

P R O S P E C T U S .

As the COLONIAL MAGAZINE has recently changed hands, its present proprietors deem it advisable shortly to explain their views with respect to its future management.

It will, it is believed, be generally admitted that the interests of our colonial dominions have not hitherto occupied that share of public attention which their great and increasing importance demands. An earnest attempt will therefore be made to render this periodical an efficient organ for the diffusion of information on all matters relating to this extensive subject.

The Home Administration of these portions of the empire will form a frequent topic of discussion, and the abuses connected with that department will be examined and exposed, not with the view of serving the interests of party, but of remedying, if possible the acknowledged defects of that branch of the public service.

The local and municipal institutions of our foreign possessions will likewise receive ample attention, and practical suggestions will, as occasion offers, be made for their improvement. It may be stated that the principle of self-government will in general be maintained, in opposition to the centralising system, which, it is believed, prevails at present to an injurious extent.

In the present condition of England, the subject of systematic colonisation is already one of prominent interest, and the necessity of establishing some regulating and controlling power, with reference to this important matter, is every day becoming more apparent. An opinion seems to be gaining ground, that a comprehensive plan of emigration might be advantageously conjoined with the administration of the poor law, and the practicability of this scheme, as well as of others bearing upon these

great social topics, will receive ample investigation. The very difficult and hitherto much neglected question of convict discipline is likewise one which will necessarily fall to be considered in connection with our colonising system.

There are various other subjects connected with our colonial policy which demand the anxious attention alike of the philanthropist and the statesman. The effects of negro emancipation, as well upon the economical condition of our own dependencies as upon the African slave trade, is essentially a question of this kind. At the present time more especially, when our colonists, hampered as they have been by unwise restrictions on the one hand, and exposed to the unequal competition of slave labour on the other, are struggling for mere existence, these questions are invested with peculiar interest. Not only the fate of our tropical colonies, but the future destiny of the African race may be said to depend in a great measure upon their solution.

In addition to the monthly summary of intelligence which has hitherto been afforded by this periodical, it is intended that an abstract of all papers presented to Parliament relating to colonial affairs, shall be regularly furnished during the session.

Works of interest on the subject of the colonies will be carefully reviewed, and more especially such as afford the most recent and accurate statistical information as to their present condition and capabilities.

LONDON, March 15, 1849.