

of notices, that recommended the settlers to “enter with zeal and determination into measures for the apprehension of these robbers,” it is not to be wondered at that the career of the banditti should continue triumphant. It was all very fine to recommend associations, but the settlers deemed it to be the imperative duty of the authorities to render something more effectual than *paper* protection—and with regard to quitting their homes, leaving their families defenceless, in the vain hope of “hunting down” men whose perfect knowledge of “the bush,” coupled with their accurate and immediate information of every movement directed against them, — for an ill-organized body of mere volunteers to attempt the capture or destruction of such men was a fallacy, which met with neither encouragement nor support—the evil, in consequence, attained its climax, and then extreme measures were adopted. These consisted in granting a hundred pounds for each outlaw dead or alive, and, in addition, if such capture was effected by a convict, a free pardon and a free passage to England was decreed. The inhabitants of Hobart Town and Launceston undertook the garrison duty. The military were despatched into the interior. Numerous bodies of volunteers from the different gangs, animated with the hope of freedom, pressed forward in the chase. One method, however, pretty generally understood, but not much commented upon, is reported to have been the most decisive. It was one of painful contemplation—one which extremity alone could justify. The details which follow may not be correct to the letter—essentially they are. The tale runs thus:—A convict, named Cowan, or Cohen, was suffered to escape, with broken fetters, from an iron gang; he forthwith hastened to a smith in the confidence of the bushrangers, by whom he was freed from his incumbrances, and furnished with a clue to join the banditti, A *carte du pays* and a protection from the government was supplied him, together with a list of persons presumed to be interested in the gang. This man's flight was most industriously made public, and a great stir caused about his apprehension.

Having effected a junction with the outlaws—his object their capture or death—he not only conveyed intelligence of their motions to the various military detachments, but sought, by every means, to lead them into situations of difficulty and danger, from which nothing but the skill and conduct of their chief (Brady) could have extricated them. As Cohen always evinced spirit in the encounters, no doubts of his fidelity were entertained; and the eagerness with which he plundered “upon principle,” completed the delusion. Cohen ultimately succeeded in bringing them in contact with Lieutenant Williams, of the

40th Regiment, by whom they were broken and dispersed ; escaping only to fall into the hands of a stronger party. To place them in hazardous situations was not the only plan adopted by this miscreant, who took advantage of Murphy and Williams being asleep, and removed from the band, to render their sleep eternal. This fact communicated to Brady whilst in gaol, seemed so monstrous, that it was some time ere the captive brigand could be brought to give it credence. Cohen, with some hundreds of pounds in his pocket, obtained his free pardon, and returned to England—a more atrocious and blood-stained monster than any that remained to expiate their offences with their lives.

Misfortunes rarely come singly. As if the depredations of the bushrangers were not sufficiently harassing, the aborigines at this time broke out into that decided and sanguinary hostility, which continued with the most persevering vindictiveness during the six following years, and which, in the end, was only terminated by their pacific removal to Flinders Island.

This aboriginal warfare was much more dreaded by the settlers than the attacks of the bushrangers. The irruptions of both parties, it is true, were alike unexpected and sudden ; but those of the blacks were almost exclusively confined to the utterly defenceless. It was possible, too, to reason with the one, from whose hands personal violence was little to be dreaded, and rarely experienced ; whereas blood and desolation ever followed the footsteps of the other.

That the aboriginal Tasmanian was naturally mild and inoffensive in disposition appears to be beyond question. A worm, however, will turn, and the atrocities which were perpetrated against these unoffending creatures may well palliate the indiscriminate, although heart-rending slaughter they entailed. Both governor and governed were placed in a dilemma ; they scarcely knew how to act—how to preserve their own lives, and yet protect those of their sable foes. It is true, there were those who had no scruple on that head ; but the reflecting portion of the community knew well that they were “ invaders,” who had despoiled the original possessors of their hunting-fields, and that therefore what some folks denominated murder, was virtually “ slaying the enemies of their country,” according to their mode of battle, and that, however the grantee might endeavour to reconcile his acquisition as a gift of the British crown, still it was a legalized plunder, which the flattering unctiousness, that he was converting an inadequately appropriated wilderness into a resort for civilized man, could not entirely smooth away. It has been affirmed that the hostility of the Blacks was greatly aggravated by

