

harbour. I was at first extremely disappointed at the narrowness of the entrance, which, judging from the eye, I set down at about 50 yards across. But what was my astonishment when, on sounding the depth of water at the entrance I found bottom at $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet, in the middle of the channel when the chart of 1836 gave as many fathoms. Hastening back to Perth, I made the fact known at the Survey office, when it was scarcely credited, but an officer of H. M. S. *Fly* was dispatched to make a new chart of the Bay. The entrance has now been discovered to be 60 yards wide, with only 9 feet at the deepest part, although, inside the Bay the water is deeper than is marked in the chart—perhaps from mere temporary circumstances. All this will seem strange, but, no doubt, when the survey was made and the chart published, the bearings were correct; but no more recent examination having been made, the Bay has been gradually filling up for the last 10 years unnoticed. On the arrival of the *Fly* in England I suppose a new chart will be published, which will set matters right.

STEAM COMMUNICATION TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

This subject is attracting public attention to an extent far greater than we could by any possibility have anticipated. One of our contemporaries, THE LONDON PIONEER, has taken it up, enforcing at the same time the view taken by a correspondent in our present number under the signature of "a Subscriber," of the propriety of investing the funds of the savings' banks in the purchase and settlement of colonial lands. Without adopting the financial plans therein advocated we have great pleasure in calling attention to the following.

Among the many benefits which the magnificent scheme of Lieut. Waghorn will confer when realized (as we have no doubt it will be), not the least will be the rendering available the advantages which Western Australia possesses over other parts of Australasia, which will, hereafter, only require to be known to be appreciated. Besides her superiority in respect to position, so proximate to India, China, and other important markets for colonial produce. Western Australia is blest with a climate, the air of which might be said to be the breath of Hygeia, and uncursed with a liability to the desolating droughts so frequent and fatal in other parts of Australia. This colony must soon receive that attention from the capitalist and emigrant of this country to which she has so strong a claim, but which, by a singular fatality, has been long neglected. Good comes of evil, it is said. Had those claims been attended to at first, Western Australia might have had a population a hundred fold greater than she now has, including convicts, perhaps, instead of one of the most moral to be found in any of our dependencies; and might have been as repulsive as she is now attractive. We feel certain that it will not be long before the Anglo-Indian invalid, pining for change, a prey to *nostalgia*, will seek, and find, in Western Australia, the health he has lost in India.

The writer goes on to urge upon all who are desirous of exchanging a hard lot for a happier one, wherever it could be secured—to read, mark, and think for themselves; concluding with a declaration that the employment of capital in improving the colonies might, under the sanction and guidance of a parent-like government, be made a means of bettering the condition of thousands.

A writer in the Limerick and Clare Examiner, after noticing the large emigration of our countrymen to the UNITED STATES, declares his conviction that, under a better system, WESTERN AUSTRALIA would be preferred to any portion of the Western (American) continent.

Want of space prevents a further enlargement on this topic at present; we, however, shall resume it on some future occasion.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

WE are in possession of letters and files of the *Inquirer*, by the arrival of the *Cumberland's* mail *vid* Mauritius, to the 24th February; but our intelligence by the *Fly* was so closely up to that date that there is little to communicate. What news there is, however, will be found below.

GENERAL NEWS.

TENDERS FOR COMMISSARIAT STORES.—The tenders for 1500 bushels of wheat for the service of the army were accepted at an average price of 6s. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per bushel. 4000 bushels were tendered and the rejected prices varied from 6s. 10d. to 6s. 11d. **ALLEGED OUTBREAK.**—An alarm had been raised at Albany of a disturbance among the aborigines arising out of the death of a native by the hand of an European. We have little doubt but that searching investigation will be made and that the natives will be satisfied with the manner in which justice, and, if necessary, punishment will be administered by the authorities. **ADDRESS TO GOVERNOR CLARKE.**—An address from a large body of the colonists was conveyed by deputation to Governor Clarke on the 4th February, on his undertaking the government of the colony. His Excellency replied with a warm expression of interest in the colony to promote whose welfare, he promised to use his best endeavours. **OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**—It was expected that the Legislative Council would assemble for the Session of 1846, during the first week in March. **ENTERTAINMENT OF THE OFFICERS OF H. M. S. "FLY."**—On the 17th February, a ball and supper on a spirited scale was given to the Officers of H. M. S. *Fly*, at Leeder's Hotel, at which upwards of 80 of the *élite* of the colony were present.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Our export of horses by the *Cumberland* will be considerable. Freight is engaged for 28 horses, 14 ponies, 201 sheep, and 6 cows. I have arranged so that you will hear of the result of the venture from the Mauritius. The season for fruit has not been a good one, even the grapes not doing so well as usual. The vintage for wine is about to commence, and it is expected that we shall make about 10,000 gallons. I suppose the council will open its session next month: we are eager to hear what the new governor has to say to us. As I took some pains to give you a full account of the reputed capabilities of Peel Harbour, I am bound, although I perform the duty with great sorrow, to send you a parcel of dispatches farther relating to it, from which you will glean the particulars of the startling discovery which I made on visiting the spot, with the view of sending for your columns my own impressions of it; farther than this I have nothing to communicate.

