Governor and Council, with having proposed to Her Majesty's Imperial Government, a measure to deprive the Colony of its Constitution, and assimilate it to that of Newfoundland; and stated, that a Bill for that purpose had been framed by the Members of his Government, two of whom were then present (alluding to Mr. Haviland and myself), upon this I stepped forward, and interrupted the Treasurer by asking him to state distinctly, whether the intended to assert, that we had assisted, as Members of the Government, or otherwise, in framing an Act to deprive the Island of its Constitution, or to give it that of Newfoundland; and not receiving a distinct reply, I continued by saying, that if he persisted in that assertion, he stated what was false; that I was not next regardless of the charge; and said, that Mr. Pope, in asserting, that Sir Donald Campbell had ever attempted to procure the withdrawal of the present Constitution of the Colony, or substitute in its stead, that of a Newfoundland Constitution, said that which was false. This is what took place at St Eleanor's, with respect to the charge against the late Sir Donald Campbell, and his Executive Council, which I believe, just now, proved false, by the same gentleman individual who then urged it, in language something different; and the reply which I shall now make to it, will, in substance, be the same as that which I made to it at St. Eleanor's. It does not, by any means follow, that because I and others, alluded to by the honorable the Treasurer, were in the Executive Council, at the time when this measure is supposed to have been prepared, we either proposed it to Sir Donald Campbell, or even considered it, or concerning it. But, I dare say, it would afford considerable gratification, to the Hon. the Treasurer and the other Members of the Government in this House, now to have the only other Members of the late Administration here at present (Mr. Thornton) and myself, to the most rigorous examination, with respect to that measure. Nay, I have no doubt they would, if possessed of the necessary power, compel the whole box of the late Executive Council to appear before them, and promptly to answer "Yes," or "No," to every question which they might think fit to put them concerning it. But I do not conceive it incumbent upon any one of us to submit to such interrogation, either here or elsewhere; and I beg leave to remind the Hon. the Treasurer of the doctrine, with respect to the duty of individual Members of the Executive Council, as taught and practised by himself, under the Government of Newfoundland, he quarrelled with Sir Henry Huntley. That honorable member then maintained, that it was no violation of any principle of the Constitution, for a member of the Executive Council to oppose the views of the Governor, and at the same time, to retain his seat therein. He then maintained, that it was by no means necessary, according to the Constitution, as it then existed, that there should be unity of opinion, upon all public questions between the Governor and his Council: nay, he even went so far as to maintain, that a member of the Executive Council, although most directly and personally exposed to the opinion of the Governor, might with propriety retain his seat at the Council Board; and, with respect to Sir Henry Huntley, he acted upon that opinion, until Sir Henry thought proper to suspend him. Now, I believe, no person will deny, that the old form of Government was still in existence, when Sir Donald Campbell proposed this "treasonable" change in the elective franchise. Then, a member of the Government, according to the Treasurer's principles, might, without any violation of duty, oppose, the views of the Governor, and still retain his seat at the Council Board. The Hon. the Treasurer and his colleagues in the Government, now seem to have forgotten his doctrine and practice in the time of Sir Henry Huntley; and, with respect to the late Sir Donald Campbell and his Council, they first charge an act of his to have been unconstitutional and arbitrary, as they please to term it; and, immediately thereafter, have promulgated, and sustained therein, by the advice and assistance of his Council, who are, therefore, to be denounced as traitorous and diabolical villains. They have thus perverted and misrepresented the opinions of the Hon. the Treasurer, as expressed by himself, touching the freedom of opinion, which members of the Executive Council could be allowed to exercise therein, I will quote the words, which, on the subject, are attributed to him in the public newspaper of the day, and which, as they were not disavowed by him, we have reason to believe were spoken by him. They are. "Although I hold a seat in the Council, it does not follow, that I have any right to dictate to the Lieutenant Governor. A degree of discretion must always be exercised, for it will be remembered, that by the Colonial Rule, the Governor may or may not consult his Council, he does not, the responsibility of his acts rests with him, this I hold to be the general rule." By the spirit which pervades this debate it is made quite evident, that in applying to His Excellency for information touching Sir Donald Campbell's Bill, for a change on the subject of the Franchise and the Constitution of this Island, the ministerial party falsely represented themselves as seeking that information through a spirit of fair play, and a desire to know, that which might aid them in the revision of the Election Law. The course which they have pursued, since the delivery of His Excellency's Message in answer to their Address, clearly shows, that all his assistance they expected to derive from the required information, was an opportunity to create a little political capital; being conscious, I imagine, that now, in the days of fulfilment, the people a suspicious eye towards the responsible Government party's real amount of stock in that line, is considerably less than what they got credit for in the days of their promise. The Government, well aware, how very trifling their deeds in fulfilment would appear, in the eyes of the people, compared with their mighty promises before they attained their present position of self-aggrandisement and profit, so long and eagerly coveted by them, hope, by a show of most virtuous indignation, which they have taken to an ineffective project of the late Sir Donald Campbell, and the most seemingly fervent and sincere declarations of what they would not have done, and the evils which they would have to power had prevented, to divert the attention of the people from the actual paltry amount of their public services; and, if possible, to make them, for a while, forget, in their exulting joy at having escaped a calamity which might have befallen them, how much they have been deceived, and how very probable it is, that of all the mighty things promised them by the Responsibles, they will never realize o.e a tithe hands.

