cases; and then moved that "*the Prothonotary*" be struck out of the Resolution before the Committee.

Hon. Mr. Coles stated that the annual average for three years, of the fees received by the Prothonotary and his Deputies was £125, the gross amount for the three years being £377. The Hon. gentleman then proposed that the salary to that officer, in lieu of all fees, payable to him by the Government, should be £150.

Hon. Mr. Whelan objected that that would not be dealing fairly with the Attorney General; the average of his fees was £437, and yet his salary had been fixed at £300. If the average of the Prothonotary's fees was only £125 why should his salary be fixed at £150?

Mr. Clark. The average of his fees for four years is £170. I think we may fairly agree to make his salary £160.

Hon. Mr. Palmer. By his own returns, the average of his Crown fees is £140, and £40, the annual allowance made to him, by the Legislature, added to that, makes £180. His own returns may be implicitly relied upon, for no public officer can be more accurate than he is in all things pertaining to his office.

Hon. Mr Lord hoped justice would be done to so deserving an officer as Mr. Hodgson: he was a most correct and just one.

Hon. Mr. Pope. He believed sixpence had never been taxed off any of his accounts. He had never manifested a desire to foist new charges into his accounts. He was most punctual and correct in all his transactions; and he (Hon. Mr. Pope) did not believe that a more efficient public officer was any where to be met with.

Hon. Mr. Coles. His own average of his fees was only £159 3s 2d. He (Hon. Mr. C.) thought a salary of £150, in lieu of Crown fees, would be quite large enough; especially as the fees to which he would be entitled as Prothonotary, would (as shewn by the returns) amount to about £200 a year besides; of which there would be £150 to himself, and £50 to his Deputies. He (Hon. Mr. Coles) would move £150, with the understanding that the allowance of £40 should be struck out of the Appropriation Bill.

Hon. Mr. Palmer was satisfied that the average of the Prothonotary's fees amounted to more than they had just been estimated at. He would move that the salary be £160.

Mr. Longworth, after having highly eulogized the character of Mr. Hodgson, as a public officer, and referred to the long period of his service—thirty years—said that the average on which it was proposed to make the salary £150, was the average of his own receipts, and did not include what was received by his Deputies. £160 would, he (Mr. L.) thought, be as low a salary as they could, with any proper regard to justice, allow him.

Hon. Mr. Pope. It ought to be remembered that, at the settlement of the Civil List, that officer was thrown over-board, and received nothing as a compensation for the loss of his salary of £90 sterling, paid by the British Government. £150 would be a salary ridiculously small. It was well known that he did nearly all the business arising out of Crown prosecutions; that he travelled the circuit four times a year, and paid his own deputies. If any public officer was entitled to have his salary determined by a fair average, he certainly was.

Hon. Mr. Coles. We offer him as much as he appears to be entitled to by the average of his own returns. We have, upon the Journals, a return of his fees for 16 years, with his own name attached to it; and the average for that period does not shew that he is entitled to more than £150. I know that he is a good and capable officer; but, when another quite as capable, filled the office he had no more than £120 a year.

Hon. Mr. Thornton. He did not believe that another office in the Colonies was as well conducted as Mr. Hodgson's. His proceedings were invariably correct; and he had always a legal head upon his shoulders.

Mr. Mooney. The Prothonotary has plenty of friends upon the floor of the House; and they push their advocacy of his merits and claims so far, that one might imagine they meant to provoke accusation. I acknowledge that Mr. Hodgson is a good officer; and I am very willing that he should be fairly recompensed for his public services; but that willingness will not induce me, for the sake of promoting his interests, to dispute the correctness of his own returns, as some of his advocates do. I am satisfied that his returns are correct, and quite willing that the average should be struck upon them. I cannot however agree that the £40 a year which has been annually voted to him by the House, since the establishment of the Civil List Bill, should be taken into account when striking the average. That allowace, I incline to think, was only made to induce him, as an old and experienced public servant, to make himself useful to the raw hands that were coming into office; and I believe some have had reason to be very thankful for the assistance thus provided for them—some, no doubt, more so than the Hon. the Treasurer, eager as he is in his advocacy of the Prothonotary's claims, although it may be that on his taking possession of the Treasury office, Mr. Hodgson gave him a few lessons on turning the key of the money chest.

