

a considerable sum saved to the colony in the aggregate, as our export of wool increases. I am persuaded every year an increased necessity of classing the wool correctly, will be more obvious, arising from the importation of coarse long-wooled rains to obtain length, and some settlers, after doing this, are breeding back again; both which circumstances tend to make a very mixed lot of wool, and particularly in some instances, where only portions of the flock have been so crossed, or, different flocks of various owners running together, the wool in the shearing and packing has got mixed. Hitherto our wool has been sent home in this manner, and the fine cloth manufacturer, if he buy at first hand at the public sales, is compelled to purchase coarse, long and short wools, not suitable for his trade nor the district he resides in. The same remark applies to manufacturers of coarse wool, who are compelled to take fine wool if they buy the bales so mixed. This of course has a tendency to place these bales of wool, (and our shipment of this sort is considerable), at a discount with the small manufacturer, and they are bought by the staplers, dealers, and others, and change hands several times at profits each time, with all the expenses of transit &c. from the West of England to Witney and the North, or from these latter districts back to the West, or to those places where the article is in demand. This operation requires an extra capital, and in many cases, shuts such lots of wool out from the small manufacturer, (and this class of buyers is numerous), and he suits himself with more even lots, such as he may be in want of."

Being furnished with specimens of scoured and assorted wool in three different stages and conditions, we submitted them to the examination of Mr. Abraham Gartside, the leading wool broker in Liverpool, and his report shows how desirable it is that increased care should be given to the two all important processes so long neglected in the preparation and exportation of the wool:—

Very much depends upon the future prospects of the colony being able to send the produce to market as saleable and in as good condition as possible. Generally speaking we find the wool from new colonies or settlements sent in very indifferent order, and it must necessarily take some time to acquaint them of their mistake. The farmers should have good and well bred sheep, and take care that they are properly washed; after which, the wool should be shorn as soon as dry, and not allowed to absorb too much of the animal grease. Before packing for shipment, the fleeces should be classed by some person well acquainted with the different qualities of combing and clothing, keeping the ribs and locks separate. The manufacturers will only buy such qualities as they can consume; and at present have little difficulty in meeting with it in the Sydney and other wools which are sold at auction.

The two pattern cards sufficiently show the different breeds of the sheep, and the necessity there is in having the wool better cleaned and assorted.

The two samples of No. 2, (coarse, or second combing) are from very ill-bred animals, which should be boiled for tallow as soon as possible, and not allowed to breed, if so the flocks will very soon degenerate. The samples, No. 3, (super clothing) have been shorn too soon for useful combing. There is plenty of quality, and with a little more length they would be preferable, particularly the Hoggets, if kept separate. Great care should be taken to keep the sheep off the land producing burrs and rough grass seeds, which will make a difference of fully 3d. per lb. in the sale.

Hitherto Liverpool has been very little patronised as a colonial wool market, but it has taken the lead in foreign wools. Its proximity with the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire and Lancashire, as compared with London, is a saving of expenses in carriage, &c. of a ½d. to a ¾d. per lb. to the buyer, which, in the present day, thinks it a good profit; and the ready transit to the west of England, brings us pretty much on a par with London to those manufacturers.

ABRAHAM GARTSIDE & Co.

Liverpool, Nov. 7th, 1846.

The samples referred to above were specimens taken from the eighteen bales prepared by Mr. Stokes, for the *Unicorn* last year—his second shipment of scoured wool; 92 bales having been previously sent by the *Halifax Packet*.

#### LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

On the day of our publication last month the important news of the discovery of coal in Western Australia was given to our readers in a "Supplement Extraordinary." Of course we have not yet received any further intelligence on this subject; but during the month letters and papers have reached us partly filling the blank which has intervened between the news previously possessed, and the late date of the letters which announced the important discovery in question. They were carried by the *Cumberland* to Batavia and bring intelligence down to the 27th May. We are only enabled to add one sitting to our reports of the Legislative Council given at page 80.

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:  
SESSION, 1846.

May 7.—A return was produced which showed that the cash paid for Crown lands since January 1842, amounted to £178 : 15s., the number of acres sold being 167¾, and the number of purchasers, four. A memorial from Mr. Cole, was presented by the Governor, praying for a revision of the Licensing Act, to prevent the evasions now being practised by some of the publicans and by merchants. Mr. Singleton postponed his resolutions on the sale of Crown lands until the receipt of a memorial now being got up over the hills on the subject of the rejected Squatting Bill of the Council; and the ordinance was then read a third time and passed. Adjourned to the 4th June.

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REVENUE.—The return of the revenue and expenditure for the quarter ending 31st March, 1846, shows receipts to the amount of £2,323, 6s. and disbursements of £2,123, 8s. 9d. The expenditure for the quarter defrayed from the Government grant was £1989, 15s. 2d.

