

roads being too bad to return by cart I bought an old horse and returned. They charge 18s. a-night livery for a horse at the diggings and on the road, and 5s. and 6s. for a feed of oats.

"Gold continues to come to town from the Mount. This week the escort has brought in 37,000 ounces—the largest escort since the discovery. The estimated amount of gold exported to Europe from Sydney and Melbourne, to date, is nearly £4,000,000, at 65s. per ounce, two-thirds of which have been from this place. However, I shall not be surprised if they find as good diggings soon on the Sydney side as those at Mount Alexander, for they are constantly discovering fresh deposits there, and the gold seems distributed over a larger extent of country in New South Wales Proper than here, but it is generally allowed that these diggings are richer than those of California, and are now the richest in the world. Without doubt Australia is the most extraordinary country on the globe for resources. It possesses the richest gold and copper mines and the greatest pastoral capabilities ever known; but my idea is, that we have not yet found out what the country can do. When we have population—which I believe we shall now have—other resources will turn up which we do not dream of. You may depend on it, the trade to these parts from your quarter will soon become very important. We shall be first-rate customers for British manufactures, and that on a large scale.

"Labour is very dear here—it is said that even the boots at the hotel whence I indite this is

making his £1,000 per annum. I believe he has two drays doing work in town, and cartage is 5s. a load, so that, with what he makes as boots and that together, there may be some probability in the report. However, the lowest kind of labour gets 10s. a-day, and a smart man can earn 20s. In Sydney wages are rising, and labour getting exceedingly scarce also. Sailors here get £50 for the trip to London, but it is almost impossible to get a large ship away to India or South America. A large vessel has been here twelve months bound for Callao. There is a scarcity of good barristers in Melbourne, so, if you have any friend in that way inclined to emigrate, tell him he might make a good living here if up to his business.

"With all the gold here I do not think it will take the trade from Sydney, at least there is no appearance at present, for trade never was better than it is there just now. I think Sydney will be a safer market for some time, as probably trade will be overdone here soon. The Sydney folk have had the benefit of these new diggings, for they have been completely cleared of old and unsaleable stocks. Sydney markets never were so bare of everything as they are at present. Besides, this place has a bad harbour and no convenience for shipping, which is much against it. If we get the Panama route steamers, which I observe is to be the case, I believe Sydney will maintain its supremacy over all the other Australian ports. There is great rivalry among the three places—viz., Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide: they are all striving to

beat each other in the race of enterprise.

"We want steamers for the coast very much. The steamers and coasters are doing a tremendous trade in passengers and goods."

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

In a late number we alluded to the plunder of the public chest by the convicts of Western Australia. We have elsewhere made some extracts from the Perth papers illustrative of the condition of the colony, in consequence of the convict curse which it solicited, but now deploras. It appears, from the evidence of a warder, that they have a prison, which of course has a door and a lock, and the door is regularly locked every evening, notwithstanding which, says the warder, the convicts go out when they please, and "*the inhabitants are quite at their mercy.*" This is proved by our extracts from the police-sheet, the majority of convict offences being for "staying out after hours, and being drunk." Imagine the condition of a town "without night police"—in which convicts can get out of their prison windows, or over the wall at pleasure! We need not wonder at the case recorded of "highway robbery, accompanied with violence." It further appears that they are set to watch one another, for we find the "keepers of the depot" also fined for being out after hours, and being drunk. The amusements of these gentry are likewise in keeping, some being fined for *furious driving*, so as to endanger the lives and limbs of the inhabitants. These

things would be incredible, did not the actual police-list lie on the table before us. If our legislators ever reflect at all upon the subject—how long do they imagine that a now powerful country like Australia will submit to these things?—*Australian and New Zealand Gazette.*

#### VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

EMIGRATION FROM VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—The last man left Peppermint Bay on Friday. This extensive sawing-station is now completely deserted; in the "good old time," before any leagues were formed, upwards of 500 pairs of sawyers were at work in this and the adjoining bays, cutting down and clearing the forest—and from whose labour the Port Phillip people were supplied with their timber. They must now cut timber for themselves, for in a short time they will get none from this island.

#### WEST INDIES.

SOUTHAMPTON, October 16.—The Royal Mail steam-ship *Ori-noco*, Lieutenant Philip Hast, R.N., commander, arrived off this port at 6, P.M., bringing the usual British and Foreign West India mails, in charge of Lieutenant Robins, R.N., Admiralty agent.

