

Government at home cannot permit the attempt. The Colonial Minister is bound to protect 10,000 British settlers.

3rdly. The delay which has attended Captain Fitzroy's arrival at New Zealand has been a source of great uneasiness to many of the connections of the settlers at home. The death of Captain Hobson was known to the Colonial-office early in March, 1843. Captain Fitzroy did not sail until late in June. He went to Bahia, and thus was 101 days before he reached the Cape of Good Hope. He had no business either at Bahia or the Cape, and should have sailed direct to his Government, where he might have been in all June, instead of which he was not expected to arrive there before January; and if he is gone to Aucland, he will be as far off Cook's Straits as if he had stopped at Sydney.

4thly. In many respects, we entertain a very high opinion of Captain Fitzroy; he is a man of known integrity, great energy, considerable knowledge, and has a reputation to lose. There is much in that, but we cannot conceal from ourselves, that the Missionary interest, as it is called, hailed his appointment as one of themselves; his first act has been a course of delay; the part long played in regard to Cook's Straits to the ruin of the settlers. He will, we have no doubt, make an excellent Governor for Aucland, and the northern part of the Northern Island; but for Cook's Straits, the settlers there, the whaling business, which, if permitted, would concentrate itself there, **a** Governor should, **be** immediately sent out, and Captain Fitzroy's advice pursued in a ship of war being always in those seas.* The most benevolent and just arrangement for the Aborigines, is the **Company's** plan of one tenth of the land reserved for them; this the Colonial **Minister** at home should determine. In Cook's Straits the population is so thin, under 7,000, that it is executed without a difficulty. It is not the settlers, but the local authorities, who have dissipated that magical power which the former exercised over the Aborigines to their own benefit. The folly calls for **a sufficient** military force to uphold the decision of the Minister at home, and the honor of the British Crown; the best system of **defence** is that proposed by Mr. Patrick Matthews. (Matthews's Emigration Fields, chapter 11, p. 150.) It partakes of the military cordon between Hungary and Turkey, partly **colonisation**, partly military, and **as it** must take some short time to put into execution, troops must remain; but we shall close this article by recommending it to the attention of the Directors of the Company **and** the Colonial Minister: w .

* In evidence in the **House** of Lords' Report, p. 175.

NOTES ON THE ESQUIMAUX BAY AND THE
SURROUNDING COUNTRY.”

BP W. H. DAVIES, ESQ.

GENERAL REMARKS—INHABITANTS, &c.—**Davis**, in his second voyage of discovery in 1586, is the **first** that appears to have noticed this extensive Bay.; for there can be but little doubt that the large opening that he saw in lat. $45^{\circ} 30'$, “entering in between two lands, the lower all islands,” was the mouth of this Bay, answering as it does, both in appearance and situation, to it. The French, however, were the first who gave the Bay its present name, and resorted to it for trade, which they appear to have done at an early period ; for the Bay appears under its present name in maps published by them very early in the last century; and in some of them the form of the Bay is laid down pretty correctly. After the loss of their possessions in Canada, they abandoned **the** trade to the **Esquimaux** Bay, and some time **elapsed** before the **English** took it up, for it was only in **1777** that the **first** Englishman **wintered** in the Bay—his **son** was still living there a year ago ; he found the remains of the old French establishments in many parts. In 1785 a Canadian **from** Quebec wintered there ; since that date, **establishments** have always **been** kept up in the Bay by merchants and others of Quebec. After undergoing numerous changes, these establishments fell, in 1837, into the hands of the Hudson’s Bay Company, **in** whose **possession they still remain**. In the meantime, the knowledge of the Bay possessed by the French geographers seems to have been gradually lost, **as** well as **the** name given to the **inlet—instead** of which the native name of **In-vuctoke** appears to have been appropriated to it, and the entrance only marked in the map, until the last edition of Arrowsmith’s Map of British **North** America, where the Bay once more resumes its form, with the name of Hamilton’s Inlet tacked to the native designation. It is not, however, very accurately laid down, the **distance from** the entrance to the head of the inlet being made much shorter than it really is.

