

## GAYNDAH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

W. B. TOOTH, Esq., arrived here yesterday, and at once proceeded to Power's Hotel. He was accompanied by—Galbraith, Esq., of Barrendowan.

This day, Monday, a meeting of the electors of the district took place at Power's Hotel; it was well attended, nearly fifty being present, among whom I noticed, C. Lawless, Esq., H. Herbert, Esq., J. B. Reid, Esq., and one or two more influential men. The business commenced by Henry Herbert, Esq., proposing, and—Galbraith, Esq., seconding that Mr. Henry Harper take the chair.

Mr. HARPER, said it was an honor he was not at all entitled to, and felt sure that there were many present more fitted for the post than himself, but he nevertheless thanked them for the distinction, and his duty was simply to introduce to them a gentleman willing to represent them in the Legislative Assembly, and who he believed was in every way worthy of their suffrages, he had only to introduce W. B. Tooth, Esq.

W. B. TOOTH, Esq., then came forward and spoke as follows:—Gentlemen,—I have very great pleasure in being with you now, and believe me it was no fault of mine, I was not so some days ago, but I have been delayed some 10 days by circumstances beyond my controul; one great delay is from the very defective state of the postal arrangements here, and I must confess the Postmaster-General does not know what he is about to have it in such a state; however, late as it is I do not despair. Gentlemen, the principal and most touching question with you at present, is the disposal of the waste lands, and my views on that head, I have not the slightest doubt will tally with yours, I am decidedly of opinion the waste lands should be given over for the greatest benefit. (Cheers.) And I for one would always willingly give up any waste lands I may hold, if it could be put to any better purpose. (Cheers.) And such I can assert is the general feeling, for the squatters as a body are most liberal minded. (Hear, hear.) I approve of the auction system, but I am not so wedded to it as to be blind to improvement, and would willingly give way to

ment, and would willingly give way to any better scheme brought forward by a more energetic Government; but I am totally opposed to squandering the land, and confidently assert that any one who would squander the waste lands, is an enemy to ourselves, our children, our children's children, and to generations long to come. (Cheers.) The land law in South Australia, is the same as our law, but it is better administered,—it is worked in a different way. The auction system works well there; from an authentic return I have culled the following which is the average price of land by auction during the last seven years, 1850 (could not catch); 1851, £1 3s. 4d; 1852, £1 7s. 6d.; 1853 £1 12s. 6d; 1854, £1 18s. 3d.; 1855, £1 10s.; 1856, £1 5s. 5d.; and if this is too much it is not worth having, (No no.) This land is not all suburban allotments, it is the average. Town lots included. I shall always be ready to promote any measure that will allow every man to plough his own land for food, and not be relying on South America for our supplies, but it must be done equitably, and fairly, I would not for instance have the waterholes, creeks, and lagoons cultivated around to the expulsion of other lauds, but at certain distances, or intervals so that each community would have its clergyman, and its school master, and thereby in some measure dispel the fearful and disgraceful state that children for want of education are now suffering. The next most popular subject perhaps is the law. The laws were made for the people not the people for the laws, and it is decidedly reversed in these districts; many would rather suffer wrong than undertake the task of punishing; as the law at present is administered it is a farce—it wanted a thorough and complete reform; it is ridiculous that a journey to Brisbane has to be performed before justice of any sort can be approached, this you all must know. (Cries, well! well! feelingly! and cheers.) For administering the law, providing roads, bridges, &c. I advocate that half the proceeds of the sale of crown lands in the district, and the proceeds from local taxation, which includes spirit and other licenses, fees, fines, &c., should be applied. Something in fact on the municipal principle. I will just read an extract from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, December 29, 1857.

Among the most recent changes in our system

Among the most urgent changes in our system of administration, the most important is the perfect development of Municipal Government. We have this choice before us—either to strip the Central Government of functions which it cannot perform with satisfaction, and confer them on the proper localities, or to cut up the colony into fragments, and constitute every little knot of people a separate State. Englishmen will not submit to a Government which is powerful only to tax; which cannot be reached without a perilous journey; which turns over a rustic from one office to another, and sends him home empty-handed and broken-hearted; they will not allow their cash to pass out of their sight—to “dissolve, and, like the baseless fabric of a vision, leave not a rap behind.” The central Legislature cannot perform the functions of a municipality, and the worst corporation has probably had more of that public spirit which makes the citizen than is to be found in the best bureaucracy.

