

## LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

*Swan River, 29th March.*

We have had two arrivals of intelligence during the last month, the first per *Osprey* by way of Singapore, to the 29th March, and the second by the *Calypso*, via Batavia, to the 19th of that month. Both these arrivals bring further accounts of the accident that occurred to the *Halifax Packet*; the details of which will be found under a separate head in this day's journal.

Few matters of moment present themselves in the columns of the papers last received; perhaps the most important are the Reports of the Protector of Aborigines, on the state of the native population; and of the acting Colonial Surgeon on the causes and extent of a rather unusual amount of sickness during the past season.

The former of these reports, is hardly so favourable as we could have wished and we are not so much disposed to regard the progress of the natives as sanguinely as Mr. Yule appears to be. In the first place he states that there has been an increase in the crime of murder among hostile tribes, and that he has been repeatedly solicited to grant some offended party permission to spear his enemy. He also asserts that, although their appearance is becoming more robust and muscular than it was when the whites first visited the country, "their numbers are as certainly gradually decreasing." Whether it is absolutely contrary to the laws of nature that two distinct races, like Europeans and Australians, can mingle together, without its causing the certain though gradual extinction of that race whose habits and customs are obliged to be altered to suit those of its new allies—whether the steady annihilation of the American Indian tribes is not so much to be attributed to the contaminating examples and influence of European connexion (an idea degrading to civilised man, but certainly not quite unfounded), and whether the Australian is doomed to follow the same absolute rule—whether these children of nature cannot be civilised and educated without their numbers being thinned instead of increased by the process, are questions which it is the part of the natural philosopher to determine; but we do receive this intimation on the part of the Protector, after all the efforts that have been made and care that has been taken, to preserve the natives from those evil influences which it has always been believed, have caused the destruction of the American Indian nations—we say we do receive it with regret and disappointment. So much for their internal condition; their relations with the settlers seem to continue on the same amicable footing

as before, with the exception of a few petty thefts, in which the whites appear to be equally blameable, as opportunity for speculation appears to have been given by the immoral practices of some of the shepherds in distant districts, and by their encouraging the visits of native women to their huts.

In his report on the prevalence of disorder during the last months of 1844, Mr. Harris attributes the increase to more frequent and sudden transitions from heat to cold than have been usual in the colony. These sudden changes caused attacks of influenza, (especially among the natives, but in no instance attended with fatal results), catarrh, spasmodic affections of the diaphragm and brachea, dysentery, and a description of inflammatory fever, resembling typhus. Only six cases had however occurred during the year, one of which had been attended with death. A new disease consisting of serious mesenteric obstructions had shown itself among the natives, and in several instances proved fatal. Dr. Meikleham, of the 51st Regiment, was industriously engaged, in conjunction with Mr. Harris, in tracing its cause, which the latter suggests is to be attributed to the change in their habits and diet. Mr. Harris concludes his report with the following words:—

"On the whole, therefore, we may conclude that nothing has occurred to shake our confidence in the salubrity of the climate. The country is entirely free from malaria, the air generally being dry and fine, is peculiarly favorable to those suffering from affections of the chest, particularly in cases of spasmodic asthma."

Among the instances of an anxiety on the part of the settlers to increase the list of their productions, we find that a Mrs. Bond, after procuring the survivors of the lot of silkworms lately introduced into the colony from Bombay had succeeded in producing some superior samples of raw silk, which she intended to have sent to England by the *Halifax Packet*, and, as the soil and climate are congenial to the habits of the silkworm, and favor the growth of the mulberry tree, there appears considerable prospect of this becoming a silk-growing country.

