

and of the landers of goods in the other—if for a road or canal, to render them payable as tolls—cancelling them as they are presented. The scheme looks very well on paper, but we are very sceptical of its practicability.

CONTEMPORARY OPINIONS.

ILLEGAL GOVERNMENT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The act to provide for the government of Western Australia, is the Act 10 George IV. c. 22. This act has been renewed, without any alteration, by six successive acts, and will expire, unless again renewed, at the end of the session next following the 31st of December, 1846. It professes merely to make "some temporary provision for the civil government of the said settlement, until the said undertaking shall be further matured, and the number of colonists in the said settlement increased." To this end it authorises the Crown to "authorise and empower any three or more persons resident and living within the said settlements to make, ordain, and establish all such laws, institutions, and ordinances, and to constitute such courts and offices as may be necessary for the peace, order, and good government of His Majesty's subjects and others within the said settlements." This act passed in 1829, and was to continue in force until the end of the session of Parliament next following the 31st of December, 1834. This law for five years is evidently exceptional. The ordinances passed in virtue of it were to be duly laid before the Parliament, which annually voted a sum of money for the government of the colony. It was merely a make-shift arrangement, to admit of the administration of justice until the settlement should be formed, and it should become possible to organise a taxing and legislating government.—From the *Colonial Gazette* of August 2nd.

THE STATE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Our Western Australian brethren, it appears, have not so many grievances to complain of as ourselves. They have their races and amusements—but it would ill become us to grudge them their portion of this life's enjoyments.—From the *Port Phillip Herald* of April 1st.

SURVEYS AND EXPLORATIONS.

No. II.—CHAMPION BAY, AND THE "PORT GREY" OF FICTION.

We published last month an account of Lieutenant Helpman's exploration of the North-western Coast of Australia; we now give a report of the survey of the adjoining

district, made by Captain Stokes, of H.M.S. *Beagle*, in December, 1841.

We left Gage's Roads early on the morning of the 12th instant. During the day we held a N. N. W. course, passing the different projections of the coast at a distance of from five to nine miles, in soundings from twelve to twenty-four fathoms. At noon, Cape Leschenault bore N. E. by E., eight or nine miles. Soon afterwards we noticed a break in the land bearing north-east, probably the Moore River; this, as we came abreast of it, appeared shut in; therefore the supposed river must empty itself into the sea in a S. W. direction. At six o'clock we were abreast of, and distant nine miles from, a very remarkable large sand patch; indeed that coast northward of Moore River presented a very desolate appearance—the coast range of the sand hillocks or dunes being crested in many places with bare white sand. As the day closed the remarkable high land called Mounts Perron and Leseur, bore N. N. E. thirty miles. After passing Island Point, our course was directed more to leeward, in order to avoid a portion of the coast, King had not examined, and it was fortunate we did so, for, on returning, we discovered some islands and shoals in that neighbourhood, in lat. 29 deg. 4 min. 8 sec. S., long. 115 deg. 14 min. E. nearly, lying eight or nine miles from the coast. About 10 o'clock on the following morning, we closed with the land three miles northward of some reefs laid down by Captain King, 32 miles S. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. from Mount Fairfax; from thence, we followed the shore at a distance of from three to five miles—two miles in a N. by W. direction, in soundings varying from 5 to 12 fathoms over a bottom of sand and rock. Early in the afternoon, owing to the smoothness of the water, we found ourselves embayed in a reef extending south thirty-seven, west fifteen miles from Mount Fairfax; extricating ourselves, caused our arrival in Champion Bay (lat. 28 deg. 47 min. S.) to be late in the evening. Our latitude in closing with the shore in the morning, was nearly 29 deg. 13 min. If, therefore, such a harbour as Port Grey existed in 29 deg. (as according to Arrowsmith's chart) we must have seen it; moreover I feel assured, excepting the bight, fronted with rocks, situated five miles south and by west of Point Moore, and the secure summer anchorage, bearing the name of Champion Bay, there are no bays or bights offering an indifferent anchorage for ships or vessels on this portion of the Western Coast of Australia, between the latitudes of 28 deg. 20 min. and 29 deg. 50 min.

