

WEEKLY EPITOME.

In the Legislative Council, this week, several measures that were passed by the Assembly have been agreed to. In the Legislative Assembly, on Tuesday, a discussion took place in reference to the election of Mr. Dalrymple for the Kennedy.

OXLEY CREEK.

On Tuesday morning last this district was enveloped in a dense fog, the smell of which bore unmistakable evidence of its having emanated from the fire which raged in Brisbane the evening previously.

TOOWOOMBA.

CLOSE, sultry weather was prevalent at the early part of the week, but on Wednesday we had a fine heavy rain, which has given the earth a sound and beneficial soaking.

NEWS AND NOTES.

A considerable quantity of rain fell, and must have done a great deal of good; but we still hope that it is only an installment, as we could do very well with two or three more days of it.

CLEVELAND BAY.

Our files from Townsville extend to September 29. We quote from the Express of that date.

ROMA.

SOME missives were entertained which the night of Monday last closed in without any appearance of the rattletrap which bears on its panels the presumptuous title of "Royal Mail."

ROBBERY OF THE MACKAY BANK.

From the Mercury, September 19. One of the first uses to which the local telegraph has been put, was to inform the general manager of the Australian Joint Stock Bank that the Mackay branch of that institution had been staked up and robbed to the tune of some hundreds of pounds.

BOWEN.

By the courtesy of Captain Black, of the C.M.S.S. Herby, we are in possession of files from Port Denison to October 6, from which we take the following extracts:—

TALGAI REEF.

THERE would seem to be some likelihood of a change in this neighborhood, which for some time past has been rather dull and stale. The Victoria machine has, I hear, been leased for a term of years by Messrs. Courtney and Co., and to be worked by some of the best men in the district.

MARYBOROUGH.

Our files from Maryborough are to the 16th instant. The Chronicle of the 6th instant reports further the devastation by the blains, had commenced lying, and also that several kids of the Angora goats had been dropped.

NEWS AND NOTES.

BY A SYDNEY MAN.

CXXIV.

Tuesday, October 9. ANOTHER great fire in Brisbane last night! Nine or ten houses in the principal street destroyed. Such was the startling, painful, and grievous salutation with which people accosted each other at an early hour. The telegram appeared in the Empire only, and must have been despatched from Brisbane at a late hour last night.

The Panama mail steamer arrived here this morning, and anchored at about 12. Her detention was caused at Panama, by the difficulty of getting her full supply of coals on board in contract time. The news she brings is of the highest importance, and settles the point with regard to peace or war for the present.

ROBBERY OF THE MACKAY BANK.

From the Mercury, September 19. One of the first uses to which the local telegraph has been put, was to inform the general manager of the Australian Joint Stock Bank that the Mackay branch of that institution had been staked up and robbed to the tune of some hundreds of pounds.

What think your readers of the story about the attempt to blow up the British Parliament House? I'll tell you what I think of it—that it is one of those ingenious tricks of American manufacture which have made our Transpacific consins so famous as workmen.

BOWEN.

By the courtesy of Captain Black, of the C.M.S.S. Herby, we are in possession of files from Port Denison to October 6, from which we take the following extracts:—

TALGAI REEF.

THERE would seem to be some likelihood of a change in this neighborhood, which for some time past has been rather dull and stale. The Victoria machine has, I hear, been leased for a term of years by Messrs. Courtney and Co., and to be worked by some of the best men in the district.

changed; Dr. Lang, and hundreds like him, would now prefer the National system, or something of the kind, while the Roman Catholic clergy will have none of it, and declare that "freedom of education" can only be obtained under dominicalism.

Burgess exhibits no change in his manner; for, of course, ever since his confession he has fixed his mind for the doom which now awaits him. His autobiographical sketches having been in the hands of the authorities, he expressed a desire to protest against that arrangement, and requested permission to have them returned, and he resolved to write to the Judge on the subject.

Kelly is in a condition of comparative mental prostration. After leaving the court on being committed, he exhibited a cheerfulness not quite in keeping with the misery he displayed in the dock. He appeared to enjoy his trial, and on going into the appeal to the crown, he followed the prisoners from the court-house. "Good bye, my lads," "Good bye," replied some one in the crowd, "and it's a good riddance of so impudent a scoundrel as your Catholic, declines to see a priest of his own persuasion."

