

covered with ironstone. Descending this ridge into a valley, we had the satisfaction of discovering the first stream running eastward—the timber on its banks consisting of blue gum, *Casuarina*, and Wattle, and a tree similar in its growth to an apple, which bore a fruit perfectly round, covered with a thin husk, underneath which was a hard shell \* enclosing a kernel; its wood has a remarkably sweet smell, and the bark is of a delicate pink color" \* \* \*

"A specimen which we brought home with us has been pronounced by some professed judges to be sandal wood."

We have submitted the sample to a gentleman, particularly qualified, from long acquaintance with this description of wood, to give an opinion of its value, and he promises us a full report next month. He states that the best East Indian sandal wood is worth £40 per ton, but that the demand for it in England is not great—China is the market which the colonists are to aim at supplying in the event of the wood proving of sterling quality, and a very extensive and remunerating market it is stated to be! The *Perth Gazette* asserts that this wood grows "in abundance over the hills in the York and Toodyay districts," and that "it is the opinion of some Indian workmen residing at Fremantle, that it would obtain the preference in the Indian market, and, as they have been accustomed to work up this description of wood, every reliance may be placed on their representations." The same journal states that, on comparison with a sample lately brought from Timor, the Western Australian sandal wood, although lighter in colour, has been found far more fragrant in smell.

We shall devote an article to this momentous subject in our next, when we hope to be able to lay before our readers a favorable report of the sample under inspection.

#### THE NEW CHURCHES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

WHEN a month or two back, we reported the opening, (the ceremony of consecration being dispensed with in the absence of a Bishop), of St. George's Church, Perth, we had not room to allude to an urgent appeal which we at the same time received on behalf of some zealous members of the establishment, who, in their anxiety to provide church accommodation adequate to the wants of an increasing population, have taken upon themselves heavy liabilities, of which, we are sure, their co-religionists at home will be anxious to relieve them. Two spacious edifices are now open for divine service in the colony, besides smaller

\* The nut is, in size, rather larger than a nutmeg, but perfectly spherical.—ED. S. R. N.]

or temporary district churches—one at Fremantle, whose opening was recorded in this journal of February, 1844, and the other at Perth, as described in our May number of this year, and which are capable of accommodating 1000 persons. But in providing thus zealously for the worshippers of the present and the rising generation, some of the principal colonists attached to the Church of England, after their greatest exertions had failed in procuring sufficient funds, have made themselves responsible for the payment of debts incurred in building these two churches, to the extent of £1400 on that at Perth, and £1100 on its sister at Fremantle, on both which amounts interest is chargeable at the rate of 8 and 10 per cent. When it is remembered that the colonists have, with no very great aid from other quarters, raised these two handsome structures, (defraying expenses on Perth church only, to the extent of £3500),—that, by public subscription and private donations, they have been enabled suitably to furnish them with all their expensive fittings, and have made them worthy of their purpose, as the churches of the two first towns in the colony—and are at the same time building or have completed fourteen serviceable places of worship in distant districts—when this is remembered, we are sure the community at home will not be backward in giving them assistance in their holy but arduous work. An appeal is about to be made from the colony to the clergy of England, and we have been solicited to implore the lay members of the establishment to relieve their fellow-churchmen from the serious responsibilities incurred in the performance of their pious work and to enable them fully to complete it. Did we not feel how forcibly the facts of the case speak for themselves and claim attention on their own merits, we should have responded to this call with diffidence; but, as it is, after laying this simple statement before the British public, we have no hesitation in asking their assistance; and shall be most happy to forward to the committee at Perth, all subscriptions sent to us for that purpose.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MAHOGANY.

As soon as we can possibly find room for it, in our sur-charged columns, we shall insert a descriptive treatise which has been written expressly for them on the various descriptions of Western Australian timber—their respective properties, value, and use; so that, while we cannot allow the following important letter on the subject, which appears in the *Perth Gazette* of the 2nd November last, to await that opportunity, we do not feel called upon,

in extracting it this month, to make any lengthened comment:—

Sir,—Being a settler in the Colony for about 15 years, and having practically experienced the working of the native wood, I consider great injustice is done to the mechanics in the Colony, who are quite as capable of performing any work as can be done in England, to employ on public works or buildings, any other wood than our own Colonial woods. The fitting up of the Church has been looked forward to by the mechanics as an opportunity of giving a specimen of good workmanship, and what could be shown by the native wood. It is customary in England to complete all the interior useful and ornamental portions of the building with the woods of the country, such as oak, ash, maple, &c.; it would be considered equal to a sacrilege to use any other. Why should we depart from so good and approved a practice? The object no doubt is to encourage the consumption as well as growth of the home productions, and certainly we ought to give encouragement to the use of our colonial wood, which is not inferior to any I have named for durability; and of ornamental woods required, the jam wood, sandal wood, the nut wood, and other wood to be obtained in the York district, coupled with our own banksia. The doors, windows, and the pewing, are to be made out of the commonest deal that has been imported, known in the trade as the *spruce* deal. These with continual painting, at the end of five years (if they last so long) will be quite as expensive as the native mahogany.

