

seen some 260 miles north of Perth, who had erected a house, and were fencing in some land, with every appearance of an intention to form a settlement. The *Perth Gazette* also alludes to the same rumour, but both journals appear to have great doubts of its probability, especially as the native who brought the report into Perth, varied considerably in his several versions of the affair. Some imagine the white men alleged to have been seen, may probably be the crew of an American whaler, who are wintering on shore; others suggest that they are squatters from the Toodyay district, but great uncertainty and much doubt prevail on the subject at present. We have read an extract from a private letter, dated "Perth, 7th June," which thus mentions the report. "We have just heard from some natives who have come from a long way to the northward, that there has lately come there a body of settlers, with sheep and cows; we hardly know whether to credit the story or not, but I should not be surprised if it were true. The distance, as far as we can make out from the natives, is about 150 or 200 miles from Perth."

For ourselves we are inclined to coincide in the opinions of the Perth journals, as we have already experienced the fallacy of many native rumours of the same kind, and moreover we do not think that a body of men having any serious intentions of founding a settlement, would sail directly to the spot without first enquiring of the colonists on the more southern coast, the nature of the country higher up, the quality of the soil, and the safety of the bays and anchorages.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

At the first meeting of the Legislative Council for the session of 1843, on the 15th of July, his Excellency the Governor delivered a most lucid and comprehensive speech, in which he ably reviewed the circumstances of the colony, and the aspect of its affairs. He congratulates the colonists on their escaping the depression so generally felt in other quarters, and also on the accession of one-fourth to their population, and particularly cautions them against indulging too freely in bill transactions—a caution, by the way, frequently repeated in the public journals. He next proceeds to touch upon agricultural topics, noticing the rapid increase of sheep and consequent depreciation of their value, and advising the settlers to invest their capital in other ways. The following passage, relating to the export trade of the colony, deserves serious attention:—"I find on a moderate computation that there was a balance of trade against you last year of about £10,000; that is to say that, after exhausting every pos-

sible means in the way of payments, this sum, being about one-sixth of the whole value of the commodities imported, had to be made good, and must have been provided for either by sending specie out of the country, or by an extra issue of Treasury Bills. *Trade cannot be beneficially prosecuted on these terms.* It must be either considerably curtailed, or exposed to unavoidable difficulties, unless you can, by the discovery of some additional exchangeable commodity, *enlarge the quantity and value of your exports.*" The state of the finances exhibits a deficiency of £328 12s. 3d. the receipts for the year amounting to £9,544 0s. 1d., and the payments to £9,872 12s. 4d. To supply this deficit, the Governor announces his intention of proposing an increased duty on imported spirits. His Excellency then adverts to the progress of the land surveys, and states that during the year ending 31st March, the boundaries of 208,181 acres held in occupancy by the settlers, had been fixed; and that "out of 1,500,000 acres standing on the records of the Survey Office in the names of private individuals, there are not 100,000 of which the fee simples have not either been issued, or are ready to be taken out." On the Act for regulating the Sale of Crown Lands, passed in the last Session of Parliament, he makes no comment beyond explaining its provisions; and his Excellency concludes a very careful and satisfactory address, by alluding to the peaceable disposition of the Aborigines, and their amicable relations with the settlers. The following are the heads of the Bills which he proposes to propose:—(1st.) To increase the duties on spirituous liquors;—(2nd.) To appoint certain places for the landing of goods within the limits of town sites;—(3rd.) For the licensing of boatmen;—(4th.) For the quieting of titles to land, by declaring valid certain instruments executed in the colony;—(5th.) For rendering a release as effectual for the conveyance of freehold estates as a lease and release by the same parties;—and, (6th) To make further provision for regulating public houses. At the conclusion of the Governor's speech, the Council was adjourned until the 22nd July, when the first three bills named were to be brought under consideration.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

Swan River, 1st August.

Our last letters from Swan River are dated to the 1st of August, and the file of the *Inquirer* to the 21st of July. The intelligence which they bring is varied and interesting. The colonists appear to apprehend danger from the depression of the neighbouring colonies, and the imposition of a heavy duty on imported live stock was suggested. This course would

