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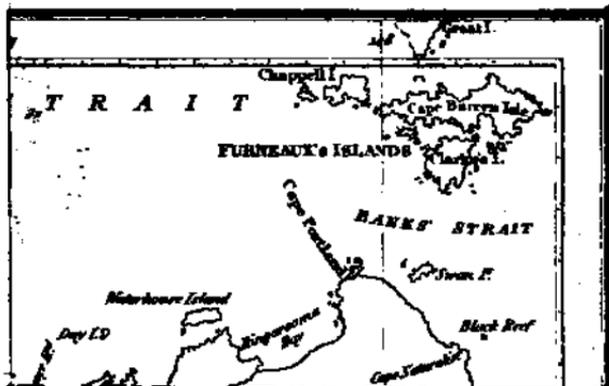
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THE RISE, PROGRESS,  
AND  
PRESENT STATE  
OF  
VAN DIEMAN'S LAND;  
WITH  
ADVICE TO EMIGRANTS.



ALSO,  
A CHAPTER ON CONVICTS,  
SHEWING THE EFFICACY OF TRANSPORTATION AS A  
SECONDARY PUNISHMENT.

BY HENRY WALTER PARKER, Esq.,  
OF GRAY'S INN, BARRISTER AT LAW.

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LONDON:  
J. CROSS, 18, HOLBORN;  
AND  
SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, STATIONERS' COURT.

1833.

193.

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J. CROSS, PRINTER,  
18, HOLBORN.

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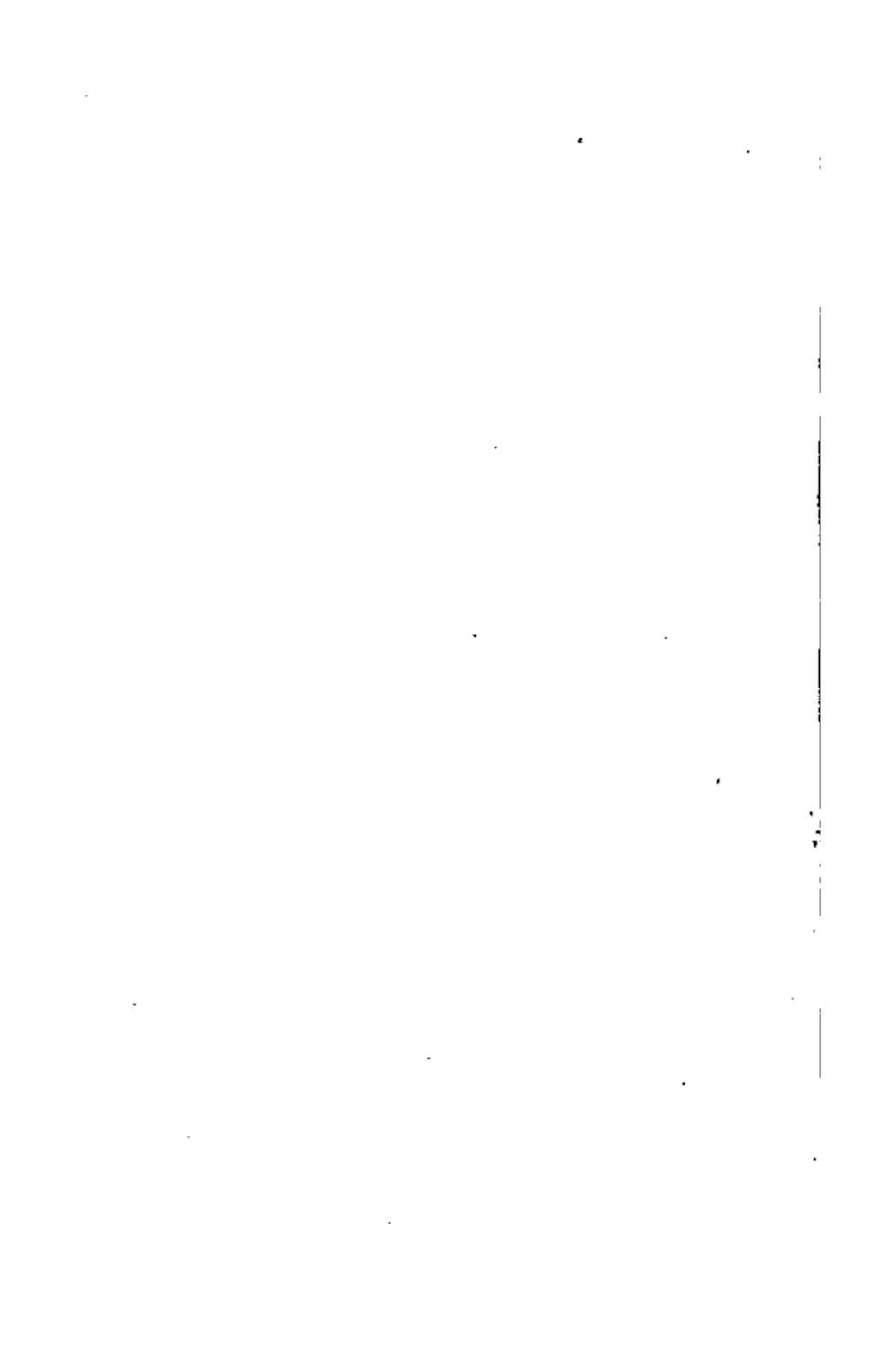
## APPENDIX.

- Appendix A.—Land Regulations.  
 ——— B.—Abstract, 9 Geo. 4th, c. 83.  
 ——— C.—Emigration Papers.  
 ——— D.—Form of Indenture.

ERRATA.

For the note marked \* page 20, read :—It is questionable whether the 52 Geo. III, c. 114, and 3 Geo. IV, c. 96, authorising the levying duties, apply to Van Dieman's Land, since the Proclamation of the 14th June, 1825; if not, I know of no authority by which the duties and taxes, except for local purposes, can have been legally demanded.

Page 116, line nine, read :—it discharges its waters by the Shaanon and the Ouse, which, uniting with the Clyde, fall into the Derwent.



## PREFACE.

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IN the early part of the present year, my attention was called to the subject of emigration, by my advice being requested for several persons anxious to embark their fortunes in the Colonies ; before I made any observation which could induce them to prefer one colony to another, I endeavoured to inform myself of the capabilities of all ; in my researches I found that there was NO MODERN COMPLETE ACCOUNT of Van Dieman's Land, and as that was the quarter of the globe in which I thought they might best succeed, I have since collected a great mass of information, which I have embodied in the following pages, and which I hope will be found serviceable to those who may be thinking of emigrating. The books, &c. I have consulted are, those of Barrington, Lycett, Wentworth, Cunningham, Osborne, Atkinson, Danger, Curr,

Evans, Widdowson, Bischoff, Henderson (Calcutta), Prinsep's Letters, the Van Dieman's Land Almanacks and Calendars from 1827 to 1833 inclusive, Southey's Observations upon Wool, the books published by the Van Dieman's Land Company, Parliamentary Papers, Colonial Newspapers, &c. &c., and numerous private letters and documents which have been placed in my hands by persons connected with the colony, and from which I have abstracted whatever I thought pertinent to the subjects treated of.

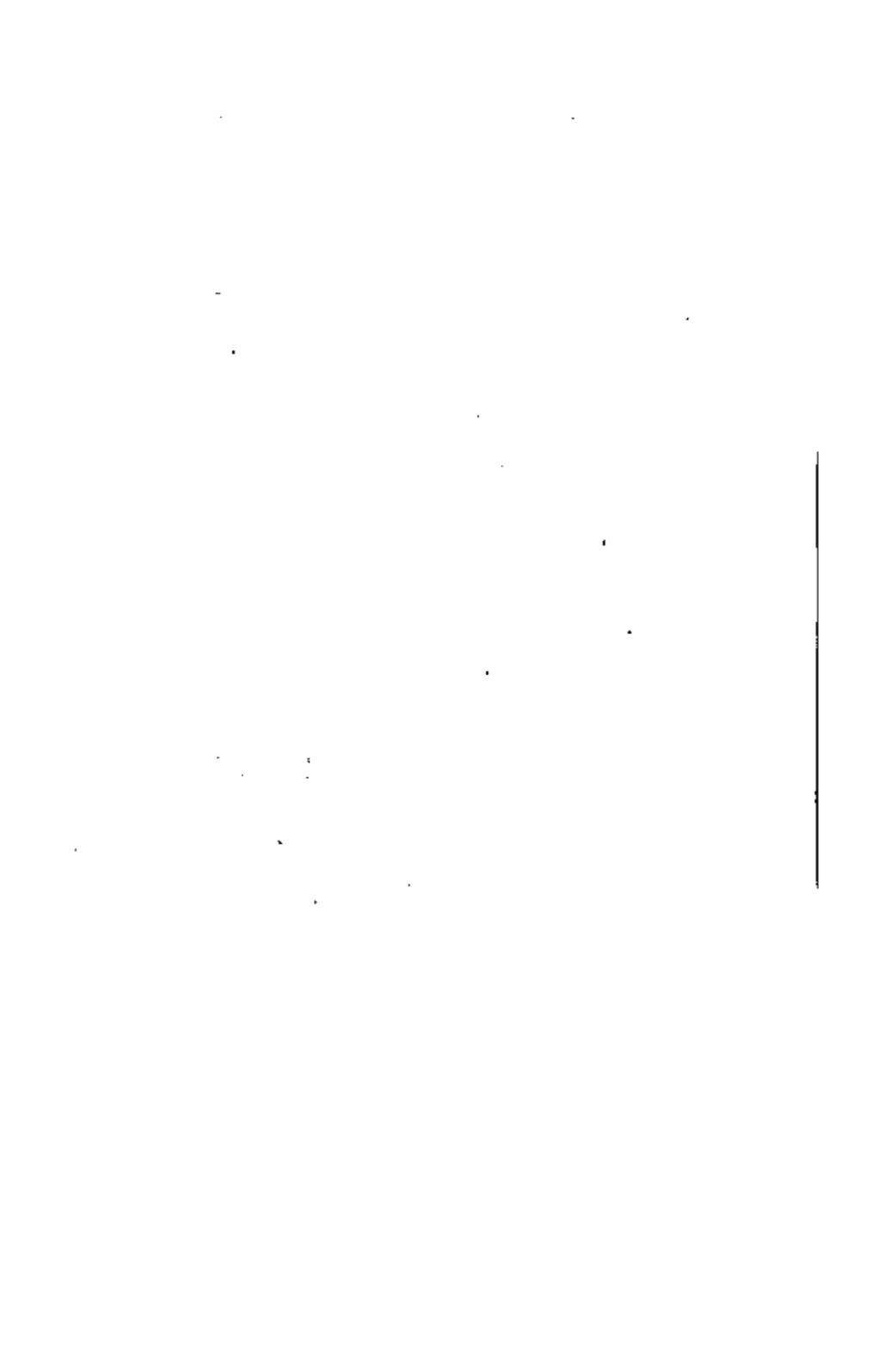
It may be thought by some that, never having been there; it is impossible to give correct information upon the present state of the colony; to such I reply, I have received my information from the most authentic and respectable sources, from some who have been there and others who are now there, that I have rejected all which appeared to be tainted by party feeling---all upon which I could not rely; in a word, I have acted merely as the refiner, casting aside the dross and retaining what (in my judgment) is pure metal. From my not being connected with the colony, men of all (colonial) parties have kindly aided me in my undertaking, which

I sincerely hope will be found useful to emigrants and others seeking information.

I cannot conclude without expressing my gratitude to those gentlemen who have obligingly furnished me with papers and documents, and also information ; and, though a stranger to Dr. Ross, I hope he will permit me to express my admiration of the zeal and spirit with which he enters into all colonial affairs, and to thank him for the information which his publications have afforded me. The story of the death of Lemon was sent to me by a friend, who extracted it, some years since, from an Irish newspaper (in which it was marked "original"), the name of which he does not recollect. I have generally quoted every work from which I have drawn information, and had it been in my power, I certainly should have mentioned from what source that story was obtained.

H. W. P.

*London, Sept. 30, 1833.*



## RISE, PROGRESS, AND PRESENT STATE

OF

## VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.



### CHAP. I.

#### DISCOVERY AND COLONIZATION OF THE ISLAND.

Van Dieman's Land, or Tasmania, as it is frequently called, is an island situated between the parallels of 40 and 44 degrees south latitude, and 144 and 149 degrees east latitude. In extent, from north to south, it is about 210 miles, and from east to west it is about 150, containing a superficies of nearly 23,437 square miles, or 14,999,680 square acres, only one half of which is supposed to be capable of being brought into cultivation. It is separated from New Holland by a channel, called Bass' Straits, which is about thirty leagues broad, and in which numerous small islands are scattered.

Van Dieman's Land was so named in honour of the Dutch Governor-General in the East Indies by the Dutch navigator, Abel Jansen Tasman, who, on discovering it, on the 1st December, 1642, anchored

between Cape Peron, Maria Island, and Cape Frederick Hendrick. Tasman supplied his ships with wood and water from the island, which he took possession of in the name of his sovereign, and five days afterwards he sailed to the eastward to pursue the object of his voyage. During the succeeding hundred and thirty years, no European navigator visited it—the desire for further discoveries in the southern hemisphere was dormant; the Dutch, who had been the most active, appeared satisfied with what they had achieved, or too much engaged in commercial speculations to follow up what they had so gloriously commenced. The next European who visited Van Dieman's Land, was our countryman, Captain Furneaux; he commanded the *Adventure*, one of the two ships which the English Government sent on a voyage of discovery to the southern hemisphere, under the celebrated navigator, Cook. On the 11th March, 1773, whilst separated from Captain Cook, (which occurred through a thick fog, experienced off St. Paul's Island, on the 4th February,) he went into Adventure Bay, Bruné Island, which was then supposed to be part of the main island. The crew had a friendly interview with a tribe of the natives, and supplied themselves with wild ducks, teal and fish, and also caught a kangaroo. Captain Furneaux then sailed along the eastern coast of the island, with a view to ascertain if it was a part of New Holland, but his design was frustrated, on entering Bass' Straits, by unfavourable weather, which induced him to bear away for New Zealand, where he again

rejoined Captain Cook. The island was also visited by the expedition under Captain Cook when on his last voyage: the ships came in sight of the coast on the morning of the 24th January, 1777; on the following day part of the crews landed, and whilst engaged in procuring wood and water, and grass for the cattle on board, they were visited by a tribe of natives, who approached without displaying any symptoms of fear. Some bread, and elephant's flesh, and several birds, were distributed among them; the first two they threw away or returned without tasting, but the flesh of the latter they greedily swallowed. A boar and a sow were landed for the purpose of being left in the woods to propagate, but immediately they were set at liberty the natives seized them by the ears and legs, and attempted to carry them off; the sailors, however, interfered, and succeeded in saving the lives of the animals, which were then driven into the woods and left to their fate; but it is not supposed that they were suffered to survive any length of time after the ships quitted the Bay. A musket was fired over the natives' heads on the evening of the day when the possession of the pigs was disputed, and caused the whole of them to fly with the greatest precipitancy to the woods, whence that day they could not be persuaded to return; but next morning they renewed the acquaintance, and received a few beads, which they appeared to set some little value upon, though they did not display any desire to obtain iron, neither did they appear to know the use of fish-hooks. On the morn-

ing of the 30th, the vessels quitted the Bay for New Zealand, the inhabitants of which were considered by the navigators far superior to those whom they had left.

It has been supposed that the expedition, under La Perouse, visited these shores in 1788, and it was long conjectured that they were wrecked on this island, or some of the small islands adjoining: the former supposition may be correct, though it is probable it never will be clearly ascertained; but the latter is now known to be erroneous, for their fate has been proved beyond all doubt by Captain Dillon, who discovered at Malicolo, one of the new Hebrides, that the inhabitants had various articles in their possession, which he supposed to belong to gentlemen in the expedition; these he purchased, and they have since been proved to have belonged to individuals who were in the ships. Pieces of the wrecks, also, have since then been discovered; and these, together with the information collected from an unfortunate seaman, who had been some years on the island, leave no doubt of the fate which overtook the expedition. In 1791, the French government sent two vessels, under the command of Rear-admiral D'Entrecasteaux, to search for La Perouse; on reaching Van Dieman's Land, in April, 1792, they anchored in Research Bay, (so named after one of the ships,) and whilst the crews were engaged in exploring the shores, they discovered D'Entrecasteaux River, Adamson's Bay, Huon River, and the channel which divides Bruné from the main island. In the month of January, 1793, the

same expedition returned, and resumed the investigation of the coasts, which they finally quitted on the 28th of February, leaving two goats on Bruné Island. The naturalist, Labillardiere, accompanied this expedition; and, on his return to France, (which was delayed two or three years, in consequence of the ships having been captured by the Dutch, and the crews placed under arrest at Samarang, in the island of Java,) published an account of the voyage, which contains the best zoological and botanical history of the island.

In 1797, Lieutenant Flinders, in a small sloop called the *Norfolk*, discovered the channel which divides the island from New Holland, and gave it the name of Bass' Straits, in honor of his friend and companion Mr. Bass, the surgeon of the vessel. Sailing through the straits he discovered the Tamar River, on which is now situated Launceston, the second, and one of the most rising towns in that part of the world; and, after circumnavigating the island, he entered the Derwent, which he and Mr. Bass ascended many miles in the small boat belonging to the vessel. On returning to Botany Bay, where the first colony in these seas had been established, in 1788, Lieutenant Flinders pointed out the supereminent advantages which the banks of the Derwent presented, for the establishment of a colony. His representations, however, did not receive much attention, until the fear of the French forming an establishment on the island raised a jealousy in the mind of Colonel King, then Governor of New South Wales. This feeling induced him, in 1803, to despatch

Lieutenant Bowen with a small party of soldiers and convicts to take possession of the island, and to form a penal settlement on the banks of the Derwent. In the month of August, in that year, the party arrived in the Derwent, on board the brig, *Lady Nelson*; and, disembarking, chose Risdon, a spot situated on the eastern bank of the river, a few miles above the site of Hobart Town, as the place where the new settlement should be formed. They immediately proceeded to clear the land, and to build houses; but on the 3rd May, 1804, before these operations were completed, and during the absence of Lieutenant Bowen, who had gone to Slopem Island, three or four hundred aborigines assembled, (as some suppose for the purpose of holding a *corrobory*, or general meeting,) and committed the first act of aggression by pulling down the hut of one Burke, which was considerably in advance of the others, and by assaulting his wife. Lieutenant Moore, of the New South Wales corps, the officer in command, thinking, from the hostile bearing of the natives, and from the attack on Burke's wife and hut, that an attempt to drive the settlers from the island was premeditated, collected the convicts and military, and drove them into the woods. In this encounter some of the natives were killed, but the precise number cannot be ascertained; twenty is supposed to be within bounds though many persons now living say as many as fifty. It is asserted by some, that this encounter produced feelings of resentment in the breasts of the deluded beings, which they and their children, until lately, have cherished. Whether

of not that supposition is well founded, it is impossible to determine; but it is certain that no European ever was perfectly secure in their company, for although they might have received kindness and favour from him, still they would endeavour to injure him the moment he turned to take his departure.

Shortly after this aggression, Lieutenant-Governor Collins arrived. He had sailed in the month of April, 1803, from England, in his Majesty's ship *Calcutta*, 50 guns, accompanied by the transport ship *Ocean*, with a view to form a settlement at Port Philip; New South Wales. On arriving there, the difficulties which presented themselves, induced him to write a letter to Governor King, apprising him that the formation of a colony at that spot was impracticable.

In reply to this communication, Governor King desired him to sail for the Derwent and take the command of the party which had already been sent there. These instructions were acted upon, and Lieutenant-Governor Collins, with one draft of his party, arrived in the Derwent, where he found the colony at Risdon expecting another attack on the part of the natives, and almost starved from want of supplies. On assuming the command, he surveyed the country on either side of the Derwent, and determined to abandon Risdon for the present site of Hobart Town, considering it more eligible for a town than that previously chosen by Lieutenant Bowen. On the 28th June following, the remainder of Lieutenant-Governor Collins' party reached the Derwent from Port Philip, and thus was this settlement, which now forms a prominent feature in the southern

hemisphere, established. In the month of October 1804, Lieutenant Colonel Patterson established himself at Port Dalrymple, of which place he was nominated Commandant. In 1805, several convict prisoners ran away with a boat to Oyster Bay, where one of them was killed by the natives, who afterwards, in 1806, attempted to cut off a watering party at Brown's River, on neither of which occasions had they received any provocation. From that time to 1810, the colonists endured the greatest privations. In the previous years, 1806 and 1807, the settlement had been devoid of bread, flour and biscuit, and the people compelled to subsist on the flesh of the kangaroo, fish, and Botany Bay greens.\* Sheep and cattle were about this period introduced in considerable numbers from India and Norfolk Island; but they were of very inferior descriptions, being chiefly Bengal stock. On the 24th March, 1810, Lieutenant-Governor Collins died very suddenly, in the 54th year of his age, having administered the affairs of the colony for six years and one month. He was honest and upright, kind and affable, but he required energy and determination to fit him for the office which he occupied in the colony. His body was interred in the town with ceremony and pomp; but in a few years his memory was forgotten, and the spot where his body reposed was trampled over, no monument or stone being placed to mark his grave.

On the death of this gentleman, the administration

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\* A kind of sea-weed.

of affairs devolved on Lieutenant Edward Lord, R. M., afterwards on Captain William Murray, 73d regiment, and subsequently on Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Geils, 73d regiment: these three last-mentioned officers each adopted the title of "Commandant," and conducted the business of the colony in the absence of a regularly-appointed Lieutenant-Governor.

Colonel Thomas Davey, the second Lieutenant-Governor of the island, took the reins of government from Lieutenant-Colonel Geils, on the 4th February, 1813, and continued in office rather more than four years; he was an eccentric, cheerful and gallant officer of the old school; but was deficient in most of the qualifications which the governor of a penal settlement should possess. During the time Colonel Davey was Lieutenant-Governor, John Whitehead and Michael Howe, two notoriously cruel and blood-minded convicts, who had previously escaped to the woods, formed a band, which at one time counted above twenty, who committed many robberies and murders. The whole community was at this time much agitated by the accounts of their numerous excesses, and by reports of so many others they had never committed, that Governor Davey offered rewards for the apprehension of any of the band, and shortly after established martial law, which was continued in force until the following October, when it was repealed by order of the Governor-in-Chief. In April, 1817, Lieutenant-Governor Sorell assumed the government of the settlements in Van Dieman's Land; and in October of the following year, the world was freed of Howe, who

was the most desperate of the bush-rangers. With this man's death, confidence was restored to the community, which recovered from the state of alarm his outrages had naturally created. The colony, however, did not long continue without a blight; for about this time the natives, who had not been friendly since the encounter at Risdon, displayed greater hostility than usual; the spark which that unfortunate affray lighted, is supposed to have been fanned into flame by the deep injuries these unfortunats beings sustained at the hands of the bush-rangers, and the convicts generally. Colonel Sorell quitted the colony shortly after, being superseded by Colonel Arthur, the present Lieutenant-Governor, who entered upon his duties on the 14th May, 1824. Colonel Sorell is now alive; and since he relinquished the government, has received from the colony a pension of £500, which must surely be considered a wilful and unjustifiable expenditure of the colonial funds. If the colony is to be taxed £500 per annum for every Governor who is sent from England, we must not be surprised at frequent changes, and that high and distinguished post being delegated to toad-eaters and men totally unfitted to administer the affairs of a rising colony. The observations here made, are not written with any intention to be unkind to Colonel Sorell, neither are they meant to degrade him in the estimation of the colonists. That Colonel Sorell was open-hearted, courteous, and affable to rich and poor, freeman and bondsman, is admitted; but that because he was open-hearted, courteous and

affable, to rich and poor, freeman and bondsman, he is entitled to £500 per annum, I deny. The day is past when sinecures and pensions are to be granted in the reckless way they have been; and I trust the country will never again view on the pension list of a colony scarce out of its teens, such sums as the following:—

	PER ANNUM.		
Col. Sorell, late Lieutenant-Governor,	£500	0	0
Edward Abbott, Esq., late Deputy Judge- Advocate - - - - -	400	0	0
Rev. R. Knopwood, M.A., late Chaplain	100	0	0
G. W. Evans, Esq., late Surveyor- General - - - - -	200	0	0
J. Mountgarrett, Esq., late Surgeon -	91	5	0
E. Griffin, Pilot - - - - -	20	0	0
Wm. Blackhall, Overseer - - - - -	12	10	0
O. Smith, Overseer - - - - -	25	0	0
H. Hacking, Pilot - - - - -	25	0	0
	<hr/>		
	1373	15	0

Such, in 1825, was the pension list of Van Dieman's Land;—a colony which did not number a population of 20,000 souls, taxed to pay pensions to the amount of £1373 15s.!!! making a poll tax of one shilling and fourpence halfpenny on the whole population.

The pensions to the last four men on the list are not, if they were granted fairly, objected to; but it is monstrous that persons in the receipt of large incomes, whilst in office, should receive pensions when

they abandon their situations. Colonel Sorell would have been considered, by posterity, a benefactor to the colony, had he not taken £500 a-year from its funds; but, as he has accepted this large *quasi* recompense, his reputation will sink proportionately to the amount he receives. Since 1825, Mr. Abbott has paid the debt of nature, therefore no observation will be made upon his conduct, or upon the nature and value of the services upon which his claims were founded.

These observations, it is trusted, will not be considered a digression; for, the establishing pensions is an era in the history of a colony, which calls for marked attention; and the writings of any author who failed to remark upon it, would not be entitled to much consideration. Having expressed a decided hostility to pensions and sinecures, I shall take my leave of the subject, hoping, that what has been said, will meet with due attention in the proper quarter.

In November, 1825, General Darling, the first or principal Governor of New South Wales and the territory of Van Dieman's Land and its dependencies, visited Hobart Town; and on the 3rd of December, a proclamation, dated at the court, Carlton House, June 14, 1825, announcing Van Dieman's Land and the Islands adjacent to be independent of the government of New South Wales, and delegating the power of the Governor, in his absence, to the Lieutenant-Governor, was issued; civil and criminal courts of law were established, and J. L. Pedder, Esq., barrister at law, was appointed to preside over them. Previous

to that time, suitors, prosecutors, defendants, prisoners and witnesses, were compelled to resort to Sydney to obtain justice. In the year 1826, two of the aborigines were convicted of the murder of a stock-keeper before the Supreme Court, and were executed on the 16th September in the same year. From that time the atrocities of the natives increased in number and in daring; and Lieutenant-Governor Arthur, finding all attempts at pacification vain, proclaimed martial law against them, and called upon the community, on the 7th October, 1830, to act *en masse* for the purpose of capturing the hostile tribes. The plan of operations was to draw a cordon across the country, and gradually to advance to the south, so as to drive the natives into Tasman's Peninsula, where they might be captured or detained. On the 24th of October the troops had hemmed in the two most hostile tribes, all of whom would have been captured, had not a settler, who found them hutted for the night, accompanied by a small party, rushed in upon them. The consequence of this indiscreet attack was, that two of the natives were killed, and only two captured; the remainder, about forty or fifty, escaping into the thickets, whither it was impossible to follow them.—The troops continued to advance, but the natives escaped through the lines; and thus the expedition terminated without the desired effect. The aborigines were, however, alarmed at these decisive operations, and for some time did not commit many depredations.

At the latter end of the year 1830, Mr. Gilbert Robinson, a most humane, persevering, zealous, and

intrepid gentleman, succeeded in opening an amicable intercourse with the native population of the island, and induced thirty-four to accompany him to Swan Island, whence they have since been removed with between seventy and eighty others, who subsequently surrendered, to Great Island, where they are now domesticated.

A new Act of Parliament, (9 George 4, c. 83,) increasing the number of members of the legislative council to fifteen, and for other purposes, arrived in 1829. At the commencement of the year 1831, the colonists were in high spirits—the harvest was plentiful—the public revenue exhibited an excess of income by £20,000 over expenditure, and the accounts of the prices the exports brought, were encouraging. It is the same, however, with the children of England as with the parent; the public mind often undergoes in the former a sudden revulsion, and what had one moment tickled its fancy, at another irritates it; when the taste has been cloyed with sweets, it hurries to bitters. Thus suddenly and unaccountably was the public mind of the colony changed: at the beginning of the year it had revelled in the agreeable state of things; but in a few short months after, there was displayed an angry feeling, which did not moderate until a public meeting was held, at which the opportunity was allowed of communicating their supposed grievances through the medium of an address to the Crown.

In the course of that year, an instance of honorable feeling was displayed by the members of the

Legislative Council in refusing to receive, as *puisne* Judge, an individual who had been nominated to the office by the Home Government. A new Judge has since been appointed—the Colonial Governor yielding to the opinion of the Council. This independent act of the Council, however, had the effect of suspending its own functions (*vide* abstract of the Act in Appendix) until the new Judge was appointed, which took place last year.

The year 1832, was remarkable for one of the largest public meetings ever held in the colony, at which it was determined to petition his Majesty and both Houses of Parliament for a Representative Assembly, in lieu of the present close Council: the resolutions there agreed upon are of a very important nature, and, as they shew the independent spirit which prevails, I think I cannot do better than to recapitulate them:—

‘ 1st.—That it appears by the official returns of the colony, that the free population amount to upwards of 14000, and the revenue raised by direct and indirect taxation exceeds the annual sum of £90,000,—over which the colonists possess no control; and it is therefore our bounden duty again to petition his Majesty, and also both Houses of Parliament, to grant us legislation by representation.’

‘ 2nd.—That we feel a well-grounded alarm at our colonial revenue being abstracted by means of bills of exchange, drawn by the colonial agent in London upon the Colonial Treasurer of the colony; more especially as the revenue is diverted from the purposes sanctioned by law; and with the limited amount of specie in the colony, the condition of such a system will involve us in ruin.’

3rd.—That the following petition to his most gracious Majesty be adopted, praying for the enjoyment of our birth-right, viz. legislation, by means of a full and fair representation :—

*“ To the King’ Most Excellent Majesty.*

**MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,**—We, the landholders, merchants, and free inhabitants of the colony of Van Dieman’s Land, in public meeting convened and assembled by the Sheriff of Van Dieman’s Land, beg leave to approach your Majesty, by means of this address, with the renewed assurances of our loyalty and devotion to your royal person, and to your illustrious House.

“ The colonists assembled in public meeting on the 23rd May, 1831, for the purpose, amongst other things, of praying your Majesty to grant full and ample enjoyment of their birthright, by extending to this colony legislation by representation; and, although your Majesty’s answer to that petition has not yet been made known, and the most sanguine hopes are entertained that your Majesty will grant the enjoyment of that right—we, nevertheless, are bound by the present situation of the colony, and the prospect of pecuniary embarrassment which is impending over us, to reiterate our prayers at the foot of the throne, together with some of the grounds upon which we look with confidence to the complete enjoyment of those privileges which, as Britons, we have a right to possess.

“ From the most authentic accounts which we have been enabled to obtain, it appears that although the colony has been established only thirty years, yet that the free population amounts to 14,000, and that the revenue, by direct and indirect taxation, amounts to £90,000, whilst the colonists possess no voice or control, as to the raising or the expenditure of this sum of money; but the same is wholly exercised by the Executive Government.

" We abstain from enumerating many grievances under which the various classes of the colony have been, and still are suffering, because we feel assured that they will be removed, so soon as we are put into possession of the one important enjoyment.

" We have recently witnessed, with alarm, the abstraction of a considerable portion of our colonial funds, by means of bills drawn by the Colonial Agent in London upon the Colonial Treasurer of the Colony, although the law expressly declares, that the revenue shall be applied to local purposes only; and we humbly represent to your Majesty that the continuation of such a system will speedily bring this infant colony to ruin.

" We glory in the institutions of our mother country—we feel that pride which swells the heart of every Briton—we know that these feelings are not inherent, but are the effect of education, and the enjoyment of those rights which belong to a British constitution—we desire to bring up our children with the same feelings, and to transmit to them and their posterity the same rights which we have enjoyed.—But, Sire, we feel by experience, that unless we are permitted to enjoy the blessings of an English constitution our efforts will be in vain, and our posterity will only be Britons in name, and that which is most justly your Majesty's glory and our boast, will be lost to our posterity for ever!

" We therefore most earnestly pray and beseech, that your Majesty will be most graciously pleased to extend to this British colony the full and complete enjoyment of our rights as British subjects, by granting to us a Legislation by means of a full and fair representation, in such way and manner as to your Majesty may seem meet."

' 4th.—That the following petitions to the House of Lords and House of Commons, praying for legislation by representation, be adopted by the meeting :—

*“ To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled,*

“ We, the landholders, merchants, and free inhabitants of the colony of Van Dieman's Land, in public meeting convened and assembled by the Sheriff of the colony for the purpose of addressing His Most Gracious Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament, to grant to the colonists legislation by representation, desire to convey to your Lordships the strongest assurances of our loyalty and attachment to the British Government, and our devotion to the British constitution.

“ We are desirous upon the present occasion of abstaining from every topic which may be considered of a party nature, and we, therefore, only solicit your Lordships' attention to the facts, that Van Dieman's Land is a colony purely and essentially British; that we are governed by British laws; but that one of our great British rights, viz.— legislation by representation has hitherto been withheld from our enjoyment, and we most earnestly submit, from the present extent of free population, and the amount of revenue raised by taxation, that such right may now be safely granted, and ought not longer to be kept in abeyance.”

(The sequel of this petition, as well as that to the Commons, was an echo of that to His Majesty.)

The 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th resolutions named a Committee to wait on the Governor for the purpose of requesting him to forward the petition to the Secretary of State for presentation to his Majesty, and also named the members of both Houses of Parliament, who were to be asked to present and support the prayers.

At the commencement of the present year, 1833,

there has been considerable excitement respecting the payment of the quit rents, formerly reserved by the Crown on granting lands. These, however, have not yet been exacted, but the threat of compelling their payment has created much ill-will; and if enforced, great animosity to the colonial government will arise.

During the late session of Parliament, the petitions, embodying the resolutions above-mentioned, were presented to the Houses of Parliament, but nothing transpired which could induce the colonists to look forward to a change. By a paper presented to the House of Commons, I find that some reduction in the expenses of the civil establishment of the colony will be effected. The Governor's Private Secretary, for instance, will receive only £691 15s., which will save the colony £90 per annum. The Commissioners of Land Survey are very properly discharged as wholly useless, and indeed they have long been felt an inconvenience to new settlers and the public at large. The Land Board deservedly shares the same fate. The next Colonial Secretary will have the rental of his house, £200, deducted from his salary. The Internal Revenue Department is in future to cost only £100, instead of £535 1s. 9d. The offices of the Registrar of the Supreme Court, and the Master in Chancery are to be abolished when vacancies occur, but I fear the abolition of these two last are injudicious, as they are useful offices if the possessors have some legal knowledge. Thus the total amount of immediate saving will be £1,151 3s. 6d., and

of the prospective saving, £1,735 1s. 9d., making together the annual sum of £2,886 5s. 3d., a total of no mean importance to a young colony which has an *increasing* pension list,—for within the last year this list has had two annuitants added to it. The colonists will bear much ; but the unjust, severe, and impolitic system of taxation\* which has been pursued, has created a feeling of hatred to the Government, which will not be easily allayed.

It may be gratifying to the colonists to learn that Governor Arthur's proposition for transferring from the Military Chest to the Colonial Banking Establishment, the money arising from the sale of land, was acceded to by the Secretary of State, on the 23rd March last ; by this time it is probable the Governor has received the despatch, and I sincerely hope that it will tend to promote the interest of the colony. As the balance of trade is still against the colony, it is naturally drained of its metallic circulation ;† it therefore behoves the Government not to depress the colonists by withdrawing *specie*, but on the contrary, to assist them in maintaining a sufficient circulating medium.

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\* I am very doubtful whether or not the Act 4 Geo. 4 c. 38, authorising the levying duties, applies to Van Dieman's Land— if not, I know no authority by which the duties have been raised.

† Mr. Spring Rice informed the House of Commons on the night of the 15th July last, "that the improvement in the colony was such, that it was proposed in future that the stores should be furnished by contract by the colonists themselves, instead of being sent out from this country."—(*Times*, July 16.) This will be a great benefit to the colony.

A new road from Hobart Town to the western and unlocated parts of the island was in progress in May last, and when concluded would open a vast tract of new country, which may be said to be unknown, excepting from the reports of the surveyors, who state, "that it consists of fine, open, and well-sheltered undulating downs, as favourable to sheep as any other part of the island." The Lieutenant-Governor, in April last, made a tour through the located and some parts of the uncleared districts, and was highly gratified with the improvements which have been lately effected in farming operations.

Such is a brief account of the progress of a settlement, whose rapid advance is unparalleled in the history of colonization.

## INTERNAL POLICY.

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### CHAP. II.

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The reader will have collected from the preceding pages, that at the first formation of the settlements in Van Dieman's Land, the Governor of New South Wales had jurisdiction there. When the Government was purely military, there was, perhaps, no inconvenience from the seat being so far distant; but when the number of free settlers increased, difficulties presented themselves, which had not been felt before. That settlers should take a voyage of a fortnight or three weeks to seek justice, or to punish malefactors, could not then be endured. This state of things was put an end to by his Majesty's proclamation of the 14th June, 1825, establishing Van Dieman's Land an independent colony, and bestowing all the authority of a Governor upon the Lieutenant-Governor, when the former should not be present in the island. On the 12th of December following, Colonel Arthur assumed the power which that proclamation conferred, and accordingly appointed gentlemen to fill offices which the new government required.

