

The dryness of our climate also is of advantage, in collecting the pods, as the cotton is apt to be stained when gathered in damp weather.

Let us hope, therefore, that ere many years, we may witness frequent shipments of this valuable production. There need be no fears of the market being overstocked. The consumption of manufactured cottons has rapidly advanced during the present century. In the year 1791 the whole quantity of cotton exported **from the harbours** of the United States amounted to no more than sixty-four bags of **300 lbs.** each, Forty years after, in 1851, the exportation averaged 720,000 bags, in addition to 130,000 retained for domestic manufactures. We have therefore good ground for **calculating** that the consumption which at present appears so great, will not equal a moiety of that which may be the average a few years hence.

I may mention in conclusion, that a few weeks since I had the pleasure of inspecting the cotton plantation of Mr. Henry Gongrgues, at **Aranjuez**, in the neighbourhood of this city (Kingston). This gentleman deserves great credit for his enterprise, in doing that which so many are satisfied with merely proposing to do ; and I consider the grant he received from the House of Assembly as much below his deserts.

Mr. Gongrgues informed me that he obtained his seed **from New Orleans**, and that it was represented to him as the true sea-island. In our ignorance of the true botanical character of this variety, we cannot say positively whether he has obtained the real sort. We may be allowed to express the possibility, that from the **usual** carelessness of agents, the inferior sort, which grows in the neighbourhood of New Orleans, may have been forwarded. It must be allowed, however, that the cotton produced is of a very good quality. The first sample he sent to Liverpool sold for 8d. This sample was hand-picked ; whereas the second, which was cleaned with the gin, sold for **4½d. only.**

It does not appear to me that cultivation at Aranjuez is carried sufficiently far. The land was neither ploughed nor harrowed previous to planting. No weeds also ought to be allowed to establish themselves, as they not only impoverish the soil, but harbour the numerous insect tribes that in certain years destroy the hopes of the planter.

Mr. Gongrgues, however, has shown a good example, which it is to be hoped will be followed by many. Let us hope that ere long, we may, with the advantage of an increasing and intelligent population, see the plains on the south side of our island, **which**, in many localities, have been found to **possess** too poor a soil for the profitable cultivation of the sugar cane, covered with cotton plantations, and another valuable staple added to the exports of Jamaica.

J. M.

STATE OF AFFAIRS IN NEW ZEALAND.

THE deplorable circumstance of nineteen Englishmen having been murdered in Cook's Straits in New Zealand on the 17th of June in the past year, is an **occurrence** so afflicting and so awful, that almost the universal press of the United Kingdom called for inquiry and examination ; and as the truth is not to be discovered without a great deal of reading, much more than any Colonial minister can give to it, the writer of this determined to give the necessary time for the examination, and he has worked as much as if he had been a friend of that minister, jealous of his fame and reputation.

The real **causes** of this dreadful misfortune are soon told If the Report of the Committee of the House of Lords, and the evidence produced before it, are examined, it will be found that the Committee of the Church-of-England Missionary Society in London objected in the strongest manner to the **colonisation** of New Zealand, either by the Government, by a company, or individuals. The language of their secretary and that of the secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society was that of opposing it. • Mr. **Coates** was asked by Earl Devon, 14th of May, 1838,—

“ Do you think that any information **likely** to come in **answer to** a letter which so distinctly points out and assumes the injurious operation of the ‘measure, is likely to be more impartial and **satisfactory** than that which has been already received ?”

To which that gentleman made the following reply :—

“ My views extend, certainly, much further. I find it **difficult to** bring the **different** topics which have occurred to my mind distinctly before the Committee; but my views are not at all to limit the sources of information to the Missionary Societies ; very **far** from it. My solicitude **was,—adverting** to other topics besides that now under examination,—that the Government should issue instructions, or send an individual or individuals to New Zealand, who might investigate the **whole** subject, not merely as it regards Europeans or the **mis-**

• See the Evidence of D. **Coates**, Esq., and the Rev. J. **Beecham**, generally, from p. 243, following at p. 251, stating that “ the Committee (of the **Church-of-England** Missionary Society) have therefore determined to give the scheme of **colonisation** every opposition in their **power.**” This is a sentence in a letter addressed to the missionaries in New Zealand.