The residents of the Esquimaux Bay may be classed as follow, viz. : Persons in the employ of the **trading companies**, planters or **freemen**, Esquimaux and Mountaineer Indians. The first class are now **confined**

* We take **this** interesting paper from vol. iv. of the “Transactions of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec,” just published,

to the Hudson's Bay Company, who are the only Company who have permanent establishments in the Bay; they amount to fifteen or twenty **individuals**. The planters or freemen are composed of persons who have come out in the service of the different mercantile establishments, **and at** the expiration of their engagements have **remained** in the country hunting and **fishing** on their own account, receiving the necessary supplies from the nearest establishment, and giving in the produce of their hunt, **&c.**, in return : a great portion of **this class** is now composed of the offspring of former planters with the Esquimaux women. The mode of living of these two classes is in some degree singular ; the following is a sketch **of the** annual routine pursued by the first **class** mentioned :—

Immediately after the business of the summer season is closed by the departure of the vessels, generally about the middle of September, the men are sent into winter quarters - that is, they are sent in parties of two each up the **different rivers**, to pass the winter in trapping martens and **other** animals ; they live in small huts, warmed by a stove; their work consists in **visiting** their traps, keeping them free from snow, and in hunting for a **part of** their subsistence. . Their **traps** are either steel ones, or made of wood, technically called " **dead falls :**" these latter traps are **constructed in** such a manner that the **animal**, on taking the bait, **pulls** down a heavy piece of wood that crushes him. The traps for martens are placed along a blazed path (called a " **cat path** ") leading into the interior, and varying in length from one to three days' walk, according to the **address** and activity of the hunter ; the traps for foxes are placed along the border of the rivers or bays. The men, on leaving the main post, are **furnished** with a certain quantity of pork, **flour**, and ammunition, which **is** expected to last them until they **return in** the spring, generally about the first or second week in June. On the breaking up of the ice they return to the post, when preparations are immediately commenced for salmon **fishing** ; and when **this is** over, the cod fishery is pursued until the end of the **summer season**. Such **is** the general routine followed in Esquimaux Bay ; but, in places where the seal **fishery** is pursued, the men do not go into winter quarters before the **fishery** is finished, which it seldom **is** before December : other local variations **take** place, but such **is** the **general** routine of the year. The life the planters lead is one very similar to the above, with the exception that, having generally large families, they most commonly winter on the immediate shores of the Bay, if possible, for the convenience of hunting ducks in the spring, for the **subsistence** of their families. Their number may be on an average forty-five souls; of these, eight are white men, the remainder half-bred Esquimaux. They are very

uncertain in their movements, often wintering in places widely remote from their former habitations ; for as they invariably carry all their property with them, 'in their annual migrations to, and from their summer residence, they are not at all under the necessity of returning to the winter house they last occupied, unless the situation should happen to be a favorable one. Their migrations are performed in open whale boats, in which they till often make voyages of a month's duration, the women manage the boats as well as the men, and pull an equally good oar. Even in the summer, some of them are continually changing their quarters; passing the first part of the summer in fishing salmon, in the neighborhood of Rigolet, and then going to the entrance of the Bay, to pursue the cod fishery, until it is time to return to winter quarters. The life these people lead is one of great hardship and fatigue, from their constant exposure to the weather, and the necessity of using the most strenuous exertions, to subsist their families ; for the provisions they are enabled to purchase from the traders are never sufficient to support them during the long winter : the constant decrease of the hunt and fisheries, of late years,' has also greatly augmented their misery.

The Bay was formerly the principal residence of the Esquimaux, from the facilities that it offered for living, the seals frequenting it in great numbers, and remaining in the Bay during the whole winter. But the number of seals has been gradually diminishing of late years, this has caused many a tribe to leave the place. We must, however, look to the combined effects of the rum and the vices; imported by the Europeans, for the great diminution that has taken place within the last sixty years in the number of Esquimaux belonging to the Bay ; even as late as the beginning of the present century, they numbered upwards of 300— they are now reduced to eight families, consisting of thirty-four individuals; viz. nineteen males and fifteen females.

They have abandoned almost the whole of their former manners and customs, and assimilated themselves as much as possible to the whites, whose example, I regret to say, has not always been conducive to the improvement of their morals. In the summer they are generally employed in hunting seals—killing them principally with their harpoons, the use of the gun having been found to have the effect of frightening away the seal. When not thus engaged, they are mostly employed in fishing for cod, which they dispose of to traders. In winter they subsist chiefly on the seals they can kill by watching for them at the holes in the ice, which those animals frequent for the purpose of breathing. In the month of May, the seals and their young, which are then just born,

frequently come to bask on the ice and enjoy the heat of the sun; they are then killed, often in considerable numbers, by the Esquimaux. They rarely hunt the fur-bearing animals, except the fox, for which they **sometimes** set traps. As the seal furnishes them with clothes, food, and light, it is not surprising that they should devote by far the greatest part of their time to its pursuit, so infinitely more valuable to them, and so much more **easily** killed than martens and other animals of that sort, whose **carcasses**, when caught, would yield them little or no food.