The government of the colony may be said to be wholly vested in the Lieutenant-Governor; for al-

though there are executive and legislative councils, the former of which he must consult upon all occasions of moment; still, he possesses the power of acting upon his own opinion, should he follow which, in opposition to the opinions of the majority of the council, he must assign reasons in writing for so doing to the Secretary of State for the colonies.— Thus is a wholesome check maintained on the Governor. The members of the executive council are the Chief Justice, the Colonial Secretary and Treasurer, and the Chief Police Magistrate. The legislative council consists of fifteen members nominated by his Majesty, and has the power of imposing taxes and passing laws. The manner in which this council is instituted does not meet with approval from the generality of the colonists, the members being chiefly officers connected with the Government. The dissatisfaction which prevails has induced the colonists to send petitions to the King and to both Houses of Parliament, praying them to grant Trial by Jury, and a legislative House of Representatives. The former they have partially obtained, but the latter has not yet been acceded. I must confess, however, I do not think the time is arrived, when legislation, by popular representation, should be granted; though, I think that the community at large should be allowed to recommend to his Excellency half the members of the council; and should he reject any one, he should assign reasons in writing to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

There are two Judges to administer the laws; they

have jurisdiction in ecclesiastical, civil and criminal proceedings; and the Governor is the person to whom lies appeal, if their decisions do not give satisfaction to the contending parties—and in the event of the decision on appeal not being satisfactory, the party feeling himself aggrieved may appeal (if the property in dispute is of the value of £500), to the king in council. The proceeding by indictment may be said to be unknown, as the Attorney-General “finds the bills;” but, in important, or difficult, or dubious cases, he is required to call to his aid the Solicitor-General: these proceedings are, therefore, in the nature of informations. The Sheriff is a paid officer of the Crown, as is also the Under-Sheriff: it was found necessary, in a colony like this, to make these situations permanent, and not to be perpetually changing the men who filled them. The magistracy was formerly unpaid; but in consequence of the difficulty of finding gentlemen, who could give their time to public business, nine police magistrates, at £400 per annum, have been appointed. These take especial cognizance of offences committed by convicts, whom they have the power to punish summarily. There are still many unpaid magistrates, but their services are of little benefit to the colony; and, indeed, it cannot be expected in a place where the time of every man is fully occupied in attending to his own affairs, watching his convict servants, and minding agricultural operations, he should gratuitously give his time to the public. Before I conclude this chapter, I cannot refrain from expressing a sentiment in which every

honest man will, I am sure, concur, viz.—that none but men of probity and character should be appointed to fill situations of trust and importance in the colony. By this, I do not mean that because a man is poor, or has raised himself by his own exertions, he ought not to be appointed to those situations in the colony; but I assert, and I do so fearlessly, that the man who has rendered himself offensive in a neighbouring colony, ought not to be sent to fill a judicial station; that a nobleman's cook ought not to be promoted to a high station, and that no one who has obtained goods by false representations in England, should be permitted to retain his situation.

There has lately been a default, to some extent, by a person filling a high situation, who might, it is said, (I do not know the circumstances,) have been prosecuted, but who has been only punished by dismissal. Surely some enquiry ought to be instituted in this country into the culpable neglect which must exist when a man is wilfully suffered to escape the punishment his offence deserved.

Hobart Town is the seat of the colonial government, comprehending the official residence of the Governor, the Supreme Court, and the heads of all the civil and military establishments of the island. These are all maintained by the revenue collected in the colony; but the military and the convicts are paid by the Home Government, at an expense of nearly £100,000 per annum. The English laws, where they are known to apply, are regarded.

The police force which has been organised, pro-

mises to be effective, and has already done much in preventing crime. The officers, however, frequently act the part of informers, in which character they do not shine; for it is not undertaken with a view to benefit society, but merely to fill their pockets with the portion of the penalty they are entitled to. The police force in London are not allowed to receive rewards for doing their duty. The penalties to which individuals, as informers, [witnesses, or prosecutors, are entitled, are paid over to a fund for general purposes; and the same rule might be beneficially introduced in Van Dieman's Land.

## THE ABORIGINES.

## CHAP. III.

The natives received the first settlers apparently in a very friendly manner, and did not shew any signs of hostility until 3rd May 1804, when they assembled in great numbers, and, without having received any provocation, destroyed the house of a man named Burke, whose wife they maltreated, and proceeded to commit further devastation. Lieutenant Moore, of the New South Wales corps, the Commandant, being apprised of the steps which they had taken, immediately collected the few soldiers, with whom and a party of convicts, he hastened to the spot. Finding that he could not appease them by kindness, he was compelled to resort to violent measures to disperse them. The first few shots fired were intentionally harmless: the natives, observing this, did not desist from committing depredations. Lieutenant Moore then ordered the soldiers to fire ball, which killed two or three; still, however, the natives continued to advance; another, and another volley were then discharged, with frightful effect. The poor deluded beings at last gave up the unequal warfare, and retired beyond the hills. The numbers that were killed and wounded cannot be

ascertained, for persons who are now alive differ very much in their statements—some saying that fifty were left dead, whilst others affirm that not more than twenty or thirty were killed and wounded. The latter number I am inclined to believe nearest the mark. An encounter shortly afterwards took place at the spot where the hospital at Hobart Town now stands; but there the natives were quickly dispersed by a discharge of grape-shot, fired with deadly effect.

The first European killed by the natives was a prisoner, one of a party who had, a year and a half after the formation of the settlement, run away with a boat to Oyster Bay, where he was met in the woods whilst pursuing a kangaroo. The second white man murdered by the natives was George Munday; his death occurred in 1807, whilst out hunting, and it is said that the fellow who killed him had shortly before received food from his hands. The manner in which it was effected, is reported to be this:—The native approached, apparently unarmed, and received food; Munday did not observe any signs of enmity, and, turning round to depart, he was struck by a spear, which the fellow held between his toes. From that time to the year 1831, they maintained a deadly hostility to all the settlers; frequently spearing those whom they had approached in apparent friendship, and from whom they had received favors and kindnesses. Had not their sanguinary disposition been fairly ascertained, in the early days of the settlement, it might have been thought that their hostility was excited by feelings of revenge for the injuries they

endured; but that cannot be said, for they displayed their cruel and treacherous dispositions long before the convicts took to the bush and perpetrated the horrible crimes which stain the pages of the early history of the colony. Two cases of this description, which are well authenticated, will suffice to shew the brutality that, in later years, marked the conduct of the convict prisoners. A man named Carrots killed a native in his attempt to carry off his wife; and having cut off the dead man's head, he obliged the woman to follow him with it suspended from her neck, and to use it as a plaything!!! The second is that of one Harrington, a sealer, who procured ten or fifteen native women, and placed them on different islands in Bass' Straits, where he left them to procure skins; if, however, when he returned, they had not obtained enough, he punished them by tying them up to trees for twenty-four or thirty-six hours together, flogging them at intervals; and he killed them, not unfrequently, if they proved stubborn. Several other instances might be mentioned, but two are quite sufficient to shew that the natives in late years have not been treated with much mildness. A Colonial Committee, formed in 1830, to inquire into the origin of the hostility displayed by the natives, reports—"It is manifestly shewn, that an intercourse with them has never been perfectly secure. Although they might receive with favour and confidence such persons as landed, from time to time, on various parts of the coast, or fell in with them in other remote situations, yet no sooner was the store of presents

exhausted, or the interview from other causes concluded, than there was a risk of the natives making an attack upon those very persons, from whom they had, the instant before, been receiving acts of kindness; and against whom, up to that very moment, they had suffered no indication of hostility to betray itself. There have been, until the occurrence of the late outrages and the consequent total estrangement, repeated instances of the natives exhibiting such confidence as, without any hesitation, to approach the dwellings of settlers, and to partake of such refreshments as were then very generally offered to them; and this friendly intercourse having sometimes continued for several days, was usually terminated by their departing to their own districts in a regular and peaceable manner, so long as they were held in restraint by the presence of a sufficient number of observers. But even at this period there was, beyond all doubt, in their disposition, a lurking spirit of cruelty and mischief, as, upon very many occasions, and even on their retirement from houses where, as above stated, they had been kindly received and entertained, they have been known to put to death, with the utmost wantonness and inhumanity, stock and hut keepers whom they fell in with in retired stations, at a distance from protection, and who had never given them the slightest provocation. The opinion of the committee was most decided, that those acts of violence on the part of the natives, were generally to be regarded, not as retaliating for any wrongs which they conceived themselves, co

tively or individually, to have endured, but as proceeding from a wanton savage spirit, inherent in them, and impelling them to mischief and cruelty, when it appeared probable that they might be perpetrated with impunity; at the same time they attributed to the manifold insults and injuries which the unhappy people had sustained from the dissolute and abandoned characters whom they had unfortunately encountered, the universal and permanent excitement of that spirit which then prevailed, and which led them to wreak indiscriminate vengeance, as often as they found opportunity, on the persons and property of the white population." The Government invariably acted in the most humane and forbearing manner, insisting upon the settlers adopting in their intercourse conciliatory measures; it was, however, to no purpose, "their wanton and savage spirit" prevailed. In the years 1829, 1830, and the beginning of 1831, the columns of the colonial newspapers were always partially occupied with murders and robberies, committed by them; and the community ultimately became so alarmed at their repeated attacks, increasing boldness, and rapid movements across the country, that the Government was obliged, in compliance with the general demand, to adopt vigorous measures for the purpose of capturing the offending tribes. A measure having that object in view was accordingly undertaken, but it terminated unfavorably, as I have elsewhere stated; it was not, however, without its good effects, for the natives became alarmed at the extensive operations, and no doubt induced those, who afterwards surrendered to

Mr. Robinson, to throw themselves on the mercy and kindness of the Lieutenant-Governor. The numbers now in the island are inconsiderable. Many of the natives, the Oyster Bay and Big River Mobs,\* the tribes which were most hostile to the settlers, are now at Great Island, living under the protection of the government.

The manner in which these natives were conciliated, is no less remarkable than it is creditable to Mr. Robinson. After following with unremitting industry their tracks and indications, for many hundred miles, he at last saw them approaching him in a hostile manner, armed with spears, as he was travelling between the hill, called the Peak of Teneriffe, and Macquarie harbour. He was entirely unarmed, and unaccompanied by any white person except his son, the only other civilized person with him being a black prisoner of the colony, a native of Owhyhee. When he saw sixteen powerful blacks advancing upon him, and even the chiefs of the friendly blacks, who accompanied him, much terrified at their warlike attitude, he prevailed on them to go forward and explain his peaceful intentions, while he stood still to await the result. For some time after his own people had quitted him, the war whoop and threatening appearance were continued; but on their nearer approach he was agreeably relieved from suspense, by their promptly coming up and shaking hands, while the women and children soon after followed. A full ex-

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\* Colonial phrase for tribes.

plantation then took place, and the result was that they agreed to accompany him to the Governor, who Mr. Robinson promised would readily comply with all their wishes and supply all their wants.

These poor creatures, previous to the invasion of their shores by Europeans, led a wandering life,—roaming throughout the interior in search of the kangaroo and opossum—each tribe claiming, as particularly its own, a district, which if invaded by another tribe was considered an act of aggression, and was immediately followed by hostilities.

It is singular\* that though Van Dieman's Land abounds in fine rivers, and is surrounded by the sea, they should not have advanced even to the construction of the slightest raft; but they are undoubtedly in the lowest possible scale of human nature, both in form and intellect. They have small hollow eyes, broad short noses, with nostrils widely distended, uncommonly large mouths, jaws elongated like the ourang outang, and figures scarcely more symmetrical. They are dark, short in stature, with disproportionately thin limbs and shapeless bodies, entirely naked, and add to this, frizzled hair, and a most hideous expression of countenance. The spear is a slender stick, nine or ten feet long, sharpened at the heaviest end; they poise it for a few seconds in the hand, till it almost spins, by which means the spear flies with great velocity to the distance of sixty yards and with unerring aim.

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\* Prinssep.

When Peletaga, a chief, was confined in Hobart Town gaol, in the year 1830, he took up an old broom-stick, and whilst standing at a distance of about twelve yards, threw it in the manner of casting a spear, right through a small hole, although the aperture was scarcely half an inch larger in diameter than the stick that passed through it. At another time, taking up a small bit of lath, which some gentleman trying to throw could not cast half the distance, he struck it directly through and through the middle of a hat, set up at thirty yards off.

The Government has sent those who have surrendered, about one hundred, to Great or Flinders Island, in Bass' Straits, where they are fed and clothed; and, much to the credit of the philanthropic individuals under whose charge they are placed, many are now quite domesticated, and some have been permitted to return to Van Dieman's Land to assist in the task of reclaiming others.

Those who are still at Great Island appear to be happy and contented in their new situation, and are daily acquiring a relish for industrious and civilized habits. They are ready at all times to assist actively in any operation of building huts, cultivating the land, &c. that is going on, while they continue at the same time to make excursions into the bush in quest of kangaroos and wallabies, which are found plentiful within a short distance of the settlement.\*

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\* A lame black, unable by his own exertions to procure his food, was looked upon as rather a useless member of his society; after his associates were tamed, they called him the

With the exception that as yet good anchorage has not been discovered, the island is in every respect most eligible, possessing plenty of good water, well sheltered, and enjoying an extensive tract of from four to five hundred acres of rich arable land. It is however generally described as very wild, rugged and hilly, and of little value for any other purpose than the one to which it is now so happily applied.

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lawyer, because, said they—"he eats all the grab that other peoples catch."—*Hobart Town Courier*.

## CONVICTS.

## CHAP. IV.

The attention of the philanthropist, Howard, was first turned to the distress of prisoners by what fell under his own notice as Sheriff of Bedford, in 1773. The circumstance which first excited his attention, was seeing some who, by the verdict of juries, were declared not guilty; some, against whom grand juries ignored the bills, or against whom prosecutors did not appear,—after having been confined for months,—dragged back, and again locked up in gaol, until they should pay the fees of the gaoler and of the clerk of assize. In extending his inquiries, he not only found that these abuses existed in other counties, but he became acquainted with other scenes of the most painful character. From the prisons he extended his observation to houses of correction, and found that both the former and the latter were full of the most crying abuses, and the most shocking evils. The gaol fever and the small pox first arrested his attention, as prevailing to the destruction of multitudes, not only of felons, but also of debtors; the horrid state in which prisons were kept, made them the hot-beds of a distemper, deriving its name, as it did its origin, from

those retreats of vice, misery and legal revenge, mis-called justice.\* In proceeding to present 'a general view of the distress in prisons,' he says, 'there are some prisons that we cannot look into, without perceiving, at the first glance at their inmates, that there is some great error in the management of them. Many who go in healthy, are in a few months changed to emaciated, dejected objects. Some are seen pining under diseases, sick, and in prison, expiring on the floors of loathsome cells, of pestilential fevers, and the confluent small-pox.' The cause of this distress was declared by that philanthropist to be, that many prisons were scantily supplied, and some almost totally destitute of the necessaries of life. There were several bridewells, in which prisoners had no allowance of food. In some, the keeper farmed what little was allowed them, and where he engaged to supply each prisoner with one or two pennyworth of bread a day, it was sometimes, by the cupidity of the gaoler, reduced one half. Although the inmates of the bridewells were nominally condemned to hard labour, out of the avails of which it was intended they should be supported, there were few of these establishments in which any work was or could be accomplished. The prisoners had neither tools nor stock of any kind furnished them, and, accordingly, spent their time in sloth and debauchery. Some keepers of these houses who represented † to the magistrates the wants

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\* North American Review.

† Howard.

of their prisoners, and desired for them necessaries, were silenced with these inconsiderate words, 'Let them work or starve.' As those gentlemen knew the former was impossible, they, by that thoughtless sentence inevitably doomed the poor creatures to the latter. Many prisons had no supply of water within their walls. The prisoners locked up in cells, were dependent on the mercy of the gaoler, and got no more than the keeper and his servants thought fit to bring them. In one place they were limited to three pints a day; 'a scanty provision for drink and cleanliness.'\*

Nor was the supply of air less scanty than that of food and water. As the gaolers had to pay the Window Tax, they often stopped up the windows to escape this imposition. In many gaols, and most bridewells, no allowance was made for bedding or straw. When a little was furnished, it remained unchanged for months, till corrupted and worn] to dust. When I\* have complained of this to the keepers, their justification has been, 'the county allows no straw; the prisoners have none but at my cost.' What the moral condition of the gaols was at this period, may be estimated from the fact that prisoners of all sorts were confined together—debtors and felons, men and women, the novice and the confirmed thief. With all these, many were sentenced to the county gaols for slight misdemeanours, who would have been sent to

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\* Howard.

the bridewell, but that there was no allowance made there for the support of the prisoners.

These few observations inform the reader of the miserable state in which felons and prisoners were maintained in the gaols, and will enable him to appreciate the system, forming a remarkable contrast, followed in Van Dieman's Land.

It has been written by a gentleman who has long resided in Australia, "that the great source of prosperity, as regards the agriculture of the colonies, (and trade and comfort in every way,) is the convict labourers." In England it is generally thought that the presence of convicts must be highly injurious to the colonies; but let those who so think weigh the advantages and disadvantages, and I am certain that the opinions in favour of the latter will "kick the beam." Those who do not give themselves the trouble to weigh, consider, and investigate, will hear with satisfaction that Government has resolved, in future, to send only the least wicked offenders to Van Dieman's Land; the colonists, however, will receive the information with different feelings: they know the benefits derived from convict labour—they know the expense of free labour—and they also know that the freeman is often more insolent, more idle, and more dissolute than the convict. Freemen find so many means of making money, that they will not continue their labour regularly; far from pursuing a steady course, they work one half the week and abandon themselves to dissipation for the remainder.

The new arrangement is that the convicts shall be

formed into three classes, according to the measure of their crimes. The first class, which is to consist of the most hardened offenders, is to be sent to the penal settlement at Norfolk Island, where they are to be subjected for the remainder of their lives to labour; the second class, consisting of persons convicted of less heavy offences, and of whom there are some hopes of reformation entertained, is to be sent to Van Dieman's Land, or New South Wales, there to be kept to labour in chains upon the high roads, and upon public works; and the third class, consisting of prisoners convicted of minor offences, is to be sent to the colonies for distribution among the settlers. It is thought that this arrangement will better suit justice than the plan at present adopted; but I much doubt its success. The system of reward and punishment which has lately been adopted, has worked wonderfully upon the moral condition of the poor beings, and I see no reason for a change in it. The evidence upon secondary punishments, lately collected by a Committee of the House of Commons, did not extend to Van Dieman's Land, and it therefore appears monstrous that a change should be effected there without inquiring as to the operation of the system at present pursued.

It has been said and written, that it is no punishment to a convict to be transported. In former days there might have been some truth in the observation, if I may judge from the thieves' old song, which has encouraged many an incipient rogue to pursue his wicked courses until he has been sentenced to trans-

portation. The reader will judge of the whole of the song from the first lines

" Let us haste away  
To Botany Bay,  
Where there is plenty  
And nothing to pay."

But the song is never now heard: and why? Because the system of punishment is changed, and that joyous life which it anticipates is never experienced by the convicts. Transportation is now a severe punishment, and results shew the happy effects which it produces.

On the occasion of the expedition against the aborigines, this great moral change was particularly observable; for one thousand convicts possessing tickets of leave then assembled with arms in their hands, and behaved in the most becoming and praiseworthy manner. Who is there then bold enough to say that the system, as practised in Van Dieman's Land, does not operate beneficially? and who is niggardly enough to lament the expense to the country\*—to begrudge a trifle for the salvation of a brother's soul from damnation?

Hitherto, the convict on arriving in the settlement has been placed in a situation, in which he is enabled immediately to commence self-reformation, (and in this

\* The estimated sum required for the convict establishment in New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land, for the year ending April 1834, is £130,000, being £12,236 less than the sum voted by parliament for the previous year; but £10,000 above the vote for the year ending April 1832.

condition will the third class still stand). If, however, they committed any offence, they were immediately punished by being placed a grade lower in the scale than new convicts: they therefore felt that they had something to lose and much to gain, and that very feeling induced them to behave well. The unhappy beings who will form the first class will not possess this incitement, and I fear results will shew very little reformation. I sincerely hope I may be mistaken.

The expense of sending a male convict to Van Dieman's Land is now about £21., and of a female about £22. The ships taken up for the service, however, are generally very old and very unfit for long voyages; and the reason assigned for this, by a highly respectable merchant, a friend of mine, is, not that good ships cannot be obtained at the low prices at which the tonnage is taken up, but that some gentlemen in one of the Government departments, exert a very improper influence for friends, ship-owners, tendering their vessels for the service. As an instance of this, I may mention the *Amphitrite*, lately wrecked off Boulogne; it was offered for the service and rejected, after being surveyed, as unseaworthy; the owner sold it, and the new owner, who had a friend in the office, without expending a penny on it, sent in another tender, which was accepted. If better ships were taken up, and coarser but equally wholesome provisions were supplied on the voyage, without increasing the expense of transport, more humanity would be displayed.

The beef, pork, plumb puddings, wine, beer, &c.,

supplied during the voyage, are of the best quality; and it has been said that the punishment of being cooped up in a ship is so great, that the prisoners ought to be well fed; but in my humble opinion, no kind of food can alleviate the punishment of being sent to sea in an unseaworthy vessel.

The system of discipline hitherto pursued, and which will still apply to convicts of the third class, and in some degree to those of the second class, has been described by Doctor Ross, in an able article, published in an annual printed in the colony, from which I have gathered some of the facts mentioned in the few following pages. The system, excellent as it is, however, is *contrary to law*, for the 2d and 3d, William 4, c. 62, enacts "that neither the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, of any island, colony, or settlement, nor any other person, shall give any pardon, or *ticket of leave* to any person sentenced to transportation, or who shall receive a pardon on condition of transportation, or any order or permission to suspend or remit the labour of any such person, except in case of illness, unless such person, if transported for seven years, shall have served four; if transported for fourteen years, shall have served six; or if transported for life, shall have served eight years of labour." It is very evident that the words *ticket of leave* were not understood by the framer of this bill, which must be amended. A Bill must also be passed, indemnifying the officers of the penal settlements for granting tickets of leave, which they

have continued to do, notwithstanding the words of the act, in special cases of good conduct.

The transport is scarcely anchored in the harbour, at Hobart Town, ere the convict feels his degraded situation. The principal Superintendent, and the Muster-Master, immediately commence taking an account, both of his person and of every circumstance that can be collected from himself, or is recorded of his former life or character. He is placed in a gauge to measure his height; his complexion, hair, features, and so forth, are carefully noted down; his body is examined to discover any particular marks that may serve to identify him in case he should ever attempt to abscond. And strange to say, these people commonly employ much of their time on the passage out in puncturing and marking with gunpowder their hands, arms and breasts, with various letters and figures, which, being indelible, often assist the ends of justice in apprehending them.

On landing, they are marched up from the beach to the large gaol, called the Prisoners' Barracks. There, attended by the chief Police Magistrate, the principal Superintendent of Convicts, the Superintendent of the Prisoners' Barracks, and other officers, as well as by the Surgeon-Superintendent and Master of the ship to deliver up their charge, the Lieutenant-Governor inspects and scrutinises them, one by one, while the principal Superintendent points out the destination of each, as recommended by the Board of Assignment,\*

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\* This Board assigns the convicts to the settlers.

In the service of the several settlers who had applied for men in rotation. His Excellency inquires as to the conduct of each prisoner while on board the vessel, and ascertains whether any one among them has just cause of complaint against the Surgeon or Master. He then addresses them all—reminds them of the miserable situation to which they have reduced themselves by transgressing the laws of their country; exhorts them to take warning by the past, and to commence a new life in the new country; points out to them that the way to wipe away the stain which disgraces them, is to pursue a line of good conduct; patiently to submit to, and comply with the laws and regulations to which they are now subjected; to be respectful and obedient to their employers; he also cautions them against the certain consequences of an opposite course, warns them that their conduct will be closely watched, that the most minute fault will be recorded against them, and will stand in the way of any future application to the Government for indulgence, and entreats them to avoid the debasing influence of liquor.

In the course of his address his Excellency usually takes occasion to hold out to them that great incentive to good conduct, *the ticket of leave*,\* or the permission, under certain government regulations, to labour for their own advantage, which has hitherto been granted, at the end of four years, to prisoners transported for seven, who have observed a uniform course of good conduct till that time; at the end of six years,

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\* Vide page 43.

to those transported for fourteen; and at the end of eight years, to those transported for life; while in some *special cases of remarkably good conduct*, it is granted before those several periods. It is never conferred in any instance, however, until the whole conduct of the prisoner has undergone the most minute scrutiny, nor unless his former employers, the Colonial Secretary, the Police Magistrate of the district in which he resided in the service of the settler, and the principal Superintendent, as well as the Lieutenant-Governor, sanction or recommend it. The knowledge that every part of his conduct will be subjected to this very careful inquiry, before any indulgence can be granted, frequently operates as a powerful stimulus to reform; while the frail tenure by which the ticket itself is held, being liable to be forfeited for the smallest offence, serves to render those who enjoy it well conducted and industrious.

The settler to whom he is assigned, then receives him from the hands of the principal Superintendent, and from that moment his course of discipline commences. As his new master conducts him to his house, he gives him an outline of what he is to expect—he convinces him that it is only by a close adherence to his duty—by the faithful and honest discharge of the labour allotted to him, that he can escape sinking into a condition far worse than any he has witnessed in England. As he goes along the road, he perhaps remarks a gang of offenders who have fallen to that state. Every thing, indeed, he sees and hears is calculated to make the strongest impressions on him. The convict learns more practical instruction in one day, than he

did probably all his former life, during all the opportunities he might have had; for he is most sensibly convinced that his own interest is at stake, and he listens with great eagerness to all that is told him. He is speedily set to work, and he as soon finds that the only way to escape censure or renewed punishment, is at once to resign himself to his condition, hard as it may be, and to strain every nerve by the full performance of his task to give his employer satisfaction. He is watched and admonished at every step; he cannot commit the least inaccuracy, but it is remarked and corrected, while at the same time, he has the satisfaction of knowing that if he does right, if he uses his best endeavours to do well in his new occupation, his conduct is observed and appreciated. His duty is for the most part very laborious, and he is liable to be called upon even in the middle of the night upon any necessary or urgent occasion. If he is set to break up new land or to grub up the roots of trees, especially if he be unused to manual exertion, no labour perhaps in any country can be more severe; and it is moreover of that nature, of that stimulating kind, that the persons engaged in it are drawn on as it were to increased exertion, from the desire they feel to accomplish their work. The duty of a stock keeper, who would obtain his master's approbation, is also very severe in this mountainous and thickly wooded country.

But it is not in the rigid exaction of labour, though that is an essential point, that the excellence of the prison discipline in Van Dieman's Land chiefly consists. It is in the incessant watchfulness to which

the prisoner is subjected. The moment his master receives him into his hands from the Government, he applies himself with all his energy to reform him; he lays down to him the daily line of his conduct in the strictest manner; he cautions him at all points; he watches his conduct day and night; he encourages by explaining to him the alleviating consequences which a series of good conduct will lead to; he carefully separates him from the contamination of bad associates; or if he be allowed a companion, he places him under the supervision of one, either bond or free, in whom he can confide, and who will assist in carrying his intentions with regard to him into effect. The convict, to be sure, is for the most part fed\* without restriction, and is well enough clad and lodged at night; but beyond this he has not the smallest indulgence. If

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\* A master is obliged to supply his male convict servant per week, with meat, ten and a half pounds; flour, ten and a half pounds; sugar, seven ounces; soap, three and a half ounces; salt, two ounces. Any other article, such as tea, tobacco, &c. is only given at discretion, as a stimulus to industry. The master also supplies the convict servant with two suits of woollen clothing, three pair stockkeeper's boots, four shirts, and one cap annually, and provides for him a paillass of wool, two blankets and a rug. The annual cost of a male convict to a master is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Provisions	13	8	8
Clothing	6	0	0
Lodging, lodging, &c.	0	13	0
Medical attendance	0	5	0
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	£20	6	8

he even possess money, which he has brought with him from England, or if he have friends or connexions who would be disposed to give him any, he has no opportunity of touching it. Every penny he may have on his arrival, is taken from him and lodged in the Savings' Bank, producing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, under the control of the Government, which will not permit it to be withdrawn until after continued proofs of good conduct. Thus by keeping from temptation, is his reformation attained.

I do not say that every settler who has prisoners assigned to his service, follows up this system to the degree here detailed ; but it is said, that the great majority does so, and the result confirms it. It is the interest of every assignee, whether he be of good or bad character, (though, if the Government is aware that he is bad, it will not assign him a convict,) to adopt the system of reformation. The fear of losing the services of the convict, does not restrain a master from recommending him to be rewarded with a ticket of leave ; for the master who does so, is supplied with another servant with the least possible delay.

On the 31st October 1832, the total number of male convicts in Van Dieman's Land, amounted to eleven thousand and forty ; of these one hundred and eighty-two were at the penal settlement of Macquarie Harbour ; two hundred and forty were at the penal settlement of Port Arthur ; forty-six were confined in gaols, and five hundred and forty-three were employed in chain gangs in the colony : making a total of nine hundred and twenty-one, actually undergoing

an additional severity of punishment which the colonial regulations assign to offenders who have subjected themselves, by renewed crimes, to a second sentence of condemnation after their arrival in the colony: so that not one out of eleven (Doctor Ross reckons one in twenty,) again subjects himself to a second punishment—a proof that the moral condition of the convict is much improved.

The following account of the distribution of the convicts will shew how they were and are generally employed:—

Assigned to settlers	6396
Tickets of leave	1160
Constables and Field Police	155
Artificers on Loan to Settlers	267
Employed in the Public Works	1645
Sentence of Transportation Expired	24
Free and Conditional Pardons	12
Invalids	52
Sick in Hospital	49
Died	5
Missing *	60
At Macquarie Harbour	182
At Port Arthur	240
Confined in Gaols	46
Employed in Chain Gangs	543
Absconded *	204
Total	11,040

\* The two items absconded and missing, include those whose fate, from the first era of the settlement, has not been

The great number of suicides known to be committed in fits of despair, forms an instructive though melancholy proof of the extreme severity of the present system adopted in the colony. It shows that the feelings of the unfortunate beings are returning to a sort of morbid sensibility, that they see their errors, but have not strength of mind sufficient to bear up against the disgrace of the punishment to which they have subjected themselves.

It may, perhaps, be thought that the power placed in the hands of the assignee is abused; and that the convict is driven to commit suicide, by the cruelties and ill-treatment practised upon him. Such, however, is not the case; the assigned servant has at all times full license allowed him to complain to the nearest magistrate, and the scrutiny with which the summary decisions, on such occasions, are looked to by the Government, must always insure him impartial justice. This ready means of obtaining redress, established on the most open and liberal footing throughout the colony, prevents the necessity of any man, however humble, suffering undeservedly a moment's injustice or ill-treatment. At the same time, he is equally liable to be taken to account, if, on the other hand, he gives occasion for the complaint of his master; and then his punishment is not only summary, but severe. If he absents himself from duty for an hour—if he uses improper or insolent expressions—if he becomes

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ascertained on complete evidence, though it is pretty well known most of them are dead.

intoxicated—and, above all, if he commit a theft, or other criminal offence, speedy punishment is sure to follow. His prescribed course of conduct is direct, and he cannot diverge from it with impunity.

It must not however be thought that there is little inconvenience attending convict labour—that the prisoners are mere tools, and only require to be told to work and they do work—that their minds are so subdued by the voyage that the work of reformation is begun and finished. No—such is not the case; they require constant watching and attention. If they know not how to work with the axe, the pick, the saw, and the shovel, or to drive a team, they must learn, notwithstanding the inconvenience which their blunders and ignorance may cause. Their career in England is usually one continued scene of debauchery and depravity, and the time necessarily occupied in the voyage is often worse than uselessly employed in telling stories of crime and of wickedness, in which the narrator has been the most prominent actor. Nothing is more common than for the prisoners on their arrival, knowing the demand for farming men, and the chance otherwise of their remaining in the public works, which they very naturally conclude is a harder lot than service under the settlers; nothing is more common, than, as they term it, ‘to hail themselves’ for farming men, whether they are so or not; and no sooner do they come to the disappointed settler than a regular course of instruction must commence. A gentleman not long since received a prisoner as a ploughman. ‘Well, my man,’ said his new

master, 'can you plough?' 'No, Sir, I don't know what it is.' 'What! and you are sent to me as a regular ploughman?' 'Yes, sir, they called me that, and you know I must not contradict them.'—'But what were you bred to?' asked his master. "I be come from Coventry, sir; and I've been all my life a ribbon-weaving, till the day afore I was taken, when I was a-driving a cart.' There was no alternative but to try the man with a cart, which he contrived to break in pieces the first day. The next time he only broke the pole, and the third experiment sufficed to fix the carriage, with its load, a yard deep in a sough. The patience of his master being exhausted, he directed the man to cut down some trees, as being a more harmless employment; but he was sadly mistaken. The fellow contrived, by dint of real exertion, to cut through a stupendous gum-tree, the lofty branches of which sheltered the barn from the westerly winds and the afternoon's sun; and just a week before harvest, when the corn was about to be housed, he let the huge tree fall directly across the building, which it levelled to the ground. A farmer in England, on such an occasion, would scratch his head, lament his misfortune, and get rid of his servant; not so with the Van Dieman's Land settler—he repines not, but sets the convict to repair the mischief which he has caused. The effect is, that he ultimately acquires habits fitting him for his new mode of life, and he becomes a useful member of the community.

It falls however to the lot of a settler, sometimes to have sent him a convict stubborn and indolent, and,

as is generally the case, ignorant of agricultural operations. Then it is that the patience of the settler is tried, and then it is that he is apt to lament the scarcity of free labour. A man will put up with much, without repining, from a servant who is willing, but he is sorely galled when he finds that to ignorance are added indolence and obstinacy. In the year 1830 there was an instance of this at Jericho. A convict named Andrew Hulton, was set to grub up trees, which he obstinately refused to perform, on the plea that being bred up a weaver, he could not handle an axe, pick, or shovel. To avoid work he decamped, but was speedily apprehended, and on his way to the magistrate he seized an opportunity to cut off his left hand at the wrist, which he accomplished with an axe at two strokes!

It is not to be concealed that the system pursued in the colony has no effect upon some few prisoners who will persist in committing crimes until they are sent to a penal settlement, where they are subjected to labour of the most severe kind. The following case is an instance, but I should say it proceeded more from weakness and infirmity of intellect than from innate crime.\*

James Williams, a lad brought up and employed in the neighbourhood of Hereford, as a farmer's labourer, till the age of nineteen, was, after running the usual preparatory gauntlet of lesser punishments.

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\* This may not appear so astonishing (the man being an ignorant boor) as wealthy people turning shoplifters.

at home, convicted of picking pockets and sentenced to transportation for seven years. He landed at Hobart Town in December 1823, and had been but a very short time in the colony when he was arrested on a charge of grand larceny, of which he was found guilty on the 2nd November 1824, and again sentenced to seven years' transportation. As a matter of course, he was then placed to endure a season of purgation in the lowest gang employed in the public works. He evidently felt his situation of the most galling kind; for, besides the misery of wearing heavy chains and undergoing close confinement, especially at night, deprived of all means of indulgence, the daily labour exacted from him, operating upon the indolent habits he had acquired during a long series of gaol imprisonments, both here and in England, proved in the highest degree irksome. The orders of his overseer, always submitted to with reluctance, were by degrees answered with insolence, and at last with direct disobedience. For this repeated misconduct he was taken before a magistrate and severely reprimanded, agreeably to the general practice in the colony of trying the mildest means first, and afterwards gradually increasing in severity according to the repetition and enormity of the offence. Only a few weeks elapsed before he absented himself from his gang altogether, and when apprehended, as the next step, he received twenty-five lashes, and was sent back to his duty to the chain-gang. In less than a week he again stubbornly refused to work, and a similar punishment of twenty-

five lashes was a second time inflicted. This refractory conduct continued until, in a few more months, he subjected himself to a punishment of fifty lashes, and to receive no other food for fourteen days than bread and water; having, in addition to his oft-repeated refusal to work, threatened to knock his overseer down with a hammer. Two months had not elapsed after this, before he absconded into the woods, and on apprehension received one hundred lashes, and was condemned to work in irons. True to the text he had chosen for his fate, he was caught plundering a gang of convicts in nearly the same miserable plight as himself, while at work on the roads near the Jordan River, of the whole of their provisions. In such a case as his, what could the law superadd to the measure of the hardships it had already condemned him to endure? However, one hundred more lashes suggested themselves to the justices, and these he received. His next offence was stealing some tobacco from the pocket of a fellow-prisoner, for which he received fifty more lashes. His back must by this time have been tolerably seared and callous. On the 27th August 1829, while in the prisoners' barracks, he was found with two clothes lines, and a quantity of sugar, evidently stolen, for which he was imprisoned and kept at as hard labour as could be exacted from him for six months, and deprived of any chance, whatever his future conduct might be, of ever being assigned to a settler, except in the remotest part of the interior. He successively received twenty-five lashes for outrageous conduct, and fighting in the

presence of the gang ; he worked ten days on the tread wheel for being drunk and disorderly ; he received a third sentence of seven years, (his former ones being unexpired,) for stealing a hat, of which he was convicted at the Quarter Sessions ; in November, 1831, he was again tried and convicted capitally for being illegally at large while under sentence of transportation ; in seven months, being committed for a similar offence, he was handed over to the Chief Police Magistrate by the Attorney-General for summary punishment ; he contrived to secrete himself on board a vessel in the harbour, bound to New Zealand, in order to escape from the colony, where he was discovered and placed in what to any less expert man would have proved inextricable confinement, but in a few days after, he was detected in a second attempt in another vessel about to sail from the colony, and he is now sentenced to undergo a term of condemnation for three years, at the penal settlement at Macquarie Harbour.

At Macquarie Harbour, one of the penal settlements, the convicts' punishment is rendered as severe as almost any circumstances on earth may be supposed to admit. Shut up at night within a wretched hovel, on a rock in the ocean, where the only symptom of comfort is that which security presents ; as soon as the prisoners are called from rest in the morning, they are fed with a dish of porridge, composed of flour and water, with a little salt. They then embark in boats and row several miles to the wood-cutting stations, where they continue to work until their return

at night, when they are supplied with the only substantial meal they receive in the twenty-four hours. Their labour consists in cutting up the trees growing near the coast, into heavy logs, which they carry on their shoulders, or slide to the water's edge, and form into rafts. During the greater part of this duty the convict has to work up to his middle in water, and even in the woods from the moist and swampy nature of the country, his employment is of the most disagreeable and harassing kind. The prospect of being rewarded for a series of good conduct, by a return to the parent colony, under the judicious management and humane encouragement of the Commandant, often sows the seeds of reformation, which are more effectually nourished when he is entrusted to the settler.

