BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTION.

The polling yesterday turned out to be quite a lively little affair, a considerable amount of energy being shown by the candidates and their friends in canvassing for votes. A close run was very generally expected, and there was considerable difference of opinion as to which of the candidates would be left out in the cold. When the poll closed a crowd began to assemble outside the old Council Chamber, and there must have been nearly 200 people waiting in the street to learn the result.

About half-past five, Alex. Learmonth, Esq., the Returning Officer, declared the result of the poll as follows:—

Saul Rodes	176
J. G. Moss	175
Thos. Pratt	111
Geo. Snellgrove	108
Henry Cooke	101

The result was received with cheering, and there were loud calls for the candidates to address the burgesses present.

Mr. J. G. Moss was the first to respond, observing that he felt very proud of the position in which he had been placed by the votes of his fellow-ratepayers, and intended to carry out the trust reposed in him to the fullest extent of his humble powers. It had been far from his intention to appear before them as an aspirant for Municipal honours, but he had been solicited by many of his friends to come forward, and when once in the field he did not believe in being defeated. (Cheers.) Being elected, he would make it his earnest endeavour to assist in improving the thoroughfares and approaches to the town, without reference to any particular street, lane, alley, or court. Some people made it a question of Gray-street versus Thomson-street, and ratepayers living in all sorts of other streets grumbled because they could not get the Council to do everything they wanted. The proper way to enforce their claims if reasonable, was to come forward en masse and represent their case to the Council, when he for one would be happy to give it his best consideration. (Laughter.) He thanked the burgesses for the confidence they had shown in him, and trusted that if he at any time failed to do his duty, they would call on him to resign. (Cheers.)

Mr. Thomas Pratt tendered his sincere thanks for the renewal of support he had received from the ratepayers. Since he had been at the Council, he had endeavoured to do his best to advocate the interests of all, and had not supported the views of any particular clique or party. He should continue to adopt the same course, and, like Mr. Moss, he was quite willing to resign if his conduct failed to give satisfaction. (Cheers.)

Mr. Rodes not being present, was unable to respond to the calls for him to address the crowd.

With a cheer for the Returning Officer, the assemblage dispersed.

MELBOURNE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
August 12.

Short work has been made of the Estimates, only the vote for charitable institutions and a postponed vote now remaining for discussion. This was managed rather adroitly on Thursday night last. On that evening the Mayor gave his first concert for charitable purposes, on the public opening of the new Town Hall, and the performances at the Opera were for the benefit of Signor Cagli. These events drew away a considerable number of members, and the more talkative spirits of the Opposition were absent. The Ministry saw their opportunity. They secured a pledge from a sufficient number of their supporters to form the House, and sit till two in the morning, rather than meet on Friday night. The House did sit till half-past three o'clock in the morning, when nothing was left of the Estimates to deal with, but the votes referred to.

The session will be a short one. The Assessing Land Act and the Mining on Private Property Bill have reached an advanced stage, and the railway gauge question has been disposed of. The Education question will be the next "bone of contention" to be thrown before the House, and when it is dealt with, there will be a prorogation.

The L. L. Smith committee have been actively at work during the week. The terms of the resolution have been altered by Mr. Francis, so that the conduct of some, or all of the members of the late Government, can only be incidentally called in question. Mr. Stevenson, of the railway department, and Mr. Smyth, of the Mining branch, have been closely examined. Mr. M'Lellan makes no concealment about his share of the matter, and he gave advertisements largely to the organ which the smart doctor represented. It was Mr. Longmore's boast that he had only given advertisements to the value of two guineas to the new defunct journal, but I am told that Mr. Stevenson's allusions indicate the existence of a gross state of corruption in the department in this matter. The general impression is that Mr. L. L. Smith will anticipate his fate by political suicide—in other words, resign.

Mr. Gillies is to intimate, on Tuesday or Wednesday, the intention of the Government as to the application made to him with regard to the Portland and Casterton railway. It has come to be understood that, rather than give the subsidy asked for, the Ministry will undertake to build the line themselves, and include it in their general system. I have stumbled across some of the promoters here, and find that they will be perfectly satisfied with such an arrangement; all they desire is to see the line constructed.

Expresses cross the now quickly-lessening gap in the trans-continental telegraph line; so, no English news comes to hand. The cable is still unworkable. This shows that the fault is a more serious than was supposed. If the line had got out of order by being chafed on some coral reef, in comparatively shallow water, the repairing party on board the Investigator would have had but little difficulty in raising the cable and repairing the fault. If the line is broken, and the Investigator had found the Southern portion, a message to that effect would have been telegraphed from the ship's side to the shore. As no message whatever has come to land, and the cable is absolutely silent, we must conclude that the breach is of a serious character. We must hope to see the second cable from Normanntown to Java, laid as speedily as possible.

