

THE ASSIZES.  
[BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE, NEEDHAM.]

MONDAY, Feb. 26.  
The Court of Assize was opened yesterday morning at 10 o'clock by His Lordship the Chief Justice. In the side benches were Mayor Franklin; A. F. Pemberton, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate; Thomas Harris, Esq., J. P.; W. A. Franklin, Esq., J. P.  
The following gentlemen were sworn on the Grand Jury: Messrs. Kenneth McKenzie, (Foreman) J. G. Shepherd, D. M. Lang, James Roscoe, H. R. Y. Pocock, J. M. Reid, G. I. Stuart, J. Robertson Stewart, T. L. Stahl-schmidt, W. M. Searby, John Banks, Chas. R. Thompson, James Bissett, G. J. Findlay, J. W. Davies, A. R. Green, W. H. Huskinson, B. Barnett, M. T. Johnson, W. H. Huskinson.

His Lordship addressed the Grand Jury briefly on their duties, and the grave cases which would come before them. The jury then retired.  
The Grand Jury brought in true bills in all the cases brought before them, as follows:—Ilhanset, an Indian, shooting and killing, (Thorndike case); William and Francis Ross; highway robbery; Seal Hampton, Indian, wilful murder; James Brown, D. Watson, H. J. Robinson, and W. E. Andrews, for creating an affray in the Occidental Saloon; Mattie Rosid, sodomy; Andrew Patrick, attempt at sodomy; Ah Mosey and Ah King, receiving stolen goods; Ah Keon, theft; Long Pang, perjury; Wm. Goldsworthy, stabbing; and—Coldwell, manslaughter.

The following report was presented by the Grand Jury:  
The Grand Jury respectfully present their regret that such a heavy calendar has just been before them, so soon after the last assize, and view with concern the existing prevalence of crime, as well as the insecurity of life and property.

They cannot but regard the police force as inadequate to the wants of the colony and fear that unless some addition to its working power is made there is reason to apprehend an increase rather than a diminution in the amount of crime. K. McENZIE, Foreman.

The business of the Court was then gone on with as follows:

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.  
*Regina vs. Francis and Wm. Ross*—Robbery on the highways, accompanied by violence.

The prisoners were indicted for assaulting a Chinaman named Ah Chung on the 9th January last on the highway, about two miles out of town, and stealing from his person a sum of \$51 in gold dust and a pair of shoes.

Mr. McCreight, instructed by Mr. Courtney, defended the prisoners.

The Attorney General having given the jury a brief outline of the case called the Chinaman Ah Chung who, through an interpreter, confirmed the statement of oath made by him at the preliminary enquiry in the Police Court, and swore distinctly that the prisoner Francis Ross, who was drunk, struck him on the head with a bottle, and immediately afterwards he saw William Ross rolling up his (the Chinaman's) belt containing the gold-dust. His shoes were in the men's presence, and at the attack the Chinaman proceeded to the Oaklands Hotel near by, leaving the men on the same spot.

*Aime Le Claire* deposed that he heard a noise; saw the Chinaman running up who told him he had been robbed by three men of his shoes, hat and gold dust, pointing out to witness in the distance the three men, two of whom he recognized as the prisoners whom he had just before seen at the Oaklands drinking.

*Sergeant Wilmer* proved that he overheard William Ross relating in a house on Humboldt street the whole circumstances of the robbery, which coincided with the previous evidence, excepting that he fixed the theft of the shoes on the third man, Gomian, and denied all knowledge of the gold dust.

The statement of the prisoner William Ross was bandied in and proved.  
Mr. McCreight addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner at some length, and His Lordship having delivered his charge the jury retired for a few minutes and brought in a verdict of guilty against the two prisoners on the first count, recommending them to mercy.

His Lordship said he quite coincided in the verdict, and the recommendation should have its due weight; he discharged the jury until Tuesday at 10 a.m.

The prisoners were removed, sentence being reserved.

LARCENY.  
*Regina vs. Ah Keon, Ah King, and Ah Mosey*—Larceny.

The prisoners, who are Chinese, were charged with stealing some jewelry from premises, on Trounce Alley, the property of one Sophie Colombe.