The female convicts, the number of whom in the island on the 31st October last, was one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, are, generally speaking, a still lower grade of beings than the men, and from the scarcity of free women, are frequently admitted into the houses of colonists as domestic servants. The ordinary punishments inflicted on them are the yellow dress, solitary confinement, and having their hair cut off.\* Such is the mistrust in their characters, that they are not allowed to go from one house to

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\* It is remarked in Prinsep's Letters, "Even in our small ménage, our cook has committed murder, our footman burglary, and the housemaid bigamy!" and "it is strange to be in a country of thieves at all, but still stranger to be there without any fear of having your pocket picked! Such is the admirable arrangement of the present government."

another without a guard, and if they have gone through a preparatory course of criminal instruction (what in England is called gaol discipline) they seldom reform.\*

Cases like the following are not uncommon:—Charlotte T.—, a dress-maker, at Manchester, had been convicted of different offences before leaving England, and was at last sentenced to seven years transportation. The whole period until it expired, was one continued series of offence and punishment alternately. She seldom remained above a few weeks in any settler's employment, sometimes only a few hours. Her punishments consisted of imprisonment and hard labour in the House of Correction; solitary confinement of from three to ten days in a dark cell, being fed on bread and water, and placed two or three hours in the stocks; and in some instances her head was shaved, which is always considered a most severe deprivation. This woman endured twenty-two punishments, until she became free at the close of last year; that she will continue so is more to be hoped, & fear, than expected.

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\* The rations of the female convicts per week are:—Meat, five pounds and a quarter; eight pounds and a half of flour; two ounces of tea; half pound of sugar; two ounces of soap; and one ounce and a half of salt. The clothing provided annually is one cotton gown; two bed-gowns, or jackets; three shifts; two flannel petticoats; two stuff ditto; three pair of shoes; three calico caps; three pair of stockings; two neck handkerchiefs; three check aprons; and one bonnet; the cost of which is not to exceed £7. The bedding furnished to them is the same in quantity as to the men.

The boys are reckoned almost as irreclaimable as the women, and so little anxious were masters to have them, that an order was issued compelling the taking one boy to a certain number of men; this however has lately been changed, and they are now sent to the Penal Settlement at Port Arthur, where they are taught different trades. Any one in the habit of attending constantly at the London, Middlesex, Westminster, or Surrey sessions, would not be surprised at this; the same little urchins are there tried over and over again, and it is not until they know not what honesty is that they are transported.\*

No situation † is more worthy of pity than that of a person coming out of prison after a term of merited punishment. The mistrust inspired by a knowledge of his late situation, is directly opposed to his procuring

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\* In the year 1829, there were tried at the Old Bailey, 1,726 Middlesex felony cases, at an expense to the county of £7,984 6s. 8d. being an average expense for each prosecution of near £4 12s.; and at the Middlesex sessions, the cost of prosecuting 168 prisoners, was £455 17s. 2d., or near £2 14s. each prosecution. In 1830 at the Old Bailey, 1,777, and at the Middlesex sessions 168 prisoners were tried—the average expense of each prosecution at the former was about £3 14s., and at the latter £2 7s.; the total expense to the county £6,975 16s. 10d. In 1831 at the Old Bailey, 1846, and at the Middlesex sessions 140 prisoners were tried, at an expense of £7,686 3s. 4d.; the average of each prosecution at the former being near £3 19s., and at the latter £2 10. In 1832 there were tried at the Old Bailey, 2,048 prisoners at an expense of £8,243 6s. 11d., or about £4 each prosecution, and at the Middlesex sessions 168 prisoners, at an expense of £381 17s. or about £2 5s. each prosecution. I am not aware of the expense attending the trial of offenders committed by the city authorities, nor the expense of prosecutions at the Westminster sessions.

† Report of the Paris Prisons' Committee.

employment. Often without a refuge, and without bread even for the day, there is presented to him no other mode of existing, than at the price of a new crime, or of subjecting himself to an act of mendicancy or of vagrancy.

In Van Dieman's Land the convict, if he behaves well is sure of gaining a ticket of leave, and the means (for labour is dear) of obtaining an honest existence are before him. From the moment he sets foot on shore the seed of reformation is sown, and that it frequently takes root and becomes a goodly tree, is shewn by the result that only one convict in eleven sins again.\*

The eighth report of the Committee of the Society for the Improvement of Prison Discipline, published last year says, "in Van Dieman's Land, the moral

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\* The total number of prisoners who have been transported to the colony amounts to 16,647; of those 5,605 are dead, or have become free. In the year 1821, the Supreme Court commenced sitting, since which time 1,365 persons have been convicted before it. In the year 1825, the Courts of Quarter Sessions commenced, since which period 527 persons have been convicted, both making a total of 2,092 persons convicted in the colony. This would make a proportion of more than one in eight, instead of one in eleven; but it is to be remembered that this estimate includes a period of twelve years, in the former part of which the discipline had by no means arrived at the perfection which it since has attained; and also had to contend with the comparatively worse description of prisoners, of which the settlement was then composed, from the circumstance of its being a place of secondary punishment to the worst offenders from New South Wales.

condition of the convicts appears to be far lower than, even in New South Wales." No authority is given for such an assertion, and I imagine it would be difficult to find one. If such was the case, would Mr. Stanley, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, have told the House of Commons on the 15th July?—"I shall take an early opportunity of laying before the House some important information, communicated in despatches, relative to the classification of convicts in Van Dieman's Land, and on the degrees of punishment—some, indeed, amounting to a degree of severity, of which many persons in this country cannot be aware; in some cases approaching to almost worse than death." Would Lieutenant-Governor Arthur have dared to publish such a document as the following?—

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 14th February, 1833.*

"His Majesty's Government having been pleased to enjoin the strictest fulfilment of the law upon all convicts sent to this colony, and that their punishment should be certain and severe—the Lieutenant-Governor directs the renewed attention of all public officers connected with the convict department, to the instructions which have from time to time been issued on the subject.

"His Excellency is desirous especially to impress upon them the necessity of invariably exacting the due portion of daily labour from each convict, and of not permitting any remission or indulgence, but such as have been previously and especially authorised. The orders prohibiting convicts employed on the

roads, and in the public works (including clerks, messengers, and persons of that description) from labouring, under any pretence, for private individuals, or to the advantage of those in charge of them, are at all times to be most perseveringly and carefully enforced, and to avoid any misconception in a matter deemed so important by his Majesty's Government, the instructions are to be understood most peremptorily to forbid every species of indulgence beyond the food, clothing, bedding, and lodging, authorised by regulations to every convict.

"A proportionate degree of restraint and watchfulness over all assigned convicts is equally essential. The object of their reform as well as punishment, must never be lost sight of. His Excellency is sensible that this end could never have been so successfully attained as it has been, without the zealous co-operation of the colonists at large, who in conjunction with a due exaction of labour, have very generally insisted upon the observance of orderly and regular conduct.

"The Lieutenant-Governor on this occasion feels it due to the general body of settlers to acknowledge his obligation to them for the cordial support he has received at their hands, in the control and management of the convict population, and his Excellency does so with the more satisfaction at this particular time, when the attention of the Imperial Parliament is so especially drawn to the consideration of the important subject of prison discipline, and when the state of things in the colony has placed the Local

Government in a situation to contradict the unjust imputations which have been raised against transportation as a punishment."

The average annual expense of maintaining each prisoner in the Milbank Penitentiary is about £30,\* and those who have been confined within its walls, on regaining liberty, seldom walk in the path of virtue, or become useful members of society. How different at Van Dieman's Land—the actual cost of maintaining a prisoner does not amount to half £30 per annum, whilst the value of his labour is double the cost of his maintenance, and the punishment works reformation.

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\* At the Middlesex House of Correction it is only £16, but at some of the provincial gaols it is nearly £40.

## SOCIETY.

## CHAP. V.

The title of this chapter will be very apt to produce a smile on the countenances of those who have not hitherto thought of Van Dieman's Land but as a receptacle for the expatriated thieves of England, and who have, therefore, accustomed themselves to look upon the colony as a spot exclusively and especially appropriated to crime and immorality, contaminated and disgraced throughout in all its relations, a sink of impurity, and not to be thought of as a place of abode for any honest man.\* In truth, nothing can be more absurd than the ideas generally entertained on this particular head. These ideas have arisen, of course, from the circumstance of its being a penal settlement, one of the places to which convicts are sent. Captain Sturt, in the prefatory remarks to the volumes detailing the proceedings of the party which he commanded in exploring the interior of New Holland, speaks of the society in New South Wales; and as his remarks are applicable also to the colony of Van Dieman's Land, I take the liberty of bringing them under the notice

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\* Chambers' Information for the People.—No. 10.

of the reader. Captain Sturt is an officer of the 39th regiment, a gentleman by birth and education, and from having moved in the highest circles in England, and the best in the colony, is well qualified to express an opinion upon the existing state of society.

‘ Few persons in England,’ he says, ‘ have even a remote idea of its present flourishing condition, or of the improvements that are daily taking place both in its commerce and in its agriculture. I am aware that many object to it as a place of residence, and I can easily enter into their feelings from the recollection of what my own were before I visited it. I cannot but remark, however, that my prejudices had arisen from a natural objection to the character of a part of its population—from the circumstances of its being a penal colony, and from my total ignorance of its actual state, and not from any substantial or permanent cause. On the contrary, I speedily became convinced of the exaggerated nature of the reports I had heard in England, on some of the points just adverted to; nor did anything fall under my observation during a residence of more than six years to justify the opinions I had been previously led to entertain. I embarked for the colony with strong prejudices against it; I left it with strong feelings in its favor, and with a deep feeling of interest in its prosperity. My regiment has since quitted its shores, but I am aware there are few in it who would not gladly return. The feeling I have in its favor arises not therefore from the services in which I was employed, but from circumstances in the colony itself, and I yet hope to form

one of its community, and to join a number of valuable and warm-hearted friends whom I left in that distant part of the world.'

The writer of an article in the *Van Dieman's Land Almanac*, upon this subject, observes 'that there is some difficulty in rightly defining the state of society; for perhaps in few places are there so many imaginary grades or distinctions. It is apprehended however, that in all colonies this is more or less the same, self-satisfaction being purchasable, in most of them, at a very easy rate; but in this respect, a return to England is perhaps the only way to make many people rightly understand the true nature of their pretensions. It may be remarked, *in limine*, that there are two great or leading distinctions, viz. the free and the prisoner population; although again the former are almost as much divided and subdivided among themselves, as these two sets are from each other. In speaking of the free inhabitants of the colony, then, it may be said that the first in point of order, are chiefly those who are in the pay of Government. Generally speaking, these seem to consider this circumstance a sufficient ground for keeping separate or aloof from the rest of the community, and that it would be a degradation to them to associate with any who do not belong to their own order. They are sometimes jeeringly styled (*tuus a non tuendo*) "the aristocracy." The next or second class are infinitely more numerous, more wealthy and more influential than the others, and comprise the respectable free inhabitants who are unconnected with Government. These form a little world as it were of

their own; and present a lesson in many respects which "the aristocrats" might do well to follow. A third set are free persons of an inferior station, men who form the link between the merchant, banker, or first settler and the mere labourer. These again chiefly confine themselves to their own circle, neither of the three amalgamating with either of the others more than can be well avoided. The fourth, or last class, are the prisoner population, between whom and all others a line of demarcation is drawn, which effectually forms them into a distinct or separate set. The latter are never however subject to taunt or insult; nor with the authorities are their offences on the northern side of the hemisphere allowed to operate to their prejudice.' This is, perhaps, rather highly coloured, though it certainly contains much truth: there certainly are ignorant, conceited, and presuming persons in the colony, as indeed there are in every part of the world.

The lamented and amiable Mr. Augustus Prinsep observes in his letters, that "the society of Hobart Town is pleasant, and to us has been very kind." The Lieutenant Governor endeavours, by promoting good feeling, to render the society agreeable. He receives all settlers with kindness, and endeavours to introduce those of the better class by means of his table\* to the other settlers. Such is the present state of society, and the reader may be confident that instead of retrograding it must advance, for the

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\* Henderson.

class of emigrants now quitting the British isles are of a different grade from the generality of those who left five years since. If petty jealousies and narrow-minded selfish feelings have hitherto had blighting effects, it will be a gratification to know that they will not so frequently recur whilst society is influenced by educated and honourable men.

## CLIMATE, SEASONS, DISEASES, &amp;c.

## CHAP. VI.

The position may induce the belief that Van Dieman's Land enjoys a climate similar to countries under the corresponding latitudes of the northern hemisphere: such however is not the case; for the temperature is affected by the contiguity of the island to fields of ice, extending around the south pole in a wider radius than the fields of ice around the north pole, and also by the absence of land between the island and the ice. At noon the temperature is higher than it usually is at the same time in the corresponding seasons in England, but neither the mornings nor evenings differ much in their temperature, the constitution is not enervated. The sky is usually clear and brilliant, and the atmosphere is dry, pure, and elastic, but notwithstanding these desiderata, it must be admitted that the climate is capricious and uncertain; this however, may be accounted for by the numerous ranges of high and snow-capped mountains, which intersect the country, causing cold winds, and attracting, as mountains always do, watery clouds. The changes in the altitude of the mercury, are therefore frequently not more extensive than rapid.

In the middle of a summer's day, it will sometimes rise to  $100^{\circ}$  with a sultry oppressive wind, and in a few hours will sink to  $52^{\circ}$ , with rain or mist.

At noon of the 15th December 1828, the mercury, in a room from which the sun's rays were excluded, rose to ninety degrees; in the shade, out of doors, and exposed to the wind, it reached one hundred and twenty; and, in a situation where the wind and sun both operated upon it, it amounted to one hundred and thirty-eight. In the evening, an agreeable sea-breeze prevailed, and the mercury fell as rapidly as it advanced.

It has been remarked, that within the last few years the changes from season to season are less extensive—that while the summer heat has not increased, the winter cold has diminished. In Bass Straits, not many years since, a westerly wind almost always prevailed; and it was then with the greatest difficulty a ship could proceed to the westward, or contend against their violence; now however, never a month passes by, but at least some days produce breezes from the eastward,\* which sometimes continue blowing from that point for a month together.

In winter, the night frost is seldom severe enough, unless in exposed situations, to withstand the heat of the ensuing day. Snow generally falls two or three

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\* The cause of this remarkable change is attributed to the motion of the earth as a planet; for as the perihelium advances in the ecliptic, the mundane forces, either in the northern or southern hemisphere, act with greater energy.

times in the course of the winter, but it seldom continues long, (excepting on the tops of mountains and on the high lands in the interior) even near Hobart Town, where the cold is more severe than it is on the Launceston or northern side of the island. The atmospheric differences on the four coasts of the island are very remarkable; on the southern side the number of days on which rain actually falls on an average, does not exceed fifty or sixty\* in the course of the year; on the eastern side, the average quantity of rain is somewhat more; on the northern side the rainy days may be computed at one fourth more than on the eastern; while on the western, at Ports Macquarie and Davey, the weather is of the most gloomy kind, about half the year being stormy, cloudy, and wet. Much as the climate on the coasts varies, that of the interior perhaps exceeds it in caprice; on the sides of the mountains or in the neighbourhood of the lakes the cold is often intense, whilst in the rich vallies in Campbell Town and the adjoining districts, the thermometer scarcely ever descends to freezing point.

The circumstance of the island being situated at the opposite end of the globe, has the effect of reversing the seasons in relation to ours; and from its being farther to the east, the sun rises some hours

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\* It is remarked that during the last two years more rain has fallen at Hobart Town than previously; in 1831, rain fell on 90 days, and the total quantity in inches was 18, 27-40ths; in 1832, rain fell on 128 days, and produced in inches 26, 779, a quantity equal to the average fall in many parts of England.

earlier, causing broad day there when it is midnight here.

September, October, and November are the spring months of the year, and then, though the weather is usually bright and clear, there is frequently rain, accompanied with high winds.

December, January, and February correspond with the June, July, and August of Europe, and the atmosphere during these three months is generally much heated in the day; but the cool breeze which sets in with the evening, braces the constitution and counteracts the debilitating effects which would otherwise be produced. The longest day, 21st December, is about fifteen hours and twelve minutes.

March, April, and May, are the autumnal months, and form the most agreeable season of the year. The air is then clear and bright,\* the sky free from clouds and vapours; the medium heat of the day is about sixty-five, and the nights are cool and refreshing.

June, July, and August constitute the winter, which is never anticipated as a season of snow and frost, but rather as a season of rain. The average of the thermometer for these months is from forty to forty-eight, though now and then it descends some degrees lower. The shortest day, 21st June, is eight hours and forty-eight minutes, or one hour and four minutes longer than the shortest day (21st December) in England; the longest day with us, however,

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\* Melville.

is one hour and twenty-two minutes longer than the longest day with them.

The health of the inhabitants sufficiently attests the salubrity of the climate; for, since the formation of the colony, in 1803, the number of deaths, in proportion to the population, even when compared to the most healthy parts of England,\* has been remarkably few. This is a striking fact, for it is well known that a country becomes more healthy as cultivation advances. If, then, the island, in its uncultivated state, is so salubrious, what will it be in the course of a few years, when the ground is cleared?

A year or two since a kind of influenza, a cold and slight fever, was prevalent, but it was not attended with danger. Fever and dysentery are the most common complaints, but these do not bear a larger proportion to the population than in other countries. Hooping-cough, which appeared within the last half-dozen years, was said to have been introduced by female convicts; it has not, however, been attended by a single death, notwithstanding, soon after its introduction, it spread itself almost throughout the whole

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\* At a late meeting of the *Academie des Sciences*, M. Moreau de Jonnes read a paper, from which it appeared that in the Roman States and ancient Venetian provinces 1 in 27 dies annually; in all Italy, Greece, and Turkey, 1 in 30; in the Netherlands, France, and Prussia, 1 in 39; in Switzerland, Austria, Spain, and Portugal, 1 in 40; in Russia (in Europe) and Poland, 1 in 44; in Germany, Denmark, and Sweden, 1 in 45; in Norway, 1 in 48; in Ireland, 1 in 53; in England, 1 in 56; and in Scotland and Iceland, 1 in 59.

population. Disorders prevalent among the dissolute of the lower classes in cities and large towns in Europe, will disappear without medicines, if the parties abstain from inflammatory beverages and exciting food. Temporary insanity, both among the male and female prisoners, has displayed itself in a larger proportion than is usual in England; but this may be accounted for by the immense quantities of ardent spirits consumed,—the number of gallons annually imported, divided by the number of the population, including young and old, male and female, giving five gallons to each individual.

Several instances of *goitre* have occurred in particular localities, but none have been severe; the *goitre* is a complaint incidental to most mountainous countries, and might, therefore be expected to be found in an island where the surface is so very unequal.

New Norfolk; 3, Richmond; 4, Clyde; 5, Oatlands; 6, Oyster Bay; 7, Campbell Town; 8, Norfolk Plains; 9, Launceston. I shall treat of the districts occupied by the Van Dieman's Land Company under three heads;—10, Circular Head; 11, Woolnorth, and 12, Surrey and Hampshire Hills. To these I shall add, 13, Macquarie Harbour; 14, Port Arthur 15, Unlocated Districts. This disposition the reader will at once perceive by referring to the map.

#### 1.—HOBART TOWN DISTRICT.

I do not call the attention of the reader to this district as the first, on account of its fertility, productiveness, or extent, but on account of the importance it must maintain, whilst it contains the metropolis, which will be the principal goal of most emigrants intending to settle in the interior. It is the most southerly district in the island, bounded on the south and west by the Huon and Mount Rivers, from the source of the latter of which its boundary is an imaginary line drawn across Mount Wellington, to the Black Snake Inn, on the banks of the Derwent, and on the east, including Bruné Island, by the Derwent and Storm Bay. The position of this district is the most favourable of any for commerce, as three sides even of that part on the main-island enjoys the advantage of water carriage, which is available for vessels of any size, the banks of the Derwent,\* from the mouth of the Huon to the Black

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\* The river Derwent presents no great difficulty of entrance; when a mariner shall have visited it once, he may afterwards enter without the assistance of a pilot.

Snake, being indented by beautiful bays and inlets, affording secure anchorage and good landing-places. Its area is about 400 square miles, or 250,000 acres, about 2000 of which are arable or garden ground. In the year 1829, the average return per acre of wheat was fifteen bushels, barley twenty bushels, oats twenty-five bushels, peas twenty bushels, beans twenty bushels, potatoes three tons and a half, and turnips seven tons; the soil has however been much improved by artificial means since that time, and the average produce may now be considered at least one sixth higher than in the year mentioned. The gardens in the neighbourhood of the town, are said to be productive, and to afford the finest vegetables; but this is to be attributed to the industry of the gardeners and to the climate rather than to the soil, which is not rich.

The surface of the whole district is one continued succession of hill and dale, presenting a vast proportion of poor thin soil.

Mount Wellington, the most striking feature in the district, rises 3,750 feet above the level of the sea, immediately to the westward of Hobart Town; and, although it is snow-capped for about seven months of the year, it is seldom enveloped in clouds. Several streams which spring from it supply the inhabitants of Hobart Town with good water.

The only settlements in this district are, Hobart Town, Sandy Bay, and New Town.

HOBART TOWN, the capital of the island, and the seat of the Government, is built upon the western bank of the salt water river Derwent, on a creek

called Sullivan's Cove, which forms an excellent harbour for the largest vessels, and possesses the great advantage that ships can approach close to the quay to unload.

It stands upon a gently rising ground, and in extent is from a mile and a quarter to a half square. The streets are wide and long, intersecting each other at right angles; and those that have been levelled and macadamized, of which there are several, present by their number of large handsome shops, houses and warehouses, a striking appearance. Nearly through the centre of the town runs a rivulet, which besides turning timber and corn mills, affords the inhabitants a good supply of water. The town however is chiefly watered by means of pipes laid underground, for the purpose of conveying water to private houses, as well as to several public pumps in various parts of the streets.

The public buildings are numerous, and those which have been lately built, are handsome. A neat white church,\* the interior of which is fitted up with an organ, a handsome pulpit and desk, made of the pencil cedar tree of the colony, is large, regular, and well built.

The Court House, at the north-east corner of Macquarie and Murray streets, (vide plan of the town, on map,) is a gothic stone building, containing various apartments or divisions, adapted for the civil

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\* There are six new churches now in progress in different parts of the island.

and criminal business of the colony. The Supreme Court, the Court of Quarter Sessions, and the Court of Requests (the latter being for the easy recovery of debts not exceeding £10) hold their sittings in different apartments in this edifice.

The Government House consists of a large rambling pile of buildings, heaped together at different times without any consideration for architectural appearances. The Barracks occupy a fine commanding situation upon elevated ground on the south-west part of the town, and are well adapted for the accommodation of the military. The Prisoners' Barracks, standing in the opposite direction, form an extensive and commodious range of brick buildings, well secured by a high wall. All the prisoners of the Crown in the immediate service of the Government, as well as those who are newly arrived in the country, and all who remain for assignment, are lodged here.

The Colonial Hospital is a commodious building, capable of accommodating a considerable number of in-patients; and those who are unfortunate enough to be there, experience great care and attention from the talented medical gentlemen who superintend it.

The Police Office is a plain substantial edifice, well calculated for the business which is conducted within its walls.

The females' House of Correction is about two miles distant, in a westerly direction, and stands close to the stream by which the town is watered. The construction of the building is admirably suited for the

purposes of classification and employment—two very desirable objects. A commodious and handsome edifice, intended for the Male and Female Orphan Schools, is in progress, about two miles from the town. The children are to be admitted into it according to the following classification:—1. Those who are entirely destitute.—2. Those who have one parent living.—3. Those who have both parents living, but whose parents are unable to afford them the means of education.—4. Children, whose parents may be able to contribute the moderate sum which will be required for the care, maintenance, and education of the children, viz.—£12 per annum.

In addition to the buildings enumerated, there are several commodious sectarian chapels, three public banks, a public school-house for the children of poor people, several printing establishments, a distillery, two breweries, two timber-mills, and steam and water-mills, a pottery—*cum multis aliis quæ nunc prescribere longum est.*

Some of the gentlemen's houses are handsome and elegant, and possess everything to render the inhabitants comfortable. The rents are, however, very high, as a house with eight rooms lets for £90 per annum, and £200 per annum is not an uncommon rental for a house with twelve or thirteen apartments. "The view from the harbour," says Mr. Prinsep, "would make the most magnificent panorama in the world, were a painter to give the deep brown and purple tints to the foliage which clothes these hills; but he should visit the place to form an adequate idea of what

is so different from the pale green verdure of Old England. These dark woods form a rich back ground to the town, as you view it from the water; they are principally composed of gum trees, which standing alone, are far from beautiful, being scraggy and bare of foliage below; but when united in groupes, they form a mass of dark green leaves, enlivened by their white irregular trunks. They are evergreens, or rather everbrowns, which in this clear atmosphere, up the wild glens of Mount Wellington, deepen into the richest purple in the distance. The Government House, with its pretty gardens and green slopes,\* the Gothic Court-house, the neat white church seen behind, the gaol, in short most of the principal buildings, are seen from the river, the chief part of the town itself being judiciously hid in the valley behind. Above are the gentlemen's houses, interspersed amongst the trees, and to the left of them, the quadrangle and flag-staff of the barracks. Behind lies a deep valley, from which rises the magnificent table mountain, called Mount Wellington. It is about seven miles distant to the west, and nearly four thousand feet high. The atmosphere is so clear, that unless its sides are gracefully wreathed in clouds, I can distinguish very little ravine and undulation. It is covered with woods to the ledge of rugged rocks, which it bears aloft like a mural crown, emblematical of the future prosperity of the infant city! Mount

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\* Since this was written, a line of warehouses has screened the Government-House from the river.—*Vide Plan.*

Wellington is the commencement of a long range of hills, which run westward till they meet again the River Derwent, about ten miles off.

“ Upon a rocky point, forming the eastern side of the harbour, is a little fort called Mulgrave Battery, with a telegraph and signal-post. Following the shore is Sandy Bay, about two miles in extent, sheltered from all the cold blasts of the east and south by Mount Nelson, which runs abruptly into the river, closing all further view of the coast on that side. On Mount Nelson is another signal-post, communicating with Mulgrave Battery, and thus announcing to the town the first intelligence of the arrival of any vessels. Continuing my panoramic sketch of the scenery from Mount Nelson, the eye discovers in a faint grey, the distant islands in the mouth of the river; then the opposite bank, the high land called Clarence Plains, and many an unnamed rugged woody hill, till we come to Kangaroo Point,\* directly north east, and facing Hobart Town. This is but two miles across the water, and with a deep bay on either side, and variegated with cottages in the woods which clothe it, it always forms a most pleasing object before us. The back-ground rises into hills of a wilder form as you advance round towards Mount Wellington, whence we first set out.”

It is not unusual to meet in the streets of Hobart Town natives of all countries, severally dressed in their

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\* A steam boat runs between this point and Hobart Town, six times every day.

national costume. Scots, with bonnets, and, on one or two occasions, highland kilts and claymores; Irish peasants, with blue jackets and trousers; French, Germans, Americans, Indians, Chinese, (but no females of that country,) Malays, Lascars, Black Aborigines, Africans, and very elegantly tattooed New Zealanders. In the cove, it is not uncommon to see half-a-dozen large vessels, some loading with oil, wool, and other produce of the island; others landing parties of emigrants, and bales of goods for the shop-keepers, or rather for the store-keepers, for the tradesmen are merchants, and do not keep shops, but stores, certainly an appropriate name for buildings containing all sorts of things—*at quibusdam aliis*.—The advertisements, containing lists of the different articles to be sold, are very amusing: for instance—“cart hames and cayenne-pepper, drill trousers, crockery-ware, one lady’s side-saddle, one very strong dray, gold and white cambric, four circular saws, ladies’ stays, starch, blue, and soap, leghorn flats, shot, mustard, pattens, black stuff and bombazines, nails and iron pots,” are all advertised to be sold at one store. In America the same practice, says Doctor Ross, prevails, and a Mr. Dickenson, of Boston, recently digested the contents of his store into the following doggrel verses:—

Read, grateful subjects! our benign decree:—

All these, hereafter, shall be duty free!

Hair pencils, hangers, hemlock, henbane, bones,

Pimento, ginger, capers, fitt’ring stones;

Figs, almonds, currants, raisins, prunes, plums, dates,

Grapes, macaroni, cassia, brass in plates,

Filibets, black pepper, coffee, cocoa, teas,  
 Horn plates for lanterns, corks, cantharides,  
 Juniper berries, coriander seeds,  
 Peruvian bark, manufactured reeds,  
 Berries and nuts for dyeing, tortoise-shell,  
 Sponge, saffron, India-rubber, calomel,  
 Daggers, quicksilver, aloes, ambergris,  
 Burgundy pitch, musk, opium, cutlasses,  
 Rattans, frankincense, mill stones, dirks, tin-foil,  
 Saltpetre, linseed,—rapeseed,—hemp-seed oil,  
 Lack dye, gum senegal, gum arabic,  
 Barks, argol, wood or pastel, turmeric,  
 Roots, camphor, olives, telescopes, sumac,  
 Mace, nutmegs, madder, madder root, shellac,  
 Laudanum, Cayenne pepper, iv'ry black,  
 Coral, corrosive sublimate, spy glasses,  
 Tamarinds sauced in sugar or molasses,  
 Iv'ry unmanufactured, rotten stone,  
 Cloves, oil of Juniper, sage, cinnamon,  
 Gamboge, nuts, ipecacuanha, down,  
 Camomile flowers, rhubarb, sabres, parts  
 Of watches, quills, feathers, rings, epaulettes,  
 Cochineal, bristles, tin in sheets and plates,  
 Ox horns, all other horns and tips, and flax,  
 And indigo, we will forbear to tax.

Within the last year buildings and other improve-  
 ments have been conducted on an extensive scale,  
 and speculations have been entered into by the spi-  
 rited inhabitants of this little metropolis, which bid  
 fair to benefit the whole colony. The proposal to  
 establish a company, to be called the Derwent Navi-  
 gation Company, having for its object what its title  
 expresses, has been well received, and three steam-  
 boats have, it is said, been already purchased.

A causeway near the boundary line of this district

and the Clyde, was commenced about three years ago, for the purpose of establishing a secure and rapid communication with that portion of the country from which Hobart Town is principally supplied, and which includes the greater part of the settled districts, besides its being the thoroughfare between the capital and Launceston. It is obliqued to the channel of the river, about twelve hundred yards across, and will have to be carried from its commencement, to the edge of the navigable part of the river, eight hundred and fifty yards, and from thence to the opposite bank will be about three hundred yards. A jetty of about fifty yards is to be constructed on the opposite shore, and the passage will, it is understood, be effected by a punt. At the present time, 1,800,000 cubic feet of stone and clay have been used, and the whole expense is defrayed by the British Government.

The town is well supplied with butchers' meat of all sorts: fish is frequently to be had; and also poultry. The following were the retail prices of different articles on the first of May 1833.

Wheat 4s. to 4s. 6d. per bushel, barley (English kind) 4s. 6d. to 5s. Cape barley and oats 3s. potatoes £5 to £5 10s. per ton. hay 70s. to 75s. per ton. straw 40s. per ton.

Beef 5d. per lb. mutton and lamb 4d. per lb. pork 7d. per lb. veal, scarce at 7½d. per lb. eggs 1s. 8d. per dozen, fresh butter 1s. 8d. per lb. tea 2s. to 2s. 6d. per lb. fowls 3s. a couple.

Shell lime 1s. per bushel, firewood 7s. the single

load, or 14s. the double or dray load, coals (from Newcastle, New South Wales) 35s. per ton, sawed timber 8s. per 100 feet measurement, shingles 10s. per 1000.

SANDY BAY is about two miles in extent, and is situated to the south of Hobart Town; the land in the neighbourhood is laid out in gardens and fields, and here and there a pretty cottage or farm house peeps out from the dark foliage. The view of this bay from the Orphan School is very picturesque.

NEW TOWN is a hamlet on the banks of a small rivulet flowing into a bay bearing the same name, and is about two miles from Hobart Town. The beauty of the situation could not fail to attract the attention of the first settlers, who have obtained grants of all the land (now valued at £90 per acre) in the neighbourhood. The houses are built in a superior manner, and have generally attached to them large gardens, in which all European vegetables and fruits flourish. Wine made from the grape grown here is rich and well-flavored, and when the trees attain a little more age, which grapes intended for wine require, it may prove of great value to the colony as an article of export. In this neighbourhood a race-course has been formed, and some good sport has already been witnessed there.

The population of the Hobart Town district amounted at the commencement of the year 1833 to 10,101, of which number 8,000 resided in Hobart Town, and the greater part of the remainder at New Town and Sandy Bay. The increase during the past

year is astonishing, and should it continue to augment in the same ratio, the whole island will be densely populated in another half century:—

	Jan. 1, 1832.	Jan. 1, 1833.
Free males	- 3,102	3,850
Free females	- 2,227	2,776
Male convicts	- 2,362	2,699
Female convicts	- 669	776
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total inhabitants	8,360	10,101
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The population of the other districts has increased during the same period in an equal proportion, so that, exclusive of the military, the members of the Van Diemen's Land Company's establishment at Circular Head, and the Aborigines, the population of the whole island amounts to a fraction more than 30,000 souls.

## 2.—NEW NORFOLK.

The medium extent of this district is about fifty miles from east to west, and about thirty miles from north to south, and contains nearly fifteen hundred square miles, or about nine hundred and sixty thousand acres. It is bounded on the south by Hobart Town district and the country lately explored, on the west by the newly investigated territory, on the north by Clyde district, and on the east by Richmond and Hobart Town districts. A chain of mountains, which is a continuation of the Mount Wellington range in the Hobart Town district, runs in a semi-circular

north-westerly direction through the whole of the district to a mountain 4500 feet high, called the Peak of Teneriffe, or Wild's Craig, the crown of which is always covered with snow. In this range of mountains rise many streams, among which are the Plenty, the Styx, Jones' River, and Russells' Falls; these, after watering many fine tracts of land, fall into the Derwent, which bends its course through nearly the centre of the district, fertilising extensive plains on either side. On the eastern side of the Derwent, another range of mountains, called the Abyssinia Tier, commences with Mount Dromedary and extends into the Clyde district. The view of Mount Dromedary, from the entrance to Herdsman's Cove, is extremely beautiful, and said to be as picturesque as any of the much-vaunted views in Switzerland. The Mount rises directly from the river, (the banks being part of the mountain, and very high,) which, taking a sharp turn, resembles an extensive lake. On a fine calm summer's evening, the reflection of the huge mountain produces a sublime effect. The soil of the mountain itself is barren and rocky, but at the foot there are some patches of tolerably good soil.

The land which has been cultivated is more productive than that in the neighbourhood of Hobart Town; for the average return of wheat, and other crops in proportion, excepting potatoes, exceeds the latter by at least one-fourth. Farming operations are carried forward on a large scale, many of the farms containing 5000 or 6000 acres, and having on them more than a proportionate quantity of stock. The

advantage the lower part of the district enjoys of being contiguous to Hobart Town, where produce may be sent by water, has induced the settlers to grow great quantities of corn, potatoes, hay, &c., which find a ready sale at remunerating prices.

The sheep and cattle reared in a part of this district, called Macquarie's Plains, situated a little below the township of Hamilton, are not surpassed in the colony. The population, in point of numbers, does not amount to one-fourth that of Hobart Town district, which, in size, is comparatively so much less; but the quantity of land brought under cultivation is more than double, or about four thousand two hundred acres. In this district there are two townships; one called New Norfolk, or Elizabeth Town, and the other Hamilton.

NEW NORFOLK, the principal town of the district, derived its name from the inhabitants of Norfolk Island, being located here when that island was abandoned; since then, however, it has been christened Elizabeth Town, a name which the Government has attempted to give it, but which the inhabitants seldom use, as the pronunciation would waste too much breath. The reason for changing the name to Elizabeth Town, has been accounted for in this manner:—the Home Government was induced to abandon Norfolk Island from the mischievous representations of jealous persons attached to the Colonial Government of New South Wales, and the settlers were removed to land granted to them in this neighbourhood. Government, afterwards learning it had acted on erroneous

information, sent orders that the island should be again occupied; and being desirous to obliterate the recollection of the hasty and ill-advised abandonment of the island, gave directions that New Norfolk should be called Elizabeth Town. The name, however, was not sufficiently glib for the settlers, and they have therefore rejected it, notwithstanding the Colonial Government invariably adopt it. If it had been called Bess Town, or Besston, New Norfolk would never have maintained its place in the vocabulary; but now it is too firmly fixed to easily give place to a new appellation.

It is about twenty-two miles from Hobart Town, on the banks of the Derwent, which is navigable to the falls above the town. The public buildings are a Church, Gaol, Police Office, Post Office, Public School, and Invalid Hospital; and in addition to these, the Lieutenant-Governor has a cottage, a very neat brick building, having a suite of rooms for the use of his family, with apartments for servants, and various domestic offices. The view from it is extremely beautiful, comprising the scenery up the river for a course of several miles, and including many cottages and houses which are scattered over a delightful valley, about two miles in width, in a high state of cultivation. The residences of several private individuals are built in a becoming style, and there are four or five inns which are commodious and well conducted. On the banks of a brook called the Thames, which joins the Derwent here, a water-power flour-mill has been erected. Two four-horse stage coaches run daily, and

a steam-boat also plies to Hobart Town. The trade and traffic carried on with Hobart Town is not now despicable. At the Falls above New Norfolk, a species of mullet, but ten times more delicious than any red mullet ever brought into Billingsgate or even the New Hungerford Market, is caught; think of that, ye aldermen of London, and *gourmands* of England, and envy the *bons vivants* of Tasmania.

HAMILTON, the other township, was formerly called the Lower Clyde, from the circumstance of its being on the banks of the Clyde. It has not yet attained any importance, but its position and the fertility of the land augur well. A flour-mill, driven by water, is already erected.

### 3.—RICHMOND DISTRICT.

This district is separated from Hobart Town on the west by the Derwent, and from New Norfolk, by the Jordan; on the south and east, including Tasman's and Forestier's Peninsula and Maria Island, it is bounded by the sea, and on the north it is divided from Oyster Bay district by Prosser's River, from the source of which, a line drawn to the Jordan, parts it, from Oatland's. The peculiar form of this district precludes me from stating the average breadth, or length, but its extent has been ascertained to include about 672,000 acres, which is nearly 1050 square miles. A range of lofty, unproductive, but heavily timbered hills, extends along the eastern shore, from the banks of Prosser's River to Forestier's Peninsula; the Derwent and Jordan side, is also hilly, and well

timbered, but it is intersected by rich and fertile flats, equally excellent for pasturage as for tillage. Clarence Plains, the banks of the Coal River, Tea Tree Bush near Richmond, Jerusalem, Black Brush, Broad Marsh, and Bagdad, are the most favoured spots, and now contain many inhabitants, by whose industry and perseverance nearly seventeen thousand acres have been adapted to cultivation. The townships are Richmond, Sorell or Pittwater, and Brighton, and in addition to these there is a small village at Kangaroo Point.

