

**NEW SOUTH WALES.**—Sydney papers to the 7th of November, bring the published accounts of the revenue of the colony for the three quarters of the year just closed, and according to these the net deficiency compared with the same period of 1842 was £29,049, a considerable falling off having occurred in the amount received for duties paid on spirits imported, on tobacco, and auction fees. The gross revenue is stated at £274,596, and upon the receipts of the year Sir George Gipps says he expects a decrease of £50,000 or £60,000 compared with 1842. This return is alluded to by the papers as showing more satisfactory results than were expected, and the decline in the spirit duties is considered a favourable feature in the present condition of the population. An act had been passed suppressing colonial distillation, which it was also thought would have the beneficial effect of diminishing the use of ardent spirits. A report had been made to the Legislative Council on the subject of the existing monetary depression, and a bill, suggesting remedies, founded on that report, was about being brought into the House for discussion. The usual official return of the four banks now carrying on business in the colony (*viz.*, Union of Australia, Australasia, Commercial, and New South Wales) had appeared, the results of which, as respects their condition to pay their notes and provide for their deposits, are satisfactory, as the excess of coin and assets in general is much above their total liabilities. No improvement in trade is noticed in these accounts, but the merchants assert that as the wool season had scarcely commenced, it was not to be expected. It appears that the period for trade in Sydney is between the months of November and April, and hence it is said, that in the course of the next arrival or so, we may look for some favourable change in the aspect of affairs in Australia. As long as the import trade is kept within a proper limit with the export trade, Sydney, as a rising colony, will no doubt be able to pay her way, and eventually release herself from the present depression; but it will require much prudence on the part of shippers here, even when a change takes place, to allow affairs to assume a steady and healthful aspect, should they again attempt to increase their supplies to these markets.

**HOBART TOWN.**—Hobart Town papers of the 18th of October notice the arrival of a vessel, called the *Sisters*, from New Zealand, having on board several families who had left Nelson in consequence of the alarm created by the late massacre of the natives. The same ship brought a request from the local government to Sir *Bardley Wilmot* for the assistance of

troops, and the promptitude with which that request was met is alluded to by the papers in the highest terms of praise, the *Sisters* having arrived on the Friday, and 100 soldiers being on their way to New Zealand the following Sunday. There is nothing else worth notice. Wheat was 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. per bushel, flour of first quality £10 per ton, and potatoes £5 to £6 per ton.

**TAHITI.**—**RESTORATION OF OTAHEITE TO QUEEN POMARE.**—The *Moniteur* of the 1st of March contained the following intelligence.

Government have received despatches from the Island of Tahiti, dated 1st and 9th of November, 1843.

Vice-Admiral Dupetit Thouars, who arrived in the Bay of Papeti on the 1st of November, to carry into execution the treaty of the 9th of September, 1842, which the King had ratified, deemed it his duty not to adhere to the stipulations of that treaty, but to take possession of the island.

Queen Pomare has written to the King to demand the fulfilment of the stipulations of the treaty which assured to her the internal sovereignty of her country, and to pray that she be maintained in her rights.

The King, by the advice of his council, not finding in the circumstances reported sufficient grounds for abandoning the treaty of the 9th of September, 1842, has ordered the pure and simple execution of that treaty, and the establishment of the French protectorate in that island.

**WEST INDIES.**—Intelligence from the West India Islands has been received to the following dates—Jamaica, the 9th of February; Barbadoes, the 4th; Demerara, the 3d; and Trinidad, the 1st. This vessel brings 1,116,000 dollars, having the Mexican mail on board, but the principal of this sum is supposed to be on mining account, though it is said 75,000 are consigned to the Mexican agency as remittances towards the dividend due in April next.—The *Jamaica Despatch* of the latest date thus refers to matters in that island—

“There is little alteration in the political horizon of our island since the transmission of our mails per last packet. Our legislative body as well as the Grand Court, have resumed their deliberations in Spanish Town; and we expect both the legislative and the executive branches of the government will take an early opportunity of contradicting some of the misrepresentations of the British press relative to their opinions on the necessity of an accession of free labourers for this colony. Bishop Spencer has been duly installed, and the church of St. Jago de la Vega created a cathedral. Religious instruction and general education are progressing rapidly, and everything but the panacea for all our evils—increased cultivation—is proceeding harmoniously. The weather is still dry and disagreeable, and the prevailing north breezes have caused some sickness. We have, however,

escaped the alarming shocks of earthquake felt at Grenada, Barbadoes, and other of the neighbouring islands."

Private investigation connected with the late robbery at the Jamaica bank is alluded to as tending to a discovery of the culprit.

