

It appears then that the system of maintaining naval and military stations has been adopted with a view to economy. Expensive though they be, they are less so than the more numerous fleets, exposed to more wear and tear, would be, that must without them have been employed to protect our foreign commerce.

But there is yet a more broad and comprehensive view to be taken of colonial expenditure. Had the United States still continued in the colonial relation to this country, the same expense for protecting fleets, armies, and for diplomatic agents in Europe, Asia, and Southern America—which Great Britain now incurs for itself alone—would have sufficed for both. By sundering the colonial nexus, America has incurred the expense of its own navy, army, (small though it be,) and diplomatic staff, in addition to ours; and Great Britain has incurred the additional expense of its diplomatic staff in the United States, and that part of its army and navy which has been rendered necessary by the United States having become an independent, and at times hostile state, Great Britain and America may have gained in some respects by their separation—we have our doubts whether either of them have gained thereby on the whole; but the expenditure for national defence, and the defence of their commerce, has been immensely increased. The truth is, that colonies are a means of keeping a race united as one nation, even when it becomes too numerous for its original home. The arms, the intellects, the stored-up wealth of the inhabitants of Britain and its colonies are available for the common defence, and for the development of the empire's territorial resources, instead of being always in rivalry, and sometimes at war, as is the case with our quondam colonies on the mainland of North America.

THE NAVY.

THE difficulty of obtaining seamen for the ships now fitting out at each of our ports, is becoming daily more prominent, and notwithstanding vessels are sent to each of our commercial ports to raise volunteers for the navy, few have responded to the call. It has been said, in the House of Commons too, that the British Ensign has only to be exhibited to cause thousands to flock to and serve under it, but from the facts daily becoming more manifest, it would appear the loadstone has lost his power; the flag (alone) will not draw seamen to the navy, and how the 4000 required are to be raised without some more powerful inducement than is at present held out, is to us a mystery. We had hoped the days of impressment had gone for ever, but, in the event of any unforeseen calamity plunging this country into hostile collision with any other, we much fear that dreadful alternative will again have to be resorted to. There are some writers who obstinately contend there is no scarcity of British seamen for the Royal Navy, but "one fact is worth a thousand arguments," and to facts we will proceed. The Eagle, Comus, and Fantome came to Spithead from Chatham recently, and were all short-handed on their arrival; the Comus so much so, that she could not have furlled her sails in time to have saved them from splintering to pieces had a gale come on before she reached the anchorage at Spithead. The Fantome had not one petty officer on board, nor any hands fit to be rated petty officers; she was very short-handed altogether, and her crew was at length made up by a draught from the Victory. The Eagle, a fine 50-gun frigate, came in nearly 200 short of complement, and of those she had on her books, many have been struck off, after a survey and examination, as unfit for able seamen, and she now remains at Spithead, comparatively helpless for want of the necessary hands to work her. That noble ship the Rodney, 92, has had the pendant flying now a month, but has not entered 50 out of a required complement of 650. Even the St. Vincent, the flag ship, is not complete in her reduced complement, and how the Hibernia is to get 850 is a still further mystery. Rendezvous are opened on Tower-hill and Black-

wall, and all the ports, naval and commercial, to catch the tars, but with comparatively no success. Jack is not to be caught with a mere strip of bunting; the bait has lost somewhat of its former relish; the days of frying watches and chewing bank-notes between bread and butter are now matters of "yarn." We have paid off the crews of ships without thinking how they are to be re-collected, and have allowed them to wander the streets, ragged and poverty stricken, or starved them into gaol, or out of the country; and when we have done this, we commission a number of ships at once, and cry out for volunteers to man them. But volunteers will not come; the despised seaman has got some other home; he has met with kinder treatment at the hand of strangers, and gone into other service, and thus our ships are left without men even at a reduced complement. The folly of our conduct must be apparent to every man having the slightest regard for his country's welfare, and brings with it the reflection that in all probability the eyes of a neighbouring power struggling for naval supremacy are upon us, and exulting in our difficulty. The danger of disbanding our naval force without providing any means for its re-organization, has been often commented upon of late, but without awakening the slightest attention from those whose duty it is to provide ample defence for our only vulnerable point. Foreigners will scarcely credit that, in a country like ours, where every comfort and attention is provided for the wounded, the aged, the blind, and the needy of almost all classes and denominations, leaving out the barracks for the soldier and marine, there is no institution for the able but destitute seamen, no school to instruct him in his duty, no receptacle for him to fly to on being paid off, and no resource but to set off fiends in human shape who prey upon him like vultures until he yields no more food, and is reduced to the lowest degree of poverty and want. He eventually, perhaps, sees the ensign up for volunteers, and applies to be entered, but on showing himself to the officer of the rendezvous he is refused, his tattered clothes and pallid countenance procured him the title of a drunken idler, with which he is dismissed to beg, steal, or starve.—Hampshire Advertiser.