The Attorney General entered a *nolle prosequi* against the two last named prisoners.

A fresh jury was empanelled, with Mr. Redfern as foreman.  
Mr. McCreight, instructed by Mr. Bishop, defended the prisoners and informed the Court that as the charge was withdrawn against the two last named prisoners he was instructed to plead guilty to the charge, on behalf of Ah Keon and would ask His Lordship, in consideration of the theft having been investigated by another Chinaman who had left for the Sandwiches.

His Lordship—What, the Doctor? the medical gentleman!  
Mr. McCreight said the prosecutrix wished to recommend the prisoner to mercy, and would give him a good character. He therefore asked for a light sentence.

Sophie Colombe was then examined as to the prisoner's character.

The Attorney General remarked that it was a difficult thing to distinguish between good Chinamen and bad Chinamen, and he drew the attention of the Court to the frequent occurrence of similar crimes of late. One of the diamond rings stolen had cost \$45 in San Francisco.

His Lordship said he was disposed to give due consideration to the good character and recommendation given by the prosecutrix,

but at the same time persons who transgressed the laws of the country must be punished.

The prisoners, Ah King and Ah Mosey, were then told by His Lordship that they had suffered a narrow escape of severe punishment and must take care not to appear before him again. Ah Keon was held for sentence.

THE OCCIDENTAL EMBERT.

Daniel Watson, Henry J. Robinson, William E. Andrews, and James Brown, were arraigned on an indictment charging them: First, with assaulting, beating, ill-treating, and inflicting bodily harm on the person of John Gordon Vinter. Secondly, with common assault. Thirdly, with being assembled together at the Occidental Saloon to commit an affray.

A jury was empanelled with Mr. A. Wilson as foreman.  
Mr. McCreight instructed by Mr. Courtney defended the prisoner Brown, who was out on bail. The other prisoners were undefended.

The Crown prosecutor having made a few remarks on the case, called

*John Gordon Vinter* sworn—Am adjutant and lieutenant of the Volunteer Corps, and am otherwise a gentleman of no employment. Remember being in the Occidental Saloon at 3 o'clock in the morning, in company with Mr. Tronson and Mr. Plummer. Tronson and I were playing cards, Mr. Plummer was looking on. The barkeeper, Peter Gargotich, was present while we were so engaged.

Several persons, four of whom I recognize as the prisoners at the bar, entered the saloon. They first went to the bar and then came to the end of the room where we were sitting, and approached the table. One of them placing his hand on my shoulder offered to back my hand. He pulled out several \$20 pieces. I told him I could play my own game, and did not want to have anything to do with him. Immediately afterwards my gloves were knocked off the table by some one, and as I stooped to pick them up a box of matches was thrown at me from the other side of the table. Mr. Plummer made some remark to the man Watson, who threw the matches, and pushed him away. The latter raised a chair threatening to knock his brains out. While I was looking at this I was assaulted from behind and struck a severe blow on the side of the head which knocked me down, and I hardly remember what occurred afterwards. I did not see the man who struck the blow; but from the position consider it was Brown. I remember being kicked and knelt or jumped upon on the chest. I was kicked on the head by the same man, and received blows in my head and face while down. Part of my whiskers were doing. I cannot say what the others were doing. I only recognize the face of one man (Robinson) from having seen him on the street. My nose was cut. I had a large cut on the back of my head, two black eyes, and an injury in the chest that caused me to spit blood. I was not in a condition to remember when the affray ceased, but was perfectly sober.

Cross-examined by Mr. McCreight—Brown placed his hand gently on my shoulder when he offered to bet on my hand; Plummer pushed the man Watson away when he threw the matches at me; he was a little excited; I had my sword on at the time; I placed my left hand on to rise, but did not do it aggressively; I did not feel the effects of the injuries, but the black eye was inconvenient for some time.

