

the natives; the foundation of a cathedral and other extensive operations. We wish the Church of England would take a lesson from these indefatigable and zealous missionaries.

We are particularly glad to see that the observations which we considered it our duty to make in our October number, have had a salutary effect; they have been received in the spirit in which they were written, and our contemporaries in the colony quoting them, and expressing their concurrence in them, a feeling such as we wished to see established between Catholics and Protestants, has been, as if by mutual consent adopted. We trust that no mistaken zeal on either side will disturb these amicable relations, and we have too much confidence in the good sense and good feeling of the leading members of each party to apprehend any of those paltry and absurd contentions that cannot but tend to degrade religion in the eyes even of the savages.

#### GRATUITOUS DISTRIBUTION FUND OF THE SWAN RIVER NEWS.

We have been compelled, by a pressure of other matter, to defer the publication of the report which has been sent to us of the manner in which the gratuitous distribution fund, in connexion with this journal, has been appropriated for the past year. It appears that the amount subscribed for the year ending April, 1846, was £66 15s. of which £36 12s. 6d. was contributed by the colonists, £5 2s. 6d. by the home public, and £25 was a grant from the Western Australian Society. From this fund, the number of copies which have been circulated throughout the empire, gratis and post free, is 2515, of which 1143 have been entrusted to the subscribers themselves for distribution. The remainder, consisting of 1372 copies, have been forwarded as follows:—To newspapers, 337; to inns, hotels, &c. 523; to coffee houses, 9; to literary institutions, 23; to mechanics' institutes, 2; to reading and news rooms, 27; chambers of commerce, 26; to public companies, 40; to religious societies, 3; to the Bishops and heads of the church, 15; to Members of Parliament, Peers, and Cabinet Ministers, 262; to Directors of East India railways, 20; miscellaneous, 145. In this analysis, it is necessary to explain, with reference to the head of "Directors of the Indian railways," that it was thought advisable to supply those gentlemen with No. 23 of the News, containing the article on the use of Western Australian Iron on the Indian railways. The gratuitous distribution is still proceeding, and its fruits are already displaying themselves in the frequent and favorable

mention now made of this colony by the public press, and the notice taken of it in Parliament, whenever merely routine business brings it forward. It was not possible with a fund ten fold in amount that which has been subscribed to put the name of the colony into every one's mouth in the short space of two years, but when our readers remember how very rarely it was heard before this fund was in operation, they will readily appreciate the good which has been already effected.

#### LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

H. M. S. *Fly*, Captain Blackwood, having again called at the colony, on her homeward voyage, has brought letters and papers from Western Australia to the 18th February—the dates being about a month later than those brought by the *Unicorn* as given in our last. The arrival of the *Fly* appears to have been unlooked for—a circumstance which accounts for our correspondents being unprepared with their usual communications and summaries: we must therefore content ourselves with an abstract of the file of papers which we received by the mail:—

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.—The half-yearly general meeting of proprietors in this Bank was held at Perth, on the 14th January, J. S. Roe, Esq. in the chair. The report of the directors was very favorable: they stated their conviction that they should be able to fill up the blank caused by the retirement of the Australasian Bank, with which purpose they had purchased (as we have already announced), the premises lately occupied by it. They had also allowed any of the proprietors who desired to do so, to pay up the entire amount of their shares, to meet the increase of business; and had extended their foreign agencies. The report concluded by declaring a dividend of 4s. 6d. per share, being at the rate of  $11\frac{1}{4}$  per cent., per annum. The report having been received and the usual votes of thanks passed, the meeting adjourned the consideration of the cashier's application for an increase of salary, and broke up.

REPORTS ON THE NATIVES.—Mr. Symmons' report on the natives under his protection appears in the *Government Gazette* of January 9th, and Mr. Bland's statement, for his district, on the 1st. Mr. Symmons alludes to a few paltry depredations which have been committed by some of the natives, and is justly indignant at the manner in which in all those cases, temptation is thrown in their way, by the carelessness of the owners of the property stolen. The general conduct of the tribes towards the settlers is very peaceable and

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Mr. Symmons thinks the time has arrived for attempting to suppress the feuds among themselves. The children in the native schools are making good progress—that at Perth has been considerably extended, and in our next we shall give an account of its present management as a companion picture to our description of Rottnest establishment. Of the latter the report states that there are at present thirty prisoners confined on the island, whose general conduct and health are very good. Mr. Bland's report is scarcely so favorable, as it records a case of murder, and a case of robbery, attended with violence. The other cases alluded to are merely acts of pilfering unguarded property. Although mutual confidence is, generally speaking, becoming established, and the aborigines shew every disposition to abandon their predatory and erratic habits, we regret to perceive that instances have occurred, of farmers, who employ native servants, having broken their agreement. This is an infamous and disreputable proceeding, and we regret, with Mr. Bland, his inability (from the want of an adequate police force), to make severe examples of such offenders, who are endangering that confidence which it is so desirable to maintain.