According to the Demerara papers, the weather, notwithstanding its variable character, was on the whole favourable for agricultural operations. At the meeting of the British Guiana bank a dividend of 2 per cent for the half-year had been declared. The business of the establishment appears to have improved under a vigorous inquiry adopted by a competent committee called in by the directors to satisfy the public of the stability of the establishment. Mercantile affairs showed symptoms of increased confidence, and though the improvement was slow, there was every hope that the steadiness observed would not readily again relapse into the depression from which they were now recovering. A slight shock of an earthquake was felt in Demerara on the 19th of January.

The Barbadoes accounts give very little interesting news. The weather continued changeable, and few of the overdue vessels from England had arrived.

From Trinidad, Dominica, and Antigua scarcely a fact comes worthy of record.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Papers to the 30th of December have been received, and the latest intelligence they bring from Natal is to the 18th of the same month. The crops in this new settlement were abundant, and, notwithstanding the representations that the soil was too rich for the cultivation of grain, the "yield" of wheat was expected to exceed 2,000 muids. Moeke, it appears, had released the Loyalist farmers, and after copying the papers they had in their possession, they were quietly permitted to prosecute their journey.

The following extract of a letter from Pietermauritzburg gives a short narrative of the state of feeling in the Natal country:

"All is quiet here, and every hand employed to cultivate the ground. Oberholster and two other commandants from the other side of the Draakberg have come up with the signatures of all persons of their field-cornetries to submit to the English government. Moeke, De Kock, and another (I think Vermeulen) are the only three who as yet refuse submission. Oberholster left yesterday this place again, and his influence amongst his fellow Boers will procure many deserters of the Republican faith."

The crops in the neighbourhood of the Cape presented a favourable appearance, and some of the farmers anticipated reaping double the quantity of grain they did last year. At Roggeveld, if locusts or blight did not injure the grain, it would be fit for the sickle within a couple of weeks. On the frontier complaints are still made of the ravages of the locusts, and in Tarka

and Cradock they had done much mischief. In Graham's Town the wool was being brought down for shipment, and the quality is highly spoken of. Altogether, affairs, both social and political, are fast improving.

MAURITIUS.—Advices from this island to the 10th of December, but, politically speaking, they are devoid of interest. A *Price Current* of the 6th December gives a review of the sugar-market for the week ending the 5th of December, which states that about 10,000 bags had been put up at public sale, of which only 6,000 found purchasers; subsequently, however, a further quantity was taken by private contract. The average of prices was as follows:—white, 8 dollars 7 cents; fine yellow, 7 dollars 40 cents to 7 dollars 65 cents; good quality do. 7 dollars 18 cents to 7 dollars 35 cents; middling do. 6 dollars 25 cents to 7 dollars 85 cents; low do. 6 dollars. Fine gray, 7 dollars 25 cents; good do. 6 dollars 80 cents; middling do. 6 dollars 10 cents to 6 dollars 25 cents; low do. 5 dollars 50 cents; good brown, 6 dollars 15 cents to 6 dollars 20 cents; middling do. 5 dollars 60 cents. The quantity of sugar exported to London in September had been 774,218 lbs., in October it amounted to 4,722,491 lbs., and in the month of November to 8,883,893 lbs., making a total for the three months of 8,380,602 lbs. To Liverpool the exports in October amounted to only 535,298 lbs., but in November a further quantity of 3,087,728 lbs. was shipped to that port. The exports to Scotland during the quarter had been 2,110,206 lbs., and only 729,734 lbs. to Ireland; making a total of 16,731,831 lbs. exported to the several ports. The exports to foreign places amounted to 210,368 lbs., making a gross total of 16,962,199 lbs., against 17,451,592 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1842. Freights to London, Liverpool, and Bristol were £2. 15s. to £3 per ton of 20 cwt. net, and £2. 15s. to Glasgow and Leith. The rate of exchange on London for Treasury bills at 30 days' sight was from 7 to 8 per cent. premium, and private bills at 90 days from 1 to 3 per cent. discount. Sovereigns were quoted from 9 to 10 per cent. premium, and British silver 2 per cent. premium.

CANADA.—The *Montreal Gazette* of the 1st of February, says:—It is understood, that despatches were received at Kingston on the 24th of January, conveying Her Majesty's approval of all the measures of his Excellency the Governor-General, and an assurance that in the pursuance of the same policy he may rely on the cordial support of the Ministers of the Crown. The attempt made by Mr. Buchanan to arrange the difficulties between the Cork and Connaught men on the Welland

Canal had proved a failure. It is said that there are 5,000 men, and as many women and children, on the line of the canal, and that by no possibility can employment be found for more than 3,000. The people were in great distress.

Addresses still continued to pour in to his Excellency Sir Charles Metcalfe. He had appointed Mr. James Macaulay Higginson to be his Civil Secretary.

