

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

Sub-Treasury, Melbourne,  
12th January, 1844.

HIS Honor the Superintendent directs the following notice to be re-published for the information of the Teachers of Schools within the Port Phillip District. The accounts are however, to be sent to this office within the period named.

W. LONSDALE,  
Sub-Treasurer.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Sydney 9th Dec., 1843.

HIS Excellency the Governor desires it to be notified, that all Teachers of Schools, receiving aid from Government, will in future be required to transmit their claims to the Audit Office within one month from the termination of each quarter, and that those claims which shall not have been received within such period, will not be submitted for approval until the subsequent quarter.

By His Excellency's command,  
(Signed,) E. DEAS THOMSON.

Post Office Notice.

WHEREAS the Letter Carriers, in Melbourne, having of late experienced much delay in their respective rounds, and considerable difficulty in the collection of the various rates of postage;—public attention is urgently requested to the following particulars:—

The Letter Carriers commence their delivery immediately upon issuing from the Post Office, and, if but a few minutes delay be occasioned to them, at first, upon each call, it can require but little reflection to convince, how much this must retard the more remote delivery.

Again, the Letter Carriers are entrusted with a certain number of letters, and are charged with a certain sum:—upon the close of the day they must hand over that amount or return the letters. If credit be required from them they cannot of course do this.

The public are requested therefore to be prepared at all times, and at once, to pay the amounts of postage; and, from the above, they must evidently see how unfair they will be acting towards other parties in the Town, if, at all, they detain the Letter Carriers longer than may be absolutely necessary.

HENRY D. KEMP,  
Postmaster.

Post Office, Melbourne,  
24th November, 1843.

COURT OF REQUESTS.

FOR THE COUNTY OF BOURKE.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Court of Requests for the trial of causes for the recovery of debts to the amount of £10 and under, will be holden at the Court House, King-street, on Monday, the 5th and following days of February, 1844, at the hour of nine o'clock in the forenoon.

Full particulars of the plaintiff's demand, with the Christian names of plaintiffs and defendants, and place of residence of the defendant within the said county of Bourke, must be delivered at the office of the Registrar, on or before Wednesday, the 17th day of January.

Notice of set-off also in writing, must be filed by the defendant on or before the 1st day of February.

By order of the Commissioner,  
J. S. GRIFFIN,  
Registrar.

January 4th, 1844.

Notice of Removal.

J. BLANDFORD, Hair Dresser and Perfumer, having removed to those premises adjoining the Union Inn, takes this opportunity of acknowledging the many favours conferred upon him since his arrival in Melbourne, and would respectfully invite an inspection of his Hair Cutting Rooms, which being on the first floor of the establishment, are consequently much more adapted for the accommodation of Ladies and Gentlemen than those formerly occupied by him, and are fitted up in a style not to be equalled in Melbourne.

Groceries, Wines and Spirits.

DAVID YOUNG,

COLLINS-STREET,

BEGS most respectfully to return his thanks for the success he has experienced during the four years he has been in the colony, and begs to assure the public that it shall be his constant endeavour to supply them with the best goods at the lowest prices he can afford to sell them.

Excellent black and green teas, at 2s. per lb. retail  
Roasted and ground coffees, best 10d. per lb.  
Raw sugars, from 2d. per lb. and upwards  
Loaf ditto, 6d. per lb.  
Best Colonial and English yellow soap  
Best American negrohead tobacco  
Best Manilla cigars  
Best Colonial potted butter  
Best fresh ditto, from his own dairy twice a week  
Port, sherry, Madeira, champagne, &c.  
Best Scotch whiskey, rum, gin, and brandy.

DAVID YOUNG.

5th January, 1844.

The Melbourne Weekly Courier.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

PORT PHILLIP PATRIOT.

"The Melbourne Weekly Courier made its first appearance, pursuant to announcement, on Saturday afternoon. The paper is small, but very closely printed and remarkably neat in its appearance, the title being gaily ornamented with the Town arms, which are cut in a style highly creditable to the engraver, Mr. Ham. Judging from the first number, we should be inclined to think the Courier will answer admirably the purpose for which it is intended, particularly as its very moderate price brings it within the means of even the poorest of our citizens."—Patriot, 8th January.

PORT PHILLIP HERALD.

"A new journal, to be called the Melbourne Weekly Courier, is to make its appearance on Saturday afternoon next. We know nothing of the parties who intend to start this periodical, but surely if they are wise they will turn their attention to something else, for it is madness to suppose that a small place like Melbourne could support a third paper on the Saturday."—Herald, January 2.