Such a collapse has not been seen for many-a-day as that which exists at this moment under the Verandah. The dullness I spoke of a week or two ago has now become intensified. The brokers appear to have been paying upon each other of late, rather than to the public—which is fortunate—but dog cannot always eat dog. Several of the gentlemen who practise book-keeping under the Verandah have found it necessary to place themselves and their affairs in the care of Judge Pohlman, and others are mentioned who must follow suit, unless some miracle in money comes to aid them. In this case, as in many that have gone before, there is no reason for the panic beyond over-speculation. Gold is being got as freely as ever, and the whole district of Sandhurst is sound to a reeling sense. Many stocks, undoubtedly, were run up to an extravagant price, and claims were put on the market, which were found afterwards to be of a very shadowy character. Had there been a little less trust, there would have been less caution shown, and this utter prostration of the interest "Under the Verandah" would have been avoided.

Coals are scals in these days! The supply has been so nearly exhausted here, through the strike of the miners at Newcastle, that prices have run up to £3 5s per ton for an article worth 8s at the port of shipment! The shipowners here has been lucky. One of his vessels came in yesterday after having been knocked about for twenty-eight days in the Straits. Another turned up yesterday, and a steamer from Newcastle direct with nearly 900 tons more will come in to-morrow morning. These three vessels will bring from 1600 to 1800 tons of coals, which, at present prices, will leave a very splendid margin of profit. So coarse had coal become that it was seriously proposed to cut off for a time the supplies of gas to the churches, &c.; and some of the smelting steamers were put on a limited allowance of fuel, which seriously affected their speed.

"Captain Moonlight" has at last reached his haven in Pentridge. With Plunkett and Stapleton he arrived from Ballarat at the close of the week. This expected arrival caused not a small gathering of his admirers at the railway station, anxious to obtain a last look at him as he passed from the train to the prison-van, which was in waiting for him. He appeared to be much more affected by his position than his more hardened companions in misfortune, and his tears fell freely when he was being marked on his arrival at the prison.

The application of the Curator of Intestate Estates to administer to the property of a late rich squatter in Gippsland has directed public attention to the manner in which the Curator is paid. The intention of Parliament was that he should be paid by fixed salary alone, but by some error he has been permitted to receive fees which should have gone into the Treasury. In the case alluded to, these perquisites or fees, these "unconsidered trifles," would have amounted to over £1500. The Cabinet have had the matter under consideration, and the *Herald*, which first drew attention to the subject, has been so far vindicated, that the Ministry have now resolved that the original intention shall be carried out, and Mr. Wiegall paid by salary alone. Some very curious stories are in circulation as to the Curator's manner of securing business, and dealing with it.

Rumours are obtaining circulation as to the probability of a new evening paper being started here. It will be in the interests of the Freetrade party, if it ever sees the light. The Ministerials think that the Opposition should not possess the only evening journal in the city, and they are taking steps to supply the want. The great difficulty in the way was to get a machine of sufficient size and speed, and that, I believe, has been got over. Rumour has it that the name of the new journal will be the *Standard*.

The canary and pigeon show has no sooner been got over than we have a dog show on, which promises also to be a decided success. Shows of this kind are always attractive. Mr. Pitt's newly-imported and much-admired greyhounds will be there, and they are well worth coming many miles to see.

The opera season terminated on Saturday with a bumper benefit to Mr. W. S. Lyster, who was vigorously called for at the close of the third act, and made a very short but plain and agreeable speech, in which he admitted that the season had been highly successful. It has lasted thirteen weeks, and was even better patronised at the last than at the first. Certainly, opera was never before produced in such style in Melbourne. The company was excellent, and the style in which every opera was produced and maintained, could not be surpassed. The season, as Mr. Lyster remarked, gave a very flat contradiction to the opinion expressed by Mr. Coppin, when Mr. Lyster first arrived in Melbourne with the Escott-Squires Company, that "opera in Melbourne would never pay." Signora Coy was the leading favourite of the season. Neither Signora Gevoni nor Signor Bosisio having had equal opportunities of distinguishing themselves. A handsome sum has been subscribed as a parting token of appreciation to Signora Coy on her departure for Calcutta. It will be presented on Saturday evening week, at a great concert to be given in the Town Hall, which will be one of the finest ever given in Melbourne. The whole strength of the Opera Company will be engaged, and £50 have been subscribed in town to pay for the use of the great organ on the occasion. Two hundred first class tickets were sold as early as Saturday last.

Mr. Coppin's last season of management also terminated on Saturday, when he made a "farewell for ever" speech. The honourable George has had a curious "down" upon the legitimate drama, which he never fails to show on these speech-night occasions. This time he confessed that the balance was on the right side of the ledger, but he by no means allowed that comedy did it—it was the short engagement of Harry Rickards and the Japanese conjurors! George is essentially a showman. In the new Theatre Royal he will be merely a sleeping partner. Messrs. Harwood and Stewart will undertake that work for the seven years of their partnership, and Mr. Coppin looks forward to the probability that, at the end of that period, gout will render his appearances on the stage infrequent; but the profits of the theatre will have removed any necessity for his performing at all. I hope it may be so. Rapidly as the work is going on, it will be impossible to open the new theatre before the end of November.