The general appearance of the coast previous to reaching Champion Bay was of high sand hills, partly covered with vegetation, immediately behind there appeared a range rather higher, and of a less barren appearance; again behind these, at a distance of eight or nine miles, were series of singular table-topped broken ranges, terminating southward in lat. about 29 deg. 5 min. Mount Fairfax and Wizard Peak are the most conspicuous objects in this range, which is the most remarkable feature on the western shore of Australia.

At day-light on the morning of the 15th, we landed with a large armed party, carrying with us the necessary instruments for ascertaining the positions and elevations of the different points visited. Mount Fairfax being the nearest and most promising, our course was directed for it, bearing east and by south. About one mile and a half from the beach, we crossed a dry bed of a stream trending north by west, and south by east, about twenty yards wide, with banks from twenty to thirty feet high, composed of a reddish earth and sand, with considerable portions of ironstone in it. A few small tea trees of the colonists grew in the sand forming the dry bed of the stream. Afterwards our course was uninterruptedly over a gradually rising

plain of a sandy, scrubby nature, until reaching the foot of Mount Fairfax, when we crossed another small water-course, trending S. and by W. where, for the first time, we noticed a solitary stunted *casuarina*. Mount Fairfax is the southern and most elevated part of an isolated block forming Moresby's Flat-topped Range; it rests on a reddish, sandy, sloping plain, on which fragments of quartz and ironstone were occasionally noticed. The latter alone is the character of Mount Fairfax, and apparently of the neighbouring heights. Our observations being completed, which placed Mount Fairfax 582 feet above the level of the sea, we continued our journey S.E. in the direction of Wizard Peak; two miles over a still, scrubby, sandy plain brought us again to the Chapman or Greenough River, the same dry stream we had crossed soon after landing; here, for the first time, there was an appearance of fertility, but only in the valleys of the river, for the Chapman or Greenough appeared to have two, —an outset, in width, from a fifth to a quarter of a mile, from thirty to sixty feet high, whilst the inner scarcely exceeded twenty yards in width, with steep banks; dry white sand formed its bed, as before mentioned, growing in which, were a crooked small kind of drooping gum, besides a species of wattle and tea tree. Its direction was about S. by W., and it appeared to come from the valleys formed by the ranges in the rear of Mount Fairfax, and north of Wizard Peak. A small quantity of brackish water lay in the pools near the part we crossed. Continuing our journey, we proceeded over an undulating plain on the higher parts of which a reddish sand and ironstone gravel universally prevailed; in the lower parts and near water-courses, the soil approached light mould, and produced the warran, so much sought after by the natives. In all this district, the vegetation was of the worst description—not a tree large enough to furnish building materials, being only small kinds of *banksia*, wattle, and drooping gum; these only grew in the valleys. We reached the summit of Wizard Peak in the course of the afternoon. This we found composed of large blocks of ironstone, which had a most powerful effect upon the needle, changing its direction in different places 10 degrees. Here we noticed a low stunted *xanthorrea* growing on the S. W. side of the hill, and a few small stunted *casuarina* and wattle were thinly scattered on its summit, which, by barometric measurement, was found to be 715 feet above the level of the sea. The vegetation on this hill, as well as on Mount Fairfax, appeared to decrease as its elevation increased, leaving the summit of both nearly bare. Part of the range lying immediately north was absolutely a mass of bare ironstone. Our view was very commanding. To the N.N.W. and N.E., for 10 to 20 miles, lay extensive valleys, all of which appeared through a spyglass, to be of the same arid nature. For a few miles to the eastward, and a great many to the southward, the formation of the country was of the same flat, broken, and angular character; but no part that was visible, appeared of higher elevation than that on which we stood. To leavards, the appearance of the country was that of an undulating plain, with patches of stunted woodland widely scattered. Descending, we found the party left below, in the dry bed of a watercourse, had failed in their endeavours to obtain water by digging: we, therefore, as we supposed, had no resource, exhausted as we were, but to return to the brackish waterpools we had seen in the Chapman or Greenough. Happily, however, our dogs discovered a deep hole under a drooping gum, which proved to be a native well, and which afforded our thirst relief after clearing and digging deeper. The soil through which this well was sunk, was a light alluvial deposit, based on sand, six feet below the surface. Numerous native paths, and deep holes, from which the warran root had been extracted, encircled this spot. Some neighbouring wigwams of a superior