The Chairman, Mr. Fraser then put the question on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Coles, that the Salary of the Clerk of the Crown be £150, in lieu of all fees which might, otherwise, be payable to him by the Government. The Committee divided—Ayes—9, Nays—10; so it was lost.

Mr. Montgomery then moved that the Salary be £170; and the question being put thereon, it was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Coles. I move that the salary be for all services which he has hitherto performed.

Hon. Mr. Thornton. I am glad the hon. gentleman has made the motion; had he not done so, I would.

Mr. Haviland. These services then will include the drawing of Indictments for the Attorney General.

The House was then resumed and progress reported.

Hon. Mr. Coles moved that it be an instruction to the Committee of the whole House, when in further consideration on the said Bill, to reconsider the question of Salary to the Clerk of the Crown, with the view of reducing the same from £170 to £150.

The House divided on the question:—

Yeas—Hon. Mr. Coles, Hon. Mr. Whelan, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Davies, Mr. Mooney, Hon, Mr. Warburton, Hon. Mr. Jardine, Hon. Mr. Lord, Mr. Macneill, Mr. Laird—10.

Nays—Hon. Mr. Palmer, Hon. Mr. Thornton, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Haviland, Mr. Yeo, Mr. Macaulay, Hon. Mr. Pope, Mr. Longworth, Mr. Wightman, Mr. Clark, Mr. Campion,—11.

So it passed in the negative.

Legislative Council Chamber, April 14, 1852.

Hon. Mr. Young's Protest on the passing of the Bill intitaled "An Act to establish the Salaries of the Attorney General and Solicitor General, and Clerk of the Crown and prothonotary of Prince Edward Island, for their public services."

Dissentient—For the following reasons, viz:

First, Because the provisions of this Bill relative to the salary of the Attorney General, without any just reason, alters the enactment contained in the first section of the statute passed in the 14th year of the reign of Queen Victoria, cap. 2, intituled "An Act to commute the crown revenues of Prince Edward Island, and to provide for the Civil List thereof, as well as for certain compensations therein mentioned," and which gave the Charter of Responsible Government, most graciously granted by Her Majesty to this Island, and which enacts, that the salary of the present or any future Attorney General, shall be the sum of £150 of lawful money of P. E Island per annum, the same to be over and above all fees and allowances, then or at the time of the passing of the said Act allowed by law to the said officer.

Secondly. Because the present Attorney General was appointed under and by virtue of the said Act above referred to, and accepted office upon the terms thereof. That when this Bill was introduced into the House of Assembly, he was never notified thereof, was never required to give any statement of the fees and allowances received by him, was never asked by any member of the Government, or otherwise, if he were willing to commute his fees for any sum of money as a salary in lieu thereof, and was never consulted in any way relative to the provisions of the Bill affecting his yearly income. That he considers such conduct on the part of the House of Assembly not only unjust to him as an individual, but also unconstitutional, and that those members of the Government, viz: Hon. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Pope, Lord and Jardine, who voted for the Bill, were guilty of a gross violation of their compact with him when he accepted office, and have thus committed a breach of faith, because it was clearly understood that he was to remain in office upon the terms of the said charter so long as he wished, and so long as the present Government could command a majority in the Assembly.

Thirdly. Because the salary in itself is not a fair commutation for the Attorney General's fees and allowances, and is altogether based upon an unequal footing with that of the Solicitor General. That the salary, fees, &c., of the Attorney General amounted to about £450 currency per annum, and which the Assembly first reduced to £300 cy., and then refused to agree to the suggestions of the Legislative Council, who raised it to £400 cy., including certain fees received by the Attorney General under the Land Assessment Act, not paid to him by the Government but by the holders of land in arrear of assessment, and which came under the head of private fees. That the Legislative Council then subsequently reduced the salary to £350 cy., and to which the Assembly consented. That the fees received by the Solicitor General amounted, during the year, to an average of about £20 cy., and the Assembly increased his salary to £100 cy., thereby giving him £80 over and above his fees and deducted from the salary of the Attorney General at least £100—thereby in effect taking a sum of money from the Attorney General to pay the Solicitor General, and which the Attorney General did not consider to be fair or equal handed justice, and to which he could not be a party.