Parliament—that is to say the members—are becoming alarmingly sober! Since the introduction of the billiard-tables, the bar has been comparatively deserted. The messengers declare that the change is wonderful, and Mr. Gregory looked disconsolately had at his poorly-furnished till! If things go on as they are going, the Assembly will have to treble its vote to the purveyor, to compensate him for losses by keeping this parliamentary hotel.

The intense cold of the weather during the last few days has proved fatal to some of the birds imported from India. The pert Minahs have been the chief victims. They are great ornaments to the Gardens about the summer, and their active habits and quaint note make them popular. On Saturday morning twenty of them were found under an old tree at Hawthorn, on which they were in the habit of gathering at night. With snow all round—at Ballarat, Kilmore, and Woods Point, and hard and driving squalls of bitter wind and hail over the city throughout the night, it is little wonder that these little strangers from a hot climate gave way before it.

Not a single bit of scandal has cropped up during the week to refresh the mind and lighten the task of an anxious Melbourne correspondent. There has been nothing done of any interest in the courts, beyond the decision of His Honor Judge Molesworth, in the case of Graham v. Graham, in favour of the plaintiffs, the Yorkshire sons of the dead brewer. The evidence showed a rare and very strange state of immorality on the part of the deceased and his reputed wife.

COLERAINE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
August 12.

On Friday and Saturday last, the weather here was exceedingly cold, and old residents stated that they had never before felt the cold so severe. We had a slight shower of snow, but only just enough to swear by, although at Mustham, and at most of the stations round, they appear to have had a much heavier fall of snow. For instance, at Grangegalgona, Mr. Duncan Robertson's estate, I hear that the snow there was so heavy that the grass was completely covered, with the exception of just around the butts of trees, where the water had fallen from the trees. All was one white sheet, and for something like twenty hours the sheep could not get anything to eat, and those innocent animals appeared greatly puzzled to know the reason of it.

At the Coleraine Police Court, on the 9th inst., before J. P. Hamilton, Esq., P.M., A. Turnbull, Esq., and J. M'Conochie, Esq., J.P.s., James Phillips was brought up, charged with presenting a pistol at, and threatening one Mulcahy, a farmer at the Salt Pans. The murderous weapon, it appears, was not loaded, but this (say those who know the accused) was a very lucky thing for the complainant; in fact, they go so far as to say that had such been the case, he would not have appeared against the accused. However, the Bench fined him 20s, or 24 hours' imprisonment. Cecelia Edwards *alias* Inkelkickley, a notorious character of the demi-*monde* class, was charged by the police with being a vagrant, and having no lawful means of support. This individual appeared before the Bench some seven or eight weeks ago, and was allowed the opportunity of leaving the place, and promised to do so. However, she had been here ever since, and was a complete nuisance to the neighbours round her dwelling. The Bench on this occasion, therefore, sentenced her to three months' imprisonment in the Portland Gaol.

On Friday night last, the up coach from Hamilton to Penola met with an accident between Hamilton and the Wannon, which, luckily, was not attended with any very serious consequences, excepting the delay of the mail for some hours, and a wet jacket for the passengers and all aboard. It appears that on arriving at the small sandy creek on this side of Bochara, the rush of water caused by the late rains had washed a nasty hole, and the coach dropping into this with a sudden jerk, sent the king-bolt out, and left the coach in the hole—the force of water soon turning it over. One Mr. Cunningham, from Melbourne, happened to be the only passenger, and that gentleman, it appears, did not lose much time (on seeing the difficulty they were placed in) in divesting himself of his trousers, and jumping into the water, and rendering all the assistance in his power to right the coach; and worked hard for a considerable time up to his waist in water. Really, I think there are few who would like to have done the same on such a night as Friday night was. However, they at last succeeded in getting the coach once more on *terra firma*, and proceeded on their journey, having been delayed through the accident some three or four hours.

The weather appears now inclined to settle; yesterday about mid day it was quite warm, which was really a treat after the boisterous weather we have had for the last eight or ten weeks.

CASTERTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
August 12.

On Friday, very heavy storms of rain and hail fell here, and continued most of the following day, on the night of which the Wannon again overflowed its banks, and the Sandford road was under water. Yesterday that river rose still higher, and the road was not safe for traffic. The Glenelg has not risen very much.

Mr. Storrie, of Sandford, lost seven head of cattle by the flood of last week, and although they were within reach of high ground, they obstinately made off for the river, and got swept away.

The weather has now, apparently, broken, and the waters seem to be subsiding.