Hon. Mr. POPE. I beg leave to call upon the hon. member from Darley, (Mr. Clark,) to state whether, according to his recollection of what took place at St. Eleanor's, at the time referred to, the treasurer did not say, that in the next three days, and would bring with him a new Constitution for the Colony. The matter was no secret. It had been much spoken of in the country, and seemed to be confidently anticipated by the friends of the late Lieutenant Governor, and, I believe, by none more confidently looked for, than by the hon. members from Belfast and Port Hill, (Mr. Douse and Mr. Yeo), much shamed as they appear to be of the measure now. But indeed now that the object of that Government has been fully exposed, I am not surprised, that it cannot find a single open advocate in this House, or that they who were undoubtedly its friends so long as they had reason to hope it would become law, should now eagerly disclaim all former knowledge of it; for it was a measure in direct opposition to the wishes of the people of this Colony, but, as far as it went, destructive of the inherent rights of mankind. With respect to the proposed abolition of the property qualification of members, it is evident the people think it imposes a very unnecessary, and, I believe, very restriction upon the freedom of their choice; and I am decidedly of the same opinion. Without any such restriction as that qualification lays upon the exercise of the elective franchise, the good sense of the people will, in most instances, prevent their making improper selection of men, as respects circumstances and position in life, to represent them in the Assembly. That the respectability of the Assembly would be increased, by raising the property qualification of members, as asserted by the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Douse), is a proposition of which the absurdity is self-evident, and ever will be so, until it can be shewn, that any thing but worth marks the man. I will support the motion of the Hon. the Leader of the Government.

Mr. PALMER. The hon. member from Darley (Mr. Clark), must, I think, recollect that the charge was first against the late Sir Donald Campbell for having attempted to alter the Constitution of the Colony, and to assimilate it to that of Newfoundland; and, Haviland and myself, as members of the Government, were not only privy to, but had participated in such alleged project. I then rose, and asked if the Hon. the Treasurer meant to assert that either Mr. Haviland, or myself, as members of the Government, had assisted Sir Donald Campbell in drawing out any such Constitution; and I endeavored to keep the Treasurer to the assertion first made, while he endeavored to charge it to a more general and undefined one, by saying, that we were privy to Sir Donald's scheme, whatever it was; but I did not say, that we had no knowledge of Sir Donald's having sent home a proposition to alter the elective franchise, for the purpose of introducing Responsible Government into this Colony. That he did so was well known by many persons besides the members of his Council; and was in fact, hardly sought to be concealed by any one. What I denied then, I still deny; and as the alteration occurred in the hearing of several hundreds of the people, I am quite easy, if judgment is to rest with the public on the point whether contradiction has been brought successfully home to the Hon. the Treasurer or myself.

