Methodist Church! So horrible is the system that, when it takes hold of an ignorant mind, it [illegible] and, if not exhorters to these brutal exhibitions of superstitious passion, the priests are no check to them. In many portions of the world, they excite to them by exhortation and example.

Not many months ago, a poor Irish widow, with eight or nine children, came to me to secure service for one of them. They all looked healthy, but not one of them knew a letter of the alphabet. [illegible] attended me. "I live," said she, "in Ireland, between two small towns, in each of which was a good Protestant school, and I wanted to send my children to them, but the priest said if I did, that he would curse me from the altar; and then nobody would speak to me; and they might kill me and my children." And the least acquaintance with the cruel despotism of the priests in the south and west of Ireland, will satisfy any body that this is only a favorable illustration of their general conduct. I have recently passed through the north, west, and eastern portion of that unhappy country, and I have learned things as to their conduct to their people which should brand them with the brand of infamy as indelibly as ever was Cain.

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[illegible] Sydney [illegible], about 150 miles from Melbourne, has eclipsed all former discoveries. The operations are described as simply like turning up a garden, where about four feet below the surface "pockets" of immense value are brought forth. The immigration was now continuous, and 5,000 persons had arrived in one week. The multitude were consequently without shelter, or were living in tents. The chief point of anxiety, however, was in relation to the future supplies of grain and flour, and the most serious fears were entertained that unless large cargoes should constantly arrive great suffering would be experienced. The farm lands in the colony were only half-sown, and the crops, therefore, even under the ordinary circumstances, would be insufficient, but with the anticipation of the landing, in the months of November and Dec., of the extraordinary number of persons who were expected to leave the United Kingdom in June and July last, it was difficult to foresee how the wants of the colony were to be met. Flour had already reached £40 per ton, a higher price than had been known for ten years, and a further advance was expected. Hopes were entertained that considerable quantities might be sent from America. House-rent was as dear in portion as bread, and the terms for three and four roomed cottages were from £250 to £400 a-year. The price of gold at Melbourne was 63s.

From Sydney, the latest papers are to the 2d of October. In consequence of the Melbourne markets, caused by the influx of emigrants, the greatest activity prevailed in produce of all kinds. The reports as to the riches of the recently-discovered diggings at Bingera were exceedingly contradictory. Some persons, however, professed to regard it as the richest field yet found in Australia. "A report," it is said, "has reached town, which appears to be pretty well authenticated, that a nugget of gold in quartz has been discovered at the Louisa, weighing upwards of forty pounds. It was found by an old man, who is endeavouring to keep the matter as quiet as possible, lest it might be claimed by the Great Nugget Company, as was the case with the large specimen that came down from that quarter."

THE PERMANENCE OF THE GOLD-FIELDS.

On the subjects various opinions are entertained; some people boldly asserting that the very existence of these mines will be a matter of history in two or three years; and others, with equal confidence, pronouncing them inexhaustible. Our own impressions, formed upon a tolerably attentive study of the subject, and confirmed by constant intercourse with intelligent men of all classes who have visited or worked at the mines, are decidedly in favour of their continuance, and of their very considerable further developement. The whole history of gold discovery in Australia seems to point to the almost unlimited extent of the gold fields of the continent, and in spite of all the activity engendered by the desirable nature of the object sought for, it seems unlikely that we have as yet discovered all the gold mines, or even the richest lands which the whole continent contains. Science has done little or nothing for us. Our processes in obtaining gold are of the rudest nature. The search is characterised almost solely by what the sailors well call "sheer strength and stupidity." From the very extended diffusion of gold throughout the country it seems unlikely that the field will be exhausted within any reasonable time.

Events, we conceive, have shown that a vast belt of highly auriferous land extends across the continent from our own fields to these Bathurst and its neighbourhood, and from thence to the banks of the Hunter, and the Bank of Moreton Bay; a belt of land of hundreds of miles in length, and of unknown width. This colony, in particular, seems to contain gold in every direction. It has been found at the Pyrenees, at the Wardy Yallock, at Ballarat, at the Clunes, at Mount Alexander, and Bendigo; at Anderson's Creek, sixteen miles from Melbourne, near Wangaratta, on the, Ovens, at Mitte Mitta on the Murray; it has been found even in the streets of Melbourne itself.