RICHMOND is situated on the banks of the Coal River, four miles from the coast, and fourteen miles from Hobart Town, and is the head-quarters of the district police. Among its public buildings are reckoned a bridge of stone, (the best in the Colony,) a gaol and a court-house, which, together with two large and commodious inns, a windmill with a stone tower, and the residence of a police magistrate, make it a place of some consideration.

SORELL, or Pittwater, is a township, near the Iron Creek, which flows into the Bay called Pittwater; it contains a church which will hold six hundred persons, almost a quarter of the population of the whole district; but as it was not probable that it would be fully occupied by this generation, it was built, I suppose, for the next, likely to be numerous; for I find that the number of marriages in this district, in the year 1829, amounted to thirty, which, of course taking into consideration the number of inhabitants, proves the Tasmanian gentleman to be as uxorious as those of the

"olden country." There are also a school-house and two inns, but many buildings are not likely to be erected here, as the water is rather unpleasant to the taste, which is accounted for by the discovery of rock salt, coal, and iron ore. This part of the country, from the richness of its soil and its high state of cultivation, has been designated the garden of the island.

BRIGHTON stands on the main road from Hobart Town to Launceston, a little below the junction of Strathallan Creek and Jordan River; it has a Government cottage, barracks, and an inn or ale-house. A few miles to the northward the road passes over a hill called Constitution Hill, the view from the summit of which is perhaps the most extensive the island affords. Mount Wellington, near Hobart Town, twenty-five miles distant, Mount Nelson, Mount Direction, and Mount Dromedary, form prominent and bold features in the landscape; while in the back ground, at a distance of sixty miles, is seen the range of white-topped mountains near Port Davey. The land in the neighbourhood is of good quality, and is extensively tilled. Mr. Prinsep remarked "it was curious to see such an extent of cultivated ground where there was such a want of dwellings."

At KANGAROO POINT, immediately facing Hobart Town, there is a small village, rising into note from the circumstance of its being (now that a steam-boat runs between it and Hobart Town six times a day) the principal route from Sorell and Richmond to the capital. It already boasts of several houses, and

there is no doubt that its commanding situation will induce persons to build others.

The rivers of this district are the Derwent, separating it from Hobart Town, the Jordan, Strathallan creek, Iron, Carlton, Coal, White Kangaroo, Sandspit and Prosser rivers; the Derwent is the only one navigable, but on some of the others there are erected flour mills. The shores of the Derwent and the sea coasts are indented by numerous bays and coves, among which (beginning at the highest point of the district on the Derwent) are Herdsman's Cove, Riadon Cove, Ralphs and Double Bay, (formed by a tongue of land called the South Arm,) Pittwater, North, East, and Norfolk Bays, Safety Cove, Port Arthur, Fortesque, Monge or Pirates', Frederick Hendrick, Marian, and Prosser Bays; and Oyster and Riedle Bays at Maria island.

The principal islands on the coast of this district are Betsy, Maria, Slopen, and Spectacle islands; the first has been converted into a rabbit warren, a speculation which has succeeded beyond expectation, as the rabbits have increased in numbers to a wonderful degree, and their skins have fetched a good price in the China market. At Maria Island a penal establishment was until lately maintained; the convicts have however been removed to Port Arthur, and the island has been demised by the Government to a private individual. The scenery which presents itself here, is of a romantic and wild, and at the same time picturesque description; near the centre the sea almost overflows the low, narrow,

sandy isthmus, connecting the two extremities of the island, which rise into mountains of a very curious shape; but that at the northern end is more peculiarly remarkable, from having two immense rocks projecting one above the other, called the Bishop and Clerk. This mountain is entirely composed of petrified shells, and has its base laved by the foaming billows which break against it with great vehemence when a northern or eastern breeze disturbs the ocean. The other islands are occasionally frequented by persons employed in the whale fisheries, as stations for boiling down the blubber.

A few leagues to the westward of Port Arthur, where a penal settlement has been formed, there is a promontory called Cape Pillar, so named from the strong resemblance one part of it bears to the interior of a Gothic cathedral. The rock itself is basaltic: but the summit is crowned with a thin stratum of soil, upon which grow a few bushes and a little grass, but its sides are so steep that not even the natives dare attempt the ascent. This cape is reckoned a good sea-mark, there being no object similar to it in any part of the world. Vessels must not however approach too near, as there is a dangerous reef running from its base into the sea.

#### 4.—CLYDE DISTRICT.

This inland district is described as being large and extensive, containing upwards of 1700 square miles, or 1,088,000 acres; but I much doubt the correctness of that statement, as its superfluousness on Cross' authentic

map is considerably less than that of New Norfolk, which contains but 1500 square miles. On the west it is bounded by Lake Echo and Dee River, which flows from the Lake, separating it from the unexplored territory; on the south by the Derwent, and by an imaginary line drawn from the Clyde River through Cockatoo Valley to the Jordan; on the east by the Jordan; and on the north by the Ouse, from which a line is drawn from a few miles below where the Shannon joins it to the Clyde below Bothwell, and by another line, from the Clyde some distance above Bothwell, to the Jordan, separating it from Oatlands, the adjoining district on the northern as well as on the eastern side.

The face of the country is mountainous, and the whole district is considerably above the level of the sea. Between the Dee and the Ouse, a range of rocky hills exists, and on the eastern side the Abyssinian Tier, commencing with Mount Dromedary, in the New Norfolk district, extends beyond Bothwell; the intermediate space is a succession of hill and dale, which is generally good fertile land, though a comparatively small quantity, (3,200 acres,) is subjected to the plough. This may be accounted for, however, by the distance of a market, to which the produce could be taken at a remunerating price. The rivers are the Dee, Ouse, Clyde and Jordan, and there are besides several small rivulets which fertilise many beautiful valleys, but none of these waters are navigable; this district will probably, therefore, be preserved as pasture, for which it is eminently qualified.

**BOTHWELL** is the only township in the district; it is a thriving place, situated on a plain on the eastern bank of the Clyde, having a lofty well-wooded mountain rising in the back-ground. A court-house, military barracks, a church and gaol are the public buildings; the residences of private individuals consist chiefly of cottages, occupied by mechanics and labourers, who are principally members of the Scotch church. But two good water-mills, and two inns, affording "good accommodation for man and horse," also declare the prosperity of this increasing little township.

#### 5.—OATLANDS DISTRICT.

This district is said to be much smaller than most of the others in the colony, but on the maps it occupies a greater superficies than the Clyde district, which is stated to be one of the largest. It is clear therefore that the surveyors have made a geodætical blunder, or the draughtsmen have erroneously copied their plans. Any one looking at the charts\* will see that there is an error committed, but I cannot take upon myself to say where the blame attaches; that it does attach somewhere no one will deny. The knowledge that difficulties have occurred to settlers in another part of the globe, from an error something similar to this, induces me to urge the propriety of its immediate rectification; a law-suit is not agreeable in England, but in a new colony, where the settler

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\* In the small chart prefixed to this volume, I have marked the supposed boundaries as doubtful.

has scarcely time to attend to his domestic concerns, it must be doubly vexatious and harassing. The present Lieutenant Governor is acknowledged to be liberal and just to settlers, and there may be no fear of his refusing to correct any error which may have been committed, but it is possible that he may be recalled, or soon gathered to his forefathers, and the character of his successor it is impossible to predict; he may be honest, or he may be dishonest; he may pursue the liberal course Colonel Arthur has successfully followed, or he may glory in finding a flaw\* in the title, that he may obtain for the Crown possession of cultivated fields and cleared lands, even though he may entail ruin on a whole family.

As such things have before now happened, and may again occur, it behoves the landowner to guard against the possibility of the calamity befalling him, for though he might obtain a restitution by applying to the Home Government, still the expense of a voyage to the Antipodes, and the difficulties attending such a proceeding, would, it is probable, irreparably injure

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\* The necessity for correcting an error of this description is shewn by the following hypothetical case, which is not at all unlikely to occur in a colony to which convicts are transported:—A. commits a burglary in a dwelling-house, supposed to be in a parish in Outlands district; an indictment, alleging the *locus criminis* to be there, is preferred against him, and witnesses prove his moral guilt; the counsel for the defence then cross-examines the witnesses, who state the *locus criminis* to be erroneously laid; the prisoner is acquitted, the Judge telling the Jury they cannot find him legally guilty.

the fairest prospects of the most active, industrious and intelligent of settlers.

Even now, whilst I am writing, the *Times* newspaper is before me, with a leading article, pointing out the impropriety of electing military men to be Governors, and instancing the conduct of the present Governor of a small island.\*

*Mais revenons a nos moutons* :—This district appears by the charts to be bounded on the north by Richmond district, from the source of Prosser's River to the Jordan, by an imaginary line, and from Clyde district, by another imaginary line extending from the Jordan above the Black Marsh to the Clyde, from which, considerably lower down, below Bothwell, another imaginary line extends to the Ouse, which then forms a north-west limit, to a spot near the small lake above lake Echo, and from thence an imaginary line to the Shannon forms its direct western boundary; on the north, Shannon river, Blackburn rivulet, the shore of the Lake called the Lagoon of Islands, from thence an imaginary line, running through the centre of the adjoining lake to Beaumont's lake, which is included in it; thence a line is drawn to Blackman's river, which becomes the boundary to its junction with the Macquarie, and up that river to its source, and then an imaginary line in a due east direction to the western boundary of the Oyster Bay district,

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\* This however is not a single example, for the records of the Courts at Westminster shew many instances, established beyond all doubt by verdicts with large damages, of the wilful and oppressive misconduct of military governors.

dividing it from Norfolk Plains and Campbell Town districts: on the east, it is bounded by the Oyster Bay district, from which it is only separated by an imaginary line.

The extent of this district is stated to be about 900 square miles, or 576,000 acres; but, as I have said before, the superficies on Cross's chart demonstrates the incorrectness of the statement, or the error in the boundaries of this and the Clyde district.

The central position of this district, and its extent of excellent pasturage for stock, render it one of great importance. As an arable country it cannot compete with other districts, on account of the expense of conveying the produce to a market; but when population becomes more dense in the interior, its capabilities will be adduced. The valley of the Green Ponds, the vale of Jericho, York Plains, Sorell Springs, Salt Pan Plains, and the Eastern Marshes, all situated in this district, are some of the most fertile tracts in the whole island. In the Green Ponds' Valley, on the northern side of Constitution Hill, there is a village, a short distance from which, on the road to Launceston, a small church is erected. At Cross Marsh, lately, there has been held a quarterly market: from the manner it has been attended, and from the quantity of business transacted there, it bids fair to be permanent. Salt Pan Plains is about ten or twelve miles in diameter, and is so called from two large salt marshes, the one of forty acres, and the other, the best of the two, of twenty acres in extent. In winter these marshes are filled with rain water,

which when evaporated by the summer heat, leaves a crust of good fine white salt, varying from a quarter to half an inch. Several tons are annually collected for the use of the neighbourhood from these two marshes; and not far distant from them are several minor *pass*, which also yield a saline harvest. The herbage of these plains, from being impregnated with salt, is much relished by horses and cattle, which thrive extraordinarily, and sheep fed there are free from the scab, a disease incidental to large flocks in other parts of the island.

OATLANDS, the district township, is situated fifty miles from Hobart Town, on the borders of Lake Frederic, which is four miles in circumference. This was one of the townships marked out by General Macquarie, in the year 1821; but it is only latterly that buildings have been erected. In a short time a gaol, a church, and barracks have sprung up, and these have attracted magistrates, a clergyman, constables, publicans, and mechanics. The land in the neighbourhood is extremely good, and will yield large crops of corn whenever the plough is employed. The total quantity of land in the whole district at present under tillage does not exceed three thousand one hundred acres.

In the neighbourhood of Oatlands, leather is manufactured for exportation, and this, together with coal of excellent quality found at Jerusalem Plains, and a kind of wet-stone and lime-stone, is likely to bring considerable wealth to the inhabitants. The rivers watering this district, are

the Jordan, the Clyde, the Shannon and Blackman's River. The lakes are the Lagoon of Islands, Wood's Lake, Beaumont, or Sorell's Lake, Crescent Lake, Crown Lagoon, Lake Frederick and Lemon's Lagoon, several of which are many miles in length and breadth.

The neighbourhood of these lakes was the favourite resort of the bush-rangers; Howe and Lemon both frequented it; after the former are the marshes to the north-west of Oatlands named, and after the latter, the lake to the south-east of the same place. Howe was the most blood-thirsty of all the bush-rangers, and the number of persons who suffered at his hands during the six years that he kept the colony in a ferment, is supposed to be about half a hundred! The end of this monster, who was never known to perform one humane act, occurred in the following manner:—

A person named Warburton, in the habit of hunting kangaroo for skins, had occasional opportunities of seeing Howe, and he communicated to a Crown prisoner named Worrall, a scheme for taking him.—Worrall agree to the trial, and with Wm. Pugh, a private of the 48th regiment, resolved to lie in wait at a hut on the Shannon River, likely to be visited by Howe for supplies. Warburton was to look out for the approach of Howe, and to induce him to come to the hut, under a promise of supplying him with ammunition; at the same time to signify his approach by a whistle. This plan proved successful. Howe met Warburton near the place already mentioned; he,

however, exhibited much distrust of the intention of the latter, and great hesitation in approaching near the hut, often disappearing to see if any one were watching him. At length, after three hours' indeterminate consideration, allured by promises of ammunition, which Warburton said was in the hut, he ventured to enter the door, his musket cocked and levelled; when Pugh instantly fired, but missed him. Howe exclaimed "Is that your game?" and precipitately retreated, but at the same time fired without effect. Pugh and Worrall immediately rushed out to run him down, and the latter fired, but he also missed. After chasing him some distance, they came up with him,—a severe encounter ensued, and finally, from repeated blows on his head with their musket-stocks, he fell and expired. This bandit was of athletic make, and at the time of his death he wore a dress made of kangaroo skins, and had a very long beard, presenting a terrific appearance. The men who freed the world of this wretched man were rewarded by Government:—Pugh received £50, Worrall £40, and Warburton £15.

Lemon agitated the colony prior to the time of Howe, and he also met with his death by the stratagem of a convict prisoner.

In the autumn of 1815, Michael Mansfield, a prisoner holding a ticket of leave, and residing near the Black Brush, went forth one afternoon to look for some cattle of his own, and some which he had in charge belonging to others. These were grazing at a distance from his hut, and he proceeded briskly onward, following a cattle-track through a deep forest,

which he knew led to where the herd was pasturing. Suddenly his progress was arrested by two savage-looking fellows, one emerging from either side of the path. They were dressed in kangaroo skins, sandals of the same on their feet, and knapsacks on their backs; each carried a musket; and one who had a brace of pistols stuck in his girdle, Mansfield immediately recognised as Lemon, the robber and bush-ranger. Mike, however, being a true son of Hibernia, and an old man-of-war's man, was a stranger to fear, and resolved to make the best of a bad bargain. Lemon asked who and what he was; to which Mike answered truly, and in all his native naivetè. The bush-rangers then cast off their knapsacks (which seemed well filled) and commanded Mansfield to carry them, warning him at the same time, that if he attempted to escape they would shoot him on the spot. Poor Mansfield jogged on under his weary load, venturing now and then a few remarks on the *treatment* poor prisoners met with in this cursed country; and, "troth and sure," he was but a poor prisoner himself, and never hurt nor meddled with no one, far less a bush-ranger; and he was after hoping they were not going to ill use him, or take him away from his poor dumb *bastes*; for sure they'd all be astray, master would have him *catted*, and poor Mike would be a ruined man for ever and a day. At this pathetic appeal the bush-rangers seemed to soften, and, after consulting together, they proposed, on certain conditions, to allow him to depart. They stipulated that he should meet them on an appointed day, at a particular spot, and bring

them flour, tea, sugar, tobacco, and spirits, if he could procure any:—they would be on the look out, and his signal to them was to be the smoke of a fire which he was to light. Mike promised to comply, and was allowed to go his way without farther molestation. On the day appointed, he selected one of his men on whom he could depend, and taking his musket and dogs, gave out that he was going to shoot kangaroos. When they had gone a short distance, he asked Phelim, “would he like to see ould Dublin?” “By the piper of Leinster! that I would, master,” was the reply. “Then, by the holy poker, ye may,” said Mike, “if you’ll only stand by me and do a bould deed.” “And we’nt I sure?” said Phelim, “only make me sarten of my setting my foot in ould Dublin agen, and I’ll stand by ye, master o’mine, untill every bone in this skin is bate to shiversens.” “Well, I intend to take Lemon, and if you’ll stand by me, we’ll both of us just get pardoned, and you’ll be sent to ould Ireland agen as free as the babe just born.” “Then I’m the boy that’ll lend you a hand.”

Mansfield handed Phelim a trooper’s pistol, and desired him to conceal it; and setting briskly forward, consulted how they should best accomplish their enterprise. A good deal of rain had fallen, and it was nearly dark when they reached the place of rendezvous. Phelim, with the aid of his tinder-box, proceeded to kindle a fire, and Mike, with flour which he had provided for the purpose, daubed his own and his man’s clothes, to make it appear they had been carrying a load. When the fire began to burn, they

cast themselves on the ground, pretending to be quite exhausted, anxiously waiting the arrival of the bush-rangers. In about half an hour they made their appearance, both well-armed. Mike spun a long yarn about losing his way, being overcome with fatigue, and obliged to leave the prog about four miles off, in the hollow of a burned tree, declaring he was unable to retrace his steps that night, but if the bush-rangers would give him rest and food, he would go with them early in the morning and bring them all he had promised; as he concluded he produced a bottle of spirits, of which they all partook, and agreed to adjourn to the bush-ranger's hut, about two miles off. The hut was constructed of turf, low and uncomfortable in the extreme, covered with sheets of bark stripped from the large forest trees. The fire-place, also of turf, lined with stones at the bottom, was at one end of the hut, and within it a huge fire soon blazed. Some excellent beef was broiled, which Mike strongly suspected to be part of his own kine. They had neither bread nor potatoes to eat with the meat, but the two bush-rangers, long accustomed to such fare, made a hearty meal; the others swallowed a few morsels, and after finishing the bottle of spirits, they all laid down on kangaroo skins spread on the floor; first Lemon, then Mansfield, then the other bush-ranger, and last Phelim. Mike and Phelim snored away, but slept none. In the morning, Mansfield began to toss and tumble about to try if Lemon would easily awake; but finding that both the bush-rangers slept soundly, he cautiously withdrew the

pistols from Lemon's belt, rose warily, gave one pistol to Phelim, (who was still on the floor,) and concealed the other. He then went to a corner where the muskets stood, took all but his own, and put them in a pool of water before the hut; returning to the cabin, he examined the flint and priming of his own piece. Finding all right, he gave the bush-ranger a push with his foot, calling out at the same time, "Lemon, you are my prisoner." Lemon felt on one side and then on the other, for his pistols: finding them gone, he started to his feet, and drawing a long knife, was about to make a lunge, when Mansfield pulled the trigger—the ball went through the robber's head, and he fell a lifeless corpse. The report of Mansfield's musket awoke the other outlaw, who, seeing his companion's corpse, dropped on his knees and implored mercy. Mansfield only said, "Now, my tight fellow, be after taking that there knife, cut your master's head off, put it into that there bag, (pointing to it,) throw it over your shoulder, and trudge along with us." The man shuddered at the command; and it required threats and promises of intercession with the Governor, to prevail on him to do the deed. "By Saint Patrick!" ejaculated Phelim, "its a clane job, anyhow, barrin' the bloody head. Not a minnit ago it was the sky of a copper whose throats were cut. Be off on yer ten toes, ye thaef o' the world, and bless the saints ye don't carry yer own ugly mug in the bag with yer master's." They had thirty-six miles to walk, and it was night when they reached Hobart Town. Mansfield, however, went directly to Government House,

and was most graciously received. The news spread quickly, and all considered Mike and Phelim deserved public rewards. The Governor accordingly gave each a free pardon, and to Mike a grant of land on the Derwent; and to Phelim, a free passage to "ould Ireland." The prisoner's life was spared, but he was banished to a penal settlement.

#### 6.—OYSTER BAY.

The area of this district is about 900 square miles, or 576,000 acres. It is bounded on the east by the sea; on the north by an imaginary line from the coast to Saint Paul's River, which then forms the boundary to Saint Paul's Plains; on the west by a chain of hills, separating it from Campbell Town and Oatlands districts; and on the north by Prosser's River and Bay. The comparatively low and level tract between the hills and the sea is watered by streams. The land, especially in the neighbourhood of Great Swan Port, spreads into fine undulating downs of rich pasturage, and is already occupied as sheep and cattle runs; but very little (1,700 acres) has been subjected to tillage, though that which has, proves that in point of fertility, it is not much inferior to some of the best tracts in Oatlands district.

The rivers are the Great Swan Port, debouching in King Bay, the Wye, running into the Great Swan Port, Meredith River, Stoney Creek, Little Swan Port, and Prosser's Rivers. Oyster Bay, discovered by Commodore Baudin, the French navigator, in 1802, is a convenient harbour, having seven fathoms of water

all along up the entrance ; it is formed by Freycinet's Peninsula and Schouten's Island.

There is no township in this district, but there are two military stations, the one at Waterloo Point, at the north of Meredith River, and the other at Spring Bay. There are several establishments for boiling down whale blubber ; and there is a corn mill erected on the Swan Port River. The advantages which this district presents, were not known until within the last few years ; but now that they are, the tide of emigration has set to it, and all the good land will be speedily occupied.

#### 7.—CAMPBELL TOWN DISTRICT.

The situation of this district is very advantageous, and is consequently rising rapidly into importance.

Sorell Lake, Blackman's and Macquarie Rivers, to their junction, form the southern boundary ; on the east it is divided from Oyster Bay by a range of hills, but a small portion of the north-eastern part extends to the sea ; on the north, it is bounded by the Break o'Day and South Esk rivers, and on the west, by the Lake River, which rises in the Boundary Lake, near Sorell's Lake.

The superface of this district is 1,260 square miles, or 806,400 acres : and the soil is rich and fertile, producing luxuriant herbage, which readily fattens sheep and cattle, and in consequence, those fed there, are in demand by the Hobart Town butchers, who come, though upwards of seventy miles distant, to purchase them. A great portion of the land, of course the best,

has been granted to the settlers, who may be considered herdsmen and graziers, as they have subjected to the plough, only about six thousand four hundred acres, a small extent, when compared with the size of the district.

The towns already springing into existence, are Campbell Town and Ross; and spots have been marked out for townships, to be called Tunbridge, Auburn, Fingal (a post station) and Lincoln.

CAMPBELL TOWN, eighty-two miles from Hobart Town, is situated on the banks of Elizabeth River, over which a causeway, two hundred yards in length, has been erected. It contains a Court House, Gaol, the residence of the district Police Magistrate, two tolerable inns, two or three public houses, a few labourers' and mechanics' cottages, and two extensive stores, where may be obtained all articles in general demand.

Ross, frequently called Ross Bridge, from the bridge which crosses the Macquarie River, is seventy-four miles from Hobart Town. This township has not any buildings worthy of particular remark; but there is no doubt that it will rapidly rise into importance, now that a tract of land in the immediate neighbourhood, consisting of 30,000 acres, reserved by the Crown, has lately been disposed of to private individuals, who, in all our colonies, new as well as old, invariably farm to more advantage than the Government. The view of Benlomon, some miles distant, and a prominent feature in a high rocky range of mountains, is romantic and grand.

A few years since, the settlers in the neighbour-

hood of the Macquarie River, a large proportion of whom belong to the Presbyterian Church, wrote to Edinburgh, expressing a desire that a respectable clergyman of their persuasion should be sent to them. In consequence of this, a clergyman went there, and, much to the credit of the Scotch emigrants, a manse and kirk have been built, and a stipend has been voluntarily subscribed for him. This is worthy of remark in the history of any country, as it shews that they possessed a truly religious and moral feeling, creditable to them in the highest degree. The rivers of this district are the Macquarie, Elizabeth, Blackman's, Isis, South Esk, Saint Paul's, and Break o' Day; but none of them are navigable. The waters of some are usefully employed to drive corn-mills.

#### 8.—NORFOLK PLAINS.

This district is bounded on the south-west by the Ouse River, and on the south by the Shannon River, and the Lakes, Lagoon of Islands, and Wood's Lake; on the east by Lake and Rubicon Rivers; on the north by the sea, and on the west by Forth River; it contains a superficial surface of 2250 square miles, or 1,440,000 acres, the greatest portion of which is mountainous and uncultivable land; there are, however, many very fertile flats on the banks of the rivers\* intersecting it, but only 6200 acres are tilled.

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\* The natural grasses growing in the neighbourhood of Westbury, are of such a very succulent and nutritive kind, that cows fed upon them give milk of so rich a quality, that the cream produced, may be cut with a knife.—*Account of one of the Governor's Excursions.*

In addition to the rivers and lakes mentioned as forming the boundaries, there are the Mersey, Philip's,\* Moleside, Meander, or Quamby's, or Western, Monow, and Dasher rivers, Pennyroyal Creek, and Don River, Great Lake, Lake Arthur, and Western Lagoon, besides two extensive lagoons between Port Sorell and Port Frederic, and half a dozen lagoons at Norfolk Plains, near Perth. The Mersey rises in the Western Mountains, and falls into Port Frederic, where there is a commodious harbour, affording a safe resort for shipping. The Moleside springs from the same range of mountains, and debouches in the Mersey. The country between these two rivers appears to be undermined by numerous subterranean streams, which flow in different directions, at various depths below the surface. The superincumbent soil, deprived of its foundation by the action of the water of these streams, has given way in many parts, forming pits or basins of various depths, from twenty to two hundred feet, shaped like funnels, broad at the top and becoming gradually less, usually terminating, if the pit is deep, in a small circular pond. It is supposed that when the pits are only a yard or so in diameter and depth, (of which there are many,) that the substrata have only begun to give way, and that the pits will increase both in diameter and depth as the action of the water further undermines the ground.

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\*The Forth, Philip's, and Meander Rivers have several beautiful cascades and cataracts, falling from 500 to 200 feet in perpendicular height. The water at Philip's cataract is petrific, and there are large trees petrescent.

Two or three of the party who accompanied the Lieutenant Governor on an excursion to the western districts of the island, descended one of the deepest of these pits, and endeavoured to fathom the small circular pond of water at the bottom, but did not succeed in ascertaining its depth. At the bottom of another pit there was found a cavern, extending right and left; on entering it they discovered a large body of water rushing from a height and flowing away, as it were, beneath their feet. The country between the Moleside and the Mersey has a substratum of limestone, which frequently rises above the surface. The Monow and Dasher are small rivers flowing into the Mersey. The land in the neighbourhood of the Forth is not much known, but as far as investigation has been carried, it does not appear to be of very good quality. The Rubicon is a small river, flowing into Port Sorell, a harbour into which only vessels of small draught can enter.

Great Lake, about ninety miles north-west of Hobart Town, and eighty feet above the level of the sea, is situated within the limits of this district. The country in the neighbourhood is alternate marsh and hill, well but not superabundantly wooded, and adapted for sheep and cattle runs. The lake itself is about twenty miles long, and ten broad, with deep bays and indents, and having many promontories and peninsulas extending into it. This formation of course makes a greater extent of shore than if the coast was even, and adds greatly to the beauty of the scenery, which has been assimilated to the entrance to the

river Derwent. In the lake are five islands covered with a species of cedar (the foliage resembling the Huon pine) and numerous beautiful shrubs. From the immense expanse of water, the reader perhaps will imagine that the depth is proportionate to the extent of surface, but in this he will be mistaken, for its greatest depth does not usually exceed three fathoms,\* and frequently a yard measure would reach the bottom. It discharges its waters by the Shannon, which uniting with the Clyde, fall into the Derwent.

The mountains are numerous, and form a bold feature in the district. The western range (3,500 feet in height, and covered with snow many months in the year) runs east and west through the centre; it consists chiefly of basaltic rocks, presenting, at a distance of ten miles, the appearance of a stupendous wall; it is clothed about three-fourths of its altitude by trees of the most stately description, while the summit is naked and sterile. Near this range there is a remarkable detached round mountain, called Quamby's Bluff; it appears as if a tremendous convulsion of nature had at some remote period thrown it off from the parent chain of mountains, leaving a chasm or gap of about three miles intervening. It is said to have obtained its name from the circumstance of one of the Aborigines, who was found near it by a party of men in quest of kangaroos, in the early period of the colony, calling out *quamby! quamby!* (mercy!

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\* The waters of the lake are high and low according to the state of the weather.

mercy!) when one of the party presented his gun at him. Two other ranges of mountains run directly south and north, the one joining the western mountains at the western extremity, and the other at the eastern. There are also two remarkable mountains between the western mountains and the sea, called Gog and Magog. These are the most peculiar features of the district, and the rest I shall not even name, for the enumeration of a tithe of the natural curiosities that present themselves to the view of the traveller or emigrant would extend the work to several volumes.

WESTBURY, the township of this district, is situated on a small stream, called Quamby's Brook, which falls into Quamby's, Western, or Meander river, and is on the line of road from Launceston to Circular Head; it has not, however, yet attained a point sufficiently high to be designated even by the name of village.

LATOUR, the site for a township of this name, is marked out at Norfolk Plains.

#### 9.—LAUNCESTON.

This district, situated at the north-east corner of the island, is bounded on the west by Port Sorell and Rubicon River; on the south, by Meander, South Esk and Break o' Day Rivers, and on the east and north by the sea. It comprises 3,800 square miles, or 2,352,000 acres, comparatively few of which are located. The rivers, besides those forming its boundaries, are Currie's, Piper's, Ringarooma, George's, and North Esk, besides many others falling into the Tamar and the sea. The Tamar, properly speaking,

is not a river, but an arm of the sea. It is nearly fifty miles in length, and is navigable for ships of large burden, to Launceston, which stands at its extreme inland point. The mountains are the Asbestos Hills, a range between the Rubicon and Tamar, running north and south, and a tier from which Benlomond rises, extending from the source of Piper's River to Tasman Peak, in Campbell Town district; their direction is, therefore, nearly parallel with the Tamar. Benlomond is about 4,200 feet above the level of the sea, and is visible many miles distant. The scenery in its vicinity is extremely grand and romantic, as, indeed, the views are in almost every part of the island, which, throughout, is mountainous and not deficient in wood and water.

The mountains seldom assimilate in character; they are almost as various as numerous: here rising gradually to the summit, there springing as it were perpendicularly\* from the surface: here of a conical shape, there round; some with dark brows, others snow-capped; such are the mountains of this southern Switzerland.

The greater part of this extensive district may be said to be uncultivable land, as much of it is almost inaccessible mountain and hungry sand: the flats on the banks of the North and South Esk and Break-o'-Day Rivers, and the land in the vicinity of Launceston, is however of a rich and fertile quality, yielding good average crops of corn. There is a considerable

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\* Basaltic.

portion of this territory unexplored, and the nature of the soil is not ascertained; but the thronging of settlers to this quarter of the globe will soon cause the whole of the island to be investigated.

LAUNCESTON, 121 miles from Hobart Town, is situated within the fork formed by the confluence of the waters of the North and South Esk Rivers, which fall into the Tamar. A settlement was formed on the banks of the Tamar in 1804, but in consequence of the site first chosen for the chief town on this side of the island, not being convenient, the Government establishments were removed to the present favorable situation, and private individuals followed. It is the residence of a Commandant, and is generally garrisoned by a company of Infantry. The public buildings are a church, government-house, military barracks, gaol, court-house, commissariat stores, school, &c. The church is a large building, but I cannot subscribe to the epithet 'elegant,' which has been applied to it by a colonial writer, if it bears any resemblance to the drawing which I have seen. The other public buildings are neither suitable in point of size, nor indicative of its commercial importance.

The Supreme, Civil, and Criminal Courts hold sittings here, alternately with Hobart Town. Several large and commodious houses, stores, and buildings have been lately erected, and are a great improvement to the appearance of the town. Besides these, it boasts of various establishments, which are evidence of wealth and intelligence: among these are breweries, a distillery, flour mills, a bank, post office, several hotels and inns,

two printing offices, (whence are issued two weekly newspapers,) a circulating library, and several well conducted seminaries for young ladies and gentlemen. On the eastern side of the town, a race-course has been formed, but it is situated too near to be long employed as such; for as the town extends the ground will become of value, and then the course will be destroyed—the *utile* will supersede the *dulce*. The position of the town is admirably calculated for trade, as vessels of 400 tons burden can approach it to receive or land their cargoes; but I must not conceal the fact that the navigation of the river is not only difficult but dangerous: if a vessel turning up or beating out unavoidably nears the shores, and misses\* stays, it is placed in very perilous situation. A steam boat will be shortly, if it is not already, employed to tow vessels up to Launceston, and it is reckoned that very little risk will then attend the navigation. The town has one disadvantage, however, which might and ought to have been long since removed, viz. an inadequate supply of water: the deficiency has long been felt, and as frequently as it has been complained of, it has been said that plans were in contemplation to remedy the evil; the execution, however, has been culpably delayed. The newspapers are constantly complaining of the Colonial Government neglecting this town, whilst large sums of money are expended on unimportant works at Hobart Town; and as

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\* The pilots should possess the knowledge of backing and filling the sails.

nothing is more important as regards health, decency, and comfort than a plentiful supply of good water, the Colonial Government, so long as it withholds it, deserves the censure not only of the Launceston journalists but the community at large. *Dono molto aspetatto, e venduto, non donatto.*

A mile above Launceston, the South Esk forms a beautiful cascade, rolling through a deep chasm of rocks, to which the inhabitants send boats for fresh water, as the salt tide runs up to the pool below. The vessels in the Tamar, usually four or five, are also obliged to send their barrels to this cataract for fresh water. Above the fall is a large basin, which appropriately enough might be called the wash-tub, it being the rendezvous of all the washerwomen of the town; and here, morning, noon, and night, they may be seen engaged in the work of purification. In France I have frequently seen twenty women standing in a row in a stream, publicly washing linen; there they prefer that mode of performing the labour; but at Launceston *necessitas non habet legem*—like Mahomet, who went to the mountain, because the mountain would not come to him—the washerwomen go to the water because it does not run to them.

PERRIE, 109 miles from Hobart Town, and 12 from Launceston; is a beautiful village, pleasantly situated on the banks of the South Esk,\* which is crossed in a Government punt. The public buildings are a gaol

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\* The township is built on both sides of the river, and therefore, it is partly in Launceston, and partly in Campbell Town districts.

and quarters for an officer and a detachment of soldiers; the private buildings chiefly consist of cottages for mechanics and labourers; in the immediate vicinity are two flour mills, possessing the advantage of being driven by water power, and many excellent houses and farms.

GEORGE TOWN, 32 miles north of Launceston, and 152 miles from Hobart Town, is situated on the eastern bank of the Tamar, and within four miles of its opening to Bass' Straits. It is considered the sea bathing place of this side of the island, but of late years, on account of the removal of head-quarters to Launceston, has been declining instead of advancing. The land in its immediate neighbourhood is not in general of good quality, though fifteen miles to the east, on the banks of Piper's River, there are some thousands of acres, well situated, rich and fertile.

A new township, to be called Falmouth, was marked out last May; it is situated at the head of George's Bay, a safe and convenient harbour on the eastern coast, for vessels not drawing more than fifteen feet, that being the depth over the bar at high water; but at ebb tide there is only nine feet. The land in the neighbourhood is reported to be very favourable for the finest woolled sheep.

The advantages of having villages scattered over the island, must be evident, and yet it is surprising that at one time they were discouraged, under the idea they would tend to promote idleness and drunkenness among the convict labourers—the advantages were not placed in the other scale. That opinion, however, has now been discarded, and villages and

townships have sprung up in various directions. Sir J. Sinclair, in one of his Essays, says, "When properly situated, they (villages) often lay the foundation of large towns and cities; but even in their humble state, they are of infinite service, by collecting a number of useful mechanics and tradesmen together, by furnishing hands to carry on such manufactures as are the most essential in every district; and by acting as a centre, where fairs and markets may be held, or little shops set up, or schools established for the education of the children in the neighbourhood." The last observation alone outweighs all that has been adduced in opposition to the formation of villages in the interior; morality increases as education is extended; the more, therefore, it is promoted, the less likely is crime to be augmented.

#### VAN DIEMAN'S LAND COMPANY'S DISTRICTS.

THE next three divisions of this chapter relate to the lands which have been granted by the Crown to the Van Dieman's Land Company. These have been divided into three parcels or districts, viz.:—Circular Head, Woolnorth, and Surrey and Hampshire Hills, which I shall treat of in the order they are here placed.\*

\* Table shewing the quantity of cultivated land in the nine Police Districts:—

1.—Hobart Town	- 2,000	6.—Oyster Bay	- 1,700
2.—New Norfolk	- 4,200	7.—Campbell Town	6,400
3.—Richmond	- 17,000	8.—Norfolk Plains	6,200
4.—Clyde	- 3,200	9.—Launceston	- 8,000
5.—Outlands	- 3,100	Total	- 51,800

## 10.—CIRCULAR HEAD

- Is a narrow peninsula, five miles and a half long, situated on the north coast of the island, and is joined to the main by a low sandy neck of land, a quarter of a mile in breadth. The company possesses this tract, and a portion immediately contiguous on the main island, extending from Black river to Deep Creek, in all amounting to 20,000 acres. A part of this is of tolerable quality, producing fair average crops of wheat, potatoes, turnips, peas, and artificial grasses, but barley and oats are very precarious crops, and the cultivation of them has been abandoned; there is however a considerable quantity sandy and hungry, and unfit for cultivation. The inadequate supply of water at this spot is a great draw-back to its prosperity: the company, however, proposes to remedy this evil by artificial means, which may be effected, as at the depth of thirty feet good water is found. A private individual could not, in the present state of the colony, advantageously occupy land where water is with difficulty obtained, but where there is no deficiency of capital, the sinking of wells and the formation of reservoirs may be beneficially undertaken.