Fourthly. Because the salary of £350 cy., which is equal to £233 6s. 8d. stg., fixed by the Bill, is altogether inadequate for the salary of the Attorney General. That no such salary would induce a respectable practitioner, having proper qualifications and legal astuteness, to accept the office, as he is obliged, from being a member of the Executive Council, to devote several hours during the best part of three or four days in each month at the Council Board, to spend ten weeks in the year at his legislative duties, to attend circuits, keep an efficient clerk at a salary of at least £50 stg., per annum, and daily to give opinions either to the Government, or to Magistrates, or to Public Officers so that the greater part of his time is thus necessarily taken up.

Fifthly. Because the fees and allowances of the Clerk of the Crown have been commuted at £160 cy., per annum, or £106 13s. 4d. stg., without his consent and against his wishes; out of which he is required to pay two Deputies, in Prince and King's Counties, and to attend the circuits at his own expense. A salary altogether inadequate to the duties performed, and to the amount of fees now received by him.

And Sixthly. Because this Bill contains no suspending clause. A suspending clause was moved by the Dissentient, in the Legislative Council, to be added to the Bill, but was rejected by those who supported and voted for it.

For these, and other reasons that might be given, the Attorney General, feeling that he could place no confidence in the members of a Government who could be guilty of such injustice, tendered his resignation of the office of Attorney General, and as a member of the Executive Council, to the Lieut. Governor.

Charles Young.

Protest of the Hons. William Swabey and J. P. Beete.

Dissentient.—Because the Act to commute the Crown Revenues of Prince Edward Island and to provide for the Civil List thereof, as well as for certain compensations therein mentioned, was obtained so recently as April 23d, 1851; which Act surrendered the property of the Crown in this Island on certain conditions, which this Act violates. These conditions are contained in the first and sixth sections of the said Act, the latter of which is as follows:

"Unto the present or any future Attorney General of this Island, as and for the salary of that office, the sum of One hundred and fifty pounds of lawful current money as aforesaid, per annum. The same to be over and above all fees and allowances now or at the time of the passing of this Act allowed by law to the said officer."

Secondly. Because, even if were admitted that there were any probability of violating this compact, examination should be had of the value of the Attorney General's fees and those of the Clerk of the Crown, with all the attendant circumstances, such as whether there may be any increase of duties and services since the passing of the above recited Act, so that a just commutation, if any, might be effected, which has not been done.

Thirdly. Because the proposed sum of £350 is not a fair equivalent for the salary appointed under the above recited Act, and the fees.

Fourthly. Because the Council were of opinion, that £400 was a fitting sum in the way of commutation, and have subsequently agreed to the lesser sum, thereby evincing that their opinion was, first of all, that £400 was a more fitting amount.

William Swabey.
J. Pickon Beete.

Council Chamber, April 15, 1852.

GLEANINGS FROM LATE PAPERS.

THINGS TALKED OF IN LONDON

April, 1852.

