

of British goods into any other foreign vessel, for the purpose of importation into Canton. This, however, was not enforced against vessels having British merchandise actually on board at the time it was issued. The Thomas Coutts was allowed to take in a cargo ; and it was expected that another British vessel, the Royal Saxon, would be allowed the same liberty. Captain Elliott had, in very submissive terms, petitioned Commissioner Lin for permission for the English families to return to Macao, and for the re-establishment of a friendly intercourse. **TO** which the following reply had been returned, which from its singular character, and its particular bearing on the points in dispute, we are induced to give at length :-

(⁶ This coming before us, the high **commissioner** and viceroy, we find that the said (English) **nation** has come to Canton, and enjoyed commercial intercourse with **us** for somewhere about 200 years. Our heavenly dynasty, looking upon all men with equal kindness, was not at first willing to offer opposition to, and cut off such commercial **intercourse** in the hurry of the moment. But, lo ! these said foreigners have given themselves up to smuggling of opium. While gaining profit to **themselves**, they sought to involve **others** in destruction, and so deluged our country with their poison, that at length **they** drew down upon themselves **the** anger of the holy one ! (i. e. the Emperor.) We, the said commissioner and viceroy, published and made known **the** new regulations, commanding that a certain duly-prepared bond should be given, and our sole object in so doing -was to cut off for ever the poisonous stream, and not absurdly to make **difficulties**. Had these said foreigners, after having completed the entire delivery of their opium in May last, submitted to **our edicts**, and given the duly-prepared bond required-that they would alone carry **on a lawful traffic**-**then** not only might the ships arriving have sold off their import-cargoes long ago, but the ships departing might **have gone** away full laden, **and** been back again by this time ; and, as for what you call ' peace and quietness,' and ' managing matters with **propriety**,' all this would have been neither more nor less than just doing as we now tell you. But when the ships at first wanted to enter the

port they were prevented by you, and, being outside, they could not open their holds to discharge ; thus a great deal of merchandise got spoiled, which was entirely caused by your mistake, and will you still come and talk to **us** about your ' sincere heart,' and that you desire and beg for the maintenance of peace,' eh? Moreover, if you had not thus detained your merchant ships outside, then such a thing as the homicide of Lin Wei-he would not have taken place, and what then would have led to all business getting ' into a state of complete confusion and disorder ' " eh ? But since a case of life and death (is actually brought **against** you) you must certainly deliver up the murderer; this is a current law of ancient as well as of modern times, of the central land, as well as of foreign countries, how can we, for your account, consent to make a dead letter of our statutes ?

" In regard (to permitting English families) to reside temporarily at Macao (we may observe), that the object of foreign merchants residing there was, originally, to look after their mercantile transactions. Now, as you did not permit your merchant **ships** to enter the port, you ought not, as of old, to have dwelt at Macao ; but you, after leaving Macao, went to **Kowling**, Chumpoo, and other places, at all of which you were the first to commence firing; and as for ' desiring and begging for the maintenance of peace,' is this the way to set about it, eh ?

" **Now** we have, in respectful accordance with the commands of the great Emperor, made our clear and distinct report, that we have closed the port against you, and will henceforth hold no further commercial intercourse with your nation, This is all you who have brought it upon yourself, and not that we of the celestial dynasty, without a cause, cut **off** any man (from the benefit of our intercourse). You would not repent and awake while there was yet time, and now to begin to say that you ' cannot avoid feeling anxiety and sorrow ;' pray is not this a little late, eh?

" As regards your begging that ' your families may be permitted to return to Macao, and dwell there in the mean time, until that you receive orders from the sovereign of your country,' we should like to ask of you, was your preventing the merchant ships from entering the port. as well as the sheltering of

a foreign murderer, and your repeatedly firing off great guns, thus stirring up the embers of war, were all these acts in very deed done in compliance with the commands of the sovereign of your said country ? Or perhaps it is only in such cases as these that you do not require to wait for orders from the sovereign of your country, eh?

“ Still further, there was a man of **your** country who submitted to subscribe the duly-prepared bond, his name was Tong-Kong (Captain Towns) and **his** family was living at Macao. This (obedient) family you escorted (or sent) on board ship, while you turn round and permit those men who oppose and make sport of the laws, to carry their families back to Macao ! We should like to ask if such a topsyturvy, such a jumble of right and wrong reason was ever heard of before ?