*Robert Plummer* sworn—Was present on the occasion referred to when five or six men entered the Occidental. I saw one of them partly sit on the table and pull out some \$20 pieces, offering to back Mr. Vinter's play. I was standing with my back to the fire. They talked and interlarded with the game, and a box of matches was thrown at Mr. Vinter. I then interfered myself and pushed the man away who threw it. He raised a chair overhead with both hands and ran at me. He dropped the chair and struck me with his fist. Another man then got hold of the top of an iron spittoon and threatened to strike me with it. Having nothing in my hand I ran to the other end of the room, when I returned at the right hand side of the billiard tables to the spot the parties passed by the left and went down stairs. I went to Mr. Vinter and washed and dressed his wounds; while so engaged the barkeeper returned with the police; one of the men, I returned and saw, stepped behind Mr. Vinter and drew his sword, which he held in a threatening manner.

Mr. McCreight asked a few questions in cross-examination.  
*Peter Gargotich* sworn—Recognized the four prisoners as having been in the Occidental saloon on the occasion referred to. Gillespie and Knox were also present; I refused to give them drinks because I thought they were rough and not the right sort of men to give drinks to, and that they meant to kick up a row. Brown said if I did not give them the drinks they would go and help themselves; to avoid a row I went behind the bar and gave them drinks; Brown took out some \$20 pieces to pay for the drinks; I took six bits and went down stairs to put out the light; on coming up I heard fighting and saw Capt. Vinter on the ground being beaten by Brown, who was kneeling on his breast. Mr. Plummer and Mr. Tronson were near Vinter trying to protect him, but could not do so because there were so many men. Four of the men took hold of billiard cues and said if I came an inch further they would smash my brains out. Andrews had Mr. Vinter's sword in his hand and said if I moved an inch further he would cut me in two. Instead of being out in two I went for the police.

Prisoner Watson—Did you see me with a billiard cue in my hand?  
Witness—I did. You were on the side where Mr. Vinter was.

To Robinson—I know you were in the room; you had a drink; I saw you afterwards near the large looking-glass.

*Edward Tronson* confirmed the statements of the previous witnesses; the prisoners seemed as if they wanted to get up a row; Vinter, when Mr. Plummer showed him away and he ran at Plummer with a chair; Vinter was in the act of rising when the matches were thrown. The next thing I saw of him he was on the floor and Brown on top of him and pounding him. One of the men drew Mr. Vinter's sword and threat-

ened to run anybody through who attempted to interfere between Brown and the latter; I tried to get the sword but did not succeed; two or three others had hold of billiard cues. The sword was afterwards thrown on the floor; the row lasted about 5 minutes. I recognize Brown and Watson, but not the other two.

To prisoner Watson—I did not see you with a cue in your hand after the row commenced; could not say whether you were on that side where the fighting was going on.

To prisoner Robinson—Could not say whether you had hold of a cue.

Robert Plummer recalled—Replied to two or three questions from the prisoners.  
Peter Gargotich recalled—Was questioned by the Court as to whether any restrictions were imposed on Houses of Entertainment as to hours of closing.

The Attorney-General explained the circumstances under which it had not been considered advisable to place any restrictions as to hours of closing, except on Sundays.

His Honor remarked that in England they must close at midnight, that being considered a reasonable hour, and anything beyond that tending to disturb the public peace.

Mr. McCreight—The English Act applies here too.

This closed the case for the prosecution.  
Mr. McCreight suggested to the Court that there was no evidence to go to a jury under the third count of an affray. The disturbance took place up stairs.

His Honor concurred in this view, and so informed the jury.

Mr. McCreight then addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner Brown, reviewing the evidence and urging upon the jury, although he could not insult them by saying that Brown was present and took part in the disturbance or that the conduct of the parties was unjustifiable, to consider the lateness of the hour and the fact that Plummer was the first to push one of the party, and that Vinter had, according to his own statement, placed his hand upon his sword, both of which were construed as aggressive acts, and led to the subsequent encounter, when Vinter, no doubt emboldened by his sword, fell to the ground.

