

ON Tuesday the 10th instant the new Legislative Council of the Province held its first public meeting in the handsome and commodious chambers recently erected for its accommodation on North Terrace. We are most unwillingly compelled by want of space, to refer our readers to the papers of the day for particulars of the proceedings on this interesting occasion; which was graced and enlivened by the presence of a large assemblage of the beauty and fashion, respectability and talent, of the Province. His Excellency the Governor took the chair soon after two o'clock; immediately after which, Jacob Hagen, Esq., was initiated as Member of Council, in the place of Thos. Williams, Esq., resigned. The Council now consists of the following gentlemen:—The hon. A. M. Mundy, Colonial Secretary; the hon. Wm. Smillie, Advocate-General; the hon. Capt. Charles Sturt, Registrar-General; the hon. Major T. S. O'Halloran, the hon. John Morphett, the hon. Jacob Hagen, and the hon. Geo. F. Dashwood.

His Excellency's opening address,—expressive of well grounded confidence in the resources of the Colony, and of congratulation on its improving prospects,—was listened to with deep interest, and gave general satisfaction. After laying on the table several Bills, and Statistical Returns, His Excellency was adjourned the Council till the following day.

The subjoined gleanings from the important Statistical Returns brought before the Council by His Excellency, will, we doubt not, gratify our readers:—

The total value of imports into the Colony during the year ending 30th Sept., 1843, was £93,150,—of which the re-exports amounted to £15,955 7s. 6d., making the total value of imports *consumed* in the colony £77,194 12s. 6d.

The total value of exports, during the same period, amounted to £62,646 6s. 8d.; deducting from which sum the value of foreign produce re-exported, as mentioned above, £15,955 7s. 6d., we find the total value of actual South Australian exports to be £46,690 19s. 2d.

The total amount of land under cultivation in the Province is returned at 28 690 acres; of which 23,000 acres are in wheat, 3300 in barley, 790 in oats, 290 in maize, 470 in potatoes, and 840 of garden ground;—showing, as compared with last year, an increase of 9000 acres of wheat, 600 of barley, and 90 of oats;—a decrease of 560 acres of maize, 220 of potatoes, and 10 of garden ground;—and a total increase of land under crop, of 8900 acres.

The total number of marriages in the Province during the past year is returned at 125; that of births is estimated at 724; and the return of deaths is 161—shewing a difference of 560 in favour of the births. Calculating the population of the Province at 16,000, this shews the proportion of births to be rather more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—that of deaths a fraction more than one per cent.

The public houses, we are happy to observe, are decreasing,—the total number returned for the past year being 67; 33 of which are scattered over the country districts; and the remainder are situated in Adelaide and its neighbourhood.

The public houses naturally bring us to the Courts of Justice, by the returns from which we are glad to remark that convictions have likewise been decreasing;—the total number during 1843 being 31!—out of a population of 16,000!

Adelaide contains 1632 buildings; of which 710 are of brick, 126 of stone, 283 of wood, and 513 of pisé.

The Province contains 35 places of worship, namely—Established Church of England, 4; Church of Scotland, 1; Society of Friends, 1; German Lutheran, 2; Dissenting Chapels, 26; Roman Catholic Chapel, 1.

From the above summary, our readers will rejoice to find, that, during a year of trial and difficulty, such as we hope we shall never experience again, the colony has been steadily progressing in substantial wealth, in numbers, and in morality, as proved by returns shewing the increase of crops, the number of births, and the decrease of crime.—If such be the results of a period of adversity, what may we not expect from a brighter future? Time will show.

COLONIAL BREWERIES.—The hot weather is now approaching, and our brewers are, we have no doubt, looking forward with anxiety to see if hops have lost their virtue by their passage across the line; although they individually express themselves confident as to the soundness of their *own* beer. Many of the farmers intend to substitute beer for spirits in the reaping field. The most successful brewers have hitherto been found amongst the Brothers of the Order. Let the Order support them, if deserving, by banishing foreign beer from our Lodges.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—The *Joseph Albino* has sailed on a trading voyage to Hobart Town and New Zealand. She is loaded with colonial produce, chiefly consigned to Capt. Finnis, who is master and supercargo of her.—The *Elizabeth Buckham* will probably be the first wool ship that will leave the colony this season; she is advertised to sail in all November. The *Madras* is expected to follow her with quick dispatch.—The *Sans Pareille* sails direct for Leith; the agents confidently recommending that Port as a ready market for wool, oil, and bone.—One Danish and two American whalers have lately visited the colony. They readily bartered their tobacco for stores of every description, at moderate prices.

ADELAIDE MARKETS.—(*All Colonial Produce.*)—Flour 18s. to 25s. per bag; beef 2½d. to 4d. per lb.; mutton 2½d. to 3½d. per lb.; butter 7d. to 9d. per lb.; cheese 8d. to 1s per lb.; eggs 6d. to 9d. per doz.; hay £2 to £3 per ton; potatoes 4s. 6d. to 8s. per cwt.; green peas 6d. to 8d. per peck; wheat 3s. 6d. to 4s. per 60 lbs.; barley 3s. 9d. to 6s. per 50 lbs.; Cape barley 3s. to 4s. 6d.; oats 5s. to 6s. per 40 lbs.; bran 10d. to 1s. per 20 lbs.; pollard 1s. 6d. per 20 lbs.; soap 5d. to 6d., candles 8d. to 10d., starch 6d. to 10d. per lb.; ale 1s. to 2s. 6d. per gallon, in kegs, barrels, and hhds.—5s. per doz. in bottle.

BIRTHS.

JUNE 18.—The wife of Brother Ashton, of the Hope Lodge, and Governor of the Adelaide Gaol, of a daughter.

JUNE 16.—The wife of Prov. G. M. Thomas Jones, of a son.

JULY 13.—The wife of Brother Secretary Burford, of the Adelaide Lodge, of a son.

SEPT. 19.—The wife of Brother George Lea, of the Adelaide Lodge, of a daughter.

OCT. 2.—The wife of Brother James Bowley, of the Adelaide Lodge, of a son.

OCT. 6.—The wife of Brother Perry, of the Hope Lodge, of a daughter.

OCT. 8.—The wife of Brother Tomkins, of the Adelaide Lodge, of a daughter.

DEATH.

MARCH 30.—Brother John Cook, of the Adelaide Lodge: This is the first Member of the Order in this District that has been taken from amongst us, since it was established in this Province.