

ment, praying for a supply of labor from the Pentonville Penitentiary, it dispersed.

**VINEYARD SOCIETY.**—A meeting of the Vineyard Society was held on the 8th October, Governor Hutt in the chair. The proceedings opened with the reading of the secretary's half-yearly report. It warmly congratulated the members on the rapid progress of the Society, and entered into details of great importance to vine growers. It further stated that about 300,000 vines were already established, of which number it was estimated that 152,000 are in the neighbourhood of Perth and the Swan. The number of olives propagated during the season was 4000; and the raisins are described as "superior to any imported," and were sold at 10d. *per* lb. The wine fetched 3s. 6d. *per* gallon, and it was intended to send a cask to London and back, to give it the test of a long voyage. The report was received; and the statement of the Public Garden Committee, reporting progress, was brought up and read. After the reading of several communications for the guidance of the vine growers, a special vote of thanks and compliment to the Governor on his projected departure, was passed, which he acknowledged, and the meeting separated.

**THE REVENUE.**—The statement of the revenue and expenditure of the colony for the quarter ending 30th September, 1845, shewed the gross receipts to be £2042 : 17s. 1d., out of which the gross expenditure had been £1896 : 4s. 11d. The expenditure from the Parliamentary grant was £1728 : 12s. 11d.

**REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL OF BIRTHS, &c.**—The Registrar General of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, has issued his report for the year ending August 31st, 1845. It was less voluminous than last year's report. The number of births had been, males 105, females 78—the number of deaths: males 42, females 21; of these 23 were children under 3 years. The number of marriages was 34.

#### GENERAL NEWS.

**ARRIVAL OF SPECIE.** The colonial schooner *Champion* arrived at Swan River from Hobart Town on the 29th September, with £4000 in specie for the Commissariat department. This will supersede for a time the issue of Treasury Bills, and a rise in the price of wool for remittance was consequently anticipated—Mr. DRUMMOND, Superintendent of Police in the Northam districts has been suspended by the Governor for using undue severity in the execution of his duty, having shot a native whom he was employed to capture. Great indignation is expressed by the settlers of the district against the Governor for his "strong prejudice and gross injustice," but we confess that, after reading even the *ex parte* and very

plausible statement of Mr. Drummond's friends, we cannot but most heartily concur in the prompt attention and commend the judgment of His Excellency.—**COLONIAL ROPE.** Captain Scott has produced a sample of rope, manufactured from hemp extracted from a flag plant common around Fremantle. The rope was very rough from the want of proper machinery in its manufacture, but it quite satisfactorily proved the good quality of the hemp.—**AMATEUR CONCERT.** Another Concert in aid of the Perth organ fund was given on the 8th October, and was very fully attended.—**NEW ROAD TO PERTH.** It was proposed to make a new road forthwith, from Fremantle to Perth, with a bridge across the Canning. The new line, which was perfectly level, was already staked and marked out.—**YORK RACES** came off with great *éclat* on the 25th October. They consisted of six runs for public, and one, (trotting), for private, stakes, and all the horses behaved gallantly, doing credit to their breeders, their riders, and their blood.—**THE TRADE WITH SINGAPORE.** Accounts had been received of the sale of Stock, &c., carried up by the *Thetis* to Singapore. The sheep averaged 18s. 6d. each, the potatoes 1½d. for 133 lbs., and the sandal wood, entirely through the wilful stupidity of the shippers, (who seem damning its character here as they did that of their stock at the Mauritius, by sending an inferior article) under £2 *per* ton.—**FORTIFICATION OF FREMANTLE.** The *Champion* was, it was understood, sent round to Sydney for the purpose of fetching an Engineer officer, who had been ordered by the Home Government to proceed immediately to Western Australia to prepare for the fortification of the coast in the neighbourhood of Fremantle, for its protection against a piratical or other invading force.

FROM OUR OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENTS.  
You may, perhaps, be at a loss to understand how it arises that the *Merope*, Sydney whaler, wrecked here last February, is now loading at our port for London: we therefore think it useful to explain under what circumstances she is about to visit you. Capt. Scott, our harbour-master at Fremantle, having purchased her, applied to the Government here for a register, which was refused, but there is every chance of getting a Governor's license to take her home and bring her back, the officers of H. M. S. *Driver* having certified their survey of the repairs; and Capt. Scott has sent round to her original proprietors at Sydney for information to expedite the arrangements. She will have a portion of Bland's contract timber on board, as well as a quantity of wool which the Capt. of the *Unicorn* thought fit to reject. We are looking for the return of the *Champion*

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from South Australia about the end of this month, and almost daily for the arrival of our new Governor.

The *Vixen*, by which I write, proceeds to Ceylon on a speculative voyage with live stock intending to return with rice, coffee, spices and India goods from that port. Our late shipments are very cheering to the colonists and their friends, and are rapidly bringing our exports and imports to a level—a *desideratum* so devoutly to be wished.

#### FROM OUR PRIVATE INFORMATION.

It will be seen from the reports of our correspondents that the *Vixen* was sent to Ceylon on a trading voyage. We have received a copy of the manifest of her cargo on her return voyage to Swan River: it consisted of 18 bags coffee, 40 bags rice, 101 coils rope, 40 bags grain, 132 bags seed, 12 casks molasses, 12 casks rum, 1 cask sugar, 1 box tea, and 50 packages merchandise.