The election for a Councillor for the North Riding has resulted in favour of Mr. Matheson by sixty-nine votes. My telegram of Thursday announced that Mr. John Russell M'Pherson had defeated Mr. W. Rhodes by five votes for the councillorship of the Central Riding. There had been a good deal of steady canvassing going on for this election, but neither side had made a prophecy. The excitement at the last became somewhat strong, for although Mr. M'Pherson was eighteen ahead at Casterton, he lost by thirteen in the Carapook quarter, and was landed a winner by only five votes. Both sides worked hard, but the "four voters" for M'Pherson assisted him in a stronger manner than was anticipated by his opponent. Considering that Mr. M'Pherson was quite a stranger to some of the Casterton people, and had not held an election meeting, he must have enjoyed the warm support of some who put faith in his qualities as a gentleman of business.

EDENHOPE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
August 12.

The usual excitement caused by the electioneering mania is now almost forgotten for another year. Our local artist has again been at work in our midst, much to the amusement of our otherwise dull township. Formerly our Council elections passed over in a very quiet and unpretending manner, but things seem to be taking a turn for the better among our community of late, and greater interest is felt in these matters; and, to enliven affairs, some unknown caricaturist has improved the present opportunity in supplying us with several grotesque likenesses of the three candidates, which were highly ludicrous, if not flattering to some.

Last Wednesday morning Mr. Hearne's men's hut was burnt to the ground, from what cause is uncertain. Three travellers slept in it, and they kindled a fire and retired to rest, not thinking that any danger would ensue, but when they awoke about three in the morning, their consternation may be imagined when they perceived the place in flames about them. Mr. Hearne blamed them for not giving the alarm in time to subdue the fire, but the poor fellows had sufficient to do in securing their own scanty paraphernalia, and decamp as speedily as possible, sufficiently bewildered, we may suppose, to think of nothing but their own safety. They were, nevertheless, given in charge, and placed in the lock-up, and brought before the magistrates on Thursday, but as nothing could be proved against them, they were accordingly discharged.

The weather forms the principal topic of conversation for every person we see and meet. Never have we seen such a continuation of wet. The ground is oversaturated everywhere, and water is seen to ooze out of every bank. Our lake has overflowed last week, and now pours its waters on the flats beyond, which present everywhere the appearance of so many inland seas. I am afraid the weather will be greatly against the forthcoming Apsley Pastoral Show. People cannot drive their stock thither now, owing to the state of the roads. Sheep will have to be conveyed in vehicles, which will necessarily reduce the number of exhibits.

The lambing in this district is now over, and the percentages are, on the whole, satisfactory, although not up to last year's. The severity of the weather has materially reduced them, yet we hear of 85, 87, and even 90 per cent., neither of which is altogether so dusty, if we take all obstacles into consideration.

PORTLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
August 12.

The terrible weather that prevailed during the latter part of last week caused some alarm to be felt for the safety of the steamers Western and Rob Roy. The former did not arrive in Melbourne until Friday, and the latter on Saturday, although they left here on Tuesday last. Their return trips are, consequently, considerably delayed. A very severe flood took place on Saturday and Sunday week at Hotepur, and some damage was done to the embankment near the culvert. However, a few men soon put matters to rights.

The following notice appears in *Engineering*, October 10th, 1872, amongst the notices of recent patents:—"(No. 1083).—William Robert Lake, of Southampton, buildings, patents as the agent of Spencer Ruding Deverell, of Mount Gambier, South Australia, some wonderful mechanical arrangements, by the aid of which the designer apparently hopes to be able to utilise wave power for the purpose of propelling vessels. We cannot spare space to describe these plans." I believe this is the Mr. Deverell who is now post and telegraph-master here.

The Turkish Empire is now getting her cargo of bark on board. She will take some 1500 tons, and a portion is brought round by steamer from Belfast, the new harbour formed there not apparently having sufficient depth of water for so large a vessel.

The only contest for the Borough takes place to-morrow, for the office of auditor. Three candidates are in the field. Messrs. Holmes and Levett are considered as likely to be returned. I am told that there is no truth in the rumour that Mr. Howarth, of Branxholme, will oppose Mr. W. Learmonth for the seat still remaining vacant in the Shire Council. The Council has, therefore, not been put to the expense, generally over £30, of a contest for the position of either auditor or councillor.

Mr. Duncan M'Eachern, of Kangaroo, has obtained a number of English fish from the Acclimatisation Society, for the purpose of placing in his lake near the home station. They are to arrive by the Rob Roy, and will be sent on immediately by express buggy to their destination. It is a pity no one takes sufficient interest in these matters to try and stock Darlot's Creek with English trout. A stream better adapted to such fish does not exist in the colony.

PARUPA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
August 12.

The state of the weather has now become a subject worn threadbare, by reason of its being always a general complaint of rain from all quarters, and no appearance of it clearing up; therefore, suffice it for me to say that we are in much the same mess with mud and wet as other districts. Friday and Saturday last were bitterly cold, and there was a fall of snow, for a change, which came down so steadily during the night at intervals, that the ground was covered with it in the morning.