On Sullivan there is no ostensible difference, and without doubt, so far as he is able, he is also, nevertheless, the most sensible of the horrible gang with which he has been connected.

The missionary schooner Day Spring returned here yesterday, accompanying the missionary barque John Williams, which vessel was leaving July, having struck on a rock in beating up the harbor of Antam.

Teacher: Do not believe in the Public Schools Bill. Scholar: No! It is a wicked abomination, devised by the enemy of mankind, and sure to subvert all that is decent and proper.

Q: What does the bill aim at? A: It aims at teaching the lower order the dangerous arts of reading and writing, thereby tending to encourage infidelity to the Church and insubordination among servants.

Q: What is meant by secular education? A: Every kind of education which is not religious.

Q: Can any kind of secular education be religious? A: Impossible! Secular education must necessarily be irreligious and atheistic.

Q: What is the most godless kind of education? A: Reading and writing, especially when perfectly acquired.

Q: Is this a proper education for the lower order? A: It is not. It is highly improper, and it is dangerous to the best interests of society.

Q: What harm does it do? A: It tends to defile all distinctions of rank. A literary education always makes the lower order discontented and unwilling to remain in the station to which it has pleased Providence to call them.

Q: What sort of education is proper for the lower orders? A: A religious education, with very little knowledge of letters and figures, is best for them. They should be taught that it is their duty to submit themselves in all things to governors, spiritual pastors, and masters; and to order themselves lowly and reverently to their betters.

Q: Are books and newspapers of any value to the lower orders? A: None at all. The pastor and the master are always ready to tell their dependents what ever it is good for them to know. Books and newspapers are highly injurious to the working classes.

Q: For whom was reading and writing intended and ordained? A: Only for the higher orders, who are called upon to rule over the lower.

Q: What do thou understand by freedom of education? A: Freedom to expend public funds in such a way as to make the raising government of the working people servicable to masters and to Church authorities.

Q: Do masters and pastors need to learn the arts of reading and writing themselves? A: Certainly. They would not be wiser than the lower orders if they did not.

Q: And why should they be wiser? A: Because they have to rule over the lower, and to prevent the mob from discovering their own strength.

The adjourned debate on Parkes' motion for the second reading of the bill is to be resumed in the Assembly this evening when Mr. Cooper will speak. Some curiosity has been expressed with reference to the side he will take. On the one hand he has been usually considered a sort of Church of England representative, though I think more from family ties than any thing like one-sided views; and he had certainly on a former occasion proposed the adoption of the Privy Council system.

A bill, professing to alter the salaries of Ministers of the Crown, has passed the second reading and the committee in the Assembly. It is not, however, any very revolutionary measure. It merely provides as amended, that after the 1st January, 1868, the salaries of Ministers shall all be placed on the Estimates, instead of as now, some being there and some in the schedules. So on the supposition that the Bill is finally approved, its effect will merely be to leave to the Committee of Supply, in 1868, the task of deciding whether the salaries shall be increased, reduced, or even altered at all, during the year 1868. A remote contingency! But I am not by any means one of those who think Ministers overpaid. If a responsible minister is not worth £13,000 or £23,000 a year in a colony like this he is not worth his salt, and, what is more, he is hardly to be trusted with anybody else's salt.

VICTORIA.

We have files from Melbourne to the 4th instant. Referring to the Exhibition, the Agents says:—"The Commissioners have wisely resolved on postponing the opening day from the 11th to the 22nd of August."

On the subject of Post Office Savings Banks, the Agents of the 4th gives the following statement:—"The total amount of deposits received by their establishment, which has just ended, is—Number of banks opened, 4; number of accounts opened, 6264; number of deposits received, 22,000; number of withdrawals paid, 10,000; amount of deposits received, £75,111 18s. 6d.; amount of repayments, £28,804 3s. 10d.; balance of credit of depositors, £47,007 14s. 7d. The deposits during the first month that the system was in operation amounted to £14,000, and during the last month they had increased to £11,550 9s."