

of every portion of the British Empire—to render useful and productive that which is now of no value—to strengthen her abroad by developing the resources of her colonies—to open a vent for her superabundant home population—to increase her traffic and shipping which must keep pace with the growth of her colonies—and to swell the amount of her resources, by increasing the consumption of her manufactures.—I am, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

J. S. M.

[We last month recorded our opinions on the subject of the proposed loan for purposes of emigration to Western Australia, but, while we contend that such a plan would be of the most essential service, seeing that labor is so urgently required in the colony, we are by no means disposed to deny that there may be a better or a more practicable scheme; but, as the best which has been proposed and put into train, we are still anxious to support it. It has a business-like appearance; it is brought forward not as a mere abstract theory, but is at once put forth in the shape of a practical attempt—those who have suggested it have exerted themselves to accomplish it, and we applaud it more because it is the nearest to fulfilment, as being prosecuted with the greatest energy, than because we think it is the best that can be proposed. The matter being now brought forward, we are resolved that it shall not fall to the ground, and with this view we invite communications and suggestions on this momentous subject.—Ed. S.R.N.]

SIGNIFICANT.—We call the attention of Lord Stanley, and the advocates of the “£1 an acre” system, to a statement in the report of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, for 15th March last, that “the return of the quantity of Crown lands sold since December, 1842, (moved for by Mr. Leake at the previous sitting) presented a BLANK, the return being *nil* (!)”

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TIMBER.—“At the head of the valuable articles for export with which this country has been favored by nature, I would range our *magnificent and highly approved timber for ship building*, which our supineness and want of energy has hitherto suffered to grow almost unmolested in inexhaustible quantity in our forests.”—*Speech of the Surveyor-General in the Legislative Council, March 15th, 1844.*

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The contribution of a correspondent on this subject in our last, contained an error, (doubtless a mere *lapsus plumæ*) which we did not observe in time to correct. The Rev. J. B. Wittenoom is the colonial chaplain, and the Rev. Mr. Woolaston officiates only at Australind.

THE REVENUE.

THE statement of the revenue for the quarter ending 31st March, appears in the *Perth Gazette* of 20th April. We subjoin an abstract:—

RECEIPTS.

Duties on Imports, Transfers of Land and Auctions.	£1446	14	7
Licenses of Auctioneers, Boatmen, &c.	705	13	8
Warehouse Rent on Bonded Goods	70	15	9
Fees	70	17	0
Post Office	117	19	4
Sale of Crown Lands	55	0	0
Miscellaneous	105	12	8
Total	£2572	13	0

EXPENDITURE.

(From the Parliamentary Grant.)

Salaries of Public Officers	£1220	14	10
Contingencies	355	6	11
Total	£1576	1	9

N.B.—Payments by Treasurer

Perth £1534 8 5

Payments by Treasurer

Albany 41 13 4

(From the Colonial Fund.)

Salaries	£1159	5	10
Administration of Justice	128	10	8
Collection of Revenue	71	6	11
Conveyance of Mails	155	2	10
Police Establishment	111	16	2
Surveys and Explorations	164	0	1
Other Contingencies	424	14	1
Miscellaneous	251	7	11
Total	£2456	4	6

N.B.—Payments by Treasurer

Perth £2266 19 6

Payments by Treasurer

Albany 199 5 0

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

Swan River, 27th April.

THE departure of the *Timbo* to the Mauritius, enabled the colonists to dispatch a mail to England, which contained letters to 27th April, and newspapers to the 24th, and arrived in London early last month. Our own letters are sanguine on the state of affairs; they admit that depression prevails, but confidently promise that the next mail shall bring the news of their recovery. We have favorable accounts of the aborigines. Mr. Shenton's statement of the progress of the Perth school, and the report of Mr. Symmons, the protector of natives. From the former we learn that the progress of the native children in reading, writing, arithmetic, and geog-

raphy, is satisfactory, although it is found a very difficult task to reclaim them from the habits of their forefathers. Of their physical condition the committee report an equal improvement; the influenza had, however, appeared among them last year, but been checked, but not before one pupil had died of it. Mr. Symmons also reports favorably of his *protégés*; and as an instance of their confidence in the honesty of our motives, states that in a recent case where a native had been killed in the heat of passion, by an European, his clansmen did not attempt to revenge themselves on the white, although in their power, but were content to leave him to be tried and punished by his countrymen. Mr. Symmons states his conviction that the native population had neither increased or diminished in number during the last fifteen years. The Agricultural Society had held a meeting on the 29th March, the Governor presiding, at which preparations were made for issuing the second volume of their journal; and the York branch of the Society met at York, on April 6th, Mr. H. Landor in the chair, to consider the best means for obtaining an immediate supply of labor. Messrs. Burges, Smith, and Carter, strongly advised petitioning the Home Government for a supply of convicts, by which labor would be introduced, and an annual grant expended in the building of gaols, &c.: it was proposed that the convicts should be only of that class who were transported for life, so that they would never be free in the colony. This was strongly opposed by Messrs. Carey and Meares, and by letter by Mr. Lochée. It was ultimately arranged that a deputation, consisting of Messrs. H. Landor, S. E. Burges, H. Burgh, and T. Carter, should wait on the Governor and confer with him on the subject, using their exertions to get up a petition to Lord Stanley for the supply of 300 or 400 laborers annually. Mr. Hardy suggested applying for a loan of £10,000 from Government; Mr. Landor informed the meeting that sheep skins, procurable in the colony for 9d., could be sold in China for 2s. 6d. to 3s., and advised an exportation of them. After some more desultory conversation, the meeting dispersed. The deputation appointed by the Society was well received by the Governor. A statement was exhibited to him by which it was shown that sheep farming had become absolutely unprofitable, and must remain so unless some remedy were adopted for the evils which caused it—the want of labor, the low prices of produce, and the high rates of interest, &c. The gentlemen of the deputation farther requested that the threatened Squatting Act might be withheld, some measures adopted for the introduction of convicts, if free labor could not be obtained, and the roads through-

