

disposition on their part to dissolve that connexion, must be most injurious to their best interests in the councils of their sovereign's government, and is most repugnant to their feelings of strong and tried attachment to their sovereign, and the constitution under which they have the happiness to live."

From the forbearance and magnanimity of Sir John Colborne, who did not appeal to the province during the ferment caused by the promulgation of Mr. Hume's sentiments, and waiting till the feeling was altogether allayed, a House of Assembly was elected, that had a majority opposed to him of eight to eleven members. They were rather cautious at first ; but feeling themselves secure in their seats, they commenced a vigorous, pertinacious, and factious opposition to Sir John, which led to the adoption of a report on grievances ; which occasioning an ungracious correspondence between the Lieutenant-Governor and the Colonial Secretary, induced that gallant veteran to tender his resignation. He, however, had been forestalled ; for scarcely had he commenced the second session of that parliament, when a successor from England arrived, compelling Sir John to surrender the reins of government, and quit its seat, wholly unprepared, in the midst of a Canadian winter, to repair with his family to the severer climate of the Lower Province, previous to his departure for England. The same noble feeling which animated the province at the promulgation of Mr. Hume's letter again sprung up, but, if possible, with additional enthusiasm. The noble sympathies of the people were awakened, and the indignation of the generous and loyal population of the province were fully aroused. At every town and village throughout his route, the inhabitants of the various towns and villages for more than 300 miles met him with addresses of regret at his departure, and expressive of admiration and regard for him. They accompanied him in sleighs and carriages, manifesting, to the utmost of their power, the difference which existed between a passive acquiescence in an election in which they took no interest, and their sense of that line of policy which the British government seemed inclined to approve. When Sir Francis Head first assumed the reins of government in the province, in obedience to the instructions he had received, and in pursuance of modern policy, he was to endeavour to conciliate those who would never be conciliated, even at the risk of the forfeiture of the affection of those naturally contented, well-affected, and well-disposed. He made additions to his council ; but his councillors wishing to dictate, " not advise," an altercation took place -they resigned their office—the Executive and the House of Assembly disagreed—the province implored the Governor to dissolve

the parliament. He did so; and the people, 'true to their pledge, returned representatives who gloriously retrieved the character of the country, and rescued it from the dangers which menaced it. The discomfited candidates, exasperated beyond all measure, madly resolved to make an appeal to arms, and, seizing the opportunity when an alarming rebellion was raging in the Lower Province, when not a soldier was in the Upper, when the militia was not organized, the loyalists alarmed, and the anti-English party praying for the defeat of the British soldiery, they organized an armed force, with the intention of murdering the Governor, judges, law-officers, and many others, plundering the banks, subverting the government, and, "keeping the conduct of the Americans between 1772 and 1782, and the result, ever in view, proclaim perfect freedom and independence from the baneful domination of the mother-country." The events immediately connected with the attempt at rebellion; the signal defeat of the rebels; the invasions connected with it; and the American testimonies in reprobation of it, will afford abundant matter for a distinct article; but to show the objects of **Mackenzie**, who was counselled by Mr. Hume, it may not be without interest or usefulness to give some extracts from the paper he published **PREVIOUS TO THE OUTBREAK ! !—**

"There is every probability, that ere now Montreal is either in the hands of the Canadians, and Sir John and his men driven towards the four winds of heaven, **OR IT IS IN ASHES!** We have before said, and we here repeat the opinion, that neither 1,000 men-no, nor 10,000 men, would be able to stand a month against the **Canadian** people, *united, and determined to be free.* They have waited sixty years longer than the rest of America for British justice, and have met with injury and **insult.** . . . Brave Canadians! God has put into the bold and honest hearts of our brethren in Lower Canada to revolt—the peasants are **BEGINNING** to open their eyes, and to **feel** their strength. Too long have they been hoodwinked by **Baal's** priests—by hired and tampered-with preachers, wolves in sheep's clothing, who take the **wages** of sin, and do the work of iniquity, 'each one looking to his **gain** in his quarter.'" Here is to be seen the reason why Papineau said, that until religion was rooted out in the Lower Province, and the influence of the clergy destroyed, it was vain to expect a successful resistance to the government. "Captains, colonels, volunteers, artillerymen, **privates**—the base, the vile hirelings of our unlawful oppressors—have already bit the dust in hundreds in Lower Canada; and although the Roman Catholic and Episcopal bishops and archdeacons **are bribed** by large sums of money to instruct their flocks, that they should be obedient to a government which ought to be put down, yet God has opened the eyes of the people to the wickedness of these reverend sinners, so **that they hold them in derision**, just as God's prophet Elijah did the priests of **Baal** of old and their **sacrifices ! !** It is the design of the friends of liberty to root up the unlawful Canada Company, and give **FREE DEEDS** to all settlers who live on their lands." [Very honest and just, certainly, after that company had paid instalments for them, and incurred vast expense in making the British people acquainted with the nature

and value of them !] “ The promised land is now before us-up, then, and take it. Here we reformers are, as ten to one ; and if we rise, we will make quick work of it. We cannot be reconciled to Britain—we are determined never to rest until independence is ours !”

