deportation to a penal settlement; but those who were admitted to his Buchananian confidences knew better. Good stiff punch found special favour with him. After putting away six tumblers of this mixture, his bump of caution would disappear, his face assume a solemn sepulchral aspect, and his eyes glare like miniature lamps. His boon companions then knew that the climax was approaching, and to expedite the denouement one of them would indulge in some remark referring to a cemetery. M—— would jump from his seat, look up the chimney, and peer into corners to make sure no outsider was on the watch. He would go through the mimic process of digging into a grave, finding a coffin, and then, as if extracting a corpse, and bearing it on his shoulders to the window, in imagination heave it out as if into a dead cart in readiness for its reception. After going through this terrible pantomime he would resume his seat, when the frightful impulse of which he had been temporarily the victim would pass away, and he had no recollection whatever of the transition through which he had passed. The explanation of all this is that he had followed the vocation of a resurrectionist, or "body-snatcher," in England. The circle of acquaintance to whom the above was known was very limited, and the secret of the periodical post mortem performance was remarkably well-kept.

"MICKY MAC," as he was known, was another extraordinary assimilation of flesh and blood. He hailed from Limerick, the Irish city of the historical violated "treaty stone," where a murder was perpetrated as one of the outcomes of a trade combination. "Mac" was not actively implicated in the outrage, but he was convicted on an indictment for a capital conspiracy, and was sentenced to death. Through his wife he acquired some local and political influence which told with such effect upon Spring Rice (afterwards Lord Monteagle), a distinguished Irish statesman that, after considerable deliberation, the Executive at Dublin Castle reluctantly agreed to commute the extreme punishment to a life transportation. The decision was not, however, known to the Limerick prison authorities until almost literally the last moment. The culprit was actually at the foot of the gallows, and about to ascend the fatal ladder, when a mounted courier, waving a white flag, rode up to the gaol and stayed the tragedy. In such remote times there were no such instantaneous Mercuries as telegraphic wires, and the Post-Office arrangements were even so slow and uncertain that well-horsed messengers were employed on pressing emergencies. "Mac" therefore escaped, "by the skin of his neck," for in another minute or so, had there been no authorised interposition, his neck would have been stretched, and himself, in journalistic phraseology, "launched into eternity." He actually told me himself that just as he was about to ascend to be placed under the rope, the Roman Catholic priest in attendance bade him what was believed to be a final earthly farewell, by gently pressing his hand, and saying in a low voice "Good-bye, Michael, be easy and hopeful of mind for in one minute after you die your soul will be in Heaven." Whether such expressions had ever been employed, of course I had no other proof than "Mac's" ipse dixit, not at all times a reliable consideration. I recollect, however, being in 1845 driven to Brighton by Dean Coffey, "Mac" being then at logger-heads with the authorities at St. Francis. He was booked as a troublesome, bad boy there, and during our trip he became in some manner
mixed up with our conversation, and I laughingly re-called for the old Dean's edification the valedictory scene between the chaplain and "Mac" under the gallows-tree many years before. I never have forgotten the commentary, which was nearly verbatim this: — "And so the fellow 'Mac' told you that, did he? (Here a short, low whistle). I doubt much if any priest ever uttered such words; but if he did so, all I can now say is (another whistle) that if the rogue 'Mac' could get to Heaven in a minute then, he was a great fool not to chance it, for I verily believe if he died to-day, instead of doing the journey in sixty seconds, it would take him a full three weeks; and even then I am not all sure that something would not trip him up on the road." It must not be supposed that the opinion so confidently expressed by the worthy padre indicated any indirect disclosure of Confessional secrecy, for "Mac" was not over-particular in supplicating a forgiveness of sins through the agency of contrition, a vow of reformation and penance. Dean Coffey based his surmise upon his general knowledge of the individual's merits and demerits. "Micky Mac" found his way to Port Phillip at the close of 1839 after a slightly round-about fashion. He was shipped to New South Wales, as an item of a convict cargo, and his wife quickly followed and settled in Sydney. After a brief interval under the then prevalent system of prison assignment, her husband obtained a ticket-of-leave, and became his wife's assigned servant. This was a practical evasion of the law's intention, but in special cases it was connived at by the authorities. The Monteagle influence did not sleep at home, and through Governor Sir Richard Bourke, another Limerickite, "Mac" soon obtained a pardon restoring him to entire personal freedom, except that it conditioned that he should leave the colony; whether there was the further proviso that he should never return to it, I cannot say, but such was usually the form in which such indulgencies ran, and it is not likely this case was an exception. However, this might have been, "Mac" complied, so far as clearing out of New South Wales with his better-half was concerned. He went to Van Diemen's Land, and after a brief sojourn, doubled back to Melbourne where he remained for many years. The faithful wife accompanied him, and be it recorded to his discredit that he did not requite her affection as it deserved. "Mac" once actually offered a £5 premium for a new curse for which there were half-a-dozen competitors, and the winner of the "prize" is not only still (1888) alive and well in Melbourne, but anyone seeing the solemn-phizzed semi sanctimonious looking worthy "doing" one of our public places, could scarcely conceive the possibility of his ever having taken so questionable an "honour." It is a laughable circumstance that the first person to experience the effect of the particular malediction was the late Sir (then Mr.) John O'Shanassy. "Micky" had a fairly prosperous career in Melbourne for more than twenty years, when he levanted to California, and was never after, so far as I know, reliably heard of.