certainly be judicious, as the quantity of stock in the colony is increasing so rapidly as greatly to outstrip the increase of population, and this tends to keep wages at their high rate; thus any importation from Sydney or Adelaide, (and in their present state it is far from improbable that those colonies *would* send their stock to the neighbouring markets) would entail ruin on the Western Australian farmer. In the ordinary state of things such an evil would cure itself, as the prices would naturally fall to so low a scale as to render the exportation from Sydney to Western Australia unprofitable; but as it has now become with the Sydney stock-owners, not a question of profits but of diminution of their loss, it is much to be feared that they will pour their surplus stock into any market where it will realize more than the ruinous prices of their own; unless, indeed, the mania for boiling down their sheep for the manufacture of tallow, with which they appear infected, renders exportation unnecessary. A project had been started by Mr. Ridley for the formation of a Company to export the fine indigenous timber to the neighbouring colonies or even to England; but the Mauritius appeared to offer the greatest inducements for such operations, as coffee and sugar could be taken from thence in exchange. Mr. Ridley's proposal was to raise £2000 in 500 shares of £4 each, and it was ultimately arranged that before any further steps were taken, a cargo should be shipped by way of experiment. Convinced as we are of the immense resources of the colony in this single article of timber, we cannot but look upon any attempt to turn it to advantage with satisfaction, but we much doubt whether the colonists have the means to enter upon the speculation to any considerable extent. However, these proposals are to us so many indications of an active spirit of enterprise and energy having found its way into the colony, and as such we hail them with much pleasure. Messrs. Landor and Burr appear most desirous to undertake an expedition into the interior, but the Government had, without any apparent reason, refused the assistance of any of its officers; on this subject an extract from a private letter appears in another column, which seems to intimate an alteration in their plans. Mr. Landor is in every way fitted to tread in an unexplored track; he is persevering, undismayed by difficulties, and always full of observation; and the report of his late excursion in company with Mr. Lefroy to Lake Dambeling is so satisfactory in all its details, that we should be sorry to hear of any expedition having started to explore the interior without him. The usual festivities of the 1st of June, the anniversary of the foundation of the colony, had been carried on with increased

splendour and included a horse, pony, and hurdle race, a regatta, and a ball;—the report of these rejoicings is so exhilarating that we regret we cannot extract it. The Legislative Council commenced its sitting on the 15th of July and was opened by a speech from the Governor, further notice of which will be found elsewhere, necessarily condensed and abridged as our limits will not admit of our reprinting it entire. An organized and systematic opposition to the high price of Crown lands was expected in the ensuing session, and it was hoped that some measures would be proposed for the introduction of labor and capital.

The following extract from the *Inquirer* alludes to a subject of considerable interest, as the commodity to which it directs attention may, in process of time, become an article of exportation:—

“OLIVE OIL.—We have lately seen two very good samples of colonial olive oil, one of cold-drawn, the other of oil extracted by heat; and both manufactured by Mr. A. Jones, of Woodbridge, by a process of his own invention. The berries from which this oil has been expressed were from trees in Mr. Jones' garden, which were planted by himself seven years ago. They were then mere slips, about two feet long and half an inch in diameter; and the present is the fourth season of their bearing, they are now nearly twenty-five feet high. Mr. Jones informs us that, had all the berries of his two trees been saved, he might have extracted at least two gallons of oil from them.” On this fact the *Inquirer* proceeds with some show of probability to argue that the olive and the vine have only now, and at length, found the climate best adapted to them in Western Australia. This may be a rather exaggerated supposition, but certainly the success which has attended their culture shows that both the climate and soil of the colony are favourable to it; and their cultivators only require an increase of assistance in the shape of labor, to enlarge their operations to the general, as well as their own particular, benefit.

Extract from a private letter dated “Perth, 10th June, 1843;”—“Some gentlemen here are planning an excursion to the North East from York. It is to be on a very large scale, and they will have one of the Government Surveyors with them. As yet the whole thing is in embryo, but I hope to see it start in about a month or six weeks.”

Extract from a private letter dated “Fremantle, 21st July, 1843:—We have had a most propitious lambing season, and I trust the clipping season may be equally so; which

we stand much in need of, our two last years having been indifferent. Our bay this winter has had a number of whales in it. We are anxiously looking forward for the arrival of some monied settlers; we require a few to make us 'go a head,' as the Americans would say."

From the Sydney papers of the 13th July, we glean the following information relating to Western Australian matters. The *Rover's Bride* arrived at Sydney on the 12th July from Swan River, which place she left on the 31st May. The brig *Phantom* has touched at Leschenhault, and discharged 20 tons of flour, which realized £20 a ton. The flour of the *Rover's Bride* was sold at £22 a ton. The price of mutton and beef was 7d. per lb.; potatoes were scarce, and sold at £20 per ton. Oats from 7s. to 8s. a bushel.

Australind, 23rd April.