“ In your petition you say, ‘ that every thing be done in respectful submission to the statutes of the great pure dynasty, while at the same time the laws of your native **country** be not opposed,’ &c. These words are still more inconsistent than ever. We must be aware that the laws of your native country cannot go beyond the statutes of the great pure dynasty ; for the laws of your country are based upon foreign commerce ; and if you offer opposition to the statutes of the great pure dynasty, then you will never to all eternity be permitted to hold commercial intercourse with us ; therefore it follows that these very laws of your said country are now broken and violated in your own person ; and **bethink** you, will you be able to bear up under the weight for such a heavy crime, pray?

“ Having already closed the port **against** you, properly speaking, we ought to hold no further communication with you ; but seeing that you have addressed a duly-prepared petition, begging and praying (for certain favours), we, out of pure indulgence, now take up the reason of our conduct, and with the utmost clearness make the same known unto you, causing at the same time that all **the people of** your country, as yourself, **may** eaully and alike know the cause **why** that this port is now shut against them. ”

“ Taoukwang, 19th year, **11th** moon, 13th (3) day.

“ Canton, 18th (?) Dec. **1839.**”

The opium trade was still carrying on to a great extent, and with large profits, on the eastern coast of China. The price had advanced **150** rupees per chest in the Calcutta market.

The officers and crew of the **Sunda**, the wreck of which on the coast of Hainan we mentioned in our last number, had been conveyed to Canton; into which city they were admitted, and introduced to the various public authorities. They were treated with great kindness, and carefully conducted to the English fleet.

A return published by the House of Commons gives the number of vessels and their tonnage cleared out from the ports of London and Liverpool in the years 1838 and 1839 respectively for the South Australian ports, South Sea fisheries, and the ports on the western coast of South America round Cape Horn.

From London, in 1838, there had cleared for Sydney 78 vessels, with an amount of 39,960 tonnage ; and in 1839, 89 vessels, with an amount of 38,681 tonnage. In 1839, for Port Philip, seven vessels, with an amount of 2,243 tonnage. In **1838**, for South Australia, 26 vessels, with an amount of 10,660 tonnage ; and in 1839, 27 vessels, with an amount of 12,761 tonnage. In 1838, for the Swan River, three vessels, with an amount of 882 tonnage ; and in 1839, four vessels, with an amount of 1,082 tonnage. In 1838, for Hobart Town, 24 vessels, with an amount of 7,959 tonnage ; and in 1839, 23 vessels, with an amount of **7,879** tonnage. In 1838, for Launceston, 12 vessels, with an amount of 3,107 tonnage; and in 1839, 11 vessels, with an amount of 2,855 tonnage. In 1839, for New Zealand, seven vessels, with an amount of 3,315 tonnage. In 1838, for the South Sea fisheries, 21 vessels, with an amount of 6,527 tonnage ; and in **1839**, **20** vessels, with an amount of 7,526 tonnage. In 1838, for Chili, five vessels, with an amount of 1,008 tonnage ; and in 1839, 17 vessels, with an amount of 2,552 tonnage. In 1838, for Peru, 13 vessels, with an amount **of 3,131** tonnage ; and in 1839, **21** vessels, with an amount of 4,524 tonnage.

From Liverpool, in 1838, there had cleared for Sydney, 17 vessels, with an amount of 7,352 tonnage; and in 1839, 18 vessels, with an amount of **7,500** tonnage. In 1839, for Port Philip, two

vessels, with an amount of 487 tonnage. In 1838, for South Australia, two vessels, with an amount of 1,082 tonnage ; and in 1839, four vessels, with an amount of 1,791 tonnage. In 1839, for the Swan River, one vessel, with an amount of 113 tonnage. In 1838, for Hobart Town, five vessels, with an amount of 1,532 tonnage ; and in 1839, four vessels, with an amount of 1,212 tonnage. In 1839, for Launceston, one vessel, with an amount of 243 tonnage ; and in 1838, for Chili, 14 vessels, with an amount of 2,997 tonnage ; and in 1839, 26 vessels, with an amount of 7,187 tonnage. In 1838, for Peru, 12 vessels, with an amount of 2,931 tonnage ; and in 1839, 19 vessels, with an amount of 4,133 tonnage.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA. -The accounts received during the past month from Adelaide, speak in the strongest terms of the prosperity of this colony. Land at the corner of King William and Hindley Streets, has been sold at the rate of £3000 per acre. Sheep are constantly arriving by thousands. A coach now runs daily between Adelaide and the port. In the month of September, two vessels arrived from Liverpool, and one from London with emigrants. The burden of the Lady Lilford, from Liverpool, was 595 tons, and she took out 140 passengers. The Prince Regent, 395 tons, from London, carried 180 steerage passengers. The death of Colonel Light, late surveyor-general of the province, on the 5th of October last, is announced. He was in his 51st year. The universal esteem in which he was held, was testified by a public funeral, attended by the governor, the other official persons of the colony, and between four and five hundred of the colonists in mourning, who walked in procession. All the shops were closed, and business suspended for the day. About 3,000 persons were present at the burial-service. A public monument is to be erected to his memory in the centre of Light Square, and the government of the province have contributed £100 toward the expense of it.