The crops in the immediate vicinity of the township look healthy, so far as appearances go; but I very much fear, in cold, clayey, undrained lands, the reverse will be the case. However, no complaints have as yet reached my ears, but, then, the inclemency of the weather prevents one either from seeing any one concerning them, or from going abroad himself to obtain information.

Since I last wrote, a couple of meetings have been held with reference to a ploughing match, and it has been decided to hold one after the Streatham match, which is on the 20th inst., but the date has not yet been definitely fixed. In connection with this, I may state that Mr. Park, of this township, has succeeded in making a double as well as single furrow plough, and he intends them to take part in the match. The former is not yet quite completed, but the latter has had a satisfactory trial, and is pronounced A1. To look at them, one can hardly realise why parties should send to Melbourne for a plough when one can be made to order on the spot, and, perhaps, more trustworthy than one purchased in the open market. If the enterprise of Mr. Park be appreciated, no doubt he will give his attention to this department of his business, and be induced to turn his mechanical powers to the production of other agricultural implements.

The Shire elections passed off very tamely in this quarter—no excitement whatever being observable. Everybody had made up their minds to vote for the same man, hence the affair was very one-sided, Mr. Fitzgerald securing all the votes as councillor, and Mr. Flattley as auditor for the Shire. Twenty six votes were recorded in favour of the former, and twenty for the latter.

Notwithstanding the impassable state of the roads, it is pleasing to observe that the Ballarat and Hamilton coach is very punctual in the delivery of the mails, seldom or never being more than a quarter of an hour behind time. I fancy, if the opposition line had been running still, it would have found it rather tough work, and the light vehicles used would have stood a poor chance of getting to their destination in a sound condition.

To keep up the building mania in this quarter, the committee formed for erecting a Catholic Chapel are about to commence operations, tenders being already called for the same. Mr. Pitkethly is also putting up an addition to his premises, which he has converted into a publichouse; and Mr. Louisson is going to put up another store-room, together with some commodious stables, as soon as the weather clears up. As these buildings are all to be of stone, our little township will look quite compact when they are completed.

The Legislature appears to be going to make us all teetotallers by Act of Parliament. Whether the Permissive Bill—if passed—will work a remedy or not, it is hard to say; but I don't believe it will prevent any more drunkenness than there is at present, as people will have the "liquor that they love," in spite of all the legislation in the world. What is to prevent publicans from turning their houses into druggist's shops, when deprived of their legitimate business, and combine the selling of drugs with that of cordials? A man may get a prescription from a mutual friend for a decoction of P.B. or J.D.K.Z., and under its invigorating influence, will probably require another dose to bring him round again. Verily, I believe, the Permissive Bill will prove rather a benefit to the hotelkepers than otherwise, for they will be able to combine two businesses into one.

I am afraid the salt harvest will be a dead letter for some years to come to the people about here; for the lakes, from whence they obtained their supply, are so full now that there is very little probability of the water evaporating either this summer or the next. Messrs. M'Donald will, therefore, enjoy a monopoly of the trade. No doubt, when better means of communication are opened with the metropolis, this industry will flourish here, for there is any quantity of salt in the numerous lakes about, to pay working, and the article at present manufactured is equal to that imported.

We never hear anything now about the Grampian Gold Mining Company. I suppose their claim has turned out a "duffer." It is strange how people rush to a place if a sign of gold is found, and then go lamenting their folly. However, as nobody would be wise unless somebody were foolish, for it is the latter go where the former fear to tread, and pave the rugged way for them; so, in like manner, I wonder whether any one would prospect for gold in this locality, and so bring five or six hundred diggers about it. That gold does exist, and that not very far from the township, there is not a shadow of a doubt, for I saw some pieces of quartz the other day, which had been picked up, with the precious metal clearly discernible in them. As the stones were found lying on the surface, there is no saying what might be hidden underneath it. When conversing with the finder of the specimen, I was rather startled at his expressing his firm conviction that coal would be found within thirty miles of here; but as the locality was not disclosed, I am quite in the dark as to its whereabouts. Who knows but what we may become a great city yet!

LETTER FROM FIJI.

The following account of a trip to Fiji has been placed at our disposal:—

"Suva, Viti Levu, Fiji, 30th June, 1872.