“ sions, but in another important bearing of the subject which I am
 “ anticipating, which **I** shall wish to enter into, with the **permission** of
 “ the Committee, at some length, and which I hold to be essential to a
 “ right adjustment of the question ; viz., the ascertaining what there
 “ may actually be in New Zealand, in the nature of law, or practice,
 “ or custom, or anything of that nature, under which the tribes **ad-**
 “ minister the affairs of their respective districts, and which, if **ascer-**
 “ tained, might, in connexion with other information, admit of the
 “ framing of a very simple code of laws for the native chiefs. This
 “ code, an attempt might induce the natives of a particular district to
 “ adopt, and to administer,-in fact, thus to raise up something of an
 “ efficient native government, which I believe is the great desideratum
 “ in reference to New Zealand.” •

This, at any rate, was a scheme for delay ; and had it been acted upon, New Zealand had now been a French colony, to the military law of which missionary, settler and native, all must have **bowed.** †
 Mr. **Coates** was next asked,-

“ Supposing the measure proposed were to embrace the appointment
 “ of a bishop to reside on the islands, do you think that would not be
 “ an advantage ?”

Answer.—“ **If** I am to understand the question as implying the **ap-**
 “ **pointment** of a bishop without a colony, I have no hesitation in **an-**
 “ **swering** the question in the **affirmative** : if the question implies that
 “ the bishop is to form a part of a colony in the usual system of
 “ colonies, my answer must be **different.**”

Thus, here is equally opposition to the imperial religious establish-
 ment **as** to the civil one.

The New Zealand Company was formed, notwithstanding this serious opposition ; and amongst its directors are numbered men of different **political** opinions, of **different** religions, of different pursuits in **life,**—noblemen, ship-owners, merchants,—in short, it appears to combine everything which a government could desire. It is not **to** be accounted for, but these missionary societies appear to have exercised a most **mischievous** influence in the Colonial Office. There was a **combination** of reasons for **colonising** these islands,—their geographical position, extent, **climate,** fertility of soil, adaptation for trade, seas abounding with fish

• Evidence of D. Coates, Esq., and the **Rev. J. Beecham**, p. 252.

† The French frigate **L'Aube** arrived at New Zealand five days after the proclamation of British sovereignty, bringing Captain Lavaud to declare that the King of the French.

the very heart of the whale-fishery. Still, if it were possessed by a **civilised** population, Great Britain had no right to attack them because their country was rich, productive, and convenient ; nor was such a proposition ever made, or such a wish ever entertained. And this leads to a short inquiry as to the state of the population : it consisted of scattered tribes, or rather families, whose principle of action was something more than that of hostility—nothing short of extermination, and feasting upon each other's bodies. But, fortunately, when speaking of them in comparison with the extent of the land, the number of the people was trifling— a little more than **100,000** *—in countries as large as Great Britain. Thus, the greater part of these **islands**— millions and millions of acres—is the undivided and unappropriated demesne of nature, where the foot of man has never yet trod.