out the colony put into better order. His Excellency promised to consider the suggested modification of the Squatting Act, but positively refused either a duty upon corn, or permission to distil brandy. He stated that he had forwarded to Lord Stanley an application for a loan to anticipate the land sales, and expected the reply by the *Trusty*; if a petition were sent him, conveying the *general* sense of the colony in favor of convict labor, he would forward it to Lord Stanley, but could not give an opinion on the matter in its present stage. The deputation then retired, and subsequently waited on Mr. Leake, to thank him for his exertions in favor of a corn-law. We find it is intended, by subscription, to send home experimental cargoes of timber; we trust this will not be done hastily, as a badly selected lot would ruin its character in the market for ever. Its applicability to naval purposes is now fully developed—a vessel of 28 tons is being built by Mr. Turner, of Augusta, entirely composed of it, and another of 150 tons, as will be seen by a subjoined extract, intended as a coaster. In connexion with this subject we notice that the Guildford steam saw and flour mills commenced working in the presence of the Governor, and a large assemblage, on April 2nd, and were completely successful; the saws cutting the gummy wood without the slightest difficulty. We are very glad to find as one remedy for the existing evils, that the Bank of Australasia had reduced its rates of interest to 8 *per cent*, and the Western Australian Bank was preparing to follow its example, (one, in fact, which the Colonial Bank should have been the first to set.) The contracts for fresh meat for the service of the Commissariat were taken at 3½d. per lb., between April and September, and 3d. from October to April, 1845. The contracts for the conveyance of mails had been arranged with a saving of £164 12s. 6d. on last year's charges. We are grieved to find that one of the boys sent by the *Shepherd* in 1842, from the Parkhurst Establishment, was found guilty of the wilful murder of George Pollard, the son of the farmer to whom he was apprenticed. The name of the accused was John Gavin, and his age about 15; no motive could be assigned for the murder which was committed with an adze, on the 21st February. After his conviction the prisoner made a full confession of his crime, and also of his design to murder Mrs. Pollard. He exhibited great penitence up to the hour of his execution, which took place at Fremantle, on the 4th April, in the presence of a small crowd.

We append a few extracts from the papers:

PRICES OF STOCK at Guildford market, 29th March—Wethers, 40lb. in weight, 13s.; Cow and Calf, £8. Other stock nearly the same as last market day.—*Inquirer*, April 3rd.

HORTICULTURAL IMPORTATIONS—Our horticultural friends will be glad to learn that a large and choice collection of seeds and fruit trees has been brought from India, in the *Champion*. They have been collected by the care and diligence of Lieutenant Helpman, commander of the *Champion*, to whom the colony has been several times indebted for a valuable addition to its horticulture—*Ibid*, April 17.

SHIP BUILDING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA—A schooner of 150 tons burthen is now building at the Murray River; she is to have 75 feet keel, and will be launched it is supposed in 6 months. All the timber is of course colonial, and the parties concerned say, admirably adapted to the purpose. It is intended to

employ her in the coasting trade.—*Perth Gazette*, April, 24th.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Arrivals at Fremantle—*Timbo*, Jennings, 17 March, from Launceston—*Venus*, Thomas, 9 April, from Bunbury; *Champion*, F. Helpman, R.N., from Bombay.

Departures from Fremantle—*Velocity*, Bogue, 28 March, for Adelaide—*Timbo*, Jennings, 27 April, for Mauritius.

Timbo, Jennings, from Swan River, arrived at Mauritius, 27 May—*Venus*, from Swan River, arrived at Singapore 13 June, and sailed for Swan River, 20.

Passengers per *Timbo*, from Swan River to Mauritius; Messrs. L. LEAKS, and T. W. HAZLEWOOD.

Passengers per *Velocity*, from Swan River to Adelaide, Cabin; Messrs. LEFROY, J. B. NICHOLL, W. OWEN, & C. HULL. Steerage; Mr. TAIT and family, Mr. THOMPSON and family, Mr. WILKINSON & family, Miss HERITAGE, and Messrs. SOULBY, LOCKYER and SMITH.

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For a more detailed list, see *Johnson & Shaw's Farmers' Almanack* for 1844.

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