Hon. Mr. POPE. Was not the learned member for Charlottetown (Mr. Palmer) was attempting to be very witty, but he must take care not to allow his "wit" *to shine at the expense of his memory.* The sum and substance of the charge against him and myself at St. Eleanor's with respect to the late Sir Donald Campbell's scheme for the abrogation of the Representative Constitution of this Colony, on the occasion alluded to, may be very briefly stated. It was, that we had accused Sir Donald of the treasonable design, and stated my belief that the two members of the late Government, then present, had been accessaries therein, the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown, on this occasion, rose, and, in a way, meant to say, that I drew out the Bill, by means of which the change in the Constitution was to be effected.' I replied, 'No; but I believe you were an accessary therein; and, in my opinion, Sir Donald, in making such a proposition, acted as a traitor to the rights of the people, which, as the Governor of the people, it was his duty to protect; and all who assisted him were participators in this vile attempt.' Then, and on that occasion, I stated, that if I said, that he had assisted Sir Donald Campbell in drawing out a Constitution, for this Colony, similar to that of Newfoundland, I asserted what was not true; and the late Colonial Secretary answered me precisely to the same effect. I then replied, that I had said that Sir Donald Campbell's Constitution was the same as that of Newfoundland; but that I thought it very probable, that the design was to assimilate our Constitution to that of Newfoundland. I, in my observations, had to be made on the minds of those present, by the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown and the late Colonial Secretary, was evidently that they knew nothing about Sir Donald's scheme; and I believe with one the impression, made by their artful and evasive explanations, upon some few of those who heard them. Indisputable facts, however, are now before us; and, when they go forth to the public, not many will fail to perceive that both the late Colonial Secretary and the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown were as deeply concerned in the plot as I then stated, that I believed them to have been. For my own part, I positively know, that one of them was so, from his own mouth, and I have no doubt, that the other, on sufficient reason to conclude that the other, although perhaps not so fully trusted or consulted in the matter, must have been aware of the fact. The proposition, that I made at St. Eleanor's, with respect to the design, now that it is fully revealed, I say again that a more villanous scheme was never devised, for the purpose of being submitted to Parliament to be passed into law: and all the proceedings in connection with it were of a piece; they were all characteristic of a most disgraceful plot; they were conceived and deliberated on in secret, all knowledge of them was carefully kept from the Legislative Council, and even from whom particularly it was sent to the Colonial Office, in the shape of a Bill duly framed, and strongly recommended to the Imperial Government, in a private Despatch.