But, **whatever** may have been the population, according to the report of Mr. Busby, the Resident, to the Governor of New South Wales, “ the depopulation of the country has been going on, till district after district has become void of its inhabitants, and the population is, even now, but a remnant of what it was in the memory of some European **residents.**” † What natives there are, live almost entirely on the **sea-coast.** ‡ Whatever the Committee of the Church Missionary Society in London might think as **to** the native chiefs forming a government, “ it appears, -in a petition presented to the King **from** the settlement, signed by no less than thirty-six of the principal missionaries and catechists upon the island, -among the number, signed by the Rev. **H. Williams**, chairman of the Church Missionary Committee, -there is this passage :—‘ Your petitioners would observe, that it has been considered that the confederate tribes of New Zealand were **competent** to enact laws for the proper government of this land, whereby protection would be **afforded** in all cases of necessity ; but **EXPERIENCE EVIDENTLY SHOWS, THAT, IN THE INFANT STATE OF THE COUNTRY, THIS CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED OR EXPECTED,--IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE CHIEFS THEMSELVES TO BE IMPRACTICABLE.**’” || This is corroborated even by Mr. **Coates** himself, who says, “ his intention is founded upon an alleged invitation given to him in England

• Dieffenbach, vol. ii. p. 83, names and enumerates the tribes, **114,800**; Terry, p. 156, 105,400; Halswell, p. 111, 61st No. of **New Zealand Journal**, 107,219.

† House of Lords' Report, p. 340.

‡ See the evidence of Captain **Fitz Roy**, *ibid.* p. 335.

|| Lords' Report, p. 335.

“ by Shunghee and other chiefs, none of whom, as individuals, had any “ right to the sovereignty of the country.”*

Thus it is necessary to distinguish between the committees of the missionary societies at home, and the missionaries in New Zealand; the former adverse to **colonisation** in any shape or form, the latter petitioning for it. Those at home had influence—the petition of those at the antipodes was unavailing. In this state of things the New Zealand Company was formed, and its first exploring expedition left England in May 1839, and made Cook’s Straits, and went to Port Nicholson, where there were not many inhabitants. The spot, in all probability, had not been located by them many years ; they had **fled** from **Taranaki**, from the attack of the **Waikato** northern tribe, and had settled themselves at this spot ; and, so far from the Company’s agents or settlers having seized their lands, the natives cheerfully entered into a treaty for the whites to settle amongst **them**.† The negotiation was carried on publicly by **all** who had the rank of chief, and an account of this has been printed by order of the House of **Commons**.‡ This is **a** treaty which should have been respected ; Dr. Dieffenbach was one of the witnesses to it. He says, “ We stayed at Port Nicholson until “ the 4th of October, during which time the agent for the New Zealand “ Company completed the purchase of that place.” ||

It is the breaking of this treaty which is the true source of the **calamity** that has happened : but that **will** be related more minutely in the sequel. But it may be **well** to remark here, that the natives who had stopped in Port Nicholson had never penetrated the Valley of the **Hutt**, or the great and fertile plains beyond it, of **Wairarapa**: Still, when the written bargain was made, **from** one degree of latitude to another, these districts were included, and **now** a lawyer is sent out from home to examine if they belonged to those natives ; an important fact, since, if the **natives** never possessed them, they are now the waste lands of the Crown ; and, if the title is not good **from** the native, it is valid from the Government; and the object of such an examination can only be, to cause delay—another origin of the mischief.

Dr. Dieffenbach has given a very graphic description of the **natives** of Port Nicholson, and thinks that “ the desire of acquiring **civilisation**,

• Lords’ Report, p. 344.

† The treaty, or sale, is printed at p. 159, Par. Papers, 3d of August, 1840.

‡ It will be found at p. 143 of House of Commons Papers, 11th of May, 1841.

|| Vol. 10 chap. 3, p. 67.

“protection, and instruction from a European colony,” was partly their motive. “There was one opponent chief at the time of the discussion, “**Puakawa**, who, although at first opposing the settlement of the Europeans, had ever afterwards become their sincere friend.”*

From Port Nicholson, **Col. Wakefield** went to **Mana**, a small island near the Northern Island. Dr. Dieffenbach says, “Rauparaka sent a **mes-**sage to **the** Colonel to meet him on Evans’s Island, as he did not dare to visit our ship, for fear the natives we had on board might prove to be his enemies. We went on shore in the afternoon, and found Rauparaka sitting on the ground, with his wife Etope, wrapt up in **mats** and blankets, and painted with red ochre. He is between fifty and sixty years old, with remarkably Jewish features, an aquiline nose, and a cunning physiognomy. His manner was very restless ; he was rather sparing of his words. Rauparaka soon left Evans’s Island, in order to proceed to his own. He promised to come to the ship in **the** morning, after we had succeeded in quieting his fears as to the natives we had on board.” † It is this islander who, on the 17th of June, committed the dreadful murder.