NEW SOUTH WALES. — By intelligence received from this quarter to the 8th. of December, it appears that Mr. McArthur had made an attempt, in the legislative council, to defeat the bill for the abolition of military juries, which was, however, defeated. The

attorney-general and the chief-justice, were in favour of the bill. An act abolishing arrest for debt, came into operation on the 21st of October; and no person is now subject for imprisonment for debt, unless there is reason to suspect that he is about to leave the colony. Treasury bills had fallen from 4 to 5 to 1½ per cent.

Five Roman Catholic monks of the order of St. Francis, had arrived in the colony, and were about to join the French Roman Catholic mission, under Bishop Pampallier, at Kororika, New Zealand.

It appears that the rains had been general and abundant, in consequence of which, the crops and vegetation were in a prosperous, and rapidly progressive state: the sheep were improving in carcase, owing to the mildness of the lambing season, while the horses and horned cattle were wonderfully improved in condition, and an early and abundant harvest was anticipated.

The price of flour was still on the decline, and was expected, shortly, to reach its old standard. Fine flour, at the mills, from 30s. to 40s. per 100 lbs. Some wheat had arrived from New Zealand, and a considerable quantity of maize, which sold at 3s. 6d. per bushel. Mr. Grose had commenced to lay down a steamer, which is to be furnished with two engines of fifty-horse power, and is intended for the Port Macquarie trade : she is to be launched in four or five months. The James Watt had also been extensively repaired for the Hunters' River trade, with occasional trips to Shoal Bay river.

Considerable excitement had been caused in Sydney, by the absconding of the well-known auctioneer Thomas Wilson, who had left the colony in his own brig the Nereus, his debts amounting to upwards of £50,000.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—The crops in the interior of this colony have suffered considerably from the effect of frost and hot winds, but principally by the former. Much of the barley and oats has been in consequence cut down for hay. The fruit is said to be totally destroyed. The crop of hay is abundant; and the wheat and barley which have escaped the frost are expected to yield well.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

CANADA. — An address, signed by men of all parties, including twenty-four members of the House of Assembly, had been presented to Governor Thompson, praying him to cancel the agreement extorted by Sir Francis Head from Mr. Martin **Bidwell**, by which that gentleman bound himself not to return to Upper Canada. Colonel Prince's name is attached to this petition.

A letter from New Brunswick states that a British subject, Mr. Paul **Beardsley**, was arrested at a lumber-camp, near **Presque Isle**, by the **Maine** authorities, and conveyed to **Houlton**, and there committed to take his trial, for having participated in the arrest of the land-agent of **Maine**, last winter-an act which wits sanctioned by the provincial magistrates and government at the time.

There are now building at Quebec thirty-three vessels, the united tonnage of which will be 18,093 ; they are all in a forward state, and **expected** to be sent to sea early in the ensuing season.

The Great Western brought intelligence to the middle of March ; by **this** it appeared that Governor **Thompson** had appointed Christopher A. **Hagerman**, Esq., to the vacant judgeship in the Court of Queen's Bench ; the Hon. William H. Draper, to be **Attorney-General** ; and Robert Baldwin, Esq., to be Solicitor-General.

On the 18th February the Governor left Toronto for Montreal, the journey to which (**360** miles) was performed in thirty-five hours and forty minutes. He was accompanied by his **aide-de-camp**, Captain le Marchans, and **followed** by Mr. **Murdock**, Captain Campbell, and Mr. Baring. On his arrival, a salute of nineteen guns was fired. Mr. Weller, the Upper Canada **mail-contractor**, by whom the Governor was conveyed, was presented by him with **£500** and a gold watch.

A deputation of some of the principal inhabitants of Montreal had an interview with Governor Thompson, on the **29th** of February, to request that he would forward a petition to the Queen against an ordinance, submitted to the special council by his Excellency, for incorporating the seminary of St. **Sulpice**, which it was promised should be done.