an Australian native named Musquito. This man had been **employed** to track the celebrated Michael Howe and his associates. The **banditti** having been put down, Musquito was jeered and insulted by the convict population for the services which he had rendered. These taunts became insufferable, and he took to the bush, becoming the chief of a tribe of the worst description, which he is said to have instructed **in** every villany. Many deeds of terror are laid to his charge. That he perpetrated several murders is certain ; for one of which he and a Tasmanian, named Black Jack, were executed. Some two years thereafter, two more of the sable tribe suffered the last penalty of the law for murder. The policy as well as justice of these executions were loudly condemned, and as loudly upheld ; their denouncers contending **that** as example was the aim of all punishment, it was lost upon the **savages**, who neither beheld the fate of their fellows, and who would **not** have comprehended the cause if they had ; moreover, that it was adding fuel to the fire, and whetting their thirst for vengeance upon the exterminating Whites. That such arguments carried weight with them is evident, from the numerous proclamations that were issued, not only **for** the protection of the aborigines, but threatening with execution any who should be found guilty of putting them to death ; an earnest anxiety was likewise evinced to keep them without the lines occupied **by the** Whites. With this view, a most extraordinary document was promulgated. It is too voluminous to transcribe, but the gist of it was **to** catch the migratory savages, should they **offend** some of its clauses. The manner recommended for their capture reminds one of the excellent school-boy **recipé** for securing sparrows-by putting salt on their **tails**. The document, however, is said to have been the production of **the Attorney-General**, who shortly thereafter gave unequivocal proofs **of mental** aberration.

**In the mean** while women, children, and remote stock-keepers fell under the unerring spears or death-dealing **waddies** of an enemy, **the first** indication of whose appearance was consecretaneous with the stroke that reft his victim of life. The death-struggle done, the corpse became subject to **mutilation**—every indignity that sable vengeance could **inflict** being heaped upon the wretched remains,\* The hut was then

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\* The remains of a stock-keeper, slain upon the writer's estate, presented an **appalling** picture of their fury. The eyes were **torn** out of their sockets, and **waddies** (sticks not unlike office-rulers) thrust into the apertures. The skull was dreadfully smashed, and the mouth filled with cow-dung. It was conjectured the **waddies** were placed to resemble the horns of oxen, and that their revenge was emblematical of the occupation of their victim—a cattle-herd.

stripped of blankets, tea, sugar, flour, &c. Guns were latterly also carried off, although never made use of.

Although discord had arisen even at an early age of the colony, the aborigines, notwithstanding, for many years were regular in their periodical visits to Hobart Town, where they were invariably well received, and obtained food and blankets. Their sable hue has afforded a theme for naturalists and philosophers. It is certainly a remarkable feature, that in a latitude so considerably within the temperate zone as Van Diemen's Land, a negro population should be found. They may have been a fragment of a world strangely riven from the coast of **Africa**. They may-but whilst the origin of the aborigines of New Holland is unknown, it would be futile to speculate upon that of the **minor** island. Ere a continued and systematic hostility had arisen between the races—ere their hand was against every man, and every **man's** hand against them- in their first stage, as it were, of war to the knife, their mode of circumventing the settlers' dwelling was characteristic. -the women were sent in the van, entering the premises with that confidence which the absence of a dread of molestation imparts ; their usual demands were bread and tobacco : these were generally complied with : if the women found the inmates few, or incapable of defence, a signal was given, and the barren mountain, like the hills of Rhoderic Dhu, instantly teemed with black assassins, who sped the work of rapine and murder with lightning-like celerity. **It** must be observed, that the country is peculiarly favourable for their stealthy approach. The fires which they have long been in the habit (as in the American prairies) of making; has strewed the ground with fallen timber and blackened stumps : from these they are barely **dis-****t****inguishable**, until all at once they start erect, the demon ministers of **doom** and death. At a **subsequent** date, when some outrages had **rendered** the whites **alert**, if the tribes were discovered they would **assume** a pacific attitude and supplicating gesture, gradually **approach-****ing** their foe, who **frequently**, when too late, found that they had **dragged** the fated spear securely and artfully fixed between their toes. The difference between a single and double-barrelled gun was well **known** to them, and they would do their utmost to provoke the European to throw away his fire : if he were rash enough to do so, **they** would then, in the emphatic phrase of colonial description, *rush* him-the issue of such a conflict being all but certain. Upon one occasion they attacked a stock-keeper's hut at the river Shannon ; the roof being shingled, prevented their attempts to set it on fire ; inside were three men, unarmed ; the assailants in vain endeavoured to force

