

which occasionally gather on approaching changes of weather over Boomer Hill, flying about in a wild and disorderly manner, and screeching most horribly.

On the 1st September, I went to Richmond, 25 miles through the Bush, to the Annual Meeting for renewing and granting licences. All the old licences were renewed ; but when the question of new licences came on, the Chairman, who was the police-magistrate of the district, produced a letter **from** the Chief Police Magistrate at Hobarton, stating that it was the order of the **Lieut.-Governor** that no new licences should be granted. There was much dissatisfaction expressed at this by the "great unpaid," and it certainly was a stretch of power which ought not to have been used without a strong occasion for it. I believe that I was the only "**stipendiary**" who thought so ; and I suggested that if amongst the new applications there were one particularly required, it should be brought forward, and, if carried by a majority, represented to the **Lieut.-Governor** for his subsequent consideration. It was contended that the letter of the **Lieut.-Governor** was imperative, and ought not even to be discussed-which was most abjectly **and** improperly submitted to, and there the business ended. I could not concur in this, and stated it as my opinion, that we were met as "justices," and had a public duty to perform, and that the "stipendiaries" had better stay away ; but submission to orders **from** head-quarters I found to be the rule, and there was no disposition to make this an exception to it. **The** manner of communicating the opinion of the **Lieut.-Governor** was most objectionable : there was plenty of time to have done it before the public meeting took place, and it ought to have been quietly made known ; but obedience and submission are alone attended **to**, and the feelings and opinions of gentlemen in the commission of the peace are considered by those in authority of very little importance.

I dined afterwards with a large party at **Major** Schaw's, where, amongst others, I met the Rev. *Mr.* Aislabie, the son of the late Mr. Aislabie, who will be so well remembered as the secretary of Lord's Cricket Club. I met also a chap, a half French, half Jersey man, (who had formerly held a commission in the 21st Regiment, which he sold out of on their going on to India,) who united the bad qualities of both. He ventured a joke or two on the past events of the day ; but I returned him such a "Rowland for his Oliver," that he soon found he had caught a Tartar, and quickly changed his manners.

On my way back next day, **I** was to stop and sleep at my friend parsons's-got well wet through, lost my way, and wandered some two

or three hours in the Bush, got right at last, and found on my arrival that I was two hours too late for dinner; but this, through the kindness and attention of the "lady of the house," I had not long to regret. The hospitality of my worthy host soon made me oblivious of my wetting, and in our libations we did not forget the "land of our birth," good luck and prosperity to it.

. Having previously obtained permission, I began the enclosure of about four acres of the Bush, and with the **labour** I occasionally had here, felled the trees, burned the scrub, made a capital fence to keep out cattle and sheep, and soon had it in a fit state for the plough-when I set "**John Turvey**" to work with his capital team of oxen, and very soon had half of it sown with oats, and some with potatoes and turnips. This is all for the benefit of our district constable, who is an excellent public servant, and deserves every encouragement. I had also cleared away all round the Watch-house, and made a green, where, if there had been any players, a good game of cricket might be played-my principle being, that wherever you are, you should, if you can, leave things better than you found them. I had great pleasure in doing this as an example, and employing the poor devils who were occasionally in confinement, in something that was useful, instead of letting them be locked up, **and** consequently idle. I always made them work by **task**, which in most instances they found harder than their masters' service; and when they had once been under my "care and inspection," they were careful to avoid it. for the future : indeed, I had only two instances of a second visit during my residence at Prosser's. I consider that I entirely cleared about twelve acres of land, and improved a great deal more; and I hope my successor will follow my example.

I had written to the surveyor-general for a plan of our township, and I offered, with the assistance of half-a-dozen convicts who would have been of no extra expense, to mark out the streets, lay **down** a kerb with stone quarried in the **neighbourhood**, fence in the lots, and clear them of useless timber, which, whenever they should again attempt a sale, would ensure purchasers at a very increased price ; but this, I suppose, was considered a **superfluous** interference, as, although the plan was sent, I never heard anything more about it : indeed, the system seems to be, to do nothing voluntarily, lest you should incur responsibility, -stick to precedents and you are safe., How very little difference distance makes in the course of regular **official** conduct !— nothing could have been better **from** Downing **Street** itself. I hope all this will speedily be altered, and that the "go-ahead system" will

be substituted for the “do-nothing.” How men can sit down contented when such obvious improvements can so easily be effected, I cannot comprehend ; but I suppose it arises from their entire reliance upon the “higher powers,” to which they have been always accustomed.