Boundary. - Mr. Pearson, the agent appointed by the state of Maine to make a report of affairs on the boundary, has published a statement which clearly shows the great value of the timber upon the disputed territory. A considerable British force was assembled on the frontiers, and fresh troops were constantly arriving from Halifax. The **23rd** regiment of Fusileers had received orders to be in readiness to march for New Brunswick. Van Buren, the President of the United States, had communicated to Congress further papers, and a correspondence between Mr. Fox and Mr. Forsyth, the tone and tenor of which was anything but calculated to assist in dispelling the difficulties with which this perplexing question is still surrounded.

WEST INDIES.

JAMAICA. — Intelligence from this island to the 3rd of February, continued to be of a highly satisfactory nature. The Governor is spoken of as earning golden opinions for himself, and as deserving the respect and esteem of all ranks. He was making a tour through the island, and was everywhere well received. The inhabitants of Kingston had presented him with a highly complimentary **address**, to which a reply was made expressive of the warmest thanks.

The police force was being organized with great care. There was less excitement amongst the peasantry, who, although still not to be depended upon for continuous **labour**, were much more inclined for work. Roberies are spoken of as unfortunately but too common. A Portuguese schooner, named the *Louisa*, with 283 slaves on board, had been captured by the *Cleopatra*, Captain Lushington. She was brought into Port Royal on the 6th January, and immediately placed in quarantine, in consequence of the small-pox having broken out amongst the negroes.

The Vice-Admiralty Court on the 27th January gave judgment in the matter of the slave-ship *Ulysses* and her cargo, on application in behalf of the crown. The vessel was condemned, and the slaves forfeited to her Majesty. The principal part of the latter had been apprenticed, and some of the

finest of the men had been drafted into the second West India regiment

The commissioners appointed to inquire into the condition of immigrants in Seaford township, reported--" That of the 1.56 males and females resident at the date of former return, twelve had left for America, and 16 had died, which, with an increase of six during the twelve months, leaves a total of 124 at the present time." The extraordinary number of deaths in so small a population is accounted for by the vagrant habits of some of the inhabitants, in travelling about the country begging.

Endeavours were making to establish a company with a capital of £50,000, to cultivate the mulberry-tree, procure silkworms, and manufacture silk for exportation.

The petition presented by the East India Company to the Imperial Parliament, for the equalization of the duties on East and West India sugar, had caused much excitement in both Jamaica and in the other islands.

A trash-house on the " Green-pond Estate was fired on the 22nd of January, and was entirely consumed. Two persons were taken up on the charge of incendiarism.

A meeting of the commissioners of public accounts was held on the 17th of January, at which the tenders were opened, and several sums accepted upon loan for three years, at 6 per cent. The form of certificates for £50 sterling, at 3d. per day interest, was approved, and were to be issued forthwith.

The next successive accounts were to the 9th of February. By these it appears that a ball had been given at Kingston, on the 6th of Feb., in honour of Sir C. Metcalfe, which is described as being the most splendid entertainment ever given in that city.

By later accounts of the 28th of Feb. it appears that the Governor had left Kingston, and was continuing his tour through the island, and was everywhere well received.

Another slave-schooner, the Victoria, had been captured by her Majesty's brig Ringdove, commanded by the Hon. Captain Stewart, and was brought into Port Royal on the 7th of February. The number of negroes on board does not appear, but is said to be large. A requisition for a public meeting to protest against the equalization of the

sugar-duties, was in process of signature.

Another company for the production of silk was in process of formation. Mr. Bradford, the chief promoter, is said to have upwards of three millions of mulberry-trees growing in Cuba, being one-eighth of the whole number growing in the West Indies. He calculates, that with this advantage of plantations near at hand, he can establish a silk company in half the time, and at half the cost which must be expended by anybody deriving his stock from the United States. The prospectus states that the *morus multicaulis* will, three months after planting, produce $\frac{1}{4}$ lb of leaves ; in three months from that period, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. more ; in three months thence, 1 lb. more ; and in three months thence, 2 lbs. more, making $3\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. within twelve months. It is also calculated that 150 lbs. of leaves will feed worms to produce at least 1 lb. of silk. The sum of 13s. 4d. per lb. of silk is allowed for the labour of weeding, picking leaves, feeding, and reeling ; and it is reckoned that the raw material will produce in the British or American market at least £1. 13s. 4d. per lb. The capital proposed is £30,000, in 5,000 shares of £6 each.