The Hon. the SPEAKER. The accomplishment of the scheme of the late Sir Donald Campbell, would undoubtedly have amounted to a most serious and arbitrary infraction of the right of the people of this Colony; for it would have disfranchised two-thirds of the electors, and reduced the number of their representatives to nineteen, and these chosen by the proprietors and freeholders. But he did not think it was right or parliamentary to accuse his late Government, on account of a project against the liberties of the people, which there was reason to believe, had wholly originated with Sir Donald Campbell himself; and neither did he think, that the project itself, was wrong or tyrannical as it its operation would have been, was in any degree heinous, if indeed it could be accounted as outrageous as former acts of injustice to this Colony by some of Sir Ed. Campbell's predecessors in the Government. Here, for instance, did Sir Charles Fitz Roy and Sir Henry Vere Huntley, characterize the representatives of the people of this Colony in Despatches to the Colonial Office? They stigmatised the members of the Assembly as men without education, without honesty, and without moral principles. Sir Donald Campbell's recommendation of a measure, the effect of which would have been a disfranchisement of two-thirds of the electors of the Colony, was undoubtedly bad; but it was certainly not worse, than Sir Charles Fitz Roy's and Sir Henry V. Huntley's slanderous representation of the Assembly. When he (the Speaker) brought before the Assembly, the subject of one of the Despatches, in which they had been shamefully vilified by the Governor (Sir Charles Fitz Roy), the honorable the Treasurer, then a member of the Government, as well as of the Assembly, said he knew any thing about it. If then, at that time, a Despatch highly important, as it was calculated materially to affect the interests of the Colony, could be prepared and transmitted home without the knowledge of the Council, at least without his (the Hon. Mr. Pope's) knowledge when he sat at the Council Board, why may not the members of Sir Donald Campbell's administration have been, in like manner, ignorant of his (Sir Donald's) Despatch recommending an innovation in the Constitution? And, indeed, it was much more likely, that a Despatch of Sir Donald Campbell's should be prepared and forwarded without the knowledge of his Council, than such a Despatch as have happened with respect to the Council, either of Sir Charles Fitz Roy or of Sir Henry Vere Huntly; for Sir Donald, as he declared to the Assembly, at the time referring, had never, while Governors did not. With respect to the motion for the abolition of the property qualification of members of the Assembly, he would support it. He was of opinion, that it ought to be done away with. It would be much more trifling to make the property qualification that of £50. And what was it, or indeed any property qualification, when put into the balance with integrity and sound judgment? A property qualification could be deemed by some as affording a guarantee for equitable legislative views on the part of its possessor. But what guarantee for honest legislation could the possession of property worth no more than £50 afford. If indeed the qualification were raised to £1000, it might be accounted some guarantee for property to that amount would be some stake in the country; but property worth no more than £50 would be none. But he had always objected to the property qualification of members, for seats in the Assembly, because the raising of it would, very greatly, and very unjustly, circumscribe freedom of choice on the part of the electors, and when first returned to the Assembly, he assured his constituents, that he would never consent to any proposition in the Legislature, for narrowing their privilege in that respect. He had always been against making members of the Assembly liable to office upon a process for being in actual possession of any given amount of property. He had always been opposed to the power of exercising an inquisitorial investigation, with respect to title-deeds and other vouchers, for the possession and value of property. At the time of qualifying, a man might be in no way involved in pecuniary difficulties; he might be in possession of property to a considerable amount; he might have valuable vessels at sea, and be the owner of much valuable property in various ways, and yet, in a very short time, in consequence of the failure of even warrantable speculations, and other unforeseen losses, he might become a bankrupt, and be liable to the imposition of a greater fine than the value of his estate. To give by Statute, one member of the House the power, maliciously, or vexatiously, to call upon another member to produce and lay upon the Table, documents, to prove his property qualification, would be the least of it, was to be exposed to serious legislation; and the best thing that could be done, with respect to it, would be, to do away with that qualification entirely. But although such was his opinion with respect to the property qualification of candidates or members; there was one qualification which he was persuaded, ought to be made necessary by law; and that was such as would give to the Colony for a time sufficient to admit of a man's becoming well acquainted with its affairs; and for that purpose, a residence of seven years in the Colony, would, he thought, be quite little enough.

Hon. Mr. POPE. I, in reply to the Honorable the Speaker, observed, if the whole body of the Assembly had, by any Governor of the Colony, been represented, in his private correspondence, as a set of low, ignorant blackguards; still, how unjust would the expression, how unmeritable never the stigma, cast upon the representatives of the people might have been, it would have been a very slight offence, in comparison with the enormous one of letting loose upon the people of the elective franchise, as ministerially to reduce them to the object condition of agrarian serfs. This, in my opinion, is the greatest political crime which any Governor could be guilty of towards a people. And this is the crime which the late Sir Donald Campbell was guilty. The scheme for the disfranchisement of the people of this Colony is such a one as might have been conceived by Nero himself. That tyrant wished, that the whole Roman people had only one neck, that he might have the pleasure of beheading them all at one blow; and the late Sir Donald Campbell, in the same spirit of despotism, conceived and recommended a measure to the Imperial Government, which, he hoped, would enable him to deprive the whole people of this Colony of their political privileges, by, as it were, a single dash of his pen.