These are my views, and I hope the day is not very distant when they will be fully carried out. (Oh! oh! sensation.) It has been stated that neither I nor my opponent are electors, I believe my opponent is not, and as no one took the trouble to forward my name for registration, I am not on the roll, but I am entitled from four districts and distinct properties to be there, I should not have mentioned this, but it has been mentioned by my opponents to my disadvantage, for personally I do not like the principle of pulling your opponent to pieces merely because he is opposed to you in politics. I think I have now touched on all that will materially interest you, but my memory is not the best, and I shall feel obliged if any one would suggest anything I may have missed.

Mr. JOSEPH HADLEY: I have been in Gayndah an inhabitant near seven years, and with the exception of a slab lock-up and Court-house, (which are a disgrace)

there has not been one penny expended for our benefit and improvement, I wish to know if you are elected, if you will do what you can for the place? and push any memorials or petitions that may be sent you?

Mr. TOOTH: With God's blessing I will do all that lies in my power.

Mr. POWER: What are your opinions on Separation?

Mr. TOOTH: Separation we shall have in six months, and the debt a

last will be settled by the Home Government. The Crown of England will have to act as arbitrator.

Mr. JOHN CONNELLY said, he had great pleasure in proposing to his fellow-electors, W. B. Tooth, Esq., as a fit and proper person to represent them for these districts in the Legislative Assembly. He had intended to have asked one or two questions relative to the administration of the law, but Mr. Tooth seemed so fully to see, feel, and comprehend what was wanted, and all must know the advantage a Resident or Police Magistrate would be to the town, that he would merely add he hoped W. B. Tooth, Esq. would use his influence and advocate that from the very central position of Gayndah it was the most fitting for the Assize Town, as also for the place of nomination for future members.

Mr. ALEXANDER WALKER seconded the proposal of Mr. Tooth.

The CHAIRMAN said W. B. Tooth, Esq., had been duly proposed and seconded as a fit and proper person to represent their interests, and now, if the meeting concurred with the proposition they would please signify their approval by holding up their hands (unanimous), should there be any non-contents they were requested to do the same—(none).

Mr. GALBRAITH proposed that the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Harper for his able conduct in the chair.—(Carried.)

Mr. HADLEY proposed 3 cheers for W. B. Tooth, Esq., which was loudly and enthusiastically given.

Mr. TOOTH, thanked them for their good will, and begged they would join him in a toast to be drunk with three cheers. All being charged he gave The prosperity of Gayndah, and then led three hearty cheers.

Mr. Tooth started this afternoon for Maryborough, carrying with him the good wishes of Gayndah. The candidates considered fairly—for Gayndah at least Mr. Tooth is immeasurably preferable; one, no small reason is, it is almost as much his interest, as ours, the place should (to use a Yankee expression) go-a-head, for the more important Gayndah may be. The more valuable the surrounding stations will become, if only looked at as a market for the overstock. Another, he did consider the

stock. Another, he did consider the electors whose suffrages he solicited worthy of hearing his opinions, and travelled from Sydney for the purpose only of explaining. It may be argued, if he had not found the Ipswich people so decidedly against him we should not have had much of his company, but of course that is only supposition, we look at it as it is, and we find that he has made a journey of six hundred miles to tell us his views, and ask our support, while his opponent A. Macalister, Esq. almost on the spot, considers a paltry circular, 10 minutes scribbling, a something, a nothing, quite sufficient condescension, from which it does not take much penetration to solve where the roads and bridges that take so prominent a place in his address would be advocated for in enriching his own property—not for the good of Ipswich, but his own pocket. On the subject of Separation, Mr. Tooth, was certainly not what we could wish, but after confidently asserting that Separation would take place in six months, we feel (should he be mistaken) that he is (although not directly) pledged in no way to retard that desired consummation.

P S. Thursday evening. James Leith Hay, Esq. has just arrived. The squatters from the Burnett are mustering fast all for Tooth. It is said Macalister is sure of a majority in Wide Bay, I hear there are 43 pledged, however, Tooth will have a meeting there, and may make converts.

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