His Lordship, in summing up, told the jury before they could find the prisoners guilty on the joint charge, they must find that they entered the premises with the intention of concerted action, but they might still find the parties severally or separately guilty. The only thing was whether they considered that the evidence established that Mr. Vinter suffered bodily harm from the assault committed upon him. His Lordship designated the treatment of Vinter as most cowardly and brutal, an act that no mannerism or rudeness men could justify, and thought that as reasonable men they could not but find that he had sustained grievous bodily harm. The injury to the chest, which caused him to spit blood, might have produced the greatest misery in after years. The next thing, then, was who committed that assault? Against Brown there was the clearest evidence, and against the other three it was inferentially as against that they were aiding and abetting. His Lordship pointed out to the jury the different modes in which they could render their verdict under the separate counts against the prisoners.

The prisoners who were not defended were told that they might address the jury.  
Watson said it was his first offence in the colony, and he had been here five years. He had already suffered six weeks' imprisonment, and it was quite by accident that he went into the saloon. He was invited to go up and take a drink and did so. When he was pushed by Plummer he acted in self-defence and had no hand in the affray or committing an assault. He had never been before a magistrate or judge, or been imprisoned before.

Robinson said he was passing by and was asked by Brown to go up and take a drink. After drinking he went down stairs to bed and saw nothing of the fight. He was not in the saloon two minutes.

Andrews said he did not go into the saloon with the intention of making a row. He was invited up stairs by Brown to drink. It was his first offence, and not his habit, and he hoped the gentlemen of the jury would look upon it so. He had been six weeks in prison.

His Lordship told the jury in placing their estimate upon the statements made to disregard the imprisonment already suffered, as that was for the Court alone to consider. They must confine themselves to determine eye or no the guilt of all or any of the prisoners.

The jury, after being absent for three quarters of an hour, came into Court with a verdict of guilty against Brown under first and second counts, and guilty against the other three under the second count also on this (Tuesday) morning.

To-day the following cases will be tried: Long Pang, for perjury; Dick, for theft; Charles Coldwell, manslaughter.

SECOND DAY.

*Regina vs. Coldwell, for Manslaughter*—This was a charge preferred against Charles Coldwell, a settler of Cowichan, for assaulting a man named William Cooper, and with a gun feloniously, wilfully and of malice aforethought inflicting a mortal wound upon the forehead of the said William Cooper, from the effects of which he died.

A plea of not guilty having been recorded, a jury was empanelled with Mr. Alex. Gray as foreman.

Mr. Ring appeared for the defence.  
The Attorney General having given the jury an outline of the case, called as witnesses Messrs. Samuel Harris, Charles Jordan, W. Darge, and John Mahoney, from whose evidence it appeared that the accused and deceased were at Harris' Inn, Cowichan, on the 20th December, when a dispute arose between them relative to a canoe that Cooper had been the means of breaking, and the well, when Coldwell knocked him down but Cooper was somewhat the worse for liquor. About twenty minutes afterwards Coldwell wanted Cooper to make friends and take a drink with him. Cooper refused, and while Coldwell was proceeding to the bar raised a gun that was placed to dry against the fire-place and fired at the latter. The powder being damp the charge fortunately had no power, and the shot only penetrated Coldwell's clothes and scratched his back. He

immediately turned round, and fearing that Cooper was about to fire the second barrel at him, seized hold of the gun and in the struggle the cock struck Cooper in the forehead and inflicted a severe wound which, according to Dr. Davie, jr's, evidence, pressed on the brain, rupturing some internal vessel, producing apoplexy and subsequent death.

Mr. Ring made a most able and telling address to the jury on behalf of the accused, upon which he was highly complimented by the judge; and his Lordship having summed up and placed the jury's duty clearly before them, they retired for a few minutes and rendered a verdict of "justifiable homicide," Coldwell was thereupon discharged.

OFFENCES ON THE HIGH SEAS.

*Regina vs. Mat Rosid and Andrew Patricio, Sodomy*—The prisoners, two Greek seamen belonging to the Princess Royal, were charged the first with committing and the latter with attempting to commit unnatural offences on the high seas. After hearing the evidence of two intelligent boys named Geo. Alex. Coles and Michael Joseph O'Brien and of Captain Marshall, the jury found the prisoners guilty, and sentence of death was recorded against Rosid to be commuted to penal servitude at Her Majesty's pleasure, and Patricio was sentenced to two years hard labor.