## GENERAL NEWS.

**BUSH FIRES.**—We regret to find fresh losses to farmers recorded, by the occurrence of bush fires, which seem to have increased to such an extent as to render speedy steps for their prevention, necessary. **CHURCH MUSIC.**—The *Inquirer* states that a double Oboe of the largest size has been ordered for Perth Church. We can add that this instrument will be ready for shipment by the next vessel, as we have received an invitation to a private trial of its powers. **ARRIVAL OF GOVERNOR CLARKE.**—The *Cumberland* with the new Governor on board, arrived at Fremantle on the 26th January. His Excellency landed under a salute from the battery, and immediately proceeded to Perth, where his commission was read, and he was sworn before the Executive Council. **EXPORT OF SANDAL WOOD.**—An enterprising colonist, Mr. Moulton, of Guildford, was about to charter the *Paul Jones* to carry a cargo of sandal wood to China. **REVIVAL OF THE MAURITIUS TRADE.**—Accounts had been received from the Mauritius of the sale of stock, &c., sent by the *Emma Sherratt*, which shew that when a judicious selection is made, there need be no apprehensions as to the result. Mr. Francisco's horse "Napoleon" fetched £112, and an inferior horse belonging to Mr. Habgood, £50. The tallow realised 46s. per cwt. The *Cumberland* was chartered for the Mauritius, and would carry 30 horses in addition to other

stock, which was to be taken at the following rates:—sheep, 6s. per head, horses and cattle, £10,—fodder to be provided by the shippers. **A WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RACER.**—Some time ago, a mare named "Isabel," belonging to Mr. Parker, of York, was shipped to the Mauritius and sold for £90. She has since won for her present owner, upwards of £700, and he is reported to have refused £500 for her already. This will prove a valuable introduction for Western Australian horses to the Mauritius market, and the settlers cannot be too careful of the character they have acquired. **DEPARTURE OF GOVERNOR HUTT.**—Governor Hutt took his departure from Perth on the 28th January, on which occasion, a very large number of inhabitants assembled to testify, in one of the warmest and most cordial addresses, their high esteem and respect, for his public and private character. After replying to it in a very friendly spirit Mr. Hutt started for Fremantle on horseback, saluted by the guard of honor and cheered by the crowd. Mr. Hutt had intended to leave the colony by the *Cumberland*, but *H. M. S. Fly* having put in, he was accommodated with a passage by that vessel to England, where he arrived in good health last week.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

**ARRIVALS AT FREMANTLE.**—*Alpha*, Turner, Jan. 15, from Adelaide.—*Paul Jones*, Bathe, 16, from Adelaide.—*Cumberland*, Dawson, 26, from London.—*Frolic*, Pelford, Feb. 7, from Singapore and Bally.—*H.M.S. Fly*, Blackwood, Feb. 10, from Adelaide.

**DEPARTURES FROM FREMANTLE.**—*Venus*, Thomas, Jan. 13, for Jurien Bay.—*Elizabeth*, Morrice, 17, from Angier.—*Unicorn*, Mullens, 18, for London.—*Alpha*, Turner, Feb. 3, for Adelaide.—*Paul Jones*, Bathe, 7, for Hong Kong.—*H.M.S. Fly*, Blackwood, 18, for London.

**PASSED FREMANTLE.**—*Fellowes*, American whaler, Jan. 15.

*H.M.S. Fly*, Blackwood, for Swan River, sailed from Adelaide, Jan. 22—*from Swan River*, arrived at Simon's Town, April 8—arrived at Plymouth, June 20.

*Rose Anna*, Heard, from Swan River, arrived at Adelaide, Jan. 6.—*Elizabeth*, Morrice, from Swan River, arrived at Sourabaya, March 15, and sailed for Cowes, 28.—*Cumberland*, Dawson, from Swan River, arrived at Mauritius, March 19.

**PASSENGER LIST.**—*Alpha*, from Adelaide, Mr. Levi—*Alpha*, for Adelaide; Messrs. J. W. Turner, E. Levi, J. Wittenoom, J. Phillips, and Sarah Smith—*Frolic*, from Singapore; Messrs. Spyer and Leviler—*Paul Jones*, for Hong Kong; Mr. Moulton—*Fly*, from Adelaide; Mr. Lionel, Samson—*Fly*, for London John Hutt, Esq.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

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