As was expected, nothing further was heard **from** the Lieutenant-Governor about the roads; which induced me to look into the Road **Act**—the “celebrated Road Act,” as John **Morgan** calls it, and which, at the time of its passing the Council, had excited so strong an opposition from the press and the public, that it had been shelved and almost forgotten. They have a terrible objection here to anything that **has** the appearance of “direct **taxation** ;” and they had mistaken the “rating,” to be made by themselves, for their own decided advantage, (which the act permitted,) for such taxation. This act, like many others here, must have been passed for the benefit of some individual who had contrived to get into **favour** with the higher powers, since, under the pompous title of “Director General of Roads,” they had managed to give to some one a salary of **£500** per annum, with travelling expenses **and** other addenda, making together at least **£1000** a year, whose duties were the superintending the road **from Hobarton to Launceston**. Whether the party receiving the money knew practically anything about the proper construction of a road or not, was quite immaterial ; the present man, who has been recently appointed, does not in the least pretend to it. This act, as far as the districts named in **it** were concerned, could not be **carried** into operation ; for **although** they had provided for the payment of surveyors, treasurers, clerks, and **collectors**, after the act should have commenced, they had forgotten to provide for its commencement, since no one could vote for commissioners unless he had paid the rates that were to be made **from** time to time, *after the commissioners were appointed*, and which were limited to **six-pence** in the pound on the rental. They ought to have followed the example set them in England on the passing of turnpike acts, where a certain number of persons are named in the bills to give it a **commencement**.

The beginning of October is the time appointed for taking an account all over the island of the number of acres granted ‘and in cultivation, with the probable produce. We found in our district of Spring Bay a very considerable increase in both land and stock, as shown by the following statement :—

ACRES IN CULTIVATION.		PROBABLE PRODUCE.	
	1841.	1842.	
Wheat .....	786	1,091	Bushels ,..... 16,042 21,234
Barley ,.....	135	187	„ .....
Oats .....	110	186	„ .....
Pease.....	55	16	„ .....
Beans.....	—	3	„ .....
Potatoes .....	50	44	Tons .....
Turnips.....	250	223	„ .....
Tares .....	3	59	Bushels .....
English grass .....	100	147	Ton.. .....

**1,489 1,956**

Granted but not cultivated .....	34,434	45,967
Acres .....	35,923	47,923

Horses .....	138	150
Cattle .....	1,985	3,173
Sheep .....	25,463	28,570
Goats .....	133	158

A great many pigs, of a very capital sort, but no account is taken of them.

**POPULATION IN 1841.**

	MALES.	FEM.
Under 2 years .....	9	14
2 not exceeding 7... ..	11	19
7 „ 14....	8	16
14 „ 21....	18	7
21 „ 45....	227	53
45 „ 60....	23	4
60 and upwards.....	12	1
	<b>308</b>	<b>114</b>
Married .....	55	43
Born in the colony . . . .	35	47

The district of Spring Bay, which includes Prosser's Plains, contains rather more than **500,000** acres of land, about one-tenth of which has been granted ; it is one-fortieth of the whole island, and contains about the one-hundred-and-twentieth of the population, which, by the forthcoming census of 1842, I consider will be shown to have very considerably **increased**.

A subscription had been entered into last year to raise the sum of **£300**, to which Government would add another \$300, for the erection of a church. This had fallen to the ground ; but as it was highly desirable, if possible, that it should be accomplished, I took it up, and had the satisfaction of procuring subscriptions to rather more than the required amount. When the subscription list was completed, I sent an account of it to Hobarton. There, I found, a jealousy had sprung up amongst the clergy about the proper course to be taken to bring it before the **Lieut.-Governor**. I communicated this to the principal subscribers, and advised them, that as the Bishop was coming out, they should take no further steps in it until his arrival, and then a small committee should be deputed to wait on him, which would prove a ready and certain way of accomplishing their wishes; and this was agreed to.

The 9th October being rather **an** interesting day to me, and one which I had always been in the custom of **keeping as a holiday, I saw no reason why** I should not continue it out here as well as I could ; so I invited **Cruttenden, Parsons, Grueber, Rudd,** and two or three others, to dine with me, when such of us as met passed a comparatively agreeable day together.