an entrance ; one, more courageous than the rest, descended the chimney, but having been greeted with a pot-full of scalding water, he made a rapid and a howling retreat. At this juncture, Dunne, a bushranger, armed to the teeth, having several loaded guns in his possession, presented himself; he at once opened a fire upon them, and their flight followed as a matter of course. When Dunne quitted the hut, at the earnest request of the stock-keeper he left one of his guns, and several charges of ammunition behind him. Not many days thereafter, the natives again appeared ; at that time the hut had but one solitary occupant, of which the blacks were perfectly aware. They were warned off with a threat of being fired at, should they refuse ; upon this, the following reply is said to have been given, “ You dam' convict: -you dam' white-you shoot a me-gubberna hang you.”

. Upon this, with a loud yell, the blacks fearlessly and exultingly approached. The convict, however, deeming the possible risk of after *exaltation* preferable to the immediate certainty of a dreadful death, took a steady aim, and drove a bullet through the savage, who fell, and (according to custom) was carried off by the survivors, rending the air with their howls and shrieks as they fled. Their excited antagonist reloaded with the utmost expedition, pursuing their track, and destroying, as was said, a second,—a perilous attempt for one man to make, and which, not long afterwards, cost this individual. his life. **Whilst** thus pursuing the flying blacks, some of their number entered the vacant cabin, from which they bore every thing moveable : amongst the rest was a quantity of arsenic, used for. the destruction of vermin. The poison had either lost its virtue, or else the blacks had not swallowed it as was supposed, none having ever been ascertained to have perished thereby, although they were seen drinking at the river in a most extraordinary manner, a circumstance which was attributed to the burning heat caused by the deadly mineral.

Another illustration of aboriginal hostility, and this portion of the subject is at an end. A shepherd, well known to the writer, was confined by illness to his hut ; a female, the wife of one of his comrades, was in attendance upon him. Suddenly the fearful native yell burst upon their appalled senses; to secure the door and window was their instant aim—a hopeless alternative, for, alas ! the cabin was a thatched one, and the fiery spear instantly set it in a blaze. Could any position be more **horrific** ? The old man bore his fate with constancy : “ Stir not,” said he to his female companion, “ the blaze will be seen, and help *may* arrive.”

**For a** while she endured the showers of fire and flame, until her

dress became ignited. "Let me go, Clarke," she then exclaimed ; "better to perish at once by their spears, than thus consume piece-meal." So saying, she sped to the door: the instant she presented herself, every spear was poised—a loud and piercing scream broke from her lips, and she threw herself in agony at the feet of one of the savages. He gazed at her for a moment—that scream had touched his heart,—he motioned his brethren to desist, tore the burning embers from her neck and hair — then rapidly uttering, "Parawa-parawa !" pointed that she should make her escape, a hint that required no repetition to enforce it, —and which is the solitary instance of mercy ever shown.

At this moment a female convict, in the charge of a constable, was passing near the spot. The constable, perceiving the savages, whispered his companion to speed on with him in silence. Terror, however, completely mastered the poor creature, and she broke out into loud and fatal shrieks. Finding all his endeavours to silence her vain, and seeing the blacks pressing towards them, the constable fled, and was hotly pursued. The unhappy girl was speedily pierced with their vengeful spears. The hut was burnt to the ground, and the unfortunate shepherd reduced to a cinder, the trunk being the sole portion that remained to distinguish what once had been a piece of humanity. He and the girl were interred side by side, a male convict acquainted with her in England, and who had become attached to her in Van Diemen's Land, officiating as chief mourner.

The daring of the aborigines having reached its height, military detachments were, at the request of families, stationed upon their **properties**. One or two half-civilized blacks having joined Mr. Robinson's party, they were ultimately induced to come into Hobart Town, whence they were removed to Flinders Island : consequently, Van Diemen's Land has **become** utterly and for ever free from so dreadful a source of calamity' and disquiet.

