Shipping.

ARRIVAL.

NOVEMBER 30.—Tinonee, A.S.N. Company's s., Captain C. Williams, from Mackay and Rockhampton. Passengers: Miss Topley, Mr. Pinaud, and 3 in the steerage. W Williams, agent.

DEPARTURES.

November 29.—Victoria, A.S.N. Company's s., 978 tons, Captain T. A. Lake, for Cooktown, via intermediate ports. Passengers: For Rockhampton—Hon. A. H. Palmer; for Mackay—Miss Bethune; for Bowen—Mr. R. Barker; for Townsville—Mrs. M'Gilvray and 2 children, Mrs. Payne, Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Agar and 4 children, Messrs. M'Gilvray, O'Brien, Collins, Whiteley, Whitehead, E. Cunningham, M. W. Cunningham, F. Clark, Smart, and Styles; for Cooktown—Mrs. Schott, Messrs. Hernstein and H. W. Zoller, and 16 in the steerage. W. Williams, agent.

November 29.—Wentworth, A.S.N. Company's s., 456 tons, Captain W. J. Stewart, for Sydney. Passengers: Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Fattorini, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Coutts, Mrs. T. H. Barron, child and servant, Mrs. Fane de Salis, Mrs. Drysdale, Miss Abbott, Rev. Mr. Ross, Messrs. W. Fane de Salis, T. H. Barron, Stephen Mason, Hannah, H. P. Abbott, W. A. Tully, Mutton, Kitmet, E. G. Lucas, R. Dickson, C. H. Smith, Rowland Morrisey, T. Rooke, S. Pillard, N. Foldi, John Crowther, and about 20 in the steerage. W. Williams, agent.

November 29.—Derwent, s., 500 tons, Captain H. B. Bristowe, for Maryborough. Passengers: Mrs. Halcrow, Messrs. A. C. Shaw, C. Young, H. Young, Robert Fleming, jun., Bohzer, W. Talbot, G. H. Davis, J. C. Smith, James Gibbins, Master Halcrow, and about 17 in the steerage. W. Howard Smith and Sons, agents.

FROM THE BAR.

November 30.—Albatros, German corvette, 4 guns, Captain Mensing, for Germany.

CLEARED.

November 29.—Astoria, barque, 636 tons, Captain W. S. Drummond, for London. Bright Bros. and Co., agents.

November 29.—Arakoon, s., 62 tons, Captain W. H. Milman, for the Brunswick River, in ballast. D. L. Brown and Co, agents.

EXPORTS.

Wentworth, s., for Sydney: 9 cases travellers' samples, 163 bales 4 cases and 1 pocket wool, 40 cases arrowroot, 907 ingots tin, 8 casks tallow, 52 hides, 2 cases catalogues, 53 bags potatoes, 27 cases fruit, 691 bags and 361 mats sugar, 3 cases and 1 cask plants, 30 bags maize, 807 bags tin ore, 1 box silver ore, and 8 packages sundries.

Astoria, barque, for London: 34 bales wool, 330 hides, a quantity of shank bones and hoofs, and 4337 horns, Samuel Hodgson and Co.; 143 bales wool, 57 casks tallow, 1820 horns, and quantity of hoofs, R. Lewin; 43 bales wool, G. A. Thompson and Co.; 9 bales wool, Mattinson and Whittenburg; 146 bales wool, Shanahan and Jennings; 451 bales wool, Scottish Australian Investment Company; 12 bales wool, George Harris and Co. (as agent s for R. Falkner); 2760 hardwood spokes, W. Fernie; 309 bales wool, W. Graham and Co.; 253 bales wool, Fanning, Nankwell, and Co.; 23 bales wool, Donaldson and Co.; 130 bales wool, George Clark; 47 bales wool, B. D. Morehead and Co.; 327 bales wool, James Tyson; 30 bales wool, George Harris and Co. (as agents for Mrs. Grace Bracker); a quantity of bones, Joint Stock Meat Company; 65 bales wool, Wienholt Bros.; 12 bales wool, W. Sloane and Co.; 7 bales wool, H. Stevens and Co.; 2621 horns and a quantity of hoofs and bones, Quinlan, Gray, and Co.; 154 bales wool, George Harris and Co. (as agents for Hodgson and Ramsay); 381 bags bone dust and a quantity of hoop iron, Parbury, Lamb, and Co.; 8 bales wool, George Harris and Co. (as agents for Mercantile Bank); 88 bales wool, Edward Wienholt; 107 bales wool, Bright Bros. and Co.

IPSWICH STEAMER.—The Louisa, from Messrs. Clarke, Hodgson, and Co.'s wharf, this morning, and also on Wednesday morning.

The Lady Bowen, s., now in port, will be despatched from the company's wharf this afternoon, at half-past 1 o'clock, for Maryborough, Bundaberg, and Rockhampton.

The Tinonee, s., from Mackay and Rockhampton, arrived alongside the company's wharf early yesterday morning, and will be despatched hence on her return trip to those ports to-morrow afternoon, at 4 o'clock.

The Wentworth, s., took her departure from the company's wharf on Saturday morning, as appointed, for Sydney. She left the Bar, Brisbane Roads, at 10.35 a.m., and is due at her destination this morning.

The Victoria, s., cast off from the company's wharf on Saturday morning for Cooktown, calling at Keppel Bay, Flat-top Island, Bowen, Townsville, Cairns, and Port Douglas on her course. This steamer, which passed out of the river at 11 a.m., and left the Bar at 11.45 a.m., was due in Keppel Bay last night or at an early hour this morning.

The Derwent, s., was despatched from the Government wharves on Saturday afternoon, for Maryborough, at which port she was due yesterday.