"We had a long passage of five weeks, having a succession of head winds, and though the "Prince of Wales" was within thirty miles of Suva, we had to put in to Levuka, some fifty miles distant. As the ship would be detained some days discharging cargo, the captain dispatched the passengers by the "Pride of Viti" steamer, a small boat built on the Rewa, and trading between there and Levuka. We had, fortunately, fine weather, but the machinery was always getting out of gear. However, we got along from Ovalau, passing numbers of small islands. The once captain, now Major Fitzgerald, is training some 400 or 500 on an island (the Government prison island) that takes care of all bad characters. It has a perfect forest of cocoanut trees. Many other islands we passed, after which we entered the River Rewa, ran up some eighteen miles, and remained for the night, the banks teeming with the richest vegetation. The grass and reeds were growing with the greatest luxuriance, and the sugar-cane was twenty and thirty feet high. The natives from the various villages welcomed us as we passed, as a steamer in these waters is a novelty. The banks are low, and the natives are making raised roadways. The Rewa has many mouths. We kept inside the breakers, made round Nesoci (the Hill of Fools), and landed at Suva at 12 o'clock, which is the far end of the Bay, protected by the breakers and coral reefs from all winds. We met a great many old friends to welcome us to this land. The river Nimbukui, which the tide runs up to the Falls, some two or three miles, is alongside the town, and a bridge over it was only finished yesterday. A vessel of 400 tons can safely lie out in the Bay half a mile off. In a few days the "Prince of Wales" arrived, and what a carrying we had of cargo, for the boats landed the goods a stone's throw from the house. We are only 200 or 300 yards from the township, where are stores, hotel, steam saw-mill, ginning mills for separating the seeds of cotton from the fibre, boat-builders, shoemakers, &c. We felt the weather warmer the first day or two, but it did not prevent us knocking about—only we go about here any way—barefooted if you like. The thermometer ranges about 70deg., but there is always a pleasant breeze or wind, and what I have seen of the climate I like; it is much cooler than Levuka. We have plenty of out-door work. You perspire freely, but you never wear, whilst working, anything but trousers, shirt, hat, and boots. The soil varies, but it is generally excellent. Pumpkins are now running that I sowed weeks after the landing. There is a green verdure everywhere, and fruits, vegetables, and fish in the greatest quantities. Cocoa-nuts (the drink from a green one is delicious) grow in great profusion; also taro, a splendid vegetable the size of a large potato; yams, sweet potatoes, &c. I cannot number the many fruits—the bananas in any quantity are growing everywhere about the place, also the Mami—or Ninita—like an immense fig, wild figs, oranges, citrous, lemons, &c., meet you everywhere. We have growing in the garden some sixty or an hundred pine-apples, and nothing needs tending, only it is necessary to kill weeds. We have lots of maize now ripening, three crops a year; oils, nutmeg, and all the component requirements for making curry.

"There are lots of old friends all along the coast; some think nothing of coming twenty or forty miles in their boats, bare-footed. The cotton crop is nearly secured; and from the experiments made in crushing the cane and making sugar, great results are anticipated. Mr. Brewer is going to fit up a manufactory from Melbourne, and his partner, Mr. Jenke, proceeds there for that purpose.

"There are all sorts of people here, and one who has money will do well, that is, if he has a good friend here to advise with. There is a tariff now passed, and two cents per acre are charged on cultivated land. Everything here is in its infantine state. I saw splendid fat cattle on the Rewa. It is not everywhere you can see horses, as there is so much broken country. We are close to a native village. Wages, 2s a week; we have a cook at that rate, and he does well.

"Young ladies here are at a premium, and at least fifty could find excellent husbands; for many a planter would gladly welcome English or colonial girls, and give them comfortable homes. I know many in the colonies, did they but know—as I do—the advantages and comforts of a Fijian home, would soon be here. Get some of your friends to publish these facts.

"The labour question is receiving the attention of the Government. An accredited agent has been sent to the Strait settlement, and the demand has been so great that at least 10,000 labourers would find immediate employment. A movement of this sort will at once put a stop to the so-called slave trade. The season has passed over without a blow, and the consequence is the cotton crop and other productions are the largest ever known. There are no less than twenty settlers in Suva who were once neighbours on the Murray.

KOWREE SHIRE COUNCIL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

At the usual monthly meeting of the above Council, held at Harrow on Wednesday last, there were present the President, and Crs. Broughton, Edgar, Smith, and W. G. Laidlaw.

An Edenhope ratepayer complained by letter of certain excavations near his property made by road-makers, and wished the same filled in.—After some inquiries as to the amount of rates paid by the complaining ratepayer, the Engineer was instructed to report upon the matter.

A communication from Melbourne, upon the recondite subject of "Street tramways," was received.

The City of Ballarat requested the co-operation of the Council in obtaining increased borrowing facilities in an Amending Bill.—The Council declined to co-operate, being quite satisfied with their present borrowing powers.

A communication from the Registrar-General's department—enclosing census returns, showing the birth-places of the people, their conjugal condition, and other voluminous, if not interesting details—was carefully put on one side by the Clerk for future reference.

A programme relating to the London International Exhibition was received, but it was not decided whether the Kowree Council should be represented at South Kensington next year or not.

The District Board of Towong, having headquarters at Tintaldra, being dissatisfied with the present voting-power of property, wished an alteration in the law. It an owner of property paying £100 per annum had six votes, instead of four as at present, the District Board of Towong would be satisfied. Cr. Edgar agreed with them. Cr. Laidlaw would prefer an intelligence qualification, to be tested by competitive examinations. Cr. Broughton dissented from this view, as such a test would give more trouble than the present one.—It was finally resolved that the District Board of Towong should be supported in their reforming efforts.