Conversazioni, reunions, soirees, are now coming thick and fast upon us, greatly to the discomfort of those who dislike the penance of trying to look happy in overcrowded and overheated rooms, where enjoyment is out of the question. Among these gatherings, however, those held at the houses of our leading *savants* are an exception; for there is less throng, and you hear matters talked about that are worth listening to. For instance; that the reforms in law are not to be confined to the measures now before parliament, but will be carried on until a simple code shall replace the unwieldy legal machinery now in use, and law shall become more just and less costly; That the secret history of elections, as revealed by the late inquiries in parliament, is disgraceful to our national character, and calls for a prompt and stringent remedy. Then arises the question, What sort of a remedy?—What measures can be adopted that will inspire the multitude of Esaus with a love of right, or a wholesome dread of the consequences of wrong! We shall perhaps see before the session is over: That the government will make a great mistake if, as is reported, they stamp and issue 500 tons of copper coin, without first coming to a decision on the decimal currency question. Fifteen years ago, the Standard Chronicles reported, that 'no single change which it is in the power of a government to effect in our monetary system, would be felt by all classes as equally beneficial with this.' Surely it is time that the benefit should be realised, especially as the process presents but few difficulties. Reckon 1000 farthings to the pound sterling; and then, advancing by tens or parts of tens through our other coins, the thing is accomplished. The decimal system must prevail some day; and why not now! The change would seem to be the more necessary, in face of the new treaty of commerce between Prussia and Austria, which is much talked about. The effect of this treaty will extend from the Rhine to the Rhone, from the Baltic to the Adriatic, and will benefit 78,000,000 of people. The absurd and vexatious custom-house regulations at the numerous frontiers, are to be set aside in favour of raw materials, which are to be admitted duty-free into either state; while in the whole territory embraced by the treaty, even in Italy, the coinage is to be uniform in value and in name. How greatly such a measure will facilitate commercial and social intercourse, will be best understood by those who have suffered most from the defects of the present system: but to render it complete, there must be uniform postage. We are promised by our post-office authorities, that henceforth sixpence shall be the charge for letters to our colonies, in whatever part of the world. It is objected, however, that this rate is far too high; and the advocates of Ocean Penny-postage are no way inclined to yield a point of their demand. There is no distress to prevent these reforms being attempted. The dead weight of pauperism is diminishing; the number receiving poor-law relief on January 1, 1852, was 835,260; on January 1 of the present year it had fallen to 799,443. In Ireland, too, the expenditure for paupers in 1852 was L.280,000 under that of 1851; and, though emigration still goes on rapidly, the vacated farms are speedily relet. The Irish Land Company have just imported some of the best breeds of cattle and horses from England, with a view to improve their home-stocks. Here a project is mooted for a Land's Improvement Company—to drain and improve farms and estates, and recover the cost by an annual charge. It may perhaps revive the fortunes of distressed agriculturists. The Netherlands Land Company are making good progress: the 1500 acres reclaimed at the mouth of the Scheldt last year are now enclosed, and 2000 acres more are to be taken in during the present season. The whole work of reclamation is not to cost more than L.150,000; and the result, it is said, will pay a handsome dividend. Such are a few of the subjects touched upon at the gatherings mentioned above; while at Lord Rosse's soirees, of which the first has been given, the whole cycle of sciences comes in for discussion. In addition to the Fellows of the Royal Society, his lordship's invitations bring together members of the royal family, the ministers of state, the foreign ambassadors, and a host of individuals eminent in art, learning, and literature.

Our merchants are put on the alert by the fact, that a considerable trade is springing up between the United States and Australia. There is talk of a line of steamers from New York to Melbourne. The *Golden Age* is the name of a vessel just built to ply from Panama to Sydney, in connection with the traffic across the Isthmus. She is 3000 tons burden, and is to carry 1200 passengers, and will get over her portion of the route, across the Pacific, so rapidly, that the voyage from New York will not require more than thirty-five days, and from England fifty days. What a contrast this presents to the miserable failures that have taken place of late with Australian steamers! If the colonists were wise, they would dig for coal, of which they have abundance, as well as gold, and thereby insure greater certainty in steam navigation. Another scheme under consideration by the Americans, is for a line of six vessels, of 3000 tons each, to run once a month between Western America and Eastern Asia. Starting from San Francisco, they are to touch at the Sandwich Islands, on their way to China and Japan. Brother Jonathan evidently believes, that the rebellion in China will open chances in his favour; and to keep them, it is said, he means to arm his vessels.

We are, it seems, to entertain no apprehensions of a decrease in the yield of gold; for Michael Chevalier says, that gold-finding will not be temporary, but 'a permanent fact.' And it is now shewn, by investigations made at the Government School of Mines, that the precious metal is more widely diffused than could have been supposed. Dr. Percy tells us, that 'a sensible and visible amount of gold has been extracted from every variety of British and foreign lead, as well as every specimen of litharge, minium, whiteleaf, and acetate of lead, which has been examined. It has also been extracted' in very sensible proportion, from commercial bismuth. Between thirty and forty determinations have already been made.' After this discovery, we may qualify our opinion of the old alchemists with a little charity: they had perhaps better grounds for their belief in transmutation than we give them credit for.

A paper by Mr. Toynbee, read before the Royal Society, contains some particulars interesting to deaf people. Much of the deafness that occurs is found to be caused by an aperture having formed in the drum of the ear; in such cases, if an artificial drum, made of vulcanised Indian rubber or gutta percha be introduced, the cavity is again closed, and the power of hearing is considerably restored. It is hardly necessary to add, that the old notions about certain little bones beating on the tympanum drummer-wise are altogether fallacious.