These ten to one reformers made the attempt, at a time too when every surrounding circumstance aided them, and when the government looked with contempt on their preparations ; and although it must always be considered a most dangerous experiment on the part of Sir Francis B. Head ; yet an able political writer of the last century would seem to bear him out in his conduct, by the following passage, extracted from his writings :—“ The tranquillity of the best ordered society may be disturbed, at any time, by a sudden outbreaking of the malcontents. Against such a disaster there is no more guarding than against the commission of more vulgar crimes ; but when a government trembles for its existence before the turbulence of popular commotion, it is reasonable to infer some practical defect in its organization. Men will rally around their institutions as freely as they will rally around any other cherished interest, when they merit their care ; and there can be no surer sign of their hollowness, than when the rulers seriously apprehend the breath of the mob.” The adoption of the advice of Mr. Hume on the part of his friends and clients, Papineau, Mackenzie, and **Duncombe**—all of whom he counselled and advised—although detrimental for the time to emigration and the development of the resources of Canada, has not only relieved it from many dangers that were not seen, and directed the public attention to the country in a forcible manner, but will yet prove eminently beneficial in demonstrating the ends contemplated, under insidious pretences, and the evils often intended, under the pretext of reform. Sir Francis Head did certainly set his life upon a cast, and he did stand the hazard of the die, and it is but due to him to say of his conduct,

“ Pauci dignoscere possunt
Vera. bona, atque illis multum diversa.”

[* * The able writer of this and the preceding articles on Canada, uses strong language in the expression of his sentiments, and some persons may not be well pleased with his exposition ; but freedom of discussion is one of the elements of a free state, and those who take a prominent part in public affairs must submit to a rigid investigation of their conduct, and a severe condemnation of their proceedings.—ED.]

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND:

MORAL, PHYSICAL, AND POLITICAL.

[Continued from p. 484, Vol. I.]

It has been endeavoured to be shown, that, prior to the year 1820, Van Diemen's Land was little better than an extensive penitentiary. At that eventful era of her history she emerged from a jail into a colony. Although actually existent during the seventeen preceding years, still her virtual nativity dates with 1820. At the period, therefore, of Colonel Arthur's arrival, she had been nascent about four years.

It will readily be imagined, that the currency of such an infantine community must have been in a very imperfect and disorganized condition. Although barter was necessarily a prevalent means for the exchange of different commodities, nevertheless an early indication of the value of a circulating medium developed itself. The precious metals were few, and chiefly comprised in the capital imported by the shoals of the then numerous immigrants. No bank had been established. The commissariat funds were limited, and the little specie in hand consisted of what was termed the *holey* dollar and *dump*, both being an ingenious contrivance of General Macquarie to retain the silver in the colonies. The *holey* dollar was the rim, the dump the centre struck out of the Spanish dollar, - the former passing for 3s. 9d., the latter for 1s. 3d. currency. Despite, however, such devices, the coin was apt to be taken in payment of imports, and, for the purposes of every-day traffic, the townspeople, in especial, were often reduced to awkward shifts.

To counteract and provide for these difficulties, men of known property issued their promissory notes. These were at first limited to 10s. and 20s. ; but so unbounded was the confidence, and so readily did they pass from hand to hand, that almost every petty shopkeeper followed the example thus set, and every conceivable sum, from three-halfpence upwards, was in universal circulation. - If partial evil accrued from such general and heterogeneous *banking*, it must also be conceded that great good was likewise attained. Without some such device, every attempt at improvement must have been rendered abortive. As it was, Hobart Town sprung up with a celerity worthy of Aladdin and his redoubted lamp ; the gum-trees disappeared from its incipient

streets, which were levelled, drained, and macadamized ; churches, chapels, and substantial mansions reared their goodly heads, and the embryo metropolis speedily wore the neat, the cleanly, and the enterprising aspect that characterises England and Englishmen throughout the world.

To Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Bell, of the 48th regiment, the colonists owe a debt of gratitude ; that able and zealous officer, who held the appointment of colonial engineer, contributed greatly to the advancement both of town and country, numerous monuments of his persevering assiduity being everywhere to be seen. A prudent foresight provided against such after blemishes as narrow and tortuous streets, ample space being in every instance decreed, and an uniformity and regularity everywhere preserved ; hence Hobart Town, at the present date, is remarkable for the beauty of its picturesque and well-ventilated thoroughfares,

The first bank established in Tasmania bears the appropriate designation of the Bank of Van Diemen's Land ; it was created in 1823 ; the amount of capital subscribed was in two hundred shares, of two hundred Spanish dollars each, (subsequently increased to £30,000 :) its affairs were conducted by six directors and a president, (Anthony Fenn Kemp, Esq.) Discounts were necessarily limited, the directors meeting every Friday to determine what paper should be accepted ; No bill of a longer date than three months was discountable, and, as a further security to the bank, a third name, beside those of the drawer and acceptor, was insisted on. This was a measure fraught with much evil, and which ultimately rendered the system of *flying the kite* one of general but dangerous adoption. Discount was charged after the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and so extraordinarily did the establishment prosper, that the shareholders, in 1826, actually divided 42 per cent. upon their capital.

Monetary affairs speedily engrossed the attention of Colonel Arthur. The Spanish dollar had passed for 5s. currency, and British gold bore a considerable premium in the colonial market. Such a system had, however, reached its term, for in September, 1826, an act of council was passed, whereby the issue of twopenny and threepenny bills was rendered illegal, and all payments were, thenceforward, ordered to be made in British sterling. Upon the calling in of the minor notes, many *sharks* denied the genuineness of the paper presented, some loss consequently accrued, but by far the larger portion of this remarkable currency was honourably redeemed.

Nearly coeval with this act, were those which provided for the fiscal

regulations of the colony. In the good old days, when every inducement was held out for the promotion of **emigration**, each settler was permitted to land ten gallons of spirits for himself, **and a like quantity for every member of his family**. These "**orders to land**," as they were termed, opened a most convenient door for **smuggling**, and as the duty was then almost prohibitory, the orders were not infrequently **sold to the dealers**. All this was now to be amended. **The duties of port-officer**, treasurer, and collector of customs, had been blended in one. Their respective services thenceforward became limited and defined; order and regularity gradually evolving itself from **the mass of intricacy and confusion**. Among the principal **sources of revenue**, the following may be named: duty on colonial spirits (distillation **prohibited** by Sir John Franklin, 1839,) 3s. 6d. per gallon—British spirits, 7s. 6d.—foreign, 10s.—tobacco, 1s. 6d. per pound—teas and foreign wines, 15s. per cent. *ad valorem*. Another, and no inconsiderable source of revenue, was created by the publicans' licenses, which are charged at the rate of £25 each per annum.

Prior to 1826, when taverns or hostelries were almost exclusively confined to Hobart Town, Launceston, New Norfolk, or some other of the internal towns, when "good accommodation for travellers" was only to be met with in the unbounded hospitality of "the bush;" when the country had been partially occupied throughout its entire length. In these days, when energy and enterprise were rough-shaping the now flourishing settlement, the emigrant enjoyed the advantage of the non-existence of the publicans' act. The boon, although insignificant in a money'd view, was most important, in as far as regarded the continuity of progress in his farming operations. Exclusive of **assigned** convicts, almost every settler had in his employ free or ticket-of-leave men, who were engaged either in clearing the land, erecting fences, or constructing barns, stables, sheds, or dwelling-houses. Such **men earned most** exorbitant wages, a very large share of which was consumed in drink. Experience taught the master that unless *he* **supplied** the means of such indulgence, his labourers would leave him, **probably** at the most important period, to get rid of their wages in a drunken carouse. Public houses were then **remote from the interior**, and men did not quit their work by one or two, or for a day, but in a body, whose orgies lasted whilst cash or credit remained. They might then **return to** their employer, or they might go and engage themselves elsewhere, leaving work, upon which the comfort or prosperity of the settler depended, in an unfinished state. In an old country this is an **evil of easy remedy**; not so, however, in a new, whose inhabitants

were spread over a large surface, and whose demand for labour always so greatly exceeded the supply. Until the licensing act appeared, the sale of spirits was therefore almost universal, and although it may at first glance appear to wear a demoralizing aspect, yet the contrary was the fact, inasmuch as the chief purport of the sale was a bait to keep the labourer from rambling, and as work, not gain, was the legitimate aim, the issue of such incitement was limited, and within reason. When the act interdicting such sale, first came into operation, the settlers, for a considerable period, suffered by the desertion of their workmen, who repeatedly travelled five and twenty miles, ere they could reach a legalized temple of Bacchus. The evil has now, however, found its level, numerous public houses having spread themselves all over the island.