NEW ZEALAND.—FURTHER PARTICULARS.

(From the Australian.)
ENSIGN O'Reilly was wounded in the elbow so severely, that if his arm escape amputation, the power of bending it will not return. Lieutenant Johnson had a narrow escape. A ball struck the edge of the peak of his cap, and glancing aside did him no harm. Major Macpherson was shot in the fleshy part of the thigh; a painful, but not dangerous wound. The gallant Grant (Capt. Grenadiers) had expressed a presentiment that he should not return alive. It did not, however, unnerve his arm, for just previously to his being shot, he had with his sword struck off the head of a New Zealander, in forcing his way through the palisade. His remains were found mutilated, but had not, as reported, been exposed in any way to the action of fire. Poor Beattie died on the tenth day after the battle.
 Of married soldiers the 99th lost only one. The 58th lost three sergeants. All married men. Can nothing be done for their widows? We are afraid they are too humble to be thought of. Our Legislative Council might vote them a trifle a piece.
 On occasion of the successful attack, which took place with the Hazard's heavy guns, subsequent to the date of Colonel Despard's second despatch, and which we have noticed above, on the authority of a private letter, it is supposed the shot was very destructive to the enemy in the pah. The killed were buried previous to its evacuation; the wounded carried off.
 A private letter says—"We had the opportunity afforded us of observing how well skilled these savages are in the science of defence. Their stronghold was a perfect warren—houses under ground; a triple row of stout fencing, stout enough to resist six-pound shot, two of which were found sticking in one of them; the space between the fences deeply trenched, affording shelter to the defenders, and also the means of firing low, and with correct aim."
 "Captain Grant, 58th, and Lieutenant Beattie, 99th, who most gallantly led the forlorn hope with 20 Grenadiers, were buried on the 15th at Waitimato."

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 "Another pah near this place, (Waimas) was destroyed by the light companies of both regiments, accompanied by forty of the 96th and the friendly natives. No lives were lost on either side, and a horse and an old woman fell into our hand, and an abundance of potatoes."

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Return of killed and wounded of the force under command of Colonel Despard, 99th Regiment, from the 30th June to the 1st July, 1845.

- Her Majesty's Ship Hazard.**
 Lieutenant Phillips, killed.
 1 Seaman killed.
 2 Seamen wounded.
 1 Private of the Royal Marines, killed.
Her Majesty's 58th Regiment.
 Captain Grant, killed.
 3 Sergeants and 11 rank and file killed.
 2 Sergeants and 38 rank and file wounded.
 2 Privates, since dead.
Her Majesty's 96th Regiment.
 3 Rank and file killed.
 3 Rank and file wounded.
Her Majesty's 99th Regiment.
 1 Sergeant and 14 rank and file killed.
 Lieutenant-Major Macpherson, severely wounded.
 Lieutenant Beattie, severely wounded, since dead.
 Lieutenant Johnson, slightly wounded.
 Ensign O'Reilly, severely wounded.
 1 Sergeant and 21 rank and file wounded.
 2 Privates, since dead.
Volunteers—(Pioneers.)
 4 Rank and file wounded.
 Mr Henry Clarke, Interpreter to the Force, severely wounded.

The following summary of the late affair is from the Australian, a newspaper which devotes great attention to the affairs of New Zealand.—