The Keilawarra, s., which would probably have arrived in Sydney yesterday morning from Brisbane, will, according to usual arrangements, leave to-morrow afternoon on her return trip to Brisbane, Maryborough, and Rockhampton.

The James Paterson, s., is appointed to leave Sydney this afternoon for Brisbane and Maryborough. She may therefore be expected to berth alongside the company's wharf on Wednesday evening or early on Thursday morning.

The Elamang, s., did not leave Sydney for Brisbane until Saturday, and is therefore due here to-day. She leaves the company's wharf on her return trip to Sydney to-morrow morning, at 10 o'clock.

The Egmont, s., took her departure from Cooktown on Saturday for Brisbane and Sydney, via the intermediate ports, and was due off Townsville last evening. The steamer will most likely resume her passage this afternoon.

The Alexandra, s., which is now on the berth in Sydney, will be despatched from that port to-morrow for Brisbane, Keppel Bay, Flat-top Island, Bowen, Townsville, Cairns, Port Douglas, and Cooktown.

The Leichhardt, s., was to have left Sydney on Saturday, at noon, for Maryborough and Rockhampton, and if so she is due off Cape Moreton this morning and at her first port of call to-night.

The Corea, s., which is now bound from Brisbane for Thursday Island and Normanton, via ports, arrived off Flat-top Island on Friday night.

The Governor Blackall, s., now at Rockhampton, is appointed to leave this morning for Brisbane, via Gladstone and Maryborough.

The Balclutha, s., was to have left Rockhampton on Saturday morning, for Maryborough and Sydney, and if so, she was due at her first port of call yesterday.

The Yaralla, s., which may be expected to arrive here this morning from Mackay, will resume her passage from the company's wharf, for Sydney, to-morrow.

The steamers Macedon and Ly-ee-Moon will be despatched from Sydney to-morrow, for Melbourne; the Leura, s., is to leave on Friday; and the Wotonga, s., on Saturday, both for the same port (Melbourne).

At Melbourne, from Sydney, the Barrabool, s., was due last evening, and the Katoomba, s., from the same port, is due this evening.

The Brisbane, E. and A. Company's R.M.S., from Singapore and Hongkong, bound for Melbourne, arrived in Sydney on Saturday.

The Menmuir, E. and A. Company's R.M.S., will take her departure from Sydney to-morrow, and from the anchorage, Brisbane Roads, next Friday afternoon, for Hongkong and Singapore, via Keppel Bay, Bowen, Townsville, Cooktown, and Thursday Island, carrying the outgoing Torres Straits mails for England and the East.

The City of New York, P.M. Company's R.M.S., will be despatched from Sydney on Thursday next, for Auckland, Honolulu, and San Francisco, with the outgoing mails for England and the usual monthly advices for America.

The Assam, P. and O. Company's R.M.S., was to have left Melbourne on Saturday last for Adelaide, King George's Sound, and Galle, with the outgoing mails for England and the East via the Suez Canal.

The German corvette Albatros, having obtained coals and a fresh supply of provisions, left the Bar, Brisbane Roads, at 7 o'clock yesterday morning, en route to Germany. She cleared Cape Moreton at 10.55 a.m.

The Astoria, barque, cleared at the Customs on Saturday, for London; and the Arakoon, s., cleared for the Brunswick river, in ballast.

The Wisteria, barque, bound for Newcastle, in ballast, cleared Cape Moreton early yesterday afternoon.

The Io, schooner, which sailed from Sydney last Friday week for Maryborough, arrived off Cape Moreton about midday yesterday.

The Cuzco, s., sailed from Sydney on Friday last for London.

The Reindeer, ketch, from Rockhampton, arrived at Maryborough on Friday last.

The Marchioness of Lorne, schooner, from the south, arrived at Mackay yesterday; and the schooner Silvery Wave, from Sydney, reached Mackay on Friday last.

The Hopeful, schooner, from Sydney, arrived off Townsville last Friday, and H.M.S. Renard sailed on the same day for Sydney.

The India, barque, from Launceston, arrived at Rockhampton yesterday morning.

The Minnie, schooner, from Mackay, arrived in Sydney on Friday, and the schooner May Newton sailed from Sydney on the same day for Townsville.

The President Thiers, barque, sailed from Melbourne on Friday for Calcutta; and the ships Sir Walter Raleigh and Old Kensington both left Melbourne on Saturday for London.

Captain C. Williams reports that the Tinonee, s., left Mackay at 9 a.m. on the 26th instant, and arrived at Rockhampton at 11 a.m. on the 27th; left at 8 a.m. on the 28th; crossed Wide Bay Bar at 6.50 p.m. on the 29th, and arrived in Brisbane at 3 a.m. yesterday. Experienced light easterly and south-easterly winds with fine weather throughout the trip.

SHIP MAILS.

Mails will be made up and closed at the General Post Office as under:—

For Maryborough, Bundaberg, and Rockhampton, per Lady Bowen, s.: For newspapers, book-packets, and registered letters, at 11.45 a.m.; for ordinary letters, at 12.45 p.m.; and for late-fee letters, at 1 p.m., to-day (Monday).

For New Zealand and the Australian colonies, per Yaralla, s.: For newspapers, book-packets, and registered letters, at 8.15 a.m.; for ordinary letters, at 9.15 a.m.; and for late-fee letters, at 9.30 a.m., to-morrow (Tuesday).

For Rockhampton and Mackay, per Tinonee, s.: For newspapers, book-packets, and registered letters, at 2.30 p.m.; for ordinary letters, at 3.30 p.m.; and for late-fee letters, at 3.45 p.m., to-morrow (Tuesday).

Commercial.