HIGHFIELD, is the name of the settlement formed here; it contains about twenty residences, besides a jetty, stores, workshops, and farm buildings, and has a population of upwards of one hundred souls. The harbour is safe for shipping, as it is protected from the violence of the waves by an insulated round rock, rising perpendicularly from the waters, and having a very singular appearance.

## 11.—WOOLNORTH.

THIS district consists of 100,000 acres at the extreme north-west corner of the island; and Robin's, Walker's, and Trefoil islands, immediately adjoining; which are supposed by the Company's officers to contain 10,000 acres of good land. The soil of this district, though marshy, is generally of fair quality, but not equal to many of the tracts in other parts of the island.

HIGHBURY, the township (if so it may be called) of this district, comprises several cottages, stores, farm-buildings, &c. and has a population of about one hundred souls.

## 12.—SURREY AND HAMPSHIRE HILLS, &amp;c.

THIS district consists of 50,000 acres at Emu Bay, 10,000 at the Hampshire Hills, and 150,000 acres at the Surrey Hills, forming a continuous tract, extending from the sea to May-day Mount, and Mount Cripps, which in a direct line, are nearly thirty miles from the coast, and 10,000 acres at the Middlesex Plains, between the Surrey hills and the river Forth. The soil of these districts is stated by the Company's agents to be excellent, "consisting of a hazel loam, with a tendency to clay, upon a bottom of mixed stone and clay, or firm clayey gravel." Sheep, upon which the Van Dieman's Land agriculturist places most reliance, however, have not succeeded, for last year 2,400 died, a loss which the Directors attribute to insufficiency of winter food, viz.: "Hay from artificial, as well as natural grasses, turnips, rape, linseed, &c., and to the

necessary precautions as to shelter not having been taken."

This calamity to the stock of the Company will be a caution to the intending settler to provide sufficient winter food and shelter for the stock, to prevent such a misfortune from befalling him. As wheat and potatoes are precarious crops, the Company recommends the cultivation of oats and bere, and directs the attention of the settler to breeding horses, rearing cattle for the dairy and butcher, and keeping hardy breeds of sheep. The Middlesex Plains are merely used by the Company as a stock station, and do not therefore require particular notice. The Company has formed a road, running through the whole of this district, from Circular Head to Launceston, a boon to settlers, which can only be duly appreciated by persons acquainted with new countries. Emu Bay,\* situated at the mouth of Emu River, is a safe harbour for shipping; and here the Company has erected a store, whence produce may be shipped, and where imports, &c. are received. The population of these districts, already exceeding one hundred souls, will be greatly increased at the termination of the present year by the arrival of two ships with indented servants, &c.

#### THE PENAL SETTLEMENTS.

THE two next divisions of this Chapter relate to the country in the neighbourhood of the penal settle-

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\* This is a very beautiful indent; the substratum is basaltic.

ments, where\* the worst of criminals, and also prisoners convicted of offences committed in the colony, are sent. They are compelled to perform the severest † kinds of labour, and the quantum and quality of food allowed is the same at both of them.

### 13.—MACQUARIE HARBOUR.

MACQUARIE HARBOUR is a large bay on the western coast of the island, extending inland in a south-westerly direction about twenty miles to where Gordon river debouches, and diverging right and left into two extensive bays or creeks. The settlement is formed at Sarah's island, a small island within the harbour, whence every morning the convicts, usually amounting to between two and three hundred souls, are removed to the banks of the Gordon, to perform their laborious tasks. The Gordon, though a bar river, is navigable for nearly forty miles, and is in most parts very deep, and never less than one hundred yards wide. Its banks, though generally precipitous, are clothed with timber and shrubs, and afford beautiful scenery. The land is generally of a rich quality, but the timber is too dense to allow the agriculturist to occupy it with advantage. On Phillips' island, on the northern side of the harbour, a small garden has been formed, and a few acres have been broken up for cultivation; and at Coal head, which is adjoining, excellent coal has been found, but not yet dug for

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\* Imperium in imperio. † Vide pages 57—8.

use. The timber procured by the convicts is the Huon pine, the trunk of which is generally sixty feet in length and five feet in diameter; the celery top pine, fifty feet long and two and a half feet in diameter; and the myrtle, the pinkwood, and lightwood trees, all of which grow to a good size, affording excellent timber for ship-building, furniture, and house-work. A plant called the Macquarie Harbour grape has been discovered here; it is a climbing plant with a large digited vine-like leaf, grows very rapidly, and produces its fruit like the vine in large bunches. The acid which its fruit yields, has been medicinally employed as a substitute for lime-juice, and has fully answered the expectations of the medical man by whom it was prescribed.

There is a species of water fowl peculiar to the harbour, but to what genus it belongs, has not yet been determined.

It has been reported that the Government intends to remove the prisoners from Macquarie Harbour, and to permit settlers to occupy the land in the neighbourhood, but whether or not that will be done I cannot ascertain.

#### 14.—PORT ARTHUR.

In September 1830, a new penal settlement, intended as a gradatory one, was formed at this port, one of the finest harbours in the world, which is situated midway between Cape Pillar and Cape Raoul; on the southern coast of Tasman's Peninsula, or about fifty-five miles south-east of Hobart Town.

The coast between\* these two capes (ten miles asunder) falls back so as to form a bay, of a crescent shape, termed by the French, *Mainjon Baie*. Its sides are rugged and inaccessible. At the middle of this crescent the passage of the harbour opens. It is about a mile wide, and runs up in a north-north-west direction for four miles and a half. At the distance of three and a half miles up, it expands to the westward so as to form a large bay, the safest part of the harbour.

The water is deep on both sides close to the shores. The western head is formed by a hill of between four and five hundred feet in height, with a clear round top and perpendicular sides towards the sea; the eastern by a bold rocky point, surmounted by a conical hill eight hundred feet high, with another still loftier behind it. From this point, the eastern shore runs up in nearly a straight unbroken line to the end of the harbour. It also is formed by a perpendicular wall of basaltic columns and iron-stone rock, with a long line of hills above them, sloping backwards, having the appearance of an immense battery or embankment. These hills are covered lightly with trees of a stunted growth. There are three or four rocky gullies and fresh water streams on this side, where landing may be effected when the wind is easterly.

The left, or western side of the channel presents a very different aspect. Its rocky line is broken by bays and sandy beaches. There is also an open

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\* Hobart Town Calendar.

tract with an undulating surface covered with heath and small shrubs, and backed by a lofty range of hills, which runs directly up from Cape Raoul towards the north and south, and a branch range across the centre of the peninsula. This meets with the line of hills on the eastern side, and thus completely surrounds the port.

On sailing up the harbour, within the clear hill at the western head is seen a small sandy beach, where the surf is generally too great to allow of boats landing. Half a mile higher up, and beyond an inner rocky head, is Safety Cove, a fine large bay with a sandy beach, into which vessels often run for shelter from the stormy winds and heavy seas so frequent upon this coast. It is open to the south-east, but by lying well round into the south-west corner of the cove, a ship may be sheltered from a south-east wind. Sailing past Safety Cove, on the left, there is a range of perpendicular rocks a mile and a half in length, which runs along a tongue of land, (separating the channel from the bay inside,) and close to the point of this tongue is a small picturesque island. Here the harbour expands or rather doubles round the tongue of land, and forms a beautiful bay or basin, in which a large fleet might ride at anchor undisturbed by any wind; and from hence, looking directly across the bay, is first seen the settlement, lying half a mile due west from the island. There are, besides, three smaller bays from the main sheet of water, which afford excellent anchorage.

The settlement is prettily situated on the sloping

side of a point, on the southern boundary of the inlet projecting into the larger bay.

This settlement was established in furtherance of that system of reward for good conduct, which has been found to operate so beneficially on the minds of the unfortunate and degraded beings whose crimes have been the cause of their banishment from their native country. It is a kind of intermediate settlement between the colony and Macquarie Harbour, from which latter place those prisoners whose good behaviour may have entitled them to the boon, are removed prior to being admitted or readmitted, as the case may be, into the colony. Here, as at Macquarie Harbour, they must serve a certain period, at the expiration of which, if their conduct has been deserving, they are promoted by being sent into the colony, which is the anxious desire of all; but if, on the other hand, their behaviour has not been satisfactory to their officers, they are either retained in the settlement or returned to Macquarie Harbour, where they again experience the very severe labour from which their good conduct had for a short time relieved them. They are employed here in felling and cutting timber, (stringy bark and gum trees,) which grows to a very good size and is of excellent quality.

This settlement is not exclusively employed as a gradatory one for the convicts from Macquarie Harbour, for here are now sent to be instructed in trades, the numerous convict-boys,\* annually trans-

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\* The prisoners tried at the Middlesex, Westminster, and Surrey Sessions, and I may add, the Old Bailey, are chiefly

ported from the parent country. Formerly, it was the custom to distribute them as servants among the settlers, who were so unwilling to receive them, on account of their indolent habits and mischievous tricks, that the Government was obliged to make an order, requiring them to take convict-boys in a proportionate number to the adult prisoners assigned to them. The settlers are however now relieved from the burden by their being sent here, where they are taught employments, which, when returned to the parent colony, will enable them to obtain an honest and reputable livelihood.

It is hither the class of convicts, called "gentlemen convicts,"\* educated men, who have fallen from their high estate, are transported: their employment consists of gardening and work of that kind; they are dressed in the prisoners' garb, and treated as regards food, &c. in every way like the other convicts. It is almost unnecessary to say, that such punishment is more severe to them than it is to the uneducated prisoner, and so I

boys under fifteen years of age; at the former Sessions, within one hour, I once saw thirteen tried, convicted, and sentenced to be transported.

\* The following order has been sent out, but not officially published:—"In future, all educated convicts shall, immediately on their arrival, be sent to Tasman's Peninsula, there to remain until the termination of their sentence; to be kept to hard labour, to be dressed in the grey prisoner-clothing, and strictly rationed; in fact, to be allowed no indulgence, or any probability held out to them of a change in their situation, till the time of their sentences may have expired."—*Colonial Times*, March 1833.

think it should be, for it must be remembered that their education makes their crimes of a double die. Ignorance, though not an excuse for any crime, in a measure may palliate some offences; but erudition not only does not extenuate or mitigate, but makes the delinquency more heinous and atrocious.

#### 15.—THE UNLOCATED COUNTRY.

It has lately been ascertained that there is a considerable quantity of good land to the westward of Hobart Town, and steps are now taken to render it available to the new-comers. A road has been commenced, and at the date (May 17) of the last accounts from the colony, it was nearly completed. This will be of great advantage to emigrants of both large and small capital. Before, if one of the former was desirous of obtaining several thousand acres in one continuous tract, he could not suit himself; and if one of the latter, he could not afford to compete with the monied man. The land between the mountains and Port Macquarie is highly recommended, and its richness is said to be proved to demonstration by the condition of the wild herds found feeding there.

The river Huon is the principal river flowing through the unlocated territory; it was first discovered in 1792, by the boats belonging to the expedition under Admiral D'Entrecasteaux, and named after Captain Huon Kermadec of the *Esperance*.

The island, called Huon island, lies in the centre of this river at its mouth, where it falls into D'Entrecasteaux channel. This beautiful little island, con-

taining about three hundred acres, stands nearly in the middle of the river, which at this place is about three miles wide. The western passage is the widest, but in the centre is a small rock, which is only conspicuous at low water, having the appearance of a small black speck, which, at a distance, might be mistaken for a boat. About five miles up, on the north bank, is a large inlet, called (also by the French who discovered it) Port des Cygnes, from the great number of black swans that frequent it. This beautiful bay extends for about five or six miles to the north, being agreeably diversified with projecting points of land, clothed with elegant stringy bark and gum trees affording timber of the finest description. On the west, or opposite, is a small stream called Castle Forbes river. The course of the river from its mouth, is nearly in a westerly direction for about ten miles, till it meets a low point on the northern shore, called "One Tree Point," where the stream is about a mile and a half or two miles wide.

From One Tree Point the river suddenly bends round to the north, in which direction it continues for about twelve miles, till it is joined by Mount River, a considerable stream flowing from the Mount Wellington range of hills. The tide flows up to this place, which is also the point where the road lately made from Hobart Town reaches the river, over a distance of nineteen miles. About half way above One Tree Point, the navigation of the river is much impeded by several sits covered with trees and brushwood, lying in the middle of the river, and extending.

up for about three or four miles, leaving a narrow channel on each side. They are called Egg islands, from the great number of swans that make their nests among the long grass which overgrows them. Ships cannot with safety, on account of these islands, ascend much higher than One Tree Point, and the river is only further navigable for boats. After passing them, however, the channel though narrower still continues about ten fathoms deep, until it arrives at Mount River. All along, the banks continue steep and thickly covered with timber. Opposite One Tree Point, on the west bank, a considerable stream falls into the Huon, called Kermadec river; on the bank of which, at a little distance inland, report says, there is a large tract of fine country. Near the lower end of the Egg islands the water ceases to be salt.

A short way above Mount River, the Huon again takes a sudden bend to the west, nearly at right angles. The corner formed by the angle was named Musquito Point, owing to the great number of musquitoes which infest that part. The northern bank against which this stream flows, continues lofty and precipitous, while the opposite side is composed of low land in many parts covered with water in times of flood. About a mile above Musquito Point is the first fall, beyond which it is almost impossible for boats, unless very small ones, to ascend, as the channel higher up is a constant succession of rapids. At this place the river is about ninety or one hundred yards wide. The influence of the tide, although the water be fresh all the way, is still felt. From Hobart Town to

this point round by water, although only nineteen miles by land, is reckoned sixty miles.

The banks of this river would long since have been appropriated and cleared, had not the warfare with the aborigines deterred settlers from exposing the lives of themselves, their families, and their servants; but now that peace reigns, and order is restored, enterprising settlers will investigate the land on the banks of this river, and of its tributary streams; and will select that most likely to repay them for their toil and industry.

The south-east part of Launceston district has lately been investigated, and it is said, that the land proves to be of a good quality, well calculated to produce herbage of the kind most favorable to fine-wooled sheep. The position for a township was marked out in George's River, at the commencement of the month of April last.—To the west of the Ouse, and on the banks, as well as to the northward of the river Arthur, which falls into the sea on the western coast, it is supposed there is much good land; this will not, however, now that the aborigines are not to be dreaded, be permitted to remain long in doubt.

## TREES, FRUITS, FLOWERS, &amp;c.

## CHAP. VIII.

The island is naturally thickly wooded with trees, fit for the shipwright, builder, and cabinet-maker, as will be seen by the subjoined list of their names, and the uses to which they are applied:—For house-work,—gum, stringy bark, white and yellow Huon pine and sassafras. House-work and furniture—black and silver wattle, dark and pale lightwood, pencil cedar, and Adventure Bay pine. Furniture—cotton-tree, musk, silver-wood, myrtle, forest and swamp oak, plum tree, and yellow wood. Mill cogs, lignum vitæ; boat timbers, red and white honeysuckle; shingles, peppermint; gun stocks, cherry tree and pink wood.

The timber used for carpenters' and joiners' work is said to be verminous, but I think the supposition is erroneous: the same complaint has been made of Canadian timber, as also of that of all new countries. I have examined blocks of different kinds of timber from Van Dieman's Land, and I do not find they possess properties conducent to vermin; the cause however, of the huts and sheds in the island being full of offensive insects, I attribute to the timber, of

which they have been built, cracking and starting, having been used without being properly seasoned. Whenever the timber cracks in that manner, there are sure to be vermin, for the apertures form a safe retreat. Whether or not this hypothesis be correct, I leave the settlers to determine.

Within the last few years several kinds of European timber (those which have succeeded are the oak, one or two sorts of pine, the ash, acacia, and common fir trees) have been introduced: these all promise well. No tree yielding any fruit fit to eat has been discovered, but there are several which are applied in various ways to useful purposes. The peppermint tree (a species of eucalyptus \*) affords an oil with properties like cajeput, and has been used with efficacy in cholera. The fruit of a kind of grape found at Macquarie Harbour, gives an acid which is equal to lime-juice in scurvy. The leaves of the tea tree, a kind of myrtle, when gathered and dried, have been used as tea; but though the infusion is not equally good, still it is not much inferior, and when its cheapness is taken into consideration, the consumer will not perhaps think it a very objectionable substitute. The bark of the wattle is employed in tanning, and an extract has been made from it, and been imported into England, where it has been used for the same purpose. The inner bark of the currogong has been converted into

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\* Another tree of the same species produces a saccharine secretion, like that obtained from the *Fraxinus Ornus*.—*Henderson*.

rope, the strength and cheapness of which proves it to be a valuable substitute for hemp.

The general appearance of the trees is far from beautiful, the foliage being a dark sombre green, with a dash of *casuarina*; the fern tree and native cherry\* are, however, exceptions, especially the former, which is one of the most elegant productions of nature, growing many feet high, with a remarkable head. The blossoms that the mimosa and several other trees put forth are of a very rich yellow, and of an elegant form. When the trees stand isolated, the bare trunk and scraggy limbs and boughs do not afford a very picturesque appearance, but when in a clump the defect is not visible; the foliage is of a dark green, and accords with the peculiarly wild scenery for which the island is celebrated.

The properties of only few of the many plants, with which the island abounds, are known; and from the neglect of the study of botany among the settlers, it is very probable that the world will remain in ignorance of them for many years to come. As yet, no gentleman whose attainments in the study of botany

\* The native cherry grows to the height of sixteen feet, in the form of a cone of a bright green color; it is destitute of leaves, the larger branches separating into smaller pendulous ones; the flowers are very minute, of the same colour as the tree; the fruit is a small fleshy berry, and has the nut on its exterior. The tree has no resemblance to the cherry tree. At the last exhibition (25 September, 1833) of the York Floral and Horticultural Society, two specimens of the fern tree were exhibited.

are worthy of mention, as far as I can learn, has explored the country, or inquired into the nature of the plants, shrubs, and trees, peculiar to the island.\*

Native bread, supposed to be a species of the tuber cibarium, is eaten; it is found by digging in the ground from a foot to a foot and a half deep, in the shape of round balls, covered with a thin coat, resembling that of a yam or potatoe, and often as large as the human head; when cut in two it presents a substance of rather a spongy nature. The natives discover it from a very minute leaf growing close to the surface of the ground, with which the root is supposed to be connected by very weak and small fibres, that break away on moving the earth. A remarkable fungus (not esculent) is often turned up by the plough: it is about the size of a pigeon's egg, and surrounded by a reticulated wrapper; when touched it leaps up, exploding its contents with an elastic spring. A beautiful phosphoric fungus is also found in the summer months. At night, or in a dark room when fresh gathered, a very strong phosphoric light is emitted from the gills underneath, so strong indeed as to occasion a shade, and sufficiently powerful to illuminate a bed room.

All the European fruit-trees have been introduced, and many have succeeded almost beyond the expectation of the most sanguine settler. The produce of grapes is often wonderfully great; but there are winds

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\* Labillardère was a very short time on the coast, and Cunningham has been engaged only in New South Wales.

injurious to them. When their cultivation is well understood, and the vineyards are sheltered from the pernicious blasts, there is no doubt that the flavour of the fruit will be improved, and that then wine will be manufactured for exportation. The apple-tree is astonishingly productive, and instances have been known of trees having borne fruit the season immediately after they were grafted, before the grafts and stocks were well united, or the clay and bandages could be taken off or loosened—a circumstance almost incredible to an European gardener.—Many of the best sorts have been introduced, but the new kinds grown by our modern scientific horticulturists have not yet been imported. The peach-tree also produces an ample crop, but it has been observed, that the flavour of the fruit is not of a superior order. This, perhaps, arises from the grafts or buds having been taken from inferior trees. The cherry, apricot, nectarine, green-gage, pear, and raspberry all thrive remarkably well, and yield abundantly. The mulberry, without some little attention, will not bear well. Raspberries, currants, and gooseberries grow without much care being bestowed on them, and produce great quantities of fruit. Strawberries are plentiful in some seasons, while in others none can be obtained; the climate, therefore, must not be considered favorable to them. The quince thrives, as also does the elder, which is a later introduction. The fruit of the Cape gooseberry ripens, but the fig, when maturing, is generally injured by the morning frosts. Walnuts and chestnuts

come to maturity, but filberts and cobnuts have not succeeded. The English fruits and trees that have not yet prospered will probably be shortly acclimatized; for my own part, I confess no surprise at many trees failing, but on the contrary, wonder, in the absence of horticultural knowledge, at the success that has already attended the operations of the settler.

These observations upon fruit trees naturally lead to remarks upon flowers and shrubs, which many readers would probably consider great neglect or want of intellectual discernment did I pass over in silence. The native flowers of Van Dieman's Land are little known, the study of botany not having yet been pursued by the settlers, who have hitherto been necessarily engaged in following the plough, and have not had time to investigate the beauties of nature. The attention of the public has, however, been awakened to the pleasures which the study affords by Dr. Ross, whose call has already been answered by many intelligent individuals, and these have sent to England for the works of Linnæus and his followers.

The green correa (*correa virens*) is one of the most remarkable shrubs; it grows to the height of seven or eight feet; the flowers have a green tinge, and the leaves are pendulous and hoary underneath. The white correa (*correa alba*) is a variety of the same species, with (as its name expresses) white flowers. *Prostanthera Lasiantha* is a most beautiful shrub, growing to the height of twenty feet; the stems grow straight from the root, and are but little

branched; they are covered with a dark red bark, having a strong smell, the leaves are long, narrow, and pointed, jagged at the edges, and of a dark green; the flowers are helmet shaped, white, with purple spots, downy, and soon fall off; they grow in open clusters at the end of branches.\* The scarlet glycine (*kennedia prostrata*) is a shrubby creeper; the leaves grow in threes, like clover, are nearly round, and fringed at the edges; the blossoms, which are of a bright scarlet, are pea-shaped. The musk plant is an elegant shrub, growing to the height of seven feet; the flowers are white, and not so ornamental as the leaves, which are peculiar, and, like the bark and the flowers, have a strong scent. The sweet-scented acacia (*acacia swaveolens*) grows to the height of six feet, and yields a delightful odour.

A beautiful shrub called the warratah is found on the top of Mount Wellington. The seed vessel is a follicle about the size of that of a radish pod, and contains about ten or a dozen winged seeds each. It is entirely different from that discovered in New South Wales by the celebrated Mr. Robert Brown, and since cultivated in green-houses in England. The flower of both is very much alike, of a splendid crimson colour, but the leaf of the Van Dieman's Land species is smooth, and not jagged like that of the Sydney tree.

It is a curious fact, that several plants of the island, if approached at night, when in bloom, with a flaming

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\* Ross's Almanack, 1831.

stick or candle, emit flashes of light, in the same way as the fraxinella, which M. Biot, the French naturalist, says, is produced by the essential oil contained in the small vessels, at the extremities of the branches, which burst on the approach of any ignited body.

Seeds and cuttings of a great many flowers and shrubs have been introduced, and many have succeeded; where they have failed, it has generally been caused by ignorance of the nature of the soil, the plant required, or through want of attention. The common red geranium grows luxuriantly in the open air—a cutting stuck into the ground, in a damp situation, becomes a thick shrub of three or four feet high in the course of a couple of years. The myrtle blows also in the open air, and grows almost as rapidly as the geranium. The sweet-briar thrives as well as if it were a native shrub; as also do the English and Spanish varieties of broom, the hawthorn and china roses. The moss-rose, the magnolia, grand-de-flora, and some other valuable kinds of flowers were introduced, by Doctor Espie, in 1830, and have answered the expectations of the importer.

## GRAIN, GRASSES, VEGETABLES, &amp;c.

## CHAP. IX.

Many Van Dieman's Land farmers having obtained their agricultural information only from books, are frequently too speculative; whilst those who were small farmers in England are not enough so, refusing to abandon their forefathers' modes of cropping and cultivation, adopting their prejudices, and persisting in their errors. It is evident, therefore, that failure will as frequently attend the operations of one class as the other in the new country. A union of theoretical and practical knowledge would peculiarly fit a person for a colonial farmer. The man possessing theoretical knowledge alone generally performs the work of his farm very rapidly, though slovenly; the mere practical farmer does his slowly and mechanically, which is almost as injurious in a hot\* country as the former.

All kinds of grain cultivated in England will flourish, but some parts of the island are more favour-

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\* The mode of tillage is the same as in England, with the exception that in some of its departments the operations must be modified, on account of the more intense rays of the mid-day sun in the summer months.—*Hobart Town Calendar.*

able to one than to another. Wheat succeeds better than any other grain, for though the average produce (about six and twenty bushels \* per acre) is small in quantity, it is compensated for in quality. A small sample (about twenty quarters) was imported from Launceston at the beginning of the present year, and was much admired at the Corn Exchange, in Mark Lane: it weighed 64lbs. per bushel, and sold for 66s. per quarter, being 4s. per quarter more than the highest quotations for the finest Essex and Kent wheat. Mr. Burnham Hall, who obligingly gave me this information, says that Van Dieman's Land wheat would always command a preference in the English market of 5s. per quarter.†

It may be thought that the length of the sea-voyage from Van Dieman's Land to England would prove injurious to the grain; it is not so however; for, unlike the grain of all other countries, it is not liable to the weevil. Why that destructive insect does not attack it, I am unable to inform the reader; entomologists and chemists have not, I believe, yet ascertained the cause; the circumstance of its not being so, is of great importance to the colonist, as it increases its value as an article for export. The corn dealers in Mark Lane will always jump at grain which they may retain with safety in the bonded ware-

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\* Mr. Prinsep was told by a ferryman, that one acre of wheat would produce ninety bushels of corn. His informant, I fear, was fond of romancing.

† This was the substance of a letter, dated, London, 16th March 1833, sent to a gentleman residing in the colony.

houses, in which hundreds, aye thousands of bushels of Polish, Swedish, and American corn are annually destroyed by that insect.

The prices of wheat at Hobart Town on the 1st of March in the present year, varied according to quality from 4s. 9d. to 5s. per bushel—say 40s. per quarter: whilst it maintains that quotation it cannot be imported into this country at fair remunerating prices to the grower; but when labour becomes cheaper, which it necessarily must in the course of a few years, corn will be grown at less expense, and the colonists may calculate on obtaining in England a ready market for their surplus grain.

Both barley and oats are precarious crops, and never answer unless sown on good land. In England, oats on newly broken-up poor land are the primal crop; but in Van Dieman's Land such a course would be attended with certain loss. Barley usually averages twenty-five bushels an acre, and was selling at Hobart Town on the 1st March in the present year at 4s. 6d. per bushel. Oats yield on an average five bushels per acre more than barley, and generally bring a higher price by about three-pence a bushel. Cape barley is a favorite crop with some gentlemen; but unless it has care and attention bestowed on it, it produces little or nothing. It is frequently cut in its green state and sold for forage, or made into hay. The price per bushel at Hobart Town, on the 1st of March last, was 3s.

Maize is not cultivated in Van Dieman's Land; the summer being too cold or rather too capricious to

make it a certain crop; some of the small kind, which Mr. Cobbett introduced into England about five years since, has been tried, but its success is very equivocal; it is not a favorite grain with the colonists, who are prejudiced against it; and whilst that feeling prevails there is no probability of the agriculturist taking sufficient trouble in the tillage to secure a crop. A quantity was imported from Sydney in the early part of the year, but as it did not sell at 4s. per bushel, the importer thought it advisable to reship and carry it back again.

Rye has been cultivated and found to succeed in soils which would not produce good wheat; its culture, however, has been neglected, and I do not find that there was a single bushel in the market on the 1st of March last. Buck wheat\* is said to yield an ample harvest, but it has not been extensively cultivated.

Rape or cole is said to be injurious to land, though it is the reverse in England, but whether or not this arises from peculiarity of climate, or a bad mode of farming, experience will determine.

Potatoes of the finest quality are grown in the fields, and in the gardens of the settlers; and though in point of quality, the returns (averaging two tons and a half per acre) are considered satisfactory, still a farmer in England would not estimate them at half

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\* A crop of buck-wheat is clear gain; seeing that the land is thereby so well prepared for a succeeding crop, even better than by a fallow; besides, that it affords a noble resource for

a crop. This root is exported to Sydney and the Mauritius, and has there obtained remunerating prices. The highest quotation at Hobart Town on the 1st March last, was fifty shillings per ton, including delivery to the residence of the buyer.

Mangel Wurzel has lately occupied a considerable portion of public attention, having been found to produce extremely well, and not to be so liable as turnips to attacks from the fly and other insects. Turnips have been cultivated by sheep-owners for some years past, but those who have cultivated them, and also mangel wurzel, give the preference to the latter. The average return per acre is about seven tons. It is worthy of remark that the leaves are smaller in proportion to the bulb than in England, and also that the crop like rape impoverishes the ground. In England, wheat generally supersedes turnips, but a different course must be pursued in Van Dieman's Land. Peas and beans are cultivated by the farmer, and yield on an average about sixteen bushels per acre. The amount of produce on different farms is however remarkable. Clover, tares, lucern, sainfoin, sheep's fescue, sweet-scented vernal, and indeed most of the natural and artificial grasses cultivated in England, thrive remarkably well. The native grasses have not been subject to tillage, but the kangaroo grass grows very luxuriantly wild, and sheep fatten on it very rapidly: it is supposed that it would grow too coarse

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raising manure.—*Bath Papers*. [This may be worthy of attention.]

and harsh if cultivated;\* trefoil and burnet are native grasses.

The price of hay in Hobart Town has fallen very considerably within the last few years; in 1827, it varied from £8 10s. to £10. a ton; and on the 1st of March in the present year it only obtained from 70s. to 75s. Straw has also fallen in price; at the latter date it could be purchased for 50s. a ton.

Hemp, flax, and tobacco have been grown, but their cultivation has been lately abandoned—the expense of labour is probably the cause.

Every kind of vegetable which is cultivated in Europe has been grown with success—peas, beans, cabbages, brocoli, cauliflowers, spinach, carrots, turnips, parsnips, asparagus, beet-root, artichokes, lettuces, cucumbers, celery, radishes; onions, leeks, and shalots, &c. &c.

Having thus briefly recapitulated what kinds of grain

\* Succory (*chicorium intybus*) is strongly recommended in Young's Annals, where I find it stated, that in a year of extreme drought, (1788,) it yielded twenty-three tons per acre, and was always eaten by sheep, cows, and fatting bullocks, as close to the ground as any other plant in the field. It may be worthy of the emigrant's notice.

† The emigrant should take out books upon agriculture and gardening: they will give him much better information than I could pretend to afford him, in a work of this nature. Some authors, who have written works on the Colonies, have affected deep knowledge upon these subjects, but many absurd observations betray their ignorance. The works upon these subjects, published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, are invaluable to the emigrant.

and vegetables have been cultivated, and having stated the usual average crops which have been obtained, as well as the price, the reader will be enabled to judge of the present state of farming in the island. That it is daily improving, is very evident, but that it still is very far from perfection, he will readily observe. The colonists have had much to contend against, and have, as far as they have gone, braved the storm manfully: still, however, they have much to perform, but I doubt not that the spirit which has carried them thus far, will overcome all other difficulties.

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\* The colony is indebted to the Rev. Mr. Knopwood for the Scotch thistle; he introduced it as a curiosity, and it has since spread over the country.

## HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, &amp;c.

## CHAP. X.

HORSES were first imported into the island from New South Wales, but the breed, though of Indian origin, was not of the best description. Within the last few years there have been imported from England and India so many well bred and beautiful animals, that the character of the Van Dieman's Land horse is quite changed, and that, too, much for the better. A private letter, speaking of their excellent qualities, says, for symmetry, action, pace, bone and spirit, our modern horse is unsurpassed. These are high qualifications, but there is one omitted which I am assured they possess in a wonderful degree,—one as desirable as any of the above eminent qualities, viz. temper, which ought to be considered by breeders, who will always find that a vicious temper greatly depreciates a horse in value. A vicious horse may make a good wheeler in a mail coach, where he is strapped up and pulled forward by three others, but he never is esteemed after having been subjected to such work.

In the Hobart Town Courier, of Friday January 11, 1833, notice is attracted by advertisements to the following horses:—Waterloo, Bolivar, Buffalo, and

Peter Fin, (thorough bred); Bagdad, (an Arabian); Viscount, (a roadster); Magnus Troil, (a carriage horse); Porter, Farmer, Atlas, Czar, Rotterdam, (Flemish,) and Plough Boy, (dray and cart horses); all of which from the value set upon them ought to be good; and, from the price demanded for their services, I infer that the breeding of horses receives a considerable share of the farmer's attention. At New Town a new race-course, rather more than one mile and a half round, has been formed, and at the last races the following stakes were contested:—

#### FIRST DAY.

The Trial Stakes of three sovereigns each, for two years old, with ten sovereigns added from the race fund.—One mile heats.

The Town Plate of one hundred sovereigns for all ages.—Two sovereigns entrance.—Heats twice round.

#### SECOND DAY.

The Derwent St. Leger Stakes of three sovereigns each for three years old, with forty sovereigns added.—Heats once round.

The publican's purse of fifty sovereigns, for four years old and upwards. Two mile heats. One sovereign entrance.

#### THIRD DAY.

A purse of fifty sovereigns, given by C. Swanston, Esq., for the produce of Ben Haasain. One sovereign entrance.

A silver cup of the value of fifty sovereigns, given by the officers of the 63d regiment, for horses bred in

the colony. Heats once round and a distance: gentlemen riders. One sovereign entrance.

Such is the *carte* of only one meeting, for beside these, there are others held at New Norfolk, Richmond, &c.

Mr. Widdowson observes that the treatment of the horse in Van Dieman's Land, is inferior to that adopted in any other country: the system pursued when that gentleman was in the colony, has, however, I have every reason to believe, been greatly improved, though in many instances there is still ample room for amendment.

There is a breed of ponies which, though small, is much esteemed. In various parts of Europe, where the surface of the country is very uneven, ponies are found to work much better than horses, and as the same kind of surface prevails to a great extent in Van Dieman's Land, the well-bred, smart, active, hardy pony, may be found more useful than the horse.

The attention of the farmer appears to be turned to cart horses as well as others, and the teams bid fair to equal the Cleveland Bays, Bakewell's Blacks, &c., &c. I would however recommend the farmers to pay attention to the advice of Mr. Davis,\* who says, "Great horses require much more and better food to keep up their flesh than small ones; a large horse seldom comes to perfection till six years old; and, during its progress to perfection, it must be nursed and treated tenderly, and favored in its work, or it

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\* The Author of the Agricultural Survey of Wilts.

will never attain its full size and beauty. Large heavy-heeled horses are undoubtedly fit for steady heavy draughts on public roads; but for a farmer's use, a smaller and more active kind of horses will not only step quicker, but will bear their work more hours in a day, and will keep up their flesh not only with proportionably less food, but with that of an inferior kind." In a climate which is much warmer than England or Flanders, the heavy horse will not be able to perform his labour with ease; his own weight will be sufficiently oppressive. The lighter kind of horses, the Suffolk for instance, are well suited to all kinds of labour: the Suffolk cart horse is small, compact, and active, both in the field and on the road, and capable of bearing fatigue. These are qualities which ought not to be over-looked in a new country. The horse used in the light waggons in America, somewhat resembles the Suffolk breed, and there, where the cross roads are not of the best kind, they are represented as performing surprising tasks.

Asses and mules are not used for agricultural purposes, but the latter I think, in some of the hilly districts, might be employed with advantage.

#### BLACK CATTLE.

The island was originally supplied with stock from Norfolk Island and Sydney; but within the last few years, stock from the best English kinds has been introduced, and has improved the breed. The cattle of the island can never obtain a decided character until inclosures are extended, for at present it is next to

impossible to prevent stock from mixing. Mr. Wid-dowson observes, that the cows of the country are the worst milkers\* in existence; and Doctor Henderson says, that at the time (1829-30) he travelled through the island, sufficient milk could seldom be procured for tea, though cows could be had at £1 per head. A change for the better has taken place; but ample room for improvement still remains.† A system of wild grazing, as it is called, (turning cattle into the unlocated districts, and permitting them to become wild,) has much injured the stock, and led to the demoralization of the assigned convicts. Two or three colonists followed this plan at the early formation of the settlement, and have since laid claim to all the wild cattle, notwithstanding it is well known that the tame stock of the small emigrant has often been enticed into the woods, where it must have multiplied. An emigrant who was a sufferer from this wild grazing system, thus speaks of it ‡—“It was attended with numerous evils, among which may be enumerated, the seduction of the domesticated beasts already in the service of settlers, (as in my case); the destruction by their inroads of the first attempts at cultivation, depriving a family remote in the bush perhaps of its chief hope of animal

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\* Zinc milk plates, it has been lately discovered, create more cream, yielding a greater proportion of butter than others. The average quantity of cheese produced, annually, by each cow in Cheshire, is 2½ cwt.

† Very little butter or cheese is yet made in the colony.

‡ Hobart Town Calendar, 1830.

provisions, (my case also); encroaching on and eating up the pasturage belonging to other settlers; the ruinous example it held out to assigned servants seeing prisoners mounted on horseback, pursuing and killing them, and acting as they pleased; the temptation to cattle-stealing generally; and, to crown all, the unavoidable deterioration of the cattle themselves, thus left at large to increase without management or restriction."

Those who enriched themselves by this system, *had and have no more title to these wild cattle than the poor man, who has only landed one hour.* As they are *feræ naturæ*, the property in them is vested in the Crown, and I pledge my professional character to the illegality of the claim of Mr. Lord, Sir J. Owen, and those who have asserted a right to them.

It may be demanded, "Is the Crown entitled to appropriate them?" I say, "Yes, and moreover ought to do so for the benefit of the colony generally." A fund might be raised from the sale of their carcasses, to assist the Government in the laudable endeavour to form a peasantry, the want of which is likely to prove a severe blight to the future prospects of the colony.

