

Mr. Browning replied — "Decidedly," and cited the following instance from his Western Australian experience:—

"There was a vessel called the *North America*, whaling off the west coast of Australia, in 1843. She was whaling off the port of Leschenault, and during a gale of wind was driven on shore. Captain Scott, the harbour-master of Fremantle, (the principal port in the Swan River settlement), with great expense and trouble got her off and floated her, and he came to me and said, "I have been at great expense with this vessel in getting her off; what shall I do with her? That is a thing I never thought of." I replied, "I do not know, unless you repair her, and send her up the Persian Gulf or to Manilla;" for you can obtain a Spanish register by bribing the authorities; and he said, "I cannot go to that expense;" and he let her go ashore, and the vessel went to pieces; the materials are so cheap in those colonies, that it does not pay to break ships up."

In answering question 1026, Mr. Browning took occasion again to bring the jarrah wood of Western Australia before the notice of the Committee.

It is beside our duty to enter into the merits of the general question; we have contented ourselves with giving those portions of the evidence before the Committee, which touched upon Western Australia, and we are sure the colonists will be indebted to Mr. Browning for the honest testimony he has borne to the value of their resources in their forests and their bays.

ARRIVAL OF THE DISPATCH.

THE *Dispatch*, Captain John Elsdon, the first wool ship of the season, arrived off Folkestone on the 25th, having left Swan River on the 10th January, and St. Helena on the 5th March, thus performing the entire voyage in a hundred and five days. She brings about 600 bales wool; 17 packages gum; 15 bales hides; 88 bundles whalebone; besides 7414 trenails; and the following passengers:—cabin—Captain J. Scully, Messrs. J. Turner, J. Bessonnet, B. Reeves, H. Spurling, G. Thorpe, Mrs. Thorpe, and child; steerage—Mr. Hamlin. We have not room for a copy of her manifest this month, but it shall appear in our next.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

By the *Dispatch* whose arrival is reported in another column, we have received advices from Western Australia to the 9th January a summary of which will be found below.

VINEYARD SOCIETY.—The ninth half-yearly meeting was held at Perth on the 6th October. The report of the Secretary was very important but being more of a theoretical than statistical character might be less interesting

to the home reader. After the disposal of some routine business, the meeting dispersed.

THE REVENUE for the quarter ending September 29th amounted to £1,795 : 4 : 3, and the expenditure to £1,876 : 7 : 5 out of the Colonial Fund, and £1,907 : 19 : 7 out of the Government grant.

YORK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The Annual Meeting of the Society took place at Monger's Hotel on the 28th October, T. Brown Esq. in the chair; the attendance however was very small. The business consisted of the distribution of prizes to the breeders of cattle &c., the election of officers and the passing of a series of resolutions, the principal of which was the usual protest against the sale of Crown Lands Act.

GENERAL NEWS.

OVERLAND COMMUNICATION WITH SOUTH AUSTRALIA. Proposals had been received from South Australia for the opening of an overland route so that the exporters of cattle, &c., in the latter colony might avail themselves of the newly discovered Port Gladstone to ship their stock from thence, and thus save the long and hazardous sea voyage. This would be of immense importance to both colonies but we fear that neither of them has the enterprise to carry it out.—ALOE CORDAGE. A fine specimen of cordage has been manufactured from the aloe and has suggested the importance of extensively cultivating that valuable plant.—WESTERN AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. The Annual Meeting of this Society should have taken place on the 25th September, but none of the members were in attendance, and only the Treasurer and Secretary, of the officers. Nothing can be more disgraceful to the colonists than the fall of this old and once well organized Society, but it is highly characteristic of the apathy and want of spirit which pervades the slovenly community it was intended to benefit: the farming interest.—THE NATIVES had been rather troublesome in the neighbourhood of Bunbury, committing considerable depredations on the flocks.—LAUNCH AT FREMANTLE. A new vessel of 100 tons belonging to Messrs. Thomas and called the *Privado* was launched at Fremantle amid much enthusiasm on the 10th October. She is built entirely of the Jarrah wood, and is described as a beautiful model.—CONCERT. Another Concert in aid of the Perth Church Organ fund took place at Perth on the 8th October.—MR. SINGLETON'S MISSION. Mr. Singleton had returned from his expedition to Singapore. Of course nothing could be fixed with regard to the steam route so that, at present, the matter remains *in statu quo*.—PRICES OF STOCK at York fair, October 28th: sheep, 9s. to

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12s. 6d.; a filly, eighteen months old, £11 11s.; bullocks bought in at £8.—**YORK RACES** came off on October 29th; winners, 1, Yorkshire stakes for horses not exceeding four years old, Mr. Burge's b. m. "Brunette." 2, Margeux challenge cup, Mr. Brockman's "Robin Hood." 3, Lady's purse for half-bred Timors, Mr. Burge's br. g. "Tom Thumb." 4, Hurdle Race, settler's cup, Mr. Brockman's br. g. "High Flyer." 5, Pony Race for Timors, Mr. Bibra's "Chips." 6, Perth Stakes, Mr. Brockman's br. h. "Robin Hood."—**A NEW COLONIAL MANUFACTURE** has been commenced by Messrs. Lennard and Hawes of Perth in the shape of cement chimney pots which are considered a great improvement.—**THE FIRST SWARM OF BEES** in the colony took place on the 6th November from the stock lately imported by Lieutenant Helpman. The young brood was carefully secured.—**CAMELS.** Orders had been sent to India for four Camels for the purpose of breeding that useful animal, and their arrival was expected daily.—**THE BLACKBOY GUM** has been turned to a new use and is found an excellent substitute for pitch.—**THE DAGUERRETYPE** has been introduced into the colony by Mr. Robert Hall, to the delight of the worthy inhabitants of Perth.—**MR. DRUMMOND**, the eminent botanist of Western Australia has received a present of £200 from Her Majesty in consideration of his services to the science.—**CHEESES** had been manufactured by Mr. Cooke of Northam and Mr. Chapman of the Vasse in large quantities, and in quality superior, it is alleged, to any imported.—**LEATHER** has been manufactured by Mr. Stokes, which competes with imported leather, successfully.—**DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.** We regret to have to announce the deaths of the Hon. Peter Brown for eighteen years Colonial Secretary of Western Australia, and of Charles Macfaull Esq., Editor and Proprietor, as well as founder of the *Perth Gazette* the particulars of which will be found in our obituary; Mr. G. F. Moore succeeds Mr. Brown, and Mr. R. W. Nash takes the place of Mr. Moore as Advocate General, relinquishing the editorship but retaining the property, of the *Inquirer* newspaper. Mr. Moore, it will be seen, has led to the altar, the step daughter of the Governor, Miss Jackson the daughter of the Reverend E. Jackson, M. A.—**THE CROPS** promised favorably and an average supply was expected: the green crops had been rather injured by caterpillars but the rains had cleansed them: the vines were unusually forward, and ripe peaches had been gathered in the latter end of November. **TREASURY BILLS** to the amount £1,800 were tendered for and discounted on the 25th