The Central Board of Health enclosed regulations for the prevention of small-pox, and it was decided that a sharp look-out should be kept, and if the disease made its appearance in the neighbourhood, the Council would use its utmost endeavours to stamp it out. It was pointed out by one of the Councillors that numbers of travellers were coming up the country, thus increasing the danger. A report from the Board of Health did not look inviting, and being apparently heavy reading, the Council was mercifully spared the infliction, and the report was quietly shelved.

Mr. MacBain's letter informed the Council that £631 1s 7d was the amount of endowment for Kowree on the Estimates.—The Council resolved to try for more.

Mr MacBain also intimated that the prayer of the Telegraph petition had been refused by the powers that be.

This finished the month's batch of correspondence.

The Engineer now submitted his monthly bulletin, and did a tale unfold as to the state of the roads, progress of the contracts, &c.

The sum for day labour for the month amounted to £35 17s.

Cr. Laidlaw criticised the latter item, on the ground that the whole amount had been spent on one pet road. He thought the continual payments on account of this road were becoming somewhat monotonous, and hoped they would soon cease, so that other parts might be attended to.

The tender of C. Shrive, £236 18s 6d, for 76 chains of gravelling and making on the north-east road was accepted.

Payments were passed, and some notices of motion handed in.

An edifying dispute between a ratepayer and the Shire Engineer, with reference to a rate of 8s, which the indignant ratepayer alleged he had been charged twice—a statement stoutly denied by the official—terminated the proceedings.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

MOUNT ROUSE SHIRE ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Hamilton Spectator.

SIR,—I observe that Mr. Hinneberg has published a notice in the *Spectator*, contradicting a statement made by me at the late election, at Penshurst, that he had informed me that he was offered £30 by Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Haugh, if he would bring forward a candidate to oppose me at the late election. In reply, I desire to remark that Mr. Hinneberg certainly did make that statement to me, on the Penshurst race-course. There are one or more persons standing by who heard it also, but I cannot remember who they were; and I will be thankful to them if they see this letter, and favour me with their names. I am not in the habit of making and circulating false reports about my neighbours, as those who are acquainted with me for many years well know.

I remain, yours truly,
TERRENCE O'BRIEN.

Penshurst, 10th August.

HAMILTON LAND BOARD.

To the Editor of the Hamilton Spectator.

SIR,—Looking over your report of the last Hamilton Land Board, I was greatly amused to see that an allotment of my purchased land was "recommended" to Archibald Malcolm. The allotment alluded to was allotated from the Crown in June, last. Now, sir, I think that if Government officers were to attend to the duties of their office for which they are paid, instead of pointing out eligible allotments for selection at land boards, without being asked—as was the case on Monday, such blunders would not be likely to occur. Of course, I do not anticipate any danger of losing the land, although recommended by a Hamilton Land Board.

I remain, yours truly,
D. M'EACHERN.

Kangaroo, 9th August, 1872.

SUBMARINE CABLES.

To the Editor of the Hamilton Spectator.

SIR,—An argument has lately been carried on between a few individuals relative to Submarine Telegraphic Cables, the writer maintaining that, they are laid, and do rest, on the bottom or bed of the ocean, no matter what depth; the others firmly maintaining they do not in all cases touch the bottom; that beyond a certain depth the cable does not, and cannot, sink; neither is it necessary that it should, the buoyancy of the water at a considerable depth floating the cable, and relieving all strain as much as though resting on the ground.

Now, Sir, will you be kind enough to give us the benefit of your knowledge upon the subject, as your decision will in all probability settle the question in dispute?

I am, Sir, yours most respectfully,
ENQUIRER.

Hamilton, 9th August, 1872.

[There are not many parts of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans where the depth is so great that soundings cannot be taken, and the probability is that the inequalities below the water-line correspond in some degree with those above it—that is to say, that the deepest sea-bottom will not be very much deeper than the highest mountains. Theoretically we have heard it maintained, that the lateral pressure of water at a certain considerable depth must be so great that even a solid piece of iron would float, but naturalists who have discovered that the deep sea bottom is the habitat of the most delicate organisms in the way of marine creatures, insist that the floating of heavy substances, by experiment, cannot be under it is a tale for the marines. The telegraphic cables for the most part rest in shallow bottoms, and the various routes have been chosen, partly with a view of the wire so reposing. Some portions no doubt are held in suspension, in short or moderate lengths from reef to reef, and the light specific gravity of the gutta percha envelope surrounding the wire prevents any great strain on the cable.—ED. *H. S.*]

PORTLAND RAILWAY.

To the Editor of the Hamilton Spectator.