COURIER Office, Saturday Evening.

THE Customs revenue collected at the port of Brisbane to-day amounted to £625 7s. 4d.

The collections for the month of November amounted to £19,832 11s., showing an increase of £321 18s. 4d., as compared with the corresponding month of last year.

Messrs. B. D. MOREHEAD and Co. report as follows, under date November 27:—Fat Stock: There was only a small attendance of buyers, and those present showed but little inclination to operate, so that both sheep and cattle were dull of sale. Sheep: About 1300 were yarded, the majority of which were passed in. We sold, on account of Messrs. King and Sons, 210 ewes, at from 6s. 3d. to 6s. 6d., and 305 Jondaryan wethers at from 8s. 6d. to 9s. Cattle: 187 head were yarded, the quality being from good to prime. We sold on account of Messrs. Collins and Sons, 47 prime heavy cows from Mundoolan, 4 pens of which we quitted at auction at from £3 2s. 6d. to £4, and the balance privately at £3 5s. to £3 10s. We also offered, on account of Messrs. Wienholt Bros., 80 head of Fassifern bullocks, equal in breeding and superior in weight and quality to anything offered in the yards for a very long time. Failing to get a satisfactory offer at auction, we withdrew the lot, but sold them afterwards privately at an average price of about £4 7s. 6d. The fluctuations in the prices of cattle are something incomprehensible. Tallow is much higher, hides are selling well, and yet, though the number of cattle forward was rather under than over a week's supply, it was almost impossible to get a bid. A lot of 60 offered by another agent were almost all withdrawn, and taking into consideration the relative weights of the cattle offered to-day and those offered last week, we consider prices were fully 15s. a head lower. Produce.—Hides: We quote heavies 3½d. to 3¾d.; extra heavies to 4d. per lb.; light and medium, 2¾d. to 3¼d. Calfskins were dull of sale. Sheepskins: There are very few offering, as the majority of sheep coming forward are now shorn. We sold all forward at from 3s. 10d. to 4s. 3d.; pelts, 2½d to 4d. each. Tallow: We sold all forward at from 26s. to 29s. 6d.

Messrs. SCOTT and MACGREGOR report, under date November 27, as follows:—Fat Sheep: Market over-supplied with 1600 sheep, in consequence of which bidding was very dull, and but few lots were sold at auction. We only sold four pens out of one lot of 500 from Bon Accord, at from 8s. 3d. to 8s. 6d. Gowrie ewes realised 8s. 3d. to 8s. 6d. We sold a draft of lambs at 5s. 6d. to 8s. 3d. Fat Cattle: About 210 yarded, few of which were sold by auction. We eventually cleared our lot of fair quality bullocks from Mount Walker, 60 in number, at £3 15s. to £4 per head. Produce: At our weekly sale yesterday we had a full average supply, for which we obtained rather over late rates, viz.:—Hides (light), 2¾d. to 3d.; medium, 3¼d. to 3½d.; heavies, 3¾d.; calfskins, 6d. to 1s. Sheepskins: Woolled, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 9d.; pelts, 2¾d. to 3d. each. Tallow: C&HB, 4 casks at 29s.; VBCo., 2 casks at 28s. 9d.; 441, 1 cask at 19s.; WB&M'L, 5 casks at 29s. 9d., the highest price of the season; JR, 2 casks at 28s. 9d.; CB, 2 casks at 28s.; HJ, 1 cask at 28s.; JS, 1 cask at 18s.; GM, 1 cask at 24s.; also a quantity in tins at 20s. Kangaroo skins at from 3s. to 10s. 8d. per dozen; a large quantity of superior skins withdrawn.

Messrs. FENWICK and Co. report, under date November 27:—Fat Stock: The market was unusually dull. Fat Cattle: 187 head were yarded, most of which were of superior quality; biddings were, however, remarkably slow, and at least three-fourths of the stock were passed in. Station Produce.—Sheepskins: Full-woolled skins are now becoming scarce, and fetch full rates. We quote 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d., but sales have been made as high as 4s. 4d.; dry skins, best, sales at 5d. to 5¾d.; medium, 4d. to 4½d.; pelts, 2d. to 6d. each. Hides are firm at our former quotations, which we repeat—Extra heavy, 3½d. to 4d.; heavy, 3d. to 3½d.; medium, 2¾d. to 3¼d.; light, 2¾d. to 3¼d. Tallow: We have no change to record in prices, shipping lots fully maintaining last week's values. Best YC, 29s. 6d.; good, 27s. to 28s. 6d.; inferior, 22s. to 25s. 6d.

Messrs. Stables, Straker, and Co., London, report as follows in regard to the series of colonial wool sales which closed on September 26:—

These sales have been most unfavorably influenced by the disastrous results of the harvests, as well in the United Kingdom as in Western Europe generally—results which must tend to postpone, for some time at least, that revival of trade which has been so long awaited. Heavy withdrawals have been effected from time to time, these and unoffered wools in first hands amounting to little short of 40,000 bales. Prices opened at about the last rates of June, but soon fell away to the rates current in the earlier days of May. Compared with the average of May-June, we may quote a decline of from 7½ to 10 per cent., varying in some degree according to condition and special circumstances. Contrary to the experience of former years, wools of the very highest class have failed to meet so active a competition as those of a more medium character. It is estimated that some 175,000 bales have gone forward for export, and that, for the concluding series in November, not much more than 120,000 bales may be on the market, which total will include 35,000 to 40,000 bales old stock.

BRISBANE WOOL SALES.