Sir Charles Lyell is at work on a new edition of his *Principles*, which, among other matters, is to contain the sum of all that we know concerning great geological changes. Herewith connected, an interesting point is raised by Mr. Alfred Taylor, who argues that the sea-level, which is generally taken as the datum in geological and other scientific calculations, is by no means to be considered as permanent. He shews that the solid matters discharged into the sea by rivers would form a deposit three inches in thickness over the bottom in the course of 10,000 years, and consequently raise the level of the water by that amount. The Ganges drains 400,000 square miles, and in 1751 years would reduce the level of the vast region by one foot. The Mississippi, which drains 1,100,000, carries one foot from the surface of the soil into the sea in 9000 years. Thus the level of the land will be lowered, while that of the sea is raised; the latter cannot, therefore, be regarded as fixed and permanent in geological calculations. The water is to the land as three to one; and taking that portion of the globe on which rain falls, Mr. Taylor observes: 'If this area be annually reduced in level at the same rate as the district through which the Mississippi flows, then the mean level of the land on the globe would be reduced three feet in 54,000 years, and, consequently, the level of the ocean raised one foot in the same period by means of the detritus suspended in river-water poured into the ocean.' In the present activity of geological inquiry, the subject is particularly interesting; but it is only by very close observation, that we shall be able to determine the point from trustworthy data.

It will surprise many to know, that we need no longer depend on China for tea, but drink our home-grown English, and so be independent of the foreigner—if such independence is worth caring about. Mr. Alexander Forsyth has addressed a communication to the Horticultural Society, in which he says that, having considered that the tea of Paraguay is a species of holly, he tried our common holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), and finds the leaves, when washed, equal to ordinary five-shilling tea. The prickles serve an important purpose, for they keep the leaves separated during the roasting, and thus save the trouble of frequent turning. The smell given off is at first unpleasant, but it disappears entirely as the leaves cool. 'What will tea-drinkers, confirmed tippling tea-drinkers, say to this?' observes Mr. Forsyth. 'The very tea itself becomes cheap at last, and abundant, growing even in the garden-hedge. A forest of tea-trees in full leaf at our doors! Such a harvest has never before been seen. Waste not the holly any more upon whip-handles; peel it not for bird-lime, as formerly; squander it not even at Christmas; but reap it, roast it, and drink it again and again, for the store will be annually renewed, and the future foliage will furnish finer tea-leaves, than those just gathered.' What an opportunity here for the adulterators; they will doubtless take care that the public shall drink holly-tea, whether or no!

Professor Wartmann, of Geneva, has been working on the conductibility of minerals and the electric light; he obtained the latter by means of a pile of fifty pairs with Dubesq's instrument for adjusting the points. The light was such as almost to blind his assistant; and was strong enough for the taking of daguerreotypes. On one occasion it was found equal to the light from 300 gas jets; and persons could read by it at more than 100 yards' distance, although rain was falling at the time; and it was distinctly seen from a place 16,000 metres distant from Geneva. If the results be really as described, we may have the electric light in our houses and streets, with apparatus suitable for regulating it. To obviate the objection that alleys would be left in darkness, Professor Wartmann shews that several pairs of points may be introduced into one and the same circuit, and by placing these at the principal corners and turnings, no part of a town would be left in darkness. The electric light is not forgotten in this country; and a few zealous individuals are doing their best to produce it as an accomplished fact.

Indian affairs are receiving much attention, and are warmly discussed: some contend for keeping things as they are in our great Asiatic Empire—as though there was no corruption in that misruled country; while others declare, that the time has come for really enlightened and liberal government. What would not India become, if it were regarded as an improvable empire, as well as a taxable one! We shall see what railways will do for it; the lines already complete are quite successful. Not less so the telegraph; it works so well, that additional lines are to be erected to the extent of 3000 miles. A short time since, some delay having occurred in the transmission of signals from one of the stations, the cause was asked, and answer returned, that no one could get near the office with messages, as two tigers, and some other ferocious creatures were prowling about the office. Highly characteristic this of the jungle districts, though not an enviable position for the clerk. Three-eighth iron-rod, weighing a ton per mile, is used for the line instead of wire, stretched on bamboo posts, which resist hurricanes better than those made of wood. The large size of the iron rod renders insulators unnecessary, and insures safety in the desert regions across which it will be carried. The instruments are of cheap construction, costing no more than L.10 for each station. Natives will be trained to act as clerks, as they are less liable to attacks of fever than Europeans. Further of telegraphs: the Austrian government is about to stretch the wires from Agram to Zara, on the Adriatic, for the reason that steamers can touch at the latter port, when they cannot make Trieste, by which means we shall get our news from the East in two day's less time than at present. And here, at home, our Electric Telegraph Company report, that their dominion comprehends 5500 miles of telegraph, and 21,000 miles of wire, with 140 stations, besides those in London.