Hon. Mr. POPE. If the honorable the Speaker thinks, as he appears to do, that the having written, in a confidential Despatch, a few words in disparagement of the Assembly, is an offence which can compare, in magnitude or turpitude, with a scheme calmly conceived, deliberately framed, and warmly recommended to the Imperial Government, for the almost total annihilation of the political liberties of the people; we must, I think, only regard his being at a period, much more sensitive he is, as to the motives in which he is individually held by a Government, then he is with respect to those more important matters which affect the rights and interests of the people at large. The confidential Despatch, to which the honorable the Speaker has alluded, came before the public, through Mr. Hume, at that time the Agent for Cape Ann and his party in England, who moved for it in Parliament; and it appeared that Sir Charles Fitz Roy, in his confidential correspondence with the Colonial Office, had given it as his opinion, that the majority of the House of Assembly at that time, were ignorant and unprincipled men. Sir Charles Fitz Roy, had certainly done wrong in speaking of the Assembly in so disparaging a manner as he had done; but still, he was, in speaking merely an opinion, in a confidential correspondence with the Colonial Office, and even in a private opinion concerning that body: it was not followed up by any recommendation to the Imperial Government, the adoption of which would have been a deadly blow to the liberties of the people of this Colony; and yet, in consequence of that opinion, it was thought by a Governor to have merely so thought and so written of some of the Members of the Assembly, was a crime of equal enormity with that of having devised and urged upon the Home Government, the adoption of a scheme for the extinction of public liberty in the Colony. That any representative of the people in this House should rise, in his place, and avow it to be his opinion, that greater intelligence would be shown in the affairs of Agriculture, Commerce, on account of the expression, by one Governor, of his private estimate of the worth of the Assembly, than by the determined and systematic endeavors of the members of the Government, to deprive the rights of firemen, would certainly have very much surprised me; but to hear such an opinion avowed by the honorable the Speaker, the representative, not only of one constituency, but of all the constituencies of this Island, does not surprise me considerably, in a very uncommon degree. When I had the honour to be Speaker of the Assembly, I, on one occasion, spoke of myself as being the representative of the whole body of the people, and I felt tormented myself; and as such, I studied to act, making very little account indeed of the silly attempts of some to throw ridicule upon me for having so spoken. Such, I think, is the light in which the Speaker should always view himself. As the chosen representative of the people, we are collectively constituted the guardians of public rights and privileges; but, although every member of the House is individually bound to protect those rights and privileges, yet there is one individual member amongst us, whose especial duty it is to be, if possible on all occasions, more jealous and watchful for the preservation of the liberties of the people, than any other member of the Assembly, and that individual member is the Speaker. I am therefore, I must confess, very much astonished at the avowal just made by the honorable the Speaker; and I very much regret to find, at a time so critical, such a feeling of indifference in the Speaker.