Messrs. FENWICK AND Co. report:—We held the third wool sale of the season at our stores, Eagle-street, on Friday, the 28th instant. There was a good attendance of buyers. Several clips and a number of selectors' lots were offered, mostly consisting of good average down to inferior greasy and good scoured. The spirited biddings and prices obtained show the influence of the late reported advance in the home market, and the entire catalogue was cleared at satisfactory prices. We have still to report a ready sale for ordinary and good greasy wools at full rates. We have found it necessary, owing to the quantity coming forward, to hold our special wool sales weekly instead of fortnightly, as originally intended. Good average merino wool fetched 7½d. to 8½d.; inferior to average, 5d. to 7d.; scoured, 10d. to 13d.; crossbred, 13½d.; greasy locks, 3d. to 3½d.; pieces, 4d. to 5½d.

Meteorology.

RESULTS OF OBSERVATIONS taken at 9 a.m. on November 29 and 30, 1879.

BRISBANE.—Latitude, 27 deg. 27 min. 52 sec. S. Longitude, 153 deg. 2 min. 4 sec. E. Height of Observatory above Mean Sea Level, 136 feet.

CAPE MORETON.—Latitude, 27 deg. 2 min. 10 sec. S. Longitude, 153 deg. 29 min. E. Height of Observatory above Mean Sea Level, 390 feet.

TOOWOOMBA.—Latitude, 27 deg. 34 min. S. Longitude, 152 deg. 10 min. E. Height of Observatory above Mean Sea Level, 1950 feet.

Barometer corrected and reduced to 32°: 9 a.m.	9 a.m. previous day	Highest in shade	Lowest in shade	Highest in sun	Lowest on grass	Rain in 24 hours	Wind at 9 a.m.	Weather
In.	In.	°	°	°	°	In.		
BRISBANE.								
30.066	29.984	88.0	59.0	120.0	58.0	—	N.E.	Fine.
30.076	30.066	85.0	60.0	120.0	58.0	—	S.W.	Fine.
CAPE MORETON.								
30.021	29.903	81.0	69.0	108.0	59.0	—	E.S.E.	Fine.
30.069	30.021	80.0	69.0	106.0	62.0	—	N.W.	Fine.
TOOWOOMBA.								
27.881	27.752	74.0	45.5	106.0	46.5	—	S.E.	Fine.
27.839	27.831	80.0	52.0	101.0	52.0	—	W.	Fine.
WARWICK.								
28.470	28.284	79.0	48.0	114.0	68.0	—	S.E.	Fine.
28.491	28.470	77.0	57.0	115.0	70.0	—	S.E.	Fine.

NOTE.—A rising barometer indicates a probability of south-easterly wind, usually accompanied by rain; when falling, westerly winds and dry weather may be expected.

E. MAC DONNELL,
Government Meteorological Observer.

ABSTRACT OF SALES BY AUCTION THIS DAY.

MR. ARTHUR MARTIN, at Eleven o'clock, at the City Auction Mart: Buggies; Spring Cart, Buggy, and Dray Harness, Saddlery, &c.; Book Debts in the Insolvent Estate of James Scott.

MR. SIMON FRASER, at Eleven o'clock, on the Premises, City Hotel, Brunswick-street: Billiard Table, Household Furniture, and Effects.

MR. JAMES R. DICKSON, at Eleven o'clock, at his Mart: Steam Winch; Farm fronting Enoggera Creek; Freehold Property, River-terrace, South Brisbane; Land at Sandgate; Cottages and Land at Paddington.

MR. JOHN CAMERON, at Eleven o'clock, at his Real Property Mart: Building Sites, Main Waterworks-road; Allotments in the town of Sandgate; Hotel Property, opposite the Toowong Railway Station.

MESSRS. MIDGLEY & CO., at Eight o'clock, at the Railway Produce Market: Farm, Garden, and Dairy Produce, Timber, Bark, &c.

Special Advertisements.

MAILS FOR INDIA, CHINA, AND THE EAST THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE, AND FOREIGN PLACES.

PER R.M.S. MENMUIR, VIA TORRES STRAITS.

THE above Mails will CLOSE at this Office on FRIDAY, December 5, 1879:—
For Money-orders, on THURSDAY, December 4, at 4 p.m.
For Registered Letters, on THURSDAY, December 4, at 5 p.m.
For Packets and Newspapers, on THURSDAY, December 4, at 7 p.m.
ORDINARY LETTERS. For all places except the United Kingdom, on THURSDAY, December 4, at 8 p.m. For the United Kingdom only, on FRIDAY, December 5, at 8.30 a.m.

Late-fee Letters for the United Kingdom, via Brindisi, and for the Continent of Europe and Foreign Places, via Brindisi and London, will be received at the General Post Office until 9 a.m., and on board the steamer Kate, at the Queen's Wharf, until 10 a.m.

C. HARDIE BUZACOTT,
Postmaster-General.
General Post Office,
Brisbane, November 28, 1879. 6862

F. T. F. KEOGH, BOOKSELLER, STATIONER, ENGRAVER, AND LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTER, has REMOVED to larger premises, No. 223 Queen-street, next door to New Zealand Building.

THE VICTORIA INSURANCE COMPANY.
CAPITAL, £2,000,000.
Life Assurance with Perfect Security And Fidelity Guarantee.
JOHN FENWICK, Agent, Eagle-street. 5083

UDOLPHO WOLFE'S SCHNAPPS,
The Purest Stimulant in the World.
Purchase Original Unopened Bottles. 5150

CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF The "QUEENSLANDER."