A meeting had been held at the parish of Trelawney, at which resolutions were carried declaring the injustice and partiality of several laws passed 'by the legislature of the island, and sanctioned by the Governor. The following is one of the principal resolutions : " That this meeting considers those unequal laws recently enacted by the legislature of this island, such as the Vagrant Act, the Police Bill, the Act for the recovery of Tenements, the Pound Law, the Registration of Fire-arms, the Fisheries Bill, &c. incompatible with the freedom of the emancipated population, for whom Great Britain has so long and so unweariedly struggled, and for which she granted so munificent a sum as 20,000,000 sterling ; and that this meeting recommends to every kindred society in the island forthwith to send petitions to her Majesty in council, to have all such partial laws immediately disallowed." Petitions founded on these resolutions were intrusted to the care of the Rev. William Knibb, with instructions to have them presented in the usual manner to the Queen and both Houses of Parlia-

ment. Incendiary fires were constantly recurring, and the general tenor of these last accounts was less **favourable** than preceding ones. The two silk companies above alluded to were exciting considerable interest.

TRINIDAD.—The accounts from this island are of the most cheering character. The planters were in good spirits. The negroes took the usual Christmas holidays, but were expected to return to work for the same wages as during the previous year. The official returns show that the sugar crop of 1839 is **quite** equal to that of the previous year. The ship *Archer*, from Philadelphia, arrived at Port of Spain on the 27th December, with 121 immigrant labourers

A numkrous meeting of proprietors, merchants, mortgagees, and other influential inhabitants of the colony, had taken place on the 25th Dec., at which resolutions were adopted and petitions prepared for presentation to both houses of the Imperial Parliament, praying that no equalization of the duties on East and West India sugars might take place. The petitioners show that the average total consumption of sugar in Great Britain and Ireland is 223,600 tons, of which Trinidad now furnishes 18,163 tons, whereas she has the natural capability for the production of 330,270 tons **annually**.

An **application**, it appears by the papers of the island, had been made by Mr. Hodgkinson to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for leave to retire on a pension, the grounds of which application were extreme length of service and a ruined constitution. The matter had been referred by Lord John **Russell** to the Council, who refused to grant the pension, by a **majority of 8** to 1, on **the ground that Mr. Hodgkinson** was still **able** to discharge the duties of his office. The minority consisted of the Chief Justice, who suggested that it might be well to wait the state of Mr. Hodgkinson's health being ascertained, but which was unattended to.

BARBADOES, to the 29th January, an act has been passed by the legislature imposing a penalty of **£100** on any person inoculating another with the small-pox virus. Persons having the small-pox, and willingly exposing themselves in **public** places, are made liable to a penalty of **£25**. The **druggists'**

shops were thronged with persons eager to be vaccinated.

The Governor had sent a message to the Assembly on the subject of incendiary fires, **Out** of twenty-seven it was believed that sixteen were caused by incendiaries. His Excellency recommended that free pardon should be offered to all accomplices giving information, and that special constables should be appointed for the protection of property. Mr. Taylor had introduced a bill into the Legislative Assembly for revising the electoral laws. His proposition was calculated to increase the constituency by lowering the franchise.

A strong necessity was felt of obtaining an increased supply of **labour**, and the planters were turning their attention towards the United States.

GRENADA.—Some Maltese emigrants had arrived in this island, as an experiment of the fitness of those people to **labour** in a West Indian climate.

A meeting was held at St. George's on the 13th of January, to petition parliament against the equalization of the sugar duties.

ST. LUCIA.—The accounts from this island to the 15th January are not of a satisfactory nature. The continuance of the extremely dry weather was beginning to cast a **gloom** over the planters. The cane plant had suffered much, and a serious deficiency **was** expected in the coffee crops.

ST. VINCENT.—A meeting was held at Kingstown on the 4th of January, to petition against the equalization of the sugar duties.

BRITISH GUIANA*—Governor Light appears to have taken every precaution in his power to prevent the recurrence of the cruelties and neglect which excited the public feeling in this country so strongly against the employment of Hill **Coolies** in the West Indies. He states that the mortality of the **Coolies** compared with Europeans is as one to three, that their blood is purer than that of the negroes, and their hurts sooner healed. The magistrates' monthly report on the subject is extremely **favourable**. The session of the Court of Policy commenced on the 28th of Jan. The Governor in his opening speech admitted a decrease in the produce exported during the last year, but expressed his anticipation of a proportionate increase in the current year. He **spoke** of the **conduct** of the labouring population

with approbation, recommended attention to the health of the colony, and suggested that buildings should be erected for the reception of immigrant labourers.