SIR,—Allow me to correct a mis-statement which appears in your paper of Saturday last. Quoting from the *Mount Gambier Standard*, you say that "The Portland Railway Deputation informed the Victorian Government the other day, that during the past season 5,000 bales of wool went across the Border from Victoria *viâ* Lacepede Bay; and that the official returns show that only 2,100 bales were shipped from that port this season." The Portland Deputation never made the statement referred to. What they did say, was that 5,000 bales of Victorian wool were sent last season "through different South Australian ports" without specifying any one in particular. Nearly all the wool would be sent through Port Macdonnell and Guichen Bay, and very little through Lacepede Bay. When the contemplated railway to that place from Narracoorte is made it will be very different, and we may then expect the whole trade of the Wimmera District to pass through Lacepede Bay.

Yours truly,
P.

Portland, 12th August, 1872.

[Our report of the interview of the deputation was copied from the *Age*, and runs as follows:—"It was stated that at present, in consequence of the extension of the South Australian railway to Narracoorte and Lacepede Bay, a great deal of the trade of the Western district was going that way. During the past season 5000 bales of wool went across the border from Victoria by this route, and of course the supplies for the various stations came the same way." The other Melbourne papers had a similar account, so that if there is any mistake it is neither the *Mount Gambier Standard*, nor ourselves, that are responsible for it.—ED. *H. S.*]

THE STAFF OF LIFE.

To the Editor of the Hamilton Spectator.

SIR,—I see that the price of the 4-lb. loaf in Melbourne has fallen from 8d to 7d, and would like to know why the Hamilton bakers continue to charge 8d. Flour I observe, according to the latest market reports, is quoted at £13 at Hamilton, and £16 10s in Melbourne; therefore bread ought to be lower in price here than in Melbourne, instead of being higher.

The smallest rise in flour is sold by the bakers sufficient to justify the addition of a penny to the price of the loaf, but they are not so ready to make a reduction.

Yours truly, HOUSEKEEPER.

Hamilton, 12th August.

A mob of cattle seriously affected by pleuro-pneumonia crossed the Murray a few days ago at Tocumwal, going toward the Western district. Numbers of the cattle have died and considerable alarm is felt on the stations the diseased mob crossed.

THE PERMISSIVE BILL.

The following verses by Lord Neaves, one of the judges of the Scotch Court of Session, will be read with interest at the present time:—

THE PERMISSIVE BILL.
A NEW SONG.

"Pray, what is this Permissive Bill,
That some folks rave about?
I can't, with all my pains and skill,
It's meaning quite make out."
Oh! it's a little simple Bill,
That seeks to pass incog.,
To permit me—to prevent you—
From having a glass of grog.
Yes, it's a little simple Bill, &c.

If I'm a Quaker, sly and dry,
Or Presbyterian sour,
And look on all with jaundiced eye
Who love a joyous hour,
O! here I've my Permissive Bill,
You naughty boys to flog,
And permit me—to prevent you—
From having a glass of grog.
O yes, I have my little Bill, &c.

If I have wealth or means enough
To import a pipe of wine:
While you a glass of humbler stuff
Must purchase when you dine:
O! then I use my little Bill,
While wetting well my prog,
To permit me—to prevent you—
From buying a glass of grog.
O! yes, I use my little Bill, &c.

If I'm a fogie quite used up,
And laid upon the shelf,
Who grudge that you still dine and sup,
As I was wont myself;
Then I bring out my pretty Bill,
To impose a little clog,
And permit me—to prevent you—
From having a glass of grog.
Yes, I bring out my pretty Bill, &c.

If you can drink a sober drop,
While I the bottle drain;
And as I don't know when to stop,
I'm ordered to "abstain."
O! then I've my Permissive Bill,
Since I'm a worthless dog,
To permit me—to prevent you—
Enjoying a glass of grog.
O! yes, I've my Permissive Bill, &c.

"However well a man behaves,
Life's pleasures must he lose,
Because a lot of fools or knaves
Dislike them or abuse."
O! yes, and soon a bigger Bill,
Will go the total hog,
And permit me—to prevent you—
Having mirth as well as grog.

Chorus—O! yes, a big Permissive Bill,
Will go the total hog,
And permit me—to prevent you—
Having liberty, mirth, or grog.

WANTED a WOMAN as COOK and LAUNDRESS; also a HOUSEMAID. Apply to Mrs. Austin, Brisbane Hill.

WANTED Employment by a STRONG BOY, aged 15; would hind to a trade, or be useful on a station. Wages 5s per week and keep. Apply care of John H. Scott, Gray-street, Hamilton.

WANTED.—Prime BACON and HAMS thoroughly CURED and SMOKED. JAMES FULTON, Gray-street, Hamilton.

DENTISTRY.

MR. C. FAWSSETT will be in attendance at PILVEN'S COMMERCIAL HOTEL, HAMILTON, on THURSDAY.

DENTISTRY.

MR. F. WILLIAMSON, Surgeon Dentist, will visit BRANXHOLME on TUESDAY, 20th August, and may be consulted at GOUGH'S HOTEL; and WEDNESDAY, 21st August, at BRAYSHAY'S V