From my experience as a practical cabinet and chair maker, in London for twenty years, in working mahogany and other woods, I pronounce the native woods equal to any purpose that may be required, for furniture and fittings up. As a proof of the durability of the wood, there are many specimens in the Colony, some articles of furniture twelve and nine years old, which have not required the slightest repair.

By giving this insertion you will, Mr. Editor, confer a favour on, Your obedient, humble servant,

H. R. BOND,  
Member of the Cabinet and  
Chairmaker's Society, London.

This statement is fully corroborated by the following remarks in the *Inquirer* of the 12th of February:—

"Some very beautiful specimens of the native mahogany, adapted for the finest kinds of cabinet work, have lately been exhibited to us by Mr. Lazenby. These specimens have been seen by several of our cabinet makers, and by others who have good experience in the qualities of wood, and the unanimous opinion is that mahogany of a finer grain and color has never, perhaps, been seen in London. It has been compared with several of the best articles of imported furniture, and in every case the comparison has turned out highly favorable to our own timber. In addition, therefore, to our export of timber for shipping and building purposes, we may look forward to being able to supply the London market with the finer kinds of mahogany for cabinet and upholstery work, care being taken to select and specify the lots proper for such purposes. So satisfied is Mr. Lazenby of the success to attend the introduction of this article in the London market, that he has determined to go home in the *Halifax Packet* in order to introduce it to the cabinet makers, and, by their means, to establish a trade in it between England and this colony."

We have never had any doubt of the fitness of the Western Australian timber for naval purposes, but we have not, until now, been

enabled to obtain satisfactory proof of its being suited to cabinet work.

#### LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

We had expected this month to have been enabled to give intelligence from Swan River up to March, but the *Halifax Packet*, now overdue, has not made her appearance up to the hour at which we are compelled to go to press: she may, however, be now looked for daily.

Extract from a private letter, dated "Perth, 31st October, 1844,"—"As for the colony generally, it has certainly improved; things are rather bad yet, but nothing in comparison to what they have been in the other colonies. The colony is improving fast, and will be, I think, in a much sounder state than it ever was before."

Extract from a private letter, dated "Perth, 10th February, 1845,"—"There appears to be a brisk trade opening with the Isle of France, but we want capitalists to turn their attention to the breeding of horses for India and the Isle of France markets. There is a great deal of timber being cut for the railroads. I think the future prosperity of Western Australia is looking up."

\* \* The Editor wishes it to be particularly observed that no extracts from private letters will be inserted which are not accompanied with the names and addresses (in confidence) of the parties sending them, as a guarantee of their authenticity. Permission to publish the names of the writers very greatly enhances the value of the extracts, but, unless it is specially accorded, their names are scrupulously withheld.

#### SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

*Victoria*, Smith, from Swan River, arrived at Adelaide, 7th February.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. N. (Regent Street),—We are sorry that our opinion should be directly at variance with that alleged to have been expressed by our daily contemporaries. We regard the proposed scheme as visionary—plausible in theory but ineffective in practice; and we do not believe that the five shilling notes would be worth five pence in a week after their issue.

A SUBSCRIBER'S two letters have been received. Many thanks for the exercise of his kind influence with the publication from which he sends us an extract; will he favor us with its name? A system of gratuitous distribution has long been in operation as he proposes; his other suggestions shall receive the attentive consideration which they deserve.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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ABBERTON..	650	J.W. Purchase	Pt. Phillip	Ditto	28 July
ROY, GEORGE	700	T. Grieves	Ditto	Ditto	5 Aug.
KINGSTON..	450	J.B. Harwood	Pt. Adelai.	Ditto	1 ditto
	600		Swan Riv.	Ditto	16 ditto
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**TO EMIGRANTS.—AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.**

**Mrs. MARY WEDLAKE**, widow of the late **THOMAS WEDLAKE**, at 118, Fenchurch-street, City, informs Emigrants and others, that she continues to manufacture those Agricultural Implements for which her late husband was so extensively patronized by the Settlers of South Australia, Van Dieman's Land, Swan River, New Zealand, and other British Colonies. May be inspected daily as above. The following articles made in a very superior manner are kept on sale at the London Warehouse, 118, Fenchurch-street, viz.—

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

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Printed and Published by **EDWARD COLYER, 17, Fenchurch-street, London;** where all Communications for the Editor are to be addressed.—Agent in Western Australia, **Mr. FRANCIS LOCHER, St. George's-terrace, Perth.**