Even while these lines are being written, news has arrived from Adelaide, announcing that an available gold field has been found within eighteen miles of that city. It is not, indeed, likely to prove equal to Mount Alexander, but it appears, upon competent authority, to be at all events remunerative.

Even supposing, then, that the days of rapid fortunes should pass by, and that, by some singular coincidence, ignorant men in hurried and desultory search have stumbled upon all the large "nuggets," by which so many of them have been raised to competence in a day, we hold that there are sufficient indications of the almost universal diffusion of gold in this country, to justify a belief that an ample return will be attainable for years to come, by any man capable of hard work, and willing to exert himself with industry and steadiness.—*Melbourne Argus*

WAGES IN VICTORIA.

The *Argus* gives the following rate of wages, payable [illegible]:—

Farm labourer, (without family,) with rations, £30 to £35		
Ditto, with family	35	00
Shepherds, with rations, per annum	32	36
Hutkeeper, per annum with rations	30	32
Gardener and domestic with rations, per annum 10	30	
Bullock-driver, with rations, £30 per annum, or £1 to £1. 10s per week.		
Bullock-driver, for the roads, per week	24	
Gardeners, per annum	20	50
Cooks, £1 to £1. 10s per week or per annum 20	30	
Footmen, with rations, p., annum	20	00
Stock keepers, per annum	20	25
Grooms, per annum	20	00
Gardeners, per annum	20	00
Dairymen, per annum	20	00
General farm servants, weekly, £1 to £1. 10s.	20	75
Carpenters, 7s. 6d. per thousand.		
Plasterers, £1 per week.		
Sawyers, £2 per week, and rations.		
Seamen for London, £20 the run home, or £10 per month.		
Ditto, coasting, £5 to £8 for the run, or £7 to £8 per month.		
FEMALE SERVANTS.		
Cooks, per annum	20	25
Housemaids, per annum	20	25
Nurses, per annum	22	25
Nursemaids, per annum	15	20
Cooks, per annum	20	30
Nursery governesses, or needle women, per annum 25	30	

Carpenters, stonemasons, blacksmiths, employed in the towns, without rations, from 18s. to 20s. per day. The rent of houses is—Two-roomed cottages, even in narrow dirty lanes, are stated to let rapidly at 14s. to 25s. Three-roomed cottages fetch about 30s. to 40s. per week; four roomed cottages are worth from about £150 to £200 per annum, those still larger from £300 and upwards; whilst good [illegible] are worth almost anything they like to ask for them. The retail prices of provisions are:—The 4lb. loaf, 1s. 4d.; beef and mutton, 4d. per lb.; veal, 8d.; pork, 1s.; butter, 2s. 6d.; cheese, 2s.; eggs, 5s. per dozen; tea, 1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb.; coffee, 1s. 4d.; sugar, 3d. to 4d.; loaf sugar, 7d.; ham and bacon, 2s.; candles, 8d. soap, 4d.; to 6d.; milk 1s. to 1s. 6d. per quart; potatoes, 17s. per cwt.; coals, £3 per ton; firewood, £1 per load, that four bullocks will draw through bad roads; water, 6s. per load of about two hhds.; hay, £15 to £18 per ton; and oats, 7s. to 10s. per bushel. These prices, it must be understood, are those at Melbourne. At the diggings they are very considerably higher.

The Chronicle.

Saint John, February 11, 1853.

OUR FISHERIES.

Ever since the question of a concession of our Fisheries has been agitated, we have strenuously contended that not the smallest portion of them should be given up under any pretence whatever. These fisheries are coeval with the Colonial dominion and maritime superiority of England. Newfoundland was her earliest Colonial Possession; the Fisheries, the first nursery of those Seamen who gained for her the dominion of the Ocean, and with it her vast, unbounded Colonial Empire, and the trade of the world.

It has been urged that our fisheries are extensive enough for the use of all—for our own people, as well as for strangers—be it so; but how long is this sufficiency to continue? In less than a quarter of a century our Colonial population will be doubled, and it is somewhat doubtful when this event arrives, if there will be ample room and verge enough upon our sea coasts, for those who will hold forever, a clear right to their exclusive occupancy.

To show the estimation in which the North American fisheries were held by our sturdy ancestors, we shall refer to a few historical facts.