We perceive that numerous informations were pending against publicans and traders for what were obvious misconstructions of the Sale of Spirits, and Publicans' Licensing Acts. Under the former of these acts Messrs. Moore and Co. were mulcted in a mitigated penalty for supplying spirits as stores to the *Emma Sherratt*, without being duly licensed, they having only a wholesale license, on which they had sold wines and spirits by the case and gallon; and under the latter act, a party to whom Mr. Croft had let the tap of his hotel, was fined for selling spirits, &c., it being held that the license only gave Mr. Croft permission to work one tap. These informations had created considerable sensation in the colony,

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but it was expected that now the acts have been publicly interpreted, they will be more properly understood. Tenders for wheat and Treasury Bills were accepted on the 5th March, the wheat at 5s. 9d. per bushel, and the bills at 4 per cent. discount. The two banks were the only applicants, the Western Australian requiring £3000, and the Bank of Australasia £500, at 2½ per cent. The reduction in the price of Treasury Bills is attributed to the want of silver by the Commissariat, and the increase of exports, which enables the colonists to dispense with them as *media* for their remittances.

The following are extracts from our file of papers:—

**THE FRUIT SEASON**—The fruits of the season, although retarded in their growth, and ripening, are now in full flavor. Such is the abundance that it will not answer the purpose of the farmer to waste his time in bringing them to market. Attention is therefore directed to the making of wine, which will be so universally practised that the country settlers will, year after year, be perfectly independent of any importations. Beer is also made from wine of inferior quality mixed with hops, and most pleasant beverage it is said to be. At length we have arrived at that state, when each may live under his own vine and fig-tree.—*Perth Gazette*, 21st. Feb.

**SHEPHERDS' WAGES**.—Shepherds employed over the hills are insisting upon having £30 per annum and stipulated rations. These are good workmen and practical men.—*Ibid*.

**POTTERY**.—A person of the name of Hailes has commenced in this line at Perth, and has turned out some fair specimens which evince that he is acquainted with his business. The specimens at present produced are in the shape of bread-pans, milk-dishes, and so forth, but, should he receive sufficient encouragement, his works will, no doubt, be extended to the production of various articles of earthenware, much required in the colony and imported at a very high rate.—*Ibid* 1st March.

**MARRIAGE OF A NATIVE TO AN EUROPEAN**.—A native girl was married on Tuesday last by the Rev. J. Smithies, Wesleyan Minister, in the presence of the Registrar, to John Stokes. The ceremony took place in the Wesleyan Chapel, and this being the first instance of a matrimonial union between an Aboriginal and an European, considerable interest was excited, and a number of spectators assembled. The interesting pair seemed impressed with the solemnity of the occasion.—*Ibid*, 8 March.

**EXPORT OF TIMBER**.—We are happy to learn that two parties, Messrs. Clifton and Knight, have been busily engaged in preparing timber for shipment. Mr. Clifton has, we understand, about 80 tons collected on the beach, one log of which is 50 feet long and 18 inches square; is without blemish and weighs 4 tons. Another log he has just cut is considerably longer; and is estimated to weigh 8 or 9 tons. Mr. Knight has 100 tons cut in the bush.—*Ibid*.

#### SALE OF STOCK AT THE MAURITIUS.

We have been favoured with the perusal of a letter from the supercargo of the *Emma Sherratt*, which vessel carried a quantity of stock &c. from Swan River to the Mauritius.

The letter is dated "Port Louis, 11th April," and gives the following report of their sale.

"We arrived here on 22nd March, after a passage of 30 days, having as far as the stock was concerned, made a very bad trip. I lost 35 sheep, 2 horses and 2 cows, and another cow died a day or two after it was landed; but we arrived at a very good market. The 67 sheep that we landed, were sold, taking them all round, at 26s. per head, so that they will nett about 8s. on the whole number that were shipped; therefore I suppose they will not say anything about the deaths, as that is more than they can now get at the Swan. The two horses (of which one was lost), were not worth more than £40 at the Swan—here I got £83 for one. I sold the dried fish at £14 per ton—Oats 10s. per 108 lbs.—Potatoes 13s. per 112 lbs. and a few other articles, all very well."

#### DEATH.

Bridges, Miss Fanny, 24th February, at Perth, aged 19.

#### SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

**Arrivals at Fremantle**—*Merope*, Hogg, 24 Feb., from whaling; *Falco*, —, from Boston; *Calypso*, Harold, from Launceston.

