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, amounted to that sum, or £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 make any 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 a 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 sum 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 his salary be £200.

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. £180 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 taken over board, and was offered 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 half 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. He has, you say, been kept on the turn 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 more well conducted as Mr. Hodgson's. His proceedings were invariably correct; and he had always a legal head upon his shoulders.

Mr. Morrey. 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 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 of his fees as 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 allowance, I imagine to shrink, was only made to enable 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 so 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. Moyneux 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 for which he has hitherto received.

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

Mr. Haviland Those 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. Morey, Hon. Mr. Warburton, Hon. Mr. Jardine, Hon. Mr. Lord, Mr. Macneil, 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, 1858.

Hon. Mr. Young's Protest on the passing of the Bill intitled "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. 3, 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, and no more, and no other fees or other 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 subject 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, during the month of February of, 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 considered 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 of the principles of public 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 abolishment of 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 per annum, and the salary which the Assembly first reduced to £300 cy., and then refused to agree to the suggestions of the Legislative Council, who voted it to £400 cy., in addition to what he 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 amounted to £50 cy. per annum. Fourthly. That the Legislative Council then subsequently reduced the salary to £360 cy., and to which the Assembly consented. That the salary received by the Solicitor General amounted, during the year, to an average of about £200 cy., and the Assembly increased his salary to £100 cy., thereby giving him £80 over and above his fees and allowances 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 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 £360 cy., which is equal to £225 in P. E. I., fixed by the Bill, is altogether inadequate for the salary of the Attorney General. That no such salary would induce a responsible professional gentleman of acknowledged 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 to 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 £100 per annum, and to give his legal 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 protest, and he is now 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 services now required to be performed.

And Sixthly. Because this Bill contains no suspending clause. A suspending clause was moved by the Dissentient, in the Legislative Council, when 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 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 accepted of that of Commissioner, 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, passed on the 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 3rd and 4th sections of the said Act, the latter of which is as follows:

"Unto the present or any future Attorney General of this Island, the sum of £150 lawful money, and 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 it were admitted that there were any probability of a saving, from a close 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 would be any increase of fees 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 arrangements 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. Peter Beete.

Council Chamber, April 15, 1858.

GLEANINGS FROM LATE PAPERS.

THINGS TALKED OF IN LONDON
April, 1858.

Conversazioni, conversations, 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 nobody knows a soul 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 something which is worth the trouble of 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 code of laws shall be established, unrivalled 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 inquiry into corruption, is disgraceful to our national character, and calls for prompt and stringent remedy. Then arises the question, What sort of a remedy?—What measures can be adopted that will inspire the multitude of Essex 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 issue Mint Silver, instead of copper coin, without first coming to a decision on the decimal currency question. Fifteen years ago, the Standard Commission 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 conferred on the country, 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 arithmetic 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 those 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 diversity of coins and currencies; but to render it complete, there must be uniform postage. We are promised by our post-office authorities, that henceforth sixpence shall be the postage for letters to our colonies, wherever 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 adopted. The dead weight of pauperism is diminishing; the number receiving poor-law relief on January 1, 1852, was 835,356; on January 1 of present year, it was 1,000,000. 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 demand for assistance is diminished. The 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 is another proposed Company, the 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 agriculture. 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 is expected to bring 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; and 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, the Noble Lord invited to 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.

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 Star of the East 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 2000 passengers. Hitherto, only a small 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 Liverpool, forty days. Of all the schemes this presents to the miserable failures that have taken place of late with Australian steamers! If the colonies were wise, they would offer 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. The advantages are 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, I regret to state, with 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 said, that a discovery made in 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 lithargo, minium, whiteload, and acetate of lead, which has been examined. It has also been extracted from very sensible proportions, from commercial bismuth. Between thirty and forty determinations have already been made.' After this discovery, we may qualify our opinion of the old alchemist's dream, that the philosophers 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, has some interesting facts, interesting to deaf people. Much of the deafness that occurs is found to be caused by an aperture having formed in the drum of ear; in such cases, if a piece of thin silk, or of india 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 ills being floating 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 new views of the Author, 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 for a datum in all 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, which are 1000 feet, or 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 Gulf of Mexico would be 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 thing to reduce the level of the 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.'

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 wanton reckless English had cut down, and 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, and branches by a mile high, 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 looked parched, and brown of quality diminishing. 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 must had been very rich. It is a mistake to suppose that the gold is found 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 anywhere, but over a wide space of ground, 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 a sooty. It is wrong, therefore, to suppose 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 disapointed hopes, often break down the lofty spirits of the British. 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; the constant glare of the sunlight on 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 cannot easily 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, quiet, peace, and comfort to securely waning, 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 and the dying. Everyone is busy 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 the circumstances may.

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 visible. These extended for miles and miles up one valley and down another, in every direction. In the neighborhood 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. Every fire had its group of parties of some sort or another—guns, pistols, revolvers, one might imagine what a succession of reports was heard every evening. The diggers never appeared without their fire-arms. Hence, the weapons loaded as they were. It would have been dangerous to move about at these times, lest an accidental shot should cross a path; and the diggers generally 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, with their pipes, were smoking, gazing, were busily devouring their mutton, and eating their damper of bread and tea with a gusto which only the hardest labor could beget. The conversation was generally, 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, to the usual amusements. Some Australian 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. Such was the much mentioned as 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—the charges of other electric 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 decided-ly low tariff, and which, in the words 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 applied, and of the ample 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 application to such a valuable agent. 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, and at a proportionate rate for any part of the line 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, is a circumstance of no ordinary 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. Where the business is conducted 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.

Scrutiny of the Poker at Rome.—The seventy-year-old Pope, we have 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 twisted 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 shirt stalkers, to remove the green sprig from the poor 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, the myrtle was green, and the combination, thus completing the Italian tricolor, and rendering the unconscious little favourite a canine revolutionist.