We have now a Photographic Society, just started, full of youthful vigor, publishing a weekly journal, and achieving wonders in the way of sun-pictures. Experiments are being made, and with some success, to get an impression from light direct upon stone, which, when accomplished, will open quite a new field of artistic printing. The directors of the Bank of England also have shewn what can be done in typography: the beauty and perfection of their new cheques are surprising. Instead of being printed from copperplate, as heretofore, they are now printed from copper type. The new process is to be applied also, to the bank-notes with a new electrotype vignette of exquisite workmanship; and the whole, including the signature, will be printed at once. By this change, the appearance of the notes will be improved, and the difficulty of imitation increased. There will be economy in it for the Bank, as fewer hands will be required for the printing, and the type will last an indefinite time. The consumption of notes is enormous: from 20,000 to 30,000 are cancelled every day; but they are not now burnt as formerly, they are chopped up almost small enough for ultimate atoms, and then sold to be converted into common paper: Another economy: and government are effecting a similar saving—they no longer give the waste blue-books and envelopes to their messengers, but have them repulped, and made into paper.

THE GOLD FIELDS OF AUSTRALIA

It is not easy to give a distinct notion of the appearance of the gold fields at this place. The country is a series of low hills and small open valleys. There had once been a considerable number of trees upon it, which the waste and recklessness of the diggers were rapidly diminishing. Some of these trees—such as the iron-bark, with its tall, straight, dark trunk, having great seams of blood-red stained with black spots of dried gum, unbroken by a branch for 30 or 40 feet from the ground, and deeply fluted like a Corinthian column, presented a most magnificent appearance. The ground was scantily covered with grass, and loose pebbles, and blocks of quartz. Altogether it had a barren and disagreeable look. There were no streams, and only here and there in the bottoms of the valleys were a few detached pools of muddy water, as yellow and thick as rich pease-soup. Where the ground spread out into a small plain, it was called a flat; gullies and creeks are names given to the shorter and longer valleys. In these shallow valleys, the red and yellow soil had been excavated, tunnelled, and thrown up in the most melancholy looking and confused heaps. Everything was raw and ugly. Each locality had a separate population, some of which were odd enough. Among the gullies, for instance, there were *Golden, Sheep's-head, Kangaroo, Poorman's, Blackman's, Sailors, American, Californian, Chinaman's, Long, Iron bark, Eagle-hawk, Peg-leg, Dirty, No-go*. Many of these were now worked out, and most had been very rich. It is a mistake to suppose, that the gold is equally scattered over "hundreds of square miles." Only at particular places, in gullies and flats, is it found in any quantity. Perhaps slight traces of it may be found elsewhere; but over a wide space of upland, lying among the various creeks and gullies, there is either no sign of gold, or at any rate, not sufficient to pay for salt to one's soup. It is wrong, therefore, to pretend that gold is "inexhaustible." On the contrary, *it is fast disappearing from the vicinity of Bendigo and Mount Alexander*, and, unless new digging regions are soon discovered; gold seeking, as a regular occupation for many thousands, is at an end.

Sickness and Death amidst the Gold.—Hard labour and exposure to the weather, bad diet, and worse lodgings, and disappointed hopes, often break down the digger's health and spirits. The water for drinking is generally very bad. Rheumatism and dysentry affect almost every one in a greater or less degree. Sore eyes is also a frequent complaint, and is common to the country. As a class the diggers are not healthy—far from it. Very many, especially of the new chums, seriously hurt their constitutions in a short time. How many die at the diggings can scarcely be estimated. Solitary individuals disappear, and nobody misses them. Many of the sick, however, unable to labour longer, hasten to Melbourne, to die there. Medical attendance is so expensive at the diggings, and cleanliness, peace, and comfort so utterly wanting, that only in town, they think, have they the slightest chance of recovery. There is little sympathy to be found at the diggings for the sick or the unfortunate. Everybody is striving for himself, the crowd is gradually shifting from place to place, all are in discomfort and many in privation, and the unhappy may quietly disappear or die, as best suit themselves.