It is gratifying to observe that attention now begins to be paid to the fattening of stock for market, and that the price which the stall-fed meat produces, will remunerate the feeder. At Hobart Town, on the 1st May last, the price of beef was 5d. per lb., and veal, which a few years back was never seen on the butcher's stall, was selling at 7½d. per lb. Bul-

locks have been used in agricultural operations; but in a country where human labour is scarce, I do not think they can be advantageously employed, excepting on ground which has not been previously broken up. The ox works slowly and steadily, and will not press forward impetuously when the plough-share meets with resistance, which is almost certain to occur every ten minutes; the horse, on the other hand, exerts himself in proportion to the opposing power, and will generally either break the gear or strain himself when the plough comes in contact with a thick root or large rock. On this account new ground ought to be broken up and cleared with oxen, and afterwards worked with horses. I may here remark, that three bullocks with collars will do as much as four with the yoke; and that, too, with more ease to themselves, whilst they are also more handy to the ploughman or carter. The drivers of bullocks in England, as well as in Van Dieman's Land, usually treat the poor animals very cruelly, and assign as a reason, "they won't do" without it; such however is not the case, for I knew a Sussex farmer, who never permitted his bullocks to be struck, and they were much easier to drive than those perpetually irritated by castigation. I am happy also to mention a Van Dieman's Land farmer, who never uses the cudgel or the whip to his bullocks, it is Mr. Bonney, "who," says the writer of an account of a tour made in company with the Governor, "contrary to all bullock drivers we have yet seen in this island, neither swore at, beat, nor ill-used his oxen, but simply called them by their names as he

wished them to go;" and he observes, "their full and perfect obedience was worthy of notice."

#### SHEEP.

SHEEP were first imported from New South Wales and Norfolk Island, more with the view to subsist the Colony, than for agricultural purposes: their rapid increase was remarked by Colonel Paterson, the Commandant at Launceston, who, foreseeing it would prove a profitable speculation to import a flock from New South Wales, obtained one of the Tees-water breed, which was subsequently crossed by Leicester and Bengal: the latter not remaining long in favour, soon became extinct, but the Leicester breed was much esteemed from the size of the animals' carcases, as well as the excellence of the meat. Previously to the arrival of Lieutenant-Governor Sorrell, little or no attention was paid to wool, which was cut off to relieve the animal and not for exportation; and as the operation year after year was repeated in the same places, hillocks of wool were formed. When the attention of the farmer was called to the value of the sheep's fleece, as an exportable article, the wool in these mounds was collected and sent to England; but, as might have been expected from its filthy and half decayed condition, it did not produce sufficient to pay the freightage.

Lieutenant-Governor Sorrell has the merit of introducing fine-woolled sheep into the island; he obtained from Mr. M'Arthur three hundred lambs of

the improved breed;\* these were embarked at Sydney, but through mismanagement ninety-one died on the passage, and twenty-four soon after their arrival.

In the month of September, 1820, the survivors were distributed to settlers, considered likely to pay attention to the improvement of the fleece, and security was taken for the repayment of the value of the lambs, which were estimated at seven guineas each. Since then pure Saxon sheep have been imported direct, and the fleeces are now so much improved, that wool forms the principal article of export. I have already said that the wool first exported did not pay for its freight; and I cannot better demonstrate the rapid improvement which has taken place, than by informing the reader that the last sales of wool † brought from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 5d. per lb.

The offence of sheep stealing was at one time carried to a very serious extent in the colony, for the thieves were not contented with one or two, half a

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\* The loose hanging skin beneath the throat, with a corresponding hollow in the back of the neck, is considered a distinguishing characteristic of a Merino ram, having a tendency to fine wool and a heavy fleece. The bones of the legs should be longer and finer than in the common sheep of the country. A well grown fleece on the sheep's back, before it is washed, should be close and firm to the feel; the outside, from the greasy and curly nature of the pile, almost black with the dust adhering to it, while the wool below should be of a rich white and the skin of a red and rosy hue. The tuft of coarse wool on the head is also a criterion of the merino sheep.—*Hobart Town Calendar.*

† September 1833.

dozen or a dozen, but must forsooth take half a flock at a time. Mr. Curr, in 1824, remarks that "sheep stealing is organised into a complete system, and various methods are adopted in the commission of the robbery, and the secretion of the flocks when stolen. This destructive practice is carried on to an extent which would scarcely be credited by those who are not acquainted with the colony. An individual has been known to lose more than a thousand head in the course of a year; and instances have occurred, where five or six hundred have been driven off at once, and irrecoverably lost."

The excellent system of police which has been introduced since that time, has put an end to that "organized system," and it is now as rare for the settler to miss one, as it was before common for him to lose a dozen.

Whilst upon this subject, I cannot refrain from copying some valuable remarks, contained in a pamphlet entitled "Observations Addressed to the Wool-growers of Australia and Tasmania," by Mr. Southey an eminent wool-broker; the work has reached the colony, and the periodicals have quoted it. As its contents are the results of years of experience, I shall not apologise to the reader for transferring them to my pages, and I trust Mr. Southey, whose advice is given in the most disinterested manner, will excuse the liberty I am taking in so doing.

"The wool, produced in Australia and Tasmania, having in England attracted the attention of all classes of persons, connected with wool and woollen

goods, it might naturally be expected that the consumption of this article would have been more generally prevalent throughout the manufacturing districts, especially as it is universally allowed to possess the property of giving a peculiarly soft handle to any cloth, wherever introduced. There are nevertheless many eminent manufacturers who have not hitherto even purchased, or consumed, a single bale. It is therefore with a view to inquire into the causes of this neglect, which has unfortunately deprived the growers of the encouragement of so many valuable customers, that the following remarks were undertaken; and as the writer trusts that it will be in his power to show that these causes can be easily removed, he addresses the result of his investigations with more confidence to those for whose benefit they were more immediately designed. His anxious wish is, to impress upon the minds of the Australian and Tasmanian farmers the necessity of paying more particular attention to the washing and preparing their wool, in order that it may become an article of general use wherever it can be applied with advantage.

“It is now placed beyond doubt that the chief cause of the present hesitation, on the part of the manufacturer, arises from the defective condition of the article, some of which is found packed in an entire, or unassorted state, as taken from the sheep's back, and indiscriminately huddled together into bales, with sand and earth-dust intermixed throughout the fleeces. This want of care has thus evidently tended

to prevent many respectable buyers from attending the sales and becoming competitors for this species of wool; and from these preliminary remarks alone it will be readily collected that little illustration is required to convince the consignor of the disadvantages which he has hitherto experienced from shipping his commodity in a state so ill adapted to the use of the consumer.

“ It is absolutely requisite that the wool should be properly washed on the sheep's back, as by so doing one of the principal objections to its condition would be at once removed. It is therefore expedient to know the safest and most expeditious mode in which this part of the operation can be performed.

“ When the shearing season arrives, an inclosure should be assigned, into which the sheep may be driven, preparatory to the commencement of washing. This place ought to be carefully cleared of thistles, burrs and dead grass—indeed of every thing liable to adhere to the fleece.

“ The saxon flock-masters are accustomed to immerse their sheep into water, the day previous to washing, which is done for the purpose of damping the fleece and rendering it more accessible to the operation of the fluid; although it must be acknowledged that this process is likely to occasion cold to the animals, which might perhaps be avoided by the adoption of another method. Suppose, for example, the sheep intended to be washed, were previously driven into pens, made of hurdles, and confined within so narrow a compass as to render it possible to sprinkle them

regularly over with water from a garden-pot. By this simple means, the wool would in a short time become sufficiently saturated with water, so as to enable the shepherd to proceed to the next stage of washing; and this suggestion may be deemed worthy of more particular attention from the circumstance of the wool, in those countries more immediately within the scope of the present remarks, being necessarily dry and parched, owing to the prevalence of less humidity than in most parts of Europe.

“It would also be desirable that the washing should be carried on in the shade, or under a temporary awning; excessive heat having in many instances proved injurious both to the shepherd and the objects of his assiduous care. The persons employed can besides do more labour whilst thus protected, than when exposed to the vertical rays of the sun.

“In the way of contrast, it may be proper to explain the mode of washing wool, practised by the English farmers, which varies according to the locality, or custom of the country in which they reside. In Norfolk and Suffolk, tubs are commonly used, and this method is very generally adopted in other districts where ponds and streams are not at hand; indeed, when the natural advantages of flowing water do present themselves, the artificial substitute of ponds and tubs is often preferred, being found to answer every purpose of cleansing the wool. Experience has even shewn that wool, washed in pond water of rather a dirty appearance, is preferable to the generality of streams.

“The author has consulted persons who have superintended the washing of some of the most esteemed flocks in Saxony, and found that they give a decided preference to pond, or tub washing. They assign the same reasons as the English farmer, alleging that the animal grease which escapes from the wool, produces the same effect on the water as soap, and tends to soften it, thus enabling the washer to perform his task with greater facility. This idea may not be altogether correct; but the great *desideratum* avowedly is, to obtain water of the softest quality, or, in other words, such as is most divested of all particles of metallic salts, which are easily detected by ascertaining whether soap curdles when thrown into the fluid. Spring water, which is besides of a colder nature, ought consequently to be avoided. It would be unnecessary to add, that ponds, derived from rain water, would be preferable to all others, for the reasons before alleged.

“Presuming the sheep to have been properly washed, they are to be next turned out into suitable paddocks, or inclosures, where they should remain three or four days, in order that nature may restore to the fleece a portion of the animal yolk, of which it had been deprived by the process of washing.

“This precaution will besides enable the wool to retain its quality for a longer period, than if perfectly freed from the oleaginous property, and it will also work softer and mill better; at the same time that the wool ought not to be allowed to remain too long on the sheep's back, after washing, as it soon

regains the yolk of which it had been for the moment deprived.

“ From these observations it will be seen that the farmer is to exercise his own judgment on such occasions; and if, at the period of washing, the weather should prove wet, or damp, a longer time will be requisite to dry the wool on the sheep's back; but, in the opposite case, should dry and hot weather succeed, a shorter interval will consequently suffice.

“ It will scarcely be deemed necessary to add that a difference, as regards time, is to be made between a short fine-woolled sheep and those which produce combing wool. The one will obviously require a longer time to dry than the other, and the flock-master must therefore use his discretion in these cases, it not being possible to adduce any specific directions for his guidance.

“ Supposing the wool to be now collected into a barn, or outhouse, the fleeces should be assorted and, if the stock is small, they may be divided into two classes, by separating the best from the inferior. Should the quantity, however, be considerable, it would be advisable for the farmer to cast the fleeces into three or four classes, according to the number and description of his flock. He would even do well to keep the wether fleeces by themselves, and also the Tegg, or Hoggett ones separate from the rest; when the remainder, according to their quality, ought to be thrown into two, or three classes. As soon as this classification is completed, the following process is recommended. Ranged in their proper order, the

fleeces should next be *skirted*, that is, unfolded, one by one, on a table or counter, and the coarser extremities taken off, which may be readily accomplished, by a person any ways conversant with the wool trade. When thus opened, the yellow bits should be picked off, and the remaining portion rolled up and packed in the usual manner.

“ Before this part of the subject is closed, it may be advisable to remark that the custom of pressing the wool, so exceedingly hard into the bales as to render it impossible to draw a fair sample, is highly inexpedient. The motive is doubtless to save freight; but when it is known to be disadvantageous to the sale of the wool, it may be presumed that the farmer will perceive it to be his interest to discontinue the practice. The wool, if carefully prepared and less pressed than it usually has been, will be more suitable for the dealer and manufacturer, and consequently more attractive to buyers; thus clearly producing a greater competition at the sales, which must eventually redound to the advantage of the vender. The wool thus rejected may be so far assorted as to throw aside the dung and other refuse, when the remainder may be consigned to this country.

“ It is a matter of consideration with those persons who have an inferior breed, whether it would not answer their purpose to have the breech shorn off, before the sheep is washed. Upon this subject it would be hazardous to offer an opinion, it being a matter of simple calculation whether the wool thus removed is worth the expence of washing and the

trouble of assorting. It ought, however, to be taken into consideration, that, in case the method here suggested is resorted to, the fleeces may be at once packed in the usual way, without further trouble or expence.

“It may not be amiss also to observe that the bales ought always to contain wool of an uniform quality, and every flock-master should pride himself on being scrupulously exact in having all the fleeces in the same bale, as much alike as possible. This precaution will tend to secure a reputation to the mark of the wool, and ultimately give confidence to the buyers, who will then duly appreciate its quality and condition, and pay for it accordingly.

“It is not unusual for sheep farmers in the Austrian states, as well as in Bohemia, to wash their sheep twice during an interval of ten days or a fortnight, (particularly the lambs which produce Hogget wool,) and thus their fleeces are in better condition than the general run of German wool.

“Persons who have paid attention to the effect of pasturage upon the wool of sheep, will have noticed the great difference in the nature and quality of those which have been reared on calcarious and chalky downs, compared with another part of the same flock fed in rich luxuriant lands. The wool of the former will be found short and fine grown, although dry and harsh; nor will it work kindly; whilst the latter will be longer and softer; work better, and also produce softer cloth.

“From these remarks the settler in Australia and

Tasmania cannot fail to perceive that, if he has allotted to him a tract of chalky down land, it is desirable that he should also be possessed of a portion of meadow, as this will afford him the means of turning his sheep occasionally into fresh herbage, and this interchange of food will, in a great measure, counteract the effect of down pasturage.

“ It will however be noticed that these observations are only applicable to such sheep as produce fine wool; and for further explanation it may be necessary to add, that the flock-master must not expect to have high-fed and fat sheep with fine wool. These advantages are generally incompatible and cannot be obtained. A judicious farmer will therefore make his selection and aim at producing fine short wool, or good combing wool.

“ It would be presumptuous in any one, residing in Europe, to offer an opinion on the precise description of sheep which the Australian and Tasmanian settler should purchase to stock his farm. He must be influenced by the nature of the soil and herbage of the land in occupation, as well as by other existing circumstances, over which he can have no control. He must thus depend on his own observations and good sense in the selection of his ewes, and take care to have a superior race of rams to improve his breed. By strict attention to the health of his flock, and by annually crossing the ewes with a superior woolled ram, he may confidently expect, in a few years, to obtain an excellent flock of fine-woolled sheep; but this great change can only be effected by attending

to the pasturage of his flock and the exclusion of all ewes found to produce inferior fleeces.

“Having already noticed the difficulty of conveying any specific opinion to guide the settler in the choice of his stock, it will nevertheless be useful to submit a few general remarks on this head, which may prove beneficial to those persons who have not had the advantage of adequate experience. It will therefore be proper to state that rams and ewes, two years old, are the most valuable stock, because they are then in perfection, and their ages can be easily ascertained. The pure breed are the most certain stock to be relied on; and they ought to be selected from lean flocks rather than those in good condition; because they can generally be bought on more advantageous terms, and their defects are more easily discovered, when poor and in low condition. Such sheep are not immediately to be turned into rich and luxuriant pasturage; the improvement in the feed should rather be progressive. If the land in occupation be poor and dry, the finest woolled sheep are best suited to this kind of pasturage. They would be preferable, if light of carcass and long legged, as they would then be enabled to take a wider range, with less fatigue, and the land should not be overstocked.

“Sheep should have the means of keeping themselves in fair condition; at the same time that they should be compelled to range a wide extent of country for their daily sustenance.

“These remarks have chiefly been confined to the

make and shape of the sheep, best adapted to poor land; the choice and quality of the wool must be left to the selection of the farmer; but, above all, his attention should be directed to the quality of the wool of the rams.

“If the land is rich and luxuriant, long-woolled sheep will prove the most advantageous stock, there being at present a greater demand for this class of wool than at any former period. It is required not only for home consumption, but also for other States of Europe. From these united causes it may be presumed that combing wool, of a good quality, will retain a higher relative value than any other description.

“In making these observations, it may be necessary to add, by way of explanation, that a long-woolled sheep, being larger in bulk, naturally affords a greater quantity of wool, in addition to the extra length of the staple; consequently, it will appear that the flock-master who is possessed of rich land, will best consult his interest by cultivating this description of sheep. It should, however, be noticed that they require a constant succession of nutritious food, to keep them in an uniform condition, in order to avoid what is called a break, or joint in the staple.

“It will be further requisite that the farmer who cultivates this breed of sheep should be provided with a supply of coleseed, mangel wurzel, carrots, potatoes, cabbages, cut peas, bran, wheat straw, hay, or any other artificial food to supply his stock during a great drought, or an inclement season; and whilst writing on this subject it may not be irrelevant

to point out the benefit which the flock-master would derive from having a supply of salt to give them occasionally. This custom is practised with much success on the European continent, and most probably would be found peculiarly beneficial in countries where the drought is often of long continuance, at which period salt could be administered with great advantage, as it would not only be salutary and wholesome, but also allay the thirst of the animals, and probably preserve the lives of many sheep. There is an objection to the feeding of sheep from racks above their heads. In the first place, this custom occasions a waste of fodder, as much is pulled down and trampled under foot; secondly, the short hay and seeds fall on the necks and shoulders of the sheep, by which means the most valuable parts of the fleece are much deteriorated, and the sheep rendered uncomfortable, for which reasons the practice should be discontinued; indeed they should either be fed in troughs, or very low racks, in order to avoid the evil here complained of.

“It would prove much to the advantage of those who keep long-woolled sheep, if they suffered the lambs of their stock to retain their fleeces until the next year's shearing season, as they would then produce a class of wool known by the name of Tegg or Hogget wool, which is much sought after for combing purposes, being more valuable than either the produce of ewes or wether sheep. The judicious farmer will also consult the period when he may be likely to have a fresh supply of young grass, and make the needful arrange-

ments to have the lambs fall at that period. The ewes, whilst with lamb, ought to be kept in fair condition, but not too fat; and if a supply of fresh grass could be given them ten days previous to their lambing, it would have a good effect, by increasing their milk. At that time much attention should be paid to the falling lambs, lest they become victims to birds of prey, or other rapacious animals.

“ It has been already observed that a flock-master has the means of raising fine wool from ewes of an inferior breed; this however can only be accomplished by attention to the crossing of the stock, and by supplying the ewes with a constant succession of fine-woolled rams.

“ Suppose a settler purchases 50 ewes, of a middling quality of wool, and supplies them with a Spanish or Saxon ram, of the best kind; it will follow that most of the progeny of this stock will produce wool of a superior quality to that of their dams; and the ewe lambs of this offspring being supplied with another ram of pure breed, it may be fairly inferred that the stock will afford excellent wool, and in four or five crosses in this way, the farmer may calculate on having a tolerable breed of fine-woolled sheep, provided the flock has been constantly fed on short pasturage.

“ The farmer cannot however reasonably expect all the lambs of this cross-breed to produce fine wool.— Some may have indifferent fleeces, or perhaps black or brown hairs may occasionally be interspersed through them. Such lambs should be rejected, as the

wool is only suitable for medley cloths; whereas the white fleece can be applied to all purposes. It will therefore be seen that the farmer who consults his interest, will annually inspect the fleeces of his flock, and retain only those lambs which produce wool of the best quality.

“Having recommended the cultivation of long-woolled sheep, wherever the pasturage is adapted for their support, I shall add a few remarks on the nature and properties of combing wool, as an assistance to the farmer in the choice and selection of his stock, which will also enable him to form an estimate of the relative value of the wool, when sheared.

“The chief perfection of combing wool consists in its being of a proper length, quality and strength; and the finer, softer, and more silky the fibre, the more valuable it is.

“The wool required for ordinary combing purposes, should be 7 or 8 inches long; but modern machinery has enabled the spinner to consume wool of a shorter length and much finer quality, and consequently stuffs of a superior texture are now manufactured from fine wool, both in France and England. To make the finest yarns, it is desirable that the wool should be from 4 to 5 inches long, free from pointed spiry hairs at the extremities; it being at the same time requisite that it should have a considerable degree of toughness, or strength, for without this property, it cannot be good combing wool.”

In performing the operation of shearing, the left side of the sheep is placed against the shearer's left leg, his

left foot at the root of the sheep's tail, and his left knee at the sheep's left shoulder. The process commences with the shears at the crown of the head, with a straight cut along to the loins, returning to the shoulder, and making a circular shear around the off side to the middle of the belly; the off hind leg next; then, the left hand holding the tail, a circular shear of the rump to the near hock of the hind leg; the two fore feet are next taken in the left hand, the sheep raised, and the shears set in at the breast, when the remaining part of the belly is sheared round to the near stifle; lastly, the operator kneeling down on his right knee, and the animal's neck being laid over his left thigh, he shears along the remaining side.\* In Sussex I have seen the long wool from the breech removed from the other part of the fleece, and washed in a pond, after which it has been laid out on the grass, under the shade of a tree, to dry, and has then been packed separately. The farmer who pursued this course, was considered to be one of the best agriculturists in the county, and I have no doubt that he found it his interest to expend so much labour on the wool. I say I have no doubt, for I do not think the farmer I speak of was one of that class who adopts crotchets, and, right or wrong, persists in them.†

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\* Encyclopædia of Agriculture.

† They (the settlers) have it in their power to grow the long fine wool for combing, and I think I may set them the example: mine have been used for that purpose for the last five years. I have one hundred and thirty-three, which I have offered to

## PIGS, POULTRY, &amp;c.

Pigs and poultry of all kinds are very prolific and thrive well. The produce of the sty is very valuable to the colonist, for it is a cheap and excellent food for home consumption, and also affords articles in demand for exportation. Very little care, until within the last few years, was bestowed on the curing hams and bacon; but now that these are sent to the Mauritius and India, where they readily sell at high prices, or are profitably bartered for sugar, &c., some attention will be paid to them. The retail price of pork, at Hobart Town, on the 1st of May last, was 7d. per lb.; fowls bring 3s. a couple; a goose 5s. 6d.; a turkey 8s. and eggs 1s. 8d. a dozen.

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shew against any other in the Colony for fifty guineas. If I mistake not, a cross with my sheep, will greatly improve the wool of this Colony in length and softness of staple.—*Letter from Van Dieman's Land, dated 12th April, 1833.*

## NATURAL HISTORY.

## CHAP. XI.

## ZOOLOGY.

THE wild animals of the island are nearly similar to those found in New South Wales, having the marsupium, (ventral sac, or pouch,) into which the young retreat after birth.

There are five different species of kangaroo (*macropus*), viz., the forest, the brush, the wallaby, the kangaroo rat, and kangaroo mouse.

The forestor, or forest kangaroo, so called from frequenting well-wooded districts, is the largest animal in the island: it has a small head, neck, and shoulders, and the body increases in thickness to the buttock, whence it again tapers to the end of the tail. The head is oblong, and shaped like that of the fawn, with the upper lip divided. The nostrils are wide and open, and the lower jaw is somewhat shorter than the upper. The hair is of a greyish brown colour. The teeth are very peculiar; it has four broad cutting teeth in the upper jaw, but only two long lanceolated teeth in the lower, which point forwards, and are so placed as to oppose those of the upper: it has also four grinders in each jaw, remote

from the others, and possesses the very singular power\* of separating the lower incisors, and bringing them again close to each other. The fore-legs are so very short as scarcely to reach the nose, and are useless for walking. The hind legs are almost as long as the body, and the thighs are very thick. On the fore feet are five toes, with long conic and strong black claws; but on the hind feet are only three, the middle toe being long and thick, and extending far beyond the two others, which are small, and placed very distinct from it. The inner toes of the hind foot are singularly distinguished, by having two small claws. The female has, on the belly, an oblong pouch, in which the young, immediately after birth, retire, and continue until they grow so large as to incommode the parent. Its food consists of grasses and leaves; and, in drinking, it laps like a cat. It proceeds by springing or leaping on its hind feet, and, for a short distance, is extremely fleet, frequently clearing fifteen feet at each bound; its own weight, however, soon tires it, and then the kangaroo dogs are able to overtake it. It frequently succeeds, while at bay, in inflicting severe wounds upon the dogs; and it endeavours, it is said, to drag its opponents into deep water, or even into the sea, for the purpose, apparently, of drowning them.† The female, carrying a large young one in her pouch, when hotly followed by the dogs, takes advantage of any thick bush to cast it into: by which means she is better able to

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\* Barrington.

† Henderson.

maintain full speed, while the young one, by hiding itself among the bushes, is more secure. It has been known to stand five feet high, and to weigh one hundred and eighty pounds; the hind quarters, which are the only parts eaten, frequently exceed seventy pounds. Kangaroo-tail soup is considered very delicious by Australian *bons vivants*.

The wallaby, though seldom weighing more than thirty pounds, is like the former in appearance; it frequents swampy places, and also feeds upon grasses and leaves; but its flesh is much superior in flavour.

The brush kangaroo, a variety of the same species, is found among thick scrubs, on the sides of rocky hills; its flesh is also esteemed. When young it is tamed with greater facility than the other varieties, and then, though gentle in manners, it exhibits a stupid, wayward, and often fretful disposition.

The kangaroo-rat and the kangaroo-mouse are two varieties of the same species; the former is about the size of a rabbit, and the latter is considerably smaller; they also have the ventral sac, or pouch, on the lower part of the stomach, the short fore paws, and the long hind legs; but the ears resemble those of the mouse. They are night animals, sleeping during the whole day, even after being domesticated.

The varieties of the opossum are more numerous than even those of the kangaroo. The black, brown, and ring-tailed are the most common. In habits, the whole of the tribe are extremely similar. They are all night-animals, residing during the day in hollow

trees, where they are found rolled up. At dusk, they issue from their recesses, and may then be traced by their peculiar cry, which is shrill, and resembles that of some of the larger kinds of squirrel. As they emit a strong smell, their retreats are easily detected by dogs. At night they may be observed by the light of the moon, seated in pairs, almost motionless, on the extremity of decayed branches. Their flesh possesses a strong, disagreeable flavour, which is said to be removed by burying it in the ground for twenty-four hours; it is not, however, resorted to by Europeans, except under the most pressing circumstances. They are perfectly harmless and inoffensive, and their skins are of little value: their food consists of the young branches and the leaves of trees.

The Van Dieman's Land hyena, or tiger, a carnivorous animal, very destructive to sheep flocks, is peculiar to the island, although it would appear from organic remains, found in a cave, that at one time it existed in New South Wales. It is a nocturnal prowler, and flies inhabited districts. The skin is striped with black and white on the back, while the belly and sides are of a grey colour; its mouth resembles that of the wolf; its legs are short in proportion to its length, which from the snout to the tail, in a full-grown animal, is nearly six feet. It has some of the peculiarities of the kangaroo, for it proceeds by bounds, and has the ventral sac in which it carries its young.

It is supposed, by Dr. John Grant, to be an undescribed variety of *dasyurus*; it is evidently nei-

ther a tiger nor a hyena, as its popular name imports.

The only instance I can find that one has attacked a human being, was at Mr. Blinkworth's, at Jerusalem, in the year 1830 ; it then boldly entered the cottage, where the family was assembled, and attempted to seize one of the little children by the hair, but, fortunately, missed its bite. Mr. Blinkworth directly caught it by the tail, and, dashing it on the ground, speedily killed it.

The *dasyurus ursinus*, popularly called the devil, is another animal of the same species. It is extremely ugly, with a head something resembling that of the otter, in shape, but out of proportion when compared to the size of the body ; the mouth is supplied with three rows of teeth ; the legs are short, with feet like the feline race ; its tail is short and thick, and its skin is of a sable colour. It frequents rocky hills, whence it issues at night in search of its prey. It is very destructive to the flocks.

The native porcupine, or hedgehog, is not very frequently seen. In size, it resembles the common hedgehog, but the spines are ranged in patches, having a longer one than the others protruding from each of the centres ;\* it is perfectly harmless.

There are several varieties of the wild cat ; one resembles the tiger cat, but the others approach nearer to the character of the English weasel, and have as

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\* Dr. Henderson says he heard that it had the *marsupium*.

great a penchant to the gallinaceous tribe. Their skins are generally grey or black spotted.

There are two species of bandicoot, the principal difference between them being size; the larger one is called the bandicoot rabbit, and the lesser the bandicoot rat; their habits are similar, both burrowing in the earth and living on roots; the flesh of the rabbit, however, only is eaten, and it is described as white and delicious; they are both mischievous visitors to potatoe grounds, using their snouts to turn up the root, which they afterwards devour.

There are many other smaller animals to be found in the island, but respecting them very little is known, as zoology hitherto has been at as low an ebb as botany.

#### ORNITHOLOGY.

The platipus (*ornithorynchus paradoxus*) is neither animal, bird, nor fish, but has some resemblance to each. I have placed it under this head, not that it strictly belongs to it, but because my observations on the native animals precede, and my remarks on fish follow. Dr. Henderson supposes it to be allied to the beaver; but as he never had the opportunity of inspecting one, he cannot speak with certainty. It is found in the lakes and rivers of New South Wales as well as of Van Dieman's Land. It swims low in the water, frequently in company with the musk duck, and dives very rapidly. The body is about ten inches long and about as many in circumference; the bill is about two inches and a quarter in length; and the nostrils are about three

quarters of an inch from the end. The eyes are small, and the eyelids are scarcely visible, from being concealed in the hair; the ears are two slits behind the eyes, and larger than the orifices of the eyelids; the teeth, four in number, one on each side of the upper and under jaw, are all grinders; they differ from common teeth materially, having neither enamel nor bone, being composed of a horny substance only, connected by an irregular surface in the place of fangs. When cut through, which is readily done, the internal structure is like the human nail. Between the cheek and the jaw, on each side of the mouth, there is a pouch, as in the monkey tribe; and upon the projecting part of the posterior portion of the tongue there are two small pointed horny excrescences. The fore legs are short, and the feet webbed; each foot has five toes, united by the web, which is very broad, and is continued beyond the points of the toes nearly an inch; on each toe there is a rounded straight nail, which lies loose upon the membrane forming the web. The hind legs are nearly of the same length as the fore, but stronger; each foot has five toes, with claws, and webbed.

The male, on the heel, has a strong crooked spur, with a sharp point, which has a joint between it and the foot, and is capable of motion in two directions. When the point of it is brought close to the leg, the spur is concealed in the hair; when directed outwards, it projects considerably, and is conspicuous. The tail is about five inches long, and shaped like that of the beaver. The colour of the male is of a dark brown on the back, legs, bill and tail: the under part

of the neck and belly is of a silver grey. The hair is of two kinds; a very fine thick fur, half an inch long, and a curious kind of hair nearly an inch long. The part nearest the root has the appearance of hair, but for a quarter of an inch towards the point it becomes flat, with a glossy brightness, which gives it the appearance of feathers. The fur or hair on the back is shorter than that on the venter. It is very shy, and only found in unfrequented places. It has been lately ascertained that it is oviparous, and that it suckles its young.

The feathered tribes are numerous, including gulls, boobies, noddies, shags, gornets, black petrel, cormorants, pelicans, emus, black swans, musk-ducks, wild ducks, parrots, parroquets, cockatoos, crows, laughing-jackasses, magpies, bronze-winged pigeons, doves, quail, snipes, widgeons, gold and silver plovers, native hens, baldcoots, bitterns, herons, king-fishers, hawks and eagles.

The emu is the largest bird found in Australia; it is very nearly allied to the ostrich in form and habits, but it differs from it in some important respects; the feathers with which its body is covered, are so completely naked, that they have more the appearance of hair, or rather thin strips of whalebone; its wings are also much shorter, and, as well as the tail, are entirely destitute of those beautiful feathers with which the ostrich is adorned. In the emu, the toes on each foot are three, in the ostrich they are but two; in other respects their manners and appearance are much alike. Five young birds were

hatched at the farm of the Zoological Society last year—the mother having laid her eggs at Christmas, (then summer at Van Dieman's Land). And it is worthy of remark, that all other birds and animals which have been brought from the same climate, obey the same law, although removed to this (to them) the most distant part of the world.\* The following account of the hatching of these young emus, is extracted from Jesse's *Gleanings in Natural History*:—"The only instance I have met with in which the hen-bird has not the chief care in hatching and bringing up the young, is in the case of the emu, at the farm of the Zoological Society, near Kingston. A pair of these birds have now five young ones; the female at different times dropped five eggs in the pen in which she was confined. These were collected in one place by the male, who rolled them gently and carefully along with his beak. He then sat upon them himself, and continued to do so with the utmost assiduity for the space of nine weeks, during which time the female never took his place, nor was he ever observed to leave the nest. When the young were hatched, he alone took charge of them, and has continued to do so ever since, the female not appearing to notice them in any way; on reading this anecdote, many persons would suppose that the female emu was not possessed of that natural affection for its young, which other birds have. In order to rescue it from this supposition, I will mention that a female emu, be-

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\* Saturday Magazine.

longing to the Duke of Devonshire, at Chiswick, lately laid some eggs, and, as there was no male bird, she collected them together herself, and sat upon them."

These birds weigh from 40lbs to 100lbs, and will kill the strongest dogs by one blow of their talons. The common kangaroo dog soon acquires the habit of seizing them by the neck, and thus avoids the danger. The eggs are prized by the natives; and the flesh, which is said to resemble beef,\* is esteemed.

The black swan, in shape and form, resembles the European swan. Its colour is of a sooty blackness: the beak is of a fine red colour with a black tip, and on the upper mandible is a spot of yellow. They are frequently caught during their moulting season, being then unable to fly; after this they are slowly starved to death, in order that the oil may be absorbed from their skins, which are sent to England. They are stated to survive in this manner, without sustenance, for ten or fourteen days.

The bronze-winged pigeon is a beautiful bird, having the feathers on the wings tipped with a golden tinge, which affords a pleasing contrast to the dark bronze colour of the body; they are wild, though easily shot off the stubble while feeding; and, as they are considered a great delicacy, they are classed as game.

There are three varieties of the quail, all excellent

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\* Letter from a Colonist.

eating, and accordingly sought after by the sportsman. Snipes abound from September to March, and are not so shy as in England.

The parrot tribe is very abundant, and the plumage of most of them, especially the Rose-hill, is extremely beautiful: they are all, with the exception of the black cockatoo, capable of being easily domesticated, and the parroquets can be taught to sing. The cockatoos are very injurious to the farmer during seed time and harvest.

The Derwent magpie, when properly taught, can scarcely be surpassed in vocal powers; in richness of note it bears a strong resemblance to the thrush. Mr. Prinsep mentions a most sagacious and entertaining one kept at Newtown, who was almost as good a guard as a dog. The only difference between the crows of the island and those of England is that the eyes of the former are white, which, contrasted with their sable feathers, gives them a very peculiar appearance.

The laughing jackass (*dacels gigantea*) is remarkable for the noise which it makes, and which, by the imagination of the first settlers, was supposed to be like the noise a jackass would send forth, *could it laugh*: hence its name.

The tribes of small birds are very different from those of Europe, and are so numerous, that were I to attempt to describe each, even in the brief manner I have the few most remarkable, it would extend this work beyond the limits I have prescribed to myself.

## ICHTHYOLOGY.

The inlets and bays around the coast abound with fish, but few sorts are caught and brought to market; therefore it is rather a luxury than a cheap and common food, which it might be were the fisheries attended to.

The trumpeter is one of the most admired fish, although it is seldom obtained at Hobart Town, on account of the distance from, and the want of regular communication with, the fishing grounds where it is usually caught.

The other kinds of fish which may be purchased at Hobart Town, are salmon, (so called in the colony, but a very poor fish,) perch, rock-cod, bream, mullet, whittings, flat-heads, leather jackets, taylor, parrot, guard-fish, cray-fish, (nearly as good as lobsters,) oysters, (good and plentiful,) eels, skait, and shrimps. Some years ago mackarel of a very small species were caught, but latterly they have not been known to approach the island. Black fish are plentiful in the Mersey, and generally weigh from five to fifteen pounds, but have no scales.

The rivers and lakes in the interior abound with very fine eels, but other fresh water fish are of little note excepting the mullet, of which a considerable quantity is annually caught near the falls at New Norfolk. They are in greatest perfection from November to March, and afford sport to the angler, as they will readily rise to the fly.

A fish found in the bays and on the shores of the

island, and supposed to be a species of toad fish, is a strong poison. In the year 1831, the lady of a respectable merchant, and two children, partook of part of one of these fish, which was served up at dinner, and in the course of three hours they were all corpæa. At the coroner's inquest the effect of the poison was satisfactorily proved by giving part of the fish left by the unfortunate individuals to two cats, which soon became affected. When both were in a dying state, one had twenty-five drops of the arsenical solution introduced into the stomach, and rapidly recovered, while the other, which was allowed to take its chance, quickly died. About twelve hours after death the bodies became livid, swollen, with bloody serum issuing from all the external parts, intolerably fetid, and rapidly running into decomposition. The poison is of a powerful sedative nature, producing stupor, and acting upon the nervous power. This fish seldom exceeds five inches in length, which, when compared to its circumference, is disproportionate; the back is the colour of and spotted like tortoiseshell, and the venter is white, resembling to the touch, and in appearance, kid skin.

The black whale resorts, during the breeding season, to the deep estuaries of rivers, and to the bays and inlets around the island. The whalers at that season are on the *qui vive*, and immediately a fish is seen, it is pursued by them in boats: the currency lads, as the country-born colonists in the facetious nomenclature of the country are called, in contradistinction to those born in the mother country, are ex-

tremely partial to the sport, and are bold, active and expert. The smallest fishery generally consists of two boats, supplied with eight hands each, and a small establishment fixed on some convenient spot on the shore for rendering down the blubber. The proprietor supplies rations, including spirits, (which, as an encouragement to the trade, is not charged with duty;) and instead of wages, the men receive shares of the profits of all the produce. The cost of the whale-boats, (colonial built, and considered of a superior make,) gear, provisions, &c., for each establishment during the season, amounts to about £300. The following extract from the *Colonist* newspaper, dated August 24th, 1832, (then the whaling season,) will show the importance which is attached to the success of the fishery:—

“ We are happy this week to lay before our readers an account of the very great success that has attended our enterprising whalers. The latest accounts are up to last Saturday. Mr. M'Lachlan's party, in the river Derwent and Recherche Bay, have caught thirty-seven fish; Mr. Hewitt's party, in Recherche and Adventure Bays, thirty-four fish; Mr. Betts's party, in Recherche Bay, ten fish; Mr. Long's party, in Recherche Bay, four fish; the *Eagle* schooner, in Adventure Bay, three fish; Mr Kelly, in the brig *Mary and Elizabeth*, three fish; Mr. Meredith's party, in Oyster Bay, six fish. Total, ninety-seven. The fish are exceedingly plentiful on our coast this season, and have not been known to be more numerous at any former period. It is a most fortunate

circumstance, in the present impoverished state of the colony, that the whale fishery is likely to furnish our merchants with an article of export to remit to England, in place of British silver, which has disappeared, or Treasury Bills, which cannot be purchased."