THE QUEENSLANDER of 20th December next will contain, in addition to its usual voluminous and varied contents

A Christmas Supplement

Composed of Original CHRISTMAS STORIES entitled as under, written specially for the QUEENSLANDER by the following noted Australian Authors:—

ROLEY POLEY PEOPLE (Illustrated) by J. BRUNTON STEPHENS.
CHRISTMAS FATALITIES, by W. SENIOR ("Red Spinner").
JEANNIE, by .. CARL A. FEILBERG.
A STORY OF TWO CHRISTMASES, by WALTER SWAN.
RIGHTED AT LAST, by HORACE EARLE.
CHRISTMAS BETWEEN TWO STOOLS, by JOHN WISKER.
LINLARRA STATION AND THE CHRISTMAS I SPENT THERE, by "BUSH NATURALIST."

Besides several attractive and carefully-selected brief works, in Prose and Verse, of English and American Authors.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NUMBER
Will be made especially attractive by the publication of ILLUSTRATED STORIES by the most popular Authors.

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF THE "QUEENSLANDER."
For 1879 will contain
Seven Original Stories,
in addition to Reviews, Essays, and News, thus combining in a single issue the characteristics of Newspaper, Magazine, and Novel.

THE CHRISTMAS QUEENSLANDER will, it is anticipated, prove the best newspaper publication ever issued from the PRESS OF AUSTRALIA.

Christmas "Queenslander"

NOTICE TO AGENTS.

AGENTS will oblige, and prevent possible disappointment, by sending their ORDERS for EXTRA NUMBERS as early as possible.

EUROPEAN MAILS.

TORRES STRAITS ROUTE.	
Will ARRIVE at BRISBANE about December 29.	Will LEAVE BRISBANE on December 5.
SAN FRANCISCO ROUTE.	
Will ARRIVE at BRISBANE about December 25.	Will LEAVE BRISBANE about
SUEZ ROUTE.	
Will ARRIVE at BRISBANE about December 6.	Will LEAVE BRISBANE about December 17.

DIARY.
MEMORANDA TILL NEXT PUBLICATION

December, 1879.	Sun. Rises.	Sun. Sets.	H. Water on Bar. Morn.	H. Water on Bar. Even.
1 / Monday	5 2	6 37	11 14	11 40

Moon.—Last quarter, December 7, 5.55 a.m.

BIRTHS.

WILKINS.—On the 27th November, the wife of Russell Wilkins, of a son.

M'CORD.—On the 17th November, at Coonambula, Gayndah, the wife of W. F. M'Cord, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

STEWART—FREWEN.—On the 23rd June, at the Memorial Church, Milton, by the Rev. C. Houlbrook, M.A., Marie, second daughter of Mr. J. Frewen, of Braidwood, New South Wales, to William Stewart, of this city.

The Brisbane Courier.

PUBLISHED DAILY.

Monday, December 1, 1879.

RECENTLY we published an analysis of the usual quarterly returns of the banks trading in Queensland, and we have since then received the Victorian and New South Wales official returns, a brief comparison of which may prove interesting to many of our readers. We shall give the totals of the most important items of the banks' accounts for the quarter ending September 30 last, and place them side by side, so that a comprehensive glance of the relative position of the banks in the three colonies can be readily obtained.

The first item is that of note circulation, on the *liabilities* side of the account, and stands thus:—

New South Wales ...	£1,078,162
Victoria	1,022,983
Queensland	315,429

which represents a decrease on the corresponding quarter of last year of £59,302 in New South Wales, of £187,737 in Victoria, and of £36,387 in Queensland. Turning to deposits, we find the total amounts to be, for September 30, 1879:—

New South Wales ...	£17,197,745
Victoria	16,547,981
Queensland	3,564,161

Comparing these amounts with September 30, 1878, we get the following result:—An increase of £623,015 for New South Wales, of £658,571 in Victoria, whilst in Queensland there is a decrease of £221,188. On referring to the *assets*, we find that, in the coin held by them, the banks have considerably strengthened their position.

COIN, ETC., HELD BY THE BANKS SEPTEMBER 30, 1879.

New South Wales ...	£2,557,662
Victoria	2,762,673
Queensland	1,048,314

By comparison with 1878 there is an increase in New South Wales of £398,219, in Victoria of £762,570, and in this colony of £57,753; but in our case there is relatively a much more considerable advance on the previous quarter than in the two other colonies, our increase of coin being £151,862, as against £335,788 for Victoria, and £114,066 for New South Wales. We now turn to the advances made by the banks, and find the official statement to be as follows:—

ADVANCES FOR QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1879.

New South Wales ...	£17,350,934
Victoria	21,322,785
Queensland	4,291,136

These figures show that in New South Wales there is an increase of £229,980, but in this colony there is a contraction of banking accommodation to the extent of £434,093, and in Victoria of £1,054,578 by comparison with 1878. If we, however, look at the returns for the previous quarter, June 30, the figures are not so unfavorable for this colony, the decrease in advances being only £82,366. We learn, however, that the increase in the New South Wales Bank's advances is exceptional, as it "arises entirely in connection with the Bank of New Zealand, which had no place in the returns a year ago."

Speaking of the Victorian banking returns—and the remarks are equally appropriate and applicable to this colony—the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record* of November 8 says:—"It will be understood that whilst banks cannot expand their deposits or note circulation at will, they can regulate their coin reserves by restricting their advances. . . . . It is thus that the banks have been strengthening their coin, even although they may have been thereby sacrificing some profit." The writer then concludes by stating that, "from the banking standpoint the principle is to be commended, as with a lessened liability during the quarter for circulation and deposits, the banks have very considerably increased their power to meet their liabilities by adding largely to their resources in coin."