structure, gave us snug quarters for the night. Wizard Peak bearing south, 50 east, about a mile distant.

We shall give the concluding portion of Captain Stokes's valuable narrative in our next, and continue this series, (which we have commenced at the request of several correspondents), with a collection of the most interesting reports which have been made of surveys and explorations in the interior or on the coast, divesting them of mere scientific features, and adapting them to the understanding of general readers.

STATISTICS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Continued from page 155.)

No. VIII—1836.

Acres of land under cultivation: wheat, 1363; other crops, 369; gardens, 147.—Number of live stock in the colony: sheep, 8527; goats, 1289; horned cattle, 829; horses, 216; swine, 819.—Prices of ewes, £2 to £4; horses, £30 to £100; cows, £18 to £20; fresh meat, 1s. 2s. per lb.; wheat 7s. per bushel.—Number of ships arrived, 12 or 1715 tons—Imports: from Great Britain, £26,334; from British Colonies, £9,579; from elsewhere, £400.—Exports: wool, £1091; gum, £278; bark, £12; oil, 520; bone, £630.

(To be continued.)

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

Swan River, 6th April.

WRECK OF THE "HALIFAX PACKET."—Imperfect accounts have been received from Swan River through the last overland mail from India, bringing some intelligence of a calamity that will occasion serious loss and inconvenience, both to the colonists and their friends. It appears that the *Halifax Packet*, which was to have sailed with the cargo of wool, in the first week of April, drifted ashore, in a gale, as it is supposed, on the night of the 31st of March or 1st of April, and sustained such serious damage that it is doubtful whether she will not be condemned; and quite impossible that she can bring the wool, which was lying ready to be put on board. She had discharged the oil which she brought up from Leschenault, and tenders were out for her repair, but it was hardly expected that it would be entered into; a considerable quantity of her copper had been torn off, besides other very extensive injuries. The letters which give us this deplorable intelligence are merely supplementary, and refer to others not yet received, so that little is at present known of the details of the accident. We shall no doubt be able to give a full report next month.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

The *Merope* had gone on shore at Fremantle previous to the 29th March, and was expected to be condemned. The *Italifax Packet*, Smith, wrecked off the same port.

From the *London Gazette*, of August 15th.—"DOWNING STREET, August 12th.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint Andrew Clarke, Esq., late a Lieutenant Colonel in the army, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the territory of Western Australia and of its dependencies."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SWAN RIVER, with liberty to touch at the Cape of Good Hope, the fine, fast-sailing Ship, **CUMBERLAND**, A. 1, 605 Tons Register, J. DAWSON, Commander; lying in the St. Katharine Docks. Has a full poop, and superior Accommodations for Passengers. For Freight or Passage, apply to J. H. ARNOLD, 3, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street; or to WILLIAM HILL, 2, Muscovy Court, Tower Hill.

FOR SWAN RIVER, last shipping day 6th of September, under engagement to sail from Gravesend on the 15th, the fine, fast-sailing Ship, **ELIZABETH**, 437 tons, per register, DAVID MORRICE, Commander; lying in St. Katharine's Dock. This Ship has superior accommodation for Cabin, Intermediate, and Steerage Passengers. For terms of freight or passage, apply to WILLIAM FELGATE & Co., 15, Birchin Lane, Cornhill.