**THE OREGON NEGOTIATION.**—We learn from Washington that the new British Minister has opened the negotiation for the settlement of the Oregon Territory with Mr. Upshur, the Secretary of State; but that some difficulties have occurred in the preliminaries, which may cause some delay, although not insuperable in their nature. It is also generally understood that the President and his Secretary are very solicitous of settling, on an honourable basis, this vexed question; perhaps somewhat arising from the fact that Mr. Webster monopolized all the honour in the Ashburton treaty. We apprehend no difficulty, however, on this question between the Executive and the British Government. The principal obstacle will be in the Senate. Mr. Benton and the extreme *gauche* of the "young democracie," are endeavouring to create, in advance, a party opposition to any treaty that settles the controversy by compromise—and from the position of the Presidential question in the western states, we do verily believe that he may succeed in rejecting such a treaty. Circumstances, however, may turn up to give a new direction to events. The war feeling, however, against England, is at its very lowest ebb at present among the "democracie," and it will be difficult to raise it from the "vasty deep." Whigs, northern Abolitionists, and southern Nullifiers, are all for peace, on fair and reasonable terms, and they, all together, outnumber in influence the Benton ultra section. The singular rise of a deep commercial excitement, caused by the recent rapid advance in stocks, cotton, and other staples, and the increase of the foreign trade, will all contribute to repress political agitation of a character injurious to peace and prosperity.—*New York Herald*.

**ORDNANCE ESTIMATES.**—The estimates of the office of ordnance (including barracks, surveys of the United Kingdom, commissariat, and military and civil superannuations) for the year 1844–45, have just been printed by order of the House of Commons. The total sum to be voted for the current year amounts to 1,840,064*l.*, which is less by 9,078*l.* than the amount voted in the year 1843–44. There will be

appropriated, for ordinary, 621,599*l.*; for extra-ordinaries, 1,020,991*l.*; superannuated, 163,680*l.*; and for commissariat supplies, 174,688*l.*; making altogether an amount of 1,980,958*l.* As, however, sums to the amount of 140,894*l.* remain to the credit of the ordnance-office, the estimates for the current year are of course reduced to 1,840,064*l.*

**ADMIRALTY.**—The following is an account of the respective amounts voted and expended during eleven years (from 1832 to 1843 inclusive):—

Year.	Voted.	Expended.
1832	£114,460	£112,806
1833	104,070	107,854
1834	104,551	108,028
1835	108,844	107,935
1836	110,302	109,789
1837	111,683	117,588
1838	112,637	117,152
1839	113,924	118,816
1840	122,096	120,505
1841	121,844	122,662
1842	121,449	129,182

**NAVY ESTIMATES** for the Years 1844–45 have just been printed. As compared with the last vote for the financial years 1843–44, they result in an aggregate unusually approximate. The "grand total" to be voted for the current year is 6,250,120*l.*; the grand total for the last year was 6,382,990*l.*; so that there is a reduction in the present estimates for the navy, from their amount for 1843–44, of 132,870*l.* For the current year the total for the effective service is estimated at 4,004,758*l.*; for the non-effective, 1,398,651*l.*; total for the naval service, 5,403,409*l.* For the services of other departments, 846,711*l.*; together, 6,250,120*l.* The chief items of these estimates are—Wages, 1,170,476*l.* (Service afloat, 23,500 seamen, 2,000 boys, 4,500 royal marines; service on shore, 6,000 royal marines;) victuals, 544,960*l.*; admiralty-office, 126,826*l.*; registry of merchant seamen, 2,980*l.*; scientific branch, 38,076*l.*; her Majesty's establishments at home, 127,927*l.*, and abroad, 22,426*l.*; wages to artificers at home, 649,104*l.*; ditto abroad, 42,080*l.*; naval stores for building and repairs of ships, docks, &c., 1,053,965*l.*; new works, 298,866*l.*; medicines and medical stores, 20,165*l.*; miscellaneous services, 61,630*l.* Half-pay, namely, to officers of the navy and royal marines, 742,296*l.*; military pensions and allowances, 495,626*l.*; civil pensions and allowances, 162,959*l.* The estimates for "services of other departments of the government" comprise, army and ordnance departments (per conveyance of troops), 160,890*l.*; home department (convict service), 96,527*l.*; and post-office department (contract packet service) 432,541*l.*

## OBITUARY.

**Biddle, Nicholas, Esq.**, the eminent American financier, Feb. 27th, at Andalusia, near Philadelphia. He was born in the city of Philadelphia, on the 8th of January, 1786. His paternal ancestors emigrated with William Penn. His father was Charles Biddle, a Revolutionary Whig, who was active in the American cause during the war of independence. At the period of the birth of Nicholas, he enjoyed the second office in the state, while Benjamin Franklin held the first. Other members of his father's family distinguished themselves by their intelligence, valour, and devotion to the cause of their country. His fortitude was conspicuous to the last. He leaves a widow, several children, and numerous relatives and friends, to mourn his loss, at an age when they might well have hoped to witness the exercise of his varied powers in their full vigour.