"When we noticed in our last that there was to be a third paper issued in Melbourne on the Saturday, we little dreamt that the object of it was to enable the Patriot to keep pace with the Herald in the publication of its 'Extraordinary' issues; but such we learn to be the case. Our trusty and well beloved friend the 'worthy alderman' finding that our Saturday's publication has for some time past taken the marrow out of his Monday's number, has the modesty to expect that the public will pay him five shillings a quarter for publishing what we supply our subscribers with gratuitously! He, however, seems half alarmed at the thing, for he has studiously kept himself and his object in the background."—Herald, 5th January.

"This new paper is printed at the Patriot office, and as we said in our last number, set on foot to keep pace with the 'Extraordinary' issue of the Herald of Saturday. It is neatly printed, is just half the size of the other Melbourne papers, and as it is published once a week at a cost of five shillings a quarter, is just double the price of its contemporaries.—Alderman Kerr is the editor, Samuel Goode is the printer, and John Pascoe Fawcner, as in the case of the Patriot, the proprietor. In fact, the Courier would have come out as a regular Extraordinary, but, that by assuming another name, the pains-taking conductors are enabled to exchange with the Patriot whole columns of type, which being of the proper width, renders the exchange the easier. For instance, in 'No 1,' we have the Governor's speech on prorogating the Council, and other little matters of that sort, 'lifted' with great nicety and precision, from the Patriot of the day but one preceding, in return for which act of kindness, the Patriot, with a thorough dislike to that 'despicable offence' called 'plagiarism,' only 'lifts' from its contemporary without acknowledgment, about four columns of small type, including the 'Report on the Deficiencies in the Estimates for 1842,' 'Mr. Barry's decision in the case of the Corporation and Mr. Barrett, the auctioneer,' 'Returns of Live Stock' and 'Population,' as well as a few domestic paragraphs, &c., &c. Altogether the reciprocity plan is an admirable one, and cannot fail to prove deeply interesting to the public, and extremely profitable to the supporters of both journals. Although, as we said before, the Courier has been started in opposition to the third issue of the Herald, in a spirit of brotherly love we wish our new rival the success his spirited undertaking merits."—Herald, 9th January.

PORT PHILLIP GAZETTE.

Nil.

GEELONG ADVERTISER.

Nil.

Courier Office,  
13th Jan., 1844.

Wholesale and Retail Grocery and Provision Store.

R. P. MERVIN informs his friends and the public, that, having made a large addition to his former establishment, he has now added to his former extensive stock of teas, sugars, crystal, crockery, &c., &c., hay, oats, bran, and flour, which articles he is enabled to sell at a much reduced price, having laid in his whole stock for cash and cash only.

N.B.—Just come to hand, an extensive stock of different sized iron pots, which he can and is determined to sell at 50 per cent. less than prime cost.

Enquire for Mervin's Grocery and Provision Store, Flinders-lane, nearly opposite the Union Bank.

Jan. 6, 1844.

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

(From the Literary Gazette.)

In our last Gazette we had the satisfaction to give a complete outline of the course and scientific proceedings of the Antarctic Expedition, which we rejoice to find has made so strong a public sensation. It was not in our power, nor the power of language, to speak too highly of its importance to science, nor of its conduct throughout as honorable to the naval service, and glorious to the country. The harmony which prevailed from first to last in every department, the firmness and resolution of all employed, and the safe return, with so little of sickness or of loss during four years of arduous and dangerous enterprise, reflect such credit on officers and men, that it would indeed be difficult to find words to express our admiration. That speedy promotion and reward will mark the scene their country entertains of their devotedness, is matter of course; and we take pleasure in stating that his Royal Highness Prince Albert took a warm and early interest in their progress and discoveries. It is another fine trait in the character of that illustrious personage, and one of the right kind to add to a great and growing popularity of the best and most enduring description. In bestowing his regards upon these

brave navigators, he assumes the true position of a British Prince; and a portion of their gallant exploits will thus become a part of his history, as well as of the history of the nation adorned by both.

But our feeling on this subject must not lead us into the vice of common-place declamation. In addition to what appeared in last week's sheet, we have some particulars to communicate to our readers, which, we are sure, will be gratifying to their tastes and curiosity.

We mentioned the plummet having struck the ground in a sounding of great depth, but had not at the moment the exact extent before us. It was at 2,677 fathoms; and by an able contrivance the vessels were out more than 6,000 fathoms of line, and yet (as in lat. 46½ deg. S.) with all that scope could find no bottom. In the former case, where they did, they could not bring the lead up again to indicate the nature of the ground.