PERJURY.

*Regina vs. Ah Pang*—The prisoner, a stupid looking Celestial, was charged with wilful and corrupt perjury. The particulars of this case have already been published.

Mr. Green, at the request of the Court, undertook the defence.

Mr. S. Green, Mr. Courtney and other witnesses were examined.

THIRD DAY.

MURDER.

*Regina vs. Seal Hampton*—Mr. Ring defended the prisoner, who was acquitted by the jury and discharged.

STABBING AND WOUNDING.

*Regina vs. Wm. Goldsworthy*—Cutting and wounding W. Trestrail, &c. The particulars of this case have been several times before the public of late. A jury was empanelled, with Mr. Beeman as foreman. The accused, who pleaded not guilty, was defended by Mr. Ring, instructed by Mr. Bishop. After hearing what evidence was adduced on the part of the Crown and the addresses of counsel, His Lordship put the case strongly to the jury against the prisoner. After being absent for about half an hour the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

His Lordship discharged Goldsworthy but had the jury found a different verdict it would have been his duty in the interests of society and the protection of the peace to have inflicted a severe punishment.

ROBBERY.

*Regina vs. Dick*—The prisoner, who is a Natanamo Indian, of a notoriously bad character, was charged with robbing the premises of Wm. Biggs, at Nasaimeo, and stealing property to the value of \$40.

The prosecutor and Sergeant Blake were examined, the officer giving the prisoner a bad character, and the jury having found him guilty without leaving the box, his Lordship sentenced him to three years' imprisonment with hard labor.

THE THORNDIKE MURDER.

*Regina vs. Ilhasset and Quamish*—The Attorney General was not prepared to proceed with this case owing to the absence of a material witness and for other causes, and applied to the court for a remand.

His Lordship dismissed one of the Indians, who was only held as a necessary witness, and said that the case being a very serious one, involving the cool and deliberate murder of a white man, he should entertain an application founded on affidavits.

THE OCCIDENTAL EMBERT.

The four prisoners, James Brown, Daniel Watson, Wm. E. Andrews, and Henry E. Robinson, were called up for sentence.  
His Lordship, addressing the first named prisoner, said:—The jury had found the prisoner guilty on a count charging him with an assault and doing grievous bodily harm to one of his fellow men. The court had carefully and anxiously weighed all the circumstances of the case to see if there was anything that would be held out in mitigation of the sentence. It should pronounce, but it could find none. The act of which the prisoner stood convicted was a brutal one, and there were no extenuating circumstances as regarded him (Brown). The punishment which the Court was about to award was not directed against the prisoner individually, but through him to others, in order to protect this community and to preserve that peace of mind so necessary to its well being. So long as offending persons were subject to such brutal attacks as had been committed on the person of Mr. Vinter, there was no longer any security to the public.

His Lordship then sentenced Brown to two years' imprisonment with hard labor.

His Lordship then addressing the prisoner Watson said:—This prisoner had also been found guilty, but of the lesser offence of common assault not coupled with grievous bodily harm. Although the offence was of a lighter character, still it bordered closely on the same offence for which James Brown had been punished. It was clear that they were all out together for effecting some common purpose, when the brutal outrage was effected on John Gordon Vinter. In looking at the acts committed that applied to the prisoner, the Court would not be doing his duty if it did not visit the offence with some severity. It was the prisoner who defended Brown. It was his hand that raised the chair and threatened to dash out the brains of one of the persons present.

Watson was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labor.

Addressing the prisoner Andrews, His Lordship said he had carefully looked over the evidence, and considered how it bore upon him (the prisoner) in respect to riotous conduct, and found it was much the same with him as with Watson. The latter was taken from a chair Andrews did with a sword threatened to run any one through with that sort, but rather added to it.

The prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labor.

Addressing Robinson, His Lordship said that he was unable to find in the evidence anything that bore upon any distinct act committed by the prisoner upon Vinter or Plummer, but he was there and aided the assailants instead of defending Vinter. Although there was not a violent act shown, the court was bound to pass a sentence that would operate as a warning, and taking into consideration the six weeks already passed in prison, the sentence of the court was that the prisoner be imprisoned, without hard labor, for 15 days.