**Carey, Major-General Sir Octavius, C. B., K. C. H.**, commanding the Cork district, Ireland, March 13th, at London, aged 58. The gallant general was of Norman descent, the family having come to England with William the Conqueror. Married, 1818, daughter of Mr. R. P. le Marchant, of Guernsey; entered the army in 1801, as cornet in the 29th Dragoons, and he attained the rank of Major-General on the 10th of January, 1837; created a Knight Commander of the Guelphic Order, 1835, and Knight Bachelor, 1830.

**Halford, Sir Henry, Bart.**, March 9th, in the 78th year of his age. The deceased eminent physician was born on the 2d of October, 1766, and received his early education at Rugby School, and at Christchurch, Oxford. He afterwards studied medicine at Edinburgh, and commenced practice, in conjunction with his father, Dr. Vaughan, a physician of high reputation, at Leicester. In 1792 or 1793, he settled in London, and rose with wonderfully rapid steps to the very first practice. In 1820 he was elected President of the College of Physicians, and remained in that office until his death, having been re-elected every year for nearly a quarter of a century. Sir Henry Halford was physician to four successive sovereigns, three of whom he attended in their last illnesses, as well as many other branches of the Royal Family. So great was his celebrity, that it occurred to him, in the course of his practice, to be consulted by several sovereigns of other states, as well as by a great many foreigners of the very first distinction. As a physician Sir Henry Halford was a favourite with all classes, and enjoyed in a remarkable degree the confidence of his patients. In consultation he was much regarded by his professional brethren on account of the quickness of his perception, the soundness of his judgment, and the readiness and abundance of his resources. In society he was prized, for to strong natural sagacity and good sense he added the charm of a highly classical taste, and considerable literary attainments. Sir Henry Halford was created a baronet by

George III., and changed his name from Vaughan to Halford in compliance with the will of his maternal great-uncle, the last Sir Charles Halford, of Wistow, in Leicestershire, whose estates he inherited. He was Knight Grand Cross of Hanover, a member of the Royal Society, and of several other literary and scientific bodies, trustee of Rugby school, &c. He married a daughter of John, eleventh Lord St. John, of Bletsoe, by whom he has left one son and one daughter.

**Hall, Admiral**, the much esteemed friend of the Emperor of Russia, in whose service he was employed, Feb. 18th, at St. Petersburg, aged 60 years. He was formerly a lieutenant in the British service, and was afterwards made an admiral in the Russian navy. His death was very sudden, having taken place during divine service in the English church at St. Petersburg.

**Hill, Lord William**; while following the stag-hounds in the neighbourhood of Whitton, near Ipswich, a fatal accident occurred to his lordship, March 18th. The horse which the unfortunate nobleman was riding, fell, and rolled over him, and before he could be removed to the barracks, he was dead. The accident threw a deep gloom over Ipswich and the regiment to which the deceased nobleman belonged. Lord William Hill was the third son of the present Marquis of Downshire, and was only in his 23th year. He had entered the Scotch Greys in 1834, and his commission as Lieutenant is dated October 21st, 1836. He was much esteemed in his regiment, as well as by a large circle of private friends.

**Lonsdale, the Right Hon. William**, earl of Lonsdale, viscount and baron Lowther, and a baronet, K.G., lieutenant-colonel in the army, and lord-lieutenant of the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland, March 19th, in the 87th year of his age, at York house, Twickenham. He was the eldest son of the Rev. Sir W. Lowther, of Little Preston and of Swillington, by the daughter of the Rev. C. Zouch, vicar of Sandal, in the county of York. His lordship married on the 12th of July, 1781, the lady Augusta Fane, daughter of the earl of Westmoreland, by whom he had two sons and four daughters. The earldom devolves upon his eldest son, long known as Lord Lowther, who was raised to the Upper House during his father's lifetime, in September, 1841, when the present ministry was organized, and the office of Postmaster-General conferred on the heir of the house of Lowther. Lord Lowther is unmarried, and in the 57th year of his age. Should he die without issue, Colonel Lowther, the member for Westmoreland, will be his successor.

**Sweden, his majesty Charles John XIV.**, king of, March 8th, at Stockholm, in the 81st year of his age, and in the 30th of his reign. His son and heir assumed forthwith the Royal authority, under the style of Oscar II., and announced his intention of continuing the government of Sweden and Norway in the footsteps of his late father.