The Diggers at Night—On the rising ground, on looking down from our tent, and all along the main track or road, where no pits happened to have been sunk, the tents of the diggers and storekeepers were erected. These extended for miles and miles up one valley and down another, in every direction. In the neighbourhood of the commissioner's quarters, as might have been expected, the principal stores were gathered, though everywhere else they abounded. At night, when the fires were blazing, and the diggers prepared supper, the scene was wonderfully strange. From our tent we could see more than a thousand watch-fires at the same time. It was then that the diggers discharged and cleansed their fire-arms, to load them anew, and have them ready for action during the night. As nearly all carried fire-arms of some sort or another—guns, pistols, revolvers, one might imagine what a succession of reports was heard every evening. The diggers never dreamed of extracting the balls, but fired off the weapons loaded as they were. It would have been dangerous to move about at these times, lest an accidental shot should cross one's path; but the diggers seldom or never stirred from their own separate tents after dusk. In the foreground of the picture, around every fire, or within the individual tent, the diggers, clad in every rough and dirty garment, were busily devouring their mutton, and eating their damper of bread and tea with a gusto which only the hardest labor could bestow. Then followed the eternal pipe, and a few fag-ends of conversation as to the labors of the passing and pospects of the coming day, and so to bed; or if not sufficiently worn out, some of the more musically inclined would show their skill on an old accordian, cornet-a piston, or flute, or chant the last song from England; or probably a little gambling with cards. There was often much merriment at the evening recreations of the diggers, though it soon began to grow as monotonous and uninteresting as their daily employment itself.

New Electric Telegraph Company.—The prospectus was issued on Thursday of the United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Company, which proposes to raise a capital of £250,000 in £5 shares. Looking at the charges of other telegraph companies, some of which have been subjected to enormous expenses in the cost of patents and other disbursements incidental to the telegraph system, prior to the introduction of the late valuable improvements, it is obvious that the operations of a company like this, which professes to come forward with a decidedly improved system (that of Mr. Thomas Allan and others), with a view chiefly to economy of charges, must be a great benefit to the general public. Of the uses to which the electric telegraph may be put into the every-day requirements of business, provided the charges are low, we have sufficient evidence in the United States, and it has long been a matter of regret, that we should be so much behind that country in our adaptation of this wonderful invention. It is proposed by this new company to lay down a line of telegraph throughout Great Britain on the basis of a charge of 1s. for a short message, or say one penny per word, and it is stated to be one of the chief features of the patent proposed to be used, that a message can be telegraphed without break or repetition for a distance of 1000 miles and upwards. Another feature worthy of notice consists in the offer, which is based upon actual estimates, of giving any mercantile firm or other establishment, a distinct and exclusive line of wire to any part of the country. For instance, it is mentioned, that such a line could be laid down between London and Manchester for a cost of about £400 per annum. Wires to any part could be rented at the rate of £2 to £3 per mile per annum, and it is assumed that this principle might be carried out to a vast extent. The special act of parliament enables the company to open up all streets and highways, so that any opposition on the part of railway companies would go for naught. A royal charter has been applied for, limiting the liability of the shareholders.

Suspicions of the Police at Rome.—The severity of the Roman police has even gone so far as to take notice of a little dog, belonging to an English lady, who was taking a walk in the Villa Borghese on Saturday last. The lady had taken a sprig of myrtle from a tree, and twined it round her favourite's neck; after finishing her walk, on coming to the gateway to meet her carriage, her servant was peremptorily ordered, by some sbirri stationed there, to take the green wreath from the dog's neck—an order with which the lady immediately directed her servant to comply, supposing that no flowers or plants were allowed to be abstracted from the villa; but she was not a little surprised when, on inquiring from her servant whether that really was the motive of so uncourteous an act, he gave her to understand that the dog was white, his tongue red, and the wreath green, thus completing the Italian tricolor, and rendering the unconscious little favourite a native revolutionist.

