

per ton. The people of New South Wales, who live in a state of amicable rivalry with the gold diggers of Victoria. Certain it is, although the mining population of the former colony has never at any time been large, that gold to the value of £2,209,345 sterling has been shipped from New South Wales since the first discovery of that precious metal.

In one respect the gold fields of New South Wales are certainly inferior to those of Victoria. The Victoria gold is fine and pure. The Sydney brokers acknowledge this, much by paying a small advance on the metal imported from the rival colony. The New South Wales gold sells at £3 7s 6d. per ounce; the Victoria fields, Mount Alexander, Bendigo, and Ballarat, sell their yields at £3 10s 9d. even at Sydney.

The Victoria accounts, too, are great in figures. But then it must be recollected that there are not less than 100,000 people employed in gold digging in the province of Victoria. Nevertheless, there is something imposing in the fact that from the 3rd to the 26th of September last the yield of Mount Alexander and Ballarat amounted to 366,193 ounces. The average yield of a week is 80,000 ounces, which, at 70s. an ounce, represents on an annual yield of £14,600,000 sterling—that is to say if the productiveness of the goldfields remains what it was in July, August, and September last. There is, of course, no sign of any falling off; on the contrary, the yield has been increasing from month to month ever since the first nugget was found. The weekly yield, says the Melbourne Argus, is constantly increasing. So is the number of diggers. Still, the paper from which we quote calculates that a persevering digger can easily secure an ounce a week. On the same authority we state that the digger spends half an ounce for his living, which leaves him profits at the rate of half an ounce per week. That there are large finds, too, that some are unsuccessful, while others dig out a fortune in a week, has been mentioned in former reports, and is again incontestably proved by the latest advices. In September a certain digger at Mount Alexander picked out a noble solid piece, about nine pounds of pure gold, besides a great quantity of smaller nuggets around it. The value of the find was from 800 to £1000. Another man found between nine or ten pounds of gold imbedded in the pipeclay. A party of miners at Bendigo obtained in a day 203 ounces, and this yield increased as the party got further into the dip of the rock. The Daisy Hill Diggings, though the operations have as yet been confined to surface washing, were daily gaining in public favour. At Reid's Creek, near the Owen's River, 180 miles north east of Melbourne, two men are reported as having picked up 17½ ounces in one day. These two men computed their earnings generally at eight ounces per day. The Melbourne Argus, in giving these particulars, asserts that facts like these must convince even the most cautious of the capabilities of the Victoria goldfields, and it hints that he must be a bold man who would dare to compare the yields of New South Wales with the inexhaustible treasures of Mount Alexander, Ballarat, the Eureka, and Bendigo.

In spite of the large number of emigrants from all parts of the world who reached the colonies in August and September the cry for labour was as loud as ever. But it ought to be remarked that in this respect New South Wales is in a more favourable position; wages at Sydney are exactly one-half of what they are at Melbourne. The quotations of the labour market have already been given in a former report. It appears, however, that even at the exorbitant rates which are freely given all trades and professions are languishing for want of manual labour. Money cannot buy it. The Melbourne papers charge their correspondents almost every month. Journalism is beaten out of the field by the superior attraction of gold digging, and even not dray driving. Several gentlemen who reported for the Melbourne Argus are, it is stated, on the road 'driving drays,' for that it appears is the more lucrative profession. How the Journals which reach us in due order, and in such mighty file, are brought out, is an inscrutable mystery. Compositors and pressmen are not to be had, even for the high wages which that species of labour commands in the gold colonies.