These islands, Kapati, **Mana, &c.**, have been so frequently visited by whites, Europeans and Americans, that, the Doctor observes, “they have been sold over and over again to different parties, and spots may be found to which half-a-dozen **different** persons lay claim. The chiefs sell their land as many times as they can.”

But Dr. **Dieffenbach** was not a witness merely to what was called the purchase of Port Nicholson, with its adjoining wastes, but of “all the claims to the land on both sides of Cook’s **Straits.**” ‡

The Doctor’s description of the land on the southern side of Cook’s Straits is extremely pleasing :—“Our situation was not without peculiar interest, which an uninhabited land always excites in the mind. Behind and around us, high steepes and wooded hills towered over the bay in a semicircle. The night was extremely mild and calm, the air singularly clear and transparent ; the sonorous fleeting call of the large parrots, varied by their harsh scream, when, on a sudden alarm, they started over the tops of the hills and then returned to rest, were the only sounds that broke the deep silence. The water of the bay was as smooth as glass, for, **being** sheltered on all sides, it was **un-**affected by the winds which agitated the sea. Sometimes a parrot would perch on one of the trees embowering our huts, as if curious to ascertain who had ventured to disturb his repose. During the

• Dieffenbach, vol. i. p. 101.

† Ibid. p. 101.

‡ Ibid. chap. iii. p. 114.

“ night, a solitary cry from one of these birds might be heard from time
 “ to time, after which everything again became quiet. The sweet song
 “ of the **mako-mako**, which I can only compare to that of our **nightin-**
 “ **gale**, although I must confess that the former is simpler and therefore
 “ more impressive, and the warbling of the tui, whose note resembles
 “ that of our thrush or blackbird, cease at the setting of the sun ; but
 “ in the morning, before he is above the horizon, the little songsters
 “ renew their music with increased vivacity, and their combined tunes
 “ form a pleasing concert.”*

As to purchase, again he says :—“ The purchase of the land of the
 “ Nga-te-awa tribes, residing in East Bay, to the land on both sides of
 “ Cook’s Straits, was **completed.**” †

Again, -“ We landed Ekuru ; and although we were unable to enter
 “ the river, the possession of the district **was** secured for the New **Zea-**
 “ **land** Company, having been obtained during our stay at Kapati, where
 “ the principal chiefs of Wanganui, who were then present at Waikanahi,
 “ had made the land ‘ tapu’ for the Company, on receiving some
 “ presents.” ‡

“ As to Taranaki, now New Plymouth, we had brought **from** Port
 “ Nicholson one of the principal chiefs, Tuarau, who was delighted to
 “ see the land of his birth, and to assist the Company’s agent in the
 “ purchase of it.” §

“ On the **28th** of December, we again reached the beach without
 “ accident, and with somewhat better reason to be satisfied with our
 “ success than on our last return. I found a large number of natives
 “ at Nga-motu, from the Otumatua and Waimate, assembled for the
 “ purpose of selling the whole Taranaki district. As the return of the
 “ Tory was daily expected, the beach looked as if a fair was being held
 “ on it. A European also had arrived from Kawia, accompanied by
 “ many natives, for the purpose of dissuading those at Taranaki from
 “ ceding to the Company their territorial rights ; not, however from
 “ any disinterested intention, or for the sake of the Taranaki natives,
 “ but because some parties were anxious to buy the land for themselves,
 “ either from the small remaining body of the original native proprietors,
 “ or, if they would not agree to **the** terms proposed, from their con-
 “ querors, the Waikato tribes. **It** was said that the missionaries were
 “ much concerned in these **transactions.** § After we had waited **a** great
 “ length of time for the return of the Tory, a brig, the Guide, arrived

* Dieffenbach, vol. i. p. 117.

