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CHINA.

BYGELÖÖF VAN DEN KRIJZER EN HET VOLK.

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ZUID-AFRIKAAN.

CAPE TOWN, FEBRUARY 25, 1842.

The Meeting of the Board of Wardmasters upon the Estimates and Accounts having terminated, we feel happy in being again able to record the independent manner in which they have scrutinized and examined into those matters.

From the reduction of the rate which they have made from 3 to 1 farthing, the allowance for improvements, and their severe observations passed upon the Executive, in respect of their proceedings during the past year, they have sufficiently manifested their entire capacity to legislate for this town, and also strengthened the proof, and added to the general conviction, of the fitness of the Colonists to legislate for the Colony at large.

We regret, however, that the thin attendance of the Wardmasters at these Meetings, has given just cause of complaint to the Public, and called forth strong observations from such as are still inclined to think that we are unripe for an Assembly.

We are not of those who maintain that a thin attendance at Meetings is a proof of our unripeness for the representative system. The want of a quorum of 30 in the British Parliament, consisting of upwards of 600 Members, and in the Parliaments of France, North America, and the Netherlands, have occasionally been recorded by us, in the several numbers of our paper; nay, we have even copied, some time ago, the complaint of the want of a quorum in the Court of Aldermen of the Corporation of London, to decide upon an Address of Congratulation to Her Majesty; and will any one, therefore, maintain for a moment, that those countries are unripe, because of an occasional want of a quorum in their meetings?

It has been said, and we think with a great deal of truth, that a full attendance in the legislative States in Europe, is a great measure occasioned by party strife, agitation, and factious opposition. And we remember either Mr. HUME, or Mr. O'CONNELL complaining (before the Canada and Jamaica question), that whenever a Colonial question was brought before the House, no full, nor proper attendance even, of its Members could be secured, for want of that strife and contention, which agitate the different parties.

A just conclusion may therefore be drawn, that as the question to be discussed before any Representative Body is interesting or connected with any strong opposition, so will its Members attend to throw their vote in the scale of approbation or opposition.

If on the other hand, the subjects proposed for discussion and adoption, are in general approved of, an apathy arises in the minds of several Members, they remain absent from the Meetings convened for that purpose, and thus leave a thin Meeting by their votes to decide upon these questions.

This unwarrantable system, seems to have occasioned an attendance, at the late Wardmasters Meetings, of only 20 or 25 out of a number of 96 Wardmasters, and such was the feeling of dissatisfaction on the part of those who were present, that Mr. WARDMASTER BLOOM, at the last Meeting of the Board, proposed that a list of the several Wardmasters should be made out and stuck up in the Town Hall, and the attendance or non-attendance of every Wardmaster, at every Meeting noted thereon for the general information of the Household and the Public. It was unanimously adopted, and the Household will now become acquainted with the names of such, who disregard the public duty, which they owe to themselves and the Colony at large, an accept and appointment, which, it would seem, they do not intend to execute.

Can it be now any longer denied, that the present constitution of a Municipality, composed of Commissioners and Wardmasters, is of public utility? Or, that already great and beneficial advantages have been derived from that system of representation?

If not, it behoves every person, whenever by the vote of the Household of his Ward he is elected to the appointment of Wardmaster, to accept it, with a serious intention to discharge the duties connected therewith: What would become of the system, — nay, what will be our prospects in respect of the boon of a Representative Assembly? How can we expect to obtain it, if every respectable Household should refuse to accept the appointment of a Wardmaster?

Why should they refuse it? Is it because their attendance and vote is required at a Meeting held occasionally only? Have they considered the advantages to accrue to themselves and the community at large, from their having an opinion to give on the matters of the Municipality? Are they so blind as not to see in what hands, by their refusal, they will allow the legislative authority to fall? and what set of persons will legislate for them, and fix a penny rate instead of one farthing? Are they aware that every Household, of whatever station, cast or color, is eligible as a Wardmaster, and that if the most respectable refuse to accept the appointment, some one else must be appointed? We hope we have said enough to open the eyes of those who, by the respectability of their situation in life, their greater intelligence and influence, for the protection of their properties and the advancement of the general prosperity should stand forward to be elected to that respectable situation of legislator of the Town Municipality.

But what would be the use of having respectable Wardmasters, when they do not attend the Meetings of the Board? If it be so, we beg only the name of Wardmaster, we advise the Householders not to elect such who will not perform their duty towards them; nay, if they find any such at present, to call upon them — rather to resign, so that they may proceed to the election of one who will attend, to discuss and vote for the public interest of the town. Let their names be recorded, and the public at large may then know what they have to expect from them in future.

Wardmasters! we pray of you, consider the great public duty which you are called upon to discharge; will you abuse the confidence which your Householders have declared to place in you by your appointment? will you allow the election of a Representative Assembly, to draw an argument from your constant absence from the Wardmasters' Meetings, to your unripeness for that boon, — you who have so nobly in the first commencement of your Representative career, manifested to the world, that the Colonists are fit to represent their public interests, and manage their public affairs? Was it to you by whose neglectful conduct or apathy, our future prospects shall suffer, or our public advancement be retarded. Public execration will be your reward, and the reproach of your children, the judgement you deserve.

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CHINA.

We copy the following late news from the Commercial Advertiser.