## Communications.

### PUBLIC MATTERS.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—There is perhaps few Departments that the public generally are more interested in than the Post Office; all are directly interested in its integrity, and correctness, and a neglect, or a mishap, in any single Post Office, might prove the ruin of an individual, or individuals; the neglect to forward a single Letter in its proper time, might entail the most disastrous consequences, it is no uncommon occurrence for many Letters never to reach their destination, and it is a known fact of money Letters being purloined, and their contents pocketed. Often is there a murmur through the Press, about Newspapers going astray, and justly so; and the wonder to me is, that the several Post Offices throughout the Province are conducted with so little loss and disappointment to the public as they are, considering the HANDSOME SALARY attached to many of them, forty or fifty

Pounds a year, is a somewhat extra sum, and he must be a person of interest to obtain so magnificent a sum as that; and I happen to know one or two that has the princely Salaries of fifteen shillings a year, although there may be many more in the Province alike fortunate. It can thus be easily seen, Postmasters must contrive some other means to support themselves or families, being frequently obliged to leave the care of their Post Office to a wife, servant, or child, or close it up during their absence. And it cannot otherwise, under the system. No Post Master in any thing of a public place should have less than one hundred pounds, which would be little enough to enable him to stick close to his Office, and serve the public faithfully; for it should be remembered that the mere opening and closing of a mail is the smallest part of a Postmaster's duty. Then does his work begin, the giving and receiving of Letters, and people calling at all hours of the day, and sometimes far advanced in the night, and each person feeling aggrieved if they do not meet with attention. But I may be told, this is a queer way of retrenchment, and contrary to the general ideas of reform, to be propagating high salaries; but just take up the Acts of the Province and see the nice string of well paid officials out of the people's money, about, and in the government. I shall give a few of them. To the Chaplain of the Council, in General Assembly, the sum of twenty five pounds; to the Chaplain of the House of Assembly, twenty five pounds. It may be observed, that the business of those Rev. Gentlemen, is to say prayers for the Council and House of Assembly during their sitting. To the Sergeant at Arms attending the Council, in General Assembly, twenty shillings per diem; To the Sergeant at Arms attending the House of Assembly, twenty shillings per diem, during the Session; To the Clerk of the Legislative Council in General Assembly, the sum of two hundred pounds for his services during the Session; To the Clerk of the House of Assembly, the sum of two hundred pounds for his services during the Session; To the Clerk Assistant of the Legislative Council, one hundred pounds for his services during the Session; To the Clerk of the House of Assembly, one hundred pounds for his services during the Session; To the Doorkeepers attending the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, the sum of twelve shillings and sixpence per diem, each, during the Session; To the messengers attending the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, the sum of ten shillings per diem, each, during the Session; the sum of ten pounds for airing the Province Hall; and I observed where a gentleman in the Secretary's Office, got fifteen pounds, (I presume extra) for being polite. This is but a sample of the small fish about the Government. I have said nothing as yet about the big folks,—thus we find it is much better to be a door keeper, a message boy, or a Minister, about Government House, than a Post Office keeper in the Country. Let me be understood; I am no Skeptic or Scoffer of prayer, but I cannot but think did those worthies attend more to their prayers morning and evening, they would have less need of appropriating so large a sum as fifty pounds of the People's money, for the benefit of prayers. If they consider themselves in more need of prayers than their constituents, and make it known, I doubt not but there are Clergymen, and other good Men to be found, that would pray for them for nothing.

Now, I have only enumerated a few of many things that might be shown, such as bills of contingencies, which are sometimes pretty snug sums, precluded from a public investigation, having no bill of item. Extra services for Attorney General, extra services for Solicitor General, &c. &c., amounting some times to hundreds of pounds. I know not whether there any limits to those extras, or whether all the other officials are alike privileged to present their extras, in addition to their yearly salaries; if not, it is to be hoped no unfortunate year may come that may endanger the whole Revenue of being swallowed up by extra services. Their salaries should at least satisfy them, their being one half too high at present. The Attorney General gets £600; Provincial Secretary £600; Provincial Treasurer, £600, with Clerks to do their work, paid by the Province, from £100, to £200 per year; and I am not sure but some even more than that. Surveyor General £600; Solicitor General £600; Auditor General £300; Receiver General £600; Post Master General £400; so that taking all into consideration, a General is a much better birth than a Judge. So commend me to a Generalship, for it should be remembered, the Office of Attorney or Solicitor General prevents them not from practising in Courts, and in place of it being an injury is a benefit. Their high position giving them weight and influence at the Bar; and no person having