‡ Ibid. 131.

† Ibid. 123.

§ Ibid. 161.

‡ Ibid. 129.

“ on the 31st of January, having on board some gentlemen belonging
 “ to the Tory, and **bringing** the intelligence that she was refitting at
 “ Kaipara, having grounded on the bar at the entrance of that harbour.
 “ This news relieved us from the anxiety which we had felt as to the
 “ possibility of securing the Taranaki district for the New Zealand
 “ Company-as, since my arrival, churchmen and laymen had vied
 “ with each other to obtain possession of that district. On the arrival
 “ of the Guide, a liberal price was given to the natives for their land,
 “ and the good-will of the Waikatos purchased by presents, Thus the
 “ New Zealand Company became proprietors of the finest district in
 “ New Zealand, which **offers** to the colonist, besides its natural resources,
 “ the advantage of there being no **natives** on the land, with the **excep-**
 “ **tion of the small** remnant of the Nga-te-awa tribe at **Nga-motu.**”*

As a great deal has arisen out of this claim of the Waikato tribe, who it seems received presents at this time, it may be as well to state, that “ about ten years ago it **was** taken, after **a** long siege, by the **Wai-**
 “ **katos**, and nearly **500** of the inhabitants were slaughtered, **50** of them
 “ by the hand of Te-wero-wero, who is at present **a** great ‘ Mihanere’
 “ (as the natives call those who have adopted Christianity, **from** the
 “ word missionary), and lives at Waitemata or Manukao ; the rest of
 “ the population were carried away into **slavery.**”† The whole popula-
 “ **tion from** Taranaki to Port Nicholson, and on both sides of Cook’s
 Straits, are under **6,500,**‡ with all of whom the Company’s agent made
 the most perfect agreement to form settlements in this vast district of
 country, **explaining** most **fully** to them, through native interpreters,
 that one-tenth of land was reserved, either for them to settle on, or for
 native purposes : nothing was done contrary to their wishes-**far from**
 it ; every tribe was anxious to have **the whites** located near their set-
 tlement. The learned Professor of the chair of Political Economy at
 Oxford has stated that no body of emigrants since those that parted
 with -Sir Walter Raleigh were equal to the brave band which went to
 Cook’s **Straits.**|| The first interruption which they experienced was
 from the Rev. W. Williams, who, two months after the agreement made
 between the Company’s agent and the natives of Port Nicholson, went
 there with the hope of purchasing land, and disparaging the Company

* Dieffenbach, vol. i. p. 171.

† Ibid. p. 162.

‡ Ibid. p. 195. Dr. Dieffenbach has been with all these tribes, and has formed a table, with their names, localities, and numbers.

|| Merivale’s Lectures, vol. i.

and the settlers to the natives ;* but this was not sufficient—something was to be done in England ; he therefore forwarded a petition to Her Majesty, which Lord John Russell, as soon as it was received, transmitted to the New Zealand Company. Mr. **Somes's** observations in answer to Mr. Vernon Smith's letters, which accompanied it, will at this time be read with great interest, as he foresaw and stated that the conduct of the missionaries would bring about some such fearful collision as has so lately occurred.? The whole of this subject has been dwelt upon at inconvenient length, in order to show that the several treaties with these tribes were made publicly, with the greatest caution, with the goodwill, and, in most cases, at the request of the natives. It is, however, time to state something of the proceedings of the Colonial minister—the Marquis of Normanby.