**Departure from Fremantle**—*Emma Sherratt*, Harding, 18 Feb., for Mauritius.

*Emma Sherratt*, Harding, from Swan River, arrived at Mauritius, 22 March.

*Elizabeth*, Morrice, for Swan River, sailed from Gravesend, 17 Sep.

Passengers per *Emma Sherratt*, from Swan River to the Mauritius—Messrs. T. R. C. WALTERS, L. LEAKE, and G. B. HODGES, and family.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**LECTOR**.—We are much obliged to our Correspondent for the friendly interest he manifests in our progress. The Llama is not yet introduced into Western Australia. The extract he sends us shall appear next month.

Dr. BRADY had an interview with Lord Stanley at the Colonial Office, on the 15th September, prior to his departure for Western Australia.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

**RAILWAY SPECULATION**.—Just out, (fourth edition) the RAILWAY INVESTMENT GUIDE, giving the fullest and most accurate hints and advice to parties speculating in Railway Shares; BY ONE OF THE INITIATED BEHIND THE SCENES. Price One Shilling. London: G. Mann, 39, Cornhill.

**FOR SWAN RIVER**.—Notice to Shippers and Passengers—A first-class vessel, of 400 tons burthen, will be dispatched for Swan River, in the first week of December, with first-rate accommodation for Passengers. For freight or passage, apply to WILLIAM FELGATE & Co., 15, Birch Lane, Cornhill.

**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.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES

FUND.—The sympathies of the friends of the Church of England, at home, are appealed to on behalf of its cause in the colony of Western Australia, and they are earnestly invited to assist in affording the means of worship to a community, which has exerted and taxed itself strenuously to provide them for itself, but still requires additional aid to complete the work which it has commenced. That the colonisers of this distant country, by their own unaided efforts, can hardly establish the religion which they have carried with them and desire to cherish and preserve, will be admitted when it is stated, that labor has been so scarce and the rate of wages so high, that the charges of building suitable places of worship have been fearfully great in comparison to the limited means of a small population, yet they have succeeded with very little assistance, in erecting two commodious churches, capable of accommodating 1000 persons, in the two principal towns of the colony, and are building no less than fourteen Episcopal churches in the various distant out districts and settlements. From this it will be seen that, while the Wesleyan Methodists and Roman Catholics of the colony have set a laudable example of activity in the erection of chapels for the celebration of their religion, the friends of the Church of England, have not been unmindful of their duty to the Establishment, but have made great personal sacrifices in order to give to it the importance and character which it should maintain in a colony of England. To effect this, four or five private gentlemen are under liabilities to the extent of £1400, incurred in the erection of St. George's Church, Perth, (opened for divine service on the 22nd January last), which has already, from the cause previously alluded to, cost £3500, and is yet unprovided with a tower and a few necessary fittings, but which when complete, will be capable of accommodating 600 persons.—And to complete the church of St. John, at Fremantle, (which was opened on the 4th of August, 1843), another party of colonists took upon itself responsibilities to the amount of £1100—debts bearing interest at the rates of 8 and 10 per cent. To acquit these gentlemen of the liabilities which they have incurred in their zeal to promote in their distant colony, the interests of the Church of England, the friends and members of that Church are solicited to contribute towards a fund, now being formed, and to give their assistance in raising temples for the celebration of their religion in the land which, twenty years ago, was a wilderness, inhabited only by the savage, and where the name of God was unheard, and His holy word unknown.

Subscriptions towards "the Perth and Fremantle Churches Fund" will be thankfully received by The Rev. VAUGHAN THOMAS, C. C. College, Oxford; Mr. WILLIAM ROE, Knowles Hill, Newton Abbot, Devon; The BERKS UNION BANK, at Newbury, Reading, Abingdon, & Wallingford; Mr. ALEXANDER ANDREWS, 14, New City Chambers, Bishopsgate-street; and by the Editor of the *Swan River News*, 17, Fenchurch Street, London.

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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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