To show how banefully the fruits of industry, in those early days, were too frequently dissipated, one incontrovertible illustration will suffice : two stone-masons engaged in the erection of a house, upon the completion of their task, and after paying their employer for the provisions consumed during the progress of the work, had a balance of £50 in cash to receive. They then dissolved partnership ; one, a prudent man, taking proper care of the £25 which fell to his share. The other contracted with a neighbouring settler, from whom he received (clear) £25 more; he then undertook a job for a publican, with whom he remained some six weeks, and, being an able mechanic, he could easily earn £3. 10s. a week, making £21—£71 in all. At the close of the six weeks, how much does the reader imagine the mason took away with him? Not only *not* a penny, but he was brought into the publican's debt above £20. It will be said he could not *fairly* have made away with so large a sum in so short a space, so thought his former employer, and urged him to let the publican bring his action. His answer, however, is a painful solution of the debasing system—"I know I do not owe the money, but were I to dispute payment, how should I ever be able to obtain credit for a *drink*, when cash may be scarce."

During the years 1825-6, the inhabitants of Hobart Town were greatly alarmed in consequence of some measures that indicated an intention of changing the seat of government. The motive for such change, was the alleged (and unquestionable) insecurity of Hobart Town against foreign aggression. The fears of the Hobartonian were not wholly imaginary ; several places, Brighton, Bagdad, New Norfolk, having been selected for the post of honour. At these, in turn, much labour and much money are said to have been wantonly

expended, more than sufficient, in all probability, to have erected every adequate defence for the protection 'of the capital, that nature has pointed out the legitimate seat of Tasmania's future empire. The works in the interior were, nevertheless, carried on, until suddenly abandoned, "orders from home" having, it is stated, been received for their discontinuance.

Having hinted that Hobart Town is defenceless, it may be as well to point out how easily the defect might be remedied. With the exception of Mulgrave Battery, an untenable earthen breast-work, mounting some four or five worn-out honeycombed G-pounders, there is not a single gun along the shores of the Derwent. Vessels entering Hobart Town have the choice of two channels-the first caused by the passage between the mainland and the island of Brunck, and which is marked in the charts as d'Entrecasteaux Channel, the other by the more frequented route called Storm Bay. The north-east point of Brune Island, at Kelly's Farm, commands both passages, and it would be difficult for a ship to escape a battery placed there without considerable hazard. But supposing that she did so, there are innumerable points in and around Sullivan's Cove which should insure the safety of every vessel at anchor within. The misnamed "Fort" Mulgrave and Macquarie Point might easily be rendered as efficient for the defence of our own, as destructive for the offence of hostile shipping. With the increasing amount of French and American tonnage, and the roving disposition recently evinced by French pendants, these things should be looked to in time. It is said that the inhabitants of Launceston are not without hopes of one day becoming the seat of chief authority. Neither the character of the river Tamar, nor common justice to Hobart Town, can warrant such an idea. Each place possesses its own peculiar advantages. Let Launceston be satisfied with hers-they are numerous and great-but as a port she cannot compete with the depth of water, facility of entrance, and splendid anchorages of the Derwent.

The first newspaper which emanated from the Tasmanian press was, entitled "The Hobart Town Gazette." This journal-a weekly half-sheet-was the property of a Mr. Bent, and published by him. For some time it was almost entirely confined to government notices, with shipping and other advertisements. It, however, progressively increased; until it acquired the character and importance of a regular newspaper, remarkable for the uncompromising tone of its writings; for which its proprietor suffered repeated fine and imprisonment.

