

Gladstone." The Surveyor General was engaged in making the chart of this port, which is so well calculated to supply the want so long felt of good and secure anchorages on the *Western Coast*, the ports on the *Eastern Shores* of the islands being hitherto the only really excellent harbours of the colony since the irruption of the sea into Safety Bay; but in this new port a line of battle ship may lie perfectly secure with her bowsprit almost on the shore.

Mr. Singleton writes to us on this subject as follows:—"It remains now for me to say a few words concerning Port Gladstone—a discovery which cannot be overrated. Suffice it to say that the largest steamer afloat could come alongside a jetty of a few yards long and take in her coals off the head of the jetty."

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Mr. Singleton had been deputed by the Colonial Government to make arrangements with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for the extension of the Steam route to Western Australia: and had been dispatched by the *Champion*, colonial Schooner, to Singapore. Fortunately he was also enabled to carry up samples of the different indications of coal, which were shewn to the Agent of the Company, and will be forwarded by the next steamer to the Board of Directors in London, when we are invited to inspect it. This is a remarkably opportune coincidence—the discovery of the coal simultaneously with the commencement of these negotiations—just as a new and splendid port is discovered—and when all harbour dues and port charges have been abolished! There is every indication now of the fortune of the colony being sealed! Mr. Singleton was armed with full powers and ample provisions for effecting this important arrangement.

GENERAL NEWS.

THE "CHAMPION" sent to Singapore with Mr. Singleton expressly to make arrangements for securing Steam communication to Western Australia, arrived after a fine passage of twenty-one days.

HEALTH OF THE GOVERNOR.—We regret to hear that Colonel Clarke's health is anything but satisfactory; yet his indisposition does not appear to impair his energy on behalf of the Colony which continues unrelaxed in its behalf.

THE "INQUIRER" has passed into the hands and management of Mr. Richard West Nash, by the succession of Mr. Lochée to the office

of Cashier of the Western Australian Bank, in the place of Mr. Richard Wells deceased.

FROM THE SUPPLEMENT EXTRA OF THE "INQUIRER," DATED AUGUST 1ST.

"As this supplement is about to be dispatched to England by the Overland Mail, and will therefore anticipate our late files, we beg to assure our friends that the colony is in every possible respect more prosperous than when they heard last—that improvements, as olive yards, vineyards, buildings, &c. &c., are progressing with energy—our exports increasing—the whaling has been most successfully commenced, many humpbacks having been captured, and the right sort coming in. The season has been as yet peculiarly favorable to crops, and more wheat is sown than ever before. Sheep are rising in price, and the whole colonial machine assuming a more firm, sound and really "self-supporting" character."

We have not time to-day to congratulate our readers on the glorious news given above, nor to apologise for the hurried way in which we are forced to give it. If we know ought of them, they will be too delighted at the dawning of such prosperity upon the colony to find fault with the irregularities which we have perpetrated in our hurry.

A portion of our impression had been issued before this momentous intelligence arrived; but when we discovered its nature and importance, we instantly stopped the publication, and conceiving that our readers would pardon a short delay, if it enabled them to hear such stirring news, we determined at once on printing an extra sheet, to be sent gratis with the regular number. We have, however, one duty which shall be performed at once to mark our sense of the services rendered us; and desire thus publicly to return our warmest thanks to Francis Corbett Singleton, Esq. M.C., and Samuel Moore, Esq. for the energy they displayed in putting us in possession of the fullest particulars, the former dispatching to us the most detailed account, and the latter himself bringing for us to Singapore the very latest reports of the operations, and taking every pains to get them forwarded to our hands with the most extraordinary celerity. The result has been that despite a delay of four days at Singapore, and a miscarriage at Bombay, our letters have reached us in the short period of ninety-one days from Perth.

DEATH.

Hinds, Dr. at Perth, April.

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