The half-yearly report of the British Guiana Bank, dated the 24th January, has been published: it appears that the balance in favour of the bank is 92,741 dollars, of which the sum of 39,172 dollars is the surplus, remaining at the last dividend, consequently the net profits for the last half year are 53,569 dollars. One-fourth of this is to be added to the reserved fund, and the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$, equal to 40,177 dollars, is the available profit. The directors propose a dividend of 4 per cent. for the half year.

The Maltese appear to be looked upon here as unprofitable immigrants. Mr. Postlethwaite had presented a petition for compensation for losses incurred in the importation of Maltese labourers, which was to be taken into consideration.

The Supreme Court of Civil Justice had suspended two barristers, Messrs. Arundell and Downie, for authorizing a defendant to petition the Queen to prevent Mr. Justice Norton from sitting on the bench at the trial of a cause in which the learned judge was himself the plaintiff, and which act was considered as a studied insult to the judge, as there was no reason whatever to suppose that he intended to act in so indecent a manner.

A considerable panic was occasioned in this Colony, arising from the breaking out of a disease among the captured negroes, and which, though similar to small-pox, is in reality a distinct malady, probably peculiar to negroes alone, among whom it is supposed to be caused by the change of habit produced by sea travelling.

The want of labourers at the Cape is much debated, by some it is asserted, by others denied; judging from an advertisement which appeared in the Ware African of the 11th of February, the advocates of the affirmative appear to be on the side of truth: "Wanted 25 good labourers at £3 per month and extras a glass of brandy in the morning, wine, three times a day, and a glass of grog and a cigar in the afternoon." A pub-

lic meeting had been held to take the matter into consideration.

Later accounts furnish the following table showing the progress in the production of wool, by the quantity exported from the Cape in

	lbs.	value	£
1832 .	6,789	value	3.356
1836 .	256,629	"	18,116
1837 .	351,824	"	22,164
1838	"	26,627

GRAHAM'S TOWN. -- By intelligence from this settlement to the 23d of January, it seems that a meeting of the shareholders of the Eastern Province Bank, had been held, when it appeared by the report that on the year's transactions there had been a clear profit of £1,309 and a dividend of six per cent, on the paid-up capital was declared. The state of the Colesberg gaol is greatly complained of, six prisoners having lately effected their escape by quietly cutting a hole in the thatch. Crime is said to be greatly on the increase in the Colesberg district, robbers go about killing sheep by fifties at a time, and in one case when pursued fired upon their pursuers.

The police are described as being most inefficient, being composed of convicted thieves and raw bushmen. The accounts from the sheep districts are any thing but favourable. A disease similar in its nature to the rot was making fearful havoc. Mr. Barber from Warwickshire, and his party of nine emigrants, had arrived and were preparing to settle down in the Colony much to the satisfaction of the latter.

PORT ' NATAL. — The Cape papers contain some curious particulars relative to the emigrants of this place. The number capable of bearing arms in the Natal country is said to be about 600, while on the western side of the Mada and Zand rivers, there are a great number amounting according to some accounts to 3,000. They live together in numbers of from 50 to 100 families and their principal spot Pictermauritzburg, which they have chosen for their chief town, and which is about twelve hours' journey from the bay of Natal. The dwellings here, as well as in the other camps of the farmers, are built close together and surrounded with palisades so as to repel any hostile attack. Their govern-

ment is based on the Dutch law, and they call themselves the republic of Natal. Their chief power is the council of twenty-four, which is elected by the people, and chooses a president every meeting, though now practice inclines

to make the presidency annual. There are also two "Landrosts" each assisted by six Heemraden, who try all petty civil and criminal cases, though sentence of death requires the sanction of the council.

HOME INTELLIGENCE.

THE BANK OF ASIA. — This important undertaking is advancing to maturity. The petition and schedule of a Charter has been read before the Queen in council, and referred to the privy council for trade and plantations. The board of trade have passed the matter to the board of control, and the latter body of the court of directors of the East Indian Company. It is expected that the announcement of the Charter will shortly be made, and the allotment of the shares applied for will then take place. The shareholders we understand are of a most respectable class, and from all parts of the kingdom. When it is considered that the East India Company, alone, have been making a clear profit of five per cent on their remittances from India to England, during the last four years (viz. about £250,000 per annum). the rich field for operation will be fully appreciated. The dividend during the first year ought, on the estimate of the first bill-broker in London, to be more than ten per cent.