Shortly after the arrival of Colonel Arthur, the title was declared to be government property, and assumed as such. Bent, however, con--

tinued to publish ; and as the local authorities issued their own organ, Hobart Town beheld two " gazettes," until Bent was compelled " by authority" to adopt a new title ; this he did, styling his journal " The Colonial Times." The editorial department was intrusted to the care of Mr. Lathrop Murray ; a task which he performed with much more talent than moderation. The letters signed " A Colonist," universally attributed to his pen, containing strictures upon Colonel Arthur which even His Excellency's enemies deemed altogether unwarrantable ; ex-officio informations became plentiful as blackberries ; but although conviction followed upon conviction, the press remained unshaken in its attacks. At length, by way of *coup de grace*, an act of council, of October, 1827, imposed a stamp duty of 2d. on every newspaper ; **ordaining**, moreover, that a license should be taken out by every publisher, for which he should be charged 11. 2s. annually, and that the power should be vested in the Lieutenant-Governor to grant or withhold this license, as he should see fit,—*le voila accablé*. This was a mortal stroke for the " Colonial Times," for whose especial benefit the act would appear to have been framed. The " Courier" remonstrated **in** a manly and moderate tone, whilst the last sighs of the " Times " were vented in deprecating an act which it could not avert. The fated day arrived, and the father of Tasmanian literature, as Bent styled himself, was the only printer denied a license. The " Times," nevertheless, was forwarded to its usual subscribers ; but, alas ! where once shone its pungent comments, nothing met the eye but blank columns in a heavy mourning border. Father Bent petitioned, but without effect. Finding hebdomadal lucubrations beyond his pale, he set to work with monthly instead, issuing a journal, named the " Colonial Advocate," which had a tolerably fair circulation. The Newspaper Act no sooner became known " at home," than it was ordered to be withdrawn by Sir George Murray, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies ; the more than ample powers vested in the colonial Attorney-General being justly deemed fully adequate for the repression of improper matter.

. The system of Tasmanian brigandism, called bushranging, which Colonel Sorell had so happily succeeded in exterminating by the death of the famed Michael Howe, " the terror of Van Diemen's Land," and which did not dare to uprear its head for several years, once more let loose its blighting influence to paralyze the energies and to cripple the industry of the settlers. Scarcely had Colonel Arthur assumed the reins of government ere he found himself called **upon** to crush a band of the most daring outlaws that ever filled a community with terror, bordering almost upon despair, In the August of 1824, fourteen men,

headed at first by one Crawford (a lieutenant in the navy, as has been said,) made their escape by sea from the penal settlement of **Macquarie Harbour**. Landing near Frederic-Henry Bay, they speedily became possessed of arms and ammunition, They were then joined by others, and having organized and disciplined their forces, they struck the whole colony with consternation and alarm by the rapidity of their marches, and the unexpected manner of their attack. Their proceedings are of sufficient interest to claim an exclusive chapter hereafter. It may only be necessary in this place to observe, that the government, in the first instance, treated the outbreak with too much contempt, thereby suffering the desperadoes to gain strength and confidence, and, for nearly two years, to coerce and overawe the colony. It must be borne in mind, that the police force had not then been formed, that the interior was imperfectly known—and that the large majority of settlers consisted of recent importations from England, whose impressions of colonial insecurity were greatly aggravated by such imminent danger, whilst their apprehensions were further whetted by the evident sympathy conspicuous in their convict servants, who did not always confine their sentiments, regarding the banditti, to mere sympathy. A quotation from an unpublished journal may serve to show how unenviable was the emigrant's lot . -

“ At this particular period the free master was greatly in the trammels of his prisoner-servant, many of the former being so much intimidated by the fellows in their forced employ, that, humiliating as is the fact, they submitted to insult, robbery, and laziness. It was no uncommon thing for those vagabonds to take a plough or pair of harrows, and throw them, secretly, into the river, in order that they might waste the day in idle search. Another and a common device, when sent- to collect the working oxen, was to take advantage of the unenclosed state of the country, and to drive them back from their master's property, **returning, when the day was far spent**, with an intimation that the bullocks were nowhere to be found. This, from a fear of exasperating the scoundrels, many masters chose to pretend they believed ; the evil, however, did not end with the loss of one day's ploughing—a second was often spent in a manner equally fruitless ; nay, sometimes, the animals were what in colonial slang was termed ‘ planted,’ (i. e. concealed), and the only way ‘ to **spring** the plant’ was, by offering a reward to those that would produce the errant cattle. There were, doubtless, many settlers who acted in this tame manner ; those, however, who adopted a contrary course, manfully scorning the half-uttered threats of their servants, and having them adequately punished for every **offence**. These men were duly feared, more respected, and better served, nor were they a whit more liable to suffer violence, which, happily, was **not** of frequent occurrence, the bushrangers justly discriminating between wanton caprice and merited punishment.”

Doubt and apprehension thus pervading the public mind, whilst the local government confined its energies to little beyond the publication