"By the Mauritius from China 6th December, we learn that the troop ship, formerly said to be missing, has been heard of. She was wrecked on the coast of China, and the troops, 500 including sailors, made prisoners. Two steamers expected from Manila, had not arrived. We hear no other news."

THE WATER-RATES FOR CAPE TOWN AND GREEN POINT.

The consideration of the proposed Water Rate, to be levied on the Household and the Cape Town and Green Point Municipality, which was to have taken place on Tuesday last, before the Board of Wardmasters, has been adjourned, in consequence of the following communication, received by the Commissioners of the Cape Town Municipality, from those of Green Point. The communication having been referred to a Special Committee for enquiry and report, the subject will be taken into consideration after the report shall be ready:—

Green Point Municipality, Jan. 26, 1842.
Gentlemen,—Having observed in the Government Gazette of the 1st instant, a notice that a meeting of the Wardmasters of the Cape Town Municipality will be held on Tuesday the 1st of February next, for the purpose of taking into consideration certain Municipal Regulations with reference to Municipal Rates, as proposed by the Board of Commissioners of that Municipality; we have the honor to inform you, with respect to the 3d, 4th, and 5th of those proposed regulations, that the persons by whom they have been framed, have been mistaken, or have been misled by their legal advisers, as to the legal intent and effect of the 3d sect. of Ordinance No. 4-1839, and of the 5th sect. of Ordinance No. 1-1840, by neither of which it is provided, as asserted in the 2d of the aforesaid regulations, that the inhabitants of the Municipality of Green Point shall generally and without exception be liable to pay to the Municipality of Cape Town whatever rate the inhabitants of the Cape Town Municipality shall be obliged to pay for the purposes of a water rate. Those two enactments merely provide that the inhabitants of the Municipality of Green Point shall have the right, and shall be entitled to be furnished and provided from the water works, &c., by which water is supplied to the inhabitants of Cape Town, and with a supply of water in the same proportions, on the same terms, as the same rate, and under the same regulations, as are rendered under which the inhabitants of Cape Town shall, for the time being, have, or be entitled to have, water supplied to them."

The effect of these provisions is therefore to render such of the inhabitants of the Municipality of Green Point only, as by using any of the water furnished and provided from the Cape Town water works, exercise the privilege bestowed on them by these enactments, liable to pay the price, in consideration of which they are entitled to the enjoyment of this privilege; viz., the same amount of water rate which an inhabitant of Cape Town would, under similar circumstances, be obliged to pay for the same quantity of water, and not, as it is evidently contemplated by the 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th of the said proposed regulations, to render the occupier of every house, cellar, or other dwelling within the Municipality of Green Point liable, in respect of such his occupation, to pay a water rate to the Municipality of Cape Town, although neither he, nor any person residing on the premises occupied by him, have exercised the privilege of claiming to be supplied with, or of using any water supplied by or from the Cape Town water works.

We deem it proper therefore to inform you that the premises of certain proprietors at Sea Point are fully supplied with water from springs rising within their own grounds, that those proprietors neither claim to be supplied with, nor have used a drop of water supplied by, or from the Cape Town water works, and that if the proposed regulations above referred to, shall be passed by the Wardmasters of the Cape Town Municipality, in their present shape, those proprietors will be under the necessity of applying to His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council to disallow the provisions of the Ordinance No. 4-1839, in respect of any valuation or classification of immovable property thereof, for the purpose of assessing a water rate payable to the Municipality of Cape Town for water supplied by, or from the Cape Town water works, or of making any assessment of a rate for any such purposes, which would be binding on, or have any legal effect with respect to, any inhabitant of the Municipality of Green Point, who saw cause to object thereto.

It is the duty of the Municipality of Cape Town to ascertain by their own officers what inhabitants of the Municipality of Green Point are using such water, to assess according to law the rate legally exigible by them from such inhabitants for such water, and to collect payment of such rate by their own officers. The Commissioners of the Municipality of Green Point will not interfere in the performance of any of those duties.

We have further to inform you, that we shall oppose before His Excellency the Governor and the Legislative Council the allowance of the additional Municipal regulation, by which it is proposed to provide that "no person shall be allowed to make and give transfer of any immovable property situated within the Municipality of either Cape Town or Green Point, without first having obtained a certificate from the Treasurer of the Cape Town Municipality, certifying that the rate, if any, assessed upon such immovable property, has been fully paid to the Cape Town Municipality."

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We have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,
H. HUDSON, Act. Sec.
R. GODLONTON, Esq., &c. &c. &c.
Graham's Town.

THE PORT NATAL EXPEDITION.

(From the Graham's Town Journal, Feb. 10.)
On Monday the Executive here appear to have been thrown into no little alarm by a report which had gained currency, to the effect that the Caffers were meditating an attack upon the detachment of troops now on its march through their country to Natal. We ourselves, first heard this rumour on the public market, where it was openly mentioned — but as we did not take particular notice of it, our surprise was great on receiving a communication in the course of the morning from the Lieut. Governor as follows:—

Graham's Town, 7th February 1842.
Sir,—It has just been reported to the Lieutenant-Governor, that you have received information that Zeyolo and others had plotted to take away the oxen belonging to the wagons conveying the troops to Natal, and that he had sent to Sandilla on the subject. His Honor requests you will have the goodness to acquaint him with the particulars of the information you have received.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,
H. HUDSON, Act. Sec.
R. GODLONTON, Esq., &c. &c. &c.
Graham's Town.

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