The following Treasury minute was made :—“ My lords have again “ before them the letter from Mr. Stephen of the 13th ult., adverting to “ circumstances which had appeared to the Marquis of Normanby, and to “ Viscount Palmerston, to force upon Her Majesty's Government the “ adoption of measures for establishing some British authority in New “ Zealand.” † A very nondescript British authority was determined upon. Capt. Hobson of the navy was sent out as Consul to some ideal government. He was to bear the title of Lieutenant-Governor, but he was to negotiate with the native chiefs for the cession, of which they knew nothing, and he was to act under the directions of the Governor at Sydney, It leads to a conclusion that there must have been some private instructions, which are not yet before the public ; for he stated soon after his arrival, that “ the native chiefs had neither power over the soil, nor authority “ over those who reside on it.” ‡ This perfectly agrees with the statement of the resident missionaries already quoted, § and with the evidence given by a naval officer, Mr. **Blacket**, brother to the member for **Northumberland**, before a committee of the House of Commons, who, in answer to a question from Mr. Hope, said, “ There can be no form of government

* For the whole of this mean and **dishonourable**, indeed disgraceful transaction, the reader is requested to consult page 142 of Parliamentary Papers, May 11, 1841.

† The petition will be found at page 140, and Mr. **Somes's** observations on it at page 141, of Parliamentary Papers, 11th May, 1841.

‡ See **Return** to an Order of the House of Commons, dated 26th of June, 1839.

§ See Captain Hobson's **letter** of the 25th of May, 1840, printed at page 16 of Parliamentary Papers, of the 11th of May, 1841.

§ Lords' Report, p. 339.

amongst them, there are so many tribes." * Still, our indescribable British authority went to the Bay of Islands, and saluted a flag, as if these islands were under an established government,† and then negotiated or what was termed the cession of sovereignty, from the rank of a tribe allied chiefs. Governor Hobson employed others to do the same, and they rapidly exchanged blankets for signatures.‡ He never went to look's Straits, where the settlers had established themselves; he never inquired as to the nature of the treaty which had been signed between them and the natives; but he sent this very Mr. Williams to Rauparaha,|| and there is reason to fear that this is the real germ of the great calamity which has occurred. Rauparaha must have been selected in consequence of the celebrity of his barbarities: it was he who, with his own hand and tomahawk, murdered nine Englishmen after they had surrendered their arms!

Governor Hobson describes Rauparaha "as exercising absolute power over the southern parts of the Northern Island." § It was no such thing. Dieffenbach has given an accurate account of him—he was an island chief residing in the small island of Tauramoria.¶

The most important chiefs of Port Nicholson were E-puni-ware Pouri, and an aged man, Matangi.** Williams's visit to them before the arrival of Governor Hobson had failed; although he had obliged the Company's agent to give him individually an acre "as a slice for himself." †† It most likely never can be ascertained who it was that reported to Governor Hobson that Rauparaha had absolute power over any part of the great islands: that he had little or none over the North-

* Parliamentary Papers, 3rd of August, 1840 p. 63.

† See Governor Hobson's letter, dated 6th February, 1840, printed at page 9 of Parliamentary Papers, 11th of May, 1841.

‡ Mr. Blacket said to the committee of the House of Commons, "You can buy any chief over for a blanket, in New Zealand, to any opinion you think proper, for they are all to be bought over."

|| See his instructions to Major Bunbury, dated 25th of April, 1846, printed at page 18 of Parliamentary Papers, 11th of May, 1841.

§ In his instructions to Major Bunbury, 25th of April, 1840, at page 18, Parliamentary Papers, of 11th of May, 1841.

¶ Dieffenbach, vol. i. p. 98. A little to the eastward of the southern end of Kapatī are two other small islands: the outermost is called Tauramoria, or Rauparaha's, from its being the usual place of abode of that chief; it is sometimes called Mayhew's Island, after an American who has a whaling party there.

• * Ibid. p. 93.

†† Parliamentary Papers, page 142, printed May 11, 1841.