{To be continued.1

## THE HISTORY AND PRESENT STATE OF COMMERCE IN LIVERPOOL.

[The following is the commencement of a series of articles, in which it is intended to examine the rise, progress, and present state of the various commercial towns in the empire.—ED.]

**T**HE port of Liverpool is situated upon the estuary of the Mersey, an arm of the sea at the south-eastern corner of the vast bay that extends *from* the *embouchure* of the Ribble to Holyhead. A range of sand-banks runs parallel with the coast for many miles, but several channels intervene, by which vessels of the largest draught may at high water enter with ease and safety. Some are accessible at all states of the tide, to vessels of light draught, and all are well buoyed off and lighted. The anchorage opposite to the town is secure and sheltered, and to its natural facilities have been added, from time to time, numerous wet-docks and spacious quays, capable of accommodating a vast amount of shipping.

The sudden and extraordinary increase in the trade of the town, has been chiefly commensurate with the great manufacturing system which sprang into existence during the latter half of the past century, and converted villages into towns with a rapidity only equalled in the fertile *and* virgin lands of the new continent. But the inhabitants had for a considerable period carried on a large coast-wise and foreign trade ; and their convenient situation with respect to Ireland early attracted the greatest part of its trade also. With a *spirit* and *enterprise* we can scarcely in *our* day sufficiently appreciate, they had, as *early* as the year 1710, constructed a wet dock, the earliest undertaking of the kind in the empire ; and in *so* doing given a stability to their trade which no domestic or national calamity could shake. Acting upon similar principles, the guardians of the port have since from time to time been adding to the dock-accommodation, generally anticipating the wants of the community ; and at present the noble sea-wall, extending for nearly three miles on the eastern bank of the river, encloses an area in docks and basins of 111 acres, and a *length* in quay-room of nine miles.

Possessing *so* many facilities for the accommodation of a large coasting and foreign, Liverpool is not less favourably situated as the recipient of a great internal trade. With the manufacturing counties of Yorkshire and Lancashire it has been connected for a long period ;

and during the present century that magnificent network of canals, which spreads over the whole kingdom, has rendered it accessible from all quarters. By the Leeds canal, opened in 1763, the mineral wealth of this county, which abounds in the finest coal, was brought to the town, and lent a new impulse to its coasting traffic, which was further assisted by the opening of a canal through the rich rock salt-beds of Cheshire. Manchester was united at a very early period by the natural course of the river, but this mode of conveyance was soon superseded by a navigable canal. These various channels of communication have made Liverpool the port of the manufacturing districts, and almost the only place of transit for their raw materials, for the cotton, wool, and dye-stuffs of Lancashire, and the China clay of the potteries. It is at the same time one of the chief points at which they are exported in their 'manufactured state to other countries ; and so long as Great Britain maintains her proud pre-eminence as a manufacturing nation, will this emporium preserve its high prosperity. Lately the railway system has concentrated these busy hives of industry, and hundreds of tons may be transported into the interior in a shorter time than in many instances is occupied in removing them from the ships to the warehouse ; girding as it were this county in particular with an iron zone, which, like that of the fairy of old, heaps wealth and riches on all that lie within it.

It would be difficult to one, surveying from the opposite shore this second **Venice** resting upon the waters- its long line of docks, with the forests of masts therein-the river animated by the passage of a hundred vessels, departing to all parts of the world-to believe, that at a comparatively recent period in our country's history, it was little more than a **fishing-village** ; yet so it was in the year 1600, but twenty-four vessels being owned in the town and creeks of the river. The first mention on record of the shipping of the port only shows twelve barks, manned by seventy-five men, with a burden of 225 tons. The small measure of increased prosperity in 1600 to which it had attained declined with the civil wars, and in 1650 the number of vessels had diminished to fifteen. From the amount of ship-money raised by Liverpool about this time, it would appear that she was excelled even by the port of Chester, for the several sums were £25 and £26, and by Bristol immeasurably, which place was rated at £ 1,000. But, after the kingdom recovered its tranquillity, trade considerably revived, and in 1700 to such an extent as to require the wet dock we have alluded to, The shipping had increased in burthen to 8,619 tons, and of 101 vessels owned in the port, a considerable portion traded with North

America and the West Indies. Thenceforward the commerce of the town exhibited a constant and rapid increase, and particularly during the latter half of the century, from the cause of which mention has been made.