THE HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

Francis and William Ross were next called up, and His Lordship addressing them said: The jury in this case on the clearest possible testimony had found them guilty of highway robbery and stealing from the person. There were facts connected with this case which, but for the manner in which the indictment was framed, would have placed the prisoners in the position of forfeiting their lives, because it is in addition to robbing from the person there was personal violence offered the statute so provided. In this case it was shown that the Chinaman was violently struck on the head. The attack was a most brutal one, and the only extenuation offered was that it was a drunken frolic. Although the Court was anxious to consider well what would operate in favor of the prisoners, it could discover nothing to extend them to mercy, and although the Court itself was unable to see sufficient ground for that recommendation—for a more brutal act, and one more detestable, for the interests of the community, it is suppressed it could not conceive—still, in deference to the recommendation of the jury, which it always respected, it would pass a less severe sentence than it would otherwise have done. The prisoners were liable to 15 years penal servitude, and but for the recommendation of the jury the Court would have seen no reason to pass a less severe sentence. Considering, however, that recommendation, and with a hope that it would act beneficially as a warning to others, the sentence of the Court was that the prisoners Francis and William Ross be sent to penal servitude for five years.

LARCENY.

Ah Keon, the Chinaman who pleaded guilty to having stolen jewelry from the premises of his mistress, Sophie Colombe, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. His Lordship remarking that the sentence was mitigated in consequence of the prisoner's mistress, who was the party most aggrieved, having strongly recommended him to mercy and given him a good character, a consideration should always be taken into consideration.

His Lordship then thanked the jurors for their services and dismissed them.

NEW ZEALAND.

Parliament was prorogued on the 13th of October. The Stafford Ministry is in office. Expenditure reduced Revenue improving. The West Coast gold field returns are fast increasing.

The friendly natives have gallantly aided in suppressing the native insurgents, and 106 Hau-Hau fanatics had surrendered and taken the oath of allegiance.

LOSS OF THE BARK ELLA FRANCES.—The bark Ella Frances, Captain Hull, from Puget Sound, with 200,000 feet of lumber and 90 piles, consigned to A. P. R. Glidden, sailed from Port Orchard, January 4th. During the first part of the passage she had a succession of southerly gales. January 16th, latitude 43°, longitude 125°, was a succession of severe gales from SSW. While scudding under bare poles she sprung a leak, and continued leaking badly. On the morning of the 5th inst., being then 80 miles south of Cape Cassin, the British ship Egeria, Capt. Evans, hove in sight. The men having been at the pumps for 12 days were entirely exhausted, and the vessel having six feet of water in her hold and fast increasing, the crew were compelled to abandon her and go on board the Egeria. Capt. Evans treated them very kindly while on board, and obliged them by steering out of his course for the Farallones, putting them on board the pilot boat Fanny, on the 15th inst. The Fanny brought the crew into port yesterday. —*Alta* 18th.

OUR DIRECT STEAM LINE.—The Portland Oregonian, after giving the particulars of our recent arrangement for direct steam between Victoria, New Westminster and San Francisco, remarks: "This is the way to do. If Portland would drift with the tide of affairs which leads to fortune, her people must wake up and exert themselves a little. We have hoped to induce our people to see the advantages to be gained by pursuing a liberal policy—but while California is straining every nerve, and the British possessions are pursuing a policy calculated to aid them tens of thousands of dollars annually, and all sections about us—even little Vancouver—are working for a point, Portland does nothing. Instead of heeding the appeals put forth through this paper, shrewd business men scoff at the idea, and ask us to buy vessels, tell us they do not want them. Tell us they will pay nothing to develop a region for the benefit of somebody else! Unless they do something soon, we very much expect they will find themselves in the unpleasant dilemma that is related of Midas, the mythical king of Phrygia, who found himself after the great favor bestowed upon him by the God Bacchus, in a situation he had not anticipated. In his lust for gold he had forgotten the most ordinary dictates of prudence, and forfeited his own existence."