The Hon. the SPEAKER replied to the Hon. Mr. Pope with considerable warmth. He asked, whether it could be made to appear, that any thing he had said was intended to be a justification of Sir Donald Campbell's scheme for contemplating a curtailment of the elective franchise of the Colony. He said, he had alluded to certain Despatches of former Governors, as sent home to prepare the way for the abrogation or suspension of the Constitution. He thought, it was fair to judge that opinions of Sir Charles Fitz Roy, concerning the Assembly, as expressed in his Despatches, were his private opinions. Sir Charles, he said, could know nothing of the private means and individual characters of the members of the Assembly. Whatever opinions he entertained, with reference to those points, and communicated to the Colonial Office, were, undoubtedly, founded on the representations concerning them, which had been made to him by his Council. The hon. the Treasurer had taken upon himself to admonish him, (the hon. the Speaker,) with respect to his duty to the people; and had told him, that he, especially, ought to be jealous and watchful for the preservation of the liberties. He would take leave to tell the hon. member, in reply, that, unlike him, he had always been the zealous, uncompromising, and unflinching advocate of the rights of the people. He had never, like the hon. the Treasurer, resisted attempts for the correction of abuses, on the plea, that it was a law, and therefore, he had to should devour the little fish. He had never, like the hon. the Treasurer, treated the petitions of the people with contempt and ridicule. If it could be shown, that he had ever, in any way, opposed himself to the interests of the people, he would, or that he had not, on all proper occasions, stood forward as their earnest and consistent advocate, he would be prepared to quit the House at once; but he pledged himself to prove, by extracts taken from the speeches of the hon. the Leader of the Treasurer, that no other member of the Assembly had ever opposed himself so much to the redress of public grievances, had ever shown so much bitter hostility to the friends of the people, or had ever expressed himself in such contemptuous terms, when speaking directly of the people themselves, as he (the hon. the Treasurer) had done.

Hon. Mr. COLES. I think it was the intention of the hon. the Speaker, when he referred to the opinion of the Government from the charges preferred against them, with respect to the despotic scheme of the late Governor, or at least to endeavor to show, that they were not more to blame than either the official advisers of Sir Charles Fitz Roy, or those of Sir Henry Vere Huntley, with respect to certain objectionable Despatches of those Governors. If so, however, he has certainly not accomplished his object. He has failed to observe, that the Despatches of Sir Charles Fitz Roy, to which he has alluded, was private and confidential; whereas, that of the late Sir Donald Campbell, now in question, was a public Despatch, and accompanied by a full and regular Draft of a Bill, to be laid before the Imperial Parliament, to alter the existing law. The hon. the Speaker has said, that Sir Charles Fitz Roy could have known nothing of the individual means and private characters of the members of the Assembly, except as based upon information respecting them, derived from his Council; but, in the confidential correspondence and his advisers, and to exculpate, if not the late Sir Donald Campbell himself, at least his Council, he forgot that, for the information necessary to enable him to define the boundaries of the electoral districts, and to fix the localities of the polling stations, as well as other minutiæ of his Bill, Sir Donald Campbell must have been quite as much indebted to others, as was either Sir Charles Fitz Roy or Sir Henry Huntley to the members of his Council, for information respecting the private means and habits of the members of the Assembly. And seeing that Sir Donald could not possess that knowledge by intuition, it was surely most reasonable to suppose, that he derived it immediately from his Law Officer, or from some other members of his Council. The Bill was drawn up by some of Sir Donald's official advisers, there is very strong reason to believe; and it is positively known, that it was copied by one of them. They were, indeed, so fully aware of the objectionable character of the Bill; but had it been returned to the Colony, passed into Law by the Imperial Parliament, they would have had to assume the responsibility of the measure here; which, considering its arbitrary and unpopular character, would certainly have been very hard upon them, unless it had had their previous sanction. Some are not disposed to entertain the most favorable opinion of the policy of Earl Grey, with respect to the Colonies; but, I think, that had not he very steadily withstood the representations and entreaties of Sir Donald Campbell, the Bill for the disfranchisement would have passed into a law. And it is not to be supposed, that the representations contained in Sir Donald's Despatch, which accompanied the Bill, were the only means used to induce Earl Grey to give favorable consideration of that measure. These representations were undoubtedly preceded by other preparatory ones, given, by Sir Donald, in private and confidential Despatches; and, could they be brought to light, they would not, I imagine, be found, in any way, more complimentary to the Assembly or people of Prince Edward Island, than that of Sir Charles Fitz Roy, which appears to have so much galled the hon. the Speaker.

The discussion concerning the late Sir Donald Campbell's Despatch and Bill for the limitation of the Elective Franchise, was then allowed to drop; and the motion of the Hon. Mr. Coles for the abolition of the property qualification of Members of the Assembly, having been put to the vote, was agreed to without a division.