TO CAPITALISTS, FARMERS, MECHANICS, AND LABORERS.—The attention of all parties contemplating EMIGRATION is invited to the free British Colony of WESTERN AUSTRALIA. As a field for the investment of capital, it possesses advantages unknown in any of the other colonies. Its proximity to the Cape, Mauritius, India, China, the Islands of the Southern Ocean, Sydney, Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and New Zealand, gives it the most commanding situation as the central emporium of Indian and Australasian commerce, and aided by its salubrious climate, will render it the sanatorium of India, and the seminary for her children while its natural productions, consisting of forests of valuable naval timber, impervious to corruption, beds of china clay, strata of brick earth quarries of lime and freestones, iron ore, &c. &c. constitute the elements of a great and prosperous Country. The bays are plentifully visited by whales; the climate and soil favor the growth of vines, olives, and all the fruits of the tropics, as well as European fruits and vegetables; barilla, soda, and potash, may be obtained for export; and a profitable trade in salt fish has already been commenced. The climate and pasturage are favorable to the breed of horses for the Indian Cavalry. Tobacco may be cultivated with profit, and to a large extent; and numerous other articles can be produced for the neighbouring markets. Land of first-rate quality may be purchased for 4s. or 5s. an acre, and some farms are to be had rent free for the first years. Sheep farming may be prosecuted under great advantages, and the soil produces wheat and barley, hay and green crops, of superior quality and in large quantities; the roads are in an improving state: carts, waggon, and farming implements are manufactured in the colony, and every facility is offered to agriculturists, the natives being not only peaceably disposed, but rendering great assistance to the settlers for small portions of rice or flour. The wages of mechanics and laborers of all descriptions are very good, and provisions and living being economical, they have every opportunity of forming small properties of their own. Small farmers may take charge of the flocks of large sheep holders, on most excellent terms, whether for pecuniary payment, or for a share of the increase, (by the latter means, commencing the formation of flocks themselves.) Parties seeking for information relative to this colony, may apply to Mr. ALEXANDER ANDREWS, the Corresponding Member in London of the Western Australian Society, New City Chambers, Bishopsgate-street. All letters to be post-paid.

Messrs. PHILLIPSON & Co., Wholesale and Export Chemists and Druggists, Fancy Soap Manufacturers, and Importers of Foreign Fancy Perfumery, late of 22, Ludgate-hill, beg to announce that they have succeeded to the business, and REMOVED to the extensive premises of Mr. A. Daniels, of 1, Budge-row, Watling-street; and, having extended their arrangements, and enlarged their export business, they are enabled to invite the orders of Merchants, Shippers, Captains, &c. with increased confidence. Messrs. P. & Co. beg to call the Merchants' attention to their very extensive experience in the preparation of articles suited to Foreign and Colonial markets, and to the long period they have been in the habit of supplying the Colony of Western Australia, in a manner which has given the utmost satisfaction. References in the Colony:—Messrs. J. & W. Samson, of Perth and Fremantle, and Mr. G. Shenton, of Perth. N.B.—Ship and Emigrant Medicine Chests fitted up on the most improved principles.—M. PHILLIPSON & Co. 1, Budge-row, Watling-street, London.

TO EMIGRANTS.—**GEORGE & JOHN DEANE** have always on hand an extensive stock of General Ironmongery, comprising tools of every description for the agriculturist carpenter, cooper, &c. American wedge axes, felling axes, grubbing hoes, pit and cross-cut saws, chaff engines, portable forges, hoes, spades, shovels, ploughs, harrows, &c. The attention of Emigrants is particularly directed to **GEORGE & JOHN DEANE'S** extensive collection of tool chests, in the fitting up of which the utmost attention is paid to quality and the latest improvements. Their stock of articles adapted for domestic and culinary use, is not rivalled by any other establishment in the Metropolis; they are all warranted, and charged at the lowest possible prices. **GEORGE & JOHN DEANE**, opening to the Monument, 46, King William-street, London Bridge.

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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 1814.*

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