The secret-service money disbursed by orders of the secret committee of the court of directors of the East Indian Company, has been as follows. In the year 1782, £2,100; 1787, £8,238; 1788, \$1,716; 1789, £4; 1791, £6,590; 1792, £45,905; 1793, £64,563; 1794, £35,408; 1795, £130,187; 1796, £61,549; 1797, £5,831; 1798, £20,322; 1799, £18,368; 1800, £35,266; 1801, £16,964; 1802, £27,761; 1803, 329, 960; 1804, £25,360; 1805, £21,979; 1806, £10,619; 1807, £17,123; 1808, £15,672; 1809, £13,450; 1810, £5,190; 1811, £16,486; 1812, £14,1773; 1813, £24,057; 1814, £14,171; 1815, £9,180; 1816, £7,256; 1817, \$8,478; 1818, £7,475; 1819, £7,076; 1820, \$8, 751; 1821, £5,743; 1822, £5,484; 1823, £4,594; 1824, £3,658; 1825, £1,521; 1826, £1,516;

1827, £1,358; 1828, £1,106; 1829, £1,970; 1830, £2,059; 1831, £324, 1832, £200; 1833, £238; 1837, £470; 1838, £53,050.

(Signed) JAMES C. MELVILLE.

Secretary.

East India-house, 11 th of March, 1840.

** The years omitted in the above had no secret-service money disbursed.

An Anti-Slavery meeting was held at Liverpool, on the 16th of April, at which a series of resolutions were carried: the leading persons present were Mr. Scoble, Mr. Rathbone, and Dr. Raffles.

The members of Aborigines Protection Society held a "public convention" on the 15th of April. The cruelty shown to the aborigine natives of our various colonies formed the subject of discussion, and was severely censured by the speakers, while praise was awarded to the New Zealand Land Company, on account of their regulation for retaining one-tenth of the land for the natives.

Sir Henry Fane, who lately commanded the British forces in India, died on board the Malabar, on the 24th of March. This gallant officer was distinguished in the Peninsular war at Corunna, Talavera, Vittoria, and Orthez. He was Colonel of the first regiment of dragoon guards.

In the House of Commons on the 7th of April, Sir James Graham moved the following resolution, which was negatived by a majority of 271 to 261:—

'& That it appears to this House, on consideration of the papers relating to China, presented to this House by command of her Majesty, that the interruption in our commercial and friendly intercourse with that country, and the hostilities which have since taken place,

are mainly to be attributed to the want of foresight and precaution on the part of her Majesty's present advisers, in respect to our relations with China, and especially to their neglect to furnish the superintendent at Canton with powers and instructions calculated to provide against the growing evils connected with the contraband traffic in opium, and adapted to the novel and difficult situation in which the superintendent was placed."

A numerous meeting of the New Zealand Company and others, was held in Guildhall, on the 15th of April, at which the Lord Mayor presided, when the following resolutions were passed : —

" That it is an object of high national importance to maintain inviolate the rights **of the British Crown** in the islands of **New Zealand**, subject to those of the native inhabitants."

" That, deeply impressed with the **pernicious results of** convict colonization, this meeting earnestly deprecates the establishment of a penal settlement, whether British or Foreign, in any part of New Zealand."

" That, **as** the settlement of New Zealand by British subjects is rapidly **progressing** without law or order, it is indispensable to the well-being of her Majesty's subjects already established **there, as well as of the native inhabitants, that provision be made without further delay for the regular administration of British law in Zealand, for securing to all the means of moral and religious instruction, and for substituting a judicious system of colonization for the present lawless practices of individuals.**"

A **petition to both Houses of Parliament, founded on these resolutions, was then adopted, which is to lie for signature during the Easter recess, after which Lord Ashburton is to be requested to present it to the House of Lords, and Lord Elliot, to the Commons.**

The Queen has been pleased to confer the honour of Knighthood on Mr. Robt. **Boucher Clarke, Solicitor-General** of Barbadoes.

On the **23rd** of March, Lord John Russell obtained leave to bring in a bill to re-unite the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the government thereof.

On the same day Lord Duncannon laid the Clergy Reserves Bill on the table of the House of Lords.

On the **25th**, on the motion of Mr. Crawford, a select committee was appointed " To enquire into the grievances complained of in the petition of merchants interested in the trade with China, by reason of the surrender of Opium to her Majesty's superintendent there in the month of March, **1839**, and to report their observations thereon to the house."