They are generally docile and obedient when employed as servants which they **sometimes** are;—like all other Indians, they are incapable of continued exertion for any length of time, except it is for the chase. As they invariably travel with dogs they are but indifferent walkers, and in this respect, they are far surpassed by the mountaineers; they, however, much exceed the latter in the ingenuity and neatness which **they** display in the construction of the **different** articles they may require. The manner of tackling their dogs, mode of **travelling, &c.**, exactly resemble the description given by Captain Parry of the **Esquimaux** to the north. Being more in the habit of living in communities of several families together, their intercourse with one another **is** rather more kind I think, than that of their neighbor the mountaineer; though occasionally, acts of great cruelty and indifference to **suffering** have come to my knowledge, especially among the women. They are often driven to great extremities by **hunger**; under these circumstances, cannibalism is not unknown **amongst** them—nor as it looked upon—with that degree of horror that it is among the mountaineer; for a woman that **was** pointed out to me as having, under the pressure of want, devoured several **members** of her family, and, among others, her husband, found no **difficulty** in procuring another partner. The example and exhortations of the whites have been successful in putting an end to the horrid practice, formerly very prevalent among them, of burying the living infant with the dead mother!

They are not personally brave—at least, not in our sense of the term—for, in their quarrels, they never attack an antagonist except they have the advantage of number or strength on their side; **they are** also **easily** overawed by a stern look and an angry tone of voice, on the part of the white; yet, in other respects, their courage **is** unbounded, as their encounters with the fierce savage Polar bear sufficiently testify, for they do not hesitate to engage **him** single-handed.

The Esquimaux frequenting the Bay, 'have little or no notion of religion. Some years ago, a Wesleyan minister remained a winter in the Bay: during his stay they paid great attention to his exhortations; he

would **no** doubt have done some good, had it not been for the pernicious example of the whites which constantly nullified the good effects of his preaching. Tired and disgusted at the manner in which he was treated by the whites, and at the effect their bad **example** had upon the natives, he left the following summer, and none have ever been there since. In this respect, as indeed in most others, the Esquimaux to the north have greatly the advantage of their brethren in Esquimaux Bay..

The mountaineers, whose hunting-ground is in the vicinity of the Bay, are a branch of the Cree nation, *a* dialect of whose language they speak, They are very much reduced in number; of thirty-two families that frequented the Bay, in 1840, only nine belonged to **it**—that is, whose hunting-grounds were in the neighborhood; the remainder were from the posts on the St. Lawrence, from whence they had been **attracted by** the great number of reindeer in the vicinity of the Bay. These nine families comprised forty-eight individuals, in which, however, are included several orphans and widows, From the **great** abundance of reindeer throughout the whole country, they might, if they would keep from **rum**, make themselves perfectly independent of the whites ; but allured by that pernicious liquor, they are sunk into a state of abject slavery; and their intercourse with the whites has served to degrade even more **than it** has done the Esquimaux. As they stand greatly in awe of the latter people they rarely descend the Bay ; passing the summer in the vicinity of the Post North West River, at the head of the Bay, where the mountaineer trade is carried on. In winter, their time is chiefly spent in the chase of the reindeer; in summer, when the deer retire to the north, or to the tops of the high mountains, out of the way of the flies, they generally subsist on fish, **wild** fowl, and seals. The reindeer is to them what the seal is **to the** Esquimaux ; and, like them, they are, consequently, poor hunters of the **fur-bearing** animals. With the exception of those who have visited the posts on the St. Lawrence, where they have had an opportunity of hearing a Roman Catholic priest, they have no idea of religion; they, however, generally bring their infants to the nearest post, to be baptized by the clerk in charge ; but this is from an idea that it will in some way make him a better **hunter**; and not **from** any religious motives; Degraded, as they are, they look with great contempt upon the Nascapees, a tribe, whose hunting-grounds are entirely in the interior, and who have, until lately, had very little intercourse with the whites-giving, as a reason, their greater advancement in **civilisation** ; as evinced by the rum they can procure.

• **Their** rivers and lakes being covered with ice for nearly two-thirds of

the year, they do not travel much in canoes, and are, consequently, not good canoeemen, being very timid-in this respect they are far surpassed by their brethren in the King's Posts.