It appears clearly that the bank failures in Great Britain and in Victoria have imposed a cautious policy on the colonial banks, and it must be satisfactory to the public to know that the position of the banks is so sound, and that bankers in these colonies are so generally guided by principles of prudence. From the published official returns of the four principal colonies of Australia—New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland—we are also able to furnish a statement of the capital employed by the banks in those colonies. The following is the result of deducting the total amount of the liabilities from the assets, and shows the total working capital of all the banks trading in these four colonies:—

New South Wales ...	£5,335,668
Victoria	7,684,600
South Australia	3,566,765
Queensland	1,687,477
Total	£18,274,510

The above considerable amount is likely to be very materially increased in the course of the next six months by the additional profits which must accrue to the Australian colonies by the enhanced value of her produce, especially in minerals, wool, tallow, and sugar, and the banks will then be enabled to increase their advances, and thus enterprise will be stimulated and trade revive.

THE condition of the Randwick Asylum has lately been brought prominently under public attention in New South Wales. Most painful revelations have been made concerning the treatment of the children housed there. Recently no less than twenty-five of them ran away to escape from their intolerable life, and their capture and appearance before the police led to an exposure of the condition of affairs prevailing in the institution. It appears, if we may judge by the evidence of employés, that the children have been ruled with shameful harshness, and proper punishment degenerated into sheer brutality and torture. We read of wretched children beaten till blood was drawn, of boys bastinadoed on their bare feet, of others being crowded into an improvised Black Hole and locked up all night without beds. In short, it appears that brutality reigned paramount in the institution. It is hardly possible to overestimate the evil likely to be wrought by the existence of such a régime. The Randwick Asylum is tenanted by hundreds of helpless children. To them it is home, by its influence their characters will be moulded. The heavy atmosphere of brutal tyranny that seems to hang over the place cannot but exercise a most demoralising effect on all of them. Children growing up in it must necessarily become brutalised by the sight and experience of constant cruelty, and have all spirit and truth crushed out of them by their constant terror of ill-usage. It is the very training that produces vice and crime, and, if it prevails to the extent that we are led to believe in the Randwick Asylum, it can only be regarded as a grave public misfortune, for the place can be nothing but a seed plot for the production of the worst elements in a community.

The condition of Randwick Asylum was brought under the notice of the New South Wales Parliament by Mr. M'Elhone in one of the speeches for which that gentleman is noted. The force of language, the recklessness of expression which characterises him, were in this case appropriate. It is impossible to read without sympathy his passionate denunciation of the cowardly tyranny prevailing in the asylum. He read to the House extracts from the published evidence, and commented on them. We can hardly feel that he was wrong when, speaking of an official who seems to have been responsible for all this cruelty, he called him a "damnable tyrant," or when he wished that he and another man implicated might "do their three years in Darlinghurst Gaol, and he wished the law would allow them to be flogged. If it did, he would stand by and say, 'Give it him harder,' though he should see him drop dead at the triangle." Of course a speaker like Mr. M'Elhone must not be taken literally. When under the influence of strong feeling, he throws out strong expressions, as an angry man picks up a weapon careless what comes to his hand, provided it is sufficient to deal a blow. Cold-blooded cruelty, deliberate torture practised by men on helpless orphan children, is a crime of so degraded a nature that no warmth of expression can be too great for denouncing it. Besides, it is hard to interest a Government to interfere with such an asylum as that of Randwick. Its management has been in the past a bone of contention between sectarian parties, and leading politicians are always unwilling to offend possible supporters by incurring the chance of reviving a quarrel which has been laid to rest. As one of the speakers in the debate to which we are alluding said, "It required a battering ram such as the hon. member for the Upper Hunter to come down and burst in the door of the Government, and open up the spectacle to the country."

The phrase we have quoted aptly describes the functions performed by a man like Mr. M'Elhone. He is a battering ram. When in full swing he smashes all before him regardless of consequences, and not caring at all for the nicer distinctions observed in a calmer mode of attack. No doubt it is a proceeding fraught with many inconveniences. The swing of the ram creates a disturbance, the dust and noise of the crash is nearly insupportable, and the blow does not always fall fairly, and is apt to give deplorable shocks to the legislative machinery. In fact it is an instrument that cannot be used without straining to some degree the whole structure in which it operates. And yet, like other violent methods of proceeding, it is occasionally useful. There is a crust of officialism which grows with marvellous rapidity round every public institution which cannot easily be removed by a gentle hand; it will only fall off under such rude blows as those dealt by Mr. M'Elhone. Take the instance we have been considering—that of Randwick Asylum. Official reports disclosed nothing of all the evil which seems to have prevailed in the place. One officer reported to another, and the system appeared to work as smoothly as the nicely surfaced paper on which they were written; and yet the mass of evidence that has been adduced, and the evident desperation of the boys who ran away, leaves no reasonable doubt of the prevalence of abuses which seem to have escaped all official attention. Reverting to the comparison of Mr. M'Elhone to a battering ram, we may say that he swings round the public institutions of New South Wales, dealing thundering blows to each one of them. When the structure is sound it resists the shock, but when there is only a coating of official plaster covering mere internal rottenness, the impact brings down the wall with a crash. Of course, when we say that a gentleman who performs these functions is not without his public value, we assume that his assaults are instigated by a belief that he is attacking a public grievance. When animated by personal motives, they are quite inexcusable—an unmitigated public nuisance. It is, however, fair to Mr. M'Elhone to say that there is good reason to believe that he generally strikes his blows on behalf of those whom he regards as helpless and oppressed. He, no doubt, commits errors, but he appears generally to be actuated by other than mere personal motives. We should be glad if we could say the same of some who appear to aspire to occupy in our Legislative Assembly the position which Mr. M'Elhone maintains in that of New South Wales.