14th October.-Some gentlemen, with whom I had previously been conversing on the subject, having come to me to consult on the proper steps to be taken to put the Road Act in force, I read it through, and satisfied them that it was not the “ raw head and bloody bones ” that they had taken it for. It was rather extraordinary, that not one person whom I had spoken to on the subject had a correct notion of the power of rating which it conferred. It was determined that they should address a requisition to me (as is provided in the act), to call a public meeting of all the parties interested, which on receiving I promised forthwith to comply with.

I to-day received a letter, in answer to one I had written him four or five **months** before, **from** my old and valued friend William Spain, Esq., the commissioner at New Zealand for settling disputed titles to land. He detailed to me pretty fully his adventures on his passage out, which appear to have **been** anything but pleasant and agreeable. How little did either of us, when we dined together for the last time in England, dream of ever being again within a thousand miles of each other ! He is a capital **good** fellow-long life and happiness to him, and his large and interesting family !

27th October.-Went to Spring Bay, where there were lots of charges and counter-charges, from a party of whalers, who had been fishing in boats during the season on that coast. The season was bad, which had put them out of temper with each other. I heard them all very **fully,** and then gave a decision which did not seem to be **well** liked by **Jamie M'William,** the head of the party, whose object evidently was to get rid of the payment of wages that would be due to some of the men on their return to Hobarton. They were altogether a rough and ferocious lot of fellows, and, under the circumstances in which they came before me, I think no one could have satisfied them. I consider it very **ques-**tionable how far bay or shore fishing for whales should be allowed. It seems to be admitted that the fish are not near so plentiful as they used to be, which may be attributed to that cause, for it seems very like killing the goose which laid the golden egg. Another reason for the scarcity of fish may be the very great increase of French and American whalers, The riches extracted from the “ deep, deep sea ” are to **an**

immense amount, but I regret to hear that our ships engaged in the trade are gradually decreasing in numbers. The consumption of sperm and other whale oils is, I believe, not on the decrease in England ; and if there are any causes or real impediments why our ships cannot carry on the fishery as advantageously as the French and Americans, they ought to be removed. A ship when ready for sea may cost more in **England** than abroad; but when it is considered how large a proportion of **labour** enters into her construction and equipment, we ought to make great efforts to keep ourselves at least upon an equality with others.

The oats in our clearing are looking well, particularly on those spots where the trees were burnt off and the ashes spread out—evidently showing, against the dictum of many out here, that manure is unnecessary and useless. The weather is very squally, and there have been three or four hail-storms, which were not over pleasant, as I was caught in one where there *was no* shelter, and felt the effect against my face as strong as I **ever** did in England.

We have a rustic wooden bridge over our river, and I have been damming the water back, which makes a very pretty **fall**—not quite equal to that at “Niagara,” but of course very much like it. In clearing away the banks of the river I found several handsome creepers ; the clematis is **splendid** both in appearance and **odour**, and one with a small blue flower is *really* beautiful. There *are* a great many flowering trees and shrubs around us, and a judicious selection from them would have **an** elegant appearance on a lawn or pleasure-ground ;—on my suggesting this to a gentleman here, he promised to set an example, and plant a selection of them round his house.

28th October.—The anniversary of our leaving Gravesend. What a change **from** the vicinity of the Metropolis of England and **the** world, to **a** small secluded spot, where the hand of industry and **civilisation** only begins to be visible, but which **in** future ages may form part of a country almost as important and interesting as England now is ! Van **Dieman's** Land cannot fail in future times to become of great importance—its situation, climate, and productions all tend towards it ; and in the next fifty **years**, **another** problem will be solved, whether a country, a large **part** of whose original population were more or less criminals, can shake off its original character, and become fit for **civilised** government. I am decidedly of opinion that if common justice be done to the colony, it will continue to thrive and prosper, and that a large proportion of its hitherto unfortunate inhabitants will reform and become good and useful subjects,