They were greatly frequented in the reign of Henry 7th, soon after the discovery of Newfoundland by Cabot. In 1519, an Act of Parliament was passed for their protection. During the reigns of Elizabeth, James 1st, Charles 1st and 2nd, the trade and fisheries engaged much of the attention of the Crown and Parliament. At one period, during the reign of Elizabeth, there were 200 ships employed in the Newfoundland fisheries, and it has been often asserted that the seamen nursed in these fisheries mainly assisted in manning the fleets of the good Queen Bess, and in defeating the Spanish Armada.

In a commission issued by Charles 1st, for the government of his subjects in Newfoundland, that Monarch asserts, that "the navigation and mariners of the realm have been much increased by the Newfoundland fisheries." To pass by many other interesting facts, and to come down to a later period, the Act 15, Geo. 3, declares the Fisheries to be "the best nurseries for able and experienced seamen, always ready to man the Royal Navy when occasion may require; and it is of the greatest national importance to give all due encouragement to the said fisheries."

In 1763, Lord Chatham, then Mr. Pitt, negociated in the first instance the Treaty of Paris, which upon his resignation was concluded by Lord Bute, Lord Chatham, who had contended on the part of England for the whole exclusive fishery of Newfoundland, and affirmed it to be of itself an object worthy to be contested by the extremity of war, censured severely his successor in office for having returned to France some of the privileges which she had before enjoyed upon the coast, and for having ceded, in addition St. Pierre and Miquelon.

In 1783, further concessions of a similar character were made to France, and although the Ministry of the day were severely censured by the House of Commons, yet the advantages ceded to the French were confirmed; Lord Viscount Townsend upon this occasion declared, "the admission of the French to a participation of the Newfoundland fisheries, was a piece of the most dreadful policy and concession that ever disgraced a nation."—Mr. Fox said, "It was plainly evident that our Fisheries in Newfoundland, so much boasted of, were in a measure annihilated, not to mention the bad policy of ceding St. Pierre and Miquelon."—Lord Mulgrave, Sir Peter Bunnell, and Mr. Pitt expressed similar opinions. In 1815, Lord Castlereagh openly declared his impressions—that "The "North American Fisheries were not only valuable as a great source of wealth to the country, but they were still more so as a source of maritime strength."

In none of Mr. Huskisson's celebrated speeches on Colonial Trade and Navigation, he never lost sight of the importance of the Fisheries. Upon one occasion he says—

"The ocean is a common field, alike open to all the people of the earth; its productions belong to no particular nation. It was therefore our interest to take care that so much of those productions as might be wanted for the consumption of Great Britain, should be exclusively procured by British industry, and imported in British ships. This is so simple and so reasonable a rule, that in this part of our navigation system no alteration whatever has been made, nor do I believe that any ever will be contemplated."

Sir Howard Douglas said that "the fisheries in the British quarters of America were the most productive in the world; if they were not ours, whose would they be? What would be the effect of the total abandonment and transfer to another power of this branch of industry, upon our commercial marine, and consequently upon our naval ascendancy?"

In treating of the value of fisheries in a commercial and national point of view, a celebrated French authority (L'Abbe Raynal) thus remarks: "It was a long time before it was understood if even it be yet understood, that the representation of the thing itself is not of greater nature than the thing itself, and that a ship filled with fish and a Galleon, are vessels equally laden with gold; there is even this remarkable difference, that mines can be exhausted, and the Fisheries never are. Gold is not reproductive, but the fish are so incessantly."

We are induced to make these references to the value of the colonial fisheries, as they appear to have been in a great measure disregarded by the Imperial Government, until recently, under the Derby administration, ever since the Peace of 1814; whilst on the other hand, the avidity with which they have been prosecuted by the French and American governments is remarkable; and this activity mainly stems from the unfortunate concessions made to these nations in 1814 and 1815. In the language of a Report of a Committee upon the House of Assembly of Newfoundland, of which Mr. Garrett, the Colonial Treasurer was Chairman:—"In this Newfoundland Fisheries, instead of being, in the words of the Treaty of Paris, which upon his resignation was concluded by Lord Bute, a nursery for able seamen, for the Royal Navy, [illegible] Seamen, either to try him, or to bind him over to a competent tribunal to answer to the charges. These are indisputable facts publicly known in the County where they occurred. And the justices who thus decided, have since one and all acknowledged that they were in error, and yet does Veritas with that low cunning and effrontery peculiar to every pettifogger endeavour to show that the statement of the Traveller had no foundation in Truth, and that no confidence can be placed in any assertions of his.