## GENERAL NEWS.

THE TRADE WITH CEYLON.—The SWAN RIVER NEWS of May 1st,\* gave some particulars of Mr Curtis's adventure to Ceylon, which did not reach the Perth papers until some time afterwards, thus again displaying the vigilance and activity of our correspondents. On the return of the *Vixen* with Mr. Curtis, it was found that the report was most encouraging, there being a large demand for the sandal wood, timber, horses, sheep, and potatoes of Western Australia. Mr Curtis sold some sheep in ill condition, being the remainder of his sea stock for £1 each. The peculiar position of Western Australia secures this profitable market to herself without fear of competition.—THE TRADE WITH THE MAURITIUS. The *Cumberland* had returned with reports of the sale of the cargo she carried up from Swan River and which appear in the *Inquirer* of May 20. As, however, they were supplied by the correspondents who furnished the SWAN RIVER NEWS with its information four months ago,† the only points to be noticed are that some pigs, not mentioned in our report, sold at the rate of three guineas a head half an hour after the ship's arrival, and were afterwards declared worth four. The tanners at the Mauritius are said to prefer the bark of the Western Australian black wattle to any other, and there appears also a demand for timber, goats, potatoes, &c., but the market is not to be depended upon, being subject to great fluctuations, although with discretion and judgment it might be made very profitable. CRICKET MATCH.—We believe the first Cricket Match ever played in the colony came off on Monday, May 11th, at Perth, between the Perth Club and eleven of the tradesmen and mechanics of the town. The playing appears to have been fair, and the Perth Club were declared the winners.—THE SHIP "CUMBERLAND," which brought the present mail to Batavia, was to return to the colony for the wool early in November.

[The "Supplement Extraordinary" to the SWAN RIVER NEWS published on the arrival of intelligence to the 2nd of August, at the close of October, contained a condensed but complete summary of the important information. The following extracts from our correspondents' letters &c. were deferred for want of room.]

## FROM OUR OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENTS.

The quantity of grain sown this year far exceeds our last year's, and the crops are

looking well. The season has been unusually favorable from early rains having occurred.

S. M.

Elsewhere you will find full information of the great discovery of coal in the Murray district. I need therefore only add that I have seen the samples—that when crushed and put into a retort, it gives hydrogen gas in abundance; and fossil ferns have been found in the *strata*.

G. J. W.

## FROM OUR PRIVATE INFORMATION.

THE "RIVER CHIEF."—We are grieved to hear that the *River Chief* has been sold to some parties connected with South Australia for a tenth of her cost, and will sail from that colony.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.—The election for the office of cashier to the Western Australian Bank, made vacant by the death of Mr. Wells, terminated, as we stated last month, by the return of Mr. Francis Lochée, by a very flattering majority of 78 out of 163 votes, the numbers at the close of the poll being—

Lochée . . . . .	103
Collinson . . . . .	55
Wood . . . . .	5

and eleven votes, only, remaining unrecorded.

DEATH OF DR. HARRIS.—We announce with regret the decease of Dr. Harris the colonial surgeon, in addition to that of Dr. Hinds, reported in our last.

## BIRTH AND DEATH.

## BIRTH.

Meikleham, Mrs. G. C., May 4, a daughter.

## DEATH.

Meikleham, the infant daughter of Dr., May 6, aged two days.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVALS AT FREMANTLE.—*Emma Sherratt*, May 7, from Adelaide.—*Cumberland*, Sinclair, May 12, from Mauritius.—*Vixen*, Back, May 16, from Colombo.

DEPARTURES FROM FREMANTLE.—*Emma Sherratt*, May 10, for Mauritius.—*Lightning*, July 24, for Adelaide.

PASSENGER LIST.—*Cumberland*, from Mauritius; Mr. F. Wittenoom.—*Vixen*, from Colombo; Mr. and Mrs. Peck, Messrs. John Mackie and A. Curtis.—*Emma Sherratt*, for Mauritius; Mr. C. Bedingfield.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. REVELEY's letter on "The Sale of Crown Lands," was in type, but was withdrawn to make room for the news by the *Cumberland*. It shall appear in No. 37, together with the article on "Steam Communication," by Mr. SINGLETON, the letters of A SUBSCRIBER, and of Mr. WHITE, the suggestion of Mr. LEAKE, and the concluding paper of "A History of the Press in Western Australia."

\* See No. 29, page 41. † See No. 32, page 65.

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**SIMMONDS' COLONIAL MAGAZINE,** for December, published this day, price 2s. 6d. contains—Steam Communication between the West Indies and United States.—Report on Immigration to New South Wales.—Notes for Emigrants to New Brunswick, by Dr. Gesner.—A Visit to the New Zealand Chiefs, Heke and Kawiti.—Colonial and Foreign Shipping Returns.—Riles, Rambles, and Sketches in Texas (concluded).—The English and American Whale Fisheries Contrasted.—Railways in India.—The present state and future prospects of the Cape Colony.—The Grievances of the Colonies.—And a variety of other interesting articles; besides a Summary of the latest Intelligence from our Colonies.  
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