

per lb., 7d.; Starch, 1s.—Tea, per lb., 2s. to 3s. 6d.; Sugar, (white), 6d., (brown), 4d., (refined), 7d.; Raisins, 6d.; Mustard, 2s. 6d.—Tobacco, per lb., 3s.—Tripe, per keg, 6s.

PRICE OF STOCK, (from the *Perth Gazette*.)  
—Bullocks, £6 to £8; Cows, milch, £6 to £8; Oxen, fat, £5 to £8—Ewes, 9s. 10s.; Ewe lambs, 4s. and 5s.; wethers, fat, 8s. to 10s.—Horses, £10 to £30; Mares, £20 to £40; Ponies £7 to £12—Pigs 5s. to 16s.

#### GENERAL NEWS.

**SANDAL WOOD.**—Messrs. Carter had collected, for export, a lot of superior sandal wood, in average sizes of 4 feet long, by 6 inches or a foot broad and deep. **THE BREED OF HORSES.**—As an encouragement to the breeders of horses, a produce stakes has been established by the York Agricultural Society, to be run for by three year old colts, whose dams were entered on the books when three months in foal. **GUANO.**—In July, 1844, the *SWAN RIVER NEWS* was the first to announce the existence of guano on the Western Australian Coast. This information, (supplied to us by Captain Scott, of Fremantle), was much questioned at the time, but Mr. Thomas Hunt, of Mandurah, has asserted it as a fact in the *Inquirer*, of the 26th November last. **H. M. S. "DRIVER."**—The good people of Fremantle were alarmed out of their propriety on the 4th December, by the arrival of Her Majesty's steam sloop *Driver*, Captain C. O. Hayes. A sight so unusual attracted large crowds to the beach, a report having been spread that the *Unicorn* was on fire in the offing. The *Driver* had put in to replenish her fuel and mend her boilers after a long service on the Chinese station, and, as she was detained some days and was the first steamer that ever visited the coast, Captain Hayes, with the most gentlemanly courtesy, invited the settlers to inspect her, which they did in great numbers. **PEEL'S HARBOUR.**—The Government have adopted Peel's Harbour, an inner and most secure anchorage in Warnboro' Sound. In this harbour, ships of 800 tons can lie alongside a natural wharf and load in 7 fathoms water, sheltered as securely as in the London Docks. If possible, we shall in our next publish an elaborate account of this harbour compiled expressly for our columns. **LAUNCH OF THE "RIVER CHIEF."**—The *River Chief*, the new colonial timber ship, of 220 tons burthen, which we announced to be on the stocks (under the proposed name of the *Joseph Morris*) in our April number last year, was launched on the 2nd December, "broadside on," in Peel's Inlet on the Murray. She was to proceed to Peel Harbour forthwith to equip, preparatory to taking in 220 tons of Toort

timber, at Port Augusta, and sailing for the Cape and London. **BUSH FIRES.**—Some very serious losses had been sustained by the practice of burning the bush. Mr. Cooke, of Northam, had lost his entire crop, on 50 acres; valued at £250. Messrs. Robins, Foley, and Whitfield had also suffered severely, the total loss being estimated at 2300 bushels. **MASONIC FESTIVAL.**—St. John's Day, (26th December) was duly celebrated by the brethren of this order, who walked in grand procession to attend a special service at Perth Church, and afterwards proceeded to instal their officers for the ensuing year. **NEW CHAPEL AT PERTH.** A chapel built by persons of the Independent Connexion, was in rapid progress at Perth, and is expected to be an ornament to the town. **STEAM COMMUNICATION.**—It is a singular coincidence that the files of papers received just at the time when the subject is being canvassed at home, contain strong recommendations to the colonists to set some project of the kind on foot. **CONCERT.**—Another amateur concert, for the same purpose and on the same scale as the previous ones, was given in the Court House, Perth, on the 9th January, under the patronage of the Governor. **FAILURE OF THE POTATO CROP!**—It is not a little remarkable that the potato crop is seriously deficient in Western Australia this season, though the disease is not similar to that which has made such fearful ravages at home. The blight, (which has extended to the vines and melons to some extent), arises in the visits of slugs, in immense quantities during the night.

#### FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

ALTHOUGH suffering much from severe illness (which prevented my writing by the last opportunity) I must not allow the direct mail to leave without sending you a report, although I am afraid I cannot write very fully. I have less cause to deplore this, because we shall soon have another opportunity by the *Cumberland*, which we expect daily, the *Elizabeth* having arrived on the 7th instant, (January.) The *Unicorn* leaves this, completely full; her freight and passage money is not much less than £3000! Since my last, the affairs of the Bank of Australasia have been brought nearly to a conclusion, and it speaks well for the real means of the colonists that the progress has been very satisfactory. The £19,000, due a year ago, by the settlers to this Bank have nearly been paid, and good security given for the remainder. I believe I may safely say that not less than two-thirds of this large sum have been paid *in cash*. I want to write to you about *Steam Navigation*, the harbour at Safety Bay, &c., &c., but I feel so exhausted with the exertion of writing even these few

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times, that I must defer these subjects till my next. The files of the *Inquirer* which I send herewith will put you in possession of the general proceedings of the colonists.

## A LOOKER-ON.

## FROM OUR OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENTS.

You will feel much gratification in hearing that we are rapidly recovering from the effects of the mercantile depression that paralysed all the Australian colonies a few years ago, and from the evils which arose from our exports being of so trifling a nature. I am one who does not own an acre of ground here, or is connected by any ties to the colony, and I may therefore be considered as a disinterested person on the subject; and I assure you I firmly believe that, in a short time, Western Australia will be the wealthiest of the Australian colonies; and that, when our population has increased and our capital has allowed us to maintain a more extended communication than we now do, with other parts of the world, we shall have, in addition, the most desirable country to live in under the sun.