Veritas says at one time that the Court had no jurisdiction over the offence, in the next passage he says expressly gives a jurisdiction, then goes on to state that the Magistrates did not discharge the accused under the impression that they had no jurisdiction over a misdemeanor. But does not state why he was discharged, and then says the general sessions have power to try the offence; Oh, what a Donkey. Such mongrel special pleading fails to convince a school-boy contrary to his senses, and only shows the cowardly, malicious, and dastardly position of this pedagogue, who contradicts and falsifies himself in every alternate line.

Like Gladstone's bill Veritas deals largely in generalities and abstract questions, but has not shown one instance where the Traveller deviated from the true path, but admits that his production was original, and says that his "attack on the Magistrates and Council shows a suspicious feeling"; is it possible that he has the presumption to so style that nondescript, who was guilty of imposing upon a bench of Magistrates by misdirecting them contrary to law, and who had taken every pains to persuade them that the Criminal should be dismissed without trial; threatened them with an action for false imprisonment; and also stated that the two Justices who had examined the prisoner made out their papers imperfectly, although the act expressly says that no advantage be taken for want of form, &c.; from such council, "Good Lord deliver us."

If Veritas could make it appear that the prisoner had had his trial, that he was bound over to the Supreme Court, or that he had not been discharged by the Bench, then indeed the case would be different, but when the facts are the very reverse what is his veracity worth? He admits "that the Traveller has ingenuity," but his own vindictive spirit prevented him having sufficient to conceal his own iniquity. In winding up he says that the proceedings were deservedly dropped; does he come to this conclusion from the innocence of his client? he takes good care to steer clear of that point. I understand the proceedings dropped for the present in compassion to the culprit's pitiable poverty. Query, if the said Court was not justifiable in trying him, would they convict him on the best testimony? In the last line Veritas stated "it sounds like a wolfish howl of disappointment." No wonder indeed that he should be so forcibly reminded of Wolves, for doubtless he must have seen them prowling upon the carcass of the poor Cow when in Council, going and returning from his client's, as the carcass was more than carrion.

Veritas talks of "unenviable notoriety." If gross extortion, unhallowed avarice, overreaching unprincipled litigation, and the unmitigated thirst for practice on any terms be the test of a business reputation, then is he in the full enjoyment of one, for which even the Traveller does not envy him.

The circumstantial status of this pettifogger have fallen heavily upon his troubled vision, as he has not attempted one iota of his vicious misrepresentations, but contrariwise, they have recoiled with double force upon his perverted head. He calls the statements of a Traveller, "His Law," and endeavors to shift himself from his own muddy mountain, perverting the entire statute, and insisting that there is no law whereby a culprit can be tried for misdemeanor.

Veritas has resorted to personalities, which is the only refuge of all degenerate creatures who have time for no other creds. The latter therefore expect a much more in return. The Traveller would advise him to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Statutes, and if not satisfied therewith, to go and read a little in the other revised.

St. John, 1853. A TRAVELLER.

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Precisely the same results will inevitably follow should our remaining fisheries fall a sacrifice to American cupidity. We might with equal propriety hand over our Coals and mineral resources, because to borrow an expression, we cannot "operate" upon this internal wealth to a very great extent at the present day.

"It is forcibly said by Mr. M'Gregor, in his History—"In ceding to France the right of fishing on the shores of Newfoundland, from Cape John to Cape Ray, with the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, we gave that ambitious nation all the means that her Government desires of manning a navy; and if we were determined to lay a train of circumstances which by their operation, should sap the very vitals of our native strength, we could not more effectually have done so than by granting a full participation of those Fisheries to France and America."