November at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—**THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF WINE** produced in the colony, was made by Mr. Shenton in the *Thetis* from Fremantle to King George's Sound.—**THE "VIXEN"** was about to be again dispatched to Ceylon with a cargo of sheep, horses, sandal wood, &c.—**EXHIBITION OF FRUIT.** An annual exhibition was about to be established by the Vineyard Society, the first to take place on the 10th of February.—**WHALING.** At the close of the whaling season the following rough estimate of the result was made: the Fremantle Company had taken 41 tuns, Habgood and Viveash 41, Hurford and Penny, and Cheyne, say 80, and the *Thetis* 25: total 186 tons, valued at £6,130. Value of bone taken, about £700 or £800.

FROM OUR PRIVATE INFORMATION.

THE dispatches of our correspondent have not yet arrived; but we have seen private communications which mention that Messrs. Younghusband & Co., and other parties were about to enter into the sandal wood trade between Fremantle and Singapore, and that the first ship was on the eve of sailing from Adelaide. The value of the sandal wood at Canton is stated at £30 per ton.

BIRTHS MARRIAGE & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

Habgood, Mrs. R. M., at Perth, Dec. 30, a daughter.
Irwin, Mrs. F. C., at Perth, Oct. 26, a son.
Knight, Mrs. J., at Bunbury, Sept. 8, a daughter.
Lennard, Mrs. E. P. B., at St. Leonard's, Sept. 4, a son.
Samson, Mrs. L., at Perth, Dec. 3, a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

Moore, Hon. G. F. to Miss F. M. J. Jackson, at Perth, Oct. 29.

DEATHS.

Beecham, Miss E. at Perth, Dec. 20, aged 54.
Brown, Hon. P. at Fremantle, Nov. 5, aged 49.
McFaul, C. at Perth, Dec. 13, aged 46.
Meloy, H. at Perth, Sept. 26, aged 15.
Middleton, Mrs., Mount Henry, Oct. 14, aged 64.
Samson, the infant daughter of Mrs. L., at Perth, Dec. 3.
Sholl, E. R. at Perth, Dec. 31, aged 4 years.

Dispatches for the Governor of Western Australia were sent off from the Colonial Office on the 8th April.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVALS AT FREMANTLE—*Lightning*, Thompson, Sept. 9, from Adelaide.—*Dispatch*, Elsdon, Oct. 4, from London.—H. M. S. *Champion*, Helpman, 18, from Singapore.—*Emma Sherratt*, Chinnery, Oct. 25, from the Cape and Mauritius.—*Joseph Albino*, Finnis, Nov. 9, from Adelaide.—*Unicorn*, Mullens, Jan. 4, from London.

DEPARTURES FROM FREMANTLE—*Lightning*, Thompson, Sept. 14, for Singapore.—*Hawk*, Allen, 16, for Singapore.—*Emma Sherratt*, Chinnery, Nov. 6, for Adelaide.—*Joseph Albino*, Finnis, 25, for Adelaide.—*Dispatch*, Elsdon, Jan. 10, for London.

Dispatch, Elsdon, from Swan River, arrived at St. Helena, March 5, and off Folkestone, April 26.

PASSENGER LIST.—*Lightning*, from Adelaide; Messrs. Vigers and W. Samson.—*Joseph Albino*, for Adelaide; Mrs. Belcher, Miss Lowson, Miss Mackenzie, Mrs. Smith.—*Champion* from Singapore; Messrs. Singleton and Searle.—*Emma Sherratt*, from Mauritius; Lieut. White, E.S.C.S., Messrs. Dick and Cock, Madam le Do., Mr. and Mrs. Owen and child.—*Joseph Albino*, for Adelaide; Mr. W. Sampson and family, Mrs. Andrews and family, Messrs. Williams, Collinson, Hall, and Smith.—*River Chief*, for Adelaide, 20 in the Steerage.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. L. (Higham).—In the present unsettled state of the communication, we would advise our correspondent to wait the departure of the *Dispatch*, and to send his letters only by the direct opportunities.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SWAN RIVER, (WESTERN AUSTRALIA).—Will be dispatched the 10th of June, the fine, fast-sailing Ship *DISPATCH*, Burthen 300 Tons, JOHN ELSDON, Commanding, lying in the West India Docks. Has excellent accommodation for cabin and steerage passengers. For Freight of Passage apply to WILLIAM FELGATE & Co., 4, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street.

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"	5 " "	6 " 11 " "
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