an intricate case, if able, but would feel inclined to secure them; and the other generals having clerks to do their work, when they are marching round with their hands in their pockets. Not so the Judges, they have their own work, and whilst a Judge should be placed at £1000 a year, the Attorney General should be placed at £800, and all the others in like proportion. And if £100 would be too much for a Postmaster, to wait and watch faithfully at his post, and often obliged to support a family on it, surely three times the amount would be sufficient for either of those officers. Besides, there should be a great deal done for the honor of the thing, and there is little doubt was a reduction of Salaries only proposed, the Attorney General would take an active hand in it, being always set forth both by himself and his friends, as a man of "honor and high principle."

But I may be told, that no man of moral integrity, talent or principle, would be found to fill those offices, if the Salaries attached to them were reduced to the above figure; it may be possible, yet until I see it tested, I will look on such reasoning as fallacious; and if so, I would ask, how comes it that Clergymen of acknowledged talent and principle, labouring hard from one year's end to another, many of those supporting families, few receiving for their labour over One Hundred Pounds, and many not even that? How many Teachers in Colleges, Academies, or Grammar Schools, many of them with Salaries little over One Hundred? No matter if they were graduates of Edinburgh. How comes it that so many Clerks are to be found in Mercantile houses filling Offices of the most confidential trust, many of them for much less than £100, and are all those to be counted void of moral integrity, talent or principle, because they allow themselves to be employed at such mean Salaries. If the argument be sound, such must be the case. It is to be hoped that Clergymen might be an exception, although it is quite clear, that it is much better for the pocket to be a Minister of State, than a Minister of God. But the fact is, high Salaries often make unprincipled Statesmen; causing them to cling to office, sacrificing all moral integrity, principle and honour, and to resort often to the most degrading and unprincipled manoeuvres, to retain office. I may trouble you hereafter with a few further remarks on some of them, at all events, it is to be hoped should any of them be displaced by needy or officious characters, offering to fill the offices they now hold for half the sums, that any of them may not be claiming ere they let go their grip, a retired allowance for their valuable services. To me there is something mysterious in the term retired allowance. An old soldier when he receives any thing for his services, it is known by the homely name of pension, but, to an official it has to be called by the Symphonious term of retired allowance. But I suppose the cloth makes the difference. Be that as it may, it can be seen from the Governor (which by way of respect I would notice with a small shaving) to the door keeper, there is a beautiful string of salaries, whoever foots the bill. I shall close the present, and in my next notice our Magistracy, their ways, and the blessing they are to the Country.

Meantime, I am yours,

OBSERVER.

### THE SESSIONS AND THE PEOPLE.

Mr Editor,

I respectfully beg leave through the Columns of your widely circulated Journal, to bring under the notice of the public, the recent act of injustice which the inhabitants of the Parish of Newcastle have received of their Worships—the Magistrates of the County, the throwing out the List of Parish Officers, elected by the Rate Payers, agreeably to Law, and appointing a list of their own. True, the Officers left out by their Worships in their list, as being obnoxious to them, were few, but this does not alter the case, as by interfering at all, they have virtually set aside the whole; and if allowed to pass unresisted at this time, they will again ride rough shod over us, and trample upon every privilege we enjoy.

It appears that on the first day of the General Sessions, one of their Worships (whose popularity was tested at the preliminary meeting on the 21st December last, when upon a division of a motion made by him, the vote stood 58 to 2) enquired of the Deputy Clerk of the Peace, if the return of the Parish Officers for Newcastle, had been filed agreeably to Law, the Clerk said he had not then received it—the list, however, was handed in during the day, and regularly placed upon the file. Their Worships, however, shortly afterwards made the discovery that the list was not sworn to. By Act 13 Vic. cap. 30, art. 5, it is enacted, "that after the officers are all elected, a correct list shall be made out and certified by the Chairman, and attested by the Town

Clerk, and forthwith forwarded to the Clerk of the Peace of the County," &c., &c.