All was quiet in Peru, and in business there was considerable activity, the seasons for purchases from the interior having opened well, and the commercial relations with the Republic of the Ecuador having been resumed since the annihilation of the expedition headed by General Flores against Guayaquil, who, having

been refused permission to land at Callao, had proceeded to Valparaiso. The excitement in Peru on the question of the Lobos Islands had diminished considerably, but the Government had not withdrawn the garrison from the island under the orders of General Destua, and two vessels of war were stationed at Lobos Afuera. Some ships were loading guano for England on account of the Government, and one or two American vessels had been warned off and proceeded to Callao. The Minister of Finance of Peru, General Mendiburn, had been nominated Minister Plenipotentiary to London, and with his suite is among the passengers by the *Orinoco*. He is said to be furnished with curious and minute evidence of the right of the Guano Islands from the time of the Incas, and among other objects of importance will order the construction of some vessels of war, and a supply of armament for Peru. The city of Lima had testified universal regret for the death of Mr. Wm. Pitt Adams, Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires, which took place early in September (4th). The deceased gentleman was greatly respected, and his funeral was attended by the Ministers of State, the diplomatic body, a battalion of soldiers, and an immense concourse of people of all classes. The firmness and sagacity of his conduct had procured for him the confidence and respect of the Government of Peru, and the esteem and friendship of his countrymen.

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The intelligence from New Granada is to the effect that General Obando had been popularly elected President of the Republic for the proximate constitutional period of four years, to commence on the 1st of March next. He obtained 1,158 votes against 260 votes given to General Herera, and 110 to other candidates. Five small steamers are now employed in navigating the river Magdalena.

At St. Vincent the heat had been partially relieved by copious showers. The present crop will exceed the former by about 500 hogsheads. Up to the 26th of August 9,353 hogsheads of sugar had been shipped, and 30 hogsheads 2,735 puncheons of molasses.

In Trinidad a public meeting of planters, merchants, and others immediately interested in the agricultural prosperity of the Colony, had been held at the town residence of Mr. Hume, for considering the best course to be adopted in order to secure to the Colony the advantages held out by Mr. Ramos's discovery for improving sugar. The meeting was a very interesting one, and it was ultimately determined to petition the Legislature to secure to Mr. Ramos exclusive right to the discovery for a certain number of years. At a meeting of the council on a subsequent day Mr. Renie submitted a petition from Mr. Ramos of similar purport to that introduced into the Barbadoes House of Assembly a short time since.

## POSTSCRIPT.

THE COLONIAL MARKETS have been rather more quiet during the last few days, business not having been transacted so liberal an extent as heretofore. This is in some degree attributable not only to the magnitude of late investments, but also to the very unfavourable state of the weather, which always depressingly affects the markets. Considerable business, however, has been done, and rates of some articles are dearer. The chief portion of Colonial sugar offered, sold briskly at an occasional advance of fully 6*d.* per cwt.; the good and fine qualities of West India and Mauritius being in good demand, while of other sorts the high rates demanded by importers checked all business. Foreign descriptions have been also bought in at above the current valuations. The amount of West India sold has been about 2,000 hogsheads, which chiefly went at the above enhancement. Of other Colonial, about 23,380 bags were chiefly sold, Mauritius sorts having also realised the advance. 1,052 boxes, 5,235 bags of Foreign have been very nearly all taken in. Privately about 12,000 bags Pernambuco, on the spot, have been sold at 17*s.* 3*d.* to 17*s.* 6*d.* and a cargo for a near port at 16*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

The sales of Ceylon coffee were marked with very little spirit at one time, and the chief portion offered was bought in. Since, however, the sales have gone off with much spirit, at very full to advanced prices. A parcel of Costa Rica, consisting of about 4,543 bags, sold at extreme rates. The only parcels of native brought to auction have been of old importation, and were bought in. A transaction is, however, lately reported at 46*s.* per cwt, for about 300 bags of old import. A good business has been done in rice, and quotations are fully 3*d.* per cwt. higher. Sago and sago flour have also advanced 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per cwt; and saltpetre has realised full prices. The tea sales held on Wednesday were marked by a fair spirit, and some qualities sold at very full to advanced rates. Common Congou was, however, flat, and a lower quotation was accepted for a parcel rather below the average quality. Hysons were dearer, and in good request. Of the total of 8,935 packages put up, about 4,000 were disposed of at public sale. The only alterations noticeable in the spice market is that black pepper is a shade dearer, and white has advanced fully  $\frac{1}{8}$ *d.* per lb.

The quarterly cinnamon sales were held on Monday, and comprised about 910 bales, against 1,844 bales in July. Of the present quantity offered, 800 bales were from Ceylon, and the remainder an old importation from Malabar. Nearly all the Ceylon were sold at an enhancement of 1*d.* to 3*d.* per lb. for the middling to fine sorts, above the last sale's rates. Fine first sorts went to 2*s.* 9*d.* per lb.; fine seconds, to 2*s.* 1*d.* per lb.; and middling to good thirds at 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb. The Malabar was bought in, not any offers to purchase having been made.

The next quarterly sales are fixed for the 31st January, 1853.