The annual meeting of the Canada Company was held on the **26th** of March. The report stated that the sales of land made by the company in the year ending the 31st of December last, were, in the Crown reserves 23,378 acres, at an average of **£13 5s.** per acre currency, and a few town lots ; making the total sales **35,120** acres, producing **£22,257.** The total cost of the Crown land sold was **£5,120.** In **stirling** the sales of land last year had realized **£19,975.** The receipts of the Company in the last year exceed **£27,000,** of which **£10,000** were for arrears of interest. The quantity of land bought originally of government was **2,484,413** of which **1,993,600** acres had been paid for, **733,000** had been sold, **1,260,600** remained unsold, and the Company had still to pay for 490,113. The sums already paid for land were **£348,680.** The Governor congratulated the Company on the last years operations, and stated that emigration was expected to be greatly increased this year, on which the prosperity of the company greatly depended. The report was adopted ; the directors and auditors appointed, and meeting adjourned.

On the 25th of **March** the Society of Arts confirmed the report of their committee of Colonies and Trade on **Assamese tea.** From the whole of the evidence, it appears that there has been a progressive improvement both in the manufacture and in the flavour of the native Assamese teas ; and that, **from** the success of the experiment of growing the China plant in Assam, which has produced a tea of a highly aromatic and delicate flavour, and in comparison with which the indigenous plant has been under the disadvantage of greater age and indiscriminate gathering, it may be reasonably inferred that the country possesses every requisite of soil and

climate for producing *teas* of the finest quality. — *Athenæum*.

In the House of Commons, on the 30th of March, a committee of the whole house divided in favour of a motion of Lord John Russell, granting the sum of **£2,000** a year to her Majesty, for the purpose of being settled on **Lieutenant-General John Lord Seaton**, and the two next surviving heirs male of his body who may succeed to the title.

The House of Lords on the 7th of April, by a vote of 57 to **40**, agreed that, the question should be put to the judges,—as to the construction of the act of Parliament which allotted the “reserves” in Canada to the “Protestant clergy,” whether that term applied exclusively to the church of England, or whether it embraced the church of *Scotland*.

On the 8th of April, a meeting of the society for the propagation of gospel in foreign parts was held at the **Egyptian-hall** in the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor in the chair. Resolutions were passed, and about **£1000** was subscribed.

The **Fairlie**, 755 tons, Edward Garrett, R.N. commander, has lately sailed from the Downs for South Australia. The vessel is chartered by the Colonization commissioners, and carries out 54 married couples, 27 single men, 23 single women, 65 children between the ages of seven and fifteen ; 49 children between the ages of one and seven years, and 16 infants under twelve months, under the charge of Dr. Macfarlane, Surgeon **Superintendent**.— *South Australian Record*.

COLONIAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of this society was held on the 31st March, at their house, 15, St. James%-square. Mr. Montgomery Martin moved and carried the presentation of an Address to the Queen. The following is a copy of the Address drawn up by Mr. Martin, and presented to Her Majesty at a levee, on the 6th April, by a deputation from the society :-

” *To the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty.*

“ Most gracious Sovereign,

“ We, your Majesty’s most dutiful

and loyal subjects, the members of the Colonial Society, established for the purpose of promoting the interests and prosperity of the colonies and dependencies of the British empire, humbly beg leave to approach your most gracious Majesty.

“ Among the numerous subjects of your Majesty there are none possessing more ardent loyalty towards your Majesty than the colonists of this empire ; and few have stronger claims on the gracious consideration of their sovereign than those, who, from their distance from the seat of government, possess so few opportunities of making their feelings known to the monarch under whose benign sway it is their lot to live.

“ This Society was formed with the view of bringing together the **widely-scattered** colonists of this great empire on their arrival in their mother-country, and of making generally known the great national value of your Majesty’s transmarine dominions ; and we should consider ourselves deficient in dutiful attachment to your Majesty if we had omitted to tender to your Majesty our cordial congratulations on the auspicious and interesting occasion of the marriage of your Majesty with His Royal Highness Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and **Gotha**. We avail ourselves of this occasion to express our earnest wishes that this union may prove a source of unalloyed happiness to your Majesty and to your Royal Consort.

“ That a beneficent Providence may vouchsafe to your Majesty a long and prosperous reign, and that peace and unity may exist amongst the millions of our fellow-colonists, whose privilege it is to call themselves citizens of the British empire, is our fervent prayer.

“ On behalf of the members of the Society,

(Signed) “ **MOUNTCASHELL,**
Chairman.”

Addresses in unison with the foregoing are to be presented to the Duchess of Kent and to his Royal Highness Prince Albert,