Now, Sir, I consider this so plain, that he that runs may read. The Chairman hereby makes out a correct list, of the officers so elected, and the Town Clerk attests to, or witnesses the document, that officer being already sworn to the faithful discharge of his duty, witnessing the list, forming a part thereof—his oath, therefore is not required to every document he may sign. Moreover, the list was upon the files of the Clerk for a period of eight days, ere their Worships saw meet to interfere—nay, that officer himself gave his opinion, that as the list was regularly before them, and as they had not made any list of their own previous to its receipt, they could not legally alter it. Whether Mr Williston has seen fit to change his opinion since, I leave you to judge by the following. An inhabitant of this Parish being in the office of the Clerk of the Peace a short time ago on business, in course of conversation, the conduct of the Magistrates in setting aside the list of Parish Officers chosen by the people, was mentioned; the Clerk stated that the Bench had actually thrown out the list, and prepared a new one; and on being informed that the officers nominated by the Bench would not qualify, until they had first ascertained from the Attorney General, whether the Magistrates possessed the power, under the act, of setting aside the appointments made by the Rate-Payers, without any informality on the part of the people. The Clerk did not approve of the course pursued by the people, but thought it would be better for the officers to qualify at once; and shortly after in writing to two Parish Officers, he informed them "that they had been duly elected by the Rate Payers, and requested them to qualify accordingly." Now, Sir, it follows if we were to qualify as duly elected by the Rate Payers, the list of Officers made out by the Bench, must be illegal—both cannot be right.

Of the many acts of tyranny which the people in this District have reason to complain of, at the hands of those who have always been opposed to the liberty of the people, the following may suffice as a sample. In 1847 the inhabitants of this District presented a petition to the Bench, unanimously signed, and respectfully drawn up, praying for a change in the Commissioner of Roads for this Parish: a deputation of a number of Freeholders was appointed to go to Newcastle and present it to the Bench. What was the result? the prayer of their petition was rejected, the parties abused by one of that body, for presuming; and a member of the Bench whose removal was contemplated, spoke and voted upon the question. Nay, when we have complained of the unjust proceedings of that body, what has been our answer 'The Sessions will do just as they think proper.' Such even was the opinion formed of us—the Rate Payers,—by some of that body, that we were declared as unfit to fill any Parish appointments.

You may conceive then with what pleasure we hailed the passing of the Act 13, Vic. Cap. 30, conferring upon us the privilege of choosing our own officers, and how readily we embraced it. We immediately conferred with the Rate Payers of Newcastle and Douglstown; divided the Parish into Districts, agreed to hold preliminary meetings, chose our own officers for each district, and upon the day of the election of the Town and Parish officers at Newcastle, have sent persons to nominate and second each officer proposed, the understanding being that in the event of any opposition, the three Districts would unite and support each other.

In December 1850 we held our first preliminary meeting in this District, a Rate Payer was desired to wait upon the nearest Magistrate, and request his attendance, so that he might witness this our first meeting, in the exercise of our new privilege—what was his reply? "That he would not, and that we all ought to be taken up and imprisoned for holding such an illegal meeting." We persevered, chose our officers, had the election at the general meeting at Newcastle. Our next preliminary meeting was held in December 1851, of which due notice was given, a Rate Payer went over to the nearest Magistrate again, his reply was, "That he would have a meeting of his own." As formerly we chose our officers; attended the general meeting at Newcastle, when the Magistrate alluded to attended also with his list. He appeared anxious to effect a compromise, stating that if allowed to hold one office, which he would name, and another displaced, that had been chosen at the preliminary meeting, he would offer no opposition. In the event of his terms not being complied with, he would press his own list. He did so, and I think has not yet forgot the lesson he received.

Our next meeting was in December 1852, of which due notice was given. At this time we were favored with the presence of two Magistrates. We proceeded