AT the City Police Court on Saturday, before the police-magistrate, William H. Featherstone, for drunkenness, was fined £2, or in default of payment forty-eight hours in the cells; and for making use of obscene language in a public street he was fined £2, or seven days' imprisonment in default. W. J. M'Nevin was brought up charged with having stolen a boat, the property of W. H. Brown. The evidence of the apprehending constable was taken, and the accused was then remanded till to-morrow (Tuesday), bail allowed.

A MEETING will be held in the school-house, Bulimba, this evening, for the purpose of considering matters connected with the Bulimba division.

TO-MORROW will be the first day of Michaelmas Term in the Supreme Court, and also the day on which the usual monthly sitting of the Appeal Court is held. The business set down for hearing consists of Ewan v. Murphy and others, prohibition; and Sievers v. M'Cauley, appeal from Northern District Court.

IN a letter published to-day, re the enforcement of the paving by-law, and signed "T. L.," we think there is a suggestion well worth considering in the way of compromise between the property-owners who feel oppressed and the Corporation—namely, that they should share between them the cost of making the footpaths. To throw the whole cost into a paving rate would be to ignore what has been done already in the way of paving at the cost of individual ratepayers, who have a right to be considered as well as those ratepayers who are now the objects of so much sympathy.

"Is it possible," asks a correspondent, "that a staff officer of the Q.V. Brigade, while making an inspection of the Grammar School Cadet Corps one day last week, gave the following command: 'The line will advance in fours from the right, left about wheel, quick march'! This I am assured was the order given, and as it came from one of the Board of Examiners before which I shall shortly have to give an account of my proficiency, I should like to know in what part of the Field Exercise the movement is to be found."

THE December number of *Punch* is to hand. The cartoon is not equal in conception to that in last number, and in execution is decidedly inferior. Very few readers would recognise Mr. Palmer in the dentist selecting a big forceps from the dentist's box. But if the cartoon is below the mark, the number taken as a whole is distinctly above it. There are some pages of capital pictorial and letterpress burlesque on the art gallery in the Sydney exhibition. The adventures of an unhappy town-bred bachelor, who goes to seek his lady-love on her father's station, are well told and illustrated. The letterpress, all through, is decidedly above the average, the verses are short and pointed, and the jokes crisp. *Punch* makes steady progress.

THE Postmaster-General, at present in Rockhampton, advises that the new road from Emerald to Blackall has been driven over in a buggy, and it is reported to be incomparably better than the Springsure and Tambo road. A buggy has also been over the road from Tambo to Companion creek, at the intersection of the Blackall and Emerald road, distance ninety miles; but the new track now being cleared will reduce the distance to eighty miles, the road being well watered and grassed. In all probability Cobb and Co. will start their coaches between Emerald and Blackall on the first January next. There are a number of wool drays already on the line, and carriers are loud in its praises. The Tambo branch is also expected to start on the first January, by present road if new one is not ready.

A VERY successful meeting was held at the Sandgate Hotel on Thursday evening last, over fifty persons being present. J. F. Garrick, Esq. took the chair, and after explaining the difference between the Local Government and Divisional Boards Acts, the following resolution was moved by Mr. Deagon and seconded by Dr. Ward:—"That this meeting, viewing the present and future welfare of Sandgate, is of opinion that it will be to its best interests to be constituted a municipality under the Local Government Act," and after discussion was carried unanimously. Resolutions defining boundaries and appointing a committee to carry out the objects of the meeting were then moved and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Mr. E. B. Southerden and carried by acclamation.

THE weather in Brisbane during the past two days, though warm, has been tempered by pleasant north-easterly breezes, which have taken the place of the westerly winds which prevailed during the middle of last week. The reports for the twenty-four hours ended at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning showed a continuance of fine weather throughout the colony, there being no rain, and cloudy weather at only one or two stations in the Wide Bay district. Yesterday morning's reports show a general prevalence of fine weather, but the sky was still overcast in the neighborhood of Maryborough, as well as at Keppel Bay, and at one or two stations in the extreme north.

THE Bijou Theatre was very well attended on Saturday evening, when a new and amusing piece was performed, entitled "The Avenging Monkey, or the Doomed Traveller." The leading characters were taken by Messrs. Wade and Martyn, and the monkey's part was assumed by a little boy of 8 years in a most creditable manner. Mr. Bruce as usual performed his part in the programme to the satisfaction of the audience, his sword dance and others in full Highland costume being very pleasing. The comic songs also afforded considerable amusement.

"THE Shaughraun" was performed for the last time at the theatre on Saturday, and was received with extreme favor by a fairly numerous audience. Boucicault's plays have many defects, but he is such a master of stage effect, and there is so much humor in his dialogue that they never fail of popularity. The piece was thoroughly well played throughout, as indeed has been each play produced by Mr. Lazar's excellent company. To-night a new piece is to be performed. "Sentenced to Death" will introduce to the Brisbane public Mr. B. N. Jones, who takes the leading part of *Hoyley Snayle*, in which he has earned a reputation in other parts of the world. The play is described as sensational, and we understand the interest of a somewhat intricate plot is so well sustained as to arrive towards its close at that stage of the sensational known as "thrilling." We shall be able, however, to speak more definitely of this to-morrow.

THE trip to the Bay by the Boko on Saturday last was the most enjoyable yet made this season. The boat was comfortably filled, and punctual to her time of starting, steamed rapidly down the river. There was a very pleasant breeze, but the water was very little ruffled, and the pitch of the boat did not incommode anybody on board. Apparently this induced Captain Davis, to the great satisfaction of the excursionists, to push out further than usual, and he took the Boko right round the Windsor Castle, the people cheering as they passed, and being cheered in return. As the German war ship Albatross lay some distance inside the Windsor Castle the excursionists were afforded two chances of inspecting her as they steamed past. There was a good deal of waving of handkerchiefs on board the Boko, and the Albatross men waved their caps in return. The excursionists tried a cheer, but as there was no response from the tars beyond dumb show, the attempt was a failure. The steamer returned to town in good time.