ADVERTISING BIG BEND.—The following San Francisco papers contain the advertisement of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce in relation to Big Bend—*Bulletin, Alta, Call, Examiner, Courier* (French), and *Demokrat* (German). Mr. Oliver, who undertook to see after the proper publication of the information, is exerting himself to the utmost, and was by last accounts getting lithographed a small-sized map of the routes to Big Bend, taken from the one issued by the Government of British Columbia.

Dr. DeWolf was lecturing to the teachers and pupils of the public schools, at Dasha-way Hall, San Francisco, on the "Laws of Health and Physical Development."

While the Spanish and Chilean presents no new prospects for settlement insurrection has broken out in Spain.

Our late advices show that the cities are either under martial law or in revolt. The insurrectionary General Prim, at the head of 120,000 men, has raised the standard of rebellion already beaten Marshal Concha.

portion of the army is, it is said, in Prim; but Marshal O'Donnell is great power in the Government, and more than possible that he will resist the threatening movements of insurrection. There is, however, but alternative for the safety and peace of the country, and that is the abdication of the "With Madrid," says a London paper favorable that it was necessary to resort to martial law, the troops in fons in revolt, the great city of scarcely restrained from insurrection, lona descending into the streets, and honeycombed with friendly secret societies and the whole Radical party at his General Prim either could not or would march upon Madrid. Of course, his pause, and of course also if he is caught only two regiments in his company, he executed and they shot down before can be even summoned. In that very ble case Marshal O'Donnell will be the situation, and find himself exactly the Progressista party is now, face with the problem of a Queen whom he not control, or replace, or dismiss a throne which filled by her is inconsistent the national life of Spain, yet cannot unfilled. Or in the equally probable case that the troops "pursuing" General give him *en masse*, then the Progressista be masters, and be compelled, as the step, to solve the problem of management superseding an inevitable Queen who at least for their purposes, an impossible whose dethronement would be the sign civil war, while her continuance on the throne protects a chronic anarchy."

A rather extraordinary case has just up before the English public in a police and is thus stated in the *London Times* of the 5th of January a gentleman of the name of Fletcher called at the Union Bank of Australia in London, and charged his with having committed a serious robbery the branch bank in Melbourne. He said that he had been a chief clerk in the bank and that a year and a half ago he broke a box containing valuable securities bonds to the value of £15,000. He remained for a considerable period in the entirely unsuspected, but ultimately fled England, thence to the United States at Buenos Ayres. Discontented, it appears with his mode of life, he came back to land, acknowledged his offence to the and surrendered himself. The only reason he could make was £1500, and he took it. The bank, however, did not give him custody, and he surrendered himself to police authorities. He was brought up before the Mansion House, and the facts of the case were stated by himself. The bank authorities showed a willingness prosecute, but Alderman Finnis, before whom the case was heard, declined to receive the prisoner, on the ground that no warrant for his apprehension had been received from Melbourne. The prisoner was, however, to be bailed, and went into his own residences to appear at a future day. A necessary time elapsed to obtain a warrant from Australia, but the warrant did come, and the magistrate dismissed the case. The *Times* comments on the absurdity of law that requires a warrant from the colony in which the crime is committed before person can be arrested. The case is a novel one, and would almost lead to conclusion that the would-be convict if little deranged, did not the fact appear the robbery of which he speaks was actually committed.

Almost equal in novelty to the above is visit of one of the contributors of the *Mail Gazette* to the Lambeth workhouse, the disguise of a destitute artisan to test philanthropy of the institution. The order was not at all to his taste and unfolds rather curious picture of the accommodation that is afforded the houseless poor. The writer was divested of his clothing, tumbled into "a bath where the other houseless poor had been washed—and the appearance which after that process, he describes disgustingly like weak mutton broth—then with only a check shirt on and with rug over his shoulders, was compelled to walk through the open air and on bare stones to the half open shed in which thirty comrades were already housed each on his hay bag. The cold was terrible, though the kindly attendant taking a liking to him, brought him a second rug; his bed was stained with the blood of some predecessor, and worse of all the conversation was foul and filthy in the extreme." We are afraid the "houseless poor" fare rather badly in