In the highest latitudes, however, which they reached, and much within the Antarctic circle, their dredging was very productive, and they have brought home, in spirits of wine, many specimens of molluscs and other creatures, shells, &c., &c., which are believed to be rare, if not new in this branch of scientific exploration, and which will be the more welcome now, since Prof. Forbes's Ægean researches, (see, fortunately, in this very same sheet, p. 604, his report, and the results to which it leads) have, as it were, opened a vast novel field of inquiry for the investigation of the nature of our globe.

In these desolate regions, where so little could be seen or found on the surface, it was some compensation to be able to divulge even a few secrets from the depths of the sea. About and around them it was almost as if life were extinct. Animals there were none; and birds were very few. The stormy petrel occasionally flying over our heads was shot; and a new species of white petrel was also obtained. The other ornithological inhabitants of the Antarctic, such as gulls, &c., were identified with those of the Arctic regions; the same in colours, feathers, and form. Only they were 'like angel visits, few and far between.' Of shrimps under the ice there were myriads; but apparently nothing to feed upon them except the worthless finner-whale. For the mess the ocean was a blank. Seals, however, abounded with skins of a long coarse hair. And this was all—except the extraordinary penguin, whose habits seemed to be impenetrable. This bird was found always on the ice, and at immense distances from land. How it existed appeared to be a mystery. There were thousands and tens of thousands of the smaller species; and the lightly fledged young in their first year were often met with. But there were, besides, a patriarchal order, never encountered in more than three at any time, and of an immense size. Their appearance on the summits of the icebergs and elsewhere was most ludicrous; for, with their stately stalk and short legs, they looked for all the world like the padres of a religious order. One was weighed at 76lbs., and stood about four feet six inches in height. The average weight of this large class was 64lbs.; and, heavy as they were and seemed, the activity in leaping was incredible. In their walk, and glancing over their shoulders, as it were, with wonder at their strange visitors, they betrayed no fears, and hardly took themselves out of the way. But if an impulse led them to jump up the face of a piece of ice, their flappers came down on each side, and they rose with a spring (considering their form) truly astonishing; as several of the officers estimated such exploits at 10, 12, or 14 feet in perpendicular height.

How these birds contrive to live on icy masses, unable to fly, and not much made for running, is, we repeat, a natural curiosity. There are no insects within many degrees of the Antarctic circle where they abide.

Of the dreadful storm mentioned in our last, we have since seen a sketch; which, we are assured, is an underwrought representation of the scene. It is perfectly appalling! The Erebus and Terror are but one wave apart, and the tremendous masses of ice seem as if they must crush a thousand navies. Their escape was indeed miraculous. Both rudders lost at nearly the same time, and a dreadful swell driving them up and down whilst the rolling ice was sometimes under them, and sometimes emerging from the water around. It must have been terrific; and it may be observed, that the ocean swell, of which we have spoken, renders the navigation of the south infinitely more perilous than in the northern sphere, where the waves and currents are comparatively smooth, and forcing a way through the ice a very different and much safer operation.

Among the memorable objects of the voyage, the volcano we described last week was the most memorable. Its appearance is spoken of by all the officers and crews as of stupendous beauty; and some idea may be formed of its grandeur when we state, that on sailing away from it in a direct course, the vessels could see it distinctly at the distance of 130 miles!

The geology near this phenomenon would be of extreme interest; but it was not attainable; and we have only to console ourselves with the abundance of specimens brought from other parts. Kerguelen's Land was rich in this respect; and seems altogether to have been one of the most remarkable spots visited by the expedition. We said it was of volcanic origin; but it is a puzzle to tell exactly what it is. Covered with lava, it imbeds immense fossil trees, some of them six or seven feet in circumference; and numerous fine minerals, quartz in huge masses in basaltic caverns, and other singular remains. It looks as if a land had been submerged, and again thrown up to the surface by volcanic action; the former solid earth and all its products having been restored to view under an igneous power, which destroyed it. Here, however, our countrymen fared well, and were fortunate in their magnetic observations. They could not thin the multitudes of teal which surrounded them and afforded good

• The immense quantity of specimens of every kind deposited with the Admiralty show at once the zeal and diligence exercised throughout the voyage.—Ed. Lit. Gaz.

table cheer, and an excellent species of the brassica tribe, though wild, furnished a vegetable much esteemed after a long voyage. The seed of this cabbage furnishes food for many birds, and several specimens were brought from this quarter.—Altogether, we understand, about 60 have been sent or brought home, out of which, no doubt, some will augment our fauna. Shooting these was one of the principal amusements of the officers, when not on duty.