5th November.—I met some gentlemen by appointment at **Spring**

Bay, to whom I explained the bearing of the Road Act, when they sign the requisition for the general meeting, and promised to attend it. Go back to Cruttenden's to dinner, off a splendid turkey that had been kept up for a month fattening, and all other things to match. The ladies his sisters, are capital managers ; the pastry excellent ; and the **dinner** cake, with a good dash of sherry over it, equal to any in **England**. When last in Hobarton, Cruttenden had engaged a free man, his wife and seven children, who had just arrived out from England, to come down to **his** place, where he intends settling them on a little farm ; I am determined to have some originally free people about him. They are **from** Kent, his own native county ; we went to look at them **the** morning, and I like their appearance very much. I have often **talked** about and recommended this to him, and have at last persuaded him into it ; and this first attempt will, I hope, answer **his** expectation. Use in this, as in all other cases, deadens the feelings ; but to me nothing seemed more disagreeable and unpleasant, than that you should have about you on your farm none but those who were or had been prisoners : *this* feeling must, I think, be more general than is **acknowledged**, as all **the** free immigrants who have arrived have been **engaged** immediately on landing, on terms which, I trust, will be mutually **advantageous**. Our Doctor had been out to-day **snipe-shooting** : **occasionally** when in season they are very plentiful ; he had got his **pockets** full, and offered me three brace, which I accepted, and found to be **very pretty** picking at **breakfast**, instead of the usual mutton chop to **which** we are almost **always** restricted.

7th November.-This is the anniversary of our leaving **Plymouth** when for almost the last **time** I had a view of **dear** Old **England** which I perhaps may never see again. Lots of reflections crowd up my mind, but I dismiss them as useless ; "Forward" must be my motto for the future.

9th November.-Lord Mayor's Day, and the **anniversary** of the birth of the little Prince of Wales, who I dare say begins already to show himself a very promising prince. I have invited a few friends to dine with me, when we shall **endeavour** to do all the honours to that occasion ; and I shall not forget the health of the new Mayor of Plymouth, whoever he **may be**, and hope he will deserve it, to **which** I shall **most** unquestionably add, what I have often drunk with old and attached friends, "Independence and prosperity to the Old Borough." The swallows are beginning to appear in large numbers : they are **different** in plumage and appearance from those at home, but their habits are just the same.

(To be continued.)

## ON THE CULTURE OF COTTON IN JAMAICA.

READ AT THE MEETING OF THE JAMAICA SOCIETY, NOV. 13, 1843.

IN the present declining prosperity of the British West India Colonies, their inhabitants have naturally looked around to ascertain whether the cultivation of some other tropical production might not be resorted to, less dependent on continuous **labour**, and requiring less capital than the staple productions which have hitherto constituted our principal dependence. The revival of the cultivation of Cotton has especially attracted notice. It was in former times an object of considerable importance in this island. It does not, however, appear that much skill or pains were bestowed on it. Mr. Edwards, the historian of **our** island, states that a **very** inferior description of cotton was produced. It was coarse, badly cleaned, and brought, the lowest price in the English market. "Such; however," observes Mr. Edwards, speaking of the times in which he lived, "is the obstinacy of habit, that few of the planters give themselves the trouble of selecting a better sort, or seem even to wish for it."

The expense of cultivation also appears to have been unaccountably high when compared with the cost elsewhere. Thus in the States, at the present time, the expense of cultivation averages two-pence halfpenny sterling for the pound of cotton ; whereas in our West India Colonies it **is** said to have amounted to seven-pence. As **our** West India cotton has always been of an inferior description, it is not to be wondered that, as the prices declined, the cultivation of this important article was gradually abandoned.

There is a great **difficulty** in discriminating botanically the **different species** of the cotton plant. The conclusion I have at present come to is that there are two species of cotton cultivated in our Western Hemisphere-

1. *Gossypium Barbadense*, cultivated in the Southern States of America ; and 2. *G. Peruvianum* or *G. Brasiliense*, cultivated in the **Brasils**.

The **first** species has received its specific designation **from** the circumstance that it was at an earlier period cultivated in the island of Barbados. Dr. **Royle**, however, is .of opinion that Mexico **is properly** entitled to **be** regarded as its native country. There are two **varieties** of it in cultivation. The one is known by the name of the *green-seeded*, and yields a short staple cotton, to which the designation of *bowed* Georgia is given in the markets. The appellation *bowed* is applied

from the circumstance that in former times the pods were opened by striking them smartly with a bow-string, preparatory to the removal of the seeds. The designation continues to be retained, although the practice has given place to more improved methods. This variety appears to have been cultivated in America long anterior to the Revolutionary war.