"Big Mick" was a burly, lazy-going, soft-faced, sly-eyed customer who occasionally fraternized, but more often fought, with a little customer nicknamed "Micky the Ribbon," from certain proclivities marking his career before leaving the "Himmel Hoile," as he was wont to designate the land of his nativity. "Big Mick" and the "Ribbon man" were night-watchmen. The big fellow's beat was Collins Street, and the little one's Elizabeth Street: but the only boundaries they beat were the back doors of public-houses, where they skulked and begged for free drinks. "Micky" was the first to lie down in the Old Cemetery; but "Mick" managed to spin out existence until September, 1849, when he gave up the ghost, and was interred by the Friendly Brothers, a small Charity Society, whose good deeds have long been forgotten.

"Long M——" though not a convict, acquired a dubious notoriety before he transferred his corpus from Launceston to Melbourne. A loud boaster of a past military career, (he was an ex-soldier sergeant), his first public appointment was the overseership of a small gang of prisoners, into whose care was temporarily given the maintenance of the unmacadamized streets. In M——, the luckless devils had a rough, unreasonable master, and matters finally assumed such a threatening aspect that to evade probable assassination the overseer threw up his billet in terror and disgust. As a constable, he supplemented his pay by blackmailing drunkards and both licensed and unlicensed grog-sellers, and he clung with a sort of affection round the door of the Police Office, as, what is known in
police cant as a “mounter.” As years rolled on he struck into a reputable way of living, and succeeded. He became a cattle-dealer, and saved some money, after the gold discoveries, by lucky land speculations. From this he became an extensive squatter, kept a grand house in East Melbourne, where he was professedly hospitable to those who saw no objection to accepting his invitations. He had his carriage and servants in livery, and used to be driven, pompous and proudful, through the streets. But the wheel of fortune turned, his wealth took wings and flew away. Though not reduced to the low-watermark of his early colonial career, it was low enough, and his last days were passed in the Melbourne Hospital, an institution which has witnessed the end of many a better man and more meritorious colonist.