AUSTRALIA.

(From the Elgin Courant).

We submit to the attention of our readers another letter just received from our respected townsman, Mr. John Gray, who has favored us with further details of the Australian Gold Fields.

"DEAR SIR—I had myself the pleasure of writing you a few lines some short time after the discovery of our golden fields, principally with view of warning parties from leaving the Indies, and expensive route by the adjacent colonies, should any from your quarter resolve on coming to this golden country; and, at the same time, I promised to forward you some further particulars respecting the grand discovery of gold in these parts, which I have now the pleasure to undertake.

"For several years previous to the practical working, our Geologists had been issuing papers from time to time, proving from analogy, as well as actual facts, that this was an auriferous country, but their suggestions passed almost unheeded, until a person of the name of Hargraves returned from California. He has while there observed the similarity of the formation of the two countries, and, on his arrival, he proved to the Government the astounding facts that the whole length of our Australian Cordilleras, for thousands of miles, was the richest and most extensive gold field ever known and the result has proved that it is so in the highest degree. Notwithstanding the great want of labour throughout the colony, and the consequent high rates of wages, there are already some 50,000 people employed digging, who are earning from 10s. to 50s. and up to £300 per day; but certainly with hard and laborious work, and in the absence of nearly every domestic comfort. So prolific is the yield, that already, within a few months of the discovery, about 8 tons of gold have been exported and the quantity in private hands is considered to be fully more—making our gold export, even in its infancy, far exceed the value of our wool and tallow, which last year amounted in value to about twenty tons of gold, if returned in specie. When compared to the yield of the diggings, in operating with quicksilver, the yield of precious metal must be incalculable.

In a country with such resources already opened up, and many more yet only in the infancy of development, who is glad to see it opened for the profitable employment of thousands of the over-population of Great Britain, either in digging gold, in cultivating the soil agriculturist, in the culture of the vine, in the following pastoral pursuits, as tradesmen, or in any of the other sources of employment, which will, without doubt, be more diversified here, than will be found in most other communities. What from the unlimited resources of our pastoral country, agriculture, the diggings, our coal, copper, silver, lead, plumbago, diamond, and coal mines; and the consequent demand for labour, arising from the rapid influx of population, there can be no more question, that this will be a great country at no distant period. In our own day we can see this greatness but partially realised, the next generation will behold England's colony of Australia the Queen of the Southern Sea. As it is the best, the healthiest and most delightful country under the sun, and produces within itself every production of the soil grown in any tropical or temperate clime, there can be no doubt, as its resources are developed, it will become a rival to England itself—and its almost unlimited extent, become known, it will one day be the greatest, wealthiest and happiest country under the auspices of Britain's sway.

This is a rapid but faithful statement of the present position of Australia; but I would warn all to weigh the matter well, before emigrating hither, notwithstanding the temption of Gold, or our dreamy climate, with its ever cloudless skies. There is a distance of some 16,000 miles separating parties here from friends in Scotland, and indeed there is nearly as much difference in manner, habits of life, as in latitude. Should there be a new country, this difference to exist, that I have scarcely known an exception to disappointment and regret for a year or two; while on the other hand, I know but of few exceptions to the preference given to the easy and independent circumstances of all parties here after a few years of experience, not to speak of the opportunities industrious and intelligent persons have of benefiting themselves here, as compared with Britain.

With your permission I shall continue to send you a few lines occasionally, in hope that they may convey to my native townsmen some information for their guidance; and I should be happy to answer any queries they might wish to make direct, expecting this my adopted country.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully.

JOHN F. GRAY.

Sydney, Nov. 10, 1851.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN CLIPPER SHIPS.