In 1720, the number of arrivals was 500, and the amount of dock dues received £810 ; and in thirty years afterwards, both had more than doubled: the tonnage owned in the port was 9,766, and the Custom House revenue £216,000 : in 1780, the number of arrivals had further increased to 2,261, and the shipping owned in the town to 400 vessels. A new impulse was now communicated in the sudden improvement in the trade to the United States, which increased considerably after the war. The African trade assisted also in its sudden advancement ; and, in 1790, the dock dues received amounted to more than £10,000, levied on 4,223 vessels. This unexampled increase did not diminish in its ratio, and in the year 1800 the customs revenue was upwards of one million sterling, the number of vessels owned in the port was 821, and the sum realized from 4746 arrivals in the docks, was £23,380.

Rapid as was the progress of the commerce of Liverpool in the last century, it has been quite equalled during the present year. From the large share the merchants possessed in the African slave-trade, it might have been apprehended that the cessation of that traffic might have seriously affected their interests. But it was not so; a succession of causes continually tended to open up fresh channels for enterprise, and to give increased facility to mercantile operations. The most powerful of these was the warehousing system, which gave all the advantages of a free port to one possessing so many natural and artificial advantages. It was followed by the partial opening of the trade to the East Indies, next by the introduction of steam-navigation, and, during late years, by the complete abolition of the East India Company's monopoly. In addition to these causes, the rapid advance of our original descendants in the new world in wealth and population, has called into operation an intercourse chiefly carried on through this port.

From 1800 to 1806, the commerce of Liverpool exhibited little addition, but during the last-mentioned year, notwithstanding the continuance of the war, a considerable increase took place, and the number of arrivals had, in 1810, exceeded 6,700, and the Custom House revenue, £3,560,000. At the close of the war in 1815, the imports amounted to 8,000,000 sterling, the exports to 12,000,000, and the value of the shipping employed to 7,000,000. A slight cessation of

progress took place during two or three years following, but at the end of that time, the arrivals from all parts again increased, and in 1820, amounted to 805,000 tons, or 7,276 vessels. The adoption of steam intercourse about this time, so much increased the Irish and Scotch trades, as in the next twelve years to double the general trade of the port, assisted as it was by the South American and Canadian branches. In 1825, the number of arrivals which yielded dock dues, was 10,837, and the sum so obtained was £128,690. In 1830, the duties, though considerably reduced upon all merchandise from those of 1810, exceeded in amount the receipts of that year, and the value of the cotton wool alone imported, was more than £6,000,000 sterling. The average number of arrivals during the three last years, has exceeded 15,000, and the Custom House revenue, during the last year, was £4,234,000, nearly a fourth of that of the whole kingdom ; and of the whole tonnage of Great Britain and Ireland, one twelfth part, or upwards of 10,000 vessels, are connected by trade with Liverpool.

The different branches of so great a trade, have been by no means commensurate in their origin. Some of them early began, and long formed the only branch pursued, while others have sprung up within a very short interval.

Having given a general sketch of the rise and progress of the general mass, we will proceed to particularize them in the several order of their commencement.

The remaining branches of the American trade ; the whale fishery, the timber trade, and that with the empire of Brazil and the new republics, are, with the exception of the first, of recent origin. The decay which has taken place in the fishery has been universal throughout the kingdom, notwithstanding that it has with questionable policy been bolstered up by a system of bounties. But while its prosperity existed, it was shared by the Liverpool merchants. In 1764, they had three vessels engaged ; and in 1788, when the fishery was at its zenith, twenty-one. Thenceforward the number rapidly declined, and at present has quite disappeared altogether, Not so the timber trade, also fostered by legislative enactments. These being of comparatively modern introduction, and so late as the year 1808, the great increase has taken place since that time ; and however prejudicial it may have been to the interests of Great Britain generally to have pursued this course, the merchants and shipowners of Liverpool have thereby obtained a large share of profitable business. The number of cargoes imported in 1823 was 338, of the value of £100,000 ; and in 1838 and 1839 the mean