From Kerguelen's Land we have on our table, kindly presented to us by Lieutenant Smith, a beautiful specimen of the fossil wood—a black silix, with the wood fibres obviously circling in the anterior, and the outer bark, particularly on one side, of a different brown consistency. It is about five inches in diameter, and very heavy. From Van Diemen's Land we have also silicified vegetable remains, of singular beauty; and in mentioning the place whence they came, we are happy again to notice the hearty welcome from Sir John Franklin, who made it a home to the expedition. But before we leave Kerguelen's Land, we must revert to the scientific operations there, though merely to mention that the 'ambulatory' observatories, from which so much information has been acquired, have all been safely landed in England, and are ready for any other expedition. These houses answered their purposes admirably, as did the instruments generally; and as the Erebus and Terror worked simultaneously, and communicated the results by signals daily, there cannot be a doubt of the correctness of the experiments and observations. This is of infinite consequence, for it must prevent all question, or cavil, or pretence from other quarters.

The visit to Cape Horn, whether they ran from the Falkland Islands, brought them (as we observed) acquainted with the natives of that wild promontory. They met them on an island not on the mainland, but a place evidently frequented by them. They never met more than six or seven of the men together, and found them a fearless and rather robust, active, and well-looking race. They were matchless imitators, and very dexterous thieves—had nothing to offer in barter but small pieces of skins—and were careful to prevent the appearance of their women. These were kept sedulously out of sight; and in one instance, where a party from the ships surprised two of them crouching in a concealed part, they leapt up and ran from them screaming with terror. The 'Jerdan Island' of Captain Weddell's map was near, and upon it, as upon others; rabbits (brought from the Falkland Isles) were put ashore; and, as the soil is light and sandy, and covered with grass and brushwood, they will, no doubt, thrive, and replenish the land. Our kind voyagers also, on other remote shores where vessels will hereafter touch, landed rabbits, poultry, goats, and sheep, of which their future successors may reap the advantage.

The boats of the natives of the Terra del Fuego are curiously built, and their bottom ballasted with clay, on which their cooking is performed. The men, as we have said, are great mimics. One of our officers danced and sang 'Jim Crow' to a set of them; and a Fuegian immediately, to the great entertainment of the ships' crews, copied both dance and song; the first to perfection, and the last so well that it was thought he pronounced every absurd word whilst he jumped Jim Crow!

Among the happy returns, we cannot conclude without mentioning the pretty kitten sent on board the Erebus, just before starting, and which we declared to be a 'pole-cat.' It has certainly become one, with a thick fur, as if the Antarctic seasons had agreed with it. There is also a goat, shipped at Van Diemen's Land, which has stood all the hardships of three years' izing. They are now animals of considerable interest; and, like their commanders, we are glad to observe, they give themselves no airs about it.

Of one of these commanders we have to speak with regret, and the public will join with us in it. After all his toils and exertions, Captain Crozer has had but a sad home to welcome him. The death of two sisters had to be communicated to him a few days ago; and his grief may hardly be imagined.

The vessels are now at Woolwich, being unrigged. In the interior they look almost as fresh as when they sailed; on the outside they are tolerably battered, and in the deep interior it is likely they are much damaged.

• "Daily" may be a word misapplied through a considerable portion of the time, when the sun was shining over their heads for three weeks together.—Ed. Lit. Gaz.

THE MELBOURNE WEEKLY COURIER is published every Saturday, at the office, Collins-street, in time for the overland mail to Sydney, and will be delivered throughout the town in the course of the afternoon. The Subscription charge is 5s. per quarter, if paid in advance; 6s. per quarter, credit, a rule which will be inflexibly adhered to. The quarters end 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December, in each year, and to some one of these periods all resignations must have reference. No subscriber can decline unless on payment of the current quarter, and all arrears. Persons desirous of becoming subscribers during a quarter, will, in that case, only be charged from the period they commence subscribing. Advertisements will be charged at the rate of 3s. for six lines, and 3d. for every line beyond six, for each insertion. New advertisements will be received until 10 o'clock, a.m., on Saturday morning, but no withdrawal can be attended to later than 6 o'clock on Wednesday night. The number of insertions must be specified in each advertisement, or it will be continued until countermanded by a written notice and charged accordingly. No verbal notice as to resignation of subscriptions, or discontinuance of advertisements, will be attended to. Communications to the Editor, or orders for the Publisher, are requested to be addressed (post paid) to the COURIER office, Collins-street.

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