The relative merits and demerits of British and American marine architecture have lately been placed in a prominent position before the public and have commanded much attention. Not a few were they who, cowed by the lengthy and elaborate descriptions given by American Scribes of the "clippers" of their country, pitifully bemoaned the decadence of John Bull, sorrowfully hinted that Britannia was no longer "Mistress of the Seas," and confidently asserted that the "Wooden Walls of Old England" stood in the same relation to the ships of our transatlantic brethren as a Dutch tub does to the fast Yankee racer. This was, apparently, made evident last year by the defeat of *all* the British clippers in the China trade by the United States ship Oriental, and a great outcry was the consequence. Many unpatriotic statements were unscrupulously imagined that, were the builders of our country to construct vessels for sailing qualities alone, as is the case in America, where carrying capacity is altogether sacrificed to speed, they would have much room for either the United States or any other maritime nation to boast superiority in speed. These speculations were regarded merely as the delusive tenacity of a drowning man, and afforded another illustration of the national characteristic "Boastfulness without over know when he was beat." How far these speculations were correct has been somewhat made apparent by the various passages from China this year. The British clipper-ship Stornoway, built for the Chinese tea trade and commanded by Captain Robertson, for many years the respected commander of the John O'Gaunt, belonging to this port, was the first arrival of the season, having made the passage from Whampoa to London dock in 104 days, a performance which as yet ranks as fast, notwithstanding she had to beat against the China Seas against the monsoon. The American ship Surprise came next, a clipper which, when at home, it was said, would eclipse all her predecessors, and astonish the world by her performances. No doubt she did astonish the world, but, in three two days longer than the Stornoway, and coming at a more favorable period. After her came the Chrysolite, also built at Aberdeen belonging to Messrs Taylor, Potter, and Co., of London, which passed, also from Whampoa, and up the Mersey, in one day under the time occupied by the crack Yankee on her run, and but one day more than the Stornoway. The electric telegraph, reports the arrival, on Monday, at Liverpool of the White Sea Clipper Ship Sarah Sheafe, which required two days longer than the Stornoway, and one more than the Chrysolite, to reach the end of her voyage. A Russian ship just arrived from the same place only one day longer than the White Sea Ship Sarah Sheafe, from the facts adduced, there need be no fears as to the "flag that's braved a thousand year" continuing in the van of commercial enterprise; notwithstanding the forebodings to the contrary evinced by some of our own countrymen and the braggadoco so lavishly expended on the "star-spangled banner" by the Falstaffs of the country of which it is the emblem.—*Liverpool Albion.*

English Mail of April 3.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

It is stated that as early as possible after Easter, or at the latest after the prorogation, the Ministry will consent to the dissolution of Parliament.

A letter has been received by the Admiralty from Dr. Rae, dated Detroit, U. S., in which that gentleman announces his arrival at the whole locality, after a fruitless search for Sir John Franklin. The farthest point reached was 70 *deg.* 30 *min.* North longitude, and 101 West. In Arelina Land, they were arrested by ice, and despairing of being able to push on further, they commenced their return. On their return, they left their way to Copper Mine River, they picked up two pieces of wood, the one oak, and the other pine. The former was something like a stanchion, having a hole through the upper end, through which a chain had evidently passed.—The pieces of wood were shewn to the officers and crew of the staff, belonging to the British service, having upon it certain Government marks. It is to be brought to the Admiralty for inspection immediately on the arrival of Dr. Rae in England. He has examined about 1000 miles of new coast.

Between 9000 and 10,000 of the engineers have signed the employers' declaration, and returned to their work.

A Vienna letter states, that the Austrian Government has offered a reward to any one who shall be instrumental in preventing the gratuitous distribution of Bibles, which have been sent out to Austria by Biblical Societies in London, with the view of making proselytes to Protestantism.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Hume moved to bring in a Bill to amend the national representation, by extending the elective franchise in England and Wales, so that every man of full age, and not subject to any mental or legal disability, shall have a right to vote. After a long and somewhat stirring debate upon the motion, the House divided, when there appeared for the motion 97; against it 244. It was therefore lost.