The Newfoundland Committee conclude their excellent report as follows:

"Your Committee, in referring to the American Fisheries, have also to say that they have no data to ground a correct estimate of them; but they can state that they are very extensive, employing from one thousand five hundred to two thousand sail of decked vessels, averaging from forty to one hundred tons burthen. The catch of fish in the British waters has been estimated at one million one hundred thousand quintals, which must give employment to twent-five thousand fishermen and seamen. The American fishers are observed in great numbers on the Grand Bank, and on the fishing-grounds in the Gulf of St. Lawrence—all along the shores of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, Newfoundland, and the shores of Labrador. They commence their fishery early in the spring and follow it up with the greatest assiduity to the last period of the fall. The American Fishery is encouraged by a bounty of twenty shillings per ton, and the supply of their own markets protected by a duty of five shillings per quintal on foreign fish.

Your Committee have to observe, that the great catch of fish by the Americans, supported as it is by bounties and other encouragements, operates, concurrently with the French catch and bounties, to sap the foundation of the British Fishery."

We earnestly trust that the Provincial Legislature will entertain this important question, immediately after the opening of the coming Session, and will address a strong remonstrance to the Imperial Parliament against any, the slightest concession of our Colonial rights. We have little confidence in the present strangely constituted ministry. Had it been purely conservative, we should have entertained no apprehension on the subject, because it has become a maxim that "the conservatives are anxious by every means to cement and perpetuate a union between the Colonies and the Mother Country, whilst the English radical is ever ready to dissever those ties, looking upon the Colonies as a clog to Imperial prosperity." The fallacy of the radical is unworthy of remark.

COMMUNICATIONS.

MR. CHRONICLE,

Sir—Your last number contains a specimen from the pen of a very scurrilous scribbler signing himself Veritas, in reply to a communication of a Traveller which appeared in your paper of last October. Truly the mountain has been a long time in labour and at length has brought forth a mouse. That master-piece of art deserves a place among the curiosities of literature.

The Traveller merely stated a case of a criminal who had been brought up for trial before a certain Bench of Magistrates for maliciously killing with a hay-fork his neighbour's Cow, of which there had been evidence to have convicted him for the offence; but owing to the stupidity of the Court, not having a presiding Barrister to guide their deliberations, the criminal was dismissed, the Court deciding that they had no jurisdictions at the general Sessions, either to try him, or to bind him over to a competent tribunal to answer to the charges. These are indisputable facts publicly known in the County where they occurred. And the justices who thus decided, have since one and all acknowledged that they were in error, and yet does Veritas with that low cunning and effrontery peculiar to every pettifogger endeavour to show that the statement of the Traveller had no foundation in Truth, and that no confidence can be placed in any assertions of his.

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Mr. EDITOR.—What is the reason that there is such a falling off at the Institute, this season? There is no want of public spirit in this community to support it, if only brought out. What ails the Managers about? Why don't they shake themselves to furnish some kind of entertainment to run on the dullness of our dull time? There are plenty of gentlemen among us qualified to take their places on the platform there, and if they refuse to lend a helping hand, the directors should get some paid person to deliver a course of lectures on some of the leading topics now [illegible] Gold-seeking, Railways, as assuming the present price of iron, and the future prospects of our Province, the probabilities of Sir John Franklin's being found this winter, the unusual mildness of the present season, &c. would furnish edifying subjects for lectures, and plenty more might be found. Do, Mr. Editor, stir up the managers, and let us have something to amuse and cheer us, at this dull time.

H. B.

NEW SHIPS.—Launched yesterday from the ship yard of Mr. Nevins, at the Aboideau, a beautiful ship 1,100 tons burthen, called the *Star of the South*. She is owned by Thomas E. Millidge, Esq., and is commanded by Richard Cresser.

BURNED TO DEATH.—On Wednesday evening between 7 and 8 o'clock, an old colored woman commonly known by the name of "Kelly," living in St. Georges street, below the Centenary Chapel, was burned so severely by her clothes taking fire that she expired in a short time. She was alone when her clothes caught fire and had the door locked. [*Morning Times.*

☞ By telegraph we are informed that Mr. How's Railway Bill passed second reading by a Majority of two.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have received the communication of "*Caution*" on the subject of the retiring from the office of Deputy Sheriff Nowlan, we have not room for its insertion in this impression. Yet we may remark that our feelings on the subject are perfectly consonant with that writer. We conceive the interference of the *Freeman & News* in the matter, but uncalled for and impertinent. We do not believe that Mr. Nowlan has "died so hard" as those Radicals would have the public to suppose. Mr. Nowlan may with propriety exclaim, "save me from my friends!" We have reason to believe that Mr. N. is by