1. That the troops numbered 490 men; and that the guns which had been taken from Auckland were inefficient—their recoil being so great as to upset the carriages.
 2. That in consequence, a heavy gun from H.M.S. Hazard was subsequently brought to the camp, over execrable roads, with great labour.
 3. That on the 1st July, at 10 in the morning, after this gun had opened its fire, "a sudden attack was made on our position from a very thick wood close in its rear, and Waka's people were driven from it." The position and the gun were regained by a party of the 58th, with the loss of only one man.
 4. That in the afternoon of the same day, after the shot (26 in number) had been discharged by the Hazard's gun, the troops were formed in parties for attack and support, and the storming of the pah took place at or soon after 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the same day.
 5. That among the orders issued by Col. Despard was one, that the storming party should provide themselves with hatchets and axes for cutting away the palisading of the pah or stockade about to be attacked, and also with ropes for pulling them down.
 6. That this order was not obeyed.
 7. That the storming party evinced the same high valor which we have read of in the Peninsula at Badajos, and Ciudad Rodrigo, &c.; but that for want of the hatchets, axes, &c., the brave assailants could make but little impression on the palisades, the enemy being ranged inside in pits up to their breasts, and firing through loopholes not higher from the ground than a foot or so, which rendered their fire irresistible; for while the British were attacking the inner palisading, the enemy inside could coolly take their aim at every advancing soldier. To the palisading they could only present their bayonets.
- It is evident from this account of the battle, that the British have been punished (as great armies have been often punished before, for their contempt of the enemy. Had they not despised the natives, both as regards their bravery and ingenuity, they would not have stormed their fortress of poles and planks, with merely powder and ball and bayonets.

THE COMIC BLACKSTONE.

CHAPTER THE SIXTEENTH.—OF TITLE BY ALIENATION.

ALIENATION is the transfer of property from one to another, a process in which the law delights; "For it is hard," says Coke, "if the lawyers do not get a chance of catching the oyster while it is being passed away from one shell to the other."

Traitors and felons cannot convey their lands; and if it is felony to imitate the signature of A Rowland and Son, it would seem that the dealers in spurious Macassar cannot alienate their property. A felon may, however, purchase anything he pleases, because 'ceo qu'il achetera la couronne grabbera' (that which he shall purchase the crown will grab, or, lay its hands upon).

Infants and idiots may enter into agreements, which are not binding unless confirmed when the infancy or idiocy has ceased; but it has been said that a non-compos cannot alienate his own non-compos, because if he could, the knave might often play the fool, and write himself down an ass for the sake of getting rid of a bad bargain.

A married woman may purchase without her husband's consent, but, after his death she may decline the bargain, so that Mrs. Tomkins might buy a house, and having lived in it till the decease of Tomkins, she might then 'cry off,' and insist on having her money back again. This is on the principle of the boy, who, having had an invitation 'to taste 'em and try 'em, before you buy 'em' ate half a hundred walnuts and expressed himself so dissatisfied with the fruit that he declined purchasing.

A married woman may join her husband in selling her property, but she must undergo a tete-a-tete with a Judge or a Master in Chancery, who are empowered to pump her, with a view to ascertaining whether she sells of her own accord, or has been bamboozled or bullied in doing so. A married woman who has property settled to her separate use, may play at ducks-and-drakes with it if she pleases, and the law, instead of interfering, rather likes the fun of it.

An alien may purchase anything, but can hold nothing, except perhaps hit tongue, for it is useless on his part to say a word against the claim of the sovereign, who may bone on the instant whatever may have been bought by the alien.

Having considered who may get rid of his property, we are next to discuss how it may be done, and a thousand modes to four—namely, by deed, by record, by special custom, and by assize, which will form the subject of the four remaining chapters.

LOSING A DINNER.—One evening, Sheridan not knowing what to do for a dinner, sat down by Michael Angelo Taylor, in the House of Commons, and said—"There is a law question likely to arise presently, on which, from your legal knowledge you will be wanted to reply to Pitt, so I hope you will not think of leaving the house." Michael sat down with no little pleasure, while Sheridan slipped out, walked down to Michael's house, and ordered up dinner, saying to the servants—"Your master is not coming home this evening." He made an excellent meal, came back to the houses and seeing Michael look expectant went to release him, saying—"I am sorry to have kept you, for after all, I believe this matter will not come on to night." Michael instantly walked home and heard to his no little consternation, when he rang for dinner, "Mr. Sheridan had it, Sir, about two hours ago."

THE MOST WONDERFUL DISCOVERY EVER MADE.—A Book has been published containing, or its author is no true man,—the very wonder of wonders. It is entitled Ladies Made Happy. Somebody, then, has at last discovered, how to make ladies happy—What a discovery! Perpetual youth, transcendent beauty, boundless wealth, everlasting amusement, all the pleasures of existence and none of its cares, with a papa, a mama, a brother, a lover, or a husband, able as well as willing to gratify her slightest whim, are now at every lady's command. If not, if any, the least, one of the above conditions to happiness be yet unattainable—how many of your ladyships will be miserable still?—Punch.