"We are happy to say that the dullness which prevailed for a time in our settlement is beginning to disperse, and brighter prospects open upon us. Several parties are at work clearing the fine flats of some of the allotments on the Brunswick and face of the range. The time is not far distant, we predict, when this immediate district will not only produce all the meat, corn, and potatoes which it requires for its population, but will furnish supplies to the firm and near market which the Mauritius affords to this Colony. A Bay Whaling Company at Bunbury is in formation."—*Inquirer, 3rd May.*

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

Burrell, Mrs. at Pinjarrah, 20th May, a daughter.
Clifton, Mrs. R. W. at Australind, 22nd April, a do.
Drake, Mrs. at Perth, 1st June a ditto
Mitchell, Mrs. W. at Guildford, 11th May, a ditto

DEATH.

Gaudin, Mr. Henry, at Australind, 6th May, aged 32.

Letter detained at the General Post Office, London, for the payment of postage:—"William Harrison, esq. Albany, K. G. Sound."

Date of the last advices from Western Australia, 1 Aug.
Date for the dispatch of the next mail 1 Feb.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

COLONIAL.—Arrivals at Fremantle.—*Rover's Bride*, 28 April, from Sydney.—*Janet*, Dring, 30, from London.—*Velocity*, Browning, 12 May, from China.—*Cheerful*, 18, from Sydney.—*Water Witch*, 17 June, from Adelaide.

Departures from Fremantle.—*Elizabeth*, James, 15, May, for Leschenhault.—*Janet*, Dring, 29 July, for China.—*Success*, Rutledge, 1 August, for Madras.

Departure from Australind.—*Phantom*, 20 April, for Mauritius.

Rover's Bride, from Swan River, arrived at Sydney, 12 July.—*Velocity*, Browning, from Swan River, arrived at Hobart Town, 20 July.—*Janet*, Dring, from Swan River, arrived at Sourabaya, 2 August, and sailed for China, 17.—*Cheerful*, from Bataviar to Swan River, arrived at Anjer, 12 August.

Trusty, John Elsdon, cleared outwards with cargo, for Swan River, 11 Dec.; sailed from the Downs, 17.

N.B.—All the above Lists are made up to the 26th of each month.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our limits will not allow an individual notice of the many encouraging letters which we have received, several of them containing valuable suggestions which shall be duly attended to. We may however mention, that we have letters from the friends of the four members of the Executive Council of a very pleasing nature. One says—"The want of a publication of this kind has been highly detrimental to Western Australia." A reverend gentleman writes,—“I feel much satisfied that information relating to the colony is about to be afforded by a monthly publication,” and a third asserts that “a periodical of the kind is much wanted.” An early friend of the colony says “I am persuaded it will have a good effect;” another, a clergyman writes, “I have long experienced the want of such a journal;” and another subscriber declares “it will be a great desideratum supplied.” To these Correspondents we beg to return our best thanks, and to apologise for being unable to notice their communications at greater length.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY, Perth, Western Australia. The Committee beg to announce that they have appointed ALEXANDER ANDREWS, Esq. of New City Chambers, Bishopsgate-street, the Corresponding Member in London; and Messrs. CAPPER & GOLE, of 455, West Strand, Charing Cross, the Agents of the Society; and that those Gentlemen will be happy to afford every information on Western Australian matters.

PASSENGERS FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA, or any of the other Australian, New Zealand, or Cape Colonies are invited to the Agency of the undersigned, who arrange Passages on the lowest terms according with comfortable accommodation, in first-rate ships. They also negotiate purchases or Leases of Land in the various Settlements, buy and ship goods and outfits, effect Insurances or Remittances, and transact sales or purchases of Shares in the different Companies connected with these Colonies; and every description of Colonial Agency. EDMUND J. WHEELER & Co. Commission Merchants and Colonial Agents, Winchester House, Old Broad-street, London. N.B.—Consignments forwarded to their correspondents in South Australia, New Zealand, Van Dieman's Land, Sydney, or Cape of Good Hope. Produce from any of the Colonies received and sold, and the proceeds promptly accounted for.

FOR SWAN RIVER.—Notice to Shippers and Passengers.—A first class Vessel of about 250 tons burthen, will be dispatched in February, with excellent accommodation for Cabin and Steerage Passengers. For Freight or Passage apply to Messrs. MANGLES, PRICE, and MOORE, 8, New Broad-street; or to WILLIAM FELGATE & Co. 15, Birch-in-lane, Cornhill.

PHILLIPSON & Co. Wholesale and Export Druggists, &c. 22, Ludgate-hill, having had considerable experience in the preparation of articles suited to the Colony of Western Australia, undertake orders for Drugs, Chemicals, Cattle and Sheep Medicines, Corrosive Sublimate, Perfumery, Patent Medicines, &c. of the best quality, and at the lowest prices. References in the Colony—Messrs. Lionel & William Samson, of Perth and Fremantle, and Messrs. Shenton & Co. of Perth. N.B.—Ship and Emigrant Medicine Chests fitted up on the most improved principles. Consignments received and general Agency Business attended to.

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