G. J. W.

## FROM OUR PRIVATE INFORMATION.

We have received a statement, drawn up by Mr. William Pearce Clifton, of his proceedings at Bunbury, where the timber is being cut for the Government contract. Up to Christmas Day, 1845, the following quantities of timber were ready for shipment:—mahogany, 2611 cubic feet, 3 inches, or 52 loads; toart, 4402 cubic feet, 2 inches, or 88 loads—in all 140½ loads, of which 108 loads were lying on the beach. The longest logs of mahogany were 35 feet, and of toart, 55 feet; the largest logs of mahogany contained 140 feet, 10 inches (cubic); of toart, 195 feet, 9 inches (cubic).

## EXTRACTS FROM THE PERTH PAPERS.

Our files of the *Inquirer* are down to the 11th of January—those of the *Perth Gazette* are no later than the 20th of December.

**THE HARVEST.**—Apprehensions were entertained that, owing to the backward state of the season, the harvest of this year would prove anything but promising. The knowing ones, however, have been deceived, and the harvest in many places commenced during the week, with a real prospect of an abundant return.—*Perth Gazette*, Nov. 22.

**SALE OF STOCK.**—At the sale held on Thursday last, on the Canning, 609 sheep were sold at an average of 7s. per head; cows, £4 10s. to £5 each; horses, £9 each.—*Inquirer*, Dec. 3.

**PROGRESS OF THE HARVEST.**—The wheat harvest has now become very general, and we are well pleased to be able to state that the reports of the condition of the crops in all parts of the colony are highly satisfactory; indeed we learn from many quarters that they are finer this season than has been the case for many preceding years. The only drawback to the comfort

of the farmer at this season, is the want of labor, of which we hear many and loud complaints.—*Ibid.* Dec. 17.

**TENDERS FOR WHEAT.**—The supplies of wheat for the Commissariat were accepted on Wednesday last to the extent of 1500 bushels, at the average price of 6s. 3½d. per bushel; rather more than 4000 bushels having been tendered. The highest price accepted was 6s. 6d., and the lowest 6s.; those not accepted, varied from 6s. 10d. to 6s. 11d. per bushel.—*Ibid.* Jan. 14.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

## BIRTHS.

Brown, Mrs. R. M. B. Dec. 30, at Fremantle, a son, still-born.

Elliott, Mrs. G. Nov. 20, at Bunbury, a son.

## MARRIAGE.

Johnston, Mr. H. R. of Alberstoke, to Miss M. Clifton, at Australind, Dec. 31.

## DEATH.

Ridley, Mr. C. at Seabrook, Jan. 24.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

**ARRIVALS AT FREMANTLE.**—*Venus*, Thomas, Nov. 25, from Jurien Bay.—*Rose Anna*, Heard, 25, from Adelaide.—H. M. Steam Sloop, *Driver*, Hayes, Dec. 4, from China.—*Elizabeth*, Morrice, Jan. 7, from London.

**DEPARTURES FROM FREMANTLE.**—*Champion*, Helpman, for Sydney.—*Calyppo*, Harold, 18, for Sydney.—*Rose Anna*, Heard, Dec. 14, for Adelaide.—H. M. Steam Sloop, *Driver*, Hayes, 16.

*Lightning*, for Swan River, sailed from Mauritius Feb 10.

*Unicorn*, Mullens, from Swan River, for London, arrived at the Cape, March 9, sailed 11; arrived at and sailed from St. Helena, 26; arrived at Deal May 12.

*Dispatch*, Elsdon, from London, for Swan River, sailed from Gravesend, May 27; sailed from the Downs, 29.

**PASSENGER LIST.**—*Champion*, to Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. L. Samson, Mrs. Pace, and Mrs. Helpman.—*Rose Anna*, from Adelaide; Mr. and Mrs. Owen.—*Rose Anna*, for Adelaide, Mr. and Mrs. Owen, Mr. Adams, and three in the steerage.

Dispatches from the Governor of Western Australia, were received at the Colonial Office on the 12th May.

## POSTSCRIPT.

*Swan River News Office*,

Saturday Night, May 30th.

**SALES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PRODUCE.**—A part of the Wool brought by the *Unicorn* was sold at the Hall of Commerce, on Thursday Afternoon, consisting of 241 bales, of which 41 were lambs' wool. The prices averaged 1s. 1¼d. per lb.; the highest being 1s. 10d. (scoured), and 1s. 7½d. (lambs), and the lowest 8d. On the same day, at Messrs. May & Ailwyn's, and yesterday at Messrs. Wilson's sales, 190 tons of Southern OIL, from Swan River, were sold at the following prices:—first quality, £24: 15; second, £23: 10; and third, £23 per tun. The Whalebone was bought in at £210 per ton.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

**FOR SWAN RIVER, (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) to**  
Sail on the 20th of July, the fine fast-sailing Barque, UNICORN. A. I., 375 Tons Register, WILLIAM L. MULLENS, Commander; Lying in the St. Katherine Docks. This Vessel has most excellent Accommodation for Cabin or Steerage Passengers. For Freight or Passage apply to WILLIAM FELGATE and Co. 4, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street.

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| "              | 6 months,                | at discretion of the Directors. |

No charge made for keeping Cash Accounts.

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N. B.—LETTERS OF CREDIT, and BILLS at Thirty Days sight are granted in London, by the Agents, at their Office, as above.

**TO EMIGRANTS.—AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.**

Mrs. MARY WEDLAKE, widow of the late THOMAS WEDLAKE, at 118, Fenchurch-street, City, inform 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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