Daniel Wellesley O’Donovan’s name winds up this segment of humanity. His sponsors baptismally hooked him to the two great Irishmen, Dan O’Connell and the hero of Waterloo. Hailing from Kerry, he was born and bred in the vicinity of “Killarney’s classic lakes.” A fine-proportioned, pleasant-faced, funny-eyed young man, Port Phillip offered him a good chance of carving out a comparatively bright future; but there was a big stumbling-block in his way in either the brandy-cask or the beer barrel, or both, and these proved his destruction. Moderately grounded in an English education, he was, perhaps, the best Latin and Greek scholar in the province. He was exceptionally well posted in all the branches of Celtic history, and could give you extracts from the Annals of the Four Masters, The Book of Ballymote, or the Psalter of Tara, as pat as he could roll out a Roman Catholic Rosary. He succeeded in obtaining clerical employment, but driven, as he would say, by the hot winds, he rapidly acquired an unconquerable appetite for “rum and two ales.” His quill-driving and he, therefore, soon dissolved partnership, when he betook himself to any chance employment falling in his way, from private tuition to shepherding, from wharf-labouring to scavengering; but he could never keep sober for a month; the curse clove to him with a tenacity that rendered it impossible to shake it off. The last decade of O’Donovan’s life was passed in the Kew Lunatic Asylum, where he died a few years ago. O’Donovan was given to reciting favourite passages from authors he had well studied. In such a mood he was indulging one November afternoon, poised against a superannuated gum tree, on the verge of the Merri Creek crossing-place leading from Melbourne to Heidelberg. The first resident Judge (Willis) resided at the latter place, and on this occasion his Honor was going home, and approaching the tree, though he could perceive no human being in sight, he was surprised to hear, as if from the interior of the trunk, delivered in true declamatory style, portions of one of Cicero’s orations against Catiline. The Judge pulled up astounded, and for a time did not well know what to make of it. The voice could not issue from the tree, though it never occurred to him that it might come from some person at its off side. Dashing forward, and slaving his horse round, he was at once face to face with the bush orator, who, without seeming to notice the intruder (whom he well knew), continued until he had finished the peroration, and then doffing his weather-beaten cabbage-tree hat with a low bow, expressed a hope that his Honor was not displeased with the harmless bit of pastime he had witnessed. Willis complimented him on the taste and style of his deliverance, which led to a brief conversation, the end being that the Judge ascertained who he was and took him into his hired service with an order to march at once to Heidelberg. Amongst Willis’s two or three horse screws, in ministering to the cleanliness of an old trap, and keeping things right in the stable, O’Donovan appeared as if in Elysium for a few weeks. Fate was already weaving into poor O’Donovan’s future thicker threads of darkness than had appeared hitherto, and there was doomed to be a speedy flare-up between him and his new patron. It was Willis’s custom to open each monthly Criminal Session of the Supreme Court with an address or charge to the jury panel; but, in reality, more of an ultra-official oration to the general public. These fulminations had, however, the merit of careful preparation, and though more abusive than pungent, were on the whole clever specimens of tolerably readable, though overdone phraseology, highly spiced with well-fitting pedantry. They were crammed with quotations, ancient and modern, from languages living and dead. Never did one of them appear without Latin excerpta. Willis was aware that his Crier or Tipstaff would be unable to be at his post on one of these occasions, and he decided upon trotting out his favourite groom in a new capacity. O’Donovan had a good voice, and could talk, rant and shout, (in more than one sense), and of his eligibility as a locum tenens Crier there could be no doubt. He was
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accordingly rigged up in a cast-off white choker and swallow-tail (the latter being hardly big enough), and on his appearance in Court was indeed "the observed of all observers." The "Oyes, Oyes!" exordium was got through by the new Tipstaff with a nasal solemnity, and after the disposal of one or two formalities, the Judge began his address. A quotation cropped up, but of this the Judge did not care, for, as hitherto, he would take it as a hunter does an ordinary jump, in tip-top style. It was a hackneyed passage from one of the Satires of Horace, and the orator stepped in amongst the hexameters with a graceful lisp, as if assured that what he was saying would be duly appreciated. In this manner he travelled safely over the fourth line, but in the fifth uttered a slight misquotation, when the new Crier was down upon his great superior, and figuratively shook him as a terrier would a rat.

"I beg your Honor's pardon," said the irate O'Donovan, "you are murdering my most favourite author, and this I cannot permit to be done by either Judge or Jury. If your Honor will kindly allow me I shall set you right; in fact, permit or not I'll do it. So now your Honor and gentlemen of the Jury, listen to the only true and correct version." Here followed some dozen lines of Horace, including the corrected reading of where the Judge had floundered. It is no exaggeration to say that all in Court except the Judge and his "Tip" were convulsed with laughter. As for Willis, he was flabbergasted at O'Donovan's gross but unconscious contempt of Court, and at length screamed to the Sheriff to place the transgressing scoundrel under lock and key until he could command time and patience to consider how to best summarily deal with him. All this time O'Donovan was unable to comprehend that he had acted with any impropriety. Equally at sea as to the reason for the Judge's fuming and the people's laughing, he seemed half bewildered.