They have an **exceeding** dread of the Iroquois-a singular fact, as showing how far-spread was the dread excited among the Indian nation, by that warlike tribe, and how long the tradition of their ferocity has continued to be handed down.

TRADE.—The trade of **Esquimaux**, formerly of some consequence, has been gradually diminishing for some years past, and is now extremely limited-it is confined to a trifling barter in cloth; blankets, guns, ammunition, and provisions, with the planters and **Esquimaux**; who, in return, give a little seal-oil, salmon, codfish, and a few furs. This trade is principally carried on at the post of **Kigolet**, about **fifty** miles from the sea. The trade with the mountaineers, as already mentioned, is carried on at the head of the Bay-cloths, blankets, guns, ammunition, and a little flour, are given to them, in exchange for the skins of martens, foxes, deer, lynxes, wolverines, minks, beaver, &c. The quantity procured is very small in proportion to the number of Indians, and the trade is far **from** being a profitable one, on account of the expense attending it. It is at present **entirely** monopolised by the Hudson's Bay Company, as well as the trade of **Riiolet**.

At the **entrance** of the Bay are situated two small **codfishing establishments**, carried on by people from Newfoundland, **who, likewise**, have a little trade with the planters and Esquimaux; but the amount of business thus done is very trifling. During the codfishing, a few American vessels visit the Bay. Of late years' the catch has not been great-the **fish appear to** be more numerous further north, where the Americans generally follow them: a solitary trading vessel, **from** Nova Scotia, now and then finds its way as far as the Bay..

The salmon fishery is principally carried on in the neighborhood of **Rigolet**; the nets are set at the **different** points of the Bay, where **the** current is strongest. The catch is now very small, the total export of the Bay hardly exceeding 120 **tierces**, when formerly it surpassed 400. Nearly all the seal oil exported from the Bay is the produce of the hunt of the Esquimaux, the Bay not being advantageous for **carrying on** fisheries for that animal. One small vessel is employed by the Hudson Bay Company in the trade of the Bay; it is found more than **sufficient** for it, and it is sent every second year as far as **Ungrava** Bay, in Hudson's Straits, to collect the returns of that district.

DR. BINNS ON THE SUGAR DUTIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF **SIMMONDS'S** COLONIAL MAGAZINE.

Sir—The debate in the House of Commons on the trade with Brazil, and incidentally the sugar duties, was distinguished by such inapt arguments, such frigid declamation and crude ratiocination, such malingering of veracity, and such violent transition of opinion-in-a word, such mockery of justice on the one side, and such cool philosophic statesman-like propriety of expression, decorum of discussion, aptness of illustration, and **plenitude** of wisdom on the other, that I trust you will permit me, through the medium of the **COLONIAL MAGAZINE**, to endeavor, as far as in me lies, to place this extraordinary manifestation of **senato-gliadiatorial** wisdom and folly, so strongly contrasted, in such a light, that the unanswerable arguments of Sii Robert Peel, and the cogent facts of Mr. Gladstone—their importance, their weight, solidity, and **profundity**, may be more distinctly visible to the eyes, and open to the understandings, of your numerous European and Transatlantic readers, than in the crowded columns of a newspaper, clothed in the conventional language of the reporter.

There is not another member of the House of Commons, however **distinguished** for slovenly statistics, or remarkable for ignorance upon any given question, that Mr. Labouchere has not exceeded, outraged, and totally distanced in every point and every question connected with the West Indies. This has been so clearly shown, both by the business-like reply of Mr. Gladstone, and the conclusive corroboration of Sir Robert Peel, that I am relieved from the labor and fatigue, and you and your readers the weariness and **ennui**, inseparable from the **sterile** contemplation of numerals, and the pompous but **insufferable sameness** of figures. But **I** cannot resist the temptation of recalling to the recollection of your readers in Jamaica, that when the **Whigs** made their abortive attempt to disfranchise the island, Mr. Labouchere exhibited the most lamentable ignorance, not only of the condition, but of the population of the country, the constitution of the House of Assembly, the nature of the council, and, *Dei boni!* even the amount of that **very** constituency which he **endeavoured**, thanks to Sir Robert **Peel** and his