#### EXTRACTS FROM THE PERTH PAPERS.

We have received by the *Champion*, files of the *Inquirer* down to the 12th of November, and the *Perth Gazette* to the 9th. The only extract worthy of insertion is the following:—

**THE NAVAL TIMBER.**—The *Saxon*, 60 tons, belonging to Mr. A. Curtis, is now undergoing repairs on the beach at Fremantle. Her outside lining contains one plank of elm; the rudder is of English oak. Both these are full of perforations by the white ant, and offer a singular and interesting contrast to the remainder of the lining, constructed of the Jarrah mahogany, which has been cut through in several places for inspection, and is in every respect, as regards texture, solidity, and color, in as perfect a condition as at the time of launching, now between two and three years since.

#### OPENING OF THE TRADE BETWEEN SWAN RIVER AND CEYLON.

WE copy from the *Ceylon Overland Observer* of the 16th, the following interesting article on the arrival of the schooner *Vixen*, from Swan River:—

"The arrival of the schooner *Vixen*, from Western Australia, is an interesting event, she being the first vessel that has ventured hither for the purposes of trade; and we trust the result of the adventure will be such as to induce the owner to renew his visit with increased investments. The *Vixen* has come merely to try the market. She has brought four horses, a small quantity of potatoes, a few fish, about a ton of sandal wood, and a few Australian sheep. At auction, one of the horses sold for £50, another for £35, and the others for £25 and £20. The sheep fetched £1 each, the potatoes 2½d. per lb., and the sandal wood, £18 or £20 per ton. We understand there are fine horses running wild in the Swan River Colony; and that the farmers scarcely know how many they possess. Though good horses are occasionally imported from Australia, it has been difficult to convince parties in that country that they only injure the market by sending inferior and old worn out horses. There is a good market here for young, handsome animals, which would secure a price from £25 up to £60. Good

bullocks and milch cows would find a ready sale, and £1 to £1 10s. could be commanded for healthy sheep. Potatoes are fetching £25 a ton in Colombo, and Swan River might drive a capital trade in this article alone. Now that a direct monthly communication with China has been formed, any quantity of sandal wood could be taken off the hands of the Australian traders. There are, we understand, various kinds of very durable wood in Western Australia, suitable for the purposes of ship building. We would strongly urge the spirited owner of the *Vixen* to bring, next time, as much as possible (and in great variety) of the hard wood of the colony—it will be sure to meet with a ready sale in Ceylon for machinery of every description. The *Vixen* being only forty tons burthen, is scarcely fitted for the trade, and we doubt not a larger vessel will be available. At least twenty good horses and twenty milch cows should be brought next time, and no one can doubt the certainty of a ready and profitable sale. The *Vixen* was five weeks on the passage, but we think a vessel of greater capacity could, under ordinary circumstances, make the passage in three weeks.

We congratulate and welcome the owner of the *Vixen* to our shores; and we trust the prices of our coffee and sugar will enable him to take a good and profitable return cargo to the Swan. He has our best wishes for his success. We may just add that, should the prices of coffee and sugar prevent his investing largely for the Swan River settlement, a cargo of rice may be very easily procured at Negapatam, and at remunerating prices."

#### DEATH.

Seabrook, Mrs. M. of Woodbridge, Guildford, 22nd September.

#### SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

**ARRIVALS AT FREMANTLE.**—*Champion*, Helpman, Sept. 29, from Hobart Town—*Paul Jones*, Oct. 13, from Adelaide—*Vixen*, 21, from Whaling—*Unicorn*, Mullens, 27, from London—*Thetis*, Morton, 31, from Singapore—*Calypto*, Harold, Nov. 9, from Batavia.

**DEPARTURES FROM FREMANTLE.**—*Halifax Packet*, Smith, Sept. 18, for London—*Vixen*, Oct. 3, for whaling—*Alpha*, Turner, 19, for Adelaide—*Paul Jones*, Bathe, 26, for Adelaide—*Venus*, Thomas, 31, for Jurien Bay—*Vixen*, D. Back, Jan. 4, for Ceylon.

*Champion*, from Swan River, arrived at Sydney, Dec. 27—*Vixen*, D. Back, from Swan River, arrived at Ceylon, Feb. 9—*Elizabeth*, from Swan River, arrived at Batavia, Feb. 11—*Vixen*, D. Back, from Swan River, sailed from Ceylon, Mar. 5.

**PASSENGER LIST.**—*Paul Jones*, to Adelaide; Mr. H. Samson—*Vixen*, to Ceylon; Messrs. Mackie, Nunn, Thompson, Usher, Leake, and Curtis—*Vixen*, from Ceylon; Mr. and Mrs. Peak, and Mr. J. Mackie.

Dispatches from the Governor of Western Australia, were received at the Colonial Office, on the 27th April.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A SUBSCRIBER'S communication, the first part of the Index to the Laws of Western Australia, the concluding paper of the Statistics, &c. were in type, but we were obliged to withdraw them when the mail of the *Champion* arrived on the 27th.

W. B. shall be attended to in our next, we are so much pressed for room this month, that we could not possibly insert his communication.

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