. The other variety of *G. Barbadosense* produces the long staple or sea-island cotton. It was brought to Georgia from the Bahamas in 1706 ; but is supposed to have originally been a native of a small West-India island called Anguilla, and it was long known after its introduction by the name of Anguilla cotton.

It is not unlikely but that these two varieties may, on more accurate examination, be found to constitute two distinct species.

The *Gossypium Peruvianum*, or, as I have designated it in my *Flora*, *G. Brasiliense*, is commonly known in the States by the name of the kidney-seeded, and yields that description of cotton which is brought from the Brazils, Pernambuco, Bahia, and other places in South America. It was introduced into the Southern States ; but having been found to be less productive and the produce less valuable than the long staple, it was soon given up.

It is not my intention to give here a detailed account of the cultivation of cotton. One of the points which I would wish to impress on you is, that, should you enter on the cultivation of this article, let your seeds be ever so well selected, the cotton will deteriorate, unless you bestow on it a very high degree of cultivation. We have proofs of this in the attempts made to compete with the sea-island, by cotton the produce of our possessions in the East Indies. The Indian cottons have always been low in price, from the inferiority of length of staple and imperfect cleaning. They had, however, some useful properties, such as a good colour, taking dyes readily, and swelling in the process of bleaching, which gives the cloth a more substantial appearance. This latter property, although it was a recommendation to the weavers of Benares and Manchester, was objected to (we are informed by Professor Royle) by those of Decca, as unsuited for their delicate fabrics—" webs of woven air ;" preferring the cotton grown in their own neighbourhood, where the climate and soil were moist. It appears to be peculiar to all cottons grown in dry situations, that the fibres should swell when freely exposed to moisture.

To improve the quality of their cotton, the East India Company have been at a considerable expense. American planters have been sent out, with seeds, ploughs, and all the necessary machines. At first the cotton produced was superior to any that had previously been set

from India. Some samples from Mr. **Elphinstone** at **Rutnagherry**, and Dr. **Rurn** at **Kaira**, were considered equal to the best New Orleans, and not much inferior to sea-island. After a time, however, from **carelessness**, the want of due cultivation and skill, the quality became deteriorated. We may, therefore, conclude that the superior quality of the **sea-island** is to be attributed to the high cultivation which is bestowed on it. It has, indeed, been ascertained that the quality of cotton will, under neglected cultivation, degenerate as readily in America as anywhere else.

I again repeat, that if you wish to engage successfully in the cultivation of cotton, you must be prepared to bestow the same care and attention which it receives in the Carolinas and Georgia. The American mode of culture partakes in a great measure of the nature of garden cultivation. The land is prepared by ploughing and **barrowing**, and each plant throughout its growth is carefully attended to. By these means, the roots thread freely through the loosened soil, and the inordinate growth of **young** shoots and leaves is restrained, to **favour** the production of flowers and fruit, and consequently of cotton.

I believe, in few productions does the price vary so much according to the quality. I find by a Liverpool Prices Current, that in July last sea-island cotton of the finest description sold for **21d.** whereas **Carthagena** brought only **Sd.** and **Surat** **23d.** It is evident therefore that **labour** and pains are well bestowed, if they have the **effect** of improving the quality and gaining a high price in the home market.

The Jamaica cotton-planter will have many advantages over the American. The **trees** with us are perennial : whereas in the States, although they **ratoon**, it is the practice to replant annually. In this climate also two crops are obtained: the first, which is the best, **after** the vernal rains; and a second after the autumnal. There are also many valuable varieties of cotton, which, although **they** cannot stand the cold on the approach of winter in the States, and die before forming the **fruit**, yet might be cultivated here with great advantage, and possibly a new cotton might among them be detected, <sup>superior</sup> even to the sea-island. It would be one of the services an experimental gardener might render to the island, the cultivating of every variety of cotton, till we should ascertain those which are most valuable and productive.

It is also a **favourable** circumstance, that the cotton does not require a very rich soil, and that there are extensive **tracts**, such as in **Liguanea**, which can be procured at a **cheap** rate, well suited for its **cultivation**. The cotton succeeds best in a **light** and sandy soil, particularly if the gravelly or sandy particles be held together by a small portion of clay or **calcareous** earth.