A LOOKER ON.

FROM OUR PRIVATE INFORMATION.

SALE OF STOCK AT THE MAURITIUS.—By the unremitting exertions of our agent and principal correspondent, we are enabled to communicate the result of the sale of Stock exported from Swan River, by the *Cumberland*, to the Mauritius; which we give in the words of our reporter.

"The *Cumberland*, after a passage of 21 days, arrived at the Mauritius on the 19th March, with a cargo consisting of 40 horses and ponies, 8 cows, 240 sheep, onions, salt fish, potatoes, and wool. The horses sold badly—the mares are of no use in the market—geldings little used—horses seldom worked on the plantations. If mules were bred in the colony and sent to the Mauritius, they would be more profitable than horses. Small, showy, blood saddle horses fetch £40 to £60, and well matched carriage horses £90 to £150 per pair. The freight upon the Swan River horses was too high to admit of profit—freight £11, groom and provender £2—as the charge for conveyance hither from the Cape is only £11, including all attendance, provender and insurance; add to which that the horses by the *Cumberland* were so closely stowed that there was no room for grooming. The consequence was that the ponies did not pay their expenses, and the horses only just cleared themselves. With regard to the other stock, a small, poor, cow, with a young calf, fetched £21, while much better cows, not in milk, found no purchasers. The sheep covered 32s. and will always fetch 24s. being vastly superior to those from the

Cape and Bengal. They were said to be the best seen at the Mauritius, but were decidedly inferior to what *can* be produced nevertheless. The salt fish which is sold at the Swan for £8, fetched here £36 per ton; it is very much approved and in constant demand. The potatoes and onions sold very well indeed. The merchants here are talking anxiously about the Swan River trade, and it is to be hoped that some of them will embark in it; they are astounded at the freights paid for wool from Swan River to London: and it appears probable that extortion will defeat itself, and the exporters will be able to send their wool in future at half the exorbitant charges lately demanded. On the whole there seems to be a very fair market here for Western Australian produce as you will perceive by the prices current which we enclose.

W. AND B."

TRANSHIPMENT OF WOOL.—We are enabled to state that the wool forwarded by the *Cumberland* from Swan River to Mauritius, has been sent forward to London by the following vessels:—68 bales by the barque *Kite*; 40 per barque *Chance*; and 38 by the barque *Packet*: the freight from Mauritius to London by these ships was $\frac{3}{4}$ d. and one penny per lb.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PERTH PAPERS.

THE latest dates of our papers are:—the *Inquirer* to the 18th, and the *Perth Gazette* to the 21st February; the only extract worthy of being reprinted is the following:—

GREEN WALNUTS.—It is worthy the notice of the colonists that Messrs. Habgood have imported from the Cape, green walnuts, as well as the thin shelled almond. That both of these will thrive in this climate, there is not the slightest question; they should therefore be cultivated and their growth encouraged.—*Perth Gazette*, January 31st.

BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES.

BIRTH.

Stone, Mrs. G. at Perth, Feb. 13, a son.

MARRIAGE.

Johnston, Mr. J. W. to Miss M. Clifton, at Australind, Dec. 31.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVAL AT FREMANTLE.—H. M. S. *Fly*, Blackwood, Feb. 10, from Adelaide.

John Bagshaw, from London, for Swan River, sailed from Table Bay 29 April.—*Cumberland*, from Swan River, arrived at Mauritius 19 March.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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