Telegraphic.

[OUR SPECIAL MESSAGE.]

The Wool Market.

LONDON, November 29.

THE wool market is firm, and prices are hardening, foreign buyers being more active in their biddings.

The advance in crossbreds has been from 3d. to 4d. per lb.; in scoured merinos, 2d.; while greasy has barely advanced 1d.

The number of bales catalogued is 71,752; withdrawn, 2500 bales.

[REUTER'S AGENCY.]

OPENING OF THE FRENCH LEGISLATURE.

PARIS, November 27.

The new session of the French Chambers was opened yesterday. M. Gambetta, in his speech, urged the desirability of following a conciliatory foreign policy as best calculated to further the interests of France.

THE KING OF DENMARK VISITS GERMANY.

BERLIN, November 27.

The King of Denmark is paying a visit to the Emperor of Germany.

MR. GLADSTONE IN SCOTLAND.

LONDON, November 27.

The right hon. W. E. Gladstone is visiting the principal towns of Midlothian. At West Calder, last evening, referring to the agitation in favor of protection, he said he was strongly opposed to any measure in that direction as a remedy for the present agricultural distress, as he was convinced that no good could possibly result therefrom. He again spoke of the foreign policy of the Government in terms of severe condemnation.

MURDER OF AHMED MUKHTAR PASHA.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 27.

The Arnauts, inhabiting the frontier districts of Albania and Montenegro, have cruelly murdered Ghazi Ahmed Mukhtar at Mount Gusinje, East Podgoritza. Mukhtar, acting under instructions from the Porte, ordered the surrender of the place to Montenegro, upon which the Arnauts becoming incensed, rose and murdered him.

A CANADIAN RESERVE FORCE.

LONDON, November 28.

The Government are taking steps for the formation of a reserve force in Canada, numbering 10,000 men, to be engaged in active service in the Dominion and abroad.

COMMERCIAL.

LONDON, November 27.

Consols are 98¼.

The Bank rate of discount is now 3 per cent, and in the open market 2.

Queensland 4 per cent debentures are quoted at £92, and other colonial securities are advancing.

Tin has now risen to £95 per ton.

Burra copper is worth £74; Wallaroo, £75 10s.

Beef tallow is still quoted at 40s. per cwt., and mutton at 42s. 6d.

THE COLONIAL WOOL SALES.

LONDON, November 25.

Washed and scoured crossbred wools are 3d. to 4d. higher.

[The above message was received as an addendum to that published by us on Saturday under the same date.]

LONDON, November 27.

There have been 64,800 bales of wool catalogued since the opening of the present series. There is a firm, active demand for combing wools, but the demand is purely speculative. Washed and scoured crossbreds have largely advanced.

Sydney.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

November 30.

A fire occurred early yesterday morning in the shop of Mr. William Munn, of Redfern; the house was destroyed, together with a quantity of builders' stores.

Proceedings have been taken against Dent, late paymaster to the Corporation. There are six charges of embezzlement against him.

Mr. Mansfield, of Goulburn, who took a dose of poison on Thursday, in mistake for medicine, is slowly recovering.

A stabbing affray occurred to-day on board the American vessel T. S. Williams. One sailor was wounded, it is feared fatally.

Arrived: E. and A. Company's R.M.S. Brisbane, from Hongkong; and James Paterson, s., from Brisbane.

Sailed: Elamang, s., for Brisbane.

OUR commercial advices by cable, to date of November 27, continue of a most encouraging character. The English funds are firm at 98¼, and colonial securities are strong and advancing, Queensland fours being quoted at 92. The metal market exhibits a remarkable degree of strength, and it is quite evident, from the quotations of £95 per ton for tin, an advance of £3 10s. on last week; £74 for Burra, a rise of £2; and £75 10s. for Wallaroo copper, that a legitimate trade demand exists, and that prices are not only likely to be maintained but also to further advance. We hope to hear of a great impetus being given to tin and copper mining in all parts of the colony by this favorable state of the market. Tallow also continues very firm at 40s. for beef and 42s. 6d. for mutton. The most important feature in our advices, however, is the continued rise in our great staple, wool, of which 64,800 bales have already been catalogued for sale. One portion of our telegraphic advices alludes to the demand for "combing" wool as "purely speculative," and does not state what the price for that description of wool is, but we may conclude that a speculative demand would not exist without strong expectations of an advance in prices which would afford a profit to the speculator. In "washed and scoured" wools, however, we have the cheering news that these sorts have "largely advanced," that is to say, that 3d. to 4d. more per pound has been paid for these wools than they fetched at the last series of sales. The importance of this advance in the great Australian staple cannot be overrated, more especially when, by reference to our country reports, we find that the lambing on all the stations shows such a splendid increase, in some cases 95 per cent. We may regard this rise in wool as a sure sign of returning prosperity and revival in woollen manufactures in England, and it has also had a perceptible influence in determining and improving the value of all Australian Government securities on the Stock Exchange—the material wealth of the colonies being so much increased by these greatly enhanced rates for our produce. Since the above was written, we have later cable advices to Saturday, November 29, which furnish further information respecting the price of wool, which is stated to be hardening, and there is a good demand by foreign buyers. Crossbred wools are reported 3d. to 4d. per lb. higher, and scoured merinos 2d., whilst greasy wools are barely 1d. higher. The total quantity of wool catalogued amounts to 71,752 bales, and the number withdrawn so far is small, 2500.

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