He boldly declared his inability to understand what wrong he had done by setting the Judge right. He thought he had only done his duty. Mr. Raymond, the Deputy-Sheriff, kept him under durance until the time for adjournment. He was then told to call next day for the wages due to him; but he was prohibited from ever again showing his face at Heidelberg. It is strange I have been unable to find any report of this extraordinary episode in the newspapers; but it is next to impossible to have access to a complete copy of the early journals. Of the occurrence there can be no doubt whatever.

When "off his chump," Wellesley O'Donovan implicitly believed himself to be one of four heroes of Irish History—viz., two Pagans and two Christians; and it depended on the season of the year which of those personages he would imaginatively personate. In Winter, he was Dharra Dhoun; in Spring, Dathi; in Summer, Brian Boru; and Autumn saw him O'Neil of the Red Hand. He remained in Melbourne for several years, and paid several compulsory visits to the Yarra Bend in its infancy days. There was a reporter on the Herald known by the ultra-Milesian name of Finn, who was a special favourite with O'Donovan. Whenever they met during the latter's sanity he invariably addressed the other as "Mr. Finn," but in his mad moods O. was fully convinced that Finn was no other than O'Rourke, the Prince of Breifni, well known in Irish prose and verse. Whenever and wherever they met O'Donovan would uncover and make a profound obeisance to "the Prince." Once the following almost incredible Police Court scene occurred. O'Donovan was for about the dozenth time charged with alleged lunacy, and by all appearance he was what is in vulgar parlance denominated "as mad as a hatter." The late Mr. Sturt was the sole presiding Justice, and the Mr. Finn before mentioned the sole occupant of the reporters' stall. The accused on being placed in the dock turned towards the single reporter, and refused to acknowledge even by a glance the single Magistrate. On being requested to face the Bench he replied in a stern tone that he would do nothing of the sort; that he was Dharra Dhoun, the monarch of the world, and could never acknowledge the representative of any Foreign Power, more particularly England. There was in Court opposite to him the scion of one of the ancient kingly races in his old country, and to him he would render a cheerful allegiance. Mr. Sturt (who knew him but too well): "What are you talking or rather dreaming about, O'Donovan?" The prisoner (with a wave of the hand): "It is neither a dream of the day or night, but a reality. I now see before me in human shape no less a personage than O'Rourke, the Prince of Breifni. As for you, sir (to Mr. Sturt), though you are a kind, good-hearted fellow, an English minion like you is not worthy to brush the coat of a
descendant of Irish royalty. " Whilst Sturt gazed with a pitying kindliness on the unfortunate creature, O'Donovan sang, or rather keened, the first two verses of Moore's beautiful melody—"The Song of O'Rourke"—which describes the return home of the Prince of Brefni only to discover the elopement of his wife with the King of Leinster, and his threats of vengeance thereat—

"The valley lay smiling before me,
    Where lately I left her behind;
Yet I trembled for something hung o'er me,
    That saddened the joy of my mind.
I looked for the lamp which she told me
    Should shine when her pilgrim returned;
But though darkness began to unfold me,
    No lamp from the battlements burned.

"I flew to her chamber—'twas lonely,
    As if the lov'd tenant lay dead!
Ah, would it were death, and death only!
    But no!—the young false one had fled.
And there hung the lute that could soften
    My very worst pains into bliss,
While the hand that had waked it so often
    Now throbbed to my proud rival's kiss."

Drawing out the last line in a modulated tenderness of voice, he stood erect, the eyes of the maniac glaring like coals of fire, and continued—

"Then onward the green banner rearing,
    Go flesh every sword to the hilt."

Looking yearningly towards the supposed Prince of Brefni, and extending his right hand—

"On our side is virtue and Erin"—

Then shaking both fists in Sturt's face, and with the howl of a wild animal—

"On yours is the Saxon and guilt!"

Every person in Court felt for the poor maniac, and not the least, the kind-hearted Magistrate before whom he was arraigned, for in a subdued, softened voice he thus delivered judgment:—"My poor man you are to be pitied, a person with your good parts so besotted by drink as to be completely bereft of reason. Your exhibition before me leaves little doubt of the superfluityness of a medical enquiry to ascertain your state of mind, but as the law requires it, you are remanded."
When under restraint he lost most of his Hibernian gush; and the caged eagle seemed as if deprived of the power of wing, brain and voice.