

admit. Well, what have you to show for it? What has been done for the Colony in virtue of it?" If this question had been promptly put to the Executive, what would the reply have been?

The subject of the Tariff and Port Charges, we are glad to see, is immediately to be settled. In addition to the great principles of Free Trade involved in these measures—upon which we have had opportunities of speaking recently—the circumstances of the times are to be taken into serious account. Every facility must be given to the importation of the necessaries of life. If resort to worn out barbarisms were ever allowable, to give premiums to importing vessels would hardly be absurd just now. Then the difficulties to be encountered by ships coming into our harbour are sufficiently numerous to justify an entire abolition of all Port charges whatever. It would never do to subject ships that run the risk of rotting in the harbour for want of seamen to, heavy charges in addition. The Chamber of Commerce having undertaken the guardianship of these matters, however, we are satisfied of the wisdom of the course to be adopted.

The subject of postal communication must be speedily adjusted. It is perfectly monstrous that two Colonies so wealthy as this and New South Wales should permit the mail communication to be so scandalously mismanaged as it is at present. Why should not they combine and arrange with a good steamer at any price, and thus ensure a regular weekly mail at all seasons? Let the merchants here and in Sydney urge the matter constantly on the attention of the respective Legislatures. How they can submit to the inconvenience and loss occasioned by the present no-system is a mystery to us. The regulation of interior postal communication depends upon the great primary question of roads and bridges. We wait to see what shall be done about that.

Upon the question of the management of the funds derivable from the gold fields, we shall have something to say hereafter. And upon the subject of immigration we differ so widely from the Lieutenant-Governor, and from the tone as yet enunciated in the Council, that we must reserve our remarks upon that important subject too, for another day.

The Bill to prevent the importation of Van Diemonian Convicts is urgently necessary. The League Council, we are aware, have a draft of such a Bill in preparation for submission to the Council. We expect, therefore, that this matter will be satisfactorily adjusted.

The promised Marriage, Registration, and Criminal Law Reform Acts, are all practical questions of very great interest to the community; and the subject of the Police of the Colony is most imminently urgent. Here, then, is ample field for the display of sound practical legislation. Here is work cut out for every member who desires to be patriotically energetic and useful. Who shall win the prize of having done the very best for the Colony at the conclusion of the Session?

T U I S D A Y , J U N E 2 4 , 1 8 5 2 .

#### THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Some wickedly ingenious printer in the days of George the Second published a fictitious King's Speech. Walpole prosecuted the printer for libel on the King. His Majesty heard of the case, and asked to see the libellous speech, and read it carefully. "As far as I understand the two speeches," His Majesty remarked after perusing it, "this is much better than the one I read before Parliament."

It would be very easy for any man of average intelligence to make a better speech than many of those usually read before Legislatures commencing business. The rules of ordinary life are reversed in official routine. Not what may be said to purpose, but what may be left unsaid, is what rulers study on such occasions. Red tape strangles frankness. Most governing personages seem to have adopted the theory of Talleyrand, that "speech is given to man to conceal his thoughts."

Still, we are not very much disposed to quarrel with the Governor's speech on this occasion. It looks very well, and sounds very well, as a speech. There is some little attention to composition evinced in it; subjects of vital importance to the Colony are alluded to; and there is a great deal of promise about it. We say, of promise; for bitter experience has too well taught us that the performance resulting from the promises in Governor's speeches is generally very small indeed. Even this, however, is a thing capable of being remedied. If the Governor be a man of extensive promise but no performance; and if the Legislature be one of extensive performance, but no promise, it will go hard but the Colony will be served at length. For our own part, we shall be satisfied if an unpromising Council performs, while an unperforming Governor promises. If the Colony reaps the benefit of both, let the lawmakers share the glory as they please.

The amazing crisis in Colonial affairs has forced expression upon the several rulers, whose speeches we have perused within the last two days. Both in Sydney and Hobart Town, evident pains have been taken to prepare the Governmental manifesto. The programme in both, as well as in Melbourne, gives promise of a busy season. We shall see which of the three Legislatures is capable of manifesting the most vigorous energy in the discharge of its onerous functions.

The Speech commences with a congratulation upon the superabundant financial prosperity of the Colony. Not alone has the Territorial Revenue indefinitely increased, but the Customs have swelled to an extraordinary extent. Here is a very plethora of riches—a Danaë-shower of gold—a realisation of the old fable of Midas. But, unhappily, the fable has been too faithfully verified. If the Executive has got the magical abundance of wealth, it has given proof that it has also got the greatly lengthened organs of hearing. Upon the heels of this congratulation, then, there might fitly have come a confession of negligence and incapacity. "You have so vast an amount of revenue, you