party, **vainly** to destroy ! The honorable gentleman (I blush to record this of one who has filled such responsible offices) actually stated that the number of the constituents in the whole island did not exceed sixteen hundred ! AS to the population, he positively seemed to have formed no idea at all ; and when the general indignation of the West India body was excited at this unparalleled- assertion, unsupported as it was by any **return**,¹ any document, any hand-book even of a transient **traveller**, he coolly admitted, on a subsequent evening, in the House of Commons, **that "he had been mistaken."** This, then, is a sample of Mr. **Labouchere**—the outward and visible, the tangible and locomotive incarnation of "Go my son ! and see with what little wisdom the world is governed." Had **Oxenstiern** been **aliye**, and had he waded through Mr. Labouchere's enunciation of Brazilian and West Indian policy, sugar duties, and tariffs, he would have **been** tempted to exclaim, "**Ecce homo ! Filii mei !** Go no farther, tarry here, and save the expense of travelling."

I shall pass over the florid exordium in which the honorable gentleman indulged as **to the great** extent of Brazil-its **unrivalled** fertility--its admirable climate-its mighty rivers-its population-its possessing no **manufactures**—"and little in the way of shipping," (and he might have added, its excellent code of laws-the ease with which a **nigger**, "genuine, spry, and active," or even a colored person, may be transferred from a state of freedom to that of servitude and slavery, and "no questions asked") ; though he argued from these uncontradicted and unquestioned facts, that "all these circumstances showed that England and the Brazils were two countries formed, us it were by nature, to cultivate extensive and advantageous commercial relations between each other," as if any one doubted this : and pass on at once to that portion of his speech in which the **infatation** was defective, the gestation painful, and the delivery abortive ; for never did a "parturient mountain bring forth such a muscicular abortion." It was a mistimed and premature attempt to force ministers into a disclosure of their financial scheme, **and** as such met with the fate it deserved. **It** breathed, mewed, and died. Are we for ever to have piecemeal legislation ? Motions on this crotchet and on that crotchet ; on things on the earth, and- on things under the earth ; on the little boys that play at pitch and toss in the streets, and on the atrocious slaver that pollutes the seas ; on the thimble-riggers that frequent the booths of our patrician curricula, and the **honest** apple-women that obstruct our walks, merely for party purposes, while the true interests of the nation are neglected, slighted, forgotten, 'or impeded ! We find in **every** motion of the **op-**

position a miserable hankering after place; an obsequious **truckling** to party, a painful sense of disappointment, and a wild, **delirious** passion for legislative interference, that are not only insufferable, but monstrous and absurd ; what else can we infer from Mr. Labouchere's speech ? **Did** he, and his party, riot record an opinion on Mr. Ewart's motion, exactly contrary to that on which they now take their stand ? **Did** he and they, particularly Lord Monteagle, not propound opinions and dicta diametrically opposite to those which they now come forward to propose and to uphold, not only at the expense of consistency, common sense, prudence, good government, **and** financial wisdom, but even to the detriment and contempt of the irreversible decrees of the eternal tribunal of justice ? Can the force of wickedness and folly further go ? Must it be conceded that a fatality seems always to have attended colonial affairs ? An author of repute, upon colonial subjects, rummaging amidst the mass of intercolonial papers in the 'Colonial office, found, among other documents as veracious, a chart or map of the West Indies. In this Berbice was not **only** set down as *an island*, but was carried away,' by the clairvoyance of the hydrographer, some thousand miles from where, like **Theseus**, in the infernal regions, *sedet et æternumque sedebit*, and placed **where** ? Where do you imagine, gentle reader ? Why, among the Bahamas ! and, positively, on the assurance and testimony of this chart or map, the Colonial office, or rather Mr. Stephens, the **Coryphæus**, whom "either **Ind** obeys" (*Indus uterque serviet uni*), legislated for, and proceeded to insist upon the West Indies receiving certain orders in council, among the least absurd of which, was ordering penknives-and great coats for the slaves ! They might, with as much propriety, have ordered bird-cages **and** tooth-picks,, supplies which would have been not-one whit more ridiculous or absurd, than sending **water-casks** (as was done) to the vessels of war on Lake Superior ! But, in **reverting** to the blunders and ignorance of the past, let me uot **forget** the want of knowledge and information of the present, **upon Colonial** subjects, in one, who as a member of the late **Cabinet**, should have been either better taught, or more **skilfully crammed**. **The honorable gentleman, Mr. Labouchere**, stated, " from the best sources of statistical information" that the

Per Ann.	
Exports from Brazils were	£7,200,000
Whereas, as stated by the French Consul to Mr. Gladstone	
on an average of five years, they were but,	5,500,000
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Difference	£1,700,000
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