Portugal.—A letter from Lisbon may be recollected that during the strug the brothers Don Pedro and Don Mi sovereignty of the country, loans wer the partisans of each, and Pedro havin cessful, repudiated all loans contrac Miguel. It happened, however that t home lent 1,000,000,000 reis to the of Don Miguel, as the war was drawin 90,000,000 reis, or thereabouts, reac and was duly appropriated, but the the loan fell into the hands of the G Donna Maria. No part of the loan nised, but some knowing persons con a loan to a Government *de facto*, recei propriated, is binding on its successor legally possessed themselves of the bo ever other name the securities bore, b terested the French Government in that Napoleon III. has directed his here to make a peremptory demand u tuguese Government for the principal est, nearly about 20 years—requiring payment; and last week the Minister Maria II., went to the British Min the aid of the British Government in pected distress. The indemnity deb Ministers are daily losing the littl which they enjoyed. Saldanha's illn more serious, and who is to succe question which it becomes every da cult to answer.

THE SIAMESE TWIN

Chang and Eng, the well known Sia who created so great a sensation in Europ 24 years ago, again made their debut bef public on Monday last, and continue to ho at the Horticultural Hall every afternoo

The Siamese Twins make their pres before the public under altered circumstan now American citizens, fathers and hu years have elapsed, since their marriage w in North Carolina, and the interval has b the birth of 11 children, 5 to the one an As their progeny may increase, and as the to provide for them is strong, they have th able again to appear in public, and are crowds of curious people from Boston and

Chang and Eng are now in the 42d yea they are joined together by a cartilagino passes from the *sternum* or breast bone of o bone of the other. Any idea of separating of the question; they get through the busin together than they could apart. In each th is robust, healthy and vigorous. The ar and leg of one and the corresponding left the other, are larger, more muscular and than the other limbs, or those nearest to separation would in consequence be a di reason of the weakness on one side. Th ever arises, and will have to be met; Wh die before the other? Will the survivor rated, or remain exposed to the certain position? Of course the separation wo dividing the band as far from the survive and if the band is really cartilaginous, wi ly little risk to the second life. But, if o a communication exists, as some have tween the cavity of the chest and the o then the result would be very problematic

The Siamese twins are really as intell and well informed, as they are described. at the age of 18—they have profited by observation in their intercourse with Ame ricans, and have shown what it can achi man in the forms and habits of civiliz there in reality anything painful or repul ous freak of nature? or anything to whi tinct or refined female could object. In of monstrosity it is otherwise. The Sia a Chinese father and a Siamese mother. dren are fully and perfectly developed, girl with them are fine, well formed ch Asiatic complexion and Chinese eye, respects partaking of the form and maternal parent, rather than the paterna

The New-England Methodist Co ding its session at Ipswich, Mass, stringent series of resolutions on Slavery adopting to the full the union with slave-holders."

HASZARD'S GAZ

Wednesday, May 18,

The Editor of the *Islander* has for some time past, to entangle u versy; but we can assure him that his mark. Our readers, we feel a not thank us to fill up *our* colum articles full of personal abuse, an terpretations of our contemporar We hope we shall always be able t with something more useful and We have, however, to set the Islander right upon two or three of which he seems to be ignorant.

In the first place, we would inf Mr. Irving is not the Editor of th has he written anything for it, ports since the first of April. T could not endorse, to their full ex the opinions of his Editor, and dissolved the connexion. Hazard always been, but is now more part peoples' paper;" and has always c largest circulation in the Islan proof of the assertion. It espou but the good of the country gen willing to give praise to whomso due, and to censure, and with a those who may deserve it; and w that this course will tell better, a er weight, than if we were incess a torrent of abuse against any p posed us. We thought that we ticularly mild in our censure of at least that we had said but lit could say. However, as there ha debate, of which his conduct has b pal subject, perhaps our reader enough; and they have only to speech, to know what the country think of him. The former editor before it passed into the hands proprietor, censured the governo appointing Mr. Young to the of Probate, We endorse the censure it a violation of the principles and they seem to have paid the being the first to cause them trou ance. We do not know whethe mitted himself as much as Capt. defence of Mr. Young; but we so far in opinion with his colleag had any spirit in him, he would He knows, however that such ch ing money must not be lost, an get all he can out of the Printin it is not likely he will have an o ther; for, if the Government o Assembly do not bring forwar a reasonable scale of prices, dependent members of the Legi we are told, will be prepared to