A GOOD STORY.—One day a sturdy peasant, in the environs of Tyreax was at work in the fields amidst storm and rain, and went home in the evening, thoroughly tired and drenched to the skin. He was met at the house door by his loving wife, who had been at home all day. "My dear," said she, "it has been raining so hard that I could not fetch water, and so I have not been able to make you any soup. As you are wet through, I shall be obliged to you to fetch me a couple of buckets of water—you will not get any wetter." The argument was striking; so the man took the buckets and fetched some water from the well, a considerable distance. On reaching the house he found his wife comfortably seated by the fire; then, lifting up one bucket after the other, he poured both over his kind and considerate spouse. "Now, wife," said he, you are quite as wet as I am, so you may as well fetch the water for yourself! you can't get any wetter."

DRUID CHORUS ON THE LANDING OF THE ROMANS.

By the dread and viewless powers,
 Whom the storms and seas obey,
 From the dark Isle's mystic bowers,
 Romans! o'er the deep away!
 Think ye, 'tis but nature's gloom
 O'er our shadowy coast which broods?
 By the altar and the tomb,
 Shun these haunted solitudes!
 Know ye Monks' awful spells?
 She the rolling orb can stay!
 She the mighty grave compels
 Back to yield its fettered prey!
 Fear ye not the lightning-stroke?
 Mark ye not the fiery sky?
 Hence!—around our central oak
 Gods are gathering—Romans, fly!

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE

St. George rushes from his couch to the casement, whence he looks out, listens for a short time in great trepidation, and thus soliloquises—

"What awful sounds assail my sinking soul?
 What myriad murmurs round my slumbers roll?
 Now high, now low the th'reat'ning thunders come
 As through the battle roars the sullen drom!
 Methinks, or fancy errs, methinks I hear
 The scolding tones of Watchful Windeyer
 Now Wentworth's words the welkin seems
 To fill,
 (New Zealand's loathed appropriation)
 Bill.)
 Crab-apple Lang, long loosed from land
 O'cakes,
 With caustic gibe the regal mans' on shakes;
 While hissing Lowe pours forth in venom'd strain
 His thorough bass to aid the treble train,
 Now chimes in Nicholson, whose drowsy tone
 Scarce leaves an eye unclosed except his own;
 The sluggish ruler he of Somnus' field,
 Who more than Hermes' opiate rod doth wield;
 Swift-utteranced Foster leagues with Camden's whine
 And Pusey Cumberland to shout—"Resign!"
 With steady tramp I hear the well-tuned band
 In chorus join from wronged Philippa's land;
 Royal's vengeful voices o'er the thronging high,
 And Grant's dread slogan peals along the sky;
 East, West, North, South increase the gathering hum,
 And from each point the cry is still 'They come!'
 Ho! Riddell, hither bring old Cocker'
 page,
 To build a barrier 'gainst their rushing rage
 Fire! fire your paper pellets through the fight,
 And prove by balance sheet that black is white.
 Ho! Thomson to the rescue—bare thy front
 Dare what I dare not, meet the battle's brunt;
 Thy patriotic bulwark enterpose,
 To shield thy leader from his raging foes.
 March, modern Mars! Commander of our Force,
 With strongest muster-roll of foot and horse,
 In all the gorgeous panoply of war,
 To hunt these Squatters in their wilds afar
 These let the sharp shot ring, the bayonet slay,—
 The Baron wills it; who shall dare gainsay?
 Australia's peaceful churchman, aid me now
 With all the potency of thy "single cow!"
 We at her lowly virtues may not laugh,
 We fervent votaries of the "Golden Calf,"
 What lo was in Lerna's flowery mead,
 Is thy pet fondling of the vaccine breed;
 What Isis, after, to the devotee
 On Egypt's sands that poley is to thee.
 Come hither, champions of this holy war,
 To drag through blood the Juggernaut car;
 To view those victims, crushed and mangled lie,
 Who left their homes, in anguish here to die;
 To see the human holocausts arise
 Whose smoke shall stain Australia's azure skies;
 And clothe her land, once bathed in purest light,
 In ebon garments of the dunest night,
 Squatters avaunt! re-seek the oer-taxed plain;
 My magnates muster,—"I'm myself again!"
 To-morrow's sun shall surely see me try
 To ope the Council, and to ope your eye,
 And no wto con my darling speech away!
 "My soul's in"—no—not 'eager for the fray"
 Then follows a sort of a kind of semi-exit
 commencing with a jig and ending with a shuffle.
 Fortunately he goes off at last

PASTOR.

* This misquotation is unavoidable; it being absolutely necessary to adhere to fidelity.