The oil which is obtained from the black whale is not of the most valuable description, but perhaps it is the most profitable to the colonist, as it does not require so much capital as the Sperm Whale Fishery, the expenditure to fit out an expedition for which, would amount to as many thousands as the establishment for the Black Whale Fishery costs hundreds. The enterprising spirit, however, which marks the character of the colonists, has induced the speculation to be tried, and I hope it will meet with the success it deserves. The vicinity of the island to the fishing ground, and the facilities of conveying the produce from thence to England, where there is a certain demand, points it out as a spot peculiarly well situated for the furnishing ships for those fisheries; and as success has attended similar expeditions from Sydney, it would be unfortunate indeed, should "bad luck" attend those from Van Dieman's Land.

From these observations the reader must not be induced to suppose that I entertain any doubt of success attending the Sperm Whale Fishery; on the contrary, I feel that it will yield large returns. The only doubt I feel is, whether it will be as profitable (considering the capital expended) to the colonist as the Black Whale Fishery.

## ENTOMOLOGY, &amp;c.

THERE are several varieties of snakes, many of which are venomous: the black, diamond, and brown snakes are considered more so than others, but I can find no instance of death proceeding from the bite of a Van Dieman's Land snake; but in New South Wales, where the same species is found, I have heard that death has followed. Sucking the wound, and cauterizing, effected by exploding gunpowder in it, are said to prevent death from ensuing.

Guanas and lizards are frequently seen, and are considered harmless and inoffensive. Centipedes, scorpions, and spiders, resembling the tarantula, are not uncommon; but I have heard of no instance in which their bite has proved injurious to any of the inhabitants.

Many curious and beautiful varieties of beetle are common; several kinds of ants—some of which are an inch in length, and sting sharply; various descriptions of spiders and mosquitoes.

Among the numerous species of flies, the most common are a large brown fly, which settles on the meat and blows living maggots; a small common fly, nearly resembling the English, but rather smaller; and third, a black or dark blue fly, very common about stock yards, having a very long and strong proboscis, by which it fastens itself to the skin through a single or even a double garment, but being very sluggish is easily killed. To these may be added a large triangular fly (about an inch each way), found mostly

in densely wooded places, where the soil is a swampy sand, and a minute grey fly, not larger than a common flea, which may be always seen when the candle is lighted.

Bees are not native insects; they have, however, lately been introduced, and the climate proves to be so extremely favorable that in the course of one year twelve swarms were produced from the hive imported.

## GEOLOGY.

## CHAP. XII.

IRON ore has been found in almost every part of the island, and in some places it is seen on the surface in masses of some pounds weight, which if smelted would yield eighty per cent of pure metal.\* Indications of the existence of veins of copper, lead, manganese, and zinc, have also been remarked, but no practical or scientific mineralist has visited the island. Coal is found in almost every district, but none has yet been dug for use, although the attention of the public has been attracted to the subject. The introduction of steam-boats on the Derwent, and of steam-engines for the grinding of corn, will shortly necessitate the opening of the earth to obtain this valuable mineral, which Messrs. Maudsley, the civil engineers, pronounce, from a specimen they received, to be equal to the Elgin Wall's-end coals, and superior to Newcastle coal, for the purpose of creating steam. Whether or not the Government will permit individuals to under-

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\* The average quantity of pure metal yielded from Staffordshire ore is 25 lbs.

take this for their own benefit, it is impossible to determine; at present, however, it has restrained speculations of that description, by the land regulations, reserving to the Crown "all mines of coal and precious metals." Whether or not lead, copper, zinc, and iron, come within the last denomination, I dare not offer a decided opinion; but, in England, "precious metals" have been held to be only gold and silver. The Court of Equity, in Van Dieman's Land, might not be of the same opinion. As an instance of colonial Judges not agreeing with those of Westminster Hall, or rather, of their changing the law of England, I will mention a case which occurred not long since: the Attorney-General of one of our colonies advised the executor of a deceased lady to bring an action against the heir at law of a deceased gentleman, for a breach of promise of marriage; his advice was acted upon—the action was brought, and tried—and £200 damages were awarded to the representative of the corpse. On a motion for a new trial, the Judges (colonial, of course) concurring in the opinion of their learned brother, who tried the cause, refused to set aside the verdict.

This may appear incredible; and had I not heard it from a gentleman practising in the colony, who was also of opinion that the verdict was proper and valid, I should not have dared to have mentioned such a case. It is to be hoped that it will be fully reported in the Law Reports (if there are any published) of the colony, and then we may hear (?) it cited in Westminster Hall. It may be dangerous to be heir

at law in that colony; for if a deceased has committed murder, the Judges, by parity of reason, may hold the unfortunate heir guilty, and hang him.

A fine vein of plumbago was discovered a few years since, but it has not been worked; and lately a substance, said to be "a new mineral," appearing to possess some of the properties of plumbago, has been found imbedded in felspar, on a small plain about twenty miles south-east of the Hampshire Hills. The natives use it to adorn their bodies, and call it *latteen err*.

Basalt is supposed to be the principal substratum of the island, as it is found on the southern coast as well as on the northern, and on the eastern as well as on the western, besides being very common in the interior. Slate has also been remarked, but it has not been brought into use; wooden shingles being a good substitute, and much cheaper. Limestone, granite, and marble also exist, and specimens of the latter have been found to be susceptible of the highest polish. An admirable material for building has been brought into use,—a dark-coloured freestone, which is gradually replacing the wooden tenements, and not only looks handsomer, but is actually cheaper than brick. This stone is plentiful in the neighbourhood of Hobart Town. A bed of stone of that kind, used for filtering water, has been found at Port-Arthur, and promises to be useful to the colony. Asbestos is not uncommon, and various specimens of horn-stone, schistus, wood-opal, blood-stone, jasper, chrystal, &c., have been discovered.

Petrified woods have been remarked in several of the rivers, particularly the Forth and the Mersey; and it has been ascertained that they will bear polishing. Some specimens of vitrified wood have been lately forwarded to England by Dr. Crowther, who thus describes them:—"The vitrified specimens of wood were taken from a tree situated at Macquarie Plains, about thirty miles from Hobart Town. These plains are upwards of three hundred feet above the level of the river Derwent, which at this part forms an extensive crescent of several miles. The river is in general broad, deep and rapid; occasionally passing over shallows, exposing veins of coal. On the perpendicular side of a fissure, or a division of the land, formed by volcanic action, the vitrified stump of a tree, elevated about two hundred feet above the level, was discovered. We excavated the rocks round about, and found them to consist chiefly of a heavy drossy iron stone, resembling in appearance smiths' iron ore. It adhered so fast to the tree on all sides as to require the labour of several men, with the assistance of quarrying tools, to clear it away. Our research was continued until we left exposed, standing upright, the vitrified branch of a tree, ten feet high, fourteen feet in girth, and four feet in diameter."

It has been asserted that specimens of the "precious metals," gold and silver, have been found, but some doubt their existence, whilst others assert that indications have been remarked which shew that the island is rich in them.

With regard to soil, comparatively very little combining calcareous argillaceous and sandy qualities exists; but soil of each of those descriptions is found unmixed. The farmer whose land is of one quality, will therefore find it to his advantage to unite them, and if he does so judiciously, his labour will be amply repaid for the toil and trouble, by the weight of his harvest.

## CACHEMERE-ANGORA GOAT.

## CHAP. XIII.

THE new race of cachemere-angora goats promises to be of great value to the colony, the climate of which will probably be found as well, if not better adapted to them, than that of France.

M. Polonceau created this new race in 1822, by crossing the pure cachemeres, imported into France by M. M. Ternaux and Jaubert, with the pure angora breed subsequently introduced. The first cross produced fleeces which united the most desirable qualities, viz. abundance, length, fineness, lustre, and softness. M. Polonceau has since constantly propagated the produce of that cross among themselves, being careful only to preserve animals entirely white, and to select the bucks with the greatest quantity of fine down and the smallest proportion of hair. In 1826 the Royal Society of Agriculture, at Paris, awarded M. Polonceau their large gold medal. The fleeces he then submitted to inspection were from animals of the third generation, and the Society considered that they were more valuable than those from the east.

In 1827, at the exhibition of the produce of

National (France) Industry, the committee, appointed to decide upon the merits of the objects exposed, awarded M. Polonceau a medal.

The animals are now in their seventh generation, and maintain their health and vigour, and all their good qualities; proving, that this new race may be regarded as one entirely fixed and established, requiring solely the care that must always be observed in the propagation of valuable stock, viz., a judicious selection of animals for re-production.

Some of M. Polonceau's goats have yielded thirty ounces of fleece in one season, but his herd averages about sixteen ounces. These goats are robust and easily supported, as they are not capricious as to food, though they evidently prefer the leaves of trees to grass. They will eat hay and straw, and will obtain a living on declivities where sheep could not exist.

The fleece or down, as it is called, begins to grow in the month of September, and attains its full length in March, when it will fall off. The proper period for shearing is ascertained by pulling a lock of the fleece, which, should it part readily from the skin, is a sign that it is mature.

Last year (1832) Mr. Riley purchased a small herd of M. Polonceau, and shipped them to New South Wales, and I understand he feels confident that success will crown the interesting experiment. The cultivation of this new material is worthy of a trial in Van Dieman's Land, and the individual who shall introduce it, will deserve the thanks of the colonists, whether success or failure should attend it.

A colonial gentleman, with whom I accidentally met, was of opinion that Government should introduce these animals as it did the improved breed of sheep; but I confess that I do not entertain the same notion. A private individual in the sister colony has entered into the speculation, and he ought to reap the benefit of his enterprise. At the time Government imported the improved breed of sheep, Van Dieman's Land was in its infancy, and required parental care; but now that it is out of its leading-strings, it ought to conduct its own agricultural speculations.

## TRADE AND REVENUE.

## CHAP. XIV.

THE principal articles of export are corn, oil, wool, bark, (for tanning) skins, timber, cattle and sheep; but numerous others might and will, in the course of a very few years, be added to the list; the pressure occasioned by the balance of trade, being so much against the colony, is severely felt, and it is now pretty evident to all, that prosperity cannot reign whilst the imports so greatly exceed the exports.—The effect of the vast excess of the value of the imported commodities over the exported, has been to drain the island of its metallic currency, and to render paper the circulating medium. So far, indeed, is this the case, that if half-a-dozen sheep are sold a *bill* is taken; and if a few articles for the farm are wanted, the purchaser must accept a *bill*, or draw a promissory note. The generality of the colonists are men who have been brought up in England in expensive (I do not use the word offensively) habits, and having our artificial wants, require as necessaries what to some would be luxuries. These artificial necessaries can only be paid for in specie, (a bill for money due in England, or a Trea-

surey Bill obtained at a sacrifice of one and a half per cent., is the same,) as the value of the exportable raw produce is not more than equal to that of actual necessaries. The labouring population, too, are the cause of immense quantities of bullion being sent away in payment for rum, brandy, gin, and Hollands, which are consumed to a frightful extent. Thus all classes are the cause of the precious metals leaving the country, and all are equally injured by their own weaknesses.

Many of the colonists attribute the reduced (I may say) condition of the colony to the acts of the Government, and are not very sparing in their censure; they say this ought to be done, and that ought to be carried into execution, and then the colony would prosper. No doubt it would, but the Government cannot, and dare not be so ridiculously lavish of money obtained from the equally depressed mother country. The colonists have the remedy for the disease in their own hands, and ought to apply it; it has already been recommended to them by one of their most sensible and talented brethren, and concurring in his opinion, I will repeat his words: "Friendly as we are to the general distribution of the comforts of life— anxious to see the community of which we form a part enlightened, independent and happy—we would ask what has a new colony like this to do with such ship loads of tinsel manufactures as we daily see come to our shores!—what do we want with plate and jewels, with furbelows and frippery?—but above all, what with expensive drinks, with oceans of rum

and puncheons of poison? Let us be unanimous in four endeavours to exalt the character of our colony or its integrity, its sobriety, diligence and perseverance in the good cause, and we must prosper." With these few introductory observations, the reader is prepared for the account of the quantities of exports from Van Dieman's Land; and though he may be somewhat disappointed at the limited extent, still he will be gratified at observing the rapid increase which it has obtained. I shall select for comparison, the years 1829 and 1831,\* the intervening year being a gradual increase upon the former.

## 1829.

Bark, for tanning	3,700 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lbs.
Oil, train and sperm	244 tons. 1 hhd. 16 gal.
Timber	114 lds. 12 ft.
Whale Fins	450 cwt. 3 qr. 19 lbs.
Wool, Sheep's	925,320 lbs.

## 1831.

Bark, for tanning	39,261 cwt. 0 qr. 26 lbs.
Oil, train and sperm	848 tons. 0 hhd. 14 gal.
Timber	1 load 30 ft.
Whale Fins	818 cwt. 0 qr. 17 lbs.
Wool, Sheep's	1,359,203 lbs.†

\* I have not been able to obtain the accounts for 1832: the collector of customs was recalled, and the colonial treasurer dismissed during that year.

† The quantity of Sheep and Lamb's Wool in the bonded warehouses of the port of London on the 5th of Jan. 1832, was 3,149,312 lbs: and on the 5th of Jan. 1833, 3,063,762 lbs.

The articles wool and oil are the most important, and the wonderful and sudden increase of the former within the last few years, (for in 1827 it only amounted to 192,075 lbs.) is a convincing proof that the energies of the colonists only require to be aroused to enable them to export to almost any amount.\*

The total quantity of wool imported into England from all countries, in the year 1831, exceeded thirty-two million lbs., and nearly thirty millions were European produce; but I hope to see the day when the figures will be reversed,—when the thirty millions of lbs. will be Australian, and two millions only from foreigners. The mother country gives every facility to the importation of colonial produce, for no duty is imposed on bark, flax, and wood, eighteen inches square, for ship building, and the duty on oil and many other things is almost nominal.

The imports received from England, chiefly consist of West India rum, brandy, geneva, wine, liqueurs, ale and porter, cheese, ironmongery and hardware of all descriptions, silk, woollens; linens, cottons, ribbands, apparel, stationery, soap, carriages, harness, agricultural implements, horses, &c. &c.; from the Isle of France—sugar; from the Cape of Good Hope—wine, fruit, tobacco and butter; from China—tea; from the East Indies—piece and fancy goods, silks, rice, wine, spices, &c.; from Rio Janeiro—tobacco; from

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\* Last year the balance of trade against New South Wales, with all the world, did not exceed £25,000.

New South Wales—beef, bacon, cheese, horses, butter, oranges, tobacco, coals, and a great variety of other articles, “not one of which,” says a colonial writer, in the Hobart Town Almanac for 1833, “need be required. It is degrading that we cannot supply a population that does not equal that of a third-rate town in England, with the necessaries of life, such as meat, cheese, butter, &c.”

A Table, shewing the comparative declared value of British and Irish produce, &c., imported into Van Dieman's Land from the United Kingdom, in the years 1827 and 1831.

	1827.	1831.
Apparel, slops, and haberdashery .....	18,068	36,018
Beer and ale .....	7,655	2,540
Cabinet and upholstery wares .....	540	462
Cotton manufactures .....	11,107	19,018
Glass and earthenware .....	3,591	5,078
Iron, steel, and hardwares .....	8,717	16,011
Leather and saddlery .....	1,959	2,660
Linens.....	4,099	3,340
Sheep .....	336	80
Silks.....	940	5,261
Soap and candles .....	3,071	929
Stationery .....	3,067	2,547
Woollen goods .....	6,724	8,376
All other articles .....	16,132	17,124
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	86,006	119,444
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Quantities of foreign and colonial produce exported  
from the United Kingdom to Van Dieman's Land,  
in the same years.

Sheep.....	number	306	—
Spirits, Brandy .....	proof gallons	12,394	2,273
— Geneva .....	ditto	3,357	1,679
— Rum .....	ditto	79,178	58,963
— Canadian .....	ditto	7,865	—
Tea .....	lbs.	2,446	2,036
Wines .....	gallons	53,532	18,118

From the 1st January to 25th December, 1832, the  
total number of ships (exclusive of small craft from  
neighbouring ports, and Government vessels) that  
arrived in the port of Hobart Town, was:—

Ships	51	.....	tons	18,214
Brigs	25	.....	—	4,201
Snows	29	.....	—	1,948
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		105		24,363

Arrivals from		Departures to
England.....	41	11
New South Wales ...	35	42
India and China .....	3	6
Swan River .....	2	3
New Zealand .....	6	4
Fishery .....	2	5
Mauritius .....	5	2
Launceston .....	10	15
Desolation Island ....	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	105	91

The island occupies a commanding situation for trading with every nation, and every part of the globe. In the short space of two months a ship will reach the East Indies; America, North and South, is accessible; China is only a few weeks' sail; Europe is easily approached, and the Indian Archipelago is scarcely far enough off to be called a voyage. Competition compels the merchant to keep his capital in constant and rapid circulation, which benefits not only the productive population and the whole community, but also the merchant individually. The system of "small profits and quick returns," has only within the last few years been introduced; but I think it is found so advantageous to producer and consumer, that it will be long ere the "good old times" of large profits and long credits will be revived.

It is not many years since, that the first cargo of wool was shipped from New South Wales, and then the freight per lb. to England was 6d.; now, it is only five farthings; and it is reckoned, from the quantities shipped, from the voyages backwards and forwards being made more rapidly, and from the delays in port being of less duration, that the profits to the ship-owner are almost equal to what they were when 6d. per lb. was the price demanded; while it is self-evident that the diminished freightage is of vital importance to the wool-trade. If the freight from Australia was at 6d. per lb., the shipper could not compete with the German and Spanish wool-grower in the English market; but being reduced to five farthings, he can send his wool to market cheaper by

one penny per lb. than it is possible for his competitors to do who reside so many thousand miles nearer. The expense of sending wool per lb. to England, including freight, insurance, brokerage, dock-dues, &c. to the Australian consignor, is about 3½d., and to the German and Spanish shippers, it amounts to 4½d.

The revenue of the colony is derived from fees on law proceedings, fines, taxes on dogs and carts, licenses to bake and sell bread, (an impolitic tax,) and to slaughter cattle and sheep, excise duties, viz. 2s. 6d. per gallon on colonial spirits, and custom house dues, viz. on brandy and geneva 10s. per gallon; rum, the produce of the West India colonies, and British gin, 7s. 6d. per gallon; tobacco, per lb., 1s. 6d.; wine, an *ad valorem* duty of £15 per cent; and on all merchandise (excepting British goods, which do not pay any duty) an *ad valorem* duty of £5 per cent. The revenue is increased by the sale of land, and quit rents on property granted more than seven years since, (the latter have not been generally paid, but I have reason to believe the payment will be enforced,) and also a parliamentary vote for the maintenance of the convicts. The last has only hitherto been indirectly expended in the colony, but in future it will be directly expended, as the Government contracts (see note, page 20) are to be taken up there. The annual revenue probably amounts to £150,000, of which £90,000 is raised by direct and indirect taxation, and the remainder is the estimated portion of the parliamentary vote for the support of the convicts. The expense of the

Civil Government, amounting to about £65,000, and the cost of public buildings and undertakings, are defrayed out of the direct revenue; and the surplus, the Home Government has appropriated.

## VAN DIEMAN'S LAND COMPANY.

## CHAP. XV.

THIS Company was incorporated by Charter in the year 1825, vulgarly called the bubble year. Its professed object is to benefit the island by introduction of capital, and the shareholders by obtaining good interest for their outlay. The land granted to this Company consists of 100,000 acres at Woolnorth; 10,000 acres, the estimated quantity of good land in the three islands, viz.—Robin's, Walker's, and Trefoil Islands; 20,000 acres at Circular Head and the coast adjoining; 50,000 acres, being the tract of land through which the road passes from Knu Bay to the Hampshire and Surrey Hills; 10,000 acres at the Hampshire Hills; 150,000 acres at the Surrey Hills; 10,000 acres at the Middlesex plains; making the total quantity of land 350,000 acres.\*

A very small quantity has been brought under tillage, though a great portion is of a good quality.

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\* The position of these grants will be ascertained by reference to the map.

The number of persons sent out by the Company to these grants, amounts to between 400 and 500, and no expence has been spared to obtain the best stock.— The Company, however, is considered an injurious monopoly by the colonists; but whether or not it will prove beneficial to the shareholders and the colony, or advantageous to the former and baneful to the latter, time alone will shew. By the documents which have been published, it does not appear that it is proposed to sell land to emigrants, but only to demise it; if such is the course adopted, I have no hesitation in saying, that such a monopoly will be a curse to the colony. I trust, however, if that is intended, the shareholders will see the propriety of abandoning it. The large funds of the Company may be employed in making roads and bridges, and in effecting other improvements, by which means the value of the land will be greatly increased, and emigrants would then find it advantageous to purchase it, instead of seeking land in other parts.

I subjoin the "proposals for tenants" which the Company has published. I do not, however, wish to be understood as recommending emigrants to accede to them; for the Company, or rather its agents there, have it in their power to beggar, at any moment, the man who accepts the terms offered. As long, however, as the concerns are conducted by the present gentlemen, there is no fear of oppression; but persons of similar honour and character may not succeed them. *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis.*

## PROPOSALS TO TENANTS.

1. The lands will be let in farms of fifty acres and upwards, according to the capital and means of the tenant. On each farm, the Company will grub and cut up ten acres, ready for burning; after that the tenant must clear for himself. The timber will be so cut up as to answer for log-fences, and the Company will give all the labour for forming one such fence round each farm, except the leading, which must be done by the tenant, upon the following principle. The Company to find victuals and clothing for two convict servants, for the time which the work of splitting and putting up the fence ought to occupy them, the tenant undertaking the cartage of the materials and the immediate superintendance of the men and work. Fences when erected by the Company to be upheld by the tenant.

2.—It is desirable to have a cottage of stone or brick on each farm. The tenant will lead the materials and the Company will build. But as these cannot be erected so fast as is wished, log buildings must, in many cases, be substituted for a time; in which case the tenant will convey the materials, and the Company will place such labour at the tenant's command, as ought, with his own assistance, to enable him to erect the cottage. Whether the cottage be of brick, stone, or logs, the Company will find the doors, and windows, and fastenings, shingles, and shingling.

3.—The rent of forest land, payable in corn or

other produce, will be fixed according to circumstances: nothing will be payable the first year.

4.—The grass lands will be let on similar terms to the forest lands; except that a half rent will be payable the first year, and the full rent the second.

5.—Rent will in many cases be taken in labour by particular agreement.

6.—Convicts or assigned servants will be lent to the tenant, when the nature of his work requires labour, which he cannot command without having recourse to the Company.

7.—Assistance will in particular cases be given to tenants, whose improvements shall appear to afford a fair security to the Company for their advances.

8.—The Company's agent will at all times give the tenant his assistance and advice, as to the sale of his produce, at the best markets, and be ready to make such arrangements for the general body in this respect, as may be beneficial to the whole.

9.—Tenants can purchase their supplies wherever they please, and, as far as practicable, they will be conveyed for them, in the Company's vessels, at a moderate charge of freight; at the same time, the Company's stores are intended for the present (and until shops are established) to supply the usual wants, at such rates as will make it the interest of the tenant to purchase supplies there.

10.—Seed corn will be lent to the tenants, to be repaid out of their first crop.

11.—Clover and grass seeds will be given to tenants wishing to lay down lands to grass.

12.—Timber carriages to assist in clearing, will be lent gratis by the Company to tenants of forest lands.

13.—Besides pointing out the reasonable expectations tenants may safely entertain of finding a profitable sale for their produce, a few advantages may be enumerated, which the Company can hold to them, and which could not be expected if renting lands from individuals, or even if cultivating lands of their own.

14.—Receiving rent in produce or in money, also occasionally receiving rent in labour.

15.—Cheap carriage of produce to a market, by means of vessels of the Company.

16.—Making advances on produce lodged in the Company's stores, whenever markets are extremely low. If this were generally acted upon, it would be injurious to the tenant, but in extreme cases, it could be done with great advantage to him; also making advances on produce shipped for foreign markets, protecting the tenants' interests in such markets, obtaining information from foreign markets, and communicating it to the tenants for their interest.

17.—Making interest \* to secure convicts in reasonable number, from the local government, for the tenants of their lands.

18.—The establishment of schools, in which the expense will be made as small as can be, consistently with fairly and moderately remunerating the masters.

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\* Tenants must not place any reliance upon this—the local government, in the disposition of convicts, cannot be induced to make assignments through favour or interest.

19.—The establishing of medical men throughout the districts, on moderate terms.

20.—Tenants will have the advantage of knowing, when they leave England, where they are going to; that they will be received when they land, by persons interested in protecting them, and passing them to their occupancies as speedily as possible, and with little expense to themselves, an advantage which settlers with small capital will know how to appreciate.

21.—The disinterested and valuable advice as to their proceedings, which the Company's agents will be enabled to give them, before they can have the benefit of their own experience.

22.—Establishing useful mechanics throughout their settlements.

23.—Establishing mills and other useful works.

24.—Procuring the best of every kind of live stock, and giving tenants the use of them at moderate rates.

25.—Reserving lands for the children of tenants.

26.—Asserts that tenants to the Company would be more advantageously situated than other settlers would be.

27.—The lands will be marked off by surveyors into farms, varying from fifty acres and upwards, and upon each of them a rent will be fixed, varying according to circumstances. The annual rent and length of leases cannot be defined; they must vary according to soil and situation.

28.—The Company will reserve the right to make roads, bridges, &c. through any part of the tenant's

land, and it will be left to the chief agent to decide what compensation is to be made to tenants in all such cases. \*

29.—To enable a tenant to judge of the capital which he will require to go upon a farm, the prices at which he may expect to obtain his supplies with cash are here enumerated: eight bullocks, £48; one cart or dray, £15; two ploughs, £7; two pair of harrows, £3 10s.; bullocks' chains, bows and yokes, £3 12s.; various small articles, £10.

30.—Refers to convicts, but every thing relating to them, will be found in the chapter appropriated to them.

31.—Settlers in Van Dieman's Land, possessed of moderate capital, and living on their own farms, are content, in general, for many years, with very humble dwellings, until their circumstances will enable them to make themselves more comfortable. These are in general erected at very little direct expense, though at great inconvenience, when their labour is urgently needed for putting in their crops. The Company will, on this account, provide dwellings for each tenant. Out-buildings are also in general run up of timber, in a rough manner. This the tenant will do for himself.

32.—The main high road, from the coast to the Surrey and Hampshire Hills, having been made by the Company at great labour and expense, it must be kept in repair by the inhabitants of the district.

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\* None but an idiot would assent to this proposition.

## EMIGRATION.

## CHAP. XVI.

It is not for me to advise men to quit their native country to seek a home at the antipodes, or in any of our foreign possessions, but on the contrary, I admonish them to endeavour to remain in England; for as Mr. Fergusson says, "it is a serious step, not to be lightly adopted, and which above all, it should be remembered, cannot with safety, consistency or credit, be retraced." To those of the productive classes who earn by the sweat of their brows their daily bread, and sufficient to pay their way in the world, I say, "Hold,—be content to live as your forefathers have lived; think not of undertaking the perils of emigration, under the foolish idea that you will better your condition in life. There are unfortunately, however, now many industrious and good labourers and mechanics, who cannot support themselves and their families without parish relief; a pittance which scarcely maintains the breath in their bodies. What greater misery can there be to the man who toils and expends his strength for hours, to find himself day by day sinking into deeper poverty, and to regard his

wife and children patiently enduring all the pangs of hunger? That there are many such men in this large metropolis, and in the manufacturing as well as agricultural districts, I am well aware, and unfortunately the number is increasing. As an instance, I will mention the case (which will instruct the emigrant also to be cautious in securing a passage) of a man named —, who until last winter creditably supported himself, a wife, and a family of four children (the eldest eight years old.) He rented a small cottage, in a parish in which he had no legal settlement, and, being a good workman, generally obtained employment at fair wages. The Labour Rate Act, 2 & 3 Will. IV. c. 96, was however put into force, all the rate payers then had as many labourers assigned to them as they wanted, and some had even more; the effect of this was — could not obtain employment. When he asked for work, the answer was, “I have a greater number of labourers than I want, so I cannot now give you work, but I would rather employ you at two shillings a day, than the four whom the overseer has sent me at the same price.” In the adjoining parish, it was the same; the same act was in full operation, bringing the honest and good labouring parishioner to a level with the depraved and idle. The effect of this was, that — was either obliged to abandon the country, or go to the parish in which he had a settlement as a pauper. The latter idea he could not bear: the thought, that he, an honest, upright, hard working man, should be reduced to a level with those who

now generally fly to the workhouse for a domicile, was dreadful to him. What was he to do? The Labour Rate Act was to be in force for four months, and he had but £8, besides a few articles of furniture, which would hardly be enough to support him half the time. In such a dilemma what was he to do? What could he? Emigrate. He walked to London, saw an advertising emigration agent, who kept him in town under various pretexts for two days, and obtained from him £6, for the passage of himself and family to America, "in the fine ship ——," and desired him to bring his family to London, as the ship would 'positively' sail on the succeeding Thursday." Poor —— placed reliance in the villain; the ship did not sail on that day, nor in that week, nor in the next week, nor even in the succeeding week. —— was obliged to support himself and family during this delay; he sold every thing he possessed, and at last, in an unlucky hour, borrowed five shillings of the rascally agent. On the day the vessel did sail he could only raise two shillings towards the five; the deficit afforded sufficient pretext for the villain to say *all* the passage-money had not been paid, and that therefore the passage and the deposit were forfeited. The poor man complained, but notwithstanding, he and his family were turned out of the ship. An old gentleman was standing near during the dispute, and affected to be inattentive to what was passing; he heard ——'s complaints, and he heard the admissions of the agent—he saw —— and

his family turned out of the vessel, and he overheard the agent's taunts; he then attempted to interpose, but the agent would not listen, and walked off, telling him "to mind his own business." This old gentleman, seeing that his interposition would not obtain redress, took ——— before a magistrate, who, after hearing the case, ordered the agent to be summoned to attend before him. Instead of appearing, the fellow sent his clerk with the "deposit," as he did not wish to be further "bothered with the troublesome scamp." Poor ——— found a friend in the gentleman, who thus kindly aided him in his misfortune, and in a few days he was sailing down the Channel with his passage paid, £10 in his pocket, and his wife and family well clothed. The reader may say, "Surely the career of such an agent is stopped by this time?" Unfortunately it is not—he and his associates still continue to rob and plunder the poor and the needy. But again, the reader may ask, "Is such a man an emigration agent for Van Dieman's Land?"—Yes!

One of the colonial newspapers, in speaking of parties living in London who advertise themselves as "*Emigration Agents*," says, "they had much better turn their attention to obtain a livelihood by some more honest and creditable species of industry, than by deceiving, way-laying, entrapping, and kidnapping their fellow-countrymen. These people are not contented with cajoling the poor emigrant, but they must strip him of every penny he happens to have about him, in order to buy all the old spades and hoes, and

broken patched-up ploughs\* they can pick up, in the old iron receiving shops, in Ratcliffe Highway!"

If a man, situated as poor——was, resolves to emigrate, I recommend him to go to Van Diemen's Land, in preference to any other colony; the winter cold and the summer heat are not so intense as in Canada; nor is the climate so warm as at Sydney: the soil, however, is not so rich as in the former, but it is better than in the latter, where the long droughts, too, are very injurious to vegetation. If he determines to go to Van Diemen's Land, and cannot raise funds enough in any other way, let him apply to the Emigration Committee, by letter, stating what are his means, and what sum he shall want † to aid him in his project (vide Appendix C.) That letter will be immediately answered, and, if favorable, he will then have to seek a ship. To avoid falling into the clutches of a man like the agent whom —— met with, I recommend him to enquire into the respectability of the agents, or brokers, who are connected with the ship (there are always four or five advertised

\* Emigrants will find it most advantageous to buy agricultural implements in the colony.

† It must be observed that no advance will be made by the Commissioners to an unmarried man, or other than a mechanic, or one following the occupations mentioned in page 225; that the emigrant must be accompanied by his wife, and that £20 is the utmost sum advanced to a family,—excepting in the case of daughters, between the ages of fifteen and thirty,—these being allowed the bounty, (£12) given to unmarried females.

in the principal London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Glasgow, and Liverpool \* newspapers) in which he proposes to embark. If they are respectable men, and have honest intentions, they will not be unwilling to permit the captain to sign an agreement, by which particular berths (which ought to be seen) shall be appropriated to the emigrant and his family; and a certain quantity of fresh and salted meat, water, peas, rice, suet, flour, raisins, and biscuit, &c., per diem., shall be supplied to each individual, from the day on which it is said the ship will leave the docks, until its arrival at Hobart Town. The price of a passage, including provisions, &c. is, for a single man, in the steerage, about £20; in the second cabins, about £35; for a married couple, about one sixth less than the double; and for single females the charge is about £2 less in both cases. Children are rated according to their ages, from sixteen, at three-fourths of the above rates, down to six, at one-fourth; when under twelve months old, no charge is made. Steerage passengers furnish their own spoons, knives, forks, &c. There is no general rule as to the quantity of luggage and freight.

A gentleman, now in the colony, writes, "If ten or a dozen labourers were to emigrate together, their passage would not cost more than £12 each; for the captain of the ship would be glad to provide passage, fuel

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\* The emigrant must be very careful in engaging a passage from Liverpool or London, for some very old ships, shamefully provisioned and officered, have been sent out.

(for cooking), and water (two quarts each, per diem,) for half that sum, and the remainder would be ample to buy stores for five months. The stores ought to consist of biscuit and flour in casks, salt pork, corned beef, fresh preserved provisions, pickled eggs and tongues, potatoes, carrots, split peas, rice, plums, raisins, salt suet, butter in earthenware pans, three or four bottles of soda powders, a few bottles of spirits, (no duty is paid for them,) and porter; also tea, coffee, and sugar, two or three cakes of gingerbread, and a pound or two of tobacco. They would cook their own provisions, and would be quite independent. The provisions supplied on board ship are generally very bad." This suggestion may be worthy of consideration; for even if £2 more for each were demanded, which I think would be the case if the ship was a 1, (in city phraseology, when a ship is not ten years old,) they would save about £6 each.

With the prospect of such a long voyage (16,000 miles,) before him, it would be well for the intending emigrant, both for his own sake and that of his fellow-passengers, to make up his mind, before embarking, to put up, as far as he possibly can, with any little disagreeables which may occur during the voyage. He should determine neither to give nor take offence on slight occasions, but keep on good terms with all about him, overlooking little inadvertencies and hasty expressions on the part of his fellow-voyagers. He should rather try how pleasant a companion he can make of a man than quarrel with him because he does not find him so ready-made to his hands. Let this

experiment be fairly tried, and it will be found that, in nine cases out of ten, unfavourable appearances or first impressions are not criterions of character. \*

Lieutenant Governor Arthur lately wrote to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, saying that persons of industrious sober habits, of the following trades or employments, were certain to succeed, and be enabled to repay the sums which Government might advance them :—

Carpenters, Ship-builders, Sawyers, Wheel-wrights, Mill-wrights, Cabinet-makers, Upholsterers, Saddlers and Harness-makers, Shoemakers, \*Tailors, Maltsters, Brewers, \*Gardeners and Nurserymen, Plasterers, Masons, Bricklayers, Brickmakers, Quarrymen, Miners, Well-sinkers, Whitesmiths, Blacksmiths, Farriers, Nailers, \*Coopers, Tanners, Curriers, Boat-builders, Engineers, Millers, Ploughmen, Rope-makers, \*Shepherds, Sheep-shearers, Sail-makers, \*Wool sorters, \*Wool-staplers, Fell-mongers.\*

As an instance of the success of a man who was enabled to go out to Van Dieman's Land, by the aid he received from Government, I shall mention a case which is narrated in an official despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who (in a letter dated March 23, 1833) remarks, "It is extremely satisfactory, as showing

\* Chambers' Information for the People, No. 14.

† Those with the asterisk prefixed are particularly in request, and obtain high wages (30s. to 40s. per week); it may be proper to state that there is no demand for the services of clerks.

how beneficially the present system may operate in relieving the distress which unfortunately prevails so extensively among the labouring classes in this country."

Robert Russell, a blacksmith, iron and brass-founder, landed last year in the colony, to which he obtained his passage by the assistance of £20, advanced to him by Government. He debarked a family of nine children, and his wife was on the point of being confined with her tenth child. Few more numerous families than this are likely to emigrate, and yet there is every prospect of his not only being enabled to repay the advance of £20 within six months,\* but to provide for his large family in comfort, and by the same means render great service to the community with whom his lot is cast. This man could not have maintained his family in Scotland, without considerable relief from his friends; and it may therefore be adduced, not only as a striking proof of the benefit of the measure which Government has determined upon, but as demonstrative of the immediate relief which parishes may obtain, if they will enable poor well-conducted parishioners to remove.

The Earl of Ripon, whilst Secretary of State for the Colonies, feeling that it was of vital importance to create in Van Dieman's Land, a class of peasantry, communicated with the Lieutenant-Governor; who,

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\* A letter published in a weekly newspaper, represented that no work was to be obtained in Van Dieman's Land—this case is a sufficient answer to the assertion.

being aware of the benefits which would accrue to the colony, from the introduction of free labour, seconded the views of the noble Earl; and that the opinions of the colonists respecting such a measure might be ascertained, he appointed a Committee to consider and to report upon certain queries suggested by the noble Earl's despatches. The Committee, after examining several settlers, came to conclusions which I have embodied in the next page or two.

A body of industrious and well-conducted labourers, able and willing to improve their opportunities of employment, and bringing their wives and children with them, would be highly beneficial to the colony, and would benefit themselves; but idle and dissolute persons, such as generally are on the parish books in England, are totally unfit to provide their own living in the colony, and would be much more difficult to manage than the convict, as the master and Government would not possess the same means of control. The colony could annually receive about 1,000 families; but *specie* could not be remitted to pay the expense of emigration, as the merchants drain the colony to send to England in payment for goods.

The expense of each convict to a settler, is something more than £20 per annum, but an English peasant could support himself and family for about £18; the wages of a freeman, or a convict holding a ticket of leave, amounts to £25 per annum, in addition to his food, which may be estimated at the same sum as that of a convict, £13 8s. 8d.; the present wages and rations of one free man, or ticket of leave man,

would therefore be sufficient, plus £2 8s. 8d., to support two families, or twelve individuals; but mechanics and artisans can easily obtain £2 per week, which places them in a condition much superior to that of the same class in England. The proportion of female convicts to males is one to seven, so that free females are much required, both for their own labour, and to provide a future supply of labourers. The wages of free females are higher in proportion, than even those of free males; but females sent out ought to be of good character.\* Free labourers work with convicts, and do not seem to entertain any jealousy or bad feeling, though when originally free, they often refuse to live with them. Convicts seldom attempt to lead freemen into crime, in order to reduce them to their own level; but cheap spirit, that great bane of all young colonies, often effects the injury.

The system of private indenture has never succeeded; it assimilates the condition of the free to that of the convict, leaving no practical difference, for the free indenture gives the master almost as much power over the servant as does the convict-

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\* Many hitherto sent have been chiefly selected from the streets and workhouses of large towns and cities, and cannot benefit the colony. A ship sailed last spring with many emigrants, who had received the Government allowance, and before it had been a month at sea, was obliged to put into St. Vincent's for water; this ship had nearly three hundred souls on board, and had not the deficiency of water been ascertained before it had proceeded further in its course, their sufferings might have been dreadful. This should be enquired into.

assignment over the prisoner: besides, a master must maintain a servant, even if refractory. The master is also obliged to support him though he has no employment for him—a great loss to the settler possessing small capital.

It is recommended for the future, that the emigrant-labourers shall be indented to the local government, which shall take security for the repayment by instalments of their passage-money, and give them liberty to work for their own benefit until the debt is paid, when they shall be free to work for whom they please. The Government would thus be enabled to re-apply the same fund to the importation of other emigrants, and the moral character of the men would be improved by the conviction, that by honest industry they are relieving themselves from debt. The abstraction, too, of a portion of the high wages which they may receive, will operate beneficially on men unaccustomed to easy circumstances, and render them less likely to be elevated by the sudden change in their condition, and less apt to acquire dissipated habits: it is certain that the suddenly springing from poverty to affluence, has a great effect upon the moral character of individuals of the labouring class, seldom operating well, and frequently inducing them to abandon themselves to the vicious habit of spirit-drinking.

The number of persons who emigrated from the United Kingdom to the Australian colonies, in 1832, was 3,733, being more than seven times the number who left for those colonies in the year 1825. Since

the formation of the Board of Emigration, up to the 19th August last (1833), 422 heads of families have received loans to enable them to convey themselves and their families (in all 1,571 souls) to Van Dieman's Land. The sums advanced, with five exceptions, have been the full amount which the Commissioners grant to one family: viz. £20, making a total of £8,406. The following table will shew the occupations of the 422 heads of families who have been aided with funds:—

Bakers .....	17	Carpenters.....	62
Bricklayers .....	22	Joiners .....	19
Engineers .....	2	Plumbers .....	1
Blacksmiths .....	23	Weavers .....	14
Gardeners .....	4	Masons .....	19
Shoemakers .....	31	Printers .....	4
Tailors .....	16	Coopers .....	8
Wheelwrights .....	5	Tanners .....	7
Hatters.....	2	Machinist .....	1
Glaziers .....	4	Plasterers .....	6
Sawyers .....	10	Shepherd .....	1
Sailmaker .....	1	Harness Makers.....	2
Hairdresser .....	1	Saddlers .....	3
Dyers .....	3	Cartwrights .....	4
Farrier .....	1	Maltster .....	1
Coach-builders.....	2	Watch and Clock Maker	1
Millwrights.....	7	Marble polisher.....	1
Smiths .....	13	Nailors .....	4
Fish curer .....	1	Müller .....	1
Curriers .....	3	Thatcher .....	1
Glass-cutter .....	1	Potter .....	1
Butcher .....	1	Shipwrights.....	3
Stonecutters.....	5	Whitesmiths .....	2

Brewers .....	4	Slaters.....	7
Builder .....	1	Stonemasons .....	8
Iron plate worker .....	1	Stone setter .....	1
Ploughwright .....	1	Coachsmiths .....	5
Painters .....	9	Leather dressers.....	2
Candle maker.....	1	Cement maker.....	1
Ropemaker .....	1	Coppersmith.....	1
Gunsmiths.....	2	Woolcomber .....	1
Comb maker .....	1	Woolsorter .....	1
Brick makers .....	4	Brassfounder .....	1
Clerk .....	1	Chair maker .....	1
Cabinet makers.....	15	Collier .....	1
Wharfinger .....	1	Confectioner.....	1
Furnace man .....	1	Wire-drawer .....	1
Upholsterer.....	1	No business specified....	4

The total number of emigrants, of all classes, who arrived in the island in 1832, was 2,131; viz., men, 936—women, 769—children, 426.

The assistance afforded by the Commissioners of Emigration to females between the ages of fifteen and thirty, desirous to go to Van Dieman's Land, is a bounty of £12; the remainder of the money is paid by themselves to an officer appointed by the Commissioners, and a passage is then provided for them on board a ship which is chartered for the purpose of carrying out females alone; on board, they are provided with every necessary comfort, and a matron (appointed by the Commissioners) accompanies them. In the ships which have hitherto sailed, many very improper characters have been mixed with those whose minds were previously pure and untainted, and I fear that the latter have not quitted the

ships uncontaminated. An extract from a letter published in the *Globe* newspaper of the 13th July, 1833, gives a lamentable account of the thorough loss of all moral character by some who had arrived in a ship called the *Princess Royal*:—they not only misconducted themselves, but from an observation one of them made, appeared to feel proud of their degradation, and hesitated not to insult the ladies of Hobart Town, who in the most philanthropic manner had united to provide them with situations in which they might have lived virtuously and creditably.

The number of unmarried females who have emigrated to Van Dieman's Land since the formation of the Board, having received assistance by way of bounty from Government, is 509; and the amount of money granted to them, is £7,114.

To farmers and graziers, perhaps no country in the world is more eligible to emigrate to; but they must not think, that with all its vast extent of fine lands, pastoral and agricultural, its delightful climate, and the general abundance of all the necessaries of life which it produces, that they will have nothing to do on landing on these favoured shores, but sit down and abandon themselves to idleness; much less must they think, that though it requires capital, less or more, to commence operations with any reasonable prospect of success in England, that none will be required in Van Dieman's Land.\* Both privation

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\* Chambers' Information for the People.—No. 10.

and hard work, and considerable expenditure besides, will be demanded of the farmer before he reaches a state of comfort and independence. These submitted to however, for a time, he will soon find himself in as comfortable and happy circumstances—so far as regards exterior things—as perhaps the lot of man will admit. Above all things, however, he must not think of going out without capital, less or more, but of course, the more the better. £200 or £300 free on landing there will do very well;\* £500 or £600 a great deal better; and £1,000 or £1,200 will secure him, with proper management, certain and speedy success. In short, the first sum is the lowest which he should think of emigrating with; and although there need be no limits to the extent, yet the latter sum is ample. As the Government does not now grant land to the colonists, (vide Appendix C) it is necessary for the emigrant, before he bids, to be well acquainted with the quality of that which is put up to auction. Experience alone can give him knowledge, and to enable him to gain that in the most profitable and lucrative way, I recommend him first to rent a farm for one year certain, since these are to be had, and the rents are moderate.† In the Hobart Town Courier of the 17th May 1833, I find two advertise-

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\* A cabin passage for a single man costs about £65. There are some agents who charge higher, but that sum is quite enough to remunerate the ship-owner. The safest way to convey money to the colony, is to obtain a bill from the colonial agent, Mr. Barnard, Little Charles-street, Westminster.

† Henderson.

ments of farms to be let, and in many of the preceding numbers there are half a dozen. The emigrant ought to seek information in the most profitable way, and if he adopts this plan, he will commence gaining knowledge immediately, and will not waste the first six months in looking after good land. By the termination of the year, he will have purchased land, either cleared or uncleared, and before he enters upon it he will have a cottage erected. Men generally have a desire to call land their own; it is a spirit of independence which produces that feeling, and I admire the man who possesses it; but that feeling ought to be restrained when it would impel the emigrant to throw away his resources. The success of the emigrant depends upon his foresight and prudence as well as on collateral circumstances of situation, soil, climate, &c.; and as instances of the success and failure of emigrants, I shall take the liberty to introduce two cases mentioned by Captain Sturt, which, although they occurred in the sister colony, are equally applicable to Van Dieman's Land.

It was on my return from my second expedition that I visited Lieutenant ———. The day after my arrival he took me round his property, and explained the various improvements he had made, considering the small means with which he had commenced. At this part of our conversation we came within view of his house, a substantial weather-board cottage. "I trust," said I, turning to him, "you will excuse the question I am about to ask; for your frankness emboldens me to propose it, and on your answer much of

the effect of what you have been saying will depend. In effecting these various improvements, and in the building of that house, have you been obliged to embarrass yourself? or are they free from incumbrance?" —“Your question,” he said, “is a reasonable one; and I will answer it with the frankness you are kind enough to ascribe to me. I have ever made it a rule not to exceed my income. Mrs. —— bore our first trials with so much cheerfulness, and contributed so much to my happiness and prosperity, that I felt myself bound to build her a good house with the first money I had to spare.” I confess this answer raised my host in my estimation, and it was a gratifying proof to me of the success that attends industry and perseverance.

But let us look to another case. Mr. ——, having considerable funded means when he arrived in the colony, soon put his property into a state of progressive improvement, and being in truth an excellent practical farmer, it assumed the appearance of regularity and order. Had Mr. —— stopped at this moment, he would have been in the enjoyment of affluence and of every rational comfort. But, instead of exercising prudent rules of hospitality, he gave way to the natural generosity of his disposition, entered into expenses he could not afford, and was ultimately obliged to part with his estate. Now it is deeply to be regretted that one whose energies and abilities particularly fitted him for the life he had chosen, should have failed through such conduct; and it is more than probable, that if he had commenced

with smaller means, and had gradually improved his property, his fate would have been very different.

I shall leave these cases without further comment, convinced as I am, that each of them furnishes matter for serious consideration, and that they are practical illustrations of the causes of success or failure of those who emigrate. And although I do not mean to affirm, that the majority follow Mr. ——'s example, I must venture to assert that thoughtlessness, useless expenditure in the first instance, waste of time and other circumstances, lead to equally ruinous consequences.

Another instance of success attending industry and perseverance is mentioned by Mr. Osborne, in his Notes.—At four o'clock we arrived at the farm of Mr. O—, a recent Irish settler, who received the grant in 1829, and now (November 1832) resides in a commodious and substantial brick cottage, with two parlours, and five smaller apartments, and having a convenient brick kitchen detached: he employs, free and prisoners, about twenty men. Last year he had a considerable surplus of corn, and has, at present, seventy acres of wheat in ear, and four down with maize, (it was a jungly forest when he began,) with abundance of the best stock, viz.:—sixteen horses, one hundred and twenty horned cattle, including twenty dairy cows, and sixteen working bullocks, and from eighty to a hundred pigs:—all these in three years, without sinking £500. And though last, not least, there has been an addition to the family circle of two sons and one daughter, which has assisted to

subdue mamma's repugnance to the bush; and she declares that in place of being lonely and tiresome, that it is more cheerful and interesting than living in a town, which she had been accustomed to. The inference to be drawn from these cases, is, that if a man of sober habits,—by which I would be understood to mean, not merely a distaste for debauchery, but of a temperament which derives its chief enjoyment from the domestic circle, and from useful and rational pursuits,—with a moderate command of ready cash, pursues his object steadily and prudently, he will not only succeed in securing a livelihood, but will obtain a home, where he may live with happiness. He should be always prepared for the misfortunes which unavoidably attend the formation of a new settlement, and when they befall him, if he faces them with firmness, and perseveres in his task, it will not be long ere they are surmounted.

I cannot, however, conclude this chapter without entreating the intending emigrant to meditate well on the following judicious observations.\* They will be found in the Penny Magazine of Saturday, July 21, 1832, and Chambers' Information to the People, No. 14.; the expense, therefore, will not deter the reader from possessing them. I say this, because there may be many emigrants to whom the price of even this book, which the publisher assures me he will issue at the lowest possible price to cover the outlay, may be a consideration.

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\* They were extracted from the Hobart Town Almanac.

“In several respects, the situation of a newly-arrived emigrant is peculiar. Every action, thought, and word, are for the moment influenced by the spirit of excitement, which is inevitable to all who have left their native land, in order to settle in a new and very indistinctly understood country. With expectations highly raised—a strong feeling of self-consequence—and being keenly alive, too, to whatever is likely to affect the success of the enterprise—the emigrant is apt, frequently, both to overrate and to underrate difficulties; to form opinions upon light grounds, and afterwards pertinaciously to adhere to them; in short, altogether to go wrong, merely for want of having been set right at starting.

“One of the chief things to be impressed upon the emigrant is, that the sooner he reaches his ultimate destination, wherever he purposes this should be, the better will it prove for him. Every shilling expended at intermediate places, every hour passed at hotels or lodging-houses, is an abstraction of capital, which he will bitterly repent before he has lived one year in the colony; for it is idle to conceal from him, that upon his own frugality and industry, more than upon any other causes whatever, will his success depend; and he should besides be told, that money is of so much more value here than in England, that if he purposes relying upon such aids as are common there, and should thus be led into an outset that is in the least beyond his own resources, or beyond such means as he has immediately at command, independent of any other quarter whatever, he will be preparing the

way to his own certain destruction. Once let him be in the hands of the money-lenders, and the rapid manner in which an interest of fifteen to thirty per cent. (which is the least he will find he has to pay) swallows up principal and every thing he has besides, will astonish him. Houses, lands, possessions of every sort, all become swept away by the fell hand of the sheriff's officer; and years of anxiety, toil, and deprivation, finish by placing him in a prison. But all this may be avoided by attending to a few plain rules or guides of conduct, upon first entering the colony; and among them may be enumerated the following:—

1.—Beware of what acquaintances are formed. It sometimes happens that emigrants are thrown, upon arrival, among classes who have formed a jaundiced opinion of every thing around them—of the colony—of its administration—its resources—its general state or condition, and whose chief delight now is, in gaining proselytes to their own notions. Whatever information these communicate will be tinged by the state of their own minds; and as a general rule, therefore, everything that so reaches the ear of the emigrant, should be received with extreme caution. Equally to be guarded against, are another class, or those who always view things in their brightest colours; for a young colony presents of itself a peculiar field for the man of enterprise and speculation, and if these be nourished by too much encouragement from persons, whose acquaintance with the place lends a sanction to their opinions, magnificent schemes

are sometimes formed, without duly considering the impediments that lie in the way; and which, instead of being ever completed, bring ruin upon the projector.

2.—Beware of becoming a politician, or of belonging to party. An emigrant should leave all things of this sort, in the country to which he has bid adieu. He cannot afford to have his mind, or his time, divided between what his new avocations demand of him, and such pursuits as these. Delightful as they may be, also, they are perfectly out of place in a young colony, the governing principle of whose inhabitants should be, the moral conveyed in the fable of the bundle of sticks. Let an emigrant once take a greater interest in cobbling the affairs of government than in cultivating his land, and it requires little of the spirit of prescience to foretell what will be his fate.

3.—Never forget that you are in a country, where, for a few years at least, prudence requires that the veil of oblivion should be drawn over many of the comforts, and still more of the luxuries of life, to which perhaps you have been accustomed for many years. Whatever may be your circumstances, things of this sort cannot be indulged in for a time, without departing from those maxims of prudence, which have been already inculcated.

4.—Be extremely cautious how you are led into making purchases, or forming bargains of any sort. Almost every one you meet will have the best horse, the best cattle, sheep, &c. the island produces, for sale; but let the second best be good enough for you; or rather remember, that there is nothing so good that

something else may not be found, which will equally answer the purpose; or again, that it is better sometimes to be without a thing a week, than to have it one day too soon.

“The settler should never forget that his independence—his true comfort—will depend upon his being able to obtain, without money, the greater part of those necessaries of life, which money is elsewhere required to purchase. He should aim to produce every thing within himself—to raise all from his own ground. He who does so, although his income may be small, may still be a wealthy man, if he be true to himself; but, as before said, much depends upon how he sets out.

“A few words will now be added, by way of acquainting the emigrant with certain routines that may assist him upon first landing, in his search for land.

“His most important business, generally speaking, is the selection of land—the desirableness of the early settlement upon it, of himself and family, has been already mentioned. The piece of information that will prove most useful to him with respect to the selection of land is, that infinitely more depends upon his own energy, than upon anything else whatever. In order to make his course plain, however, he may be told that his first business, after putting foot upon *terra firma*, is to obtain from the Survey Department a printed form of application; and having filled it up, and forwarded it to its proper destination, he will soon receive an answer, acquainting him with the

Lieutenant-Governor's determination upon his case.\* Presuming this to be favourable, his next step is, to fix upon the land he may desire to have; and here it must be confessed, a most difficult task is enjoined him—a most heartless, discouraging task is before him. He will no doubt have been permitted to examine the charts of the island, that are in the Surveyor's office. But what information do these afford? What can be learnt from them, even by persons who fancy they know every corner of the colony? and what then do they impart to the newly-arrived emigrant? However, he will of course have studied them a little previously to departure for the interior, a measure that is imperative, personal inspection being the only dependance whereon he can reasonably ground any hopes of success. But here, again, obstacles will be his lot at every step. The district surveyors will be unable, in consequence of the backwardness of the surveys, and other similar causes, to give him half the information with respect to land in their immediate neighbourhoods, upon which he had perhaps calculated. Again, it is no easy matter to discriminate, by natural marks, a piece of land, which may remain ungranted from other portions or tracts in the vicinity, which may have been selected, although they have remained unimproved; or again, from those parcels that have been marked off as *reserves*; or for the church; or for future villages, townships, &c. Besides, the person in quest

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\* Vide Land Regulations, Appendix A.

of land, has always to expect to be misled by persons who are in the habit of assuming a right to Crown land, to which they have no pretension, merely because they have found it convenient as a pasturage for their sheep and cattle. In addition to all these, it must not be overlooked, that there is really very little good land, except in remote situations, remaining ungranted, so that upon the whole the task of searching for it may well be termed difficult and perplexing.

“Still the active, energetic searcher of land need not despair; but as before said, much, very much depends upon himself; in fact, he may be considered either the maker or the marrer of his fortune, throughout his whole career in the colony; for it is the very worst place in the world for the idler, the spendthrift, or the lounging; whilst, on the other hand, it presents ample, although perhaps he may at first consider it slow, encouragement for the man of sober and industrious habits.”

In concluding this chapter, I again entreat all those of the productive classes, who can earn the means of existence in this country,—who are not ground to the dust by want,—not to think of leaving it; consider the length of the voyage, nearly 16,000 miles, the arduous task on arriving at the antipodes, and, above all, the pangs to be endured on quitting the land of their forefathers—on abandoning friends, relations,—England.\*

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\* Merchants and others going abroad for a time only, cannot have their feelings so acutely touched as the emigrant, who

All who have seen the emigration ship quitting dock, and have seen the emigrants collected on the deck, must confess it is truly a distressing sight. "I have witnessed several of these scenes," says the Et-trick Shepherd, "and I wish I may never witness another; for each of them has made tears burst every now and then into my eyes for days and nights, and all the while in that mood of mind that I could think about nothing else. I saw the children all in high spirits, playing together and amusing themselves with trifles; and I wondered if those dear innocents, in after life, would remember anything at all of the land of their nativity. They felt no regret, for they knew they had no home but where their parents were, no staff or stay but on them. They were beside them, and attending to all their wants, and they were happy. How different the looks of their parents! They looked backwards towards their native mountains and glades, with the most rueful expression of countenance.— Those looks can never be cancelled from my heart; and I noted always that the older the men were, the more regretful and desolate were their looks. They thought, without doubt, of the tombs of their parents and friends, whose heads they had laid in an honored grave, and that, after a few years of the toil and weariness collateral with old age, they were going to lay down their bones in a new world, a far distant clime, never to mix their ashes with those that were dearest to them."

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leaves with the knowledge that he will never more set his foot on the land of his birth.

## APPENDIX (A).

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*Land Regulations, issued February 10, 1832.*

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### SALE.

1. As soon as the necessary arrangements have been completed with respect to the survey of a parish, a chart thereof will be exhibited at the Surveyor-General's office; shewing its boundaries, the public reserves, the lands already appropriated, and those remaining for sale; the latter being divided into lots, containing, as nearly as practicable, 640 acres each, which lots will be distinguishable by numerical marks, in reference to an accompanying schedule, which will more particularly describe their boundaries.

2. Notice will at the same time be given in the Gazette, that such lands, after the expiration of three months, will become disposable.

3. As no Crown lands will be sold, except in special cases, but those which shall have been previously notified as disposable, all offers to purchase must be made with reference to the charts and schedules exhibited for that purpose in the Surveyor-General's office, and must be addressed to the Surveyor-General, in the printed forms, which may be obtained at the same office on payment of a fee of 2s. 6d. for each.

4. Should any person desire to purchase a portion only of some particular lot, open for sale, he will, in his application, state the reasons for which he wishes the division to be made, as no deviation from the lots described in the schedules will be adopted, except in very special cases.

5. All disposable lots for which application shall have been made, with reference to the schedules, will be advertised, for not less than one month, and will then be sold by public auction to the highest bidder, provided that the price offered shall amount to the sum of 5s. per acre.

6. But before the bidding is accepted, the party will be required to pay down a deposit of £10 per cent. on the purchase-money, and to sign an engagement to pay the balance within one calendar month, under penalty of forfeiting the deposit.

7. If payment be not made within the prescribed period, the deposit will be forfeited accordingly, and the land will again be open to the selection of the public.

8. But if the purchase be completed within the period stipulated, the purchaser will be put in immediate possession of the land, and no time will be lost in preparing the title deeds; previously to the delivery of which, a fee of 40s. will be payable to the Colonial Secretary for preparing the same, and another fee of 5s. to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for enrolling them, but it will be incumbent on the grantee to procure the enrolment.

9. In ordinary cases land will not be sold, unless it shall previously have been notified as open for sale; but, in special instances, where parties may be desirous of purchasing lands in districts not yet surveyed, those lands may be sold in the same manner after advertising for three months, but subject to all risks arising from inaccuracy of description.

10. All lands disposed of under these regulations, will be held in free and common soccage, subject to the annual quit-rent of a pepper-corn.

11. The Crown will reserve to itself the right of making and constructing such roads and bridges, as may be necessary for public purposes in all lands purchased as above; and also to such indigenous timber, stone, and other materials, the produce of the land, as may be required for making and keeping the said roads and bridges in repair, and for any other public purposes. The Crown will further reserve to itself all mines of coals and precious metals.

12. No land within a hundred feet of high water mark on the sea coast, harbours, bays, or inlets, is to be considered open to purchase, unless for the purposes of commerce or navigation.

13. All free persons will be eligible as purchasers of land, without any limitation as to quantity.

14. RETIRED OFFICERS.—The same advantages will be extended to officers of his Majesty's Navy and Marines, retiring from the service, or going on half pay, as are held

out to military officers by the General Order of the 1st August, 1831, No. 504, the established relation of rank between the different grades of each service, being observed respectively.

15. All officers desirous of becoming settlers, shall, like other individuals, procure land only by purchase at the public sales; but they will be entitled to a remission of the purchase-money, in proportion to their respective rank and period of service, according to the following graduated scale, on producing testimonials of unexceptionable character, from the General commanding in Chief, or from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, as the case may be.

FIELD OFFICERS of twenty-five years' service and upwards, in the whole . . . . .	£ 300
Of twenty years' service and upwards . . . . .	250
Of fifteen, or less, years' service . . . . .	200
CAPTAINS of twenty years' service and upwards . . . . .	200
Of fifteen or less years' service . . . . .	150
SUBALTERNS of twenty years' service and upwards . . . . .	150
Of seven or less years' service . . . . .	100

16. No officer will be entitled to the benefit of this regulation unless, if military, he shall produce the written permission of the General commanding in Chief, or the Commander of the Forces in India, to go on half pay; or to retire from the service, for the purpose of settling in the colony; or if of the Navy or Marines, a similar permission from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

17. All officers desirous of availing themselves of these regulations, must enter into a bond for £500, that either they or their families will reside in this colony for seven years.

18. They will be required to apply for the land they wish to purchase in the form prescribed by the third paragraph of this order.

19. To prevent the inconvenience at the time of sale of advancing the prescribed deposit of £10 per cent., a certificate, signed by the Colonial Secretary, must be produced, stating the sum they will be allowed in remission of the purchase-money.

20. The other modes of procedure will be the same in all respects as those detailed above in the case of ordinary purchasers.

21. **DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.** To non-commissioned officers and privates, discharged from the service for the purpose of settling in the colony, the following proportion of the purchase-money will be remitted, viz:—

Sergeants . . . . .	£50
Corporals and Privates . . . . .	25

#### LEASES.

22. All lots of Crown land which may have been notified as disposable, may be leased after the expiration of three months from the date of the notification, provided no offer to purchase them shall have been made in the interim.

23. Persons who may be desirous of renting lots of Crown land, will apply to the Surveyor-General, in the printed form which may be obtained for the purpose at his office, on payment of the fee of sixpence, and will in that application describe the land desired.

24. The land, if disposable by lease, will then be advertised for one month, at the expiration of which the lease of it, for one year, will be put up to auction.

25. Each lot will be put up at a rent of twenty shillings per hundred acres, and the highest bidding (if not less than that sum) will be accepted.

26. Should application be made to purchase a lot already advertised to be let, but before it shall have been put up for that purpose, the application to purchase will supersede that to rent, and the lot will be advertised for sale in the regular way, provided the land be open for sale.

27. At every auction, all lots which have on that occasion been put up to sale, but not sold, will be immediately offered on lease, for one year, and the highest bidding (if not less than 20s. per hundred acres) will be then accepted.

28. It is to be distinctly understood that leased lands will be open to purchase, provided they are amongst those which shall already have been notified as being for sale, and in the event of their being sold, they must be surrendered by the lessee upon one month's notice.

29. At the expiration of the year, the lots leased will not again be put up to auction, unless application to that effect shall have been made, and in the absence of such application the tenant will be continued in possession upon the terms of his original lease, until he shall notify to the Sur-

veyor-General, in writing, that he wishes to relinquish it; but if, after the expiration of the year, another tenant offers, the land will again be put up as before.

30. Although in ordinary cases, no lands will be leased, but such as shall have been already notified as disposable by sale, yet as many settlements have been formed in remote parts of the colony, where the arrangements necessary for selling lands cannot for some time be made, [but where nevertheless it may be essential to persons already fixed there to obtain by lease the Crown lands in the neighbourhood of their own, in such special instances the lands applied for on lease, if unobjectionable, will be let by auction according to the process above specified, but subject to all risks arising from any inaccuracy in the description.

#### TOWN AND SUBURBAN ALLOTMENTS.

31. Allotments will in future be disposed of by public sale only.

32. Every township in the colony will shortly be laid out and divided into sections and lots, plans of which will be seen at the Survey office, and at the offices of the Police Magistrates in the country.

33. All persons wishing to purchase such allotments will make application to that effect to the Surveyor-General, in the printed form, to be obtained at the Survey office, and at the Police offices, and will therein distinctly specify the lots required, by reference to the numerical and sectional marks, by which they are described in the plans.

34. Allotments thus applied for will be from time to time advertised for sale, and after three months will be sold by public auction on the conditions specified in paragraphs 6, 7, 8, and 10 of these regulations.

## APPENDIX (B).

*Abstract 9 Geo. 4, chap. 83.*

An Act to provide for the Administration of Justice in New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land, and for the more effectual Government thereof, and for other purposes relating thereto.

§ 1. The King to establish Courts of Judicature, and to appoint not more than three Judges, *durante bene placuit*, to preside over them. In case of the absence, resignation, or death, or incapacity from disease or infirmity of a Judge, the Governor to appoint some one to act in his stead.

§ 3. The Supreme Courts to be Courts of Record.

§ 4. The jurisdiction of Supreme Courts extended to offences committed where the Admiral has power or jurisdiction, and to offences committed by British subjects in the islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.\*

§ 5. All offences to be prosecuted by information in the name of the Attorney-General or other officer appointed for that purpose, and to be tried by seven military or naval officers; but if that number cannot be obtained, the number is to be made up by magistrates.

§ 6. Permits any person, by leave of the Court, to exhibit a criminal information against another for any crime or misdemeanor not punishable by death.

§ 7. Allows His Majesty to authorise the Governor to convene special courts.

§ 8. Issues of fact to be tried by a Judge and two Assessors, (magistrates liable to be challenged,) but either plaintiff or defendant may apply for trial by jury to the Court, which has the power to grant or refuse the motion.

§ 9. No assignee of a convict to re-assign without permission.

§ 10. His Majesty allowed to authorise the Governor to extend and apply the form of proceeding by grand or petit juries.

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\* A late decision by the Judges presiding at the Old Bailey renders the latter part of this section a mere nullity.

§ 11 & 12. Give equitable and ecclesiastical jurisdiction to the Supreme Court.

§ 13. His Majesty empowered to institute courts of circuit, which shall be courts of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, and of nisi prius.

§ 14. Directs the evidence on the trial of issues, where the matter at issue exceeds the value of £500; to be taken down by a clerk, who is to read it over to the witnesses, and they are to sign their depositions, which, with copies of all documents tendered as evidence, and rejected, are to be annexed to the record.

§ 15. Authorises His Majesty to allow any person feeling aggrieved to appeal to the Privy Council.

§ 16. Allows Judges of Supreme Courts to make rules of practice.

§ 17, 18, & 19. Permit the Governor to appoint courts of general and quarter sessions, and courts of requests for the recovery of small debts or damages not exceeding £10, and direct him, with the assistance of the Judges of the Supreme Courts, to settle forms of process and rules of practice.

§ 20. Authorises His Majesty to appoint a Council, not exceeding fifteen nor less than ten in number, to make laws and ordinances for the welfare and good government of the colony.

§ 21. Council not competent to act unless two-thirds are present, exclusive of the Governor or presiding member; also requires the bills to be laid before the Council by the Governor; notice of the general objects of any proposed bill to be sent to one of the newspapers for insertion eight clear days before it is passed; but in case of emergency a bill may be passed (provided none of the members dissent, in writing) without any such notice. If the Governor refuses to bring any proposal for a law before the Council, any member, after having obtained his refusal in writing, may enter on the minutes the grounds of his disapprobation of the Governor's refusal.

§ 22. Requires the Laws and Ordinances to be sent to the Supreme Court to be recorded, fourteen days after which, they are to be binding, unless the Judges declare them to be repugnant to the Laws of England, to Charters or Letters Patent; in such case the Governor and Council are to review the Law; and if they dissent from the Judges, the

Law takes effect; the Judges being required to state fully, and at length, the grounds of their opinion, for the purpose of being transmitted to his Majesty.

§ 23. Governor or other member appointed by his Majesty to preside at the meetings of the Council, and to have the casting vote.

§ 24. Laws of England to be, so far as they can be, applied in the administration of justice; and when any doubt arises, as to the application of any Law or Statute, the Governor and Council are to determine whether it extends or applies to the Colony.

§ 25. Governor and Council not to impose taxes, except for local purposes.

§ 26. Makes perpetual 59 Geo. III., c. 114., and 3 Geo. IV., c. 96.

§ 27. Powers vested in Governor, by former acts, to continue, and the produce of duties to be applied, as Governor and Council, by any law or ordinance, appoint.

§ 28 & 29. Laws and Ordinances to be transmitted to His Majesty, who may annul them; copies of them to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

§ 30. Members of Council to be justices of peace, and to take a prescribed oath.

§ 31. In case of death or resignation of a Member of Council, the Governor to appoint some one to the vacancy until it is filled by an appointment by the King.

§ 32. Makes valid Governor's remissions of sentences upon convicts, granted before 1st of January, 1824, conformably to an act passed 30 Geo. III.

§ 33. Requires all instruments, remitting sentences upon convicts, to be transmitted to the king, whose approbation of such remission must be expressed before it is valid.

§ 34. Any person convicted of aiding the escape of convicts, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £500, or to imprisonment not exceeding two years, or both.

§ 35. Artificers, labourers, clerks, and others, may, by indenture (for form of indenture, vide Appendix D.) duly executed, without a stamp, bind themselves to proceed to the Colonies, and to serve there for a period not exceeding seven years, to be computed from the day of the date of such indenture.

§ 36. Persons to whom artificers, labourers, &c. have bound themselves, may bring actions against parties con-

cealing or harbouring them ; and if they shall recover a verdict, in addition to the damages, they shall have awarded to them treble costs of suit.

§ 37. Courts of Session, or two justices, to punish by fine and imprisonment a violation of the indenture, or any misdemeanour, miscarriage, or ill-behaviour, committed by any artificer, &c. ; also, to hear and determine any dispute or difference between the master and indented servant, and to enforce their orders or decision by execution against property, or by imprisonment, not exceeding three calendar months.

§ 38. This act not to invalidate or affect contracts entered into by the Australian Companies ; which, however, are to have the benefit of § 36.

§ 39. This Act to commence and take effect upon and from 1st March 1829, from which date 4 Geo. IV. c. 96, to be repealed.

§ 40. In the absence of the Governor, the officer for the time being, administering the government, to be Governor.

§ 41. Act to continue in force until 31st Decembar, 1836, and thenceforward until the end of the next ensuing Session of Parliament.

(x)

APPENDIX (C.)

*Colonial Office, Sep. 20, 1833.*

I am directed by the Secretary of State to acquaint you that you are considered an eligible candidate for the loan which you have requested, in aid of your means of emigrating to Van Dieman's Land. You may therefore proceed to ascertain the terms on which you can engage a passage for yourself and family; and you will acquaint any shipowner, with whom you may propose to agree for that purpose, that it will be necessary for him to transmit to this department (duly signed by himself) the enclosed certificate.

When that certificate shall have reached this office, the Governor of the colony will be instructed to pay £ to the master or agent of the vessel in which you shall arrive. These instructions will be delivered to the master of the vessel in which you are to proceed, by the principal officer of Customs, at the place of your embarkation; but they will not be so delivered, until you shall have signed, in duplicate, a promissory note for the payment of the amount of the advance, within the term of six months from the date of the note. On your arrival in the colony, the Governor will accept your bond for the same amount, payable at some more distant period, and will cancel the note executed by you in this country.

I enclose your return, which you will give to the shipowner, in order to be sent back with his certificate.

I am, your obedient Servant,  
R. W. HAY.

(Copy of Certificate.)

Place of residence \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that A. B., apparently agreeing with the description in the enclosed return, has signified his desire to agree with me for the conveyance of himself and family to Hobart Town; and that from the means which he seems to possess for defraying the necessary charges, I am disposed

to undertake his conveyance, on receiving an assurance, that, upon his arrival in the colony, a farther sum of £ will be paid on his account to me, (or to C. D., my agent).

(Signed) E. F. (Shipowner or Master.)

[It must be observed that, notwithstanding the order from the Colonial Office, no payment will be made on account of men who embark without their wives.]

To F. ELLIOT, Esq.,  
Colonial Office, Downing Street.

The RETURN is a printed form, which the person desirous of receiving an advance from Government, in aid of his means of emigrating, is to fill up; he must give it to the shipowner with whom he contracts for a passage, and by him it is to be transmitted to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Emigration, under a cover, addressed "To the Secretary of State, Colonial Department, London." In this document the applicant will find proper lines marked for name, age, trade and calling, whether married or a widower; if married, the age of his wife—names and dates of birth of his children—whether he intends to leave behind any of his family, and if so, what means they have of subsistence—place to which he wishes to go—amount (not exceeding £20) he is desirous to obtain as an advance—and the name and address of the minister of the parish in which he resides.

Beneath this return are the printed forms of two certificates; the first, which must be signed by two respectable householders, runs as follows:—

"We Certify, that we are acquainted with A. B., the person above named, and that we believe him to be a competent workman, and likely to maintain himself in the Colony to which he wishes to go; and further, that we know that the particulars stated in the above return are correct."

Signatures and places of residence to be attached.

The second is to be signed by a magistrate, or by the minister of the parish in which the applicant resides, and is in this form:—

"I Certify, to the best of my belief, that the above certi-

ificates are authentic, and that the persons, whose signatures are affixed to them, are worthy of credit.

Signed ——— ”

FORM OF THE PROMISSORY NOTE to be given in Duplicate, and to be exchanged for a Bond, when the emigrant arrives in the Colony :—

“ London, 1st October, 1833.

“ By this, my first (or second) Promissory Note of this date, I promise to pay, at six months after date, to the Lord's Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, for the time being, or to such public officer connected with the receipt of his Majesty's revenue in the Colony of Van Dieman's Land, as the Governor or Officer, for the time being, administering the Government of that Colony shall direct, the Sum of ——— (to be written in words,) for value received.

£.

Signed A. B.  
Witness C. D.

## APPENDIX (D.)

*Form of Indenture for Mechanics and others.*

This Indenture, made the 30th day of September, in the Year of our Lord 1833, between John Doe, of the age of Twenty-four Years and upwards, of Epsom, in the County of Surrey, of the one Part, and Richard Roe, of Sheffield, in the County of York, of the other Part, Witnesseth, that in consideration of the Covenants hereinafter entered into, the said John Doe doth by these presents contract and bind himself with and to the said Richard Roe faithfully to serve the said Richard Roe, or his Agent or Agents, and his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, as an Agricultural Labourer, [whatever his occupation may be] in the Colony of Van Dieman's Land, and to make himself generally useful in the service of the said Richard Roe, his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, as he or his Agents may direct, for the Term of Seven Years, to be computed from the Day of the date hereof. And the said John Doe doth hereby covenant, promise and agree with and to the said Richard Roe, his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, or the Agents of the said Richard Roe, by these presents, in manner following (that is to say), That he the said John Doe shall and will during the said Term of Seven Years, to the best and utmost of his Skill and Power, work and labour in or about the proper business and employment of an Agricultural Labourer, and otherwise as aforesaid, in the service of the said Richard Roe, his Executors, Administrators, Assigns, or Agents, or in the Service of such other person as he, his Executors, Administrators, Assigns, or Agents shall from Time to Time direct; and generally shall and will conduct himself during the said Term as a dutiful Servant. And in Consideration of the Covenants entered into by the said John Doe, the said Richard Roe doth promise and agree to pay the said John Doe the sum of £20 per annum, in quarterly payments to be made on the 1st January, 